



UNIVERSITY OF  
SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

## Alumni Newsletter

June 2019



**USJ Alumna  
Maureen Brummett  
'86, M.A.,  
Ed.D., Named  
Superintendent of  
Newington Schools  
Starting July 1**

The Newington Board of Education recently entered into a three-year contract



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with its newly-appointed Superintendent of Schools, USJ alumna Dr. Maureen Brummett '86. Dr. Brummett graduated from USJ with her B.S. in Special Education in 1986 and went on to earn her master's degree in Special Education, a sixth-year certificate in Educational Leadership, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University. Dr. Brummett is returning to her hometown to head up Newington Public Schools beginning July 1.

Board of Education Chairman Josh Shulman said Brummett emerged as the overwhelming choice of the superintendent search committee, which consisted of all nine board members. "It's clear the passion she has for education and for students," Shulman pointed out. "The depth and breadth of her knowledge is really impressive."

To read more, click the link below.

[Read more](#)



## Renovations Are Underway At USJ

Click on the video above to learn more about the exciting new changes to the USJ campus!

## Recent Alumni Events

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### CONTACT US



### Trivia Corner

In 1997, the lower level of McDonough Hall was transformed into what center?

Email your response to [alumni@usj.edu](mailto:alumni@usj.edu).

### May's Question

In what year did Rosary and McAuley Halls open for resident students?

### May's Answer

1955

### May's Winner

Katherine Vandrilla '13





## USJ's Nightingale Lecture Spotlights Street Medicine

USJ's department of Nursing presented its 34th annual Nightingale Lecture on Monday, April 29. Designed to honor the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, the lecture features a nurse who exemplifies the art and science of nursing and who

serves as a role model for students entering the profession or advancing their careers.

This year, Phil Costello '09, M'12, APRN, presented "Stories from the Field," to a full Hoffman Auditorium. Working in the world of street medicine, Costello and his team provide health care for homeless people where they live. Throughout his lecture, Costello shared stories of patients who have impacted his life, while also offering advice to the nurses in the audience. Inspired by the strength and perseverance his patients demonstrate every day, Costello discussed the importance of approaching each individual with empathy and meeting them where they are.

## Golden Anniversary Class of 1969 Joins the 2019 Commencement Ceremony



Joined by President Rhona Free, the Board of Trustees, faculty, and the graduating Class of 2019, the Golden Anniversary Class of 1969 processed in the Commencement Ceremony on Monday, May 13. Families and friends gathered at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. to celebrate as USJ awarded 235 bachelor's degrees, 500 master's degrees, and more than 80 doctoral degrees.

The Anniversary Class, celebrating 50 years since crossing the stage themselves, were thrilled to join the ceremony noting how unique and special the tradition was to them. "It's amazing how the years just fall away when we get together! My children, grandchildren, and friends, with whom I shared highlights of that night, agree that hosting the Golden Anniversary Class at Commencement is a truly lovely tradition," shared alumna Virginia Pagani Denslow '69.

Graduates of Saint Joe's, whether from the Class of 2019 or 1969, cheered each other on as the procession began. To read more about Commencement, click the link below.

## Upcoming Events

### Fairfield Alumni Club Summer Kickoff Luncheon

Saturday, June 22

1 p.m.

Stone's Throw Restaurant

Seymour, Conn.

[Click here](#) to RSVP

### Capital Classics 2019: The Merry Wives of Windsor

Jul 11 - Jul 28

The Sunken Garden, USJ Main Campus

[Click here](#) for tickets

[Click here](#) for more information



## Volunteers needed!

Are you interested in being a career exploration volunteer? Help USJ students prepare for the workforce, build resumes, and learn networking tips. We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Katie DaSilva Burke

[Read more](#)

'15, M'17, at [kdasilva@usj.edu](mailto:kdasilva@usj.edu)  
or 860.231.5364.



### **USJ Athletics**

Check back this summer for  
fall schedule.

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### **USJ School of Pharmacy Inaugural Graduating Class of 2014 Celebrates Five Years at Dunkin' Donuts Park**

On Saturday, May 18, Pharmacy alumni from the Class of 2014 came together to celebrate five years since graduating as the inaugural class. It was a beautiful night for baseball in the heart of the city as alumni and faculty came together again to celebrate this exciting milestone, catch up on all that's new and exciting in life, and enjoy a fun kickoff to summer at the Yard Goats baseball game.



### **Celebrating Dr. Elly Vozzola's Retirement After 25 Years**

Faculty, alumni, current students, family, and friends all gathered together to share wonderful memories of their time learning from or working

with long-time Psychology professor, Dr. Elly Vozzola, Ph.D. Some have known Dr. Vozzola for decades, others not as long, though everyone had kind words for the incredible impact that she has made on them. Dr. Vozzola has plans to get involved with political activism, catch up with old friends, and is even planning to come back as an adjunct professor teaching Introduction to Psychology in the fall. Her dedication to Saint Joe's is unmatched and she will be greatly missed, though we know she won't be going far.

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**Meet Alumni Club of  
Fairfield  
Representative,  
Susan Conti Root  
'68**

Susan (Sue) Conti Root '68 joined the Alumni Council and began serving as the President of the Alumni Club of Fairfield in 2008. A graduate of the Class of 1968, Sue received her bachelor's

degree in Child Studies. One of her fondest memories from her time as a student at USJ was when she tutored young children at St. Michael's School in Hartford. "I helped organize a group of students from the Child Studies major to assist the Sisters of Mercy with their after school tutorial program during my senior year. It was a wonderful experience to work with the children and the dedicated Sisters," said Sue.

Sue remains committed to bringing her classmates together year after year. When asked about the motivation for her continued involvement with USJ, she shares, "Being involved with USJ through our Fairfield Club has given our members the opportunity to share our love for USJ and each other. We learn first hand about the continued development and opportunities at USJ. I am truly proud of and grateful for the education, the friendships, and ongoing growth of USJ."

Having seen USJ evolve, Sue is most excited about the ongoing development on campus in the year ahead. "I am looking forward to the new majors being offered, the physical improvements being made, the expansion of our athletic program, and the effects of being co-ed. It should be quite a year," said Sue.

The University is grateful to Sue for her dedication and volunteerism.

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## **Celebrating Wonder Woman Ann Uccello '44, H'71, DAA'78**

On Thursday, April 25, the Malta House of Care Mobile Medical Clinic held its ninth annual "Celebrating Wonder Women" event at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Among five other recipients, USJ's very own Ann Uccello '44, H'71, DAA'78, was honored for her incredible work as a community servant.

Since 2006, Malta has been providing high-quality, compassionate, free health care through their big, white iconic van that drives into four Hartford-area neighborhoods each week. Since their founding, they have provided nearly 52,000 free patient visits to uninsured adults who might otherwise turn to the ER for care. This event not only helped to support Malta but to celebrate incredible women like Ann who, through personal sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure, each exemplify the idea that just one person can make a difference.

A Malta "Wonder Woman" is a person who improves their community, on stage or behind the scenes, every single day. 63 "Wonder Women" have been chosen since 2011 - among them are students, businesswomen, doctors, musicians, educators, advocates, scientists, artists, and so many more. By making an extraordinary impact, these "Wonder Women" inspire others to do so as well.

Selected as one of this year's "Wonder Women," Ann previously served for two terms on the Hartford City Council, and then made history when she was elected Mayor in 1967. She was not only the first female Mayor in Connecticut, but also the first female Mayor of any U.S. capital city. In her inaugural address, she outlined a proposal to protect children from lead poisoning, to create low- and moderate-income housing, and to set up an "Info-Mobile" to travel the city with news of jobs and services.

In 1970, Ann moved to Washington, D.C., to become the first Director of Consumer Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation. She served three Presidents — Nixon, Ford, and

Carter — before coming back home to Hartford to help run her family's insurance business.

In 1999, when Ann was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, she reflected on her life and career: "I really don't dwell on 'I could have' or 'I should have,' but what I did. And I'm proud of it."

What a well-deserved honor for our distinguished USJ alumna.

\*Pictured above from left to right: Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Jody Bell, Janet Grace, Antoinette Lazarus, Lhakpa Sherpa, and Ann Uccello.

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### **Libby Parker, M'18, Publishes Book, "Permission To Eat"**

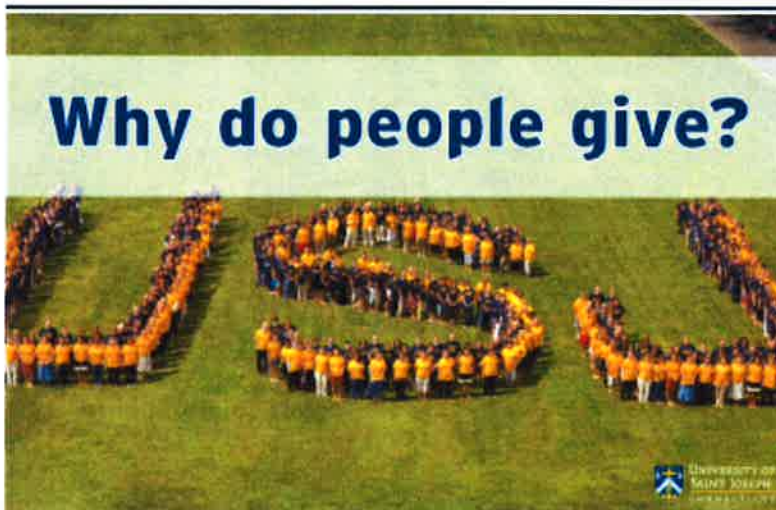
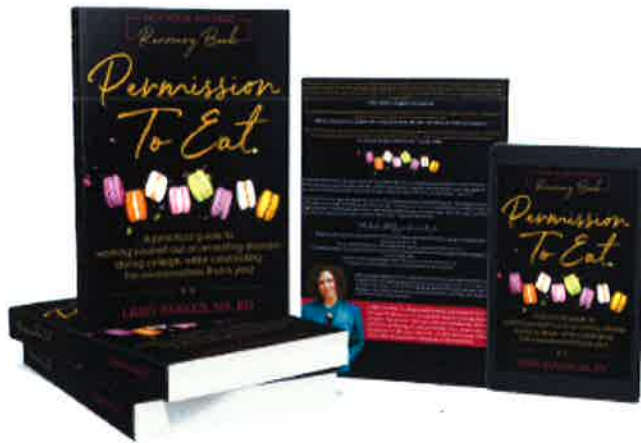
Libby Parker graduated with her master's degree in Nutrition in 2018. Now a Registered Dietitian in California, she has announced the launch of her eating disorder recovery self-help book, "Permission to Eat." Parker wrote the book after seeing hundreds of clients who struggle with eating disorders - and noted what worked again and again for their recovery.



Parker says, "The title for the book came from a frequent conversation I was having with clients, where I would tell them, 'You have permission to eat!' when diet culture had made them feel bad for eating food they loved and hungered for. I came to realize that a lot of people who desired weight loss or 'getting healthy' really had disordered eating practices." With positive messaging and a Health at Every Size (HAES) perspective, this book provides actionable steps to work college students out of the anxiety and frustration their eating disorder causes..

"Permission to Eat" is available for purchase on Amazon as an ebook, paperback, and hardcover.

\*Photo above by Shylah Lynn Photography



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1. Giving makes you feel good
2. Giving affirms personal values
3. Giving is impactful in communities
4. Giving demonstrates the importance of generosity
5. Because they were asked

**Today, we're asking you.** Today is your chance to feel good about contributing to the USJ mission of providing an excellent liberal arts education in an inclusive, accessible environment. Your donation to the USJ Annual Fund has a positive impact across campus, and supports everything from student financial assistance to updated technology to new facilities. We're asking for your generosity to help our students succeed.

To make your gift today, please click the link below or call 860.231.5327.



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Father's Day is coming up and it's the perfect chance to try it out! Turn your gift shopping into a charitable donation and support USJ at no extra cost.

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