

OUTLOOK Magazine



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
CONNECTICUT

Spring
2020

UPDATE

on USJ's Prestigious
National Science
Foundation Grant

It's a **FAMILY**
AFFAIR at USJ

Q&A

with USJ honorary
degree recipient and
NYT best-selling
author Luanne Rice

Stature & Distinctiveness

PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



As I write this, daffodils are blooming and trees are budding, but our beautiful campus is closed because of the COVID-19 virus. While students continue their classes online, campus activities for the remainder of the semester have been canceled, there are no student interns in field or clinical placements, and academic recognition events – including Commencement – will not take place as scheduled. In making these changes, our top priorities have been the safety and well-being of the entire community, while the efforts of faculty and staff have been focused on ensuring that students can complete course requirements and that seniors can graduate in May, as planned. I am sorry that the Class of 2020 will miss the fun of their last semester at college and all of the traditions involved, but we will make plans to celebrate with them later in the year.

For now, we feel fortunate to have a community that works so well together. Coursework has been able to proceed, thanks to determined faculty, flexible students, and significant investments in recent years in technology and training in the use of online tools for teaching and learning. Simulations, chat rooms, collaboration software, and virtual whiteboards are regularly used by faculty to support on-ground classes and are now the tools for virtual classrooms and labs. While USJ's traditional small classes taught by full-time faculty remain a hallmark of our institution, the fact that we have built the expertise and infrastructure for online learning means that students and faculty have been able to continue the teaching and learning process even during this extraordinary time.

Throughout its history – from Mount Saint Joseph Academy to Saint Joseph College and then as the University of Saint Joseph – this institution has responded to external challenges and opportunities while maintaining its focus on preparing students to meet the needs of society. The enrollment resulting from the transition to coeducation created opportunities to add new academic programs; these include Digital Media and Communication, Computer and Data Science, Health Science, and Exercise Science. Having new programs

allows USJ to recruit and hire faculty who bring exciting perspectives, areas of expertise, and research agendas. Further, developing internship, clinical, field experience, and career opportunities in these programs allows for new partnerships with employers. We are grateful to the generous donors and foundations who have provided the financial support needed to create the classrooms, laboratories, and studios that will allow students to be trained on the same type of equipment that they will use when they enter the workforce.

Even while developing workforce-focused programs, USJ maintains “Core Curriculum” requirements that ensure that students graduate with a foundation in the arts, sciences, and humanities, and an understanding of the University's Core Values. Tenure-track faculty continue to be hired in these areas. In this edition of *OUTLOOK* you can sample the work of one of these new faculty members, Joshua Anderson, a member of the English Department. And in typical semesters, consistent with the Core Value of Developing the Whole Person, students continue to participate in service initiatives through the Office of Community Engagement while an ever-increasing number of students take part in athletics.

This issue of *OUTLOOK* focuses on how USJ's strength and stability have enabled students to develop academically and as citizens, to realize their dreams, and to go on to serve society. Capital investments; in-demand, faculty-developed academic programs; an inclusive environment; conservatively-managed finances; and a mission-driven community continue the legacy of the founding Sisters of Mercy and respond to the changing external environment. The success of USJ's students is what has led *U.S. News & World Report* to recognize USJ as one of the top three national universities in Connecticut, encouraged strong enrollments, and garnered financial support from generous donors and foundations.

We stand ready to take on whatever comes next.

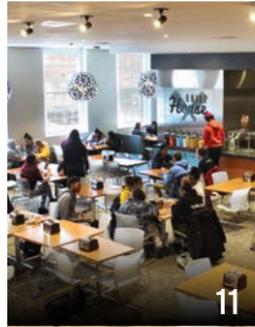
Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.
President

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Join family, friends, and alumni to create a scholarship for **Mary Joan Cook, RSM, '47, M'74, DAA '06, Ph.D., Faculty Emerita**

Associate Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs Diana Sousa, MBA



IN THE SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE (SJC) 1947 yearbook, Joan Katherine Cook, nicknamed Nancy, was remembered as someone who “never let a friend want for anything,” was “loyal to her ideals and the ideals of SJC,” and was voted the Best Actress of her Class. Soon after graduation, Joan entered the Sisters of Mercy as Sister Mary Joan.

She began her teaching career in Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph Schools in Hartford, Saint Peter School in Danbury, and Saint Mary High School in Greenwich before joining the English Department at Saint Joseph College, where she remained for nearly 50 years, retiring as Faculty Emerita.

Her reputation as a professor at the College was stellar – students remember her as someone who was scholarly and who cared deeply about her students and their interests. Ann M. Williams '82, M.A., M.Ed., shared a memory of her, “The Chaucer class I took with her was very challenging. She wanted us to learn to appreciate and speak Middle English, not just explore Chaucer’s writing and ideas. We had to memorize and recite the first 18 lines of the Prologue.” Ann can still remember the first four lines by heart – are there other alumni who can, too?

Sister Mary Joan also engaged with students outside of the classroom. She was an advisor for “Interpretations,” the College’s literary magazine. Many alumni remember her with great admiration, including Margaret Steeves '76, DAA '11, who said, “Sr. Mary Joan was an amazing intellectual and had particular expertise in Old and

Middle English (“Beowulf,” “Canterbury Tales,” etc.). She had a dry wit, and this soft chuckle (more of a quiet chortle) and quick smile when something struck her as amusing. I still remember, in 1975, she dressed as Penny Tweed for Halloween in McGovern Hall. A lovely woman, brilliant mind, and truly kind.”

In “Voices of Mercy,” Sister Mary Joan submitted the following:

“I share a PRAYER, a TRUTH, and a BIT of ADVICE which have been meaningful to me all my life. They are the words of Saint Francis de Sales. ‘Have no fear for what tomorrow might bring. The same loving God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. God will either shield you from suffering or give unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.’”

Throughout its history, the University has been blessed by the presence of many Sisters of Mercy, whose vision and talents have helped shape the institution. Alumni and friends of USJ have generously donated to endowed funds and endowed scholarships to honor several of the Sisters. With a goal of raising \$25,000 to endow a scholarship in her name, USJ invites contributions to honor Sister Mary Joan.

For more information or to donate, please contact Diane Burgess, director of Leadership Gifts, at dburgess@usj.edu or 860.231.5502.

Art Museum 2020 Highlights

Director and Curator Ann Sievers,
Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph

This winter, the Art Museum's exhibitions focused on recently acquired works of art. Altogether, they featured 37 recent gifts and four works purchased with funds donated by Friends of the Art Museum, our membership organization, and the Art Museum Advisory Committee. Many were installed near long-time collection highlights to illuminate ways in which recent acquisitions build on the Museum's historic strengths or support new collecting directions. All of them have increased the Art Museum's ability to address faculty and student interests and present engaging public exhibitions and programs.

The permanent collection also serves as the springboard for two upcoming exhibitions at the Art Museum. *TAJIMA IN RELIEF* will be the first major retrospective of a 20th century Japanese printmaker internationally renowned for his luminous abstract woodblock prints. Thanks to generous donations from Shuyu Gallery (Tokyo, Japan), Paul and Christine Meehan, and Jay and Susan Ginsburg, our collection of 20 prints by Tajima Hiroyuki (1911-1997) is one of the strongest museum holdings of his work in the United States. The Art Museum's prints will be joined by loans from major collections across the U.S. This selection of more than 60 works provides an unprecedented opportunity to review Tajima's quarter-century of intensive print production (1961-1984) and examine the recurring motifs and themes that characterize his work. Although he was thoroughly modern in his printmaking techniques and his incorporation of international trends, Tajima was also a student of traditional Japanese art forms, including flower arranging and tea ceremony.

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN? Rediscovering the Origins of Connecticut Women Artists (CWA) will examine a topic of historical and local interest. Founded in 1929 as The Society of Women Painters and Sculptors of Hartford, CWA remains a vital contributor to the visual arts in Connecticut. Prompted by a desire to celebrate the organization's 90-year history, and inspired by local historian Gary Knoble's extensive new research on the founders, CWA members approached the Art Museum about organizing an exhibition. We are very pleased to



Edith Briscoe Stevens (1896-1931). *Silos, Woodstock*, 1931. Oil on board, 12 x 16 inches. Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph. Gift of the Reverend Andrew J. Kelly, 1937.

lead this effort, as the Reverend Andrew J. Kelly, whose 1937 gift began USJ's art collection, actively collected work by women, including founders of CWA. Moreover, painter and art critic James Britton, who advised Father Kelly and is well represented in his 1937 gift, championed the work of several early CWA members.

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN? will highlight the work of 23 women, rediscovering individual artists' achievements and revealing the significant role they and their new society played in early 20th century Connecticut. Gary Knoble and the exhibition's guest curator, art historian Nancy Noble (UMass Amherst), have identified numerous works held by descendants of the artists that are completely unknown to contemporary audiences. We look forward to sharing the results of their research and celebrating the achievements of a groundbreaking group of women. In the meantime, watch the video teasers for the exhibition at www.usj.edu/cwa.

TAJIMA IN RELIEF is supported in part by an anonymous foundation; Benjamin Ortiz and Victor Torchia, Jr.; Miyoshi America, Inc.; the Us & Japan Society of Connecticut (UJSC); and the Karen L. Chase '97 Fund.

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN? is organized in collaboration with Connecticut Women Artists, Inc. and supported in part by the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation, an anonymous foundation, and the Karen L. Chase '97 Fund.

For more information about the Art Museum, visit <https://www.usj.edu/art-museum/>.

EFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH MULTICULTURALISM AND DIVERSITY

Assistant Director of Communications Elizabeth Marone '15

The University of Saint Joseph built the goals of its Strategic Plan 2020 around its Core Values. The goal to implement programs and policies that support diversity and inclusive excellence embodies many of these values.

To lead this endeavor, Rayna Dyton-White, J.D., joined the University as the director of Diversity and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator in 2018. Dyton-White holds informative and engaging programming, offers educational diversity and inclusion training, and serves the campus community by addressing Title IX issues. In this latter role, she is responsible for ensuring USJ's compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, and enforcing University policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. Additionally, she works with staff and groups on campus to address equity and diversity for faculty, staff, and students.

With Dyton-White's arrival on campus, the University's efforts to address the Core Value of Multiculturalism and Diversity have evolved from discussions and lectures to interactive events that ask participants to be introspective in order to bring about greater change, both on campus and in society. "For our community, I'm really looking at programming that I can develop so they can be seen, heard, and acknowledged," she explained. "I'm looking to show them how to develop emotional intelligence, while also exposing them to different groups." In February alone, Dyton-White held events addressing self-care, health testing, and black men's experiences with fatherhood.

USJ's Diversity Committee, composed of faculty and staff, updated the Diversity Survey and made suggestions that are exemplary of our campus efforts to make everyone feel welcome and valued. During the 2018-19 academic year, USJ had 2,465 students, of which 45% identified as races other than white. The University is continuously working on diversifying the faculty and staff. Dyton-White added, "We have a created a diverse environment, I am impressed with the faculty and staff who have come forward with ideas and support measures to foster and maintain an inclusive setting for their colleagues and students."



Director of Diversity and Inclusion/Title IX Coordinator Rayna Dyton-White speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January 2020.

This approach of educating and raising awareness works to support another Core Value: Development of the Whole Person. "I want students, while they're here, to learn how to really exercise empathy for other people, to learn how to care for themselves, as well as how to care for other people," Dyton-White explained. "Most of our students here are in some form of a helping profession; many of them are going to be engaging in direct care."

In order to make the greatest impact on future clients and patients – and to truly bring USJ's Core Value of Compassionate Service to life – Dyton-White is asking students to start with themselves. Compassionate Service is integral to increasing cultural competency and bringing about effective change. Dyton-White teaches students that service work can be as transformative for the volunteer as it is for the recipient.

"It's important that when we approach any group, any community, we see the opportunity for learning from that group," she said. "When we talk about Compassionate Service, it should be from the standpoint of 'I have something that I can offer to this set of people.' It should never be from the standpoint of 'These people have nothing that they can offer me; there's nothing that I can learn from them.'"

Dyton-White's approach and programming is helping the University of Saint Joseph to become stronger than ever and addressing the values that are at the heart of USJ's identity. By doing so, USJ is continuing its tradition of preparing students to serve their communities with empathy and compassion.



with USJ honorary degree recipient and NYT best-selling author Luanne Rice.

Q: More than three dozen of your books have been published. What would you tell the USJ community about the importance of building skills (research, writing, etc.) AND having grit and determination to achieve your short-term and long-term goals?

A: I feel very lucky that my mother, Lucille Arrigan Rice '46, encouraged my love of writing from a very young age. On summer mornings, she would hold writing workshops for my two sisters and me. While sounds of the waves, and our friends having fun, would drift up the hill, we would sit at an old oak table and write stories. At the time, we would rather have been swimming and crabbing, but those summer days taught me the value of writing every day, and of incorporating life's loves and experiences into fiction. Goals are akin to dreams. Let yourself imagine what you want your life to be, then take daily steps to get there. Believe in yourself and don't give in to doubt. Surround yourself with people who will support your dream, who will never discourage you, who will help you achieve it.

Q: Writing is an iterative, collaborative process that sometimes involves more than a few people. What have you learned about how the values of Respect/Integrity and Multiculturalism/Diversity have helped you professionally and personally?

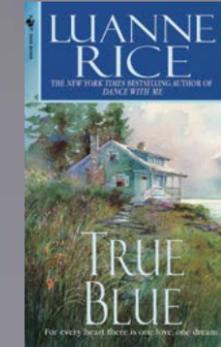
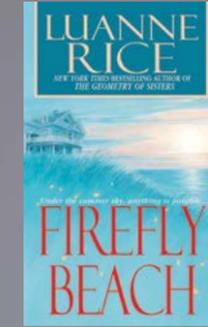
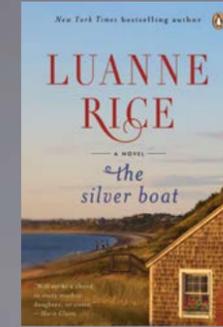
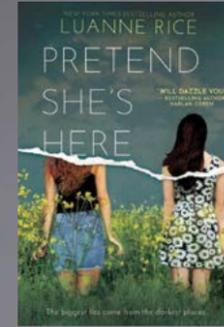
A: Integrity requires staying true to your best self. Respect means treating others as you want to be treated, but also, equally important, treating yourself in the way you know you deserve. We all make mistakes—that is part of life. Being strong enough to admit them, once you've realized them, is a basis for integrity. Self-blame and guilt don't help; having respect for yourself and others allows you to move on, to rise above, to learn and grow.

Awareness and sensitivity to multiculturalism/diversity are integral to being a writer. From an early age I have tried to understand, the best I can, how

it feels to be someone different than myself. My novel *The Lemon Orchard* is about a woman living in southern California, being friends with a family of undocumented people from Mexico. It was based on real-life relationships of mine. I treasured the times I spent listening to stories about crossing the border, about family life back home in Puebla, how one young man missed the grandmother who had raised him and his heart was broken to know he would probably never be able to go home again to see her.

Based on what I learned from them, I went to the border and volunteered with Water Station, a group that provides water to migrants making the long and sometimes fatal crossing from Mexico. The temperature rose to 125 degrees. We saw crosses marking the spot where people had died. We came upon a single shoe on a trail full of cactus and boulders—how did the person who lost it continue and survive? This was the middle of nowhere—in a scalding hot lunar landscape. Working with Water Station changed my life.

When it came time to write *The Lemon Orchard*, I wanted to make sure the story was mine to tell. I did not make that crossing myself. I did not have to leave family I loved, not knowing if I would ever see



them again. To understand better, I went to Ireland, where my ancestors had lived. In the 1800s they came to the United States seeking work and a better life, leaving extreme poverty behind. Although the experiences of my ancestors were different than those of my friends in Los Angeles, while in Ireland I could feel the passion and desire to create a better life, as well as the deep grief—almost bottomless sorrow—at having to leave loved ones who didn't make the journey.

In *The Lemon Orchard* I wrote from the point of view of the American woman, not that of the Mexican immigrants. I reached out to the brilliant writer Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The Devil's Highway*, an important book about immigration and death on the border, to discuss my characters and my intentions in writing the novel. After *The Lemon Orchard* was published, he generously spent time “in conversation” with me, onstage at the Printers Row Lit Fest in Chicago. Later I was a panelist at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, at the Globe Talks on Immigration's Humanitarian Challenges. Because of researching and writing my book, of volunteering in the Anza-Borrego desert, of visiting my family places in Ireland, of standing on the docks of Cork—from which the famine ships left (also called “coffin ships” because so many people died aboard them), of friendships I made along the way, I was filled with compassion for other people's lives—the joy and the wonder and the love and the fear and the sadness—and was able to feel them in my heart, to relate the best I could to my own life.

Q: Some of your work has also been turned into TV programming. How has that changed your life and work?

A: It's fun! It's exciting to have a novel adapted into a film, TV show, or stage production. I've been lucky enough to visit all the sets, meet the directors and casts, and even have a couple of walk-on roles. One of my favorites was when *Beach Girls* was being filmed in Nova Scotia; my teenaged niece Amelia (now a writer and a comic artist) came with me, and if you don't blink, you'll see a scene with us walking on the waterfront.

Q: Honorary degrees at Universities are very important. Recipients are being recognized for the work done outside of a classroom that is so important it merits a degree. At the time of your award from the then-Saint Joseph College, you noted how Laurette Laramie influenced you (among others) with her activism. Is there a way that you try to be that kind of influence on others?

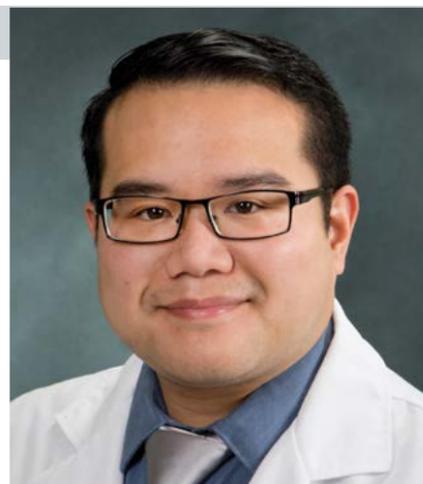
A: Laurette Laramie, a USJ alumna, was my history teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. She encouraged us to take a stand in life—to fight injustice, to help people in need. Every week we would read about the Neediest Cases in the *New York Times*. Even if we couldn't afford to contribute to the fund, the stories opened our eyes to other lives, to the hardships people suffer. While I was in school, I became seriously depressed. Laurette noticed, and because she got involved, I received the help I needed. She is a powerful example, and I've in turn tried to help people with mental illness. I am also an advocate for victims of domestic violence; I am especially passionate about bringing awareness to the seriousness and deadly nature of emotional and verbal abuse. Sometimes the worst scars are on the inside, where no one else can see. They cause trauma that can last a lifetime.

More information about Luanne:

I write books about family, especially sisters, and friendship, and things I feel most deeply. *Last Day* is about a murder, inspired by a real-life one that affected my family. Terrible things can happen in the prettiest towns, to people we know, to families that might seem “perfect” from the outside. I wrote about the way the victim's sister, daughter, and best friends felt about her. By looking at the darkness of crime, we're able to see the light and brilliance of life. There is love and goodness in the world. I seek it in my fiction, and living my life.

Jason Lew, Pharm.D.'18

Assistant Director of Communications Elizabeth Marone '15



For many, a University of Saint Joseph education is a transformative experience. As a result, a number of graduates return to the University to give back to the institution that prepared them for their careers.

One such graduate is Jason Lew, Pharm.D.'18, the Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacist at Backus Hospital in Norwich, Conn.

A graduate of USJ's Pharmacy program, Lew was very involved throughout his time at the University. In addition to maintaining a high GPA and serving as president of Kappa Psi, the coed Pharmacy fraternity, he was the vice president of the Student Government Association and toured new and prospective students around the downtown Hartford facility.

For Lew, the faculty who shared their expertise in the classroom while remaining actively involved in students' experiences had a particular impact. "Their dedication to the organization and their drive for Pharmacy really stood out to me as a student," he remarked.

One course, in particular, piqued his interest: Toxicology with Associate Professor Dayne Laskey, Pharm.D., DABAT, which included learning about Laskey's experiences working in the emergency department of a local hospital.

That personal interest drew Lew to serve as an Emergency Medical Technician before pursuing a residency at the University of

Rochester-Strong Memorial Hospital. These experiences have informed his practice in his current position at Backus Hospital, where he provides comprehensive pharmaceutical care. He actively collaborates with the interdisciplinary team, provides pharmacotherapy recommendations, consults at patients' bedsides, and responds to adult and pediatric trauma, cardiac arrest, stroke, and sepsis alerts. He finds that the clinical knowledge of a pharmacist is constantly sought by the other providers on the health care team.

"I was able to see the spectrum of care for patients before they entered the hospital, during their care in the emergency department, during their stay in the Intensive Care Unit, and then being discharged home," he said. "With this knowledge, I'm able to anticipate medication needs for patients. I'm able to assist nurses, prepare medication, and make interventions that benefit the patient."

After gaining experience in his current role, Lew decided he wanted to give back to the USJ Pharmacy program by becoming a clinical preceptor in the fall.

"I want to come back as a preceptor at USJ because I had great learning experiences with the pharmacists who were my professors and preceptors," he said. "I also had the ability to diversify my rotations. It really did help shape me into the pharmacist I am today."

Lew completed various clinical rotation experiences as a student at Duke University (NC), Yale-New Haven Hospital (CT), Hartford Hospital (CT), Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital (AK), and Gallup Indian Medical Center (NM) that provided him with exposure to various disease states and diverse patient populations. He had the opportunity to participate in rounds with interdisciplinary teams, serve patients managed in pharmacist-led clinics, and provide evidence-based recommendations to health care providers.

A strong motivator for his return to USJ is his belief in the power of mentorship in students' lives. While in school, he facilitated the Big/Little Community, where second-year Pharmacy students served as mentors to first-year students, helping them develop their exam skills and offering words of advice. Now, he will be able to continue his mentorship in his new role.

"I've always been a big advocate for mentorship in the field of Pharmacy, and to help provide that back to students is a great opportunity."

Discover more information about other Pharmacy alumni and USJ's distinctive doctoral program at usj.edu/academics/academic-schools/sppas/pharmacy/.

2019

A YEAR OF SUSTAINED GROWTH AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Affairs Diana Sousa, MBA

In USJ's 2019 Annual Report, the introduction from President Rhona Free recognizes how, "The support of donors, along with sound fiscal management and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, made 2019 a successful year both financially and academically for the University of Saint Joseph. Delivering on our promise to provide values and value to students, the University continued to invest in modernizing campus facilities and updating academic offerings while strategically managing expenses."

If you've been on campus in the last year, it would have been hard to miss the construction zone fences and blocked-off safety areas around building projects. While the expansion of the O'Connell Athletic Center has only recently begun, the USJ community is now able to enjoy the benefits of the last few years of updates:

- ✓ New ramps and accessible doors for buildings across campus;
- ✓ A new dance studio constructed in the Bruyette Athenaeum;
- ✓ A new student lounge in McDonough Hall;
- ✓ An artificial turf field and new tennis courts developed for the increasing number of student-athletes;
- ✓ Behind-the-scenes and underground infrastructure improvements to enhance technology capabilities;
- ✓ Infrastructure and interior improvements to residential halls;
- ✓ Renovations to classroom labs that include upgraded, modern equipment;
- ✓ Updates to classrooms, including the new Collaboration Lab in the Pope Pius XII Library, which offers collaborative technology to enable virtual learning; and
- ✓ Renovations to McGovern Hall that provide students with customized dining service options, more flexible meeting spaces, and a new campus store.

According to *American School & University Magazine*, "In the year 2020, one-fifth of the way through the 21st century, too many schools still are delivering

education in buildings designed in another era, with teaching strategies that don't take advantage of modern advancements."

Vice President for Finance and Administration Lucy Lucker reflected on the recent investments to modernize the campus. "As an institution of higher education, where we want our students to delve into their academic passions and prepare for the future, it's imperative that we provide them with up-to-date facilities and resources to do their research, take their classes, and have the space to socialize with each other. The well-planned and managed construction projects total about \$32 million and were paid for, in part, by donors and state-funded grants, as well as bank loans that are on track to get repaid over 20 years," she explained.

Moving forward, the University expects to open the expanded O'Connell Athletic Center in February 2021, and you can look for information coming soon about new campaigns for the Connor Chapel of Our Lady and in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Pope Pius XII Library. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Maggie Pinney '95 is excited about donor and alumni support for these next projects. "Our alumni are ready to help make the updates to our beloved Chapel and understand the importance of sustaining the latest reference materials and technology for the Library – both of these are treasured spaces on campus," she said.



Prestigious National Science Foundation Grant “Educating Talented Leaders for Tomorrow’s Science”

is a catalyst to success for selected USJ scholars

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Affairs Diana Sousa, MBA

IN 2017, USJ WAS HONORED TO RECEIVE A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

(NSF) grant for \$649,650, the first for the University since 1996. It was awarded to develop and implement programming to benefit students—especially women and underrepresented groups—with strong academic backgrounds, who major in biology, chemistry, or biochemistry. This project, entitled “Educating Talented Leaders for Tomorrow’s Science,” began in September 2018 and is currently under the direction of Professors Irene Reed, Jesse Crandall, and Derek Dube through August 2023.

The faculty applied for the grant to help increase diversity among leaders in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The 2012 report “Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates in Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics” stated that STEM graduation rates would need to increase by 34% to meet market needs—that is, to produce one million more STEM graduates. USJ is not alone in trying to fill the STEM pipeline, but the University has a few distinctions recognized as advantages for success, including a strong history of educating students in the sciences and longstanding employer relationships that ensure that we are preparing our students for current and future workforce needs. Building on these strengths, the University established the CATAlyST Scholars Program (CSP). CATAlyST is the program’s acronym for Cultivating Academically Talented Leaders Yields Scientists for Tomorrow.

According to Irene Reed, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology, “Now that we are in the second year of the program, the student outcomes and benefits are very apparent. We’ve seen the students increase their commitment to academics, expand their understanding of potential career paths, and create an enduring network of friends and faculty relationships.

Beyond the technical science skills required, the communication of scientific data has changed vastly during the last decade. Advances in technology and connectivity allow people to look through the same microscopes online, share databases, and report their findings to the world. For USJ’s students to be successful in the STEM workforce, they need to both acquire scientific acumen and develop effective communication skills.



The CSP provides students with four-year scholarships, an extended support infrastructure, access to early advising within their chosen disciplines, and opportunities to engage with industry. Nathan Arthur ’22, a biology major in the program, reflected on his time as a CATAlyST Scholar, “This program pushed me into jumping head first into the different experiences that I can have. It exposed me to health and research career options and learning opportunities, and is helping me get to where I want to be.” In the summer of 2019, Nathan was selected for a prestigious Partnership in Innovation and Education (PIE) Fellowship to complete summer research at UConn Health in Farmington, Conn. studying novel treatment options for inflammatory bowel disease.

The Connecticut Department of Labor projects significant growth in STEM fields by 2024, including 9.7% growth for biochemists/biophysicists and 10.4% growth for chemists. Connecticut has taken initial steps to meet this escalating need for STEM professionals; however, most state-funded STEM education initiatives focus on the state university system, while many promising students may reach their fullest potential in a more personal and individualized learning environment. With this program and other academic services, the University of Saint Joseph is well-positioned to guide these students to success.

Derek Dube, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology, is excited to see the students flourish in this program, “Through cohort team-building, individual advising, academic support activities, and industry engagement, we provide the necessary support network for these scholars to excel as undergraduates, and graduate as individuals capable of moving the STEM fields forward in their future careers.”

The CSP engages students through high-impact activities such as faculty mentoring, peer mentoring, supplemental instruction, research, and internships. Throughout the four years, students concurrently develop their writing and critical thinking skills through the development of a scientific writing portfolio, which is expected to enhance their academic achievement, commitment to STEM fields, job readiness, and employability in STEM fields. Companies who have agreed to collaborate with the CSP provide facility tours, mentoring, and internships to further assist in the development of students’ specific career interests and job placement.



In the first two years, the students are already realizing the benefits of the program, including:

- Cohort classes where they team up on research, writing, and peer assessments;
- Workshops and events that improve their resumes and offer opportunities to network with leaders in their selected career; and
- Engagement with upper class peer mentors who have experience with coursework and can support the students who are working toward membership in an honor society.

As the University moves into the second half of the grant, Jesse Crandall, Ph.D., assistant professor of Chemistry, believes the best is yet to come. He states, “The students are engaged and beginning to work in internships in the area. There is great optimism from both the students and employers that we have worked with, and I’m more excited than ever about what these students will do next.”

USJ Education: A Family Affair

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Affairs Diana Sousa, MBA

An institution with value and values, the University of Saint Joseph often feels like a family to its students—a welcoming place where they can learn and thrive in a community that cares about their success. Sometimes, the University's values align so closely with a family's values that more than one sibling decides to enroll.

For the Veach and Lindblom families, this is the case. All interested in Nursing, both groups of siblings are pursuing varying levels of degrees in USJ's Nursing programs.

Family is a strong motivator for both sets of sisters. For the Veachs—Heather, Callie, and Audra—their grandmother, Irene DiPace, is the source of their inspiration. As a Nursing student at New Britain General Hospital she, like other students, lived at the hospital while earning her degree. Irene was able to experience nursing in a variety of departments including emergency, psychiatric/mental health, and med-surg, and ultimately brought her expertise to the state of Connecticut Department of Health inspecting hospitals.

Heather reflected on her grandmother saying, "She likes things perfect; she's a perfectionist. I think that also pushed us to do our best." A special moment came for both Heather and Callie when their grandmother was able to join them on stage during the Nursing Pinning Award. Audra excitedly anticipates the same experience.

While Heather and Callie took circuitous routes to find their passion for Nursing, their younger sister Audra established her college and career path from an early age. She said, "USJ was the only school I applied to because it was my number one pick and I applied early. I knew I was going to USJ before my friends in high school had even applied to schools. I was very focused and driven because of my grandmother. I knew what I wanted to do. I was accepted into the Nursing program so I was like that's it; why apply anywhere else? I know this is where I want to go."



Callie Veach, fourth from left, a junior nursing student at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, shares her artwork she presented at the school's 2019 Symposium Day. Inspired by her family, Veach described the correlation between biology and art, and how art can give her a positive advantage to caring for her patients. Veach's grandmother is a nurse and her father is an artist, influencing her to pursue both disciplines while studying at USJ. With Veach are, from left, her sister Audra Veach, grandmother Irene DiPace, mother Donna Veach, and Michelle Kalis, USJ provost.

Heather, the oldest, originally graduated from USJ in 2015 with a degree in Chemistry. Seeing her sister's experience at the University, Callie enrolled in 2014. While Callie finished her degree, Heather realized her dream of becoming a nurse and completed an accelerated second degree at UConn. Completing their programs at the same time, Callie encouraged Heather to apply to USJ's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Audra has been thriving in her undergraduate Nursing program and expects to graduate in 2021.

Elayna and Anna Lindblom feel similarly about the role of USJ in their lives.

Elayna is currently completing her master's degree in Nursing to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. She and her sister Anna, a sophomore in USJ's undergraduate Nursing program, were both inspired to become nurses by a family member as well – their mom.

Anna stepped into a nursing career because she said, "My mom and sister both are nurses and I have always had the desire to help other people in a hands-on way. I felt that nursing was one of the best ways that I could serve people at some of their greatest times of need."

For both the Veach and Lindblom sisters, the University's Core Values, faculty, sense of community, smaller class sizes, and location drew them to complete their degrees here—together. 🏡

Did you and your sibling attend the University together? We'd love to hear about your experience. Email outlook@usj.edu to share your story.

Spring Flood

Assistant Professor of English, Joshua Anderson, Ph.D.



Photo credit: Joshua Anderson

Iceicles drip in April. Spread over the flood plains. Gullywashing through culverts. Sounding the return of pale-blue robins' eggs.

Each spring we begin the seasonal struggle with the Red River Valley, the saturated water table, the thunderclouds. Culverts, earthen dams, reinforced ditches and roadways are our implements of diversion. We channel the water off the Dobmeier field. Off the Torgerson field. Back to the Park River. Back to Homme Dam. Back and back and back. Since Grandpa Ray gave up the plow for the bulldozer we have called ourselves roadbuilders, earthmovers. However, our unspoken struggle, our most abiding respect, is with water.

Uncle Bruce does not fish in the water, he seeks to contain it. His land houses raw materials waiting to be chosen. Weathered yellow school buses on cinderblocks filled with culverts. The hull of a cement truck storing rusted iron rods. I-beams and railroad ties disappearing slowly, hidden beneath burning grass and blooming dandelions.

My first full season with the crew, Bruce enlisted me and his son Brent to build him a rock-screener—a "grizzly" as he called it. He showed us the iron bones to pick from the scrapyards. Drew us an incoherent schematic that we never used. With Brent on the cutting torch and me on the arc welder, Bruce storied the grizzly into being, revising and changing the iron's story at the start of each day.

"This here angle-iron is from the Myrdal farm," he'd tell us. "This piece is from the missile silos we bulldozed for the government last spring."

I didn't understand how the pieces fit together. How the iron rods would become fingers for sifting dirt from rock. How the I-beams would frame the skeleton.

During the day, Bruce would leave us to work out the part of the story he left us with. To cut holes for the iron fingers. To weld the skeleton together until the disparate parts formed a union, transformed into something closer to his vision. At dusk, he would return. Take us for drives to see the jobsites. To see water standing stagnant in the ditches. The water washing glacial rocks in the muddy fields. To tell us other stories.

He told us about the pickled pigs feet grandma used to bring to the jobsites and the way Ray cocked his cap to the side. He told us the one about how Uncle Stan survived a bulldozer accident, his chest caved in. He reminded us that in North Dakota the world is flat, before teaching us about water tables and willow witches. His favorite was the one about the time he drowned, or nearly drowned, while playing as a boy in a flooded culvert. About how he was resurrected by the sonorous honk of Canadian geese arrowing north overhead.

The story never begins or ends in the same place. It swells over the banks of memory. Bursts the canning jars of language.

When we finished the grizzly we separated the earth into its elements for containing and rerouting the water: boulders from rocks, sod from dirt from clay. By the end of every summer, the road home was a different road, raw materials separated and banded together to fight a losing battle against the flood.

CAMPUS SNAP SHOTS



Photo 1: The Dimensional Dance Company presented the Dance History Live event, held in the Hoffman Auditorium. A variety of dance styles were performed, accompanied by a presentation describing the influences and meanings behind each dance, which brought together movement and music in an educational and entertaining event.

Photo 2: President Free congratulates Dr. Charles R. Morgan, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Biology on receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Photo 3: Assistant Professor of Social Work Elijah C. Nealy presented the 2019 Murphy Lecture, titled "No Single Issue Lives: Cultivating resistance, resilience, and hope for our journey toward liberation and justice." He discussed his visible and invisible identities as a white man of transgender experience and the shifting dynamics of privilege and marginalization across gender, gender identity, and race.

Photo 4: Vice President for Student Affairs Kenneth Bedini, Student Government Association President Chelsy Cardillo, and President Free cut the ribbon to celebrate the official reopening of McGovern Hall following extensive renovations.

Photo 5: Yvonne Joy, Assistant Professor of Nursing and DNP Program Director, stands (on the right) with the inaugural class of the Bachelor of Science to Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Students recently completed their B.S. degree in Nursing and now are on the path to become nurse practitioners and leaders in health care by earning their Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Photo 6: The University of Saint Joseph recognized Martin Luther King Day by holding an event in the Hoffman Auditorium of the Bruyette Athenaeum. Speakers took turns telling stories about Martin Luther King, how they were influenced by him, and what the day means to all. Pictured is undergraduate student Mariam Abdi who won the essay-writing contest for the event.

Photo 7: The Women's Leadership Center at the University of Saint Joseph hosted a panel discussion entitled "Voices of Women in CT Leadership: A Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Suffrage". Pictured from left to right are Assistant Director, Government Affairs at The Hartford, Molly Griffin; Secretary of State Denise Merrill; USJ undergraduate student Aya Cruz; historian Tracey Wilson; President Free; and educator, historian, and activist Brittany Yancy. The event was made possible by the generous support of The Hartford.

Photo 8 & 9: Students enjoy the new lounge located in the renovated McGovern Hall. Better lighting, more comfortable seating, and greater accessibility help the campus community gather, relax, and socialize.

Photo 10: Ugandan musician, humanitarian, and photographer Samite Mulondo poses with a group of recent African immigrants to the Hartford area. His performance, "The Story of Mutoto," featuring Samite's music, stories, and photography, was part of the Autorino Center's "Disruption" series of performances.

USJ ATHLETICS WINTER WRAP-UP

Assistant Athletic Director, Josh Ingham



MEN'S BASKETBALL

The University of Saint Joseph won the 2019-20 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) championship, defeating Albertus Magnus College, 88-84, inside the O'Connell Athletic Center on March 1. They became the eighth team in USJ history to claim a GNAC title, which earned them a berth in the NCAA Tournament where they competed in the Springfield Regional and played Hobart College in the NCAA First Round. After starting the season 1-2, the Blue Jays proceeded to rattle off 25 consecutive wins, the third-longest

winning streak in Division III men's basketball this season. USJ finished the 2019-20 campaign with a 26-3 record overall and went a perfect 11-0 in GNAC games, joining Albertus Magnus as the only other program to go undefeated in GNAC play in league history. Men's basketball also became the first USJ team to be nationally-ranked. Three student-athletes were named All-Conference: Jaecee Martin (Hartford, Conn.) and fellow sophomore Delshawn Jackson Jr. (Hartford, Conn.) were named to the All-GNAC First Team. Junior Jordan Powell (Middletown, Conn.) was selected to the All-GNAC Second Team.



Jaecee Martin

Sophomore Ryan O'Neill (Litchfield, Conn.) was tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. USJ and Hall of Fame head coach Jim Calhoun joined an exclusive club during the season, earning his 900th career win on Jan. 10 when the Blue Jays defeated Pratt Institute. Calhoun became the 11th coach in men's college basketball history to amass 900 career wins and currently sports a career record of 915-395 (.698). During the Blue Jays' unprecedented 25-game win streak, they also won the 1st Annual USJ Holiday Tournament, sponsored by Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Under the direction of second-year head coach Wendy Davis, the Blue Jays logged an overall record of 11-14 during the 2019-20 campaign, marking an eight-win improvement from the previous season. Women's basketball was honored by the conference with a year-end major award and they earned the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the second consecutive year and for the third time in the



Anna Chevarrella



past five seasons. They became the first women's basketball team to earn the honor in back-to-back seasons. Junior Anna Chevarrella (Derby, Conn.) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. For the third consecutive season, USJ placed runner-up in its 22nd Annual USJ Tip-Off Tournament, and for the second straight season sophomore Cheyenne-Mone Smith (Wethersfield, Conn.) earned All-Tournament Team accolades.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

The Blue Jays contested in 12 meets on the season, including seven dual meets where the women's swimming and diving team posted a dual meet record of 4-3 under sixth-year head coach Brenda Straker. The men took part in four dual meets and went 2-2. Sophomore Jacob Wyse (Broad Brook, Conn.) headlined the season on the men's side, making USJ history at the New England Intercollegiate Swimming & Diving Association (NEISDA) Championships. The NEISDA's were highlighted by numerous broken school records and Wyse's sensational performance in the pool, which earned him a gold medal in the 400-yard Individual Medley (IM). It marked the first NEISDA gold medal in school history, and Wyse's third career NEISDA medal, after

earning a bronze last year, and a silver in the 200 IM this year. Wyse helped lead the Blue Jays to a ninth place finish at NEISDA's for the second consecutive season. Wyse and freshman diver Zachary Nielsen (Berlin, Conn.) were tabbed to the NEISDA All-New England Team. Sophomore Jack Monroe (Waterbury, Conn.) was named to the NEISDA All-Sportsmanship Team. The women's swimming and diving team made waves during the regular season, doing something that USJ hadn't done since 1997 by defeating intrastate foe Eastern Connecticut in a dual meet on Tuesday, January 21 in dominant fashion, 163-96, winning all but three of the night's events. USJ also excelled in postseason championship events as a flock of four Blue Jays received NEISDA All-New England honors. Freshman Alexia Weir (Hebron, Conn.), sophomore Alise Martel (Harwinton, Conn.), and sophomore diver Brielle Bergeron (Easthampton, Mass.) were named to the All-New England Team, which requires a top-eight finish in an individual event at NEISDA's. Additionally, sophomore Mackenzie Stotler (New Hartford, Conn.) was selected to the NEISDA All-Sportsmanship Team. The women's team posted its highest-ever finish at NEISDA's, turning in an 11th place finish out of 21 teams and scoring 27 more points than they did last season. 🏆



Brielle Bergeron



Alexia Weir



Jacob Wyse and Coach Brenda Straker



Alise Martel



Jack Monroe



Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @USJ_BlueJays

NEW SPORTS, COACHES, AND FACILITIES

Assistant Sports Information Director, Darren Ayotte

The 2019-20 academic year has certainly had its share of headlines, but for the University of Saint Joseph Department of Athletics, the excitement continues to build. USJ is preparing for the addition of two new varsity sports programs, part of the continuing expansion of Athletics to meet student interests.

The second year of coeducation has been nothing short of a success. In June 2019, the Blue Jays welcomed Amanda Devitt as the second Athletic Director in school history. The new multi-purpose turf field has been met with critical acclaim from coaches, officials, and players alike. The men's basketball team, under the direction of Hall of Fame head coach Jim Calhoun, won its first Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship in just its second season, and was nationally-ranked among DIII teams. The O'Connell Athletic Center is undergoing expansion and renovation. The time is now to be a part of this Blue Jays' Boom, a movement with impact far beyond the fields and classrooms that house USJ's 200-plus student-athletes.

So what's next?

Women's field hockey and men's tennis will join the 13 other varsity sports that call USJ home, starting in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, respectively.

Tennis will be the sixth men's athletic program, along with soccer, basketball, swimming & diving, cross-country, and lacrosse, which began its inaugural season in February.

There may be no one more excited to kick things off than those who will lead their teams to battle.

"To continue my coaching career at USJ means everything," said Craig Davidson, the first head men's tennis coach in USJ history. "It's a great challenge, a big responsibility to build a program from the ground up, but I am really looking forward to the opportunity to grow the program into a winning culture."

Davidson, a West Hartford native and Hall High School alumnus, coached adult and junior teams for the United States Tennis Association (USTA).



"The University is a family. The men's tennis team will be part of that family. We will be close, tight-knit, and represent the school as best as we can," Davidson added.

Karen Nell was welcomed in the fall of 2019 as the new women's lacrosse coach. She will also be on the field when field hockey takes its first shot on goal in a matter of months.

"I had the opportunity to be an assistant coach for the women's lacrosse program at Western Connecticut State University, and I knew right away it was something I wanted to do full-time. Being able

to do something you love every day doesn't feel like work." Nell said.

She won three straight state championships in girls' lacrosse and a fourth in field hockey as the head coach at New Fairfield High School, where she also won more than two-thirds of her games combined.

"Most people don't know that field hockey is one of the largest team sports in the world, played by women and men. Field hockey has always had a special place in my heart, and I have found that the people who have played have a lifelong love for the sport," said Nell.

USJ will be the 10th school in the conference to compete in field hockey.

"I am most excited about growing the game at the collegiate level here. I am honored to have the chance to do so."

The new facilities, new sports, and new coaches are all part of a plan to lead the University into a flourishing future.

"I think it's clear that USJ is making a commitment to athletics in more ways than one, adding new sports and making major improvements to our facilities. This level of commitment will continue to enhance the experience of our students, and our student-athletes, for years to come," said Nell. 🦆

Fans of USJ and USJ Athletics are encouraged to head on over to www.usjbluejays.com for all of the latest headlines, highlights and updates on your favorite USJ teams.

#FearTheFlock #GoBlueJays

ADVISORY BOARDS



CREATING PATHS TO SUCCESS FOR OUR STUDENTS

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Affairs Diana Sousa, MBA

Since the implementation of the 2020 Strategic Plan, the University of Saint Joseph has increased the number of advisory boards established for the institution's wide-ranging academic programs. A practice that was expanded at USJ four years ago, these advisory boards are formed to help plan, develop, and maintain academic programs – both newly-introduced areas of study, as well as those that have long been a part of the University's program offerings.

Typically formed after the introduction of a program, advisory boards consist of 10 to 20 individuals, including faculty members, industry leaders from the region, and alumni looking to give back to the program that set them on their path. In some of USJ's health care programs, preceptors—who educate students in the field during clinical rotations—also serve as advisory board members.

These advisory boards are critical to the development of effective programs that teach students the

skills needed in order to succeed in their careers.

"They help us to make sure our curriculum is relevant, which benefits the students and faculty," said USJ Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.

Additionally, advisory boards serve a critical role in the accreditation process. For long-standing USJ programs, such as Nursing and Education, the advisory boards meet with the accreditation site visit team and help maintain the University's reputation as an institution dedicated to academic excellence.

"Advisory boards also provide that direct connection with people who are leaders in the field or working in the field on a day-to-day basis, which is crucial for students," said Dr. Kalis.

This bridge between the classroom and the workforce helps distinguish USJ's programs from peer institutions because it links the theoretical with the practical, providing a well-rounded educational experience.

"The students really need both the faculty expertise and to hear from people who are currently working in

the field," Dr. Kalis explained. "With Advisory Boards, students have that connection to people who are leaders, who can mentor them or help them to understand the career options for their major."

At a recent Advisory Board meeting of the Digital Media and Communication program, faculty and staff heard about the relevant programs USJ may want to consider developing on topics including podcasting, YouTube, media ethics, the Freedom of Information Act, and personal branding.

Marketing and Development Director of the Connecticut Main Street Center Christine Schilke commented, "I was thrilled to be asked to join USJ's Digital Media and Communication Advisory Board. Not only is it a great chance to collaborate with other communication professionals, but I'm excited to be able to help the next generation succeed in this field. USJ's program will be a tremendous opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience, network with established professionals, and get a leg up on the latest technology. If I and the other Advisory Board members can help them gain practical, real-world knowledge that'll put them ahead, I'm all for it."

As USJ looks ahead to the fall 2020 semester, new advisory boards will be formed for programs including the undergraduate Digital Media and Communication program and the Master of Public Health program. 🦆

Are you interested in participating in a current or future Advisory Board? Contact alumni@usj.edu.

CLASS NOTES

Keep the USJ community informed! Send news on your career, family, education, and more for the next edition of *OUTLOOK* magazine's Class Notes to Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17, director of Alumni Relations, at 860.231.5364 or kathrynburke@usj.edu.

1957

Mary Troncone Brundage '57 spent her career teaching 1st Grade, 8th Grade, and founding an Ignatian school (K – 12), the Academy of Saint Therese. Mary has nine grandchildren, who are the joy of her life.

1958



Sister Pat Rooney '58 cheered on the USJ Men's and Women's Basketball Teams throughout the season and is now officially an honorary Blue Jays cheerleader!

1964

Sandralee Foley Barker '64 bought a condo in Naples, Florida, and will be spending three months there this year.

1965

Lucia Ciervo Weinryb '65 has four grandchildren; three girls and one boy. Her oldest granddaughter is a freshman at Villanova University.

1969



While celebrating her 50th Reunion, **Susan Lombardi Delvecchio '69** was surprised by her grandson Benjamin Marchetti, a student in the Class of 2023. Benjamin presented her with flowers following the traditional Parade of Classes. "Who would have thought 50 years ago that he would be studying and playing soccer at USJ on the day of his grandmother's 50th Reunion? Quite a day for her. USJ has come a long way to maintain a strong reputation," shared Susan's husband, Robert Delvecchio. The USJ soccer team won their game day that day, and Benjamin scored a goal for his grandmother. An extraordinary day for all!

1971

Ellen-Jane Cronin Reinertsen '71 recently retired after working 48 years as a Registered Dietitian.

1972



Margaret Fox Flanagan '72 celebrated husband Ed's birthday with family and friends at USJ. They attended a special reception for Coach Jim Calhoun, then cheered on the Women's and Men's basketball teams before heading home for a birthday gathering. Enjoying the day together are Lara Obadowski, Maureen Flanagan, Margaret, Ed, Chris Flanagan, and Jill Pinsky.

1975

Mary Niebielski Cikatz '75 retired this past June after 17 years in technology support/education for the Lyme-Old-Lyme school district. She and her husband Bob (WPI, '74) now have more time to spend with their four grandchildren, Zoe, Luca, Roman, and Henry.

1977



JoAnn Donah Charland '77 and **Noreen Armstrong Bachteler '77** enjoyed a night at USJ Basketball together.

1981-1982



In November, a group of friends reunited for a weekend on Topsail Island, North Carolina, to celebrate their 60th birthdays and 40+ years of friendship. Among those who came were members of the Class of '81: **Lisa Bergamini Benet, Laurie Bergamini Burrill, Nancy Fidler, Lynda Becker Gelineau, Brenda Vogel Smith, Sandy Songin, Barbara Biesak Wesselman, and Colleen Sullivan Lineburgh '82.**

1985

Congratulations to **Lois Nesci '85, M'87** who accepted the role of CEO of the Gandara Center in early February!

1986

Donna Mulhern Kolodziej '86, M'89 married Steven Kolodziej on June 7, 2019. She has been employed by New Britain Public Schools for 33 years, and is teaching for USJ as an adjunct professor, now in her fourth year.

1988

Patricia Rehmer, M'88, DAA'12, was listed as First 100 Plus Class of 2019 for demonstrating leadership and commitment to improving the lives of domestic violence survivors in Connecticut.

1993

Mary-Grace M. Cianci '93 has been a mathematics teacher in Middletown Public Schools for 23 years! After completing her graduate coursework at USJ in 2008, she became an adjunct professor for the Education program. She teaches graduate-level courses in the areas of special education, curriculum and instruction, and multiple intelligences/ arts integration – and she loves being a part of the USJ teaching community. She is also married with three children and lives across from campus in West Hartford.

1995

Sharlene Kerelejza '95 was listed as First 100 Plus Class of 2019 for demonstrating leadership and commitment to improving the lives of domestic violence survivors in Connecticut.

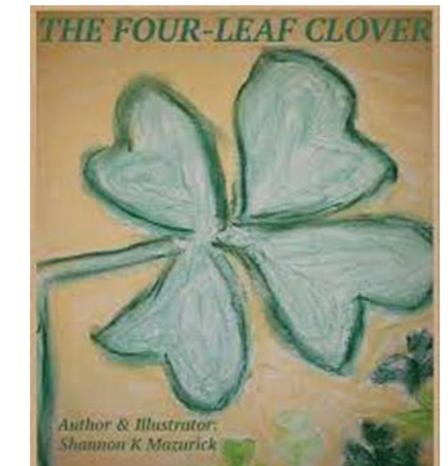
2005



Kirstin Wilson Mastriano '05 gave birth to her second son, Jason Christopher on May 24, 2019. "Stephen, who just started kindergarten in the fall, is thrilled to be a big brother! We love being a family of four!"

Patti Corrigan Dunne, M'05 is the owner of a private practice, The Healing Tree, LLC Pastoral Counseling Center.

2008



Shannon K. Mazurick '08 published a new book, *The Four-Leaf Clover*. This is Shannon's first time illustrating one of her books.

2013



Christina Bolduc Falzone '13, M'18 married Anthony Falzone, Jr. on June 14, 2019 in South Windsor, Conn. where they reside.

Faculty Emerita **Shyamala Raman, Ph.D., DAA'10**, was listed as First 100 Plus Class of 2019 for demonstrating leadership and commitment to improving the lives of domestic violence survivors in Connecticut.

The Power of Endowed Scholarships

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH has remained dedicated to making education accessible. Through the generous support of Trustees, alumni, and friends from the community, USJ has been able to offer scholarships to provide students with the funding needed to pursue their educations.

Donations made to USJ can support a number of initiatives across campus. From facility enhancements and student programming to endowed funds and scholarships, the generosity shared by supporters of the University contributes to each student's experience in valuable ways.

Trustee Manon Cox, H'14, MBA, Ph.D, recently pledged to make a difference for our students by creating new scholarships. Convinced that a USJ education can change lives, her commitment to helping students is matched by her admiration for the Sisters of Mercy associated with the University. She also wanted to express her appreciation for those who work behind the scenes to make the University a welcoming and supportive community.

Because of this, Dr. Cox has created three endowed scholarships: two to recognize Sisters of Mercy with long connections to USJ and its Board of Trustees – Patricia J. Rooney, RSM, '58, M'72, DAA'00 and Judith A. Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, Ph.D., DAA'16 – and a third in honor of Ruth Foxman, Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

The Patricia J. Rooney, RSM, '58, M'72, DAA'00 Endowed Scholarship was created in 2018, and has already supported its first student. Sr. Pat has been a Trustee for 24 years (1986-1998 and since 2008), making her one of the longest-serving Trustees in the University's history. She was elected Board Secretary in 2014, and Vice Chair in 2017. In 2000, USJ presented her with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Sister Judith Carey Endowed Scholarship was established in 2019. Sister Judy served as a Trustee from 2010 to 2019, and is now a Trustee Emerita. Early in her career she was Director of the Gengras Center from 1977-82 (and Assistant Director, 1970-74); an Assistant

Professor of Special Education (1977-80), and then Associate Professor and Chair (1980-82). The University presented her with an Honorary Degree in 1991, and a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.

In February, Dr. Cox surprised Foxman with the creation of the Ruth C. Foxman Endowed Scholarship. Ms. Foxman has held her role at USJ for nearly 22 years; she has worked with five Presidents and many Trustees. "Ruth is the quiet force working diligently to make everything in and around Saint Joseph run like a well-oiled machine," Dr. Cox said. "She exemplifies what is needed in any organization to be successful. With this scholarship, I want to acknowledge that her work is highly valued and does not go unnoticed."

"I am thoroughly overwhelmed by Manon's incredible generosity in creating this scholarship," Foxman remarked. "It is an amazing feeling to know that the fund will help USJ students achieve their educational goals for years to come."

Through donors' passion and generosity, endowed scholarships like these enable the University to extend financial aid to more individuals and create a brighter future for each student. Are you interested in supporting USJ students through scholarships? Please visit www.usj.edu/give to learn more. 🙏



Trustee Manon Cox, President Free, Ruth Foxman, and Trustee Sr. Pat Rooney

IN MEMORIAM

The University of Saint Joseph offers condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased alumni:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Marie LeVan '36 | Mary Clarice Cunningham, RSM, '68 |
| Helen Ryan Donnelly '38 | Margaret Higgins, RSM, '68 |
| Anne M. Murphy '45, DAA'89 | Marilyn Martinelli Horton '68 |
| Frances Smith '48, M'78 | Jean Campbell Concilio, RSM, '69 |
| Eleanor Sala Tambornini '48 | Mary Gerald Creeden, RSM, '70 |
| Ruth LaFond Austin '50 | Linda Pezza Andrews '72 |
| Marjorie Hart Conley '50 | Dorothy Choyce, RSM, M'74 |
| Mary Dillon O'Connor '50, P'78 | Ronald Miecznikowski, C'74 |
| Marion Hill Aspinwall '52 | Nancy Marr Eckel '75 |
| Joan Cassidy Vayo '52, DAA'86 | Fay Karp Kaplan, C'75 |
| Mary Barry '53 | Susan G. Vomacka '76 |
| Florence Banulski Gontarz '53, P'76, GP'01 | Louise Toole Healey, M'80 |
| Carol Male Farley '55 | Sara Norris, M'82 |
| Matilda Giuliano '55 | Ann Lebed, M'83 |
| Rose Marie Gagliardi O'Dea '57 | Edward R. Mullady, M'85, P'87 |
| Sally Frink Misuraca '58 | Barbara Mazurek '91 |
| Sheila Moran '58 | Joanne Speziale '91 |
| Isabelle Sanchirico Pingree '60 | Louis Jentzen, M'92 |
| Theresa Looby, RSM, '63, M'73 | Tami Devine Fagan '97, Ed.D. |
| Janice McFarland, RSM, '63 | Susan Angelini, M'03 |
| Theresa Cascone Marshall '66 | Erin Jones '07, M'13 |
| Francine A. Coffey '67 | |

Chapel Bells will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020. If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact **Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17**, director of Alumni Relations, at **860.231.5364** or **kathrynburke@usj.edu**.

Brewster Perkins

speaks about his involvement with the University, philanthropy, and why he believes in USJ.

Working in Institutional Advancement, Director of Advancement Communications Stacy Routhier has the opportunity to meet many inspiring individuals. One such individual, Brewster Perkins, USJ's Institutional Advancement Committee Chair, always gives you the urge to smile with his warm heart and quick-witted humor. She spoke with Mr. Perkins about his love for USJ and why he devotes his precious time to the University.

Stacy Routhier (SR): Why do you believe in USJ?

Brewster Perkins (BP): It all comes down to the mission. What could be more important than making excellent education accessible? What could be more critical for social mobility than learning, preparing for a meaningful career, and exploring new ideas? I've seen how USJ changes students' lives for the better. That's why I believe.

SR: Talk about philanthropic generosity and the impact it has on a school of our size.

BP: Every gift counts. Every donor makes an impact. In recent years, USJ has been fortunate to receive some substantial gifts and grants, which have been carefully managed and used to improve our classrooms and labs, invest in technology, and improve our residence halls. But we also rely on smaller gifts from alumni and friends to support scholarships every year. We know that our graduates value their Saint Joe's education, and yet only about

10% of them give each year. If we could double the number of \$25, \$50, and \$100 donors, we could offer so much more to our students!

Participation from our Trustees is again 100%. They leverage their giving through employer matches, relationships to foundations, and friends.

SR: You just created the Judith Perkins Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities. What does that mean to you?

BP: The Endowed Scholarship created in honor of my wife, Judith Bailey Perkins, by our family, was to recognize her remarkable, successful, and inspiring 38 years as Professor (now Emerita) of Humanities. My children and our friends and family joined me in this effort to honor this brilliant and engaging teacher who transformed and inspired so many young women. Teaching at USJ was her life, and it allowed her to work with so many talented and motivated students. At the same time, she became one



of the country's leading experts in Early Christianity. We started the endowment with \$50,000. Judith's friends and former faculty colleagues have added another \$15,000. The scholarship allows us to thank USJ and invest in future generations of students. Hopefully, we can continue to contribute to this scholarship and inspire others to do the same.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

THE USJ ANNUAL FUND



Morgan McDonald '20,
Nutrition

My scholarship pushed me to be my best during my time at USJ and to be as involved as possible! I am an Admissions Ambassador here at USJ, where I give campus tours to prospective students and often work on various research projects in the office as well. I

was a peer mentor for a First Year Seminar (FYS) class during my junior year, and I'm an academic tutor in the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) for Nutrition and Chemistry. Lastly, I am involved in the Honors Program. I love being a part of the Honors Program; it is a great community. It has allowed me to meet many fellow Honors students and participate in activities that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend.

Shaniyah Williams '21,
Psychology



Because of my scholarships, I can attend USJ with less financial stress and more focus on my academics, on-campus jobs, and leadership positions. I currently have three campus jobs, hold leadership positions on campus, and am part of the Honors Program. I have also completed two independent studies because I wanted to get my foot in the door and see if a career in psychological research would be something I wanted. I also wanted to work with a faculty member and enhance my skills in critical thinking and writing.

A rewarding education is more than just being in a classroom or studying. It is developing as a person. USJ students can grow as individuals through their academic programs, but also by participating in Student Government, athletics, leadership positions, and campus jobs.

Your gift to the USJ Annual Fund will allow all current and future students to continue to succeed - while they are at USJ and beyond. **Make your gift today!**

Kevin Bilbraut '22,
Sport Management and Promotion



When I received my scholarship, it gave me a lot of opportunities to be able to fully invest myself in my time here at USJ. I am on the Men's Soccer Team. I have played since I transferred here, and it has been a great experience. Other things that I have been able to become involved in are the Hispanic Student Union, a club that I was able to create and am the acting president of, and the Student Center, where I'm a Lead Building Manager. I am also in the middle of an internship at the O'Connell Center and involved with the Accounting and Business Society as a general member.

Alex Amoro '23,
Nursing



As a student, I am the secretary for the Student Government Association, chair of the Academic Advising Committee, student ambassador in Admissions, building manager for McGovern Hall, manager of the girls' soccer team, and a member of the USJ cheerleading team. I joined these positions and teams so that I could make new friends, learn about the campus more, get involved, and help make changes and represent USJ.

WAYS TO GIVE:

Online: www.usj.edu/give | Text: USJGive to 41444 | Call: 860.231.5364



ALUMNI NEWS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Mark your calendars for this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, at the Hartford Golf Club. The Distinguished Alumni Awards honor individuals who, because of superior or extraordinary achievements, have brought credit to themselves and to USJ.

Nominations will be accepted through Monday, June 1, 2020. Visit us online at www.usj.edu/DAA for more information on award categories and the nomination form.

Questions? Contact Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17, director of Alumni Relations, at **860.231.5364** or kathrynburke@usj.edu.

REUNION

Join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of your alma mater through the beauty of your stories.

Each year, we strive to make Reunion even more special for the class years who are joining us. While all alumni are welcome, this year there will be a particular emphasis on celebrating class years ending in 0 and 5. If this is your Reunion year and you would like to share your ideas and suggestions for this important event, please consider joining your Reunion Committee! We hope you will join us on campus or out in the community for this fun and exciting gathering of alumni spirit.

To do so, contact Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17, director of Alumni Relations, at **860.231.5364** or kathrynburke@usj.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS (MONITOR ALUMNI NEWS FOR UPDATES)

USJ Alumni and Family Day with the Hartford Yard Goats

Thursday, June 18, 2020
7:10 p.m. Game Start
Dunkin' Donuts Stadium, Hartford, Conn.

Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020
All-day event, beginning with 9 a.m. registration
USJ Campus, West Hartford, Conn.

Hartford Marathon

USJ Volunteer Water Station
Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 - 7 a.m.
Steele Road Water Station, West Hartford, Conn.

Chapel Bells

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020 - 4 p.m. Mass
The Connor Chapel of Our Lady, West Hartford, Conn.

2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony

Friday, Nov. 13, 2020
Hartford Golf Club, West Hartford, Conn.