PLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Professional and Liberal Studies program at Saint Joseph's University embraces the experience of our diverse adult students and challenges them to adapt to the demands of a global society through engagement in an integrative curriculum built on a strong liberal arts foundation. The PLS community prides itself on sharing its Jesuit roots and Ignatian values of ethics, social justice, and care for the whole person. It is our vision for PLS students to further develop themselves as critical thinkers, skilled creators, and innovators within their professional and personal lives.

Inside the Newsletter...

Page 2 - Welcome from Associate Dean Dr. Vacca
Page 3 - Graduation 2015
Page 4 & 5 - 2015 Awards Ceremony
Page 6-8 - PLS News
Page 9 - A 100 Year Tradition
Page 10 & 11 - Faculty Bio
Page 12 - Upcoming Events
Page 13 & 14 - Student Resources
Greetings from PLS. It is hard to believe that another school year has ended. It seems like the year goes by fast, but the days last forever. In any event, this was an exciting year for our students in the PLS degree program. As you will read in this newsletter, we had several students graduate with honors and awards. The awards ceremony was truly a classy event. My staff and I enjoyed interacting with our students, and meeting their loved ones. I think we can all agree that behind anyone’s success is the love and support of at least one person. I always look forward to the end of the year events and graduation, mainly because I love to see the smiles of happiness, the tears of joy, and of course the creatively decorated mortar boards. Everyone agrees that completing a degree is not easy nor (at times) is it fun. For the adult student, the degree of intensity and difficulty is certainly increased by the need to balance work, family, and personal well-being. However, in the end all of the hard work and balancing pays off. As I watched our PLS students walk across the stage in graduation, I remember thinking “They did it!” To others watching, especially those adults who are thinking about completing their degree, I imagine their thought was “It can be done!” We are both right, and boy was it amazing to be a part of. I sincerely wish all of our new graduates prosperity and happiness, and to our current students...perseverance and hope. Always remember with perseverance, hope, and love from those we hold dear to our hearts....”YOU can do it!” I will end with the following from Albert Einstein: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." Enjoy your summer. All the best from PLS!

-Dr. V.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Here’s a glimpse of the special day!

May 16th, 2015

Members of the class of 2015

President C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J.
2015 AWARDS CEREMONY

PLS Awards Ceremony

On Monday, May 11th 2015 Professional and Liberal Studies, along with the Haub Degree Completion Program celebrated graduates inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, and those receiving departmental awards.

The awards ceremony celebrated the high academic achievement of our students. The ceremony took place in the Chapel and was followed by a reception in Campion. Congratulations to the students for this esteemed accomplishment.

PLS Departmental Awardees

Matthew W. LaMar, Biology Award
Flaviany Eichenberg, Education Award & Michael F. Maher Award
Sheria Hopkins, Health Administration Award
D. Peter Chaloult, Legal Studies Award
Jamille J. Medina, Organizational Development and Leadership Award
Carole Metellus, Professional and Liberal Studies Award
JoAnna C. Simms, Psychology Award
Eric A. Swiech, Psychology Award
John C. Oliveri, The Sergeant Patrick McDonald Criminal Justice Award
Terri Jones, Robert H. Palestini, Ed.D. Leadership Award
PLS Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society Inductees:

Stephanie Armstrong
James R. Barkley Jr.
Jaime Bates
Crystal Brooks
D. Peter Chaloult
Jennifer DeLeeuw
Kathleen Dorch
Flaviany Eichenberg
Kerry Ann Feeney
Teresa Galanaugh-Scarpato
Michelle Gerdelmann
Michael Gormley
Sheria Hopkins
Christine Johnson
Terri Jones
Erin L. Kelly
Lukia Knox
Ana E. Koenig
Dannel C. Leake
John McGinley
Carole Metellus
Scheergie Nicolas
Cheryl I. Pelzer
Deborah S. Pizzica
Lisa Pollick
Jai Rajora
Carina Sepulveda Rivera
Shannon Ryan
Tara M. Smith
Christine Terra
Carl E. Wilson
Art Night at the Kimmel Center!

On Saturday, March 28th, 2015, SJU students from Kathleen Vaccaro’s drawing and painting courses participated in the Kimmel Center’s College Art Night Exhibition. Their artwork was displayed with artwork from a few other universities including The University of the Arts and Arcadia University. Liz Otero, from the Professional and Liberal Studies program, was one of the participants. The exhibition was free and open to the public. Vaccaro involves her students in this event each Spring.

All of the students received free tickets to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra that night. The Orchestra performed Mahler’s “Symphony Number 5” and Michael Daugherty’s “Reflections on the Mississippi.” After the concert, everyone was welcome to go to the art exhibition and meet the Philadelphia Orchestra musicians and the participating artists. The exhibition was professionally done and the Kimmel Center hired a jazz band to play at the event. It was a fun night! Vaccaro is proud of her students’ work and looks forward to next year’s College Art Night at the Kimmel Center.
Charlotte Newcombe Scholarship

Established with a grant from the Newcombe Foundation, the Charlotte Newcombe scholarships are made possible by the vision of Charlotte W. Newcombe, a Philadelphia philanthropist with a strong appreciation for higher education. Since 1981, the Newcombe Foundation has awarded scholarships to select institutions based on specific eligibility standards. SJU is proud to be included among this exclusive group. Recipients must be at least 25 years old and have completed 60 credits toward their undergraduate degree, or at least half their coursework.

More information is available by clicking here!

Summer 2015 PLS awardees:
Alexis Calder
Darryl Cofield
Sharron Copper
John Gaskill
Keera Holland
Salimata Konate
Robyn Mackner
Lisa Miller
Tahira Montgomery-Noel
Lanisha Moore
Donna Santiago
Amber Walker

Congratulations from PLS!
Current PLS Students:
You may be eligible for an employee benefit that reduces your cost of tuition. Check with your HR department. If you are eligible, verification of your current employment is required at the beginning of each semester in order for us to apply this discount to your tuition. Ask your employer to submit a letter confirming current employment (on official company/organization letterhead) to the following:

Saint Joseph’s University
Professional and Liberal Studies
5600 City Avenue
Merion Hall Suite 220
Philadelphia, PA 19131

FAX: 610-660-1264
Email: plsadvising@sju.edu

Letters must be received by June 29 for the Fall 2015 semester.
Celebrating 100 Year Tradition of Women at SJU

- Second installment of an ongoing series.

Women faculty and students have been a part of Saint Joseph’s University for 100 years. Although Saint Joseph’s University didn’t formally accept women into full-time degree-seeking programs until 1970, women had been attending classes in the evening program since 1915. In addition, women taught many of the first classes offered. While many of the hand-written records were destroyed in a fire, enough remain in the archives to provide a glimpse of the past. Evening classes for working men and women continued into the 1940’s with the intent to provide a strong Catholic education for these students.

In 1943, the Evening School was formed to provide degree programs for part-time students. The president of SJU, Fr. Higgins fought for the prior eleven years to make sure that women would be accepted into these programs. His arguments included that: the education of women had greatly improved and that they were often the more eager learners; female teachers, nurses, religious workers, etc. needed a Catholic education; and finally, that women were holding positions of trust in the community and should be able to attend a school like Saint Joe’s. Eventually, permission was granted and women were accepted into the degree-seeking majors.

Madeleine Redditt was one of the first women to be accepted into the Evening Division Degree Program. On June 11, 1950, Redditt received her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Studies, giving her the distinct honor of being the first female graduate of Saint Joseph’s College and the first graduate of the new Evening Division. She went on to graduate from the University of Maryland with a law degree and went on to become one of the first women to practice corporate law. Redditt also appeared as an attorney for three years on the television show “The Verdict is Yours.”

Over the years, program enrollment has changed, but currently, in 2015 over 73% of PLS students are women seeking a degree.

Betz, Paul Raymond. (1993). Adult Education Programs at Saint Joseph’s University. Issued by Saint Joseph’s University on the 50th Anniversary of the University College.

Felice J. Tilin, Ph.D.

Felice J. Tilin, Ph.D. is the Program Director and Professor, Organization Development and Leadership Programs here at Saint Joseph's University. Dr. Tilin received her BA in Education from SUNY Oswego and MEd. and Ph.D. from Temple University in Organization Development.

Felice kindly answered questions regarding her role at SJU and PLS involvement as well as her professional past and educational advice for students.

Q: How long have you been in higher education and what made you decide this career path? What other positions have you held?

A: I worked as an Organization Development consultant at the University of Pennsylvania about 18 years ago. I then spent 10 years traveling the globe as a management consultant. I received an offer from SJU 6 years ago to be the Director of the Graduate ODL program. I
started to work with the PLS  ODL program this year. I was and still am thrilled to be able to share my skills, knowledge and experiences with students and to work with students and faculty to discover best practices that help people in organizations work together to create humane, healthy environments.

**Q: What do you want PLS students to know about you and your role at SJU?**

A: I am the academic overseer of the program which means that I will be working behind the scenes to mentor faculty and update the curriculum in order to modernize the program and make each class relevant to a student’s day to day working experience.

**Q: If you could offer one piece of advice to students, what would it be and why?**

A: Higher education can be a transformative experience. It should be a laboratory for learning - not just a place to get information -- that can be done anywhere these days. When you get frustrated or impatient with the process- step back and think about what you can learn from the situation. Can you learn to be more patient? Can you learn to be more flexible to your professor's styles? Can you figure out a way to build better relationships with other students? If you focus only on getting a degree or only on your grades you are missing the point. Of course those things are important but the real value is the life lessons that can transform you.

**Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

A: Of course I love the students. Being able to witness the transformations students go through is a privilege. And I stay in touch with students after they graduate and I am so proud of the alumni's accomplishments. Many go out into the world and create real positive change in the world.

**Q: What are you most excited about for the upcoming semester(s)?**

A: I am excited to meet the new students and I am excited to see our current students continue and complete their formal education.

Click here for more information regarding the Organizational Development and Leadership Program!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Field Hockey Golf Outing – This event is sponsored by the SJU Alumni Association and will be held on June 22 at the Bala Golf Club. Details and registration can be found by clicking here.

Graduate Arts and Sciences Open House- Are you thinking about a graduate degree from Saint Joseph's University? Then attend the June 23 open house for more information and excellent resources! Click here to register. The event will take place at 5:30 p.m. in Mandeville Hall.

Adult Student Life Webinars - Every semester the office of Adult Student Life has a series of webinars to provide you with resources and help you overcome obstacles. Keep an eye out (email, Facebook, and twitter) for future webinar topics. If you have suggestions feel free to email them to us at adultstudentlife@sju.edu. You can also find archived webinars from past semester on YouTube and on the Adult Student Life website.

Research Funding - Adult Student Life provides researching funding to Adult Students who are presenting at a conference and representing Saint Joseph's University. For additional information and to complete the on-line request form please visit: sju.edu/rfr/

Welcome Back Happy Hour - Adult Student Life wants to welcome you back to campus (or to campus for the first time) with a Welcome Back Happy Hour at Landmark Americana early this September! Keep an eye out for more details coming soon!

Nontraditional Student Week - Stop by the Adult Student Life office during The National Nontraditional Student Week, November 1st through November 7th to let us show you our appreciation for non-traditional students and get a free gift and coffee before your class! More details coming soon.
Get to know the PLS Staff and their respective roles
Offices now located in Merion Hall Suite 220

Elizabeth Gatti - Director of Admissions and Recruitment, B.F.A. Fine Arts, University of Delaware, M.S. Higher Education/Counseling and Student Affairs, West Chester University.

Tiffany Sellers - Admissions Assistant, B.A. English, Florida Gulf Coast University, and M.A in Writing Studies, Saint Joseph’s University.

Kate McConnell - Director of Retention and Student Success, Professional and Liberal Studies Programs and Graduate Programs, B.S. Millersville University, M.B.A West Chester University.

Marita Hurst - PLS Advisor, B.A. in Special Education, LaSalle University, and M.Ed. from Temple University, focus on adult learning.

Maria Beazley - Director of Advising and Curriculum Planning, B.A. Political Science, Saint Joseph’s University and M.A. Clinical Psychology, Catholic University of America.
Need an advising appointment? Visit: plsadvising.youcanbook.me to schedule an appointment with a PLS advisor.

Follow PLS on Facebook for important announcements and information! Facebook.com/sjupls

Useful Links

Drexel Library Home Page
The Writing Center
SJU Bookstore
Academic Calendar
Class Schedule
Adult Student Life Office

PLS Contact Information

P: 610-660-1267
E: pls@sju.edu
plsadmit@sju.edu
plsadvising@sju.edu

Have a great summer from PLS!