Welcome to the official newsletter of the Professional and Liberal Studies Degree Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at Saint Joseph’s University. A new staff...a new day...and a renewed vision for continuing a longstanding tradition of providing a high quality undergraduate program to adults in the Philadelphia area. I am honored to work with such a highly talented and passionate staff on Hawk Hill. All of us recognize the challenges that adults face as they balance life’s demands with that of taking courses. None of us take the intensity of such a challenge for granted. We all represent the many facets of life...whether it is a spouse, a parent, a sibling, a child, a working adult. We are very familiar with, and convinced of, the challenges of balancing life and school. I celebrate our current students in PLS, and I look forward to meeting those who are interested in joining an amazing SJU community. It is true the Hawk Will Never Die, and it is also true the staff in PLS will do their absolute best to make you feel welcome on Hawk Hill.

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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.
MEET THE STAFF OF PLS!

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. Liz has been in higher education for 17 years and wants PLS students to know that we are supportive and friendly and want to make sure students make the best educational decisions. For this upcoming year, Liz is most excited about restructuring portions of the PLS webpages to make them more user-friendly. March 11 is our Spring Open House from 5 - 7pm. Spread the word to friends and family interested in pursuing their education at SJU.

Tiffany Sellers - Admissions Assistant, B.A. English, Florida Gulf Coast University, and M.A in Writing Studies in progress at Saint Joseph’s University. Tiffany has been in higher education for the past two years and hopes to continue for many more! Tiffany wants PLS students to know that she enjoys helping with the admissions process and that the PLS office is accessible and dedicated. For this upcoming year Tiffany looks forward to continuing to work with students and is excited about the brand new PLS newsletter. Follow PLS on Facebook!

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. Kate has been in higher education for 10 years and wants PLS students to know that she assists current students as they progress through their program, helping them navigate their program, access University support services, and support them as the progress toward graduation. This year, Kate is most excited about welcoming new students to SJU and seeing students complete their program and realize a dream of obtaining their undergraduate degree.
Marita Hurst - PLS Advisor, B.A. in Special Education, LaSalle University, and M.Ed. from Temple University, focus on adult learning. Marita recently joined Professional and Liberal Studies as a new advisor and is honored and excited to be here! Marita’s career started in education but most of her experience has been in the corporate world, conducting training programs and developing learning materials. In the last year, she began a transition into higher education by pursuing a graduate certificate in academic advising from Kansas State University.

“The ability to learn and change throughout life fascinates me. Whether guiding an employee through professional training, advising a student about learning opportunities, or when I helped my 92-year-old father in his determination to learn about social media, I recognize the infinite capacity for growth. Joining PLS during this time of renewal and growth will continue to challenge and energize me. I look forward to sharing my skills and knowledge and in turn, to learn from all of you in the upcoming semester.”

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. Maria has worked in higher education for more than 20 years including experience in Student Life, Career Development, and Advising. Prior to working in PLS, Maria served as the Director of the Advising Centers for the Haub School of Business and the College of Arts & Sciences for the SJU Day Undergraduate Program. This year Maria is focused on developing user-friendly advising resources and tools to help students navigate the curriculum and progress towards their degree.

John Vacca- Associate Dean of Education and the Professional and Liberal Studies Program, Ph.D., School Psychology and Special Education, The Pennsylvania State University. Post-Doctoral specializations in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, and Early Literacy Development, Oxford University. John spent more than 10 years of his professional career working in early intervention supporting families of infants and toddlers with severe forms of developmental disabilities. He then pursued a career as a professor. John has been in higher education for over 17 years. He is a tenured professor in the Department of Teacher Education at SJU. Since assuming the Associate Dean’s role in PLS, John has discovered a new passion….adult undergraduate learning. He now has an added passion to support adult learners who are committed to balancing life demands, completing a bachelor’s degree, and integrating Ignatian ideals into their lives. For this upcoming year, John is committed to continuing SJU’s reputation of providing high quality education and carrying out the legacy of offering a degree program to adults in the Philadelphia area.
Recognized Programs!

Saint Joseph’s University Online Bachelor Degree Completion Program has been recognized in U.S. News & World Report’s 2015 online education rankings. The rankings are based on graduation rates, recent graduates' debt, and academic and career support services offered to students. Amanda Thomas, Ph.D., dean of SJU’s College of Arts and Sciences, adds, “At SJU, we are continually striving to improve the online educational experience for our graduate and adult students. Our online master’s degree programs and our bachelor degree completion program offer the latest innovations in digital media for teaching and learning with the goal of providing an innovative, engaging, and interactive learning experience.”

Click here to view the rankings.

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 info available here: http://presidentreport.sju.edu/2014fall/articles/newcombe-scholarships-change-more-lives/

Congratulations to this year’s PLS awardees:
Lisa Miller
&
Robyn Mackner
In keeping with the Jesuit focus on social justice, Saint Joseph’s College began the first evening classes for adults in 1915 at Seventeenth and Stiles Street in Philadelphia. The Catholic Alumni Sodality of Philadelphia, consisting of former alumni of Saint Joseph’s, supported the new program.

More than 900 working adults registered as non-matriculated students in the first year and pursued classes that enabled them to improve their education and employment potential. Courses covered practical subjects such as commercial mathematics and business English, along with civics, Latin and modern foreign languages. Surprisingly for the time period, the evening school admitted both men and women into the all-male college and all religious denominations were clearly made welcome. Declining enrollment, perhaps due to war-time, caused the program to close for a time.

In 1935, Saint Joseph’s started the School of Social Sciences and provided for-credit evening classes on the campus at 5400 City Avenue and at Saint Joseph’s Preparatory School at the Seventeenth and Stiles Street location. This program ran until 1942 and some feel that it provided a foundation for the “Night School” that opened in 1943.

The Night School was the first to offer courses with the intention to complete a degree. In 1946, this coed program became a full evening school that offered a college degree through a five-year program. The program became one of the largest in the city. In 1981, the evening school transitioned to a separate college and was re-named University College. This allowed flexibility to meet the recruitment, scheduling and learning needs of the adult population.

Today, the Professional and Liberal Studies program continues to evolve in order to meet the ever-changing needs of the adult student.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come and show your Hawk pride by attending a SJU event

Happy Hour - Join us for a MARDI GRAS Celebration! Tuesday, **February 17**, from 5-7 PM at the Landmark Americana on 54th and City Avenue. Sponsored by Adult Student Life.

Faculty panel - 50th anniversary Voting Rights Act, **February 18**, 4:00 - 5:30 PM, 5th floor of McShain.

Finding God In All Things - Taking time for yourself might be the best way that you can help other people. This event, lead by Fr. Brian Frain, focuses on Ignatian spirituality, known as a kind of "daily spirituality". It will be held on Saturday, **February 21** from 9:30 - 12 on the 5th floor of McShain. All SJU adult students are welcome and encouraged to attend. [Click here](http://studentvoice.com/sju/adultstudentsurvey) to register. Sponsored by Adult Student Life.

Survey of Adult Students - In order for Adult Student Life to best meet the needs of Adult Students, they are asking students to complete a quick assessment survey. Those who complete the survey will be entered in for a chance to win one of four $25 SJU Bookstore gift cards. The survey opens **January 19**, 2015 and will remain open until **February 23**. You can find this survey at [http://studentvoice.com/sju/adultstudentsurvey](http://studentvoice.com/sju/adultstudentsurvey).
**Upcoming Events**

**PLS Open House** - **March 11**, 5-7 PM - Spread the word to family and friends! Come for a tour of campus, meet admissions representatives and learn about what SJU has to offer you!

**Psychology Hyatt Lecture** - **March 17**, 11:00 AM - Elliot Turiel (University of California at Berkeley) “Moral reasoning, cultural practices, and moral resistance.” Lecture will take place in the Mandeville Teletorium.

**Burton Lecture (History)** - **April 22**, 3:00 PM - Speaker Dr. Erik Huneke “Growing up Black in Nazi Germany.” Lecture will take place in the North Lounge, Campion Student Center.

**Activities Board** - This semester, Adult Student Life will start an activities board for Adult Students and Adult Student Organizations. The purpose of the Activities Board is to plan events and activities that will happen throughout each semester. The group of students will include at least one representative from each Adult Student Organization, a representative from Adult Student Life, and any other Adult Students that want to get involved on campus. All Adult Students are welcome to attend and help plan and organize upcoming events and activities.

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**Live Greater. That’s the MAGIS!**
Useful Links

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

PLS Advising
Use our new online booking tool for advising appointments!
Visit: plsadvising.youcanbook.me
to schedule an appointment with a PLS advisor.

PLS is on Facebook!
Stay connected with all things PLS by liking our page!

Have a great Spring 2015 Semester from all of us at PLS!