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SAINT JOSEPH'S

SUMMER 2021

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

100

YEARS OF

TRACK

A LOOK BACK ON THE PEOPLE
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Saint Joseph's University Magazine

Editor

Diane Holliday

Art Director

Ian Riley

Creative Director

Ryan Starr

Design

Maria Taffera Lewis

Ian Riley

Illustration

Leticia Albano

Ryan Starr

Photography

Melissa Kelly '13 (M.A.)

Colleen Stepanian

Contributors

Athletic Communications

Gail Benner

Micah Castelo

City/Studio

Emmalee Eckstein

James Finley

Rachel Kipp

Gabrielle Lacherza

Luke Malanga '20

Erin O'Boyle

Brendan Quinn '06

Anne Taulane

Kelsey E. Thomas

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Andrew Westveer

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Alumni address changes:

alumni.sju.edu | alumni@sju.edu | 610-660-2300

Editorial correspondence:

sjunews@sju.edu | 610-660-1222

Saint Joseph's University Magazine is distributed to alumni, parents of current students, friends, faculty and staff.



From the PRESIDENT

In my many years of work in higher education, I've attended and participated in dozens of Commencement ceremonies. Some might say, if you've seen one, you've seen them all. Well, that is, until this past year.

After a first-ever virtual conferral of degrees in 2020, we returned to on-campus ceremonies for the Class of 2021, albeit still altered by the pandemic. Instead of a sea of black caps and robes, there was a checkerboard with gaps for physical distancing. Masks covered smiles. And as much as I wanted to, I couldn't shake every hand as our graduates crossed the stage.

But for the graduates gathered on Curran Lawn on May 22, what was not lost was the abiding sense of pride for all that had been accomplished and anticipation of everything that comes next. While the pandemic has taken much from all of us, the Hawks I have encountered in the past year — students, faculty, staff, alumni — have proven that great change cannot stop us. We simply find another way.

Nothing is greater evidence of this philosophy than the recent announcement of University of the Sciences' historic merger with and into Saint Joseph's. For institutions of higher education in a growingly competitive market that demands constant revamping of academic portfolios, sometimes the most efficient and effective way to meet these demands is to find another way. In our case, this merger made great sense, and the powerful combination of our academic programs will allow two very strong institutions with deep roots to emerge even stronger. No other opportunity provides us with the same ability to add key health and science programs, so close to our campus, with a shared student-centered mission.

As we emerge from the challenge of the global pandemic, Saint Joseph's is ready to meet new challenges. In the coming months and years, I look forward to the new avenues we take and the opportunity to bring our Jesuit liberal arts core to new programs and disciplines, and ultimately to the students who will benefit immensely from our unique brand of education.

Mark C. Reed, Ed.D.



Saint Joseph's iconic Barbelin Hall, one of the school's most recognizable buildings, was built in 1927 and named in honor of former President Felix-Joseph Barbelin, S.J.

University of the Sciences' Griffith Hall, home of the Office of Admission, was built that same year. It was later rededicated in 1966 to honor the late President Ivor Griffith on what would have been his 75th birthday.

Saint Joseph's and USciences Finalize Merger Agreement

As outlined in a finalized agreement in early June, the University of the Sciences will merge with and into Saint Joseph's. Both universities bring together student-focused missions with hundreds of years of history. The merger agreement is designed to offer more programs to students in sought-after fields, expand interdisciplinary opportunities and widen the reach of Saint Joseph's mission. Combined, the institutions will enroll more than 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students and have an endowment in excess of a half-billion dollars and more than 95,000 living alumni.

"This is truly a transformational and exciting opportunity," notes Saint Joseph's President Mark C. Reed, Ed.D., in a letter to University faculty and staff. "[This partnership allows us] to continue Saint Joseph's growth and evolution as one of our region's best comprehensive universities and expand the scope and reach of our Jesuit educational mission."







Both universities have emphasized that the

proposed partnership is a strategic move that will be mutually beneficial.

"This is an example of opportunity, not born out of necessity," Reed said in an interview with *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

In early 2020, USciences approached Saint Joseph's about the possibility of a partnership. The process revealed the complementary nature of the universities' academic portfolios, but also, and most importantly, the shared focus on students and access to quality education. Saint Joseph's has a rich history in liberal arts, business and education that will strengthen the educational foundation of any scientist or health professional; adding USciences' state-of-the art laboratories and industry-leading health sciences programs to its repertoire will create another educational pipeline for students interested in careers in pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and medicine.

The merger is anticipated to be complete in approximately one year, pending regulatory and accreditor approvals.

MERGER BY THE NUMBERS						
SJU	6,779	\$372M	269	125	146	74,523
USciences	2,375	\$133M	180	36	52	23,404
Total	9,154	\$505M	449	161	198	97,927
<div><div><div>Total Enrollment</div></div><div><div>Endowment</div></div><div><div>Full-Time Faculty</div></div><div><div>Campus Acreage</div></div><div><div>Degree Programs</div></div><div><div>Alumni</div></div></div>						

CLASS OF 2021 FLIES THE NEST

On Saturday, May 22, nearly 1,800 students participated in Saint Joseph's Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2021. Graduates and guests were invited to celebrate either in person or via livestream.

Over 1,000 undergraduate degrees were conferred that morning virtually and on Hawk Hill. Later that afternoon, close to 800 graduate and doctoral students were also awarded their degrees. It was a triumphant end to a year filled with Zoom and in-person classes, virtual club meetings, masked gatherings and physical distancing.

"I was witness to how you have persevered through major shifts in just about every aspect of your lives — from your coursework, to your living situation, to your employment and your family and social lives. And let me say ... I am beyond impressed with and proud of how you have managed it all," said President Mark. C. Reed, Ed.D., in his address.

Together, the undergraduate and graduate students represent 98 majors and hail from 40 U.S. states and territories and 23 foreign countries.



New University Trustees

Five new trustees joined the University board and began their four-year terms on June 1, 2021, under the leadership of Board Chair James M. Norris '85.



Eugene M. Geinzer, S.J., is an accomplished artist in diverse media including cabinet making, ceramics, drawing and architecture. Additionally, Geinzer has 35 years of teaching experience and mentorship, including students from middle school to graduate education. He has served on multiple

boards including the Loyola Academy, Chicago Academy of the Arts, Wheeling University and the Restoration of the Basilica of Baltimore. Fr. Geinzer earned his bachelor's degree from Spring Hill College, an MFA from the Pratt Institute of Art in New York and an M.Arch. from the Illinois Institute of Technology.



Susan LaMonica (P '20) is the chief human resources officer at Citizens Financial Group. Prior to joining Citizens, she worked for JP Morgan Chase in various positions over two decades. LaMonica then founded her own consultancy in 2011. She is an active member of the Council for Women at Boston College and

serves as the director for Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children. LaMonica is engaged with Saint Joseph's Department of Athletics, currently serving as the chair of the athletics advisory council. She earned her bachelor's degree from Boston College and an MBA from New York University.



Christopher M. McIsaac '97 is managing director of international operations at Vanguard Group, where he has served in leadership roles within the institutional and retail divisions. McIsaac serves on the board of The Franklin Institute and

Saint Joseph's athletics advisory council. A lacrosse student-athlete during his time on Hawk Hill, he was inducted into the University's athletics hall of fame in 2021. McIsaac earned his bachelor's from Saint Joseph's and his MBA from Harvard.



Adele Cirone Oliva '87 is the founder of 1315 Capital, an investing firm focused on healthcare growth with over \$500 million under management. She is also managing partner at Quaker Partners. Prior to entering private equity, Oliva served in various roles in finance and healthcare. An engaged alumna, Oliva

received the Haub School of Business Hall of Fame Award in 2019 following a decade on the school's Board of Visitors. Oliva earned her bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's, an MBA from Cornell University, and held the prestigious Kauffman Fellowship in Austin, Texas.



Joseph J. Wolk '88 is executive vice president and chief financial officer at Johnson & Johnson. A 20-year veteran at Johnson & Johnson, Wolk leads worldwide finance and procurement operations including oversight of 7,500 employees. He is the executive sponsor of the company's veterans leadership

council and an advocate for the finance leadership development program. Wolk has served as a member of the Haub School of Business Board of Visitors since 2013. He earned his bachelor's from Saint Joseph's, a Juris Doctor from Temple University, and is a certified public accountant in the state of Pennsylvania.

Training PA’s First Responders

The Center for Addiction and Recovery Education (CARE) at Saint Joseph’s received a \$1.2 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for first responder education and training across the state’s 67 counties. The funds will be used to instruct groups on the topics of substance use disorder, the use of naloxone, and stigma and implicit bias. CARE was founded with the goal of facilitating these types of initiatives, using connections between scholars and practitioners to address addiction and promote recovery.

“At a time when almost half of Americans’ lives have been affected by addiction, it’s more important than ever to launch the Phoenix Training Program and educate first responders on the causes and tools to fight the opioid epidemic,” says Stephen J. Forzato, CARE’s inaugural director. “This particular initiative enables us to help first responders become more skilled in connecting people to drug and alcohol treatment resources.”

The community-level Phoenix Training Program course “Addiction and Connection to Treatment: Tools for First Responders to Fight the Opioid Epidemic,” will be provided at no cost to first responders, including law enforcement,

emergency medical service providers, firefighters and related professionals who have regular contact with persons in need of assistance.

The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, a nationally recognized addiction treatment, mental health and advocacy organization, will collaborate with CARE on curriculum content development and training.

“We are honored and grateful to work with Saint Joseph’s University and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to bring this comprehensive and impactful training program to first responders throughout the state,” says Stephen Delisi, M.D., medical director of professional education solutions at Hazelden Betty Ford. At a minimum, CARE and its partners will train a total of 90 agencies over the span of the grant.



PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY HEALTH

Saint Joseph’s Department of Athletics is partnering with Samuel Gompers School to enhance the school’s sports and science programs through a \$100,000 grant, extending the University’s commitment to the K-8 school in Philadelphia’s Wynnefield section.

Half of the funds will be used by the school for curriculum materials, additional playground space, sports equipment, facility upgrades and more. The remaining funds will be used to hire a graduate student who will work closely with Gompers staff to develop more structured non-academic programming focused on health and wellness. Saint Joseph’s student-volunteers will support the graduate assistant in creating and implementing fitness-related activities

during non-academic periods like recess and lunch.

“Having recess in school is simply not enough,” says Rennie Parker, community school coordinator at Gompers. “A structured regimen is what students need to fight obesity and minimize screen time.”

The grant funds were provided by Philadelphia Women’s Basketball, a nonprofit organization set up to host the 2000 NCAA Division I women’s basketball championship.

“Not only will the Gompers community benefit from this endeavor,” says Jill Bodensteiner, director of athletics for Saint Joseph’s, “but Saint Joseph’s students will also have the opportunity to participate in a high-impact experiential learning opportunity.”



The University will partner with nearby Samuel Gompers School to bolster its sports and science programs.



Gaming with the Sixers

76ers Gaming Club (GC), the NBA 2K League team of the Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment portfolio, has entered an interactive esports partnership with Saint Joseph’s. The partnership seeks to further the accessibility of esports while providing exclusive content and programming for Saint Joseph’s students.

“The exclusive 76ers GC content, programming and access generated through the partnership will provide a unique opportunity for students who want an inside look at the craft and business of esports,” says Kathryn Alario, vice president of marketing for the 76ers. “This partnership continues to reinforce Philadelphia’s prominent

position in the esports ecosystem.” The partnership includes multiple collaborative events focusing on both esports gameplay and careers in esports, such as virtual networking opportunities, coaching clinics, guest speakers and more.

“With our already existing strong ties to the 76ers organization, our new esports programming, and with Philadelphia becoming the East Coast epicenter for gaming, it makes sense for Saint Joseph’s to partner with GC,” says Saint Joseph’s Director of Athletics Jill Bodensteiner. “This partnership builds on our commitment to esports and will provide our students unique opportunities to learn more about the growing industry academically and professionally.”

MAIRM’s New Executive Director

Storm Wilkins, Esq., CPCU, assumed the role of executive director of the Maguire Academy of Insurance and Risk Management (MAIRM) in the Erivan K. Haub School of Business on Jan. 4. Wilkins most recently served as an assistant professor in the Risk, Insurance and Healthcare Management Department in the Fox School of Business at Temple University.

“Storm was the clear choice for the executive director role,” says Joseph A. DiAngelo, Ed.D. ’70, dean of the Haub School of Business. “She brings her wealth of expertise, from roles with property casualty carriers to trial law.”

Wilkins has more than 25 years of industry experience. She also worked as an adjunct professor at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and designed and delivered corporate training classes.



Storm Wilkins, the new MAIRM executive director

Wilkins says she was drawn to the Haub School and Maguire Academy because of its Jesuit roots and social justice tradition. She is focused on the role that the insurance industry has to play in society — from managing pandemic risk to issues of social justice.

“It is a culmination of my experience,” Wilkins says. “The Maguire Academy has a stellar reputation in the industry educating bright students with whom I look forward to working closely.”

Day of Dialogue By The Numbers

On Feb. 25, the University hosted its second annual Day of Dialogue — a day-long event that encouraged conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion through active discussions, presentations and action-oriented workshops. Here is a look at the event by the numbers.



Leading on Diversity

At the close of 2020, Saint Joseph’s National Alumni Board (NAB) announced the launch of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council, appointing Reese Blair ’98 and Christian O’Brien ’13 as co-chairs of the initiative. The DEI Council was created to foster welcoming and inclusive experiences and spaces for diverse segments of the alumni population.



National Alumni Board DEI Council
Co-Chair Reese Blair ’98

Blair looks forward to continuing his DEI work at his alma mater. “I’ve been blessed, and now I have to give back,” he says. “When a young person looks up and sees someone who looks like them in a position of success ... that matters.”



National Alumni Board DEI Council
Co-Chair Christian O'Brien ’13

O’Brien recently joined Bristol Myers Squibb as senior manager for oncology commercial training.

■ **Reese Blair ’98** majored in accounting at Saint Joseph’s and worked for Deloitte after graduation, making partner in 2011. He now leads an investment management practice in Philadelphia. Blair served as the president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, led the affinity group for the Black Employee Network at Deloitte, and was appointed DEI leader for his office.

■ **Christian O’Brien ’13** majored in pharmaceutical and healthcare marketing at Saint Joseph’s. O’Brien says the inclusivity he experienced at the University helped him thrive. “I was out in college,” he says. “And I was able to flourish in my skin. I want more students to have that opportunity.” As a vaccine specialist at Sanofi, O’Brien led an employee resource group and designed programming that brought awareness and equity to LGBTQIA employees and patients. He also helped implement gender-transition guidelines, which enable employees, their partners or dependents to take advantage of the company’s gender transition medical benefits.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP, FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following students and recent alumni earned scholarships, grants and fellowships this year:

- **Amanda Adinolfi ’19**, international relations: Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Bulgaria
- **Eileen Burner ’21**, French and secondary education, Teaching Assistant Program in France
- **Alexander Manduca ’22**, physics: Barry M. Goldwater STEM Research Scholarship and the NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant

- **Veronika Nemeth ’21**, Spanish and education: Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Spain
- **Jason Ngo ’20**, international business and economics, Teaching Assistant Program in France
- **Gabriel Sherwin ’22**, mathematics and actuarial science: Curtis E. Huntington Memorial Scholarship
- **Caren Teague ’23**, environmental science and English: Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

SAINT JOSEPH’S DAY

MARCH 19 Ready, Set & Give

Thanks to the generous support of over 3,800 donors, this year’s Day of Giving raised more than \$500,000 — doubled from 2019.

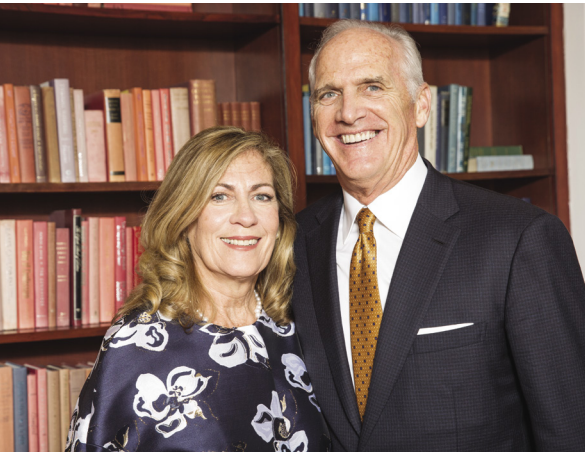
- 1,650+ alumni participants
- 1,000+ parent participants
- \$26,000+ raised to support an additional 143 textbook scholarships
- \$60,000+ raised for the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support
- \$108,000+ raised for an additional 40 scholarships
- \$240,000+ raised for athletics

‘U.S. NEWS’ RANKING

Saint Joseph’s advanced two spots in *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2021 “Best Colleges” rankings, rising to No. 8 in the Regional Universities North category, which includes 176 institutions.



Saint Joseph’s alumnus Daniel J. Hilferty ’78 and his wife Joan Pilot Hilferty (below) donated \$2 million to the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support (left).



Notable Donation Advances Kinney Center

Thanks to generous support from Saint Joseph’s alumnus Daniel J. Hilferty ’78 and his wife Joan Pilot Hilferty, the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support is positioned to have even greater success in its second decade. The couple provided a \$2 million gift to the Kinney Center, which was supplemented by an additional contribution from Independence Health Group. Hilferty served as president and CEO of Independence through 2020.

“Supporting people with autism requires integrated behavioral and physical health care as well as social and educational support, and Joan and I are so proud that Saint Joseph’s and the Kinney Center are helping professionals and families pursue that goal,” Hilferty says.

The Kinney Center supports and serves individuals and families affected by autism, ultimately building a community where every person gets the guidance and care they need.

The support from these donors has ignited the establishment of an innovation fund meant to scaffold new research and clinical approaches that will support and

further address the needs of those with autism. Saint Joseph’s is a known pioneer in the autism field — the University introduced the first major and minor in autism studies in the country, launched the ASPIRE program to support students on the spectrum, and opened the first autism break room in an NCAA Division I athletic arena.

Now, the Kinney Center will continue building on its renowned trailblazing reputation. “While our last 10 years have been about getting our clients with autism ready for the world, our next 10 years will be about getting the world ready for individuals with autism,” says Angus Murray, executive director of the Kinney Center.

Murray refers to the Center’s work over the past decade to develop educational programs for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). One of the most notable initiatives is the Center’s transitional youth services, which works to provide support, education and guidance to people with autism spectrum disorder as they move through transitional

periods and pursue meaningful positions in the workforce. The development of transitional programs was bolstered in 2020 by a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In 2021, the Center also started educating the educators — in classrooms, on college campuses and in communities. “Our education of future autism professionals is a force multiplier of all of our programmatic initiatives,” Murray says. The University also partners with employers to offer insight on welcoming and supporting employees with autism, especially as it pertains to cultivating those employees’ talents, striving for more neurodiverse workforces and serving customers with autism in the best way possible. The Kinney Center is zeroed in on improvement at all times — in their own programming, in their clients’ lives and in future educators and autism professionals. As the community’s trust in the Kinney Center grows stronger, the futures of the people they serve can only grow brighter.

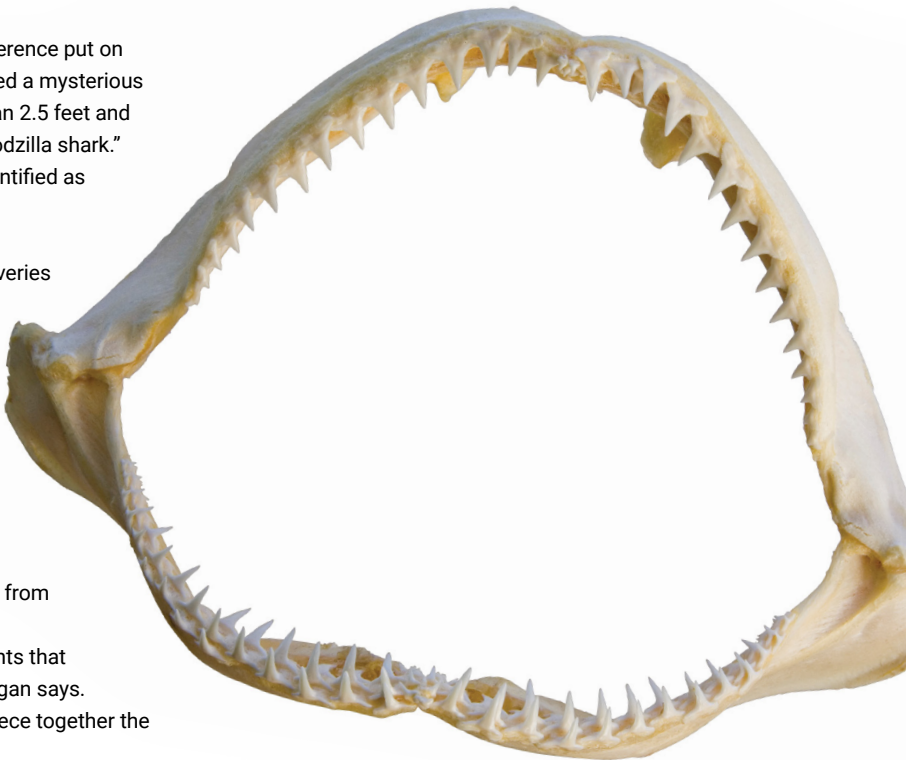
A New Name for Sharkzilla

Eight years ago, J.P. Hodnett '17 (M.S.) was performing field work at a conference put on by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science when he uncovered a mysterious fossil. It turned out to be a shark — 6.7 feet long with fins reaching more than 2.5 feet and 12 rows of razor sharp teeth. The specimen was unofficially dubbed the “Godzilla shark.” Now, the shark has been formally named *Dracopristis hoffmanorum* and identified as a new species.

At the time of the discovery, Hodnett knew there was only one place he could go to classify the specimen. “When researchers make discoveries like this, they’re told to come see Lund and Grogan,” says Eileen Grogan, Ph.D., senior research associate emerita at Saint Joseph’s. Grogan and her collaborator and partner, Richard Lund, Ph.D., research associate at Saint Joseph’s, are a mutual powerhouse of expertise in paleontology. The pair have gained notoriety for their work in central Montana uncovering the Bear Gulch Fossil Fish Collection, which is one of the most articulate fossil collections in the world.

As Hodnett pursued his master’s in biology under Grogan, the three researchers found his discovery was *major*. The Godzilla shark confirms an evolutionary branch of ctenacanth sharks and shark-like fishes that split off from modern sharks and rays about 390 million years ago.

“Discoveries like this one give us an incredible look into the series of events that had to occur for the fin-to-limb transition to take place in our evolution,” Grogan says. “This shark species ... has incredibly significant implications for us as we piece together the evolution of the world in deep time.”



CHANGE IS BREWING

SJ Brew, a student-run coffee program at Saint Joseph’s, welcomed its first shipments in February. Under the direction of Student CEO Claire Fitzgerald ’21, the brand sells organic, fair-trade coffee that is “brewed with purpose.”

Fitzgerald joined the program after her sophomore year study tour in Costa Rica.

“We got to talk to coffee farmers and fair-trade producers,” she says. “It’s different being able to see the process in person, and really see all the complicated steps that come into making a simple cup of coffee.”

SJ Brew sells coffee produced by Café Femenino, which is committed to ending the cycle of poverty affecting female coffee farmers around the globe. The

coffee cooperative directly compensates the farmers and provides them with opportunities and resources to incite positive change in their communities.

The coffee initiative was the brainchild of alumnus Richard Viebrock ’15 and is now being carried out by Fitzgerald and several other students, including Sophia Dell’Arciprete ’22, who designs flyers and website content, and Rylan Domingues ’22, who focuses on operations. They work under the direction of Associate Professor of Sociology Keith Brown, Ph.D.

Proceeds from the SJ Brew sales go toward the Charles F. Shreiner ’50 Scholarship for Study in Latin America.



Writing Women’s Health

Four undergraduates in the School of Health Studies and Education co-authored a set of encyclopedia entries with Sally Kuykendall, Ph.D., interim chair and professor of health studies. An opportunity to participate in the academic publication process and make their resumes stand out, it was also a chance to advocate for and contribute to a critical field of study: women’s health.

The students’ entries in the encyclopedia “Women’s Health: Understanding Issues and Influences” include “Deaf Gain” by Brittany Porter ’20, “Stress” by Kayla Schulingkamp ’20 and “Health Inequities and Health Disparities” by Alyssa Bentz ’21. Priscilla Rodríguez ’20 researched the autism spectrum from the female perspective. “It’s a topic that’s not frequently spoken about,” Rodriguez says. “Most of the scientific research studies focus on male patients because the disorder is more commonly seen in males, yet females are affected very

differently by it. I wanted to learn more about it myself, as well as educate others and advocate for this group of girls and women.”

Studies show that up to five times as many boys are diagnosed with autism than girls — that’s why information about women and the disorder is so hard to come by. According to the National Autistic Society, even if a woman’s symptoms are

severe, she is less likely to be diagnosed because of male gender bias.

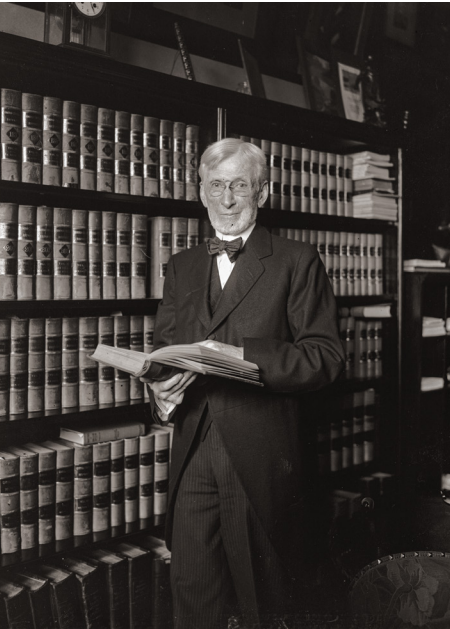
By way of this project, the women were able to make a meaningful difference on issues like these. “I think what I enjoyed the most is how much I learned from my students,” Kuykendall says. “Throughout the years, I’ve seen a huge transition in some of the topics that they study. It’s interesting to me to see what has come to their awareness and interest.”

Autism diagnosis before age 6

8% OF GIRLS

vs.

25% OF BOYS



HISTORIC COURT CONNECTION

Proving whether or not Joseph McKenna, an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1898 to 1925, was an alumnus of Saint Joseph’s University was just one of the many goals of the McKenna Project, a faculty-student research collaboration led by Susan Liebell, Ph.D., professor of political science.

“Every year during graduation, it’s mentioned that Joseph McKenna was a Supreme Court Justice and that he’d gone to St. Joe’s,” Liebell says. “But there was no trace of him.” So, Liebell created a research class, Political Science 470 — Research in the Discipline, so students could learn more about McKenna and his connection to St. Joe’s, and create a permanent online database for those researching the Supreme Court during this period.

“I wanted the class to be able to create a concrete product, like a website that students would be able to add to their resumes,” she says.

Part of the students’ research included reaching out to other libraries, from Drexel to Rutgers to the Library of Congress. A huge discovery was made at Saint Joseph’s library: Lesley Carey, a library technician, found a 1901 University directory that lists McKenna as a Saint Joseph’s alum, with his address at the Supreme Court.

“This research moved fast,” Liebell says. “It was very exciting to get this document from the archivist at the library.”



BIG SCORE FOR MEDICINE

Saint Joseph's men's soccer senior David Grana '21 has been awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, given to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically. Grana, a starting defender and a biology major with minors in business administration and health care ethics, intends to pursue an M.D. program following graduation. He plans to specialize in anesthesiology or internal medicine and wants to use his degree to serve his community. A senior fellow in the Institute of Clinical Bioethics, Grana has also received a \$5,000 grant to implement a novel hospice and palliative care program at Caritas Baby Hospital in Palestine.

Photo: Sideline Photos, LLC



Diversity in Action

Candid conversations, ongoing training and creating new platforms for awareness are among the key tenets of Saint Joseph's Athletics' new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Plan. A working group of student-athletes, coaches, administrators and faculty provided input on the plan, which includes four key short- and long-term initiatives: a voting initiative that complements the University's larger election education and action plans; the creation of a four-session Athletics Leadership Academy centered on diversity and inclusion for student-athletes; an ongoing diversity, equity and inclusion curriculum; and a hub for DEI on the Saint Joseph's Athletics official website. There are also plans for additional initiatives beyond this academic year, including creating professional development opportunities for students of color who are interested in coaching or athletics administration, and integrating DEI work as part of career counseling for all student-athletes.



SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

Celebrating the athletic achievements of our Hawks.

- **Caela Abadie '21 (left)** (Softball): Set new records for career home runs (35), and new single-season marks for home runs (14) and RBI (56)
- **Zach Cole '22** (Men's Lacrosse): Northeast Conference Player of the Year, All-American in multiple national publications including *Inside Lacrosse* and *USA Lacrosse Magazine*
- **Taylor Funk '21** (Men's Basketball): Named to All-Big 5 first team, selected Most Improved Player and Leading Free Throw Shooter
- **Stephanie Kelly '21** (Women's Lacrosse): Atlantic 10 Women's Lacrosse Co-Offensive Player of the Year and Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association's Mid-Atlantic All-Region first team, led the Atlantic 10 in assists (45) and points (91), setting new SJU single-season records

- **Sarah Ostaszewski '20 '21 (M.S.)** (Softball): Fourth Hawk ever to reach 200 career hits, finished her SJU career in first all-time career doubles (53) and at-bats (688)
- **Katie Mayock '22** (Women's Basketball): Named Big 5 Scholar-Athlete of the Year
- **Zach Michon '20 '22 (M.H.A.)** (Men's Track and Field, Cross Country): Atlantic 10 champion in the 1500m and 5000m and St. Joe's 5000m record holder
- **Taylor Wray** (Men's Lacrosse): Five-time Northeast Conference Coach of the Year

Coaches vs. Cancer

Rivalry on the basketball court runs deep in Philadelphia. Every year, Division I programs around the city channel that passion into Coaches vs. Cancer (CVC), a partnership between the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. "It's a great opportunity to promote the work of the American Cancer Society, and the need to get involved in the fight," says Ali Gill, ACS senior development manager. Philadelphia is home to the most successful CVC program in the nation. The Philly 6 — which includes St. Joe's, Temple, Drexel, UPenn, La Salle and Villanova — have raised more than \$17 million for the ACS since 1996. Philly CVC won't stop until they crush cancer (it's their motto). When CVC comes around each year, the St. Joe's men's basketball program and its core values — respect, elevate and serve — really shine. "... They have to be more than just words on a wall," says Head Coach Billy Lange. "They have to be things that we're trying to live out." Through CVC, the program does just that. Last season, they supported Jacob, a young



The Saint Joseph's men's basketball coaches wear sneakers with gold laces in memory of 8-year-old Lacey Holsworth, an avid basketball fan who died in 2014.

man who was battling a rare type of bone cancer in his leg and is now cancer-free. This January, Coach Billy Lange and his staff wore white sneakers with gold laces for the annual "Suits & Sneakers Week," held in memory of 8-year-old fan Lacey Holsworth, who passed away from cancer in 2014. The "Tourney Tip-Off Breakfast" was hosted virtually on March 15 and 16, featuring guest speaker and ESPN "Bracketologist"

Joe Lunardi '82. The CVC's "BasketBall," traditionally a black tie gala, was also held virtually in April and honored another St. Joe's grad, Dan Hilferty '78, former president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross, who is a champion of cancer fundraising efforts.

Creating Programs for a Changing World

Saint Joseph’s prepares students for an ever-changing future. Below is a sampling of new programs.

■ **ESPORTS** Saint Joseph’s has launched a multifaceted approach to esports, whose growth has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to an annual industry report, the global esports audience grew to 495 million people in 2020 with a revenue of \$1.1 billion. The University has responded with an investment in a technology-focused esports lab, academic programming to launch recession-resistant careers, and elevation of the student gaming club to a club sport. Saint Joseph’s also offered the University’s first academic course in esports this fall, adding to existing courses including Interactive 3D Game Development, Human Computer Interaction, Digital Aesthetics and Civic Media.

■ **MACHINE LEARNING** Saint Joseph’s introduced an undergraduate major in machine learning for business applications last fall to meet the fast growth in employment in this emerging field. Machine learning is a method of data analysis and a subset of artificial intelligence that focuses on the study of computer algorithms that automatically improve through experience. The demand for professionals in the field of AI is so high, it far exceeds the supply. According to a study by Indeed.com, machine-learning engineer jobs grew 344% from 2015-2018, with an average base annual salary of \$148,000.

■ **HEALTH INFORMATICS** Last fall, the School of Health Studies and Education added an M.S. in Health Informatics and a health informatics certificate. The M.S. is a 33-credit-hour program that can be taken entirely online. Instruction includes 55 hours of hands-on experience using clinical-grade informatics technology. Credits for the fully online 12-credit health informatics certificate count toward the master’s degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for health IT employment is expected to grow by 15%, adding over 29,000 jobs between 2014 and 2024. The rate of employment of medical records and health information technicians was expected to increase by 21% from 2010 to 2020.

■ **MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION COUNSELING** Starting in fall 2021, the School of Health Studies and Education will also offer a clinical mental health counseling M.S. and an addiction counseling certificate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, just under 100,000 new counseling jobs are projected through 2028, a 20% growth rate that far outpaces the 5.2% for all other occupations. The creation of this 60-credit master’s and 12-credit certificate responds to this increased demand for mental health counselors and specifically to the prevalence of co-occurring mental health disorders and addictive-use disorders.

Meet SJU’s VP of Marketing and Communications

Liz Kennedy Walsh has been named the new vice president of marketing and communications at Saint Joseph’s. Reporting directly to the President, Walsh serves on the University’s senior leadership team and oversees a team responsible for driving enrollment, philanthropy and reputation through strategies including internal communications, media relations, content, social media, digital and traditional marketing, creative expression and branding. Walsh brings more than 25 years of experience to the role, most recently serving as associate vice president of university communication and marketing at Villanova. There, she directed a team of 21 and was involved in all aspects of marketing and communications including a rebrand, website redesign, recruitment campaigns, COVID-19 response, market research and more.



Liz Kennedy Walsh, the new vice president of marketing and communications

Prior to her tenure in higher education, Walsh directed marketing in the tourism and entertainment industry including at the National Constitution Center, Adventure Aquarium, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and the Wilma Theater. Walsh is civically engaged on campus with appointments on numerous committees including issues management, COVID-19 and the presidential task force on race. She is also active in her community as the former vice-chair of the advisory board at the Haverford YMCA. She holds a master’s degree in theater from Villanova and a bachelor’s in English and communication from University of Scranton.

NEW MPA SCHOLARSHIP

Alumnus Michael J. Morris ‘56 has invested \$100,000 to create a scholarship fund for the Erivan K. Haub School of Business’ new Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) program, which will start enrolling students this fall. The gift will provide critical scholarship support for the first cohort of accounting students and help to grow enrollment. The innovative 30-credit MPA program is a blend of core accounting courses distributed among specialty areas that are needed for a successful career in professional accountancy. It can be completed online or on campus and is eligible as a 4+1 program. The program also meets the needs of students seeking the required 150 credit hours necessary to be licensed as a CPA.



THE MBA PROGRAM RE-IMAGINED

The new MBA curriculum at the Erivan K. Haub School of Business is all about allowing students to choose the unique combination of specializations that fit their current job and career goals. The curriculum focuses on speed-to-degree, an emphasis on ethics and sustainability that has always made a Haub MBA stand out, and flexibility through stackable “microcredentials” that allow students to continually show their progress. “We were looking to create a transformational new MBA model that would allow students to create a program to enhance their careers and their capabilities, as well as provide value to their employers,” says Dean Joseph A. DiAngelo, Ed.D. ’70. The new curriculum was created by a cross-functional team of current and former students, alumni, administrators and representatives from each academic department. One data point that was key to the development of the program is companies’ reticence across the board to pay for employees to pursue their MBAs, a trend that began with the 2007-2009 recession and has remained despite a competitive labor market. Just 49% of respondents to a 2018 Society for Human Resource Management survey said their employers offer graduate educational assistance, down from 61% in 2008. Haub’s new MBA model, which can be completed entirely online, makes the case for employers to upskill their workforce through a stackable model of three certificates — a core certificate with foundational courses in management, finance, accounting and

marketing, and then two specialty certifications of the student’s choice: marketing, finance, data analytics, data management, data science, leadership, real estate, accounting or human resources management. The new structure also responded to student feedback expressing a desire to earn microcredentials or to get regular reinforcement along the way to earning an MBA, says Nicolle Clements, Ph.D., associate professor of decision and data sciences and a member of the task force. “Students didn’t want to wait two years to be able to update their credentials on their LinkedIn profile or to tell their manager they had achieved mastery in a subject,” Clements says. “This curriculum allows them to earn a certificate to show what they’ve learned throughout their time in the program.” Another change aimed at increasing speed-to-degree is that students without undergraduate degrees in business, who would have previously needed to take several foundational courses in a traditional format, can now do them asynchronously at their own pace and at a fraction of the cost. The curriculum also reduces the number of required credits to 36, creating a faster and more affordable path to a degree. Saint Joseph’s Jesuit mission will continue to be at the heart of the program. The stackable MBA will allow for training and resources from the Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Center for Business Ethics to faculty incorporating ethics content into the MBA.

HAWKS AT THE HELM OF VANGUARD

Saint Joseph's graduates are sought after for employment by Vanguard — one of the world's largest investment management companies — because of their strength of character, adaptability and breadth of knowledge. Their success in leadership roles not only stems from their agility and adeptness, but also their alignment with Vanguard's client-centric mission and legacy of community service.

by
DAWN **THREN**

Illustrations: Leticia R. Albano



When Jack Bogle founded Vanguard in 1975, he had a simple but revolutionary idea — create an investment management company owned by the mutual funds it offers, operated solely in the interests of its fund shareholders. He set the ethical compass high for Vanguard to always do what is right for the client, crew (employees) and community, and was known for hiring people with integrity, a growth mindset and a passion for giving clients the best chance for investment success.

For decades, Saint Joseph’s University graduates who have gone on to become Vanguard “crew members” have relied on their Jesuit education and culture rooted in intellectual curiosity, adaptability and *cura personalis* — care for the whole person — to support, and often lead, Vanguard’s mission.

“One of the reasons why recruiters like our students is because they can adapt and learn new things. We teach them to read for lifelong learning, to write for articulation and to think critically for discernment because we are preparing students in today’s environment for jobs that don’t exist yet,” says Joseph A. DiAngelo, Ed.D. ’70, dean of the Erivan K. Haub School of Business. “The liberal arts background prepares students to constantly evolve.”

Managing more than \$7.5 trillion in global assets and with 19 offices all over the world, Vanguard’s long-standing practice of rotating both leaders and crew offers the opportunity to improve upon and explore new skills and career paths, from information technology and risk management to investor services and human resources. Having the ability to pivot and ask questions is part of the fabric of a rigorous Saint Joseph’s liberal arts curriculum. Required courses like philosophy and theology add to a broader exposure to the humanities in a Hawk’s education and help students develop the intellectual and emotional depth that is essential for overall career success.

“Vanguard needs crew who can think beyond the challenges of today, who can recognize the opportunities that exist in that change and find creative ways to deliver stronger outcomes for clients,” says Lauren (Foley) Valente ’03, Vanguard managing director and chief human resources officer. “We also look for alignment with Vanguard’s values: engaged citizenship, [supporting an] inclusive and diverse community and ethical decision making. That really leads to many St. Joe’s graduates being a strong fit.”

The following alumni have been more than just a strong fit for Vanguard — they have helped shape the firm on its journey to becoming one of the largest asset management firms in the world.



JOSEPH DAVIS '94

Global Chief Economist and Global Head, Vanguard Investment Strategy Group

Advisory Board Member, Saint Joseph’s College of Arts and Sciences

As global chief economist and global head of Vanguard Investment Strategy, whose investment research and client-facing team conducts research on portfolio construction, develops the firm’s economic and market outlook and helps oversee Vanguard’s asset allocation strategies for both institutional and individual investors, Joe Davis ’94 is a sought-after and widely published industry expert. Whether providing his outlook on markets and the economy or sharing informative blogs about asset bubbles, Davis relies heavily on his Saint Joseph’s cross-disciplinary education, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, mathematics and German.

“I can’t tell you how many times I’ve drawn on history, math and international development — just in the past 10 years — to give context to the economic environment,” Davis says. “I think it’s that marrying of technical fields, such as mathematics and computer

science, with social science fields, such as economics and history, that can be a very powerful combination. I believe, personally, that it is a bull market for liberal arts education in the future.”

Davis went on to earn a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in economics from Duke University prior to joining Vanguard as an investment analyst. During his graduate studies, Davis wrote an award-winning dissertation, which included new data that changed the profession’s understanding of the frequency and severity of early U.S. business cycles and the volatility of the early American economy.

“My majors in both economics and math not only prepared me for the technical [aspects], but also for the last years of my dissertation, which involved writing a thesis. That’s where I saw my liberal arts education serve me very well,” says Davis, who is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

Davis was planning to head to Wall Street for his first job 18 years ago, but his dad, Joseph Davis Jr. ’66, helped open the door for him at Vanguard by sharing his resume with a fellow alum with whom his dad regularly sat at Hawks basketball games. The alum was a senior executive in Vanguard’s human resources department.

“I had to earn the interview and the job, but I will always be grateful for my dad’s advice,” Davis says. “It’s also the power of the St. Joe’s network.”



FRANCIS KOLIMAGO '87

Head, Vanguard Australia

First-generation college student Frank Kolimago ’87 followed the recommendation of his high school cross country coach and English teacher, Steve Probert ’71, who felt that Saint Joseph’s would be a great fit for the student-athlete. The strong academics, location, campus environment and the developmental nature of the track and field and cross country programs under legendary Head Coach Kevin Quinn ’62 appealed to Kolimago, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in financial management.

“I’m not sure I completely understood the value of the broader liberal arts program as a complement to the technical business major when I came to St. Joe’s, but as I reflect back, I think it was one of the strongest and most valuable takeaways from my time at the University,” says Kolimago, head of Vanguard Australia, who also earned an MBA degree at Villanova University.

Since first joining the company as a relationship manager, Kolimago has witnessed a great deal of change in the services and products offered by the firm and has assumed various

“I think the blend of experiences that I had at Saint Joseph’s — to be able to cover such a broad range of academic exposure and a real diverse range of subjects — is part of that academic development process that leads to being open minded and adaptive. It was an experience that I think helped foundationally shape me.”

— FRANCIS KOLIMAGO '87

leadership roles during his 25 years with Vanguard. He moved to Japan and co-led the firm’s startup operations, which represented the first physical office presence established by Vanguard in the Asia region. He has served as a senior manager responsible for developing internet services directed to Vanguard’s U.S. institutional clients, and has also headed the combined Shared Services and Defined Benefit Services Group. Before relocating to head Vanguard’s Australian business, he oversaw Vanguard Personal Advisor Services.

“During dramatic career changes, you’re faced with the challenge of having to navigate a very steep learning curve in a very short amount of time,” says Kolimago, who arrived in Australia in 2018, just as Vanguard became the leading exchange-traded fund (ETF) issuer in the country. Under his guidance, Vanguard has since grown and extended its market leadership position as more Australian advisors and retail investors have recognized the benefits of Vanguard’s low-cost, broadly diversified ETFs.

“I think the blend of experiences that I had at Saint Joseph’s — to be able to cover such a broad range of academic exposure and a real diverse range of subjects — is part of that academic development process that leads to being open minded and adaptive. It was an experience that I think helped foundationally shape me.”

This symbol indicates legacy status of either having an additional family member, a spouse or a spouse’s family member graduating from Saint Joseph’s.



JOHN MARCANTE '93 (MBA)

Managing Director and Global Chief Information Officer

A desire to make a positive impact on people's lives led John Marcante '93 (MBA) to Saint Joseph's and Vanguard nearly 30 years ago. Both the Jesuit university and unique asset management company shared his personal values of giving back to the community and putting others first. Combining his passions for technology and finance, Marcante's skill set and career achievements have been integral in bringing low-cost investing opportunities to Main Street investors.

"St. Joe's is a very mission-based university focused on putting the students first and giving them the best chance at success," says Marcante, Vanguard's global chief information officer. "At Vanguard, we put clients first. Our mission is to give them the best chance of investment success."

Custom tailoring his Penn State undergraduate degree in finance with a heavy emphasis on engineering and computer science, Marcante believes that being skilled across multiple disciplines helps generate new ideas. His Saint Joseph's

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St. Joe's is a very mission-based university focused on putting the students first and giving them the best chance at success. At Vanguard, we put clients first. Our mission is to give them the best chance of investment success.”

— JOHN MARCANTE '93

graduate education provided him with a wide view of portfolio management, capital markets, mutual funds and investments, while also sharpening his understanding of various fields.

"St. Joe's MBA teaches you how to go broad and then deep. We call that a T-shaped approach: How do you look across things at a strategic level and develop knowledge about the industry, but how do you also go deep within your domain and discipline," says Marcante, who has held various leadership positions in Vanguard's technology and business areas including the Advice Services Group, Six Sigma program, and the high-net worth business.

A technologist by trade who was heading Vanguard's data center infrastructure, Marcante was surprised when he was given the opportunity to lead a business unit with which he had no prior experience. Being adaptable and understanding how to communicate and build strong peer relationships were vitally important to his success.

"What's attractive to employers is individuals who will grow with the company and are able to adapt to new opportunities, because things change. I'm in the rapidly changing world of technology, and a growing portion of the jobs that exist today didn't exist five years ago. Clearly, we want people to grow, change and upskill over time and move around to gather greater experiences," Marcante says. "Vanguard hires people not for a job, but for a career. St. Joe's creates mission-based individuals who are

well-rounded and adaptable students. That's all attractive to Vanguard."



CHRISTOPHER McISAAC '97

Managing Director, Vanguard International

Member, Saint Joseph's Athletics Advisory Council

Born in Canada, Chris McIsaac '97 traveled with his high school lacrosse team in the spring of '93 to compete in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. A fluke snowstorm moved an April Fool's Day game against Penncrest High School in Media, Pennsylvania, to Saint Joseph's because the University's lacrosse field had artificial turf. During the game, McIsaac drew the attention of Hawks Head Lacrosse Coach Patrick Dennin, who recruited McIsaac to play for the University. McIsaac would go on to earn a spot in the men's lacrosse record book for being the third all-time leader in goals and fourth in assists.

Inspired by the role that investing could play in helping families achieve financial security, McIsaac majored in finance. His time at Saint

THE HAWK NETWORK

Hundreds of Saint Joseph's alumni are leading lives of consequence in gratifying careers at Vanguard across the globe. Their growth mindset and commitment to service and community — characteristics nurtured while at Saint Joseph's — are advancing Vanguard's vision to give investors the best chance for success.



MICHAEL GUNN '98

Global IT Audit Department Head | 8 years at Vanguard

Education: B.S., decision and system sciences, Saint Joseph's University; M.S., management, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; E.M. (executive master), technology management, University of Pennsylvania

Saint Joseph's Impact: Delivered meals to West Philadelphia residents battling HIV/AIDS as a volunteer for MANNA, a nonprofit organization that uses nutrition to improve health for people with serious illnesses.

Hawk Hill Lessons: "My education at Saint Joseph's taught me how to think through issues and opportunities through a number of dimensions. I also learned the value of staying grounded and anchored to a clear set of values, whether they are personal values, team norms or an organizational mission."

Vanguard Spotlights:

- Assisted in developing a technology platform to help launch and grow direct-to-consumer business in Europe
- Developed processes in the Security Operations Center to protect Vanguard's systems and client information
- Held leadership roles in the Enterprise Risk Management, Enterprise Security and Fraud, and Information Technology organizations



CARMEN (GONZALEZ) RIVE '91

Principal, Institutional Investor Group | 25 years at Vanguard

Education: B.S., accounting, Saint Joseph's University

Saint Joseph's Impact: First female in the tennis program's history to earn Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference honors. Member of the Erivan K. Haub School of Business Board of Visitors.

Hawk Hill Lessons: As an athlete, I learned about commitment, how to lose (fail) and stay positive ... [as well as skills in] time management, teamwork and how to have fun and not take life so seriously. Life has enough challenges. Learning how to make what may feel like challenging work enjoyable was, and still is, key."

Vanguard Spotlights:

- Founded the Hispanic/Latinx Organization for Leadership and Advancement employee resource group
- Mentor for female and Hispanic/Latinx professional growth
- Led client services groups in Vanguard's Institutional, Financial Advisor Services and Retail divisions



ELAINE (McGILLIAN) VAN BLUNK '86 '94 (MBA)

Senior Accounting Manager | 30 years at Vanguard

Education: B.S., accounting, MBA, Saint Joseph's University

Saint Joseph's Impact: First female All American in women's track and field and cross country; set eight school records, five of which still stand.

Hawk Hill Lessons: "You need to be ready to react when a situation changes. You need to learn from prior experiences and then try to apply what you learned going forward. Also, you need to stay focused on your goals, even when obstacles get in the way."

Vanguard Spotlights:

- Leader in Vanguard's annual company food drive, "All Cans on Deck"
- Integral in migration of Vanguard's accounting system to the Cloud, including testing and crew training
- Involved in the implementation of risk and controls programs for Vanguard's international expansion efforts

Joseph’s on and off the lacrosse field helped build confidence and further develop his values — assets that helped propel him through his undergraduate education and on to the MBA program at Harvard, as well as in various leadership roles during his career.

“It is easy for me to see the common element across St. Joe’s and Vanguard: an orientation toward others. It’s not about you. It’s not about me. It’s about we, and what good we can do for society,” says McIsaac, who was appointed head of Vanguard International when Jim Norris ’85 retired in December 2020. “Vanguard’s culture is first and foremost about doing the right thing by our clients.”

Had McIsaac been allowed to choose all of his own classes at Saint Joseph’s, he admits that he would have selected more practical courses in business, finance and technology. But over time, he realized that an education rooted in the social sciences, natural sciences and humanities deepened his written and verbal communication skills and enhanced his critical-thinking ability.

“I think the competitive difference for Saint Joseph’s University is that it focuses on the liberal arts education to really give students a platform that will serve them incredibly well in a world that continues to change,” says McIsaac, who serves on the University’s Athletics Advisory Council. “You need capabilities, mindsets and approaches that can stand the test of time and that will serve students in multiple environments.”

Since joining Vanguard in 1997 as a business analyst, McIsaac has helped to advance

“It is easy for me to see the common element across St. Joe’s and Vanguard: orientation toward others. It’s not about you. It’s not about me. It’s about we, and what good we can do for society.”

— CHRISTOPHER
McISAAC ’97

strategy and improve investor services. Regarding his new role, he says that he has inherited a strong international business division from his predecessor.

“For me, it’s really all about just trying to build on that momentum that Jim Norris created for us,” McIsaac says.



**JAMES
NORRIS ’85**
Retired Managing Director,
Vanguard International
Chair, Saint Joseph’s Board of
Trustees

Jim Norris ’85 was noticed by leadership early on in his 33-year career at Vanguard because of his adept writing skills, which were deeply ingrained in him while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting at Saint Joseph’s. After a year of serving as an entry-level fund accountant, Norris was asked to be the assistant to Vanguard founder and CEO Jack Bogle, who had plans to elevate the publication of industry innovations, as well as the services and investment opportunities that the company offered.

“I really see a difference with people who went to schools where they had to write,” says

Norris, who led the increase of Vanguard’s international asset growth by more than \$400 billion within 12 years as managing director of Vanguard International before retiring in December. “In almost all of the liberal arts courses at St. Joe’s, the main part of your grade came from your papers. The ability to write is such an advantage in the workforce today.”

What brought Norris to the University was track and field and cross country, where his record of the 1,500-meter indoor time of 3:44.6 still stands as the fastest in school history. Coach Kevin Quinn mentored Norris beyond the cleats and instilled in him discipline, forward thinking, work ethic and sacrificing for others — innate characteristics that he turned to while navigating different responsibilities at Vanguard and earning his MBA degree at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

“If you’ve got the right competency and capabilities, you can really step into pretty much any role in an organization instead of only relying on technical expertise,” says Norris, who authored “The Vanguard Retirement Investing Guide.”

One of the accomplishments that Norris is most gratified with during his tenure at Vanguard is the quality of professionals he has helped introduce to the company.

“The *people* legacy is what I’m thinking I am most proud of versus any of the individual accomplishments,” says the chair of Saint Joseph’s Board of Trustees, who hired many Saint Joseph’s graduates while at Vanguard. “[Vanguard is] recruiting people out of St. Joe’s

because we have that level of confidence in the education that they’re getting, and what they’re going to bring to the table.”

“Jim has made a pretty incredible contribution with his ability to identify talent, recognize their potential and help to get those individuals into assignments where their talents and skills could flourish,” says Kolimago, who was on the track and field and cross country team with Norris. “He leaves a really great legacy, both on the people side and also in terms of business development and expansion outside of the borders of the U.S.”



**LAUREN (FOLEY)
VALENTE ’03**
Managing Director and Chief
Human Resources Officer

Lauren (Foley) Valente ’03 chose Saint Joseph’s because the Jesuit Catholic curriculum emphasizes the core values she grew up with: ethics and integrity. An integral aspect of her development as an undergraduate was being taught how to apply these values in a professional setting. She also benefited from the many examples of sound principles and strong careers

of the successful Saint Joseph’s graduates in her own family, whom she greatly admires.

Pursuing her passion for applying technology to the business world, Valente earned a Bachelor of Science degree in decision and system sciences at Saint Joseph’s. She was also recognized for her athleticism, earning the Raymond Vasquez Award for her skill and agility on the women’s lacrosse team. The award is given to student-athletes who best exemplify the Jesuit values of “being a person for others.”

Valente learned about Vanguard through Saint Joseph’s career resources and began her career with the firm as a business continuity analyst. True to the company’s history of encouraging crew members to rotate into different roles, she excelled in positions in information technology, client services, project management, operations and risk management. In July 2020, she became Vanguard’s chief human resources officer.

“A liberal arts education actually forces you out of that [core curriculum] space, so to speak, and you explore other areas that are new or uncharted,” Valente says. “That experience at St. Joe’s of switching to completely different fields or subjects prepared me for my role at Vanguard.”

Responsible for talent, leadership and culture at the company, Valente often relies on what she learned through her undergraduate experiences outside of the classroom to ensure that crew members are reaching their full potential.

“Arriving at St. Joe’s, being exposed to a more diverse

“From a St. Joe’s perspective, the University highlights an inclusive and diverse community. That is very aligned with Vanguard’s culture.”

— LAUREN (FOLEY)
VALENTE ’03

student body and meeting people, whether they were from different backgrounds or different ethnicities, was part of my development as well. That has continued since joining Vanguard,” says Valente, who also earned an MBA from Villanova University. “From a St. Joe’s perspective, the University highlights an inclusive and diverse community. That is very aligned with Vanguard’s culture. Every crew member has a role in creating an environment where we all feel connected, appreciated and heard.”

Valente has spoken with Saint Joseph’s students about the ways in which her education made her a well-rounded person and better prepared her for a working career. The tips that she shares with them to succeed at Vanguard are to be curious, be a constant learner, have a growth mindset and be adaptable — all characteristics Valente nurtured during her time at Saint Joseph’s. ■

Dawn Thren is a freelance writer and communications professional.

SEASONS *of the* BARNES

by Anne Taulane

As her husband, Albert, amassed a world-renowned art collection, Laura Barnes turned her focus on the outside world. When the Barneses purchased their Merion home from Capt. Joseph Lapsley Wilson in 1922, they agreed to maintain the arboretum that he began planting in the 1880s. The 12-acre property blossomed under Laura's care as she expanded the collection by bringing in trees, shrubs and plants from around the world. In 1940, she decided to share her knowledge and opened a horticulture school, an intense three-year program that used the arboretum grounds as a living classroom. Today, Laura's legacy lives on at the Barnes Arboretum and, through its partnership with the Barnes Foundation, Saint Joseph's University continues to expand on her educational mission. Whether taking a class or workshop or simply touring its grounds, the arboretum is a beautiful destination year-round.



Living Classroom

Built in 1924, the greenhouse (left) allowed Laura's plant propagation program to expand. Reconstructed in 2001-02, it serves as an educational facility and haven for tropical plants. The arboretum is also home to the Delaware Valley Hosta Society hosta collection (above) with more than 135 varieties purposefully arranged to showcase the plant's range of colors and sizes. Certified a National Display Garden in 2015, it can be found in the understory of the Wilson tree area.



Beauty in Balance

The arboretum offers variety in both its plantings and its layout. Students and visitors can enjoy the well-manicured formal rose garden (above and opening spread), which blooms in summer. Or, they can meander the wooded paths to admire Laura's fern collection (right). Planted back in the 1920s and '30s, today it is the largest collection of hardy ornamental ferns for teaching and research in the mid-Atlantic region.



Student Sessions

A canopy of white wisteria cascades over the terrace of the Barneses' former home. Today, the building serves as a classroom for students in the horticulture certificate program and some University classes.



Fall Foliage

An explosion of color transforms the arboretum in the fall as green leaves turn to shades of orange, red and yellow. The arboretum boasts an impressive 30-plus State Champion trees, many earning the award for their rarity, like the Chinese pistache (left), which was acquired in 1960. Laura experimented with planting trees and plants from around the world, including Asia. She had success with the Sakhalin cork tree (above) from Japan, which was acquired in 1927.



Hidden Gems

Winter brings its own charms to the arboretum, including enchanting snow-day scenes. Tucked away on the property is a quaint teahouse and pond (right), a perfect spot for quiet contemplation year-round. The teahouse was Laura's office and was designed by Paul Cret, architect of the main building.



Winter Delights

A highlight of the winter is the eye-catching bark of the stewartia trees (above). When the bark sheds, it reveals a camouflage of colors ranging from reddish brown to gray.

Anne Taulane is the director of creative services for Philadelphia magazine.

Educational Endeavors

Laura assembled valuable teaching collections to foster her students' learning experience. The arboretum continued her educational legacy through additional projects like the medicinal garden, with more than 170 species, and the 10,000-species herbarium, part of the Global Registry of Biodiversity Repositories.



Classes at the Arboretum

In 1940, Laura Barnes created an intensive three-year certificate program that focused on horticulture, botany and landscape architecture, with the arboretum serving as its classroom. Today, thanks to its partnership with Saint Joseph's, the arboretum is also as an educational space for University students in classes like the following:



■ Camera Basics at the Barnes

Helen Maurene Cooper, M.F.A., teaches both digital and experimental photography workshops on the grounds of the Barnes Arboretum in collaboration with the living collections. Her next digital class will run from mid-September to mid-October and will focus on topics like aperture, shutter speed and composition, with the beautiful plants, trees and flowers serving as the students' subjects.

■ Botanical Illustration

A certified botanical illustrator, Marylyn Waltzer has been teaching botanical art at the arboretum for the last 12 years. Her course, which blends art and scientific illustration, begins with drawing, with a focus on learning form, perspective, tonal value and texture. Students gain a deeper understanding of the plant world through illustration, with works beginning with graphite pencil and then moving on to watercolor.

For more information on classes and workshops at the Barnes Arboretum, visit sju.edu/barnesarboretum.



"St. Joseph Holding the Christ Child," 1899, Tyrolese Art Glass Co., Germany. Purchased from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in Dec. 1997 for the University's art collection. The roundel has been used widely by the Archdiocese in celebration of the Year of St. Joseph.

the YEAR of ST. JOSEPH

In **celebration** of the Year of St. Joseph, we've invited **four faculty members** to **reflect** on the images and **meaning** of St. Joseph as an **essential figure** of the Gospels and how he can **inform** our lives today.

By Diane Holliday

Pope Francis' epilogue to the year 2020 was an apostolic letter titled *Patris Corde*, or "With a Father's Heart." In his letter, the pope declared a Year of St. Joseph, marking the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron saint of the Universal Church. But the letter wasn't just an acknowledgement of Joseph's patronage, it was also a reflection on a year indelibly marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how 'our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked,'" he said, listing medical care providers, grocery store workers, cleaning personnel and other frontline and essential workers. "... Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

Though little is mentioned of the earthly father of Jesus in the Bible (none of his words appear in the canonical Gospels and there is limited information recorded on his life), he is the frequent subject of Catholic teachings. According to the pope's letter, other than the Virgin Mary, no one is mentioned more in the tradition than St. Joseph.

Daniel R.J. Joyce, S.J. '88, executive director of the University's mission programs, explains, "The traditions around St. Joseph present him with so many of the everyday heroic virtues with which we all can identify. He is the good and just person who lives a life of simple fidelity to others as a hard-working parent and caring neighbor to all. Our University patron is the ideal everyday hero who gets up and makes the world a better place. This is why he has been the subject of art, literature and devotion for over two centuries."

The lessons he instills as a courageous and working father, accepting of God's will and his role in salvation, are revered by Christians around the world. In fact, Joseph is the patron saint of several cities, dioceses and countries including Austria, China, Korea, Mexico and Peru. In addition to his canonization as patron saint of the Universal Church in 1870, he was also declared patron saint of workers in 1955, and is the patron saint of a host of other causes, including fathers, immigrants, expectant mothers and families.

Patron Saint of Workers

Nancy Ruth Fox, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
of Economics

In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis wrote that “St. Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. ... Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and

in some way become creators of the world around us.” In this way, St. Joseph shows us that we are made *imago dei*, in the image of God, a doctrine that the three Abrahamic traditions share. Work is not only about producing a good or service, it is about the dignity inherent in that work. Human dignity requires a living wage.

In 1938, after signing the Fair Labor Standards Act that established the federal minimum wage, former President Roosevelt warned: “Do not let any calamity-howling executive with an income of \$1,000 a day ... tell you ... that a wage of \$11 a week is going to have a disastrous effect on all American industry.” The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 and has not been increased since 2009. The purchasing power of the federal minimum wage peaked in 1968. That 1968 minimum wage of \$1.60 is the equivalent of about \$12 today.

Someone working full time at the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 earns about \$15,080 annually, which is below the poverty threshold of \$26,500 for a family of four. In Pennsylvania, you would

“A **family** without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even **break-up**. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to **earn a decent living?**”

— Pope Francis

have to earn over \$19 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment while spending the recommended 30% of your income on housing. In November 2020, Florida voted to increase the state minimum wage to \$15, joining Washington, D.C., and 29 states that have minimum wages higher than the federal level. In Philadelphia, municipal workers earn \$13.75 an hour, which will increase to \$15 in July 2022.

In 2019, a group of over 100 economists, including Heather Boushey and Jared Bernstein, current members of President Biden’s Council of Economic Advisors, sent a letter to President Trump in support of a \$15 federal minimum wage.

“A \$15 minimum wage by 2024 would result in \$121 billion in higher wages for 39.7 million low-wage workers, which would also benefit their families and their communities. Since lower-paid workers spend a large share of their additional earnings, this injection of wages would modestly stimulate consumer demand, business activity, and job growth,” read the letter.

So, why could there possibly be any opposition? As with any public policy, there are costs and benefits. In evaluating the 2021 Raise the Wage bill, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that the number of people

in poverty would be reduced by 0.9 million, but employment would be reduced by 1.4 million workers. Firms would experience increased labor costs, and the federal deficit would increase. Other economic studies have found that an increase in minimum wage would result in a small but significant decrease in employment, typically among low-income workers, ironically those whom the increase in minimum wage is intended to help.

There is often tension between a market outcome and social justice. In *Centesimus Annus*, Pope John Paul II wrote, “[The worker has the right to] a ‘just wage.’” Princeton economist Alan S. Blinder wrote, “The unfettered market system shows no mercy.” How do we as a society decide between “profits” and “prophets?” As an economist and a woman of faith, I am guided by University of Wisconsin economist Rebecca Blank. She wrote, “As an economist, I believe in markets ... The key question is not ‘Should there be a market?’ but ‘What are the limits to markets as an organizing structure for economic life?’” She concludes, “There are times ... when we as a society need to respond more effectively to the human pain caused by market outcomes.” On the issue of minimum wage, I choose prophets.

Patron Saint of Families

Susan Clampet-Lundquist, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology

If we imagined Jesus as a child in the U.S., He would be a precocious brown-skinned boy whose father, St. Joseph, did manual labor for a living. He would have had experience as an undocumented migrant in a

country that was not his own for a time. And he would be living under a regime in his own country that treated Him, at best, as a second-class citizen. As we consider a Year of St. Joseph and reflect on his status as the patron saint for families, I would like to think about how our society treats families like his and how we can strive to do better.

Children of color, like Jesus, experience high rates of poverty in the U.S. More than one in every five Black or Hispanic children live in poverty — this is a rate that is higher than any other country like ourselves. In the U.S., we have historically not prioritized offering government support to children, as other countries do, because many do not want to help the parents for fear that this will depress employment. We don’t recognize that many poor parents are hard working, like Joseph. Included in this latest stimulus package was a time-limited expansion of the child tax credit, which will serve as a monthly child allowance for families who make under a certain income. Researchers estimate that this could reduce child poverty by nearly half, strengthening the safety net for families.

According to the Bible, Jesus’ family had to flee to Egypt soon after he was born, out of fear of violent persecution from King Herod. How do we greet children, teens and their families when they leave their countries because of violence, and make a treacherous journey to our borders? Though there are social service organizations like Annunciation

“**The logic of love** is always the logic of **freedom**, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the **lives of Mary and Jesus.**”

— Pope Francis

House in El Paso, Texas, that welcome them and provide shelter for a time, our governmental agencies have acted inhumanely at times. Would we have wanted Jesus to be forcibly separated from Mary and Joseph at the border of Egypt and kept in a separate prison, only to have his parents deported back to the province of Judea while Jesus was kept in an Egyptian shelter? This is what occurred in the U.S. with hundreds of children, some of whom are only now being reunited with their parents. If Jesus and his family had to stay in Egypt, would we have wanted them to remain in the shadows as undocumented immigrants? Or would we want to provide them a pathway to be citizens with full

rights and responsibilities? Joseph devoted himself to supporting his family and, together with Mary, navigating them through difficult times. The Catholic social teaching principle of the call to family, community and participation promotes the idea that, collectively, we all have a role to play in supporting marginalized families such that children can flourish and grow in the context of their communities. Promoting policies that create a strong safety net to support vulnerable children and families is one way to fulfill this call.





Five Facts about St. Joseph

1. The University's statue of St. Joseph the Worker, located in the courtyard of Barbelin Hall, was donated by night school students in 1967.
2. The lily is a symbol often associated with St. Joseph, which represents God's promise to Joseph and his character as a person who lives justly. Legend has it that the walking staff of Joseph sprouted lilies as a sign that he was to marry Mary, the Mother of God, cuing from the biblical passage, "The just man shall blossom like the lily" (Hosea 14:5). The lily can be seen in the University's seal in the lower left quadrant and in the University's logo over the letter J.
3. The first apostolic mission entrusted by the pope to the Society of Jesus was given on the Feast of St. Joseph nearly 500 years ago. It was on this day that the mission of the Jesuits began – and continues to this day around the world.
4. Students often rub the foot of the St. Joseph the Dreamer statue to ask him for help on their exams. The statue is situated in the grotto behind the Chapel of St. Joseph and serves as a space for prayer and reflection.
5. Pope Francis keeps a statue of a sleeping St. Joseph on his desk where he leaves notes of special intercessions. A replica can be found in the Chapel of St. Joseph, and visitors are invited to share their petitions. "[St. Joseph] is a man of silence and strength. ... Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church," said the pope.

The Just and Good Man

Tim Swift, Ph.D.
Professor of Management

the Bible. One wonderful Jesuit, Ignatius of Loyola, prayed over the biblical story of the Nativity in his Spiritual Exercises. He realized that the stable was probably full of bags of grain for the animals inside, along with the equipment used to care for them. Joseph probably needed to remove the clutter from that stable in order to make room for Mary and her impending child. St. Ignatius in prayer imagined himself helping Joseph empty the stable and get things organized. Joseph thanked him for being so helpful.

That is Joseph. The man in the background, doing whatever was required to pave the way for our Savior, and to care for the woman he loved so dearly. He must have been a man of great humility.

Joseph also must have been a man of supreme courage and moral certitude. He married a young woman expecting a child, despite the scandal this may have brought upon him. He endured great physical and emotional peril while taking Mary and the baby Jesus to Bethlehem where he helped Mary bring our Lord into the world, and later when Joseph hurried them into Egypt to flee Herod's soldiers.

Those of us living the mission of Jesuit education at SJU as faculty members accept some of these same noble duties. How do members of the Saint Joseph's faculty emulate Jesus' earthly father? When and where do we work hard, yet stand back in order to promote *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, "for the greater glory of God?"

SJU faculty believe in *cura personalis* — we care for the whole person. We strive to do what is best for our students by encouraging personal and professional excellence, physical and emotional health, and by modeling lives lived with and for others. We faculty stand back with quiet satisfaction and let our students shine; in that way, perhaps we feel as Joseph did after he did all he could to prepare his earthly son Jesus for His life and ministry.

During the 2021/21 academic year, even more is being asked of us faculty. Many of our students' families are victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students have lost parents, grandparents and other close relatives and friends. Many of the fruits of youth have been taken from our students, whose social lives have been restricted due to safety precautions. Many families live with the stress of financial uncertainty as the pandemic continues to ravage our economy. We accompany our students during these sad times, affording us extra opportunity to provide encouragement, guidance, solace.

As Joseph remained behind the scenes, providing stability, safety and love for his family in ways that paved the way for the Glory of God, so too can we educators, who stand behind our students with pride and love as they "set the world on fire."

Ignatian prayer encourages us to pray with our imagination — to insert ourselves into scenes from

"St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all."

— Pope Francis

Patron Saint of Immigrants

Richard N. Gioioso, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American and Latinx Studies

Migration — the movement of people in and through territories — is a daily phenomenon

and one which has shaped the entirety of history. It is also a fundamentally human aspect of international and local relations, and has profound and transformative impacts on societies, affecting politics, cultures, landscapes, racial, ethnic and gender dynamics, and family and kinship ties. In our lifetimes, we have witnessed and participated in the increased mobility of peoples through globalization and the spread of transportation and communication networks, and migration remains a compelling issue in society — for political leaders and public officials, social activists, business owners, managers and employees, religious groups, international organizations, households and academics.

Across campus at Saint Joseph's, students, faculty and staff actively pursue scholarship and research, teaching and learning, and service in and with immigrant communities in the Philadelphia area and beyond. St. Joseph's patronage of immigrants provides a framework and model for us to engage with issues about immigration and interactions with immigrants and immigrant communities by emphasizing our common humanity and solidarity with those who are at various stages of their human experience — in transit, newly settling, firmly established — in whichever categorical designation they fall.

My own research and teaching are informed by and benefit from St. Joseph's patronage of immigrants in various ways. Over the past 15 years, I have performed research in many venues with diverse populations in Latin America and among Latin American immigrants in the United States. These encompass residents of the Little Havana neighborhood in Miami, Central American artists in South Florida, young adult entrepreneurs in Cuba, and families in rural El Salvador. Each individual

"The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider St. Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty."

— Pope Francis

and community has its own nuances and requires awareness of and adaptability to the realities that have characterized their experiences, approaching questions under study and research participants with care. This is especially the case where participants experience vulnerabilities and disadvantages in their everyday lives, such as poverty and undetermined or unauthorized legal status. The understanding and humility embodied in the figure of St. Joseph is both a methodological and interpersonal tool for doing research that overcomes the subject-object divide and notable differences that might characterize us as individuals.

The compassion and support offered to us through the example of St. Joseph accompany me in the classroom as well, in and through the controversial discussions that arise in the study of contemporary international migration and the politics of U.S. immigration. Sometimes, when assessing specific immigration laws, policies, regulations and practices are under examination, emotions flare and debates get heated over what are the "right" or "wrong" factors to consider and decisions to make. This is especially the case regarding how hot-button issues are treated in the media, e.g., refugees, asylum-seekers, border security, DREAMers, the undocumented. No matter what the topic, however, we benefit from building upon the shared recognition of migration as a human experience and the emphasis on immigrants not as nameless or faceless sojourners, but as individuals and groups deserving of dignity and understanding based on our common humanity, demonstrated by St. Joseph himself. ■





For the last 100 years, Saint Joseph's track has embodied what it means to develop Hawks. As part of its centennial anniversary, we look back on the people and times that brought the program from then to now.

YEARS OF TRACK

By Brendan Quinn '06

In the years after what was then Saint Joseph's College moved from its location just north of the city at 17th and Stiles to its current site in Overbrook on Philadelphia's west side, elaborate plans were set in motion. In 1929, William T. Tallon S.J., president of the College, oversaw a \$1 million proposal for a 5,000-seat stadium situated in a bowl in the foreground of Barbelin Hall. The preliminary plans included accommodations for a full football field, a baseball diamond, a quarter-mile track and, rather incredibly, an eventual expansion to 72,000 seats.

Packed in the annals of history, plans changed here and there. Of that original plan penned all those years ago, one feature remains: that track.

It is, in hindsight, appropriate. The act of running is inherently tied to time, right? Get where you're going, as fast as you can. Even if it takes a hundred years. For Saint Joseph's track, that's been the long road from yesterday to today.

This year, the program is celebrating a centennial anniversary that dates back to 1920-21, when the first relay team comprising young men from Saint Joseph's College toed the line at the Penn Relays — the oldest and grandest track and field

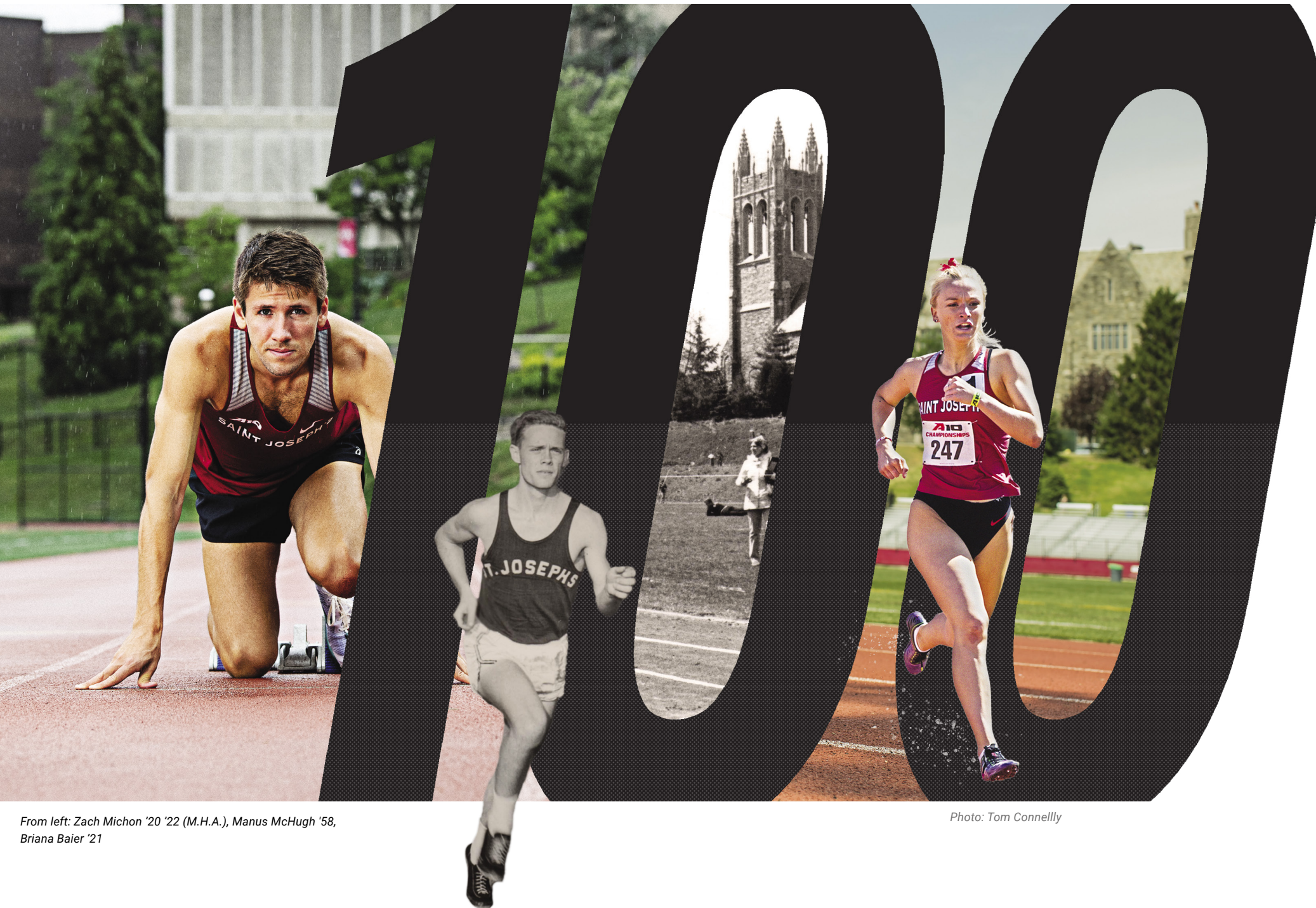
competition in the U.S. In the years since, the men's track and field program, along with cross country and the 1980s addition of the women's programs, has been a critical stitch in the fabric of St. Joe's athletics.

In a lot of ways, its identity represents a core principle of the University itself.

"The question of being developmental," says Mike Glavin '78, in his 32nd year as men's track coach at Saint Joseph's, "is where do you start and where do you finish?"

In its 100-year history, St. Joe's men's indoor and outdoor track and field has produced 29 NCAA qualifiers, including seven NCAA All-Americans, and reams of IC4A champions and Atlantic 10 champions. Cross country has similarly produced 11 NCAA qualifiers and, as a team, placed fifth in two consecutive NCAA Championships in 1955 and 1956 to earn back-to-back All-American program honors.

Too many names. Too many accomplishments. One thing in common: people. Among Saint Joseph's varsity sports, track and cross country is predated only by basketball (1909) and baseball (1910), but without question, more student-athletes have come through the track program than any other team on campus. For most of its hundred years, the program ran cross



From left: Zach Michon '20 '22 (M.H.A.), Manus McHugh '58, Briana Baier '21

Photo: Tom Connolly

country in the fall, indoor track and field in the winter, and outdoor track and field in the spring.

From program heads Johnny Oakes to Ken Smith to George Bertelsman to Lou Nicastro to Kevin Quinn '62 to Glavin, and from races at Philadelphia's Belmont Plateau to meets at New York's Van Cortlandt Park to the annual Penn Relays, the program has been both ubiquitous and is, in the words of SJU Board of Trustees Chair James M. Norris '85, "arguably among the most successful programs, beginning to present, in athletic department history." Norris would know.

Go back to 1980. Norris was a teenager with some options. A senior miler at Bishop Kenrick in Norristown, he was considering Penn, Notre Dame and Saint Joseph's for college. Penn and Notre Dame were recruiting Norris to be pieces of their programs. The latter, St. Joe's, recruited him because it wanted to turn him into something more than he was.

That was the pitch. Head Coach Kevin Quinn knew how to make it because 20 years earlier he lived it himself. He was a scrawny late bloomer at St. Joseph's Prep who went on to run for Bertelsman and Nicastro at the University from 1958 to 1962. He ended up setting the school record in the mile and two mile, was a two-time NCAA qualifier in the mile and was the first American to cross the finish line of the 1961 IC4A cross country championships, earning third overall.

Quinn took over the program as coach in the fall of 1966. When recruiting Norris, he and Assistant Coach Mike Diorka, a 1970 SJU grad who arrived as a walk-on and exceeded all expectations as an athlete, made all their selling points but didn't feel great about their chances. After meeting with Norris and his parents, Quinn returned to campus and told Diorka, "He's never coming to St. Joe's."

Not long after, Norris picked Saint Joseph's. "Coach Quinn clearly had the reputation as a developmental coach and St. Joe's had the reputation of a developmental program," Norris says. "I ran well in high school, but I was far from a superstar. I needed a place like St. Joe's."

1920/21

Founding of St. Joe's track program





1947
George Bertelsman (below) named head coach of SJU men's cross country and track and field



1955-56
Cross country places fifth in back-to-back NCAA championships

1966
Kevin Quinn '62 (right) named head coach



1975
John Kelly '50, Frank McLaughlin '56, and Kevin Quinn '62, comprise inaugural SJU Track Hall of Fame

1976
Ed Lennex '76 earns All-American honors in both the indoor and outdoor triple jump



1982
Introduction of women's team as varsity sport

Deidre Kelly '89



1984-85
Jim Norris '85 sets school record for 1500m, qualifies for NCAA championships

1988
Mike Glavin '78 returns to his *alma mater* as head coach of SJU men's cross country and track and field

1991
Donna (Crumety) Stewart '92 wins SJU's first and only NCAA title

1993
Cross country becomes first SJU women's team to claim an Atlantic 10 title



2000
Christine Kane O'Connell '01 qualifies for NCAA championships in indoor track, outdoor track and cross country

2013
Kevin McDonnell '12, '15 (M.S.) places 10th in the 10K at the NCAA outdoor championships

2016
Men's 4x400m relay of **David Henderson '18, Chris Banks '16, Torey Doaty '17** and **Alec Peabody '16** wins ECAC title

2017

Dedication of Kevin Quinn '62 Track



Photo: Sideline Photos LLC

*THE ACT OF RUNNING IS INHERENTLY TIED TO TIME ...
GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING, AS FAST AS YOU CAN.
EVEN IF IT TAKES A HUNDRED YEARS.*

Norris was a freshman in 1980-81. He had a lot of talent. He also had, let's say, an independent streak. The young man enjoyed his early college experience. It led to some trouble. Quinn coached him on the track, fought him off the track. Finally, after two years, Quinn called a meeting. This was one of those moments between coach and athlete. Not a pep talk. A real talk. One about life. One about decisions.

Norris listened. Defiance gave way to acceptance. Things changed. He grew up, turned into an NCAA qualifier in the 1500 (his 1984 indoor school record of 3:44.6 still stands) and was inducted into the Saint Joseph's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001. Like countless Hawks from track and field

and cross country, Norris went on to a successful career. He retired in December 2020 as managing director of Vanguard International and has served on Saint Joseph's Board of Trustees since 2015. (see page 7)

There are countless stories like Norris'. St. Joe's track is a program where modest recruits turn into all-conference performers and where walk-ons develop into scholarship athletes. It's a program where 4:25-to-4:30 milers turn into 4:02-to-4:05 milers. It's the program of alumni like Fred Maglione '71, Vince Papale '68, Ed Lennex '76 and Joe Genther '79; of Steve Ave '89,

Joe Brady '69, Jim Van Blunk '82 and Karl Savage '01. On the women's side, it's the program of Elaine McGillian Van Blunk '86 (see page 23), Dinae (Rafferty) Norris '87, Donna (Crumety) Stewart '92, Vicki Boyer '94 and Christine Kane O'Connell '01. On and on the names go.

In 1991, Stewart became Saint Joseph's first and only NCAA champion with a moment of defiance that defines the school's spirit. It was the NCAA outdoor track and field championships at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field and Stewart was in a showdown with jumpers from powerhouse programs Texas, Florida, LSU and Arkansas. On the last round of attempts, four-time All-American Cynthea Rhodes of Texas jumped 43 feet, 8 1/2 inches to take over first place. A wild celebration broke out for what was thought to be Rhodes' victory. She was congratulated by teammates and coaches and even some fellow competitors.

They didn't seem too concerned that Stewart had one more attempt.

"And I'll never forget that feeling of disrespect," she says now.

Stewart was a former standout at Philadelphia's Hallahan High School recruited by the likes of SJU, Drexel and

Temple. Now she was here. The biggest stage. She collected herself. She rocked back onto her heel, took off down the straightaway.

Hop, step, jump.
Forty-four feet, flat.
Onlookers were stunned.

"Championships are the result of hard work and I put in all the work to get there, to be there and to compete," Stewart says. "All I needed was the opportunity. Coach Quinn gave me a scholarship. I gave St. Joe's an NCAA championship."

It all comes back to development. The program develops the person.

"I'm grateful for what St. Joe's did for me as an athlete, but I can't even believe the impact that (Quinn) had on me as a person," Norris says. "I don't think there's any question that I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for him kicking my butt."

As is the nature of the sport, everything comes full circle. That old track that was supposed to be a football stadium? It was rededicated in 2017 as the Kevin Quinn '62 Track. Norris and Dinae (Rafferty) Norris '87, a fellow St. Joe's Hall of Famer and a foundational piece in the early women's track programs, joined Dennis

Salter '83, Bob Doman '71 and other SJU track alumni to honor their old coach.

"The fact is, those who went through four years at St. Joe's under Kevin Quinn realized later that they were cared for," Glavin says.

Quinn, as is very much his nature, specifically asked to only bear a passing mention in this story. To write of St. Joe's track and not write of Kevin Quinn, though, would be to chronicle the Rolling Stones and forget to mention Mick Jagger.

In total, as an athlete and coach, Quinn has been part of St. Joe's track for 53 of its 100 years. He coached 147 men's and women's cross country, indoor track and outdoor track seasons that spanned 49 years. He led 40 NCAA qualifiers, nine NCAA All-Americans, and 10 ECAC/IC4A champions. He coached the women's track and field and cross country programs from 1985 until his retirement in May 2015.

The same way current coaches like Glavin and Women's Track Head Coach Melody O'Reilly pay homage to Quinn and those who came before them, Quinn points to Bertelsman and the early roots of the program. A long jump record holder as a collegian at the University of Illinois in the 1930s, Bertelsman moved to Philadelphia



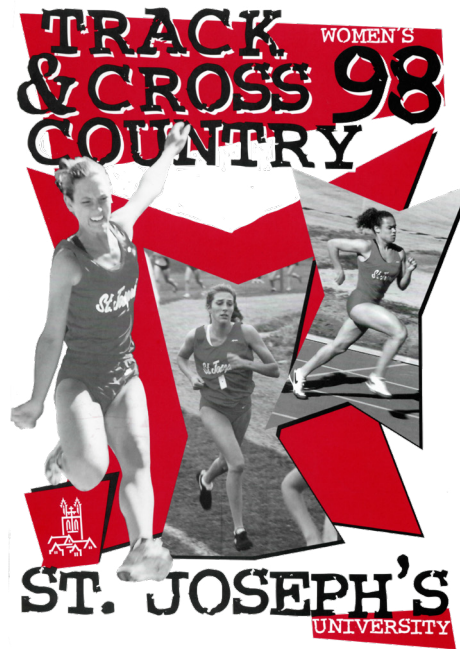
Clockwise:

- Assistant Coach Mike Diorka '70, Co-Captains Euclid Gibson '78 and Mike Willert '78 and Head Coach Kevin Quinn '62, 1978
- Anthony Di Pastina '77 at a javelin event
- Men's indoor track meet with Steve Ave '89, 1985
- 1988-1989 women's track team

Photo: Tom Connelly



Aliyah Stokes '20 '21 (M.S.)



Women's Track and Cross Country Program, 1998

Photo: Tom Connelly



Bridget McNierney '19

as a salesman after the war. He became a part-time coach at Saint Joseph's and quickly turned it into a dominant figure in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) with early stars like Joe McLaughlin '53 and Frank McLaughlin '56. In cross country, the Hawks won every league title from 1947 through 1957, in addition to six team MAC track championships between 1948 and 1959.

Bertelsman was named Saint Joseph's athletic director in 1948. He was a transformative figure in school history, adding several sports to the athletic department, making the decision to hire Jack Ramsay as basketball coach in 1955 and overseeing the construction of Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse (now Hagan Arena) in 1958. Bertelsman was among the founding fathers of the Philadelphia Big 5 and, despite representing a modest Catholic commuter college of roughly 1,400 students, was named to the prestigious NCAA Rules Committee.

"It can't be overstated how respected Mr. Bertelsman was," Quinn says.

In recent years, the Hawks of today still bear resemblance to the Hawks of yesterday. The 400-meter corps carries on the tradition

that previously went from Jim Gavaghan '59 to Mike Black '75 to Ron Manion '78. The last 20 years have produced 17 individual Atlantic 10 titles between indoor and outdoor from 400m, 500m and 800m, and 12 additional 4x400m relay titles. Middle distance runners have produced more than 40 individual A10 titles in events from the 800m through 10,000m between indoor and outdoor seasons. Cross country has produced four Atlantic 10 team titles, seven runners-up finishes and five individual champion titles.

Zach Michon '20 '22 (M.H.A.), currently a graduate student, is an eight-time Atlantic 10 All-Conference selection and six-time Atlantic 10 individual champion. He's overcome a major childhood leg surgery to remove a benign tumor in his knee to become one of the top runners in program history.

"We look for kids who develop as people, as students, as characters and as athletes," Glavin says. "It's always been that way. Now that I think of it, whether it's the school or the track program, the future of St. Joe's is the past of St. Joe's, it just can't be arrived at in the same way."

Which is why for decades, SJU track alumni have been among the most active in giving back. Of the funds raised for the women's and men's teams, 53% and

78%, respectively, comes from former Hawk runners.

Recently, mental health programming for current St. Joe's students throughout the athletic department is being spearheaded by gifts from three track and field alums.

"The culture in that program has bred the engagement that's been seen when people are gone," Saint Joseph's Athletic Director Jill Bodensteiner says.

"They weren't only part of St. Joe's. They were part of something really special in that program. It's incredible to see. It's an incredibly rich history."

These are the layers that build when one comes upon another. A developmental program pushes its athletes to achieve things they didn't think they were capable of. They then, in turn, identify their success with that of the program. And that's how you make a Hawk.

For Saint Joseph's track and field and cross country, 100 years' worth of layers have led to today and will go on to tomorrow.

For the Hawks, there is no finish line. ■

Brendan Quinn '06 is a senior writer for The Athletic.



WHEN GRIEF BECOMES A SUPERPOWER

BY MICAH CASTELO

IN HER MEMOIR, “HARNESSING GRIEF: A MOTHER’S QUEST FOR MEANING AND MIRACLES,” SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR MARIA KEFALAS, PH.D., SHARES THE LESSONS SHE’S LEARNED FROM CARING FOR HER DAUGHTER CALLIOPE, WHO WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A FATAL NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE CALLED METACHROMATIC LEUKODYSTROPHY IN 2012.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2012, Maria Kefalas’ world came crashing down.

At the age of two, her youngest child, Calliope, was diagnosed with metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a rare and progressive genetic disease that severely impacts one’s cognitive and motor abilities and leads to premature death.

Doctors said that Calliope, or Cal, as her family calls her, only had a few years left to live — that Kefalas and her family would never see their daughter grow up. That summer, Kefalas and her family started making plans for Cal’s funeral.

But the heartbreak didn’t stop there. Her father, father-in-law and late husband, Pat Carr, Ph.D., former Saint Joseph’s faculty member, were all diagnosed with cancer that same year.

“I was really lost, and I was in this state of anticipatory grief,” says Kefalas, Ph.D., a professor in the sociology department. That grief consumed her whole being, particularly in the first year following Cal’s diagnosis. Kefalas was in crisis mode, and to this day, she has no idea how she survived it.

But Kefalas started to see that there were two ways she could handle her grief: either keep it close and let it control her or find a way to use it to change the world.

Kefalas describes this perspective on grief and how it transforms her in her new memoir, “Harnessing Grief: A Mother’s Quest for Meaning and Miracles,” published by Beacon Press in 2021. Through detailed accounts and candid recollections, Kefalas tells her story of being a mother to a child with a terminal illness and shares the hope

Photos: Colleen Stepanian

and possibilities she and her family found in tragedy and loss, including raising funds to support research on leukodystrophy and gene therapy, a promising treatment technique that could prevent the disease.

“Once I realized that you can tame grief — not conquer it, but tame it — by telling your story, I was able to get outside of my pain and harness it to do good things,” she says.

FROM BLOGGING TO WRITING A MEMOIR

It wasn’t easy getting to that point. Kefalas even thought she would never write again after Cal, who is now 11 years old and continues to receive hospice care at home, was diagnosed with MLD.

But a year later, she found herself sharing what she was going through on a blog under the name “The Recovering Supermom.” She regularly shared it with a few friends, and it became a way for her to process her real-life nightmare.

Kefalas also published a piece in *Slate* for Mother’s Day that year. In her essay, she talks about the lessons she learned mothering Cal — from cherishing every single second she spent with her child to the importance of checking in on friends with sick or special needs children. It went viral.

It was at that point when she got the idea to turn her blog into a book. She had a newfound compulsion to tell her story, “like the movie ‘Aliens,’ where the monster bursts out of people’s bellies,” she says with a laugh.

But while Kefalas had written academic books, from an examination of the rural brain drain to marriage and motherhood among young, low-income women in cities, it was her first time tackling a memoir.

“I was very fortunate to have an agent and a publisher to pitch it to, but I have to admit, it was a pretty bad pitch,” she says. “The blog was pretty much a primal scream. It was very raw, angry, intense.”

Kefalas says it took a long time to find a voice that was immersive without it being too overwhelming for the reader.

“I also tried to be funny because I do have a sense of humor, so I had to find a way to inject that in a way that worked,” she says. “It was also challenging to choose which stories would be in the book and create a narrative arc from them.”

DISCOVERING THE SUPERPOWER OF GRIEF

One of the main concepts Kefalas explores through the events in her book is using grief as a superpower — a realization she had after conversations with Peter Clark, S.J., Ph.D., the director of the Institute of Clinical Bioethics.

A few months after Cal’s diagnosis and Kefalas’ return to work, a colleague suggested to her to see Clark. As a bioethicist who specializes in neonatology, Clark advises doctors and families with children who were born with severe disabilities or illnesses on the ethical challenges of making decisions about treatment.

“Maria really wanted to do what was in the best interest of her daughter,” Clark says. “She felt she needed some ethical background before deciding on how to proceed with her daughter’s care.”

In one of their meetings, Kefalas says Clark told her the wisest thing anyone has ever said to her. It was also the only thing that comforted her during that time, she writes in her book.

“He said, ‘If you have the courage to be around children like your daughter, children who are dying, they will teach you the very meaning of life,’” Kefalas recalls. “Even then, in my crazed state, I knew that was important and useful. I kept coming back to it.”

It soon became clear to Kefalas that a lot of the good in the world resulted from people who have gone through terrible trauma — from the organizers of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who helped dramatically reduce the number of drunk driving accidents in the U.S., to the families of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting victims, who advocated for gun violence prevention.

“I realized I can use the pain and heartache I felt, harness it like this force of energy and do things that were supposed to be impossible because, when the worst thing happens, you have nothing left to be afraid of,” she says.

And so the ideas for how Kefalas and her family can help others with children who have leukodystrophy came flowing.

Inspired by the late cancer patient Alexandra “Alex” Scott and her lemonade stand, Cal’s brother, PJ, suggested selling

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MARIA KEFALAS, PH.D.,
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

cupcakes to raise awareness of MLD and help doctors find a cure. They raised \$9,000 at their fundraiser in 2013, which helped fly families to Milan for an ongoing MLD gene therapy trial, a suggestion made by Amy Waldman, M.D., Cal’s neurologist at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The fundraiser also paved the way for the Calliope Joy Foundation and Cure MLD, advocacy organizations that were co-founded by Kefalas and Carr.

“I was struck with the fact that I had witnessed miracles, but I realized that people don’t really understand them,” Kefalas says. “You have to work really hard for miracles. That’s something that really motivates me — seeing a lot of remarkable things but also recognizing that there’s so much work left that needs to be done.”

Kefalas shares other stories of the seemingly impossible, including helping establish the Leukodystrophy Center for Excellence at CHOP. In 2015, clinical research studies in leukodystrophy — particularly in gene therapy — were showing great promise. Kefalas immersed herself in the research, connected with doctors and scientists to learn more and advocated for more resources and support for families. Waldman and Brenda Banwell, M.D., chief of the Division



of Neurology at CHOP, knew it was the right time to create the Center.

“The Center was really born out of the fact that families needed additional medical and psychosocial support. The community really needed us to rally around newborn screening and other emerging therapies,” Waldman says. “So, we knew we needed to start thinking broadly about where the field was going and put together a program that would really address the advances that were happening in the field.”

Today, the Center is a multidisciplinary program with numerous clinicians dedicated to families with children who have leukodystrophies, including neurologists, pediatricians, physiatrists, genetic counselors, physical and occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists and nutritionists. The Center is also currently involved in numerous research studies exploring and evaluating specific leukodystrophies, including MLD.

“She’s been a leader in the pediatric area of dealing with children who have genetic anomalies. She has courage, she’s not afraid to state her opinion and she’s not afraid to challenge others in how they form their opinions,” Clark says. “She’s an inspiration, not only to other parents who are struggling with this, but also to the medical profession. She’s taught us a great deal, and she’ll continue to teach us.”

ENTERING HER SECOND ACT

Seven years after pitching her memoir to her agent and publisher, Kefalas is excited to finally share it with the world. She’s also looking forward to infusing her experiences and what she has learned into her work as a sociology professor.

Kefalas says she was fortunate to be able to take a sabbatical from the University in 2019, allowing her to finish the book. During that time, she was also able to look at her experiences from the lens of a social scientist.

When she returned to campus in the fall of 2020, Kefalas taught medicine and healthcare policies and other topics from a very intimate perspective. Her class, called Sociology of Medicine, gave students the opportunity to rethink healthcare and medicine as they know it.

The first exercise she had with her class was an introduction to narrative medicine, a burgeoning field that looks at the human side of medicine through storytelling. It was the most impactful teaching she’s done, she says.

“I find myself in my second act, discovering healthcare and medicine as a topic of study and coming at it with a combination of my training as a sociologist and my experiences as a parent and an advocate,” Kefalas says. “I’m really excited to take all of that and continue bringing it to the classroom.” ■

Micah Castelo is a web content editor at Saint Joseph's.

Jabari Whitehead, Ed.D.

'05 (M.Ed.), '17 (Ed.D.)

*Inspiring students and teachers
to look within and lean into vulnerability*

by
KELSEY E. THOMAS

“Just being seen goes a long way. It doesn’t matter if you’re looking at an elementary school or adults; it all boils down to the fact that relationships matter, people need to be valued, seen and heard, and everyone needs human connection.”

It’s 9 a.m. at Chatham Park Elementary School in Havertown, Pennsylvania, and a man wearing a plush shark head strolls into a third-grade classroom. The students (and, more subtly, the teacher) erupt in knowing giggles. Wearing the shark head is their principal, Jabari Whitehead, Ed.D., doing the morning rounds he calls “all the places and all the faces.”

When Whitehead started in education nearly two decades ago, he couldn’t imagine who he’d be today — a school leader people constantly turn to for wisdom and advice around education and building an uplifting community.

“My whole idea around going into education after college was to teach middle school and coach football the rest of my life,” Whitehead says. Others, however, had bigger plans for him. “During an interview for my second job, the principal there, an African-American gentleman, pointed out to me that my role would be to replace him someday.”

Likewise, Whitehead’s parents, whom he calls “irrational optimists,” always pushed him to aim higher. He says they would say, “Wonderful. Now what’s next?” after an accomplishment, whether it was receiving his first job as a second grade teacher, rapidly being promoted to leadership roles, getting accepted into the master’s in education program at Saint Joseph’s University, or later earning his doctorate in education there.

Despite so many voices encouraging him, Whitehead says he wasn’t always as confident as he is today. Like many high-achieving individuals, he struggled with imposter syndrome, a lack of belief in his talents, skills and achievements. “In becoming a leader and while working through a master’s program, you spend a lot of time trying to prove yourself,” he says. “You take yourself so seriously, put up a wall, try so hard to achieve. I didn’t always see the human side of what I needed as far as connecting with the people I’m leading and seeing and hearing their story. I needed to break down my

own walls and see who I was, and that led me to see the power of vulnerability.”

Whitehead started to lean into the discomfort and embrace a “growth mindset,” skills he learned from his master’s program and from his longtime passion, CrossFit. “I share the idea of a growth mindset with our parents in the community,” he says. “I want to make sure that the kids and teachers know we’re on this journey together ... We’ll lean into discomfort and come out the other side stronger.”

Eventually, Whitehead pushed too hard. When he returned to the University for his doctorate, he found himself nearly living in the library and eating unhealthily while simultaneously training for a marathon and keeping up his CrossFit regimen. He wasn’t spending as much time as he would have liked with his wife, son and daughter, and says he lost sight of the bigger picture he was working toward. It came at a cost — in his second year of doctoral work, he wound up in the cardiac unit.

Even there, he had his laptop open trying to finish a paper and prep for a ceremony he would be recognized in later that week as a finalist for a teaching award. But when his daughter showed up at the hospital, he saw himself through her eyes — wires coming off of him, hooked up to monitors, still frantically typing into his computer. That was the wake-up call he needed.

“I started doing a lot of journaling and reading a lot of stoic philosophy, learning to focus on what is within my control,” he says. “I learned to be at peace within the chaos, a calm rock in stormy waters, and to focus on being able to add value to others every day instead of achieving every single thing every day.” Turns out, those were the perfect lessons for a principal stewarding young minds through their formative years.

His professors at St. Joe’s reinforced these lessons. He was initially focusing his dissertation on reading readiness until his professor, Terrance Furin, Ph.D., pushed him to look inward and examine what makes him angry or frustrated. “I ended up focusing instead on transformational leadership and how it impacts self-efficacy,” Whitehead says. “I still use that work today; the components of self-efficacy — such as the emotional state and verbal persuasion — allow us to learn how to see beyond ourselves and focus on service for others.”

Today, that sometimes looks like walking the halls of his elementary school with a silly head on to make kids laugh. Other times, it’s walking into the cafeteria and spontaneously kicking off a round of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” At home, it’s being a dedicated husband to his wife of 13 years and teaching his two kids, now 11 and 9, to make room for play each day.

“Just being seen goes a long way,” Whitehead says. “It doesn’t matter if you’re looking at an elementary school or adults; it all boils down to the fact that relationships matter, people need to be valued, seen and heard, and everyone needs human connection. Those pieces are the same — no matter what.” ■

ALUMNI PROFILE

Less than a year ago, when the Bethlehem Police Department received a domestic call, two officers would arrive on the scene to resolve the situation. But if they noticed troubling signs — poor living conditions, food insecurity or domestic conflict — the officers had no standard procedures to follow short of calling child services or reading someone their rights. Often, the department would repeatedly receive calls from the same households, and officers would continue to show up, then leave, until in many cases a crime finally did occur.

That approach didn't address the underlying cause of the domestic call, says Michelle Kott, D.J.C. '10 (M.S.). Kott, who holds a master's degree from Saint Joseph's and a doctorate in criminal justice, was selected as the city's first female police chief in October 2020. In just a few months during an incredibly difficult year, she's taken a traditional force and integrated forward-thinking ideas at the center of the national conversation on police reform, from partnering with public health agencies to community policing.

Under Kott's leadership, for example, the department retains a social worker with whom officers can connect individuals who are better suited for treatment than prosecution. "One agency alone is not going to solve complex social issues," Kott says. "We're hoping to show that repeat calls for service at an individual's house are going to decline if individuals are put into contact with county services or programming that can help address their needs."

That partnership is part of a larger vision, what Kott calls a hybrid approach to policing. Kott has managed to rapidly build a culture of community policing, where officers seek to support the communities they serve, and the community in turn has greater trust in the police to resolve issues and handle crimes. It's taken hold within her department to the point where internal applications for community policing roles have nearly doubled under Kott's leadership.

To understand how Kott managed to make change, it's necessary to understand where Kott's coming from. She joined the Bethlehem Police Department in 2004 after receiving her bachelor's in criminal justice from DeSales University. She worked her way up, first going undercover in drug operations whenever a female officer was needed (she was the only woman in the department), then, after 17 years, becoming detective lieutenant of criminal investigations.

Eligible for retirement in her forties, Kott pursued her master's degree to prepare for a second life as a teacher. At St. Joe's, she learned about community policing and the benefits of constructive dialogue. "You have individuals from all different backgrounds," Kott says. "It was incredible because you could sit and talk about these incredibly hard topics."

"We can't keep going down the same path that we have been for years where nothing changes.

We have to utilize these partnerships and relationships to try to help people because, at the end of the day, that's what we're supposed to do."

When Kott became police chief in 2020, the police department was, overnight, being led by someone who had an unusually deep knowledge of modern theory in community policing combined with years of on-the-ground experience. But enacting change required one more ingredient. "It comes down to your credibility, who you are as a person," Kott says. "Just being someone who is different helps you see things from someone else's perspective."

From an early age, Kott, who grew up in conservative Schuylkill County, understood the importance of empathy in the face of opposition, even intolerance. A gay woman, she had to grapple with being raised Catholic, a religion she and her wife and their two kids, ages 3 and 6, continue to practice. "People kind of shake their head at me, and they're like 'What is wrong with you? They don't like you.' I tell them ... it takes time," Kott says. "It's comparable to what [the police are] going through now. It takes time. There are going to be people in the community who don't like the cops, and there are going to be police officers who don't think that we should be going to soup kitchens and feeding individuals and helping out. But we have to break that mindset."

It's that understanding of how to work with an imperfect system that helps Kott navigate the thorny issues of modern policing and reform. It's an attitude she teaches her officers, to listen without taking it personally. It's also what inspired Kott to redirect officers from less vital tasks to activities that build relationships with the community — something she says is important for both the community and for police work. "We can't keep going down the same path we have been for years where nothing changes," she says. "We have to utilize these partnerships and relationships to try to help people because, at the end of the day, that's what we're supposed to do." ■

Michelle Kott, D.J.C.

'10 (M.S.)

*Building community
in a time of crisis*

by
JAMES FINLEY





ALSO KNOWN AS

Jim Caccamo, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR STUDENTS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Exploring the lives of SJU community members away from Hawk Hill.

Jim Caccamo, Ph.D., is framed by a wall of books as we sit down for our Zoom interview. It's the home office backdrop you might expect for an associate professor of theology of more than 10 years. But take a closer look, and you'll notice The Beatles anthology nestled among book titles like "Reason Informed by Faith" and "Connected Toward Communion." He turns his camera to reveal three bass guitars hanging neatly against an orange-striped wall.

"When I was in grad school, my wife used to say that our apartment looked like a library, and now she would say it's turned into a music store," he laughs. "We have a lot of instruments."

Caccamo's love of music began when he was a kid. The associate dean for students and experiential learning recalls the stack of 45s on his parents' record player growing up. Saturday morning chores, he says, were set to the soundtrack of Bobby Darin, Dion, and Ike and Tina Turner.

For Caccamo, music is about connection — from the lyrics that emotionally connect listeners, to the beat that physically moves them. It makes sense why he asked his parents to take bass lessons in junior high (despite his mother's insistence that "no one sits around a campfire and sings songs with a bass"). The bass is the instrument that sets the harmonic framework and creates the foundation for the other instruments, he explains. It's the connector.

"My job as a bassist is to support and bridge all the different pieces, you know, be the person who's connecting the guitarist to the drums to bridge all these different players and bring them together to make a coherent whole," he says.

Caccamo has played guitar and bass since he was 12, most recently in the classic rock band American Eon and in the '80s cover band A New Wave. Raised in Kansas City in the decades that followed the liturgical

movement in the U.S., he was also immersed in contemporary Catholic music, including the songs of liturgical folk music group the St. Louis Jesuits. It was a unique combination that would later influence his trajectory as a theologian and musician.

Regardless of genre, it's the ability to express oneself through music that resonates with Caccamo.

"Whether you're expressing to God, to other people, to yourself — because some music is about telling yourself something — you're joining other people in that experience," he says. "It's an instantaneous, really powerful and almost fleeting community that you can create in a moment."

Academia has given Caccamo the avenue to explore music on a deeper level. Part of his research looks at how people become who they are and what role music and communication practices and religion play in their moral formation. He also teaches a number of unique courses, including Christianity and Media, a class that explores how Christianity uses media to accomplish its goals, and how popular media presents Christianity.

"I've been able to figure out a really good way to connect to the things that I love in a useful way. That is, to be able to bring something new to our students and bring something new to myself. I feel like I've been very fortunate to be able to do that," he says. ■

*Diane Holiday is content director at Saint Joseph's.
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