Concussion author Jeanne Marie Laskas ’80 has
STORIES TO TELL

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Saint Joseph’s University Magazine: Published three times annually and distributed to alumni, parents of current students, friends and faculty/staff (circulation 67,000). One issue per year serves as the annual University Report for the prior academic year.

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STORIES TO TELL
By JoAnn Greco
The author of best-seller Concussion says her SJU education still influences how she works.

A DEGREE OF OPPORTUNITY
By Kristen A. Graham
Underserved students gain an opportunity for higher education through the Ignatian College Connection.

JESUIT SPIRIT IN THE ARTS
By Molly Crossan Harty and Elizabeth Krotulis ’17
A 40th anniversary exhibit of Jesuit artwork honors longtime fine arts professor Dennis McNally, S.J.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR POWER
By Joseph N. DiStefano
The career of MBA graduate Bob Oliver ’01 earns him a Top 100 spot.

SUCCESS IN SUCCESSION
By Colleen Sabatino ’11 (M.A.)
With the help of an SJU initiative, a family business plans for future generations.

TEN DAYS WALKING
By Molly Crossan Harty
SJU’s Holy Land pilgrims walk in the footsteps of Jesus.
This past fall, after a one-year hiatus, I made a return to the classroom to teach freshmen the Fundamentals of Calculus. The experience was good for me on a number of levels. Being in the classroom reminds me of where I started and is as close as it gets to the heart of our enterprise. But more than that, immersing myself in the rigid and defined world of numbers twice a week was an enjoyable diversion from the ever-changing world of a college president.

My first two years on the job have been incredibly rewarding. Saint Joseph’s is on a positive trajectory — student demand is high, we’ve celebrated many faculty and student achievements, and we’ve enjoyed our fair share of accolades. But higher education is in a period of evolution, and my job is fast-paced and demanding. Complex issues and complicated decisions come with the territory. College campuses have always been at intersections — of adolescence and adulthood, politics and academic freedom, truth and discovery. Catholic universities, in particular, stand where the Church and the world intersect to see faith and reason meet.

I recently spoke to a cohort of MBA students preparing to climb the organizational ladder. My advice? Learn to be comfortable and effective in the gray. Leaders live at the intersection of the strategic and the operational. It’s hard to separate them — both are factors in the equation, parts of the sum.

As someone who has studied mathematics, leadership and management, I certainly have a natural inclination toward order and predictability, but fortunately for me, my own Jesuit education taught me to appreciate complexity and cultivate a broad approach to problem-solving and decision-making.

I make decisions every day and those who know me well know that there are some I prefer to take my time with. They also know I’m willing to change my mind. This perspective comes from years of Jesuit education and formative leadership opportunities and roles. I’ve taught myself to step back, weigh the options, consider the facts, imagine the outcomes, and above all, remember that rarely are decisions irreversible.

I’m increasingly grateful for the exposure I’ve had to Ignatian spirituality and principles over almost three decades as a student of or leader in Jesuit education. As the first permanent lay president of Saint Joseph’s, I have found my formation to be an asset. It helps that I can speak authentically on the value of the education we are providing at SJU and the myriad ways that the liberal arts and sciences prepare individuals for long careers and meaningful lives.

Universities are microcosms of our complicated world. The experiences our students have as they pass through here will shape the people they become beyond SJU. That’s an immense responsibility with infinite consequences. It means negotiating more intersections, weighing more decisions and uncovering boundless possibilities.

I couldn’t imagine a worthier endeavor.

Mark C. Reed, Ed.D.
President
THE BIG PICTURE: APPALACHIAN EXPERIENCE

A student’s cell phone camera captured several of the more than 500 students and adult facilitators who gathered in the Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial for the Appalachian Experience (APEX) send-off ceremony on March 10. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry, the spring break service immersion program sent groups to 17 sites in the Appalachian mountain range to assist in community development projects. Student registration for APEX 2017 filled in a record-breaking 28 minutes.
STORIES TO TELL
Jeanne Marie Laskas ’80, author of best-seller *Concussion*, says, “Writing is shockingly hard,” yet her stories continue to be told in books, magazines and even a major motion picture. By JoAnn Greco

Author Jeanne Marie Laskas ’80 (B.A.) might close her eyes and find herself in an unusual situation on any given day. Brrrmnnnnmm! She’ll feel, deep in her chest, the rumble of a jet engine as it passes above her perch, 10 stories up, on the small observation deck of an air traffic control tower at LaGuardia Airport. Or, oomph! She’ll wince as she squishes into a tiny cart, arranges her stiff body and rattles her way into the dark coolness of a Pennsylvania coal mine.

Eventually, the warble of birds high up in a tree or the gentle snoring of the pug near her feet at her home in Pittsburgh will break her reverie. She’ll blink, stretch and refocus on her computer screen. Laskas isn’t indulging in Walter Mitty-ish fantasies — she’s reliving the experiences that serve as the stuff of her daily work life.

A veteran magazine writer and author of seven books — the most recent of which is *Concussion* (2015), the story of the forensic pathologist who discovered that repeated concussions could have adverse long-term effects — she first got the journalism bug as an intern at Philadelphia Magazine.

“I learned that there could be great adventures in writing for magazines,” she says. “You could give in to your curiosity and see where it led you.” She saw the field as a perfect match for her SJU education. “We were encouraged to never stop thinking and to always look harder,” she says. “That practice ignited me and still influences how I approach my work.”

As soon as she graduated with her English degree, Laskas started building an “office” in her parents’ basement. “I learned how to put up drywall, I bought a thesaurus and a typewriter, and said, ‘Ok, I’m a writer,’” she laughs.

And then she sat there. Until, one day, her best friend at SJU, Marie (Tirico) McCormick ’80 (B.S.) suggested she join her in working at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where a position at its teen newspaper, *The Hint*, had opened. Marie knew her friend, though shy, had what it took to be a good reporter. “Whenever Jeanne Marie would relay the story of something we had done together, she saw it from a much more interesting lens, with so much detail and so many different perspectives, than I did,” she recalls.

It wasn’t long before Laskas decided to apply to a graduate writing program at the University of Pittsburgh. The move westward — Laskas and her three older siblings grew up in Media, Pennsylvania — would change her life. She would eventually become a writing professor at Pitt and, later, assume directorship of the program.

“I love being a part of a community of writers,” she says of her unexpected career in academia. “I was initially worried that I wouldn’t have enough time to write, but I’m even more productive. The students fire me up with their energy and ideas.”

Through the years, she built a portfolio and perfected her signature blend of experiential, explanatory journalism. After a stint at *Pittsburgh Magazine*, she began writing regularly for *The Washington Post*, *Esquire* and *Life*, taking readers deep into the worlds of vacuum cleaner salesmen and hot air balloonists. She and her husband, psychologist Alexander Levy, stayed rooted in the Pittsburgh area, buying a 50-acre farm and adopting two daughters from China (Anna and Sasha, now 18 and 16, respectively). These more domestic, personal adventures got her looking inward.
“Pulling out that first draft is agonizing, but after that, it gets to be so much fun. That’s the payoff.”

Jeanne Marie Laskas ’80

and provided fodder for a Post column, “Significant Others,” and later, a series of memoirs.

“It’s a choice,” Laskas says of her lifestyle away from the urban fray. “I go to New York to meet with editors, and we have great dinners, and it’s all a lot of fun. But I could never get any writing done if I had to live that life daily. I need solitude, I need to be on the outskirts.”

That willingness to stay behind the scenes is a trait she shares with the subject of her fullest portrait, Bennet Omalu, M.D., the Nigerian expat in the Pittsburgh coroner’s office who uncovered the presence — again and again and again — of a new disease in the brains of concussed football players who had committed suicide after suffering from dementia-like symptoms. Dr. Omalu named the disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

In novelistic detail, Concussion depicts the ways in which competing parties fight over and try to take credit for Dr. Omalu’s work, forcing him from the limelight. Laskas treats him as a character, drawing on extensive reporting and observation to depict the motives that drive him and the obstacles he faces. She writes:

“Living in obscurity is wonderful,” he thinks.

On the outskirts! That’s where he belongs. Just like when he was a kid. Not getting into the fray.

Expanding her GQ article on CTE, Game Brain, and the film based on it — which concentrate on the NFL’s tobacco industry-like refusal to acknowledge the legitimacy of Dr. Omalu’s research — Laskas more fully fleshes out his story and the idiosyncrasies of his character in Concussion:

He reaches inside his collar, pulls where it pinches. He toggles his tie. This is a full Windsor knot. Many American presidents throughout history wore a full Windsor knot. Bennet thinks Barack Obama should at least try it. But instead Obama goes for the relaxed four-in-hand knot, a much less commanding statement. Bennet keeps all his ties already tied, loosened, in his closet, ready for action. That is the secret to always having a perfect, presidential full Windsor knot.

Readers are often surprised at the effort that goes into crafting a few simple sentences that carry so much information. “I’m watching and watching, I’m talking with them and following them home,” she says of her subjects. “I don’t know what’s going to work, I just take notes, notes, notes.”

She was pleasantly surprised at the way in which actor Will Smith brought Dr. Omalu to life in the movie. “He really captured Bennet’s nerdy side and his obsession with getting to the bottom of things,” she says.

Although the ramifications of concussions on football players have been debated for decades, the conversation has taken on new legs since the magazine
At Saint Joseph’s, faculty and student researchers are looking at aspects of the troubling link between chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disorder, and repeated concussions.

Professor of Psychology Philip Schatz, Ph.D., a neuropsychologist and director of the SJU behavioral neuroscience minor, studies the reliability and validity of the various tools and measures used to assess concussion, especially in youth and collegiate athletes. He has published on the topic in academic journals such as the Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology. Most recently, he examined the accuracy of tests used to measure cognitive functions as they keep pace with technology.

In the late 1990s, neuropsychologists computerized tests that were previously administered via pencil and paper, Schatz explains. As test measures migrated to computer-based assessment, timing accuracy improved, but many aspects of test administration changed, including giving the tests to groups of athletes at the same time. These adjustments created a paradigm shift, leading to research on group testing, the accuracy of computer-based timing and the reliability of the new test versions. Now, they’re asking athletes to do the same via touch tablets such as the iPad.

“Because these tablets involve the ability to hold a small object and tap on it, it’s a different measure,” he says. “We’re looking at factors such as how accurate different tablets are with respect to reaction time.”

Biology major Brant Edmonds, a senior research fellow at the SJU Institute of Clinical Bioethics, is also interested in more readily diagnosing incidences of CTE, particularly in youth athletes. In a recent paper published in the Internet Journal of Pediatrics and Neonatology (Feb. 8, 2017) and coauthored with medical bioethicist Peter Clark, S.J. ’75 (B.A.), the Institute’s director, Marvin Lee, Ph.D., the Institute’s bioethics consultant, and Brandon Eck, D.O., of Suburban Community Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Edmonds advocated for research that will help parents and students learn more about the severity and likelihood of, and recovery from, brain injuries.

“We are convinced that increasing awareness and providing guidelines on what questions to consider will really help,” he says.

— JoAnn Greco

JoAnn Greco is a freelance writer.
AN SJU PROGRAM PROVIDES TALENTED, UNDERSERVED STUDENTS THE RESOURCES TO REALIZE THEIR DREAMS OF ATTENDING COLLEGE.

By Kristen A. Graham
Diamonique Drummond ’15 (B.A.) was a freshman at Central High School in Philadelphia when she heard about a program — and a scholarship — that would change the course of her life. It was important to her family that she pursue higher education. Her father didn’t go to college, and her mother finished a degree while Drummond was earning hers. But the cost of a bachelor’s degree seemed out of reach.

The bright, motivated young woman applied for SJU’s Ignatian College Connection (ICC), a program named for St. Ignatius Loyola — founder of the Society of Jesus — and designed to prepare high school students from underrepresented communities for college success. The ICC embodies Saint Joseph’s mission to be an “inclusive and diverse community that educates and cares for the whole person.”

If Drummond excelled in the high school program, she knew she might earn one of the four-year ICC scholarships the University awards to students with extraordinary promise. She was accepted and spent three weeks every summer on Hawk Hill in the ICC enrichment program for high school students as well as many weekends in ICC college awareness classes.

“It was my first taste of what college was like,” Drummond says. “It was such a good experience.”

Drummond wanted to study film in college and initially set her sights on UCLA. But after her ICC experience in high school, she decided to apply to Saint Joseph’s, and based on her successes, won an ICC scholarship that provided her with eight semesters of tuition. Accepted to nine schools, she selected Saint Joseph’s, in part because of the commitment it had already shown her through the ICC, Drummond says.

Once at the University, she threw herself into campus life, participating in the SJJ Black Student Union, holding multiple internships, studying abroad in Australia and paying her scholarship forward by mentoring ICC high school students. She double-majored in film and communication studies, and graduated cum laude.

She says she was motivated to do well “because someone else was paying for my education. Anyone could have been given the scholarship, and I was chosen as one of the recipients, so I made sure not to take that for granted.”

And now? Drummond is living another dream, working in television and film production in Los Angeles. The credits designate her as a production assistant, and she’s worked on “American Idol,” “Celebrity Apprentice,” “Scandal,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “How to Get Away with Murder,” “Basketball Wives” and the People’s Choice Awards. She says her ICC experience still helps her.

“I’m way more organized than I would be otherwise,” Drummond says. “When you do the summer programs, your brain is always running. There’s always an opportunity to learn something. Even now, I’ll seek that out — I look at everything as a learning opportunity.”

The ICC scholarship “made a huge difference in my life,” she continues. “I was given more freedom to focus on my grades, because I didn’t have to worry about how I was going to pay my tuition.”

George Bur, S.J., a University Trustee and the former rector of Saint Joseph’s Jesuit Community, began the ICC in 2004, to reach out to surrounding communities and grow the University’s population of historically underrepresented students.

“ICC originated under then-University President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., who helped secure important funding for scholarships,” Fr. Bur recalls. “The program also enjoyed the support of staff and faculty, especially Mimi Limbach, then employed by Admissions. The success of the recent cohorts of ICC students is a consolation to those of us engaged at the beginning.”

In 2007, Jennifer Dessus joined Fr. Bur and now leads the ICC as director of Access Programs within the Office of Inclusion and Diversity. She has tailored the program along the way in response to the needs of students and families.

At the ICC’s heart are its high school programs — which, from September through July, welcome students from underserved communities to campus. This past year, Saint Joseph’s hosted 70 students from the high school class of 2017.

“The numbers keep growing, which is exciting,” Dessus says.

The students come from different backgrounds — public schools, Catholic schools and private schools in Philadelphia and New Jersey. And though the program aims to attract minority students,
it’s open to applicants of all ethnicities. The ICC is well-known to many schools in the area, and 13 years in, most of the students come to the program through word of mouth. Academically strong students are welcome, as are those for whom Saint Joseph’s is a bit of a reach.

“We’re helping to connect students academically and socially with resources on campus that facilitate their success,” says Monica Nixon, Ed.D., the University’s assistant provost for inclusion and diversity.

There are SAT prep courses, workshops on the transition to college and time management, a college week where high schoolers can shadow Saint Joseph’s students, and classes on what colleges look for and how to become a stronger student. Families take part, too, with sessions on paying for college and supporting students through the application process.

Writing is emphasized, with college-level expectations. There are even leadership seminars for students to learn about leaders they emulate and how to define their own styles. In the summer, SJU professors teach courses over four weeks. Students get a taste of what to expect in college and what they’re working toward.

Every year, five ICC scholars are chosen to receive four years of full tuition at Saint Joseph’s from among the high school participants. Academic achievement is key but so is participation in service and leadership. Once enrolled at SJU, the scholarship recipients are encouraged to become leaders invested in the campus community.

The faculty who work with ICC students often form friendships with them, writing letters of recommendation for admission to Saint Joseph’s and elsewhere. One of the SAT prep instructors, Desmond Shannon ’10 (B.S.), ’12 (M.S.), is an ICC alumnus who returns to Hawk Hill on Saturdays, even though he has a full-time job.

“For him, it’s about the bigger Jesuit ideals that start to link men and women for others,” Dessus says. “It’s wonderful to see these connections happen organically.”

ICC scholars often form close bonds at Saint Joseph’s. Sherman Washington ’09 (B.S.), a biology and sociology double major and one of the first ICC scholars, remembers his cohort as crucial to his college experience.

“We were definitely a close group — we ate together, we studied together, we hung out,” says Washington, who is a biotechnician group leader for RotaTeq Manufacturing with Merck in West Point, Pennsylvania, and helps run two side businesses — Common Ground Management, a consulting firm for small businesses, and a fledgling residential cleaning company — in his spare time. He also participates in campus panel discussions that provide information to current ICC parents and students.

Though they are readied for any university experience, many high school ICC students choose Saint Joseph’s. ICC alumnus and psychology major Edian Castro Rivera ’12 (B.S.) was so wowed by the program that he applied early action to SJU. “I was so enamored with the entire campus, the whole feel,” says Rivera, who worked in admissions for Loyola University New Orleans after graduation and now attends graduate school at Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business. “I was head over heels.”

**GOALS OF THE IGNATIAN COLLEGE CONNECTION**

» Expose students from diverse ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to higher education and Saint Joseph’s during their high school years.
For some, the clincher is the ICC scholarship. Others land at Saint Joseph’s even though they don’t receive the scholarship.

Since the ICC program began, 73 students have earned the four-year, full-tuition scholarship, and over 80 percent have graduated within six years — a number that makes Dessus proud. “We’ve had really great outcomes,” she says. The bonds ICC students form enhance those outcomes. They have connected each other to job opportunities.

When he was in high school at The City School in Philadelphia, Karl Morris ’16 (B.S.) heard about the ICC high school programs through a friend of his family. Free SAT prep? Sign him up. “That was so important to getting into college,” Morris says. “The possibility of a college scholarship definitely made me work harder.”

He became close with Dessus, known as “Ms. Jen,” familiar with the campus (which was practically in his backyard), and comfortable with professors who would help him along his path. There were also experiences that broadened his world — trips to Washington D.C., Baltimore and New York. “Some kids in the program had never seen those places before,” Morris says. “It opened students’ eyes.”

He says he feels lucky to have participated in ICC’s high school programs and then receive an ICC scholarship to Saint Joseph’s, a school he never envisioned himself attending. “Going to college for free has given me such an advantage,” says Morris, who double majored in physics and computer science and now works as a developer at SEI, a financial group in Oaks, Pennsylvania.

At Saint Joseph’s, ICC and Dessus were a lifeline for Morris. “Ms. Jen was a mentor to a lot of us,” he says. “If she saw that someone’s grades were slipping, that someone had a situation that they needed help with, she was always there.”

Morris had health challenges during his time at Saint Joseph’s. As a junior, he became ill with what was eventually diagnosed as Crohn’s Disease. “I needed support to get through that,” he says. “It wasn’t easy, and there were times when I would go to Ms. Jen’s office and just talk about it. She was a great support.”

Also a help were his fellow ICC scholars, some of his closest friends, then and today. Morris is glad to give back by working with ICC high school students when he was at Saint Joseph’s.

For Nixon, the ICC reflects SJU’s goal to be an inclusive and diverse community that educates and cares for the whole person.

“It’s a creative, dynamic program that really speaks to our mission — to work with people who have been underserved in the education system, to introduce students to the opportunities of a Jesuit university experience that will address them as whole people,” she says.

Kristen Graham is a freelance writer.
By Molly Crossan Harty and Elizabeth Krotulis '17

In 1976, Saint Joseph’s was celebrating its 125th anniversary when it hosted its first exhibition of “Jesuit Spirit in the Arts,” curated by Dennis McNally, S.J., then a new member of the fine arts faculty. The special showing of artwork from Jesuits and laypeople at Jesuit institutions on six continents was featured in Boland Hall and locations throughout campus.

“We had an international celebratory exhibit of the Jesuit spirit that had motivated our institution’s founding and had continuously driven us to pursue the ideas of St. Ignatius of Loyola: to seek magis in education, to choose the better of good alternatives,” says Fr. McNally, a painter, sculptor and professor of fine arts.

A decade later, Dennis Weeks, M.F.A. ’71 (B.A.), then an assistant professor of art, curated a similar “Jesuit Spirit in the Arts” with work from 60 faculty at Jesuit institutions within the United States.

It was another 30 years before “Jesuit Spirit in the Arts” would return to Saint Joseph’s, from November 2016 into February 2017. This time, Fr. McNally was at its center.

“I am tremendously grateful for and honored by the opportunity to have an exhibit of my life’s work mounted at Saint Joseph’s,” says Fr. McNally, who served as fine arts department chair for 22 of his 42 years teaching on Hawk Hill. “I paint my heart out, sometimes finding food for my soul in the very things that come from my hands. I share my work with whomever God sends my way.”

Fr. McNally says his paintings, at six feet by two-to-20 feet, are influenced by many recognizable creative mentors and portray themes derived from connecting with God through prayer and dreams. He describes his work as depicting “the mystery of a God who shares our joys, fears and pains.” To see more of Fr. McNally’s artwork, visit mcnallysj.com.

Faith and spirituality inspired all of the show’s paintings, drawings, photography and mixed media, which were displayed at the University Gallery. The exhibit highlighted the artwork of 11 other Jesuit artists, some of whom shared pieces in one or both of the previous showings of “Jesuit Spirit in the Arts,” including Nicholas S. Rashford, S.J., university professor and former president (1986-2003), and Don Doll, S.J., Creighton University professor emeritus of journalism and former holder of the Donald I. MacLean, S.J., Chair at SJU.

“The phrase attributed to the Jesuit order and its founder St. Ignatius of Loyola, Ad maiorem Dei gloriam — for the greater glory of God — served as a backdrop for the ‘Jesuit Spirit in the Arts’ exhibit,” Jeanne (Pluta) Bracy ’99 (B.A.), associate gallery director, says.

Molly Crossan Harty is the editor of Saint Joseph’s University Magazine, and Elizabeth Krotulis is a senior English major and former intern in the Office of University Communications at SJU.
Above:
Dennis McNally, S.J.
“All Soul’s Day 2015,” 6’ x 6’
Acrylic, glitter on canvas, 2015

Opposite page, top right:
Nicholas Rashford, S.J.
“Coming Home to Rest,” 40 x 27”
Cibachrome print, 1995

Opposite page, bottom right:
Don Doll, S.J.
“Arval Looking Horse,” 36 x 38”
Coated pigment print on canvas, 1993

FEATURED ARTISTS, 2016-17
Arturo Araujo, S.J.
Sammy Chong, S.J.
Don Doll, S.J. (also 1976, 1986)
Michael Flecky, S.J. (1986)
Oscar Magnan, S.J. (1976)
Trung Pham, S.J.
Nicholas Rashford, S.J. (1986)
Brad Reynolds, S.J. (1976)
Michael Tunney, S.J.
Josef Venker, S.J.

GALLERY OF ARTISTS’ WORK
sju.edu/magazine/spiritarts

VIDEO OF GALLERY TALKS
sju.edu/magazine/2016


• Dennis McNally, S.J., “A Jesuit Artist’s Perspective”
A Prescription for Power:
Hard Work, Honesty, Integrity

By Joseph N. DiStefano
At each stage of his life, there have been people waiting for Bob Oliver '01 (MBA) to reach them, so they can rise together.

That includes the staff and students at the Haub School of Business, where Oliver is a member of the Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing MBA Board of Advisors. In 2001, he earned his MBA in pharmaceutical marketing at Saint Joseph’s, speeding his trail to the chief executive's office at Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Inc., which sells long-acting injectable ABILIFY MAINTENA®, REXULTI® and other mental illness, cardio-renal and cancer medicines. Otsuka is best known for its promotion of ABILIFY, which in 2013 was the highest selling prescription drug in the U.S. market.

Oliver is the CEO — servant and leader, as his friend and HSB classmate Eric Floyd, Ph.D. '03 (MBA), chief scientific officer and compliance head at Dohmen Life Science Services in Milwaukee, says — for the Japanese-based company's 1,200 employees.

Last fall, *Ebony* magazine picked Oliver, along with fellow CEOs, the Obama family, entertainer Beyoncé and the NBA's Michael Jordan, for its yearly Power 100 list. He jokes that his standing in the family rose when his three kids saw him in the glossy-paged company of those accomplished, celebrated leaders.

The recognition reflects Oliver’s work ethic, instilled by his parents. “My mother taught me a lot of practical lessons: ‘Do it right the first time,’” he recalls her saying. His father, a chemical worker, emphasized the value of hard work by his own example.

The family moved from North Carolina when Oliver was a toddler to Paterson, New Jersey, where he went to Eastside High School and played small forward on its powerful basketball team. It featured Tony Murphy, who went on to lead the NCAA in scoring; Franklin Jacobs, a high jumper on the U.S. team for the canceled 1980 Olympics; Rory Sparrow, who played in the NBA with the Knicks and Lakers; and Bernard King, of the Nets and Knicks, a Naismith Hall of Famer.

Coach Henry Baker appointed Oliver the captain, and made him earn it. “He saw something in me before I saw it — he pushed me, and there were days I didn’t like him very much,” Oliver says, smiling at the memory. “It’s likely I wouldn’t be sitting in front of you if it weren’t for Coach. He told me, from day one when I tried out for the team, ‘You’re going to college.’”

For Oliver — husband to Denise and father of Deion, David and Sherrell Oliver-Riley ’09 (B.A.), ’11 (M.A.) — the values of family, sports and business run together: “Hard work. Honesty and integrity. Following through on what you say with your deeds. Being a consistent example.

“’That’s when people trust you. And trust is really, really important.’”

After a short stint at a small Southern school, Oliver went to Rutgers University, walking on to the basketball team. He graduated, worked in banking and was then recruited into New Jersey’s pharmaceutical business at a time of rapid growth. His bosses at Johnson & Johnson needed managers who could handle the pace.

“They thought I had good skills,” he says.

Promotions brought him lessons about leadership. “I’d walk over to the huddle, and they’d stop talking,” he says. “They wanted me to lead, not to be a friend.” He calls his responsibility for people at work “the hardest leap I had to take.”

After 16 years at J&J, as industry growth slowed, Oliver was ready to pursue his MBA and shift into marketing. He considered many schools, but SJU’s Pharmaceutical MBA program, full of professionals from other drug makers, appealed to him. It meant “real learning,” he says. “Not just theory all day. What I learned on Saturday I could apply at work on Monday.”

Floyd affirms, “There were students from all the major companies, all the bio-techs, all the startups. It was more valuable, for us, than buying the brand at Harvard or Wharton.”

Floyd lectured Oliver on drug development, Oliver told Floyd about marketing and commercialization, and together they plotted careers to exploit Big Pharma’s shift from internal research and development toward buying therapy startups.

“Bob is very focused,” says Floyd, who worked for another company that collaborated with Otsuka on the development of ABILIFY MAINTENA®. “He’s reflective. He leads by inspiring others around him. He’s the calm in the midst of any chaos.”

After earning his SJU degree, Oliver took a senior job at Wyeth, then a buyout when Pfizer purchased the company in October 2009. He planned a year off, but Otsuka’s recruiter cut that short. He joined the company in mid-2010 and built a team. Otsuka doesn’t have a traditional hierarchy; it’s a culture of trust, and Oliver has won the company’s trust, says Floyd, who worked with Oliver and Otsuka on bringing ABILIFY to market.

“It’s definitely a meritocracy,” Oliver concludes. “If you produce, confidence in you increases.”

Symbolic gifts from Japan displayed in his office, including a hand-inked scroll (translation: proof through execution), signal the growing confidence — and trust — of Otsuka’s owners.

*Joe DiStefano is a Philadelphia Inquirer business columnist.*
Success in Succession

By Colleen Sabatino ’11 (M.A.)

Only about 30 percent of family-owned businesses successfully pass to the second generation. SJU is looking to change that statistic.
Balancing the demands of raising three active boys while running a flourishing business, Charlie and Joanne Bernier impressed upon their children a key piece of advice: “Find something you enjoy doing, and make a career of what you love.” Charlie is the president and CEO and Joanne is the licensing coordinator of ECBM, their independent insurance broker and consultant company based in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

Today, the three grown Bernier children, Charlie Jr., Brian and Matthew, are following their parents’ advice — with one twist. They’re making careers alongside people they love, as key partners in what they now call the family business.

“When the boys expressed interest in the company, I really didn’t have a plan,” says Charlie Sr., who took control of ECBM in 2001 after working for the firm since 1984. A veteran in the risk management industry, he had asked each son to present a plan before joining the business — to pitch how their professional experience might contribute to the company and reveal skills they might still need to acquire. He was unsure of how the involvement of this second generation would change the company’s trajectory.

“I still work actively in the business, so stepping back to work on the business can be challenging,” he says.

With the recommendation of peer CEOs and business owners, Charlie Sr. turned to Saint Joseph’s Initiative for Family Business and Entrepreneurship (IFBE), Philadelphia’s only university-based program that provides support and guidance in navigating the complexities of building, growing and transitioning family enterprises through generations.

The Berniers worked with Meghan Juday, IFBE board member and lead consultant, and Mary Nicoletti, IFBE director, to discern the process of defining themselves as a family business. They conducted a proprietary assessment review, which involves a family perception survey completed by all family members, including spouses and other key advisors.

“We work with each family on a personal level — getting to know their needs, priorities and pace of change — so we can help them develop a strategic direction,” Nicoletti says.

She and her team set a number of goals for the Berniers, including the establishment of a formal family meeting structure and a shared value statement. “The IFBE forced us to stop, refocus and look at the long-term,” Charlie Sr. says.

In August 2016, the family held its first official meeting, with an agenda and format created by Joanne.

“Everyone took it seriously,” she says. “We were each able to express our concerns and vision for the company.”

They also reviewed the ways ECBM had changed since the addition of the second generation of Berniers and discussed potential future possibilities.

“We are working together to build the family’s future,” says Brian, the second son and the first to join the business in 2011. “We are each using our talents to contribute to different aspects of the business with the goal of continuing our father’s vision and sharing in the success.”

With a background in private equities and cost management, Brian, now a vice president, led ECBM into the realm of employee benefit management. Today, due to his analytical approach, the company does a significant amount of business in this area.

Charlie Jr., the oldest, whose background is in law, joined ECBM in 2013 as the principal professional liability consultant and in-house counsel. His wife, Brynne, is ECBM’s digital marketing consultant. Charlie Jr. has introduced cyber insurance, a rapidly growing field, to the company’s portfolio, and he has taken on more of a leadership and managerial position with the firm. Charlie Sr. has no interest in stepping away anytime soon, but as he moves on from some tasks as CEO, Charlie Jr. will step in and carry his legacy.

Not yet employed by the firm, Matt, the youngest, is an associate vice president and client manager for Marsh, a global risk management and insurance firm. The only son to begin his career in insurance, he’s involved in family meetings and discussions about the company’s future, and looks to join the team someday.

“SJU coming into the picture has helped me see my dad’s vision even though I’m not there on a daily basis,” he says.

Charlie Sr. says he’s proud to be a parent and the owner of a family business. “You want to work with people you trust, who move your vision forward,” he says. “To have that in your children is special.”

Colleen Sabatino, associate director of university communications at SJU, covers the Haub School of Business.
TEN DAYS WALKING
BY MOLLY CROSSAN HARTY
Mary Frain dipped her toes in the calm, turquoise water of the Sea of Galilee and felt its coolness wash over her feet. Tears streamed down the Holy Land pilgrim’s cheeks as the presence of God overwhelmed her. She imagined Jesus walking on the lake and appearing to the apostles after the resurrection.

At the Church of All Nations near the Garden of Gethsemane, Chris Grodecki, S.J., a Jesuit scholastic who taught philosophy at SJU for two years, kneeled before the Blessed Sacrament at the “rock of agony” where Jesus prayed on the eve of his arrest. Grodecki closed his eyes, rested a hand on the stone and felt he was there with Jesus, keeping watch with him, praying with him.

Director of SJU’s graduate health services programs and adjunct professor Louis Horvath climbed the stairs to the second floor of the building on Mount Zion, ducked his head under the doorway and stepped into the “upper room,” unadorned except for a few pillars and a vaulted ceiling. He paused, taking in the power of this historical site, believed to be the site of the Last Supper.

“Every day was profound,” Horvath says of his experience on the University’s 10-day Holy Land Pilgrimage with Frain, Grodecki and 24 others this past June. He says that while he initially had no special desire to go to the Holy Land, the idea of blending an educational tour with a spiritual journey captivated him. “To walk in the footsteps of this historical figure called Jesus is truly remarkable,” he says.

The key, the travelers say, to the perfectly paced, enlightening and enjoyable trip is organizer Brendan Lally, S.J., rector of Saint Joseph’s Jesuit community, who plans every detail, including the well-appointed accommodations. This June, Fr. Lally will lead the pilgrimage for the 25th time. A tall, slender man who speaks softly but with intention, Fr. Lally remembers that he hesitated when first approached about forming a pilgrimage in 1985, when he worked at the University of Scranton. Today, he says he’s “compelled” to guide participants — alumni, faculty, staff, students, Trustees, religious women, families and friends of Saint Joseph’s, along with other Jesuits — through “the footsteps of Jesus in the holy places associated with His earthly presence.” Fr. Lally incorporates Mass, celebrated by one of the Jesuits at each holy site, into the daily itinerary, along with time for reflection and prayer.

“I want them to experience the joy of the gospels in a new way,” he explains. By all accounts, he’s succeeded.

“Now, when I hear the gospels, I actually visualize myself in those places,” says Frain, who learned about the trip from her brother-in-law, Brian Frain, S.J. ’86 (B.A.), also a pilgrim. “I have a better and closer understanding of what the words of the gospels mean.”

For Fr. Frain, academic director of the SJU Professional and Liberal Studies Program, it was his second trip to the Holy Land with Fr. Lally. “I love going there, because as opposed to listening to gospel stories and using my imagination, I was able to see the scenes from the gospel and the lived reality of the people around those religious sites today and how they continue to thrive or struggle.”

Just as important to the pilgrimage is the time participants spend with each other to share the impact of the journey.

“The experience wasn’t just mine,” Fr. Frain says. “It was ours.” Together, they renewed their baptismal vows at the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized, and viewed His tomb, the size of a small walk-in closet, inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. They visited the Mount of Beatitudes, known as the site of the Sermon on the Mount, where they encountered the lovely and feisty Sr. Mary Rose Muscat, who acquired the nickname “Hawk on the Hill” when they discovered she had attended Saint Joseph’s many years before. To honor the University’s patron saint and the foster father of Jesus, Fr. Lally brought the pilgrims to the Church of St. Joseph and the Tomb of the Just Man in Nazareth.

“He’s so important to Jesus and so close to Jesus,” Fr. Frain says. “We need to remember him.”

In the evenings, Fr. Lally scheduled time for relaxation and conversation.

“People would sit and talk about the day, their lives and get to know each other,” says Grodecki, who is in his eighth year of formation, studying theology at Regis College in Toronto. “The way to expand the experience is sharing it with other people.”

Maria Frain agrees. “Something inside me said I had to go on this pilgrimage,” she says. “It was the trip of a lifetime.”

Harty is the editor of Saint Joseph’s University Magazine.

For more information:
SJU Holy Land Pilgrimage
June 13-23, 2017
pilgrimages.com/frlally
BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL

Students pack the Post Learning Commons from top to bottom for some late-night studying during finals.
New Space for Inclusion and Diversity

The newly renovated Center for Inclusion and Diversity (sju.edu/oid) held its grand opening on Jan. 24. Relocated on the second floor of Campion Student Center, the larger, more intentionally built space features a reception area, lounge, conference room, study area, dedicated LGBTQ community space, and offices.

“The Center for Inclusion and Diversity encompasses the team of staff and students who are leaders and partners in the University’s work around inclusion,” says Monica Nixon, Ed.D., assistant provost for inclusion and diversity. “We hope that all students and members of the SJU community see the center as a place where they can learn and belong.”

Cary Anderson, Ed.D., vice president for student life and associate provost, says the renovations provide the center with not only a larger physical space, but also a stronger foundation from which to play a broader role on campus.

“Symbolically, the center says, ‘This is something that we value and we want people engaged in these types of dialogues,’” he explains. “We wanted to put resources toward that to show that it’s important to the University.

“It provides a space for all students — and I really want to emphasize the word ‘all’ — to come discuss, think about and reflect on issues of inclusion and diversity,” he says.

Architects John Pringle and Rachel Thurston of Stantec Architecture oversaw the design and renovation of the new center with the assistance of internal project manager Alex Oleykowski ’01 (B.S.), of SJU Facilities Management.

Online Programs Score High

The U.S. News & World Report 2017 online education rankings placed SJU’s undergraduate online bachelor’s degree programs second in Philadelphia and in the Top 100 nationally. The graduate business, MBA and graduate education online programs also ranked among the Top 100 countrywide and in the Top 3 in Philadelphia.
Inaugural Leadership Awards Dinner

The University’s inaugural Leadership Awards Dinner, held Nov. 10, 2016, at the Hyatt at The Bellevue in Philadelphia, raised more than $600,000. Nearly 650 attendees filled the event, which benefitted the Shield of Loyola Scholarship fund.

Saint Joseph’s honored four esteemed alumni with awards for their personal and professional accomplishments and dedication to their alma mater:

- **Shield of Loyola**
  James J. Maquire Jr. ’84 (B.S.)
  Executive Chairman, Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY)

- **Inaugural Alumni Professional Achievement Award**
  Marlene Sanchez Dooner ’83 (B.A.)
  Executive Vice President, NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises

- **Rev. Joseph S. Hogan, S.J., Award**
  Dennis P. Sheehan, Esq. ’85 (B.S.)
  Attorney, private practice, Media, Pennsylvania

- **Ignatius Award**
  Patrick W. McGrory ’99 (B.S.)
  Private Wealth Advisor, Beacon Bridge Wealth Partners, and Chair, Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities

Morris Grant Recipients

The Michael J. Morris ’56 Grants for Scholarly Research, established in 2011, allow faculty scholars to advance their research and scholarly pursuits each academic year. The 2016-17 recipients are:

**College of Arts and Sciences**
Shantanu Bhatt, Ph.D., Biology; Steven Hammer, Ph.D., Communication Studies; Christopher Kelly, Ph.D., Sociology; Jury Smith, M.F.A., Art; and Grace Wetzel, Ph.D., English.

**Haub School of Business**
Kathleen Campbell Garwood, Ph.D., Decision & System Sciences; Rajneesh Sharma, Ph.D., Finance; Feng Shen, Ph.D., Marketing; WaQar Ghanhi, Ph.D., Accounting; and Ernest Baskin, Ph.D., Food Marketing.

Baseball and Black History

As part of Black History Month, Saint Joseph’s Sports Marketing Club and Office of Inclusion and Diversity presented the second annual Sport for Social Change and Social Justice Speaker Series on Feb. 2.

After a screening of the documentary “They Said We Couldn’t Play: An Oral History of the Philadelphia Stars” in the Wollington Teletorium of Mandeville Hall, a panel discussion featured representatives from the Philadelphia Phillies, relatives of a late Philadelphia Stars player and experts on baseball history and education, including John Lord, Ph.D. ’71 (B.S.), professor emeritus of marketing. Stephanie Tryce, J.D., assistant professor of sports marketing, organized the event. The film examines the history and legacy of Philadelphia’s Negro League baseball team (1933-1952).
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM), the largest single life science society, has awarded two SJU biology students undergraduate research fellowships.

Vincent Pepe ’17 (East Norriton, Pennsylvania) and McNulty Scholar Marisa Egan ’18 (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania) will each receive up to a $4,000 stipend and funding for travel expenses to the ASM Microbe Meeting this June in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The fellowship is designed for highly competitive students who wish to pursue graduate careers in microbiology. Fellows conduct full-time summer research at their home institution with faculty mentors and may submit their research to be considered for presentation at the Microbe Meeting.

As SJU Summer Scholars, both Pepe and Egan have been actively involved in ongoing research projects with faculty.
Kender Named Vice President for University Relations

Joseph P. Kender Jr. has been named vice president for university relations. In this capacity, Kender is responsible for leading and integrating Saint Joseph’s divisions of university advancement, marketing and communications, and government and community relations.

Most recently, Kender was senior vice president at GG+A, a leading international philanthropic consulting firm. For the eight years prior, he served as Lehigh University’s vice president for advancement where he successfully led and completed Lehigh’s $500 million campaign and spearheaded the preparations for a future campaign.

Kender previously served SJU as vice president for development and alumni relations in 2004-07 and was instrumental in the University’s most recent capital campaign, With Faith and Strength to Dare, which raised in excess of $150 million. Prior to his Saint Joseph’s appointment, he held several leadership positions at Georgetown University during its $1 billion campaign.

“How Joe brings a range of skills and experiences to this important role,” says University President Mark C. Reed, Ed.D. “His prior roles at Georgetown, Saint Joseph’s and Lehigh have given him a lens and perspective on institutional aspiration and excellence in a broad sense. As we seek to enhance our profile, reputation and philanthropic support, Joe’s talents and contributions will be integral to our efforts and success.”

Kender has amassed nearly 30 years of experience in higher education with most of that time being spent leading advancement organizations. He began his career at Lehigh where he received a bachelor’s degree in international relations and an MBA. He also completed Harvard University’s Higher Education Management Program for Senior Leaders and has been a member of the faculty for numerous industry conferences throughout the years.

New Partnership Takes Off

Air travel can be a daunting experience for individuals with autism and related disorders. To ease their concerns, the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at SJU has partnered with Irish airline Aer Lingus to develop a visual guide for air travel. Believed to be the first of its kind offered by an airline, the guide is available on Aerlingus.com’s Travel Information/Traveling with Children section.

The resource chronicles the entire air travel experience in color photographs captioned in first-person language, and is divided into three parts: pre-flight, on board and post-flight.

“We are grateful to our partners at the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support for giving us the opportunity to respond to the needs of this population and for providing this essential support to our guests,” says Jack Foley, vice president for Aer Lingus North America. “It is our hope that this resource will help individuals with autism and related disorders prepare for and experience successful travel to new and exciting places.”

Each part was produced by Kinney Center board-certified behavior analysts and Aer Lingus, with the cooperation of John F. Kennedy International Airport Terminal 5 and the Transportation Security Administration.

News contributors: Patricia Allen ’13 (M.A.), Molly Grab ’17, Molly Crossan Harty, Kevin Kaufman, Elizabeth Krakoviak ’17, Elizabeth Krotulis ’17, Kayla Lane ’17, Jeffrey Martin ’04 (B.A.), ’05 (M.A.), Colleen Sabatino ’11 (M.A.) and Athletic Communications.

Q&A

Mark Lang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Food Marketing
Haub School of Business

How do Jesuit values inform your teaching?
I try to impart principles and values that will make students better leaders and contributors not only as managers, but also as citizens — doing things right and doing the right things.

What has your research shown about the effectiveness of crowdsourcing?
As a former marketing executive, I have a keen appreciation of the difficulty in making high-stakes decisions and the value of good information. The wisdom of the crowd has so much potential to predict uncertain outcomes.

In my research, a non-expert “crowd” made more accurate predictions than forecasting experts within firms 75 percent of the time.

Does crowdsourcing have broad applications?
In spite of crowdsourcing’s success in many disciplines, it has had limited implementation in business and marketing. My published research within a major traditional food brand shows significant opportunity for marketing to take advantage of this new innovative methodology and the potential for any brand to thrive with this technique.

We learned that participants who bring new information and perspectives to the task drive crowdsourcing success. Within any organization, initiatives must stay fresh and interesting, so that “crowd” participation continues and to ensure efficacy.

— Kayla E. Lane ’17
What Does Social Justice Look Like?

The students in Drawing Service-Learning, a class offered last fall, expressed their vision of social justice in a series of drawings displayed on the second floor of Post Learning Commons through early May.

The course merged the study of visual art with weekly volunteer work and discussions of current social justice topics. Students created portraits of the people they worked with at service sites and wrote reflections based on interviews with them for the exhibit.

“Through service and critical reflection, the students saw the importance of standing in solidarity with marginalized communities,” says Kathleen Vaccaro, M.F.A. ’07 (B.A.), adjunct professor of art. “They reflected on ways to work with and serve others as equals, and discussed how to better listen to the marginalized and amplify those voices. The students grew as artists and witnessed the many positive effects that the arts have on individuals and communities.”

Bio Professor Receives NIH Grant

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has awarded a three-year, $324,000 grant to Matthew Nelson, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, to support research on the neuroscience of sleep.

Nelson’s studies focus on sleep in Caenorhabditis elegans, specifically the mechanics of how the free-living, non-parasitic nematode enters a sleep state. He says the roundworms are an ideal subject because they have a simple biological makeup that allows researchers to study complex physiology with single-cell precision.

“Previous research has determined that a single neuron called the ALA releases neuropeptides, molecules that put the worms to sleep in response to cellular stress, which is induced by extreme temperatures, toxins or injury,” Nelson explains. “It is still unknown what other neurons these neuropeptides act on to cause the behaviors associated with sleep, such as a lack of movement and feeding.”

Using optogenetics — a technique that modifies cells so they can be controlled by light — Nelson hopes to identify these secondary neurons and use this research as a building block for future studies on sleep in other species.

Recognized for Sustainability

“Going Green” is more than a slogan on Hawk Hill: SJU’s sustainability efforts gained external attention in 2016. The Main Line Chamber of Commerce recognized the University with the 2016 Green Business of the Year Award for its stewardship of facilities and green space, and RecycleMania named Saint Joseph’s Grand Champion for Pennsylvania for its annual collaborative, campus-wide effort between the Arthur Jackson Company and the Green Fund, a student-led organization.
Bringing Industry into the Classroom

Academic material comes to life when students in the Haub School of Business apply their coursework to actual issues they may encounter in the working world.

Winning the Cup

Business intelligence & analytics students used data to analyze real-life challenges as part of their final project for the Advanced Analytics course last fall. Teams of students predicted planned giving for SJU Alumni Relations; estimated the cost of a data breach for Privacy Ref, a company that specializes in helping businesses assess and manage privacy risks; determined pricing tiers for the Philadelphia Union, a professional soccer team; and organized production scheduling for Flying Fish Brewery. They made final presentations to company representatives and a panel of judges. The Analytics Cup ultimately went to seniors Michael Ciarrocchi, Anthony DellaPia and Timothy Marsh, who worked with Privacy Ref. They presented their findings to company employees and at data privacy and analytics conferences this spring.

When Business, Science and Chocolate Collide

Students enrolled in Chemistry 112 and 112L, a chemistry course for food marketing majors, savored a visit from three representatives of MARS Chocolate’s North American Headquarters, including two SJU alumnae, on Nov. 9. Emma Stoll ’14 (B.S.) and Alana Whitmarsh ’16 (B.S.) linked students’ academic learning with industry application by discussing the process of making chocolate, walking the students through sensory exercises similar to those conducted by the MARS sensory scientists, and emphasizing the importance of sustainability in the food industry.

International Business and Sustainability

Saint Joseph’s Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Center for Business Ethics hosted “Sustainability in the International Arena,” a competition of international business students, on Dec. 1. Four teams delivered presentations on issues of environmental sustainability or social welfare and proposed solutions. The panel of judges included Andrew Bondarev ’10 (B.S.), business rotational manager at Arkem, a global chemical and advanced materials company; Frank Fazio ’75 (B.S.), ’05 (MBA), president and CEO of R World Energy Solutions, a full-service sales and engineering energy firm, and Arrupe Center board member; and Ryan Spies, president of the Net Impact Philadelphia Professional Chapter Board.

Scholarship Honors Memory of Longtime Advancement Officer

With a lead gift of $100,000 from the Connelly Foundation, Saint Joseph’s has established an endowed scholarship in honor of Senior Director of Major Gifts Carol Farrell, who was a beloved member of the SJU Advancement team for more than 20 years. Farrell passed away in November.

“The Carol McCarthy Farrell Scholarship Fund pays tribute to Carol’s legacy as a consummate professional who served as an inspiration to many,” says Marty Farrell ’88 (B.A.), ’98 (M.S.), vice president for university advancement. “An extraordinary fundraiser, Carol raised millions of dollars for scholarships, which spoke to her passionate belief that every student deserved a Saint Joseph’s education.”

To make a gift in her honor, visit giving.sju.edu/donate or mail to: Saint Joseph’s University, Office of University Advancement, 5600 City Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131. For more information, contact Christine Scully at cscully@sju.edu or 610-660-1235.

Q&A

Kyle Chalmers ’17
Hometown: Tempe, Arizona
Major: Business Intelligence & Analytics, Economics; Minor: Finance
Activities: Tennis Team Captain, Hawk Host Tour Captain, Delta Sigma Pi Senior Vice President, Orientation Captain, Ignite Retreat Leader

What brought you from Arizona to SJU?
I was recruited to play tennis at SJU, and I also wanted to explore the East Coast. I love SJU’s location in Philadelphia and the welcoming campus environment.

Tell us about your 2016 Information Systems Audit and Control Association Academic Scholarship.
To apply for the scholarship, I wrote an academic essay about the phenomenon of BYOD — bring your own device to work — in which companies, instead of handing out hardware like cell phones and laptops, develop mobile applications where they can store company information in the cloud to balance employee privacy and company security.

What are your post-graduation plans?
In September, I’ll start work on the Advanced Risk Compliance and Analytics Solutions team for the Philadelphia branch of PricewaterhouseCoopers. I will look at data issues that require analytical solutions and suggest what companies can do better based on patterns in their data.

Before I start there, I’ll spend the month of August at Kino Border Initiative, a Jesuit organization located on the Arizona and Mexico border in the city of Nogales. I will educate school groups on how immigration policies affect people on both sides of the border.

— Elizabeth Krakowiak ’17
Field Hockey and Women’s Soccer Reach A-10 Tournament

Historic seasons for the SJU field hockey and women’s soccer teams culminated in Atlantic 10 title game appearances.

Field hockey posted its finest season in more than two decades with 15 victories and an undefeated conference record on the way to its first A-10 regular season title since 1995. The Hawks also made their first appearance in the Atlantic 10 conference championship game since 2007.

Named a Second Team All-America honoree by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, sophomore forward Anna Willocks (Palmerston North, New Zealand) is the third student-athlete in program history to receive All-America accolades. She was named to the NFHCA All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team, earned ECAC Division I All-Star status, was selected to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference First Team and was voted the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Performer of the Year.

Women’s soccer finished its most successful season in program history with an 18-2-2 overall record, featuring a 19-game unbeaten streak and setting a new single-season mark for victories. Along the way, the Hawks captured their first ever Atlantic 10 regular season title and advanced to the title game of the A-10 Championship for the first time in program history.

Setting a new single-season record for goals (18) and points (41), sophomore forward Dakota Mills (East Windsor, New Jersey) was named Atlantic 10 Offensive Player of the Year and selected to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference First Team and National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Mid-Atlantic Region Second Team. Capping her career as the Hawks’ all-time leader in goals (43) and points (43), senior Emily Gingrich (Shillington, Pennsylvania) was voted Atlantic 10 Midfielder of the Year and named an NSCAA All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team and Atlantic 10 All-Conference First Team honoree.

Philadelphia Freedoms at SJU

While spectators at the Michael J. Hagan ’85 Arena court are usually watching basketballs whiz by, this summer, they’ll be seeing tennis balls fly across the hardwood at the home of the Hawks. In a partnership between Saint Joseph’s and the Philadelphia Freedoms of Mylan World Team Tennis (WTT), the Freedoms will play all of its 2017 home matches at the Hagan Arena.

“For the first time since our inaugural season in 1974, the Philadelphia Freedoms will be playing in Philadelphia,” says Freedoms owner and tennis legend Billie Jean King.

The 2017 season begins on July 16 and includes seven home matches. Season tickets are available by calling Asher Halbert at 215-952-5219.

Nelson Named to Big 5 Hall of Fame

Saint Joseph’s basketball great Jameer Nelson ’04 is among seven individuals who were inducted into the Big 5 Hall of Fame on April 17 this year.

A first-round pick in the 2004 NBA Draft, Nelson is in his 13th season in the league and is currently a guard for the Denver Nuggets. At Saint Joseph’s, he led the 2003-04 men’s basketball team to 27 consecutive wins, a No. 1 national ranking and an Elite Eight berth.

Nelson made the All-Big 5 team in each of his four seasons and was Big 5 MVP in 2003 and 2004. He tops the Hawks’ record for scoring (2,094 points) and assists (713).
Seven-year-old Anne Danilak shares a thought with “The Watchful Professor,” a limestone relief on the right side of the Gothic arch at the main entrance to Barbelin Hall on City Avenue.

It was June 4, 1967, the day her brother, Thomas Lastowka, graduated from Saint Joseph’s. Another brother, Marty ’65 (deceased), is an alumnus, and today, Danilak’s daughter, Emily, is a freshman on Hawk Hill.
ALUM NOTES » TELL US YOUR NEWS AT ALUMNI.SJU.EDU/CLASSNOTES OR ALUMNI@SJU.EDU

1966
James Shields (B.S.) received a Rotary Club of New York’s scholarship for leadership in civic affairs.

1960
Arthur Kerns (B.S.) released his book "The Venetian War of 1797-1801." He was revered as a leader in the field of military history.

1964
Martin Novelli, Ph.D., co-authored "Last Stands from Alamo to Benghazi: How Hollywood Turns Military Debts Into Moral Victories" with Paul Thomas. The book was highly praised for its analysis of film noir.

1968
Dan Mankowski (B.S.), a shareholder with national law firm, was promoted to the board of trustees of Loyola University Chicago. He was also recognized for his leadership in the American Bar Association.

1969
Joseph Bosick, Esq., (B.S.) earned a degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was appointed chairman of the board of directors.

1971
Tom McKeever (B.A.) earned a degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He was named a 2016 Power 50 by South Jersey Biz.

1972
C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., (B.S.) joined the board of trustees of Loyola University Maryland.

1974
John DiAngelico (B.S.) retired as university counsel from Cornell University.

Craig Kelly (B.A.) joined the North Shore Medical Center in Barkhamsted, CT as vice president of health information technology.

Lynn Fields Harris (B.A.) became the executive director of the Center on Aging and Community Development.

Walter W. Borngins III (B.S.) was named to the Power 50 by South Jersey Biz in 2016.

Gene Barr (B.A.) published a book on the American Revolution and was awarded the John Carroll School in Bel Air, Maryland.

Jacqueline Silver (B.S.) published the book "Education of Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Areas Between 1933-1945," which became a national bestseller.

Steve Stefano (B.A.) and Paul J. Roshka Jr. (B.S.) were included in Best Lawyers in America 2017.

1976
Donna Orem (B.A.) was promoted to president of the National Association Home Care and Hospice Hall of Fame.

Dominic Moffa (B.S.) was named executive vice president and chief operating officer at the Visiting Nurse Association of America with responsibilities at all levels.

2016
Brady was installed as a judge on the Superior Court of New Jersey.

2021
Kairos' co-founder is a professor at the University of San Francisco. The company has received a grant from the National Institute of Health for its research on aging.

2023
Vexelius has been named one of the best companies to work for in the United States. The company's founder is a former SJU professor.

1980
Thomas W. Burghart (B.S.) was appointed chief financial officer for Philadelphia Energy Solutions.

2016
South Jersey Biz (B.S.) led the U.S. safety team at the Democratic National Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio. The team included former SJU students.

2017
Michael Kain (B.S.) was installed as a judge on the Superior Court of New Jersey, replaced by a former SJU employee.

2018
Gaittella (MBA) joined the board of directors for Worth Cincinnati, Ohio.

2019
Patrick D. Mahoney (B.A.) retired from Procter & Gamble after 33 years and was appointed chairman of the board of directors.

2020
Denis Gray (B.S.) was appointed as president of the Haverford (Pennsylvania) Board of School Directors.

2021
Peter M. Monahan Jr. (B.S.) and John Lund, Ph.D. (B.S.) were reappointed to the University of Notre Dame's board of trustees.

2023
Kevin Neary (B.S.) released two books on Disney: "Hidden Mickey's of Walt Disney World" and "Disney Maps: Charting 60 Years of Disney Parks." The books have been praised for their深度 and detail.

2024
Angela Snyder (B.S.) was named the managing partner of PlayMaker CRM in Franklin, Tennessee.

2025
Charles Benton (B.S.) was appointed chairman of the board of directors for PlayMaker CRM.

2026
Raymond H. Melcher Jr. (B.S.) joined the board of directors for Worth Cincinnati, Ohio.

2027
Robert A. Gaittella (MBA) was installed as a judge on the Superior Court of New Jersey.
Bart Dalton, Esq. ’74 (B.A.)

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Bart Dalton, Esq. ’74 (B.A.), one of Delaware’s most accomplished attorneys, had no desire to practice law when he chose his political science major as a Saint Joseph’s student.

“I believe the classic Jesuit education is still the best there is.”

Dalton’s accomplishments earned him membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), a merit-based fellowship of the top attorneys in the United States and Canada. Named a Best Lawyer in Delaware for 24 consecutive years, Dalton was elected ACTL president and installed in September 2016. He received a personal letter of congratulations from former Vice President Joe Biden, also a Delaware native.

Dalton says he’s honored to be at the helm of an organization focused on raising professional and ethical standards in trial practice and the administration of justice. These values were ingrained in him at Saint Joseph’s, he says, by an “amazing” group of professors, including Graham Lee, Ph.D., professor emeritus of political science, and his course on constitutional law. “I believe the classic Jesuit education is still the best there is.”

— Colleen Lynn
In Memory

Faculty and Staff
Mark C. Aita, S.J., associate director, Institute of Clinical Bioethics
Alexis Ariano, daughter of Nicholas ’73 and Claire, Athletics
Ranan Banerji, Ph.D., professor emeritus, computer science
Steven Boykin, brother of Michael, assistant director of administration, public safety and security
Catalina Brufau de Faccini, mother of Carmen, Ph.D., associate professor, modern and classical languages
David H. Burton, Ph.D., professor emeritus, history, husband of Geraldine ’60
Ethel M. Chorpenning, mother of Rev. Joseph, David H. Burton, Ph.D., professor
Catalina Brufau de Faccini, mother of Carmen, Steven Boykin, brother of Michael, assistant
Ranan Banerji, Ph.D., professor
Alexis Ariano, daughter of Nicholas ’73 and Mark C. Aita, S.J., associate director, Institute of Faculty and Staff

In Memory of Jesuit Pedagogy into the Adapting Classic Principles received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

1988
Kevin L. Clayton (MBA) was appointed to the board of 5 News (Globe Newswire, ’88)
Patrick Gavin (MBA) was 5 News (Associated Press, ’88)
Pennsylvania
Joseph Wolk (B.S.) was appointed vice president of investor relations for Johnson

1991
Maria K. Flynn (B.A.) was 5 News (Associated Press, ’88)

1992
Dermot O’Reilly (B.S.) was 5 News (Associated Press, ’88)

1993
John Marcante (MBA) was elected to the board of directors of Cradles to Beyond the Ambiguity Illness or Deviance? Drug Courts, Drug Treatment, and the Ambiguity of Addiction (Temple University

1999
Sr. Cecilia Ashton (B.S.) took her first profession of vows with the Carmelite Sisters of GPCX “A Ph” (1999)
Clayton Edwards (MBA) was appointed senior vice president of operations at Improv, DMG. PRR(beam) (GP) 8 RVX”# California.

2000
Karin Botto (M.S.) is assistant vice president for human development at Le Moyne 7 TV1 TV1 CHAIR 05 17

2001
Ann (Smithson) Callaghan (MBA) was named vice president for corporate and financial communications for Comcast Corp. in Philadelphia.

1988
Paul Firuta (MBA) was named chief commercial officer of 5 News (Globe Newswire, ’88)
Deborah Hoag (MBA) was appointed public works.

1996
Col. William J. Reilly (MBA) recently retired from the 5 News (Associated Press, ’88)

1997
Tara (McLaren) Anderson (B.S.) and her husband VINET (1997) Rosenburg

2002
Joe McMahon (MBA) was named vice president of strategic communications atηam (Temple University

2003
Marisa (Fulton) Benjamin (B.A. ’03) and Steven 5 News (Globe Newswire, ’88)

Laurel Cooper (M.S.) joined the mathematics faculty at 5 News (Globe Newswire, ’88)

2001
Ann (Smithson) Callaghan (MBA) was named vice president for corporate and financial communications for Comcast Corp. in Philadelphia.

Many people turn to music for entertainment, but some, like Caitlyn Grabenstein ’12 (B.S.) also find strength and inspiration in the art form. In her senior year at Saint Joseph’s, Grabenstein’s close friend and roommate of three years was diagnosed with leukemia. The two were fans of Ingrid Michaelson, an indie pop/folk singer and songwriter. Inspired by their mutual love of her music, Grabenstein set out to acquire some swag signed by the artist to cheer her friend. Several emails later, she connected with Michaelson’s manager, shared their story, and before long, had scored a pile of autographed vinyls, T-shirts and notes.

Sadly, her friend passed away in 2013. Shortly after that, Grabenstein moved to Nashville and applied for music industry jobs. She met with musicians and worked in legal copyright infringement for Broadcast Music Inc. “Nashville served as a think tank for me,” she says. Immerged in a city filled with music, Grabenstein, a musician herself (vocals and guitar), decided to “create a community of music lovers, musicians and fans, fighting for a common cause” and reduce the channels required to obtain autographed materials.

The result? In 2015, she founded Bandade (mybandademusic.com), a charitable business that benefits people affected by cancer through the sale of merchandise — including autographed T-shirts by well-known and rising artists including Michaelson, Alabama Shakes, Florence Welch of Florence and the Machine, and Jason Isbell.

After a couple years in the Music City, Grabenstein brought the charitable business back to her favorite urban center, Philadelphia, last year. “Nashville is all music; everyone takes it for granted,” Grabenstein says. “Philly is not as musically involved, so people cling to it more.”

During Bandade’s first year, Grabenstein says she knew “nothing about business,” and donated everything, including her free time. Today, Bandade has adopted a more sophisticated business model and become more than a website selling signed merchandise. Dedicated to creating a community, Grabenstein has also implemented a series of benefit concerts, with proceeds disbursed among the artists, Bandade and cancer foundations.

Grabenstein knows her friend is there with her, singing along. “Nashville served as a think tank for me.”

— Sarah Panetta ’16 (B.A.)
In Memory (continued)

Robert S. Starr '30
Henry Walter '30
Robert J. White '30
George A. Braun '31
Charles F. Brown '31
Anthony M. Bruno '31
Walter J. Dormbroski '31, father of Ruth Dupont '79 and Susan Ponente '81
John M. Healy '31
John B. Ivers '31, brother of Thomas '49 (deceased)
Thomas J. Heitzman '31
John McGlone '31
Lawson C. Fowler '32
Raymond DiPrimo '32
Joseph B. Howe '33
John J. Guile '34
Philip J. Swisser '34, father of Timothy '88
Leo A. Carr '35
William H. McGarvey '35
Raymond J. Adamczyk '36
Louis J. Cissone '36, former Trustee
Alexander A. DiSanti '36
Richard D. Gormley '36, father of Deborah
DellaPorta '36
Thomas A. Malone '36
John A. Schmidt '36, father of John '72 and Mark '79
Michael F. Smith '36
Vincent J. Byrne '37
John J. Ficca '37, father of Susanne Lennon '90
Edward G. Heisser '37
William R. Neal '37
James P. Osinski '37, father of Elizabeth '85
Stephen A. Idzik '38
Raymond D. Peake '39
Edward C. Gannon '40
John J. Lafferty '40
Joseph R. Polito '40, father of Marie Devenny '05
Walter J. Sullivan '40
Charles P. Cathcart '41
Aaron H. Cobb '41
Chester B. Desavigny '41
James M. Gordon '41
Francis A. McGroary '41
John J. Shirley '41
Raymond J. Murtaugh '42
Robert C. Stadilnik '42
Louis M. Maguire '43
Mary R. Montague '43
Alexander J. Stockmal '44
Henry C. DeGregorio '45
John G. Mollis '45
Michael I. Morley '46, brother of Joseph '66
Ralph A. Ruskowski '46
John F. Connelly '46
Francis C. Schaffer '46
David H. Stout '46
Wayne R. Barrett '47
Edward P. Guy '47
Patricia N. Napp '47
Richard W. Falicki '47
Mary V. Downey '49
Patricia A. Freda '49
David E. Mathis '50
Thomas J. DiCecco '50

2003 (continued)

Frank Hourigan (MBA) joined Needham & Co. as a financial representative in 1988. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Boston College.

Benjamin Vigna (B.A.) and his wife A. P. Winnick '89, who are also parents of two sons, announced the birth of their third son, Benjamin Vigna '03.

Todd Wenning (B.A.) and his wife X. E. Mataveri '93 announced the birth of their first child, Alaina '11.

2004

Mike Benigno '98/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Mike Benigno '98/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Jeanne M. Coyle (A.G.S.) and her husband, Tom Coyle '83, of New York City, announced the birth of their second daughter, Sarah '11.

2005

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their second daughter, Mary '11.

Aline Markarian '65/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Suzanne (McLaughlin) '86/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their second daughter, Mary '11.

Juan Valencia (MBA) joined Needham & Co. as a financial representative in 2003.

2006

Ralph on July 14, 2016.

Christopher Nyberg '81 announced the birth of his son, Andrew '11.

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed her third daughter, Emma '12.

Aline Markarian '65/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Suzanne (McLaughlin) '86/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their second daughter, Mary '11.

Juan Valencia (MBA) joined Needham & Co. as a financial representative in 2003.

2007

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their third daughter, Emily '12.

Aline Markarian '65/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Suzanne (McLaughlin) '86/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their fourth daughter, Charlotte '13.

Juan Valencia (MBA) joined Needham & Co. as a financial representative in 2003.

2008

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their fifth daughter, Abigail '14.

Aline Markarian '65/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Suzanne (McLaughlin) '86/JOY communications director for the USA Northeast Province

Laura (Grow) '78, who married Christopher Nyberg '81, welcomed their sixth daughter, Isabella '16.

Juan Valencia (MBA) joined Needham & Co. as a financial representative in 2003.
2006
Timothy Boyle (M.S.) has become director of emergency services and emergency management for Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Steven Burda (MBA) was named senior financial analyst at Alarm Capital Alliance in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

John Frye (M.S.) was appointed acting chief of the Cheltenham Township Police Department.

Jacob A. Lampedro (B.B.A.) was appointed director of retail banking and senior vice president for Penn Community Bank in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Kelly (Maughan) Ferguson (B.A.) works at the West Health Policy Center in Washington, D.C., and earned a Master of Arts in economics from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Gerard Nagle (B.B.A.) married Holly Glickman, whom he met during an SJU Study Abroad trip to Ireland. Nagle runs his own IT consulting company in Denver, Colorado, and completed his MBA with honors at Regis University.

Diana M. Tacelosky, M.D., Ph.D. (B.S.), graduated from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program, earning a Ph.D. in pharmacology. She continues her training as a clinician researcher at the Virginia Commonwealth University-Fairfax in family medicine.

2007
Cristin (Cody) (B.S., MBA '09) and Dan McDevitt (B.B.A., MBA '09) welcomed son Logan Joseph on June 6, 2016, joining big sister Mackenna.

Jonathan Foster, D.O. (B.S.), plans to complete his gastroenterology fellowship at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and begin an Interventional Endoscopy Fellowship at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, Texas, in 2018.

John Hanson (MBA) is CEO of the Delaware River Port Authority, president of PATCO and chair of Camden County College's board of trustees. He was among the Power 50 in South Jersey Biz in July 2016.

2008

John Furey (MBA) was appointed chief operating officer for Spark Therapeutics in Philadelphia.

2009
John J. Errigo (M.A.) received his Ph.D. in organization and management with a concentration in leadership from Capella University.

Daniel J. McCann, Esq. (B.A.), an attorney with the law firm Reynolds & Scheffler in Northfield, New Jersey.

Richard Sarfert (MBA) was appointed executive vice president and senior lending officer of Kish Bank in State College, Pennsylvania.

2010
Lan Ho (B.S.) and Arci Wei were married on June 4, 2016.


Brienne Ryan (B.B.A.), a Hawk mascot, married Conor Daly (B.S. ’10) on August 27, 2016 in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

2011
Shujun Chen (M.S.) is a family nurse practitioner at PeaceHealth Medical Group Family Medicine in Burlington, Washington.

Catherine E. Cicco, D.O. (B.S.) was awarded a degree in osteopathic medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2016.

Dana Luciano (B.S.) received a master’s degree in physician assistant studies from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in July 2016.

Teresa Penetar (B.S.) earned a Master of Science in physician assistant studies from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in July 2016.

2012
Thomas Elitz (B.S.) pronounced his first vows in the Society of Jesus in August 2016 and is studying for his master’s degree in philosophy at Fordham University.

Samantha Liddy (B.S.) and Michael Greco, M.D. (B.S. ’12), were married June 11, 2016. They reside in Manheim, Pennsylvania.

Erica Malanga (B.A.) joined “Visit Baltimore” as the social media manager.

Maureen Wirshup (B.A., M.S. ’14) and Richard Allridge (B.S. ’12) were married July 2, 2016 in the Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial.

2013
Sean Morrissey (B.S.) joined his father John (B.S. ’80) on the brokerage team at Jackson Cross Partners in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Carolyn Vivaldi (M.S.) is assistant vice president for strategic communications with Northwell Health in New York.

2014
Jean Morris (M.S.) co-authored Ignite your Life with success expert Brian Tracy (CelebrityPress, 2015).

Jamee Rush (M.S.), director of organizational development at Day & Zimmerman, was included in the 2016 Philadelphia Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 list.

Linsay Wisor (MBA) married Michael Aviles on April 4, 2016, at City Hall in San Francisco, California.

2015
Leonie Alexandre (MBA), director of finance at the African American Museum in Philadelphia, was inducted into the VIP Woman of the Year Circle by the National Association of Professional Women.

Corie McLaughlin (B.S.), a fund accountant for SEI Investments, part-time field hockey coach and certified yoga teacher, traveled and blogged through India and Southeast Asia for three months.

John Oliveri (B.A.), a police officer in Upper Providence, Pennsylvania, was promoted to team leader with the rank of staff sergeant in a reconnaissance platoon. He also serves in the United States Marine Corps and Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

In Memory (continued)
John C. Drotos ’72
Samuel J. Bellettiere ’73
Paul J. Englerter ’73
Quentin M. Giorgio ’73
H. Randall Rosenberger ’73
Catherine S. Arnesen, mother of Joan Petruzzelli ’73 and Clare ’06
James C. Riale ’75
Bonnie J. Gardner ’76
Paul J. McEmail ’76, father of Teresa Finegan ’94
Edward E. Foy ’78
William J. Hanna Sr., brother of Agnes Bisard ’78, mathematics
William J. Murphy ’78, brother of Raymond ’82
Frances A. Brouse ’79
Mary E. MacDonald ’79
Rob J. Ziemek ’79
Dana E. Brennan ’80
Lawrence N. Glestein ’81
Elizabeth F. (Franzone) Riblett ’82
Nathaniel Copeland ’85
George S. Dewees ’86
Constance McGettigan, mother of Anne Lunanova ’86, assistant director, William F. Leahy Advising Center
Paul J. Walsh ’86
Kevin P. O’Brien ’88
William D. Schofield ’88
Francis G. Toth ’88
Anna Marie B. Burgio ’89
Linda Nameth ’90
Lee A. Seals ’91
Francine G. Maulitz, mother of Francine H. ’94, adjunct professor, management
Maureen A. McCabe ’94
Steven H. Sussman ’94
Michael J. Ferguson ’95
Robert W. Murz ’95
Robert A. Naughton ’96, son of James ’71
Juliana S. Zientek ’99
Jason L. Zimmerman ’01
Michael G. Riley, father of Calin ’04
Tara M. Alden-Derr ’05
Anthony F. Imbesi ’07
Salvatore Foran ’09
Stephen Lesch, father of Conor ’10, assistant director, club sports and recreation
Earlina K. Everett ’11
Regina Ochaa, mother of Rev. Aloysius ’11, assistant director, Institute of Clinical Bioethics
Harry A. Lemon, father of Mark ’14, assistant director of operations, public safety
Marcia K. Tarra, mother of Lynn Langnas ’15, director, alumni programs
Theresa Nugent, mother of Marissa ’15 and Erica ’20
Agnes Baker, mother of Kathy Klarich ’16 (MBA), market development manager/program administrator, executive MBA programs
James R. Klinges ’17
Stanslaus Mwendwa Willy, son of Willy Munyao, graduate biology student
A VERY Good Deal

RE&C Advisory Board member Elizabeth Convery ’05 (B.S.) had a successful career with a global commercial real estate firm but couldn’t ignore her entrepreneurial ambitions. “I didn’t want my career to be dictated by other people’s decisions or external circumstances,” says Convery, a finance major who traveled the world making lucrative deals for several Philadelphia- and New York-based commercial real estate firms. “You can stifle that entrepreneurial spirit for just so long.”

In 2013, on the verge of turning 30, the Washington Township, New Jersey, native made a move.

Armed with a master of management in hospitality degree with a focus in real estate finance and investments from Cornell University, along with a Pennsylvania broker’s license, Convery returned to Philadelphia and founded VERY Real Estate (veryre.com), a Center City-based boutique real estate brokerage firm.

Convery’s father and VERY Vice President Joe ’71 (B.S.), who worked at Cigna for two decades, urged her to give her business concept one year to see if it would be sustainable. Three years later, the firm is thriving.

VERY’s hospitality-centric approach to buying or selling a home tailors each transaction to fit clients’ needs and leaves them with a lasting impression to share with friends. Convery asks agents to focus on building long-term relationships that lead to repeat business.

“Regardless of the company name on the business card,” she says, “people want an intimate experience. Buying a house is usually the largest investment they’ll ever make.” Her philosophy has worked: 100 percent of VERY’s business comes from word-of-mouth referrals, a residential real estate rarity.

Convery plugged into the local market by reconnecting with SJU through the RE&C. She works to link industry and academia, facilitating guest speakers for classes and imparting industry advice to faculty on how to make SJU students more marketable.

Brokering Alumni Connections

One of the RE&C’s most active members is Dan Gummel ’98 (B.S.), vice president of PernaFrederick, a Philadelphia real estate brokerage specializing in tenant and landlord representation and investments. He is devoted to helping SJU undergraduates discern their career paths because of the circuitous route he took to his successful real estate career, which includes listing Philadelphia office properties like Two Penn Center, 400 Market Street and the Bourse.

“I tripped into real estate,” says the Wallingford, Pennsylvania, resident who began his career with an entry-level ad specialties sales job. “I was fortunate to have a number of great mentors throughout my life.”

The criminal justice graduate worked for M.S. Fox for a decade before moving to PernaFrederick in 2012. “It motivates me to help students, especially those thinking about their future and attending events or meeting with alumni for advice,” he says. “I’m amazed at some of the younger students who are thinking about their careers and planning so far in advance.”

Today, students and young alumni seek out Gummel from all fronts: through SJU Connects (alumni.sju.edu/connects), the alumni association’s online career advising platform, with mutual connections made at RE&C networking events, and on shadow days. He is on campus regularly, working with the student-run SJU Real Estate Society.

“I’ve had the pleasure of seeing some of the students I’ve spoken with transition into the workforce,” he says. “I tell them, ‘You get from it what you put into it. There is a wide range of opportunities within the real estate business. Try to find the sector that is best suited for your personality.’

Real Estate and Construction Alumni Chapter

alumni.sju.edu/rec
Jane Mingey ’80 (B.S.) decided it was time for a career change in 2001, after more than two decades in the financial accounting software industry. An avid cyclist, she took advantage of a six-month sabbatical to lead summer bicycle trips through Europe. During that time, she recognized her satisfaction in helping people achieve good health in a fun, life-affirming way and emerged confident she wanted to help those in the corporate world live healthier lives.

Mingey then went back to school to study exercise science and health promotion and secured a job with the health-coaching firm Continuum in 2005. Now a vice president at Cigna Onsite Health, she provides worksite wellness programs, coaching and medical services to help employees lead healthier, happier lives, which, in turn, helps employers reduce health-related costs.

“It’s exciting to use my SJU accounting background and wellness training to prove to employers the positive return-on-investment of worksite wellness programs,” Mingey says.

The career change has improved her own work-life balance, giving her more time to dedicate to Saint Joseph’s, which she says is part of the family. Her father John ’50 (B.S.) is an accounting graduate, and she was the second of her two sisters — Mary M. Cycon ’78 (B.A.) and Maureen ’82 (B.A.) — to graduate from SJU. Her nephew, Richard Mingey, is an SJU senior.

“I’m a Hawk through and through,” Mingey says. For that reason, in addition to her enthusiasm and dedication to SJU, and involvement with the alumni association, “Jane was the perfect choice to become the new Barbelin Society chair,” says Tom Fithian ’98 (B.S.), ’07 (MBA), director of the Barbelin Society, the University’s leadership annual giving community. “She embodies everything it represents: leadership, generosity, passion and commitment to SJU.”

As chair, Mingey hopes to leverage technology to grow membership, aiming to push the roster above 1,000 for the first time. She is interested in expanding the society’s popular “Inside View” events to increase support for athletics, academics and student experience initiatives.

“It’s my pleasure to support Saint Joseph’s because it gave so much to me,” Mingey says. “It’s inspiring to witness how Saint Joseph’s continues to expand its campus, academics and student services to the community.”

— Kevin Kaufman

Leadership Levels

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<tr>
<th>MAGIS SOCIETY</th>
<th>$25,000+</th>
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<tr>
<td>FOUNDERS</td>
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<td>$5,000 - $9,999</td>
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<td>$500+</td>
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The Barbelin Society
giving.sju.edu/barbelinsociety
Make your gift before the end of SJU’s fiscal year on May 31.

giving.sju.edu/donate
50 Years of Friendship: The Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations

On March 5, 1967, Saint Joseph’s College became the first American Catholic higher education institution to respond to the Second Vatican Council’s call for dialogue between Catholics and Jews by establishing, with the help of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), an ongoing Catholic-Jewish Institute. In its inaugural program, the Institute brought together Msgr. George G. Higgins of the Social Action Department of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, AJC’s director of interreligious affairs. Both had aided in the passage of Vatican II’s landmark document, Nostra Aetate, the Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, issued just over a year before.

The pair discussed the first “Guidelines for Catholic-Jewish Relations,” published that very month by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Considering many educational and biblical topics, these guidelines — themselves prompted by Nostra Aetate — stated that “deeper explorations of pertinent issues by Catholic and Jewish scholars must ... be given a high priority.”

Realizing that the College’s academic resources were essential for such “deeper explorations,” Saint Joseph’s Jesuit community asked Donald G. Clifford, S.J. ’51 (A.B.), to direct the Institute. By the time of his death in 2009, Fr. Clifford had guided the Institute for 40 years until 2008. He had the constant, dedicated assistance of Charles Kahn Jr., who initially represented the AJC and enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of a board of directors of Jews and Catholics. While an unprecedented rapprochement deepened over time between American Catholics and Jews, that 1967 campus interreligious venture was simultaneously developing into today’s Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph’s University, directed by two full-time SJU theology and religious studies professors, Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D., and Adam Gregerman, Ph.D.

On March 5, 2017, SJU marked the Institute’s 50th anniversary by replicating its first program. The Rev. Dr. Dennis McManus, consultant for Jewish affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was joined by Rabbi A. James Rudin, senior interreligious advisor for the American Jewish Committee, in assessing Catholic-Jewish relations over the intervening five decades. Their remarks complemented those of their predecessors in 1967. Msgr. Higgins and Rabbi Tanenbaum had discussed the birth of a new relationship between Jews and Catholics, while Rabbi Rudin and Fr. McManus spoke of its slow maturation over the intervening decades. They all looked forward to a hopeful future from their different points in time.

In comparing the 1967 guidelines with this latest statement, Fr. McManus and Rabbi Rudin noted that joint study will deepen Catholic-Jewish relations in the future. They praised the University’s original sculpture, “Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time,” for inspiringly depicting this vision — one shared by Pope Francis who personally blessed the artwork in September 2015. SJU has made major contributions to the new Jewish-Catholic relationship, they concluded, beginning with its pioneering origins in the 1960s, and will surely continue to do so as the “journey of friendship” continues.

— Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D., and Adam Gregerman, Ph.D. Directors of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations
sju.edu/ijcr

An endowed fund named for Fr. Clifford supports much of the Institute’s programming:
sju.edu/magazine/clifford
SOLIDARITY

is learned through “contact” rather than “concepts.” Students in the course of their formation must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively. They should learn to

PERCEIVE, THINK, JUDGE, CHOOSE AND ACT FOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THE DISADVANTAGED AND THE OPPRESSED.”

— PETER-HANS KOLVENBACH, S.J.

While Saint Joseph’s University celebrated the election of Arturo Sosa, S.J., as superior general of the Society of Jesus last fall, it also mourned the death of former Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., on November 26, 2016. Known for his statement, “The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become,” Fr. Kolvenbach led the Jesuits for a quarter century, September 13, 1983–January 14, 2008.
Take the call.

Give the next generation of Hawks the career advice you wish you’d had. Become a Hawk advisor today.

Mock Interviews  Career Chats  Resume Critiques

Powered by FIRSTHAND

SJU ALUMNI  connects@sju.edu  alumni.sju.edu/contacts
Veterans exemplify the call to live greater, and Saint Joseph’s University is committed to helping our nation’s heroes meet their educational and career goals. That’s why the University participates up to 100% in the GI Bill’s Yellow Ribbon Program and offers two entrepreneurship programs at no cost for qualified veterans.