

REPORT FROM NEWPORT

# Salve Regina

University Magazine



Summer 2021



# 28 Commencement

The Class of 2021 celebrates Commencement weekend with a car parade around Ocean Drive May 8.

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## Message from the President

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Considering all that the Salve Regina community has experienced over the past year, it is with deep gratitude that I look forward to the fall 2021 semester.



Plans are under way for welcoming the Class of 2025 in September, along with our returning students, and we'll even have Ruggles, our community resource dog who is sure to bring smiles wherever he goes. We begin the academic year with renewed optimism and faith in the fact that together, the Salve family can handle anything that comes our way.

In reading the stories that follow, I was struck by the enormous impact that our students and alumni have at the local, national and international levels. Whether it's alongside our beautiful campus in collaboration with Newport's Cliff Walk Commission, or deep in the Canadian forests, the stewardship of resources and an abiding commitment to the Critical Concerns of Mercy are creating a better world for all. Such stories inspire a deep pride in our University and the accomplishments of our Salve community never fail to amaze me.

I encourage alumni and parents to join us for Fall Festival Weekend Oct. 29-31, when Seahawk spirit will be on full display. With so much to be grateful for, it's sure to be a weekend of celebration and joy.

All my best,

## Report from Newport

The Magazine of Salve Regina University  
Summer 2021

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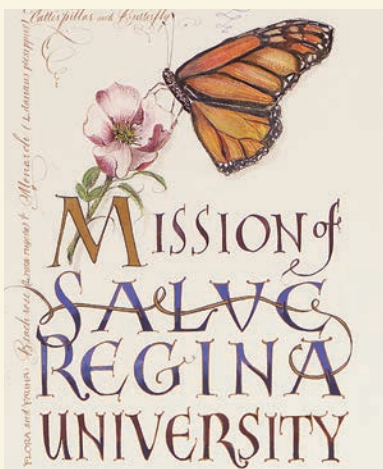
### ABOUT THE COVER

Levi Mitchell '24 spends his summers in the forests of British Columbia, Canada, working with planting crews in reforestation efforts. Photo by Caleb Jutzi, courtesy of Levi Mitchell.

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In keeping with the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy, and recognizing that all people are stewards of God's creation, the University encourages students to work for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful.



The Office of Admissions' student ambassador team welcomes prospective students and families throughout the summer months: (from left) Jasmine Jobe '23, Maxwell McFarland '23, Thomas Owen Manion '22, Julia Govoni '24 and Ashley Cannata '22.

## Service with a Smile

An animal lover at heart, **Taylor Cefalo '22** has built an impressive resume of animal welfare service. She arrived at Salve Regina having already completed a veterinary clinic internship during her senior year of high school and has spent the past two years volunteering for the Potter League for Animals.

Cefalo met the Potter League's volunteer coordinator during the annual Service Fair at the start of her sophomore year and joined the semester in service initiative sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement and Service, which provided transportation to the Middletown shelter each week. While there, Cefalo helped with a variety of tasks including kennel cleaning and dog walking, as well as socializing with cats and kittens. She then became a service advocate in her junior year, and was assigned to work at the Potter League's Spay and Neuter Clinic in Warwick, R.I., which offers low-cost services for pets.

A biology major originally from Myrtle Beach, S.C., Cefalo discovered a connection between her coursework

and her volunteer assignments in the hands-on skills and techniques required for both. Her Animal Behavior class with Dr. Heather Axen, assistant professor of biology and biomedical sciences, was especially helpful in her work as a service advocate.

"I was able to apply the skills I learned in class to my work with the animals at the clinic," said Cefalo, who plans to apply to veterinary school after graduation.

"Taylor was enthusiastic and willing to help in any capacity," said Cindi Martin, clinic manager. "She seemed to have a real interest in veterinary medicine and enjoyed observing and learning, too."

Service advocates commit to 100 hours of community service with an organization over the course of the academic year. For Cefalo, her volunteer work was truly a labor of love and she has many wonderful memories of Potter League animals. A few of the animals—including Lexie, a dog with sweet eyes and an underbite, and Mittens, a 13-year-old cat who would just sit with Cefalo and come to trust her—left an indelible mark on her heart.



Taylor Cefalo '22 volunteers at the Potter League's Spay and Neuter Clinic.

"My service at the Potter League through Salve's service advocate program has helped me in my career ambitions as I was provided an environment to apply my major course knowledge," said Cefalo. "This program has also allowed me to grow academically and personally in compassion and mercy."

*“It seemed a fitting reminder of how fragile our environment is and how much it needs us to change our habits.”*

– Dr. Jen McClanaghan, Associate Professor

## More Than



On April 22, **Dr. Jen McClanaghan**, associate professor of English, communications and media, along with students from her Elements of Craft class and The Willow literary magazine, created a powerful public installation as part of Salve Regina’s Earth Week celebrations. Sponsored by the McAuley Institute’s interdisciplinary faculty collaborative focused on the Critical Concern of Earth, the project was inspired by an essay published in *Runner’s World* magazine following the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Feb. 2020.

The essay, written by Mitchell S. Jackson, detailed information on Arbery’s life, emphasizing that he was “more than” a viral video, more than a hashtag, that he loved football and his mother’s chocolate fudge cake and adored his nephews.

McClanaghan and her students transformed the courtyard outside the O’Hare Academic Building into something much more than just a garden. The “More Than Garden” became a gallery of essays, audio recordings and cyanotype sun prints created by a group of 27 students, detailing past and present life events that they want to be seen as “more than.” Those attending the exhibit were given the opportunity to create a cyanotype print of their own while listening to the students’ stories.

The exhibit was a success, attracting crowds despite the unseasonal snowfall. “The students’ essays were powerful, and we did get the reception we wanted except that it snowed,” said McClanaghan. “In late April! It seemed a fitting reminder of how fragile our environment is and how much it needs us to change our habits.”

After the success of this year’s “More



Students create sun prints as part of Earth Week’s “More Than” art installation.

Than” exhibit, McClanaghan hopes to make it an annual event in celebration of Earth Day. Such an installation, which combines student voices and community engagement in connection with the environment, supports the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy by raising awareness for the impact of our actions on the Earth.

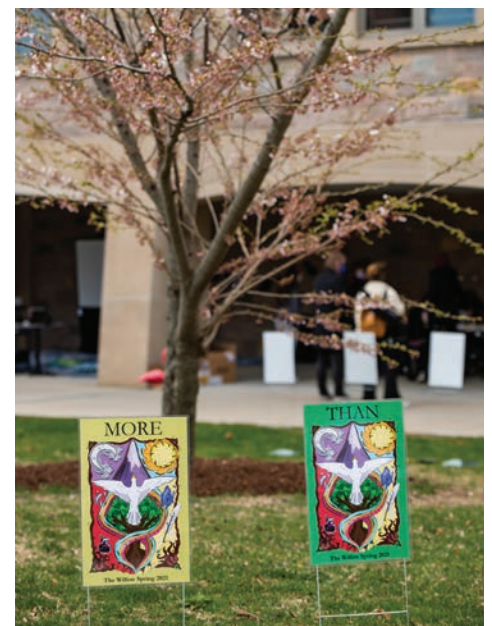
“I also want to take the sun prints that were made and sew them together into a larger piece to display on campus,” McClanaghan said. Such a display would act as a reminder of the success of this year’s exhibit and the beauty of the world around us.

In addition to the “More Than Garden,” the University sponsored a number of other Earth Week events including a presentation on climate change hosted by Dr. Craig Condella, professor and chairman of the Department of Philosophy, and the arboretum tree planting on the McKillop Library front lawn. Students were also encouraged to volunteer at one of several cleanups around Newport throughout the week.

Earth Week is made possible by the Sustainability Committee; the Student Government Association; the Campus Activities Board; the Environmental Club; the Center for Community

Engagement and Service; the McAuley Institute for Mercy Education; the McKillop Library; the Mercy Center for Spiritual Life; the Department of Cultural, Environmental and Global Studies; the Department of Religious and Theological Studies; the Department of English, Communications and Media; the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; the Office of Mission Integration; Grounds and Facilities, the Inclusive Reading Club; the Arboretum at Salve Regina, and more.

–by Meaghan Peirson ’20



## Cliff Walk Together

A stroll along Newport's Cliff Walk is a glorious way to spend a few hours for both residents and tourists alike. Now, thanks to 28 recent graduates from the Class of 2021, a fundraising campaign for the iconic path is under way to generate donations that will help preserve the Cliff Walk for future generations to enjoy.

The idea to have students in the MGT422: Marketing Strategies capstone course help with the marketing plan originated in spring 2021 through the Cliff Walk Commission's (CWC) long-standing connection with the Salve Regina community. The CWC was seeking to generate a marketing campaign to promote the launch of a new cutting-edge fundraising effort in which visitors and locals donate using their cell phones.

"This campaign was put together to show that the people who walk the Cliff Walk have more of an impact than they realize to preserve its beauty and longevity," said **Dr. Jennifer Bonoff**,



*Dr. Jennifer Bonoff*

assistant professor in the Department of Business and Economics. "The goal was to help people know that the power is in their own hands ... to help something that's so beautiful and ... preserve it for generations to come."

The seniors in Bonoff's class conducted market research using previous studies as well as a focus group of local community members. They then crafted the main idea of the campaign, "Cliff Walk Together," along with visual photography and graphics to help aid with the messaging that would surround the present campaign. They also generated more photographs, maps, graphics, videos and other visual



aids that the CWC can use for future marketing.

The "Cliff Walk Together" campaign was officially launched in May 2021, and includes a social media component as well as signs posted along the pathway featuring a number to text that will then lead to an online donation application. So far, over \$3,000 has been raised, and the campaign is ongoing.

Members of the Commission have been thrilled with the results of the students' hard work, and how they have set the CWC up for both present and future success.

"It's really all thanks to Jenn and her class," said John Hirschboeck, a member of the Commission. "They pretty much took the initiative from day one."

Bonoff also praised her students for their flexibility and hard work during a challenging time.

"I thought it was really great for them to be able to work together on a project that was going to have an impact—especially during COVID-19," Bonoff added. "I know that school was a little different, life was a little different, so the fact that they were able to work with a real client and do something useful that's going to help the community was really helpful, and I'm really proud of the

work that they did."

**Sydney LaPointe '21**, a



*Sydney LaPointe '21*

marketing major with minors in sports management and business administration, worked on researching the demographics of people who visit the Cliff Walk, helping to figure out what marketing strategies would be most effective.

"I learned a lot by being a part of this project," LaPointe said. "The committee is filled with an amazing group of people with a passion for the Cliff Walk. It was important to me to be able to help preserve it."

For **Maximillian Gliosco '21**, who



*Maximillian Gliosco '21*

majored in marketing, the project enabled him to utilize the skills learned during his four years at Salve Regina, including using the Hootsuite social media marketing platform, presenting marketing ideas in front of the CWC and designing the campaign's website.

“... the fact that they were able to work with a real client and do something useful that’s going to help the community was really helpful, and I’m really proud of the work that they did.”

– Dr. Jennifer Bonoff, Assistant Professor

“This project really got the gears turning for what it’s like to be on a marketing team that is actually going to make a difference in the world,” he said. “There was weight behind doing a good job here; it wasn’t just some made-up case study that you get a grade for in a class. I feel that after getting a taste of what it’s like to work in that situation, I will be better prepared for professional situations in the future.”

**Kaitlyn Doherty ’21**, who graduated with a marketing and business administration degree, was happy to be helping the CWC. Doherty worked specifically on the social media presence of the campaign by establishing a Facebook business page and posting daily to both motivate current followers and intrigue page visitors to learn more.



Kaitlyn Doherty '21

In a separate project, **Evan Elichalt ’21** worked with the CWC on what may be the first storm-related history of the Cliff Walk by putting together the causes and effects of hurricanes that have buffeted the cliffs since 1938.

The CWC contacted the Department of History in early January to ask whether a student would be interested in undertaking a research project. Under the auspices of Dr. William Leeman, associate professor, Elichalt created a research report covering the Cliff Walk’s last 80 years and was compensated with stipends made possible by the John E. McGinty Fund in History.

Elichalt’s research will aid both Salve Regina and the CWC in their fundraising campaign to repair and bolster the stone trails that storms have worn down.

His project focused on the effect

hurricanes and everyday weather have had on the landmark over the last century. Key points of interest included the hurricanes of 1938, 1954 and 1955, Hurricane Bob in 1991 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

“My research spanned the spring 2021 semester through utilizing various online repositories of historical newspapers, including the Providence Journal, Newport Daily News and Newport Mercury,” he said. “I focused on the political, economic and cultural aspects that the Cliff Walk faced during the various restoration projects from 1938 to 2014.”

In May, he presented a 14-page report to the Commission.

“To my knowledge, my article is the only piece of scholarship that focuses on this facet of the Cliff Walk’s history,” he said. “The project has been a highlight of my undergraduate career as I have come to learn more about the landmark that I used to take for granted while on campus.”

## Day of Giving

The University celebrated its inaugural Salve Day of Giving March 25 in support of student life. Designed to engage and empower Salve Regina’s student population, the crowdfunding campaign highlighted student organizations, activities and scholarships.

Through the generosity of alumni, students, faculty, staff, trustees, families and friends, Salve Day of Giving raised more than \$130,000 through 650 gifts that benefitted over 50 student organizations.

“The University is grateful to the many volunteers who gave their time and talent to ensure the success of Salve Day of Giving,” said MaeLynn Patten, chief advancement officer. “This included students, alumni and parent volunteers, and faculty and staff ambassadors.”



## AMA-zing!

Salve Regina's chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) was recognized at the 2021 AMA International Collegiate Conference for Outstanding Achievement in Internal and External Communications. Held virtually April 8-10, the event also presented **Dr. Traci Brady**, professor



of business and economics, with a Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to a marketing scholar who has made long-term and significant

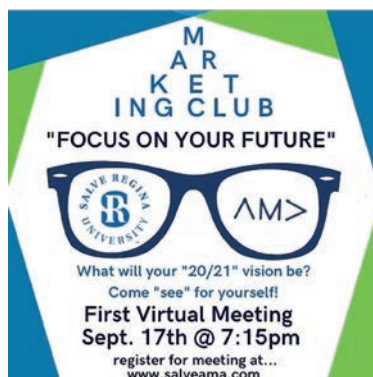
contributions to various streams of interorganizational research, has a sustained record of research excellence in their domain, and has provided significant service to future leaders in academic and/or professional settings.

AMA is one of the largest marketing associations in the world, with more than 30,000 members who work, teach and study in the field of marketing across the globe. The organization's principal role is "to serve as a forum to connect like-minded individuals and foster knowledge sharing, provide resources, tools and training and support marketing practice and thought leadership around the globe." "Our chapter successfully invested

time toward building up our media presence through creating a new AMA website and by communicating more frequently through our Instagram page postings," said Kaitlyn Brillhante '21, who served as vice president of communications for Salve Regina's chapter.

Brilhante said focusing communications efforts around the theme, "What will your 20/21 vision be?" opened the chapter to new perspectives, new ideas, new leadership styles and new communication opportunities within the community — where members' marketing skills directly benefited organizations such as Amenity Aid.

"The idea of using eyeglasses and eyes within our marketing posts throughout the semester showcased how to have 20/20 vision, which is learning the willingness to see beyond a problem and find new ways to communicate," Brillhante said. "Hence, we decided to



take the 2020/21 academic year and make it our vision to improve our chapter, increase membership and enhance our community outreach to ultimately guide our chapter forward."

Stephanie Szelest '22, the chapter president, said their mission is always to represent the University with the highest ethical standards of professionalism.

"Networking and developing strong ties with our school and community are among the chapter's priorities," she said. "Also, to 'pay it forward' by donating time and fundraising for local causes, learning some of life's lessons while doing so and recognizing the personal rewards of philanthropy."

Szelest said the chapter's elected executive board allocates responsibilities in the pursuit of being successful, and she praised all club members for their presence and dedication in making these national awards possible.

In addition to Brillhante and Szelest, executive board members included Julia Sampayo '23, Meaghan Corkery '23, Caroline Chapell '23, Ruby Palma '21, Zoe Kasinskas '23 and Samantha Rivera '21.

"A club is only as good as its members, elected E-board officials and administrative advisor," said Szelest. "It was a privilege to work with fellow students and our advisor, Dr. Traci Brady, especially during this last past year."

## The Faulkner Journal

**Dr. D. Matthew Ramsey**,



professor and chairman of the Department of English, Communications and Media, was recently named to the editorial board of The

Faulkner Journal, which features

biographical, historical, theoretical and textual submissions on the work of 20th-century author William Faulkner. Ramsey joins scholars from around the world who are tasked with soliciting and reviewing submissions, writing reviews, guest-editing special issues and more.

"Almost all of my publications concern William Faulkner's relationship to popular culture,

going all the way back to my dissertation," said Ramsey. "I have had three articles published in The Faulkner Journal and one recent book review. And the paper I gave at the 2017 Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference turned into a chapter in a book from University of Georgia Press that was published in 2020, titled 'Queering the South on Screen.'"



*“Ruggles’ constant presence around our campus will contribute to the positive student experience ...”*

– Michael Caruolo, Director of Safety and Security

## Ruggles, the Community Resource Dog

After an unprecedented and challenging year, students, faculty, staff and alumni were excited to learn about the newest member of the Seahawk family. The University’s first-ever community resource dog was introduced in April and students were invited to help name the Labrador retriever puppy. After weeks of polls and voting, the puppy was named Ruggles after the renowned campus avenue.

Unlike a typical service dog who undergoes specified training for the unique emotional or physical health needs of an individual, a community resource dog is trained in a multitude of diverse skills to assist with a wide range of needs found in communities like college campuses.

“The transition for students from home life to residential college living can be difficult,” said Mike Caruolo, director of safety and security, who has spoken with many students and their families about what they find to be the hardest part of moving away to college. “Many students stated how much they missed their pets, indicating that their pets served as a source of comfort during stressful times, but they no longer have that resource at college.

“Over the past several years the University has offered this type of relief through the Stress Busters Pet Therapy Program, where trained comfort dogs come to campus and interact with our students,” he continued. On the heels of that success, Caruolo conducted research into the possibility of obtaining a resource animal for the University. After speaking with numerous public safety departments at other institutions of higher education, he drafted a proposal for consideration and collaborated on the logistics involved.

“Ruggles is not only the University’s first community resource dog, but he is the first and only community resource dog among higher education institutions in Rhode Island and is now a permanent member of the safety and security team,”



said Caruolo.

Ruggles will be an integral part of Salve’s “Pawsitive” Alliance with Students (PAWS) program, which is dedicated to student success. Ruggles will be working with campus security officers to help maintain positive relationships while providing safety, stress reduction, emotional support and comfort.

Security officers Michelle Caron and Nick Maltais have been assigned as Ruggles’ primary handlers and have been meeting regularly with the trainers throughout the summer to prepare for his transition to campus. They have worked on basic obedience skills, practiced interacting with the community, introduced Ruggles to the campus environment, and started bringing him through a shorter version of a typical shift.

“Ruggles is only eight months old and still a puppy,” said Caron. “He has been living and working with the trainers since April and his training has been very structured. Ruggles has learned

obedience, patience and has been exposed to different kinds of environments that he will experience in his role at Salve.”

Ruggles will live in Tobin Hall, which houses the Office of Safety and Security, and Caron has been working on a schedule that includes feeding, exercise, vet appointments and more. While Ruggles will be “on duty” as he visits with students, it is anticipated that he will become a celebrity of sorts, both on campus and in the greater community.

“Ruggles will be deployed on campus several days a week from 8 a.m. to midnight,” said Caron. “He will also be deployed during late night hours when special circumstances arise and his presence is needed. It is important for him to get his rest though, so he will be getting plenty of down time at the Office of Safety and Security as well.”

“I’m thrilled that President Armstrong and our administration are willing to invest in such a worthwhile program,” said Caruolo. “In addition to encouraging community engagement, Ruggles will help calm people and de-escalate situations so our officers can effectively provide assistance. During investigations, the dog can help reduce stress and anxiety, while increasing communication. Ruggles’ constant presence around our campus will contribute to the positive student experience here at Salve.”



Security officers Michelle Caron and Nick Maltais tour the campus with Ruggles.

## Welcome to the Board

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in Oct. 2020, **Wanda Blake '79** is a



global human resources executive who most recently served as the director for corporate human resources at Raytheon

Technologies in Massachusetts. Her areas of expertise include organizational leadership; talent recruitment; development and management; executive-level succession planning; organizational design; policy and program development and implementation; and diversity and inclusion. She is the recipient of the Raytheon Business President's Award for her work in revitalizing a cooperative education program with Northeastern University, which resulted in a 250% increase in organizational participation and a positive impact on student work experiences.

Blake received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Salve Regina and went on to earn her MBA at the University of Hartford. She is a member of the Greater Boston Advisory Board for the Salvation Army's Massachusetts Division.

"As an alumna of Salve, I'm excited to be able to contribute to the future success and growth of the University," said Blake. "I believe in and support the mission, I'll be able to use my talents and skills in business, people and governance to help tackle problems and decisions related to bigger issues, and I want to be part of a group that ensures Salve is around for another 73 years, is relevant and competitive. I'm looking forward to being fully integrated into the trustee team, contributing fully, and seeing positive results. I am motivated by learning, making positive progress,

and seeing that my contribution is valued. I've kept up with Salve through reunions. I follow Salve on LinkedIn and the website. The mission is meaningful to me because the tenets of the mission resonate with me because they are part of my personal values. I look forward to hearing directly from the students, faculty, staff and parents, and building relationships with the Board of Trustee team."

**Anne Wallace Juge** joined the Board



in June. She graduated cum laude with distinction in economics from Yale University. She began her career in public accounting at Arthur Young (now

Ernst & Young) while also earning her Master of Business Administration in Finance at New York University and becoming a Certified Public Accountant. Juge transitioned into a 17-year career in banking and corporate finance at JP Morgan and its predecessors (Manufacturers Hanover, Chemical Bank, and Chase) becoming a managing director in Global Syndicated Finance, then joining Banc of America Securities as a managing director in the Global Special Situations Group.

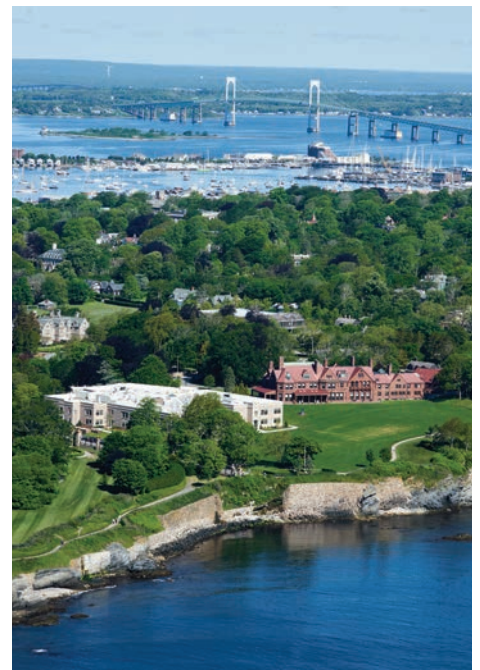
In 2005, Juge and her family moved from New York City to Greenwich, Conn., where she grew up and where her parents, Jean and David W. Wallace, now both deceased, also lived. She decided to focus on her family and volunteer work in the Greenwich community. Juge formerly was a member of the Greenwich Academy Board, and was a 2013 recipient of the YWCA Greenwich Spirit of Greenwich Award. She just completed her board tenure and term as chair of the YWCA Greenwich Board where, since joining the board in 2014, she

had formerly also held the positions of chair of the Audit Committee and then treasurer. Juge is treasurer of the Greenwich Hospital Board and has been a board member since 2010, and serves on the Yale New Haven Health System Finance and Audit Committees. She is also currently treasurer and secretary of the Greenwich Hospital Endowment Fund.

With her sister Mary, Juge is co-president of the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation. Together, the sisters have continued in their parents' tradition of support and love of Salve.

"It is a true honor to have been asked to join the Salve board," said Juge. "My father was a long-term trustee of Salve, and he and my mother had great respect for the importance of the Salve education.

"They also cherished their close friendships with everyone at Salve," she continued. "While only just recently joining the board, I have already learned so much about the history of Salve and its mission. I look forward to working with everyone and feeling the same passion for Salve as my parents had."



*“I feel a strong connection with Catherine McAuley’s vision for educational experiences.”*

– Kathleen Farley, Associate Vice President/Dean of Students

## New Dean of Students Named

Salve Regina welcomed Kathleen Farley to the campus community in July as the new associate vice president and dean of students.

A native of South Buffalo, New York, Farley comes to Salve with more than a decade of experience in student affairs and higher education administration. Most recently, she served as associate dean of students and Title IX coordinator at Canisius College and has also worked in the areas of residential life, international student programs, new student orientation, leadership development and student conduct.

While at Canisius, Farley managed assessment and evaluation for the student affairs division. Deeply committed to advancing efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, she also served as co-chair of the college’s Bias

Resource and Response Team.

“I am really looking forward to returning to the Sisters of Mercy tradition,” said Farley, who attended Mount Mercy Academy, a college-preparatory high school. “I feel a strong connection with Catherine McAuley’s vision for educational experiences.”

A current doctoral candidate at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education, Farley is studying how students experience institutional mission through the prism of their social identities, and whether these experiences impact their sense of belonging.

“From the very start of the interview process, the Salve community drew me in with just how welcoming, passionate and committed they are to the Salve student experience,” she said. “I am excited to join the incredible student affairs team



and support students in establishing their sense of belonging within the Salve Regina community.”

## ROTC Cadet Awards

As members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), senior cadets and administration of justice majors Sean Conran ’21 and Aidan Lynch ’21 were officially commissioned into the U.S. Army as second lieutenants during a graduation ceremony May 21. Earlier in May, Lynch received the Ranger Award during a presentation of ROTC’s Cramer Sabers Battalion Awards. Having served as captain of the Ranger Challenge—a grueling physical competition held by ROTC each year—Lynch was honored with the award for his leadership and physical condition.

Salve Regina cadets Ben Cortes ’22 and Grace Fishpaw ’24 were also presented with awards. Cortes won the Military Orders of World Wars Award for excelling in all military and scholastic aspects of the ROTC program. In addition, he was selected to become the Cadet Battalion Commander, which is the highest-ranking cadet.

“I hope that I can encourage others



to work hard and be the best version of themselves, because they may not see results right away, but in time their hard work will be noticed and acknowledged,” said Cortes. “I will lead by example and strive to be my best so that the other cadets can incorporate these qualities into their lives so they can become future leaders in the battalion.”

Fishpaw won the Reserve Officer Association Award for demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, moral character and a high aptitude for military service.

“I want to help fellow cadets stay motivated and provide information for those interested in Army ROTC,” said

Fishpaw. “This award has also driven me to get stronger this summer and further educate myself in military science so that I can set myself and others up for success.”

The Reserve Officer Training Corps is a college program offered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities across the United States and prepares young adults to become officers in the U.S. military. Salve Regina’s ROTC program emphasizes leadership development through core curriculum and military science courses focusing on written communications, human behavior, history, mathematical reasoning and other skills.

## Building Bridges for Student Success



Though **Dr. Robin Hoffmann** is retiring from her role as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Administration of Justice after 31 years of service, she's not going anywhere soon. Hoffmann has been appointed as a special assistant to the president for student success, which is a continuation of her advocacy on behalf of all students at Salve Regina.

"It is an honor to be able to remain at Salve in my new role," said Hoffmann, "and I believe that I still have much to give to the Salve community. I'm not over the hill yet!

"Over my three decades at Salve Regina, I have had many different roles that focused on building relationships with students. My passion is mentoring students and the gratification from observing them thrive is boundless."

Hoffmann joined the Salve community in 1988 as an adjunct instructor in politics and became a full-time faculty member in administration of justice in 1990. Her academic and professional focus has been in the field of juvenile delinquency and social justice. She has worn many hats—professor, department chair, pre-law advisor, class dean, faculty fellow and mentor, as well as founder of the Stress Busters Pet Therapy Program and Uniting not Dividing, a series of panel discussions focused on police relationships with the communities they serve. In addition to serving as the advisor for the Black Student Union and the Female Empowerment Organization, she has supported students through a variety of initiatives, including the Student Success Committee, Multicultural Education Week, Black Lives Matter marches and so much more.

"Over the years, I have become extremely student-centered and believe in a holistic approach toward student

success," said Hoffmann. "As a faculty member who has successfully transitioned into a role in student affairs, I am in a unique position to build bridges between academic and student affairs. I hope to enhance communication and to be a change agent by helping to advocate for systemic change that will benefit student success and well-being.

Hoffman will continue her involvement in planning Pet Therapy Stress Busters and will also remain a pre-law advisor. In addition to meeting with student leaders and those students who are experiencing a rough patch, she will also work collaboratively with members of the student affairs team on various student satisfaction, equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives.

"My role will be one in which I support our students, helping them become their best selves, highlighting the holistic model of student transformation that makes Salve Regina distinctive," she added. "I'm very excited to be continuing my work at Salve and can't wait to meet the new members of the Class of 2025."

## Meet Fr. Ray



**Reverend Raymond Malm** has been serving as a part-time University chaplain, a role that is the latest chapter in a ministry spanning more than four decades as a priest of the Diocese of Providence.

Fr. Ray was born in Providence and attended local parochial and diocesan schools. He entered Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 1976. His service to the diocese includes pastoral leadership at Saint Joseph's Church in Newport and Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Providence, and he was instrumental in establishing the Office of Black Catholics

in the diocese. He is also the founding president of the Family AIDS Center for Treatment and Support, which is now known as AIDS Care Ocean State, and the co-founder with Sister Ann Keefe of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. Due to his work in this area, he was awarded the "Living the Dream Award" from the State of Rhode Island's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission

Fr. Ray is also actively involved in advocacy work related to immigration reform, accompanying and supporting those who are undocumented. He was recognized by the Women's Resource Center as one of Rhode Island's "Men Who Make a Difference" and in 2018 received the Hero of Faith lifetime achievement award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for his work with the poor. Fr. Ray retired from full-time ministry in the diocese in 2015

but continues to serve on the boards of Amos House, AIDS Care Ocean State, Dorcas International and the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence.

As University chaplain, Fr. Ray presides at liturgies and engages with students and community through RCIA and other sacramental and pastoral outreach initiatives.

"I am extremely happy that Salve and I found each other," said Fr. Ray. "I have been blessed in my ministry throughout my priesthood.

"At Salve, I have an opportunity to share what I have learned over the years working with God's poor and underprivileged, our poor and underprivileged," he continued. "I want to bring to Salve training in nonviolence, awareness of the needs of undocumented people in our midst. I want to work with the students and faculty to explore and work in the social ministry of the church; it is a rich tradition and we all have much to give."

# Salve Salutes

*our retiring faculty*

Retiring faculty represent more than 140 years of service to the University. The Salve Regina community extends its deepest gratitude and best wishes for a joyful retirement to five of its extraordinary faculty members.



**Dr. Harold Lawber**, professor of economics, joined the Salve community in 1988, and has been a wonderful colleague and valued member of the Department of Business and

Economics ever since. Over the years he has taken on a number of roles, including department chair for economics prior to its merger with business, executing his duties with enthusiasm and true dedication to his students and the program. In addition, Lawber was instrumental in the introduction, design and leadership of the initial five-year MBA program, and has long been involved with the Pell Honors Program economics coursework. He has published and presented research across the globe in several interdisciplinary areas, often focusing on the relationship of economics with history, language and a multitude of other subject-areas.



**Dr. Ellen McCarty**, professor of nursing, has been with the University since 1992 and has been the lead instructor for Salve's mental health courses and clinicals. Her clinical practice

and expertise lie in the field of geropsychiatric nursing, with more than 25 years of practice working with Alzheimer's patients and their families.

In addition, McCarty has collaborated on a research project looking at the health impacts of the Stress Buster pet therapy program on students. During her career, she earned the Lifetime Achievement Award from Sigma Theta Tau Delta Upsilon as well as a Fulbright senior specialist grant in global health.

**John Rok**, associate professor of religious and theological studies, began his Salve career in 1979 as a staff member in student affairs and transitioned to a full-time faculty member in academic



affairs in 2012. His academic interests involve the intersection of religion and political discourse in the United States. Rok has served as the NCAA faculty athletics representative and has been instrumental in getting faculty and administrators to be team advisors and encouraging the entire community to show support for our teams. He also has been the faculty liaison to the Office of Community Service and has coordinated the Mustard Seed service trips to Nicaragua and Jamaica on multiple occasions.

Rok has been unyielding in his commitment to Salve's mercy mission and has been described as the "champion of experiential learning." He is deeply connected and committed to the Newport community and has taken many students on a "dive into Newport," exploring the city's social and historical dimensions through his university seminar classes and community service.

**Dr. Will Stout**, professor of mathematical sciences, worked for several years as an applied mathematician in industry before joining the Department of Mathematical



Sciences in 1988. Over the years, Stout worked closely with faculty across departments, most notably chemistry, successfully winning several science and mathematics education-related grants. He's shown great energy and collegiality in working with mathematics colleagues to advance several curriculum initiatives, including most recently contributing to the department's new streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the major. Stout also been extraordinary in his dedication to teaching and advising students and has been a wonderful mentor for both faculty and students alike.

A special note of recognition and gratitude is due to **Dr. Christina Martin '63, RSM**, visiting professor in the Department of Education. Though she



joined the Salve faculty only four years ago, it was at a time when an unexpected vacancy arose in the department and Martin agreed to help out, very much in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy. Since then, she has continued to step up wherever needed and has taught courses in early childhood, elementary and secondary education, along with serving as an advisor to students. Martin has enjoyed working with her Salve students and taught both in-person and online classes during the pandemic, all while volunteering at Newport Hospital and teaching English to adults at St. Joseph's Church.



## Captains' Corner



### Leading with Grace

Seahawks captains Eliza Timms '22 and Joey Mauriello '22 find lifelong friends as student-athletes.

The bond between **Eliza J. Timms '22** and her field hockey teammates inspires her to succeed on and off the field at Salve Regina.

A native of Agawam, Massachusetts, Timms will serve as the field hockey team's captain as she enters her senior year. She admitted that she joined the recruitment process at Salve very late in the game because she was apprehensive about how the sport would affect her major and future goals.



Eliza Timms '22

"After my last high school field hockey game, I realized that I didn't want to stop playing because I would miss the competitiveness of the game and the friends who had become like family," she said.

When she was applying for college, Salve was one of Timms' top choices because she felt that she could balance her academics and athletics well since she hopes to pursue medical school after graduation. "I loved the small classroom

sizes, the research opportunities and the honors program. The beautiful location and views of the ocean were also a bonus in my decision process," said Timms.

Though she started out as a biology major, Timms decided to switch to biochemistry in her sophomore year. "I found out that I enjoyed chemistry more, but still wanted to pursue my path to medical school in order to become a dermatologist," she said.

As the center forward for the Seahawks, Timms has played field hockey since fifth grade. Her awards include All-Commonwealth Coastal Conference (CCC) Second Team as a first-year and sophomore student-athlete; CCC Offensive Player of the Week; 2019 Division III Scholar of Distinction; Sophomore Class Award 2020 and CCC Academic All-Conference 2019 and 2020.

"What I love most about being a student-athlete at Salve is the sense of camaraderie between all teams and athletes," Timms explained. "As a member of one of the fall sports, I love coming to campus early for pre-season in order to focus on my sport and bond with my teammates who have become like a

second family." Even though she loves playing field hockey, Timms admits that she doesn't always love the 6 a.m. practices, but watching the sun rise over Gaudet Field makes it better.

#### Joseph "Joey" M. Mauriello '22



Joey Mauriello '22

Timms, Mauriello loved how welcoming and friendly his teammates were, even before he arrived at Salve from Colts Neck, New Jersey.

"Being a student-athlete, you always seem to run into friendly faces all around campus who know you because of your team," he said. "Your teammates constantly look out for you and support you."

Mauriello said that he chose Salve Regina because he loved the campus and the people that he met. "Even



though I hadn't begun my freshman year at Salve and was getting to know my teammates, I was so amazed by how welcoming and kind everyone was to me," he said. "I also loved the beautiful location and that Salve was near the ocean."

A team captain and running back for the Seahawks, Mauriello is in the five-year combined bachelor's/master's program pursuing his MBA, so will continue at Salve after he receives his undergraduate degree in business administration. Upon graduation, Mauriello hopes to run the marketing department for a professional sports team.

"I didn't plan on playing football in college because I had a tough experience in high school, but once I met the students at Salve, I decided to give it another shot," he said. "I've played football for most of my life and I'm glad that I decided to try the college level."

Mauriello's awards include Commonwealth Coastal Conference offensive player of the week in 2019; second team all-CCC Offensive Rookie of the Year and Offensive Player of the Week in 2018.

For those students aspiring to become Seahawks, both Timms and Mauriello

advocate for trying out even if apprehensive about making the team.

"It was the best decision I've ever made. It's given me my lifelong friends along with a whole new appreciation for the sport I love," Timms said.

Mauriello agrees that students should give tryouts their best effort as well. "Always give it your best try because you never know what the outcome will be. When you do become a member of a particular team, always treasure every friendship that you make because they will help you succeed."

*-Emily Dussault '04*

## All Stars

A record-setting 874 Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) student-athletes were recently named to the league's Spring Academic All-Conference Team, and another record-breaking 119 Salve Regina students made the list. The Seahawks on the Spring Academic All-Conference Team are represented by 49 sophomores, 31 juniors and 39 seniors.

The spring list includes participants from each of the CCC's member institutions who compete in baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's golf, men's

and women's ice hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, softball, men's tennis, and men's and women's track and field. In order to be recognized as a member of the Academic All-Conference Team, an athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) and must also have attained sophomore academic status.

Also noteworthy is that Salve Regina's student-athletes posted their highest annual GPA from the last five years. Despite adjusting to a "new-normal"

for learning, training, competition, and campus life, Salve Regina's athletes, encompassing its 20 varsity sports, combined to post a 3.439 GPA during the 2020-21 academic year. That number serves as the new highwater mark, continuing a steadily upward trend since 2016-17 when the annual GPA for that academic year was 3.277 for varsity athletes.

## Seahawk fans...

visit us online at [salveathletics.com](http://salveathletics.com).

Salve Regina University's  
**Rodgers Family Department of Nursing**  
will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit  
**October 20-22, 2021**

by a team representing the  
**Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).**

The team will be tasked with evaluating the University's master's (MSN) and doctoral (DNP) programs, both of which have been accredited by CCNE since 2016.

Public comments may be directed to  
[thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org](mailto:thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org).

Written third-party comments must be received by CCNE  
no later than **September 29, 2021** for consideration.

Officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency, CCNE is an autonomous accrediting agency, contributing to the improvement of the public's health. CCNE serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing programs and supports continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education programs.

As part of the evaluation process, CCNE provides the opportunity for program constituents and other interested parties to submit, in writing, third-party comments concerning Salve Regina's MSN and DNP programs. CCNE shares third-party comments with members of the evaluation team prior to the visit, but at no time during the review process are these comments shared with the program. During its review, the evaluation team considers third-party comments that relate to the CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (2018). All third-party comments submitted to CCNE must be written in English, consistent with CCNE's policy on Conduct of Business in English. Only signed comments are accepted.

# 30,000 Stitches

A story of strength, resiliency and hope in memory of 9/11.

*By Corilyn Henault Richard '15, '20 (M)*

The American flag has always been a symbol of our country's strength and honor. The pride felt at the start of a baseball game as the flag waves in the wind during the playing of the National Anthem or the memories of learning about the 13 stripes and 50 stars in elementary school are all connections and emotions we remember.

"30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag" was written by author-illustrator and art teacher, Amanda Davis '07. The book tells the true story of the American flag that was raised above the wreckage in New York City across from Ground Zero by construction workers clearing the scene after Sept. 11, 2001. The 30-foot flag hung above the city for weeks, representing the nation's hope and strength throughout a time of deep hurt and sorrow. During these tumultuous times, the flag encouraged first responders, construction workers, and people across America to keep pushing forward, united as a nation.

Although the flag stood strong for weeks its colors eventually faded, and it was taken down after being becoming torn and tattered. The flag was tucked away in storage for nearly seven years by Ground Zero construction superintendent Charlie Vitchers, who began volunteering for the New York Says Thank You Foundation (NYSTY) while the flag stayed untouched in his shed. NYSTY

volunteers travel across the country on the anniversary of 9/11 each year to assist communities affected by disasters. When volunteers planned to head to Kansas for a cleanup from a massive tornado in 2008, Vitchers decided to take the flag with him. His plan was to have it officially retired with other flags damaged by the tornado.

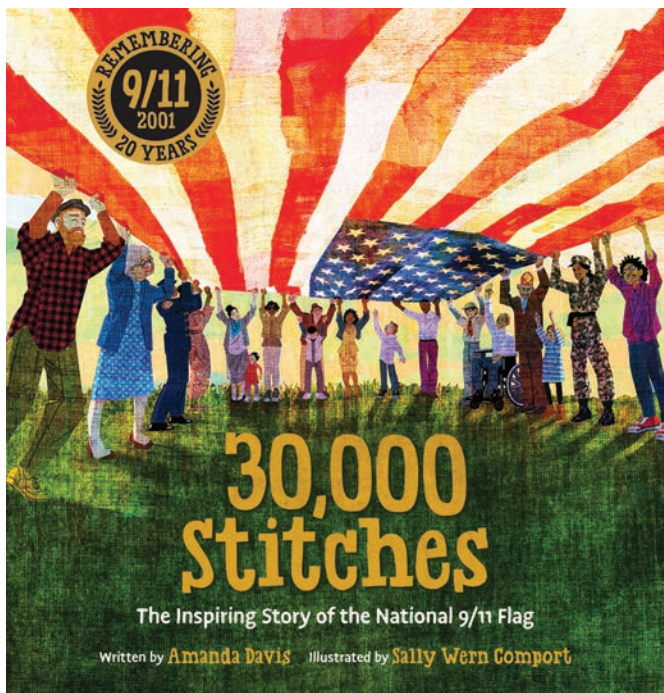
As it turned out, Greensburg, Kansas would only be the first stop for the national 9/11 flag. After seeing the flag's condition, residents of the town began patching it back together with remnants of other American flags from the tornado. This sparked "a grassroots restoration effort that traveled over 120,000 miles across all 50 states, bringing together thousands of people, and helping America heal and rebuild...hand by hand, thread by thread, one stitch at a time," said Davis. The restored flag was mended at every stop along the way—by military veterans in Hawaii, families of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and even members of the space program at the Kennedy Space Center.

The flag made its way through all 50 states and received 30,000 new stitches after its last stop in Joplin, Missouri. Here, it was touched by 1,067 tornado survivors before the last leg of its journey back to New York. On the 10th remembrance of 9/11, the flag was honored in a celebratory display, and now lives at the



*Amanda Davis '07 and Cora*





National September 11 Memorial & Museum. It remains there as a symbol of hope, healing, resilience and unity.

As an art teacher for the Hull (Mass.) Public Schools, Davis was inspired to write the story surrounding the 9/11 flag because of a lesson she taught to her students.

“I was searching for a new art lesson for my high school art curriculum—one that commemorated the lives lost on that tragic day, but also focused on the strength and unity that America displayed,” said Davis.

After discovering the story of the national 9/11 flag, Davis visited the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and began her research and writing. She was connected with Jeff Parness, founder and director of NYSTY, along with Carolyn and Denny Deters, the volunteer couple who carried the flag with them across the country. Davis also had the chance to speak with Vitchers, who was the first of many to play a role in the flag’s safekeeping. In her book, Davis reflects on the selfless

dedication to service, sacrifice and compassion displayed by so many.

“I imagine if the flag could talk,” she explained, “it would inspire future generations to be kind to one another, to remember our history, and to look for hope in our future. It would tell us that we can make it through any tragedy if we unite and work together. It would remind us that we are resilient; we are strong; we are the fabric of America.”

Davis received her bachelor’s degree with a double major in English communications and studio art from Salve Regina and went on to earn a master’s degree in art education from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The creative, nonfiction picture book is her debut publication, and is illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. “30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag,” was released in May by Hachette Book Group/WorthyKids.

“I have no doubt the skills and knowledge that I gained from my time at Salve helped ensure that this dream came true,” said Davis.

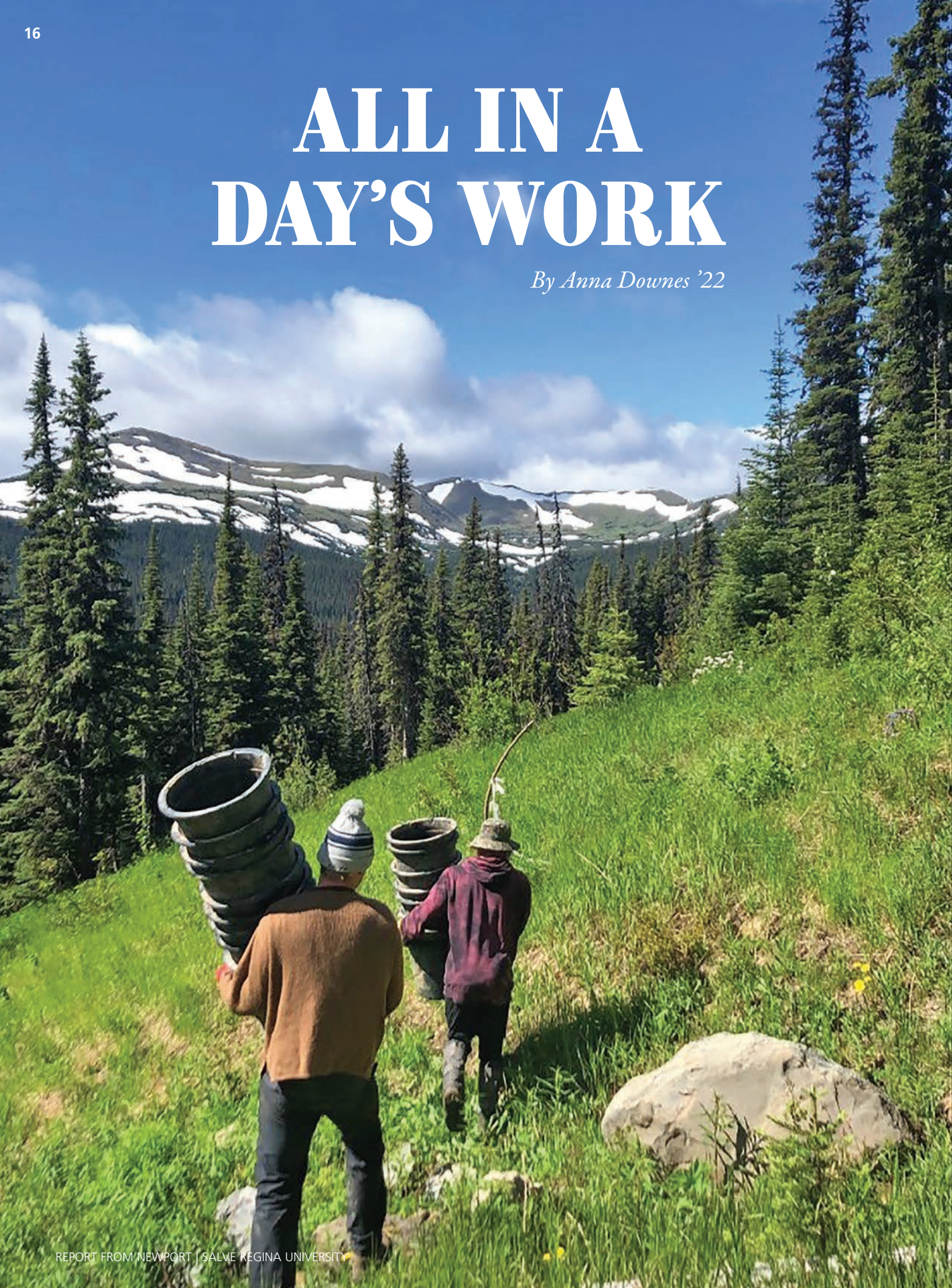
Davis often incorporates writing and reflecting into her art education curriculum and is excited that her book and the story of the national 9/11 flag can be used as a resource for teaching and learning with students. She looks to share the hope she has found in this story with others through her picture book.

“I hope that ‘30,000 Stitches’ can inspire others,” Davis reflected. “I hope it offers healing to all those in need. I hope it serves as a reminder that light can come from darkness; that we can rise from the shadows if we unite and come together. We are resilient. We are strong. We are connected through our stories. Stories of suffering. Stories of loss. Stories of compassion. Stories of kindness. Our stories are stitched together. Our stories are the fabric of America.”

*Editor’s note: To learn more about “30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag,” visit [amandadavisart.com](http://amandadavisart.com).*

# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

*By Anna Downes '22*



## LEVI MITCHELL '24 SPENDS HIS SUMMER BREAKS ON REFORESTATION PROJECTS IN CANADA.

**T**EN-HOUR DAYS HIKING THROUGH rugged Canadian forests, no lunch breaks and a goal of planting 2,500 trees each day. Not exactly the typical summer job but for Levi Mitchell '24, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Originally from Alberta, Canada, Mitchell was drawn to Salve Regina by the men's ice hockey program after playing in



the junior leagues in Manitoba. He also found the University's unique location, allowing ocean access and year-round surfing, to be attractive. He arrived on campus as a business major but

soon discovered that his passion for ecological advocacy was a perfect fit for the environmental studies program, which enables him to focus on his interest in environmental issues and pursue his love for the outdoors.

Mitchell finds the coursework engaging and is excited by the many career opportunities available in the field. Already well on his way to building an impressive resume, he spends his summers working in the forests of British Columbia, Canada, planting trees as part of the country's reforestation efforts. He became hooked on the idea after visiting his older brother, who was doing the same work and also influenced Mitchell's love for hockey and surfing, and decided to follow in his sibling's footsteps in a job that allows him to spend the summer months replenishing vital environmental resources for future generations.

"Tree planting is usually described as one of Canada's toughest jobs," says Mitchell. "We leave our camp after breakfast and work 10 hours a day. We work when it's hot, cold, raining and, one time, I planted trees when it was snowing in July. A planter's attitude, efficiency and endurance are the keys to success."

Planters start their day at 7 a.m.

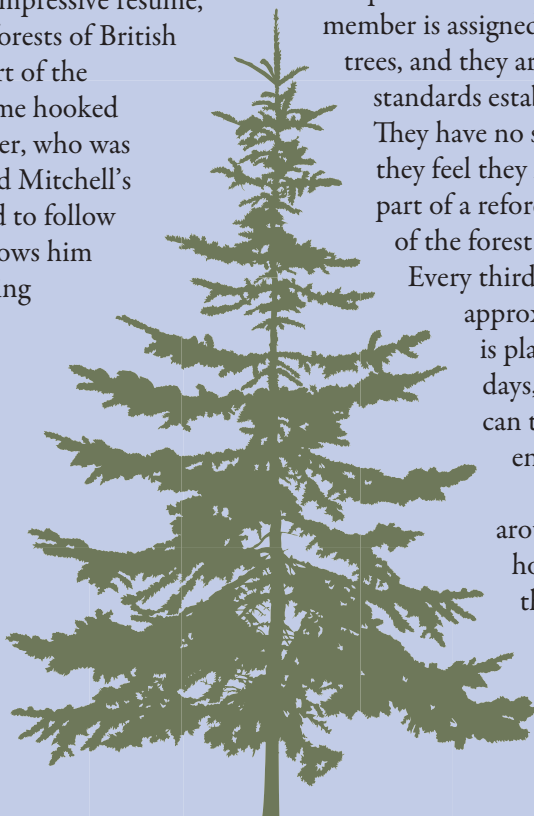


*"It's important for people to know that trees provide one of nature's best ways to absorb carbon in the atmosphere."*

and spend the next 10 hours hiking and planting. Each crew member is assigned a section of land in which to plant trees, and they are required to meet quality and destiny standards established by the Canadian government. They have no scheduled lunch breaks; they eat when they feel they have time and when they are hungry. As part of a reforestation project, they work in sections of the forest where trees were previously cleared.

Every third step a planter takes, a sapling, which is approximately the size of Mitchell's forearm, is planted. Crews work for three consecutive days, followed by a fourth day off, when they can take advantage of their surroundings and enjoy all the forest has to offer.

"An experienced planter will try to plant around 2,500 to 4,000 trees in those 10 hours and usually will be loading trees into their bags as they are eating their PB and J sandwiches so they can maximize their time," says Mitchell, whose record for a day's planting is 4,180 trees.





The planting season runs from the beginning of May through the end of August. Mitchell is in his second summer as a foreman working for Spectrum Resource Group, after completing two years as a planter for Nata Reforestation and Management. As foreman, he hires his crew of 12, some of whom are former teammates from hockey teams with which he has played. In addition to hiring, organizing and managing his crew, his job includes responsibilities such as managing the land and moving trees around the sites on an ATV. An added bonus is that his dog, Jazz, a 4-year-old Labrador retriever



rescued from the Calgary Humane Society, accompanies him all summer as an unofficial team mascot.

Like every other industry, the coronavirus pandemic had its impact, but interestingly enough, the number of applicants increased, suggesting that a break from the restrictions to serve

in tightly knit communities in the forest was attractive for many people. The start of the 2020 season was delayed while regulations were set, which resulted in increased sanitization efforts around camp and prohibited travel into nearby towns on days off.

“Canada-wide, the industry ended up having no reported cases of COVID-19 and a successful season with over 300 million trees planted,” explains Mitchell, with pride. “For most tree planters, they were able to skip three months of the pandemic to camp outdoors instead.”

Tree planting advances sustainability and promotes biodiversity in the forests. As logging companies come through to fell trees, reforestation crews follow to replant the cleared areas. Other efforts include habitat reclamation and wildfire recovery. Mitchell and his crew plant spruce, pine, and Douglas fir trees. It is healthier for the forest to have a wide variety of trees, as each supports the ecosystem differently. However, protecting old trees is just as important as planting new ones.

“It’s important for people to know that trees provide one of nature’s best ways to absorb carbon in the atmosphere,” explains Mitchell. “Old growth forests around the world like the Amazon rainforest and Boreal forests are thousands of years old and absorb more carbon than a young ecosystem. In British Columbia, there has been growing concern over the harvesting of old forests. So, our emphasis needs to be on preserving our old growth forests from logging and continuing to increase sustainability of logging.”

Mitchell is proud of his work planting trees, and his commitment is clear; he supports companies that invest in good stewardship of the land, such as Patagonia and North Face. He also serves on Salve Regina’s Campus Tree Advisory Committee and attended a virtual reforestation conference in February that featured some of the biggest names in the tree-planting sector.

“I am fortunate to have a leadership position in the industry, which has taught me many lessons in communication, discipline and strategy at a young age,” says Mitchell. “When I feel it’s time to leave tree planting, I want to combine my education with environmental studies and my goals of being an outdoor guide.”

“Salve grows immeasurably anytime a student with in-depth knowledge, passion and commitment to a field of knowledge shares that willingly with classmates and in our classrooms,” says Dr. Jameson Chace, biology and environmental studies professor. “Levi’s work reforesting western Canada resonates in his essays in my biology courses, and perhaps more importantly, his friends use Levi and his experiences as their own examples for ecological concepts in their biology exam essays. Clearly, Levi carries the western coniferous forests as part of his daily lexicon and it is contagious.”



*“We work when it’s hot, cold, raining and, one time, I planted trees when it was snowing in July. A planter’s attitude, efficiency and endurance are the keys to success.”*

Levi Mitchell '24 (second from left) and his crew work on reforestation efforts in British Columbia, Canada.



# The Year

*"The pandemic really taught me how to adapt to changes quickly. As a dance minor and a member of Extensions Dance Company, there were so many things that we had to adapt to and we were able to do so gracefully and in a positive manner. It just shows how resilient we can be when times get tough!"*

- Ciara Labbe '21



*"Over the past year, while teaching during a global pandemic in a public elementary school, I was able to learn a lot about myself. Most importantly, I learned how to become a more empathetic and understanding teacher for my students who were growing up in a time where they were scared to simply come to school and get an education."*

-Abigail Frasier '21

# that Was

*"The pandemic has taught me two important lessons: one, the importance of human connection, and two, the importance of adaptability. I believe the Salve community has done the best they can in light of the pandemic."*

*-Emma Kiely '21*



*"As the saying goes, you don't realize how much you had until it's gone, and we all felt that in spring 2020. What I have learned the most over this past year is the ever more crucial need to cherish the moment and be thankful for what I currently have. We will never know what can disappear in the blink of an eye."*

*-Evan Elichalt '21*



# THEN AND NOW



At the start of the fall 2020 semester, Caitlyn Rubino '22 was looking for an undergraduate research project. She has a passion for photography, so she brainstormed with Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of environmental

studies, to come up with a few ideas that could help showcase her work. They settled on examining the change in the area's landscape by taking a historical image and comparing it to a present-day photo from the same spot.

The research project, titled "The Study of Landscape Change on Aquidneck Island," included a brief history of repeat photography—which involves taking photographs of the same subject, from the same location, at different times—and why it's an important tool, as well as eight before-and-after photos.

To begin her research, Rubino, a Connecticut native, reached out to The Newport Daily News after coming across a gallery of historical images. She explained the vision of her project and the newspaper sent her the photos she sought to recreate.

Among the photos are One Mile Corner, the road leading to Naval Station Newport, the surfers' end of Sachuest Beach and the view atop Trinity Church. Rubino then reached out to the Newport Historical Society to get a general sense of when the photos were taken.

"The Historical Society was forced to base the estimations on factors such as unpaved roads, horse-drawn buggies, and motor cars depicted on the streets," Rubino, an environmental studies major who is also minoring in marketing, photography



and food studies, wrote in her research paper.

Pinpointing dates weren't the only hiccups she encountered.

"Some locations were more difficult to find than others due to the noticeable landscape alterations and new buildings and homes that were constructed over the years," she wrote. "There were challenges that stood in the way while creating the repeat images such as overgrown trees, other vegetation, and even man-made structures that took up space of subject to be photographed."

For example, in the image of the Cliff Walk, finding the tunnel that appears in the historical image proved wildly difficult, mostly because that tunnel no longer exists.

Rubino said she first fell in love with photography when







she took a class as a first-year student at Salve Regina. That's when she acquired the Canon used - along with a 17-to-40 millimeter lens - to replicate the photos, which were captured in the late afternoon when daylight was softer, she said.

"During the process of re-photographing, the original images were held adjacent to the new ones in order to replicate an identical image and style with the correct angles," she wrote in her paper.

Not surprisingly, Rubino earned an 'A' for her project and went on to present her work at the 2021 Northeast Natural History Conference in April. Co-authored by Chace and Jodie Mim Goodnough, assistant professor of art and art history, the paper was titled "Repeat Photography Captures a Century of Landscape Change on Aquidneck Island, RI (1880-2020)."

Rubino said her favorite image was the one from Trinity Church. "I've never been up that high before, and to see that whole view of Newport was breathtaking," she said.

"What I learned is how much the island has changed over the years," she said. "It looks so much different."

*Editor's note: Written by Scott Barrett, this story was originally published in the Newport Daily News Feb. 9; minor updates have been included.*



# FOOD FIGHT

Salve alumni are stepping up to find solutions to food inequality.

*-By Teryn O'Brien*

**W**ith the pandemic beginning in 2020, researchers at Northwestern University found that food insecurity more than doubled during the economic crisis brought on by the outbreak. In 2021, Feeding America—the nation’s leading hunger-relief organization—estimated that around 42 million people, including 13 million children, are currently facing food insecurity. That’s about 12.5% of the U.S. population, which is the largest number in recent decades.

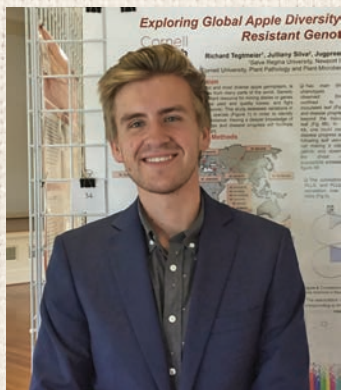
But the pandemic and its impact on food access are just one small part of a larger issue stemming from global warming and climate change. The United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) observed that climate change is already affecting food security through increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and greater frequency of extreme events.

All of these issues add up to a growing concern around food inequality and food access—issues that impact every single one of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. This is where Salve Regina alumni are stepping up to offer solutions with the hope of combating these rising challenges in a variety of different ways—from researching plant science for healthier crops to helping maintain sustainable local food sources.



## Becoming a Plant Scientist

According to Ricky Tegtmeier '19, who



graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology, the talks around food access start at the macro level with how effective the world is at growing food. Originally from New York, Tegtmeier spent much of his time at Salve Regina doing research under Dr. Jameson Chace and Dr. Steven Symington, both professors of biology and biomedical sciences.

Tegtmeier also worked in the hydroponics lab. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants where the medium of growing is water instead of soil, but the water has the same spectrum of nutrients that plants would need in a normal soil environment.

"We adjust the pH of the water similar to how you'd adjust the pH of the soil, so it's good living conditions for the plant, and then we put them under artificial light in a controlled environment," Tegtmeier explained. "Then we have a very high degree of control of plant growth, and we can do very controlled plant experiments."

Because of his experiences at Salve Regina—as well as working on small organic farms in New York's Hudson Valley during the summer months—Tegtmeier knew he wanted to pursue a plant science position. Still, he wasn't sure that he wanted to focus on plant breeding and genetics until the end of his undergraduate research internship with Cornell University. After that internship, he went on to study plant breeding and genetics in Cornell's doctoral program.

Currently, Tegtmeier has two major components to his work at Cornell. One side of it is a statistical, bioinformatic, computational based project where he's mapping new sources of gene resistance or susceptibility within the apple genome. The other part of his job is applying genome editing to knock out or turn off genes that are associated with disease susceptibility. Tree fruit breeding is tedious and long, and Tegtmeier is trying to find ways to help fruit trees resist a particularly destructive disease called fire blight, a common bacterial disease that can quickly ravage apple trees in a region much like a wildfire.

So how does this all fit into food access? For thousands of years, plant breeding and guiding the genetics of plants has been common practice to fit plants into environments. Once plant scientists have a certain disease-resistant plant variety that is good for a certain region, then growing and harvesting become more stable. Due to climate change, predicating how the climate is going to play out in a region is becoming harder, according to Tegtmeier.

"Every plant breeder looks about 10 years in the future, but if you have those widening margins and you're breeding for 10 years in the future, then it's harder to find the mark that will continue to feed eventually 10 billion people by 2050," said Tegtmeier.

It's clear that Tegtmeier's task is essential in the grand scheme of food scarcity. But while plant genetics is a macro-level look at food access, more Salve Regina alumni are working at the local level to provide food to their communities.



***"Every plant breeder looks about 10 years in the future, but if you have those widening margins [due to climate change], then it's harder to find the mark that will continue to feed eventually 10 billion people by 2050."***

*-Ricky Tegtmeier '19*



*Ricky Tegtmeier '19*



Kelsey Fitzgibbons '11, Anjali Gordon '20 and Mary-Kate Kane '10

## Aquidneck Community Table

Crisis usually shows the holes in both global and local food supply chains, and the empty grocery stores during 2020 showed just how vulnerable people are to food shortages. That's where more locally grown and harvested food can come in handy. Founded in 2016, Aquidneck Community Table (ACT) works to build a sustainable local food system through community gardens, farmers' markets and public education initiatives in Newport and the surrounding communities. Three alumni who currently work at ACT are Kelsey Fitzgibbons '11, Anjali Gordon '20 and Mary-Kate Kane '10.

"I think 2020 specifically really drove home the importance of having a local food system, especially during the pandemic when the shortages of different items were really being felt," said Fitzgibbons, who majored in social work at Salve and is now the farmers' market manager at ACT.

During the pandemic, Aquidneck Community Table saw a huge uptick at the farmers' markets with people looking for goods that they would have otherwise found at the grocery store. ACT also saw a huge interest in gardening, as people turned to growing their own food.

"We all just felt such a lack of control over what was going on, and gardening was something productive that you could do," said Kane, who was an international studies major while



AQUIDNECK  
COMMUNITY  
TABLE

at Salve Regina. "You're outside, breathing the fresh air, growing healthy food for yourself and your family."

While Newport residents and those living on Aquidneck Island are considered to be well-off, that is not always the case. There is a huge community of people on the island who live in poverty or do not have access to good food, according to ACT.

"Even if people have access to food, it's not always good, nutritious food that they can put in their body," said Fitzgibbons. "So, they may be able to walk to the corner store ... and get a bag of chips, but they might not have access to a grocery store where they can get cucumbers and carrots."

Aquidneck Community Table has tried hard to fill in the needs that they see in the community—especially during COVID-19. In 2020, ACT was allowed to only have their employees in certain gardening spaces, so the team grew, harvested, and gave away fresh food by donating it to various organizations. They also partnered with Rhode Island's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so that customers could use SNAP benefits at the farmers' markets, and they were able to coordinate with local Spanish-speaking communities to give out grocery certificates for use specifically at the markets.

Gordon is doing an 11-month service term at ACT through TerraCorps—the environmental branch of AmeriCorps—where she serves as the sustainable agriculture coordinator. Along with growing lots of produce, Gordon has been helping build a youth program called the Root Riders. The Root Riders gives teenagers between 14- and 17-years-old the opportunity to gain job experience by riding across Aquidneck Island to community gardens, growing food, and learning about sustainable living and small business practices. The six-week program launched this summer 2021 and is a paid apprenticeship.

"Aquidneck Island is considered a food desert—mainly because we're an island," Gordon said. "I think that also touches upon the importance of community members learning to grow foods and vegetables...Having youth involved in our mission is so important, and you do really see a different side of it all from their perspective."



## New Hampshire Food Bank

Maria Smith '16 was an environmental studies major while at Salve. Like Tegtmeier, she also grew plants in the hydroponics lab with Chace—and because of her experiences at Salve, she developed a real interest in working with local food. After college, Smith served for a year with AmeriCorps, working with a nonprofit in Massachusetts that trained new and refugee farmers. She then went on to work as a wholesale distributor at a large-scale organic farm in New Hampshire.



“When working with local food and trying to have them to move it—a lot of the time you’re just getting food to people who can afford it, and there’s a lot of stigma that all this great food can be really expensive. It’s hard for everyone to access,” said Smith. “So always on the back of my mind, there was a little voice saying, ‘We can do better.’ I was really interested in ... moving toward food access and helping everyone get access to the nutritious food that they need.”

In 2019, Smith started her job as the Cooking Matters NH program coordinator at the New Hampshire Food Bank. Food banks exist across America to help people with food access, and they also help alleviate food waste. Without food banks, individuals and families who are truly struggling might starve.

“Food banks ... don’t necessarily give money to individuals,” Smith explained. “We work as kind of the warehouse or the distribution center that gets food to agencies like food pantries or soup kitchens. We’re kind of like the middleman.”

The New Hampshire Food Bank is the only food bank in the entire state. In 2020 during the pandemic, it distributed more than 17 million pounds of food and almost 15 million meals through its different programs, Smith shared.

Smith saw firsthand how the need rose through 2020 across New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Food Bank started mobile food pantries that could travel across the state, and she helped distribute food at these mobile stations. “Especially at the beginning, the lines were just so long, there were so many people coming to get food,” she said.

Even during the crisis, education around healthy food choices was crucial. An unhealthy diet can cause many lifelong issues and is linked to poor health and mental health outcomes. Cooking Matters is a national program in all 50 states with the goal of helping end childhood hunger by educating low-income families on how to shop for and prepare healthy meals. As the Cooking Matters NH program coordinator at the New Hampshire Food Bank, Smith’s role is to educate low-income families



Maria Smith '16

**“It’s not necessarily a person in a homeless shelter. Anyone can be food insecure and need help ...”**

*-Maria Smith '16*

on cooking healthy, nutritious meals. Usually, these classes happen in person, although during COVID-19, she taught via Zoom.

Smith thinks it’s important to emphasize that families in need do not necessarily look like a stereotypical impoverished family, and that you can never really know who is struggling with putting food on the table.

“Even if someone has a house and if they have a job and they look like they’re doing okay, you never what’s going on,” she said. “It’s not necessarily a person in a homeless shelter. Anyone can be food insecure and need help .... If you’ve never done it before, it can be so hard to try to ask for help. We have people in the food pantry lines that have tears in their eyes because they never thought they would have to do this.”

Like Fitzgibbons, Gordon, Kane and Tegtmeier, Smith is passionate about carrying out Salve’s mercy mission by helping to provide food access to those who are vulnerable—whether it be through climate change, a pandemic, or personal struggle.

“When I do my work, I definitely feel like I’m living out the mercy mission whenever I can in whatever way I can,” said Smith. “Just helping those who need it.”



# COMMENCEMENT 2020 & 2021

*By Matthias Boxler '04 (M)*

Five Commencement ceremonies within a 10-day stretch in May is not typical at Salve Regina, but for a University community wearied by more than a year of social distancing and other COVID-19 restrictions, the opportunity to unite with family and friends on campus once again was not only welcome, but well worth celebrating more than once.

A ceremony for graduate students was held May 6, three more for undergraduates on May 9 – Mother’s Day, and finally, a ceremony May 16 for members of the Class of 2020 who eagerly returned to campus more than 14 months after the global pandemic pulled the rug out from beneath the final semester of their senior years, forcing a campus closure and a virtual graduation. Each of the ceremonies blended both in-person traditions with pre-recorded elements, all of which was livestreamed. In accordance with the state’s regulations at the time, graduates were permitted to invite two guests each to their ceremonies.

“Words are not adequate to express how much it means to be in your presence today,” an emotional Salve president, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, conveyed to some 300 members of the Class of 2020 who had returned for their in-person ceremony. “I will always have a particular bond with you, a special connection, because you were the first class to graduate since my arrival to Salve. Though we have been separated by the coronavirus and our inability to convene for Commencement last year, you have never been far from all of our thoughts. And you will always have a singular place in Salve’s history.”

That history forever altered their lives and spilled over



into the 2020-21 academic year as well. What started as a worry for students studying abroad in Italy just before the University's spring break in March 2020, quickly turned into the cancellation of spring trips for Salve's athletes and for community service, and ultimately to the sudden shutdown of campus and a shift to remote learning.

"When I witness the great achievements of our students, I am always proud," Armstrong told them. "When I see achievements gained in the face of all odds and bumps and barriers, they mean even more because they are so hard-fought. I am deeply grateful that you have come back to Salve because we have sorely missed you. You are an inspiration to all of us."

Recent history was the dominant theme connecting each of the five ceremonies. Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, Distinguished President's Fellow for Global Development at Purdue University and the retired president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, offered pre-recorded remarks for the Class of 2021. She was presented an honorary doctorate along with two longtime local community advocates, Ruth Barge Thumbtzen and David Brodsky. In all, 810 degrees were conferred during the ceremony, including 546 baccalaureate, 251 master's and 13 doctoral degrees.

Woo talked of the profound loss during this consequential year – loss of friends and relatives who succumbed to COVID-19, loss of routines, rituals, spring breaks, all-night chats with classmates, senior-year rituals, family gatherings and more. She talked about the significance of the deaths of African American citizens including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Stephon Clarke, Philando Castille and others. She talked about a deeply

divided election. She compared 2020-21 to the iconic status of 1929, 1945, 1968 and 2008.

"You will be watching your experiences in many documentaries of 2020 at its 10th, 25th, 50th anniversaries," Woo told the graduates. "There is no question that the losses, sadness, disappointments and anger will take time to process. They will sink into the deep to form lasting conceptions of how the world works, what you can count on, and what you want your life to be about. In these reflections, there is one thread I hope you will also weave into your sense-making, meaning-making tapestry. This is the thread of goodness, kindness and generosity."

Board-certified family nurse practitioner Olivia Krampen, a frontline urgent caregiver at The Perlman Clinic who also assisted with COVID-19 vaccine administration and testing through Aya Healthcare for the University of California San Diego Crisis Response, presented the keynote at the ceremony for graduate students. Krampen earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Salve Regina and was awarded her Doctor of Nursing Practice during the May 6 ceremony.

"As a nurse practitioner, mercy runs deeply through my veins and influences nearly every decision I make," Krampen told her fellow graduates. "For me, being merciful underpins the concept of being accountable to yourself and to others. A nurse becomes accountable to sick patients, their safety and health, where a reliance, dependency, and sense of trust is established. This is an esteemed honor, privilege, and a great responsibility."

Krampen talked about her fulfilling work on the COVID-19

## TOP OF THE CLASS

If anyone had told Samantha Rivera '21 when she started as a first-year student at Salve Regina that she would be valedictorian for the Class of 2021 in just four years, she would have laughed.

"I am so incredibly honored to have been named this year's valedictorian," she said. "It feels amazing to be recognized for all of my hard work over these past four years ... I am so grateful to all of my family and friends who helped me get here."

Rivera, who is graduating with a bachelor's degree in marketing with double minors in business administration and psychology, will be spending the summer in Newport to continue taking classes as part of the five-year MBA program.

Rivera points to Dr. Traci Brady, professor of business and economics, as the teacher who had the greatest impact on her. As Rivera's advisor, Brady helped her stay ahead in order to graduate a semester early while still spending a semester abroad.

"I also had Dr. Brady for many of my marketing classes, and she was the one who convinced me to join Salve's chapter of the American Marketing

Association where I spent a year on the executive board," Rivera described. "I definitely would not have enjoyed studying marketing as much as I did without her and credit her for being prepared to become a marketing professional."

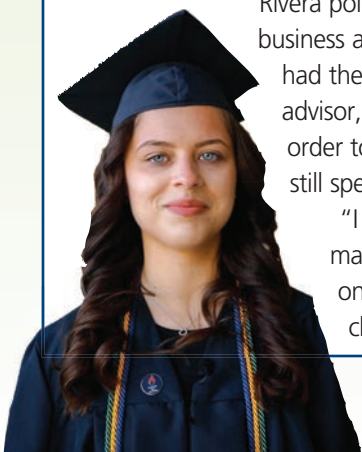
Rivera truly enjoyed her time in the marketing program, and she believes the classes offered were a great combination of creative and analytical components.

"Whether you're a creative thinker or a critical thinker, the marketing program at Salve can be the place for you," she said. "There are so many careers you can enter after earning a marketing degree and the program will provide you with a solid business background."

As Rivera reflected on other aspects of her educational experience at Salve, she shared that the psychology classes she took for her minor were incredibly valuable.

"Courses on cross-cultural psychology and psychology of prejudice ... highlighted the importance of cultural awareness and diversity," she said. "The concepts I learned in my psychology courses can easily be applied in the business world and will help me to be a well-rounded marketing professional."

Rivera's ultimate dream is to someday work for an environmental or social justice-oriented nonprofit organization. "I am passionate about sustainability and want to use my marketing skills to help create a healthier planet and build a more socially just world," she said.



crisis response team that served underserved, vulnerable communities. “I knew that there was a large population of people who were being left out,” she said. “Finally, an opportunity became available to vaccinate at a truck stop close to the Mexico/United States border. It has been inspiring to see the hope, gratitude and selflessness as people wait hours in line for their chance to obtain protection from a virus that has caused immense devastation.”

Kathy Behrens, president of Social Responsibility and Player Programs for the National Basketball Association, also talked about the significance of recent history during her pre-recorded Commencement address for the Class of 2020. Behrens was awarded an honorary degree during the ceremony along with local philanthropist Donald Christ and Civil Rights Movement hero Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr.

“If the Book of Job were written today, it would probably be called ‘The Class of 2020,’” Behrens said. “You had a global pandemic, the worst economic crisis in a generation, social unrest, social distancing, mandatory masks and unsettling shortages of human interaction ... and, occasionally, toilet paper.”

But for all that this class endured, Behrens said there were bright spots too. “We learned to trust science. People across the world marched for racial justice. More Americans voted in a presidential election than at any other time in our nation’s history. We learned to truly appreciate healthcare heroes and front-line workers. Some of us learned to bake and some of us mastered the art of ordering in. But all of us have been through the most unforgettable year of our lives and you, the graduating Class of 2020, have much to be grateful for even if it didn’t go how you planned or hoped.”

After a year dominated by pandemic, Behrens also offered words more traditionally heard during university commencements. “Be present, treasure your time with friends and family, take care of yourself, give back to your community, laugh a lot, and don’t be afraid to make mistakes or take some risks, it’s how you will learn and grow,” she said. “And never forget that it’s not all hard work, skill, and connections that create success. Luck will play a big part in your life as well, and you must keep your eyes open to the opportunities it brings with it, even if it leads you away from your scripted path.”

Armstrong praised Salve graduates for their conduct throughout the highly unusual experience of a once-in-a-century pandemic, especially when translating the challenges of carrying a heavier load into strengths wasn’t immediately clear.

“I wish I had brilliant insights for you on the meaning of this terrible crisis that we have all endured and the long-term positive changes that it will propel forward,” she said. “But frankly, like you, I’m still reeling, and we are all exhausted from the effects of the pandemic. But where I do have some perspective is how proud I am of you for the way in which you conducted yourselves in the middle of this crisis.

“I am particularly impressed that you didn’t just make it through, you did it in a way that was true to our mercy mission, keeping the needs of others and service to your community front and center,” continued Armstrong. “From your Salve degree you have been given special mercy powers. I know you will use these to make a positive difference in the world. So, as we are here together today at the end of the strangest year in our history, I want you to know I am deeply proud of you and I am grateful to call you graduates of Salve Regina University.”

## CLASS OF 2021 CAR PARADE





# Carrying on the Family Legacy

A special note of congratulations to the following Class of 2021 graduates who are children of alumni:

MORGAN LEIGH ALBERT  
Kathleen Lally Albert '91

DREW MICHAEL BARBEAU  
Kathryn Sirica Barbeau '89

NINA MARIE BRANCH  
Catherine Cannilla Branch '85

THORSTON ROBERT BROCHU  
Mark W. Brochu, J.D. '87, '88 (M)

KRYSTIN ELIZABETH GERARD-ANDREWS  
Michelle A. Gerard '89 (M)

ROBERT MICHAEL WELCOME  
Erin A. Welcome-Good '93

CATHERINE MAY MCGEE  
Michael W. McGee '85

ANNA MAE PARADIS  
Michael R. Paradis '89

ALEXIS ROSE PETRONE  
Mary-Kathryn Bradley Petrone '86

EMMA ROSE PIERS  
George Piers '87

JAKE ALAN POOR  
Pamela Chwalek Poor '92

AJA CLAIRE PRAGANA  
Jo-Ann Bettencourt Pragana '82

RACHEL KATE VENUTI  
Carol Anne Napoli Venuti '87

LILLIAN VILLACORTA  
Michelle Spear Villacorta '12 (M)

AARON CLARKIN WHITE  
Margaret A. Clarkin-White '83

ANDREW JAMES YARROW  
Grady A. Yarrow '87, '92 (M)



George '87, Emma '21 and Kimberly Piers



Grady Yarrow '87, '92 (M) and Andrew Yarrow '21



Pam Chwalek Poor '92 and Jake Poor '21



Erin A. Welcome-Good '93 and Robert Welcome '21



Michelle Spear Villacorta '12 (M), Lillian Villacorta '21, Tito Villacorta Jr. and Tito Villacorta



Rachel Venuti '21 and Carole Anne Napoli Venuti '87

Compiled by Teryn O'Brien  
from student submissions

# Welcome to the Alumni Family

Class of 2021  
graduates,  
now the newest  
members of  
Salve Regina's  
alumni network,  
are off to  
a great start  
in their next  
adventures.

Class of

## Sara Agresti '21

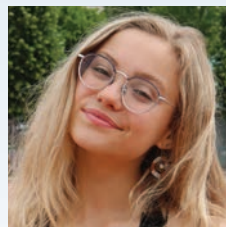
*Philosophy and political science*



Agresti will join the Mercy Volunteer Corps, serving as the social justice coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and School in Baltimore, Maryland. Afterward, she plans to pursue a master's degree in international relations. "I plan to someday work in the international community as a diplomat or a public servant for most of my career, then potentially become a professor of political science later on," she said. "International service has always been a dream of mine, and just having a career focused on international relations would be amazing."

## Kara Barnao '21

*Biology*



Barnao not only majored in biology, she also learned a second language at Salve Regina. Following the pandemic, Barnao hopes to earn her doctorate and intends to do research

before becoming a professor. Her ultimate dream is to teach the upcoming generation about science. "Dr. Belinda Barbagallo was the first professor to aid me in recognizing my talent for the biological sciences," Barnao said. "She has been like a mentor and has always cheered me on from the sidelines, regardless of who I was working for or with."

## Nina Beatrice '21

*Early childhood education*



Beatrice plans to stay in Rhode Island and apply for teaching jobs in the area. During the summer, she will work as Salve Regina's Orientation program coordinator and teach at a summer camp. Her goal is to become a kindergarten teacher. The faculty member who had the greatest impact on Beatrice was John Rok, whom she met during her first year at Salve Regina. "As my first year progressed, I became more involved on campus, and by the end of the year, he greeted me every time by asking me what seemed like such a silly question: 'Are you running the school yet?'" she said. "While I knew that I would never actually 'run the school,' this simple question continued to motivate me to be the leader that I have become during my time at Salve."

## Rachel Beilgard '21

*Social work*



Beilgard will join the Mercy Volunteer Corps, in which members commit to living a simple lifestyle in community while focusing on compassionate service and spirituality. Once Beilgard has completed this opportunity, she plans to find a job in social work and said that internships were the most useful aspect to her education. "I originally became a social work major because

I had a passion for working with children and this is what I thought I wanted to do in my career," she said. "However, through my internship opportunities, I have gained experience in other areas of social work, which has expanded my understanding and interests of the profession."

### Tori Bickel '21

*Business administration*



Bickel will work at Athleta as an assistant manager, with a goal of eventually becoming a general manager or district manager. "I am so happy to be able to work for a company that is a B Corporation and is driven to have a positive impact on the community," she said.

### Paul Boutoussov '21

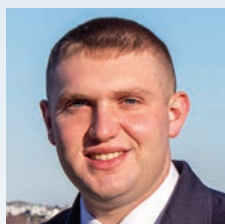
*Financial management*



Boutoussov will pursue a master's degree in management in entrepreneurial leadership at Babson College. Eventually, he hopes to work with cutting-edge laser technology in the medical industry, providing individuals with medical products and services that stimulate healing, shorten rehabilitation time and improve overall quality of life.

### Shane Bowes '21

*Administration of justice*



Bowes is completing his master's degree in administration of justice and homeland security at Salve and will then apply to state police agencies. "I aspired to enroll in the fifth-year master's program from first semester freshman year," he said. "As I evolve into

a professional in the law enforcement field, I will render aid to people from diverse backgrounds."

### Kaitlyn Brillhante '21

*Business administration, minors in global business and economics, marketing*



Brilhante will continue her studies at Salve Regina in the MBA program with a concentration in cybersecurity issues in business, and will also pursue a graduate certificate in cybersecurity and intelligence. Her dream is to open an environmentally sustainable business abroad.

### Abigail Brodeur '21

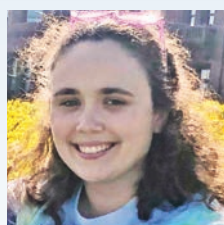
*Marketing, minor in business administration*



Brodeur will join Wright's Dairy Farm & Bakery as a marketing assistant while continuing her education at Salve to complete her MBA with a concentration in social ventures. She had a unique experience at the University, completing her bachelor's degree in three years, which is not typical for students. "With the continual support from my family and my advisor Dr. Jennifer Bonoff, I was able to complete my undergraduate degree in three years," she said. For Brodeur, the most valuable takeaways were the skills she accumulated from multiple internships, as well as the networking she was able to do.

### Maria Coleman '21

*Mathematics and secondary education*



"I will be starting a job as a founding member of a new charter school in Providence," Coleman said. "I will be teaching

ninth-grade math and working to provide an equitable opportunity to students of all backgrounds." One of Coleman's educational passions is to make math accessible to all students. "I learned of the inequities in the education system through my coursework and could not ignore these great gaps," she said.

### Shawn Conroy '21

*Economics, financial management, minor in business administration*

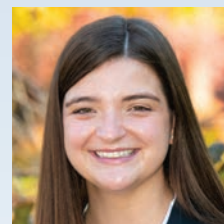


Conroy will work as a contract specialist at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport.

He attributes his success at finding a job straight out of college to his professors at Salve Regina, and he's also grateful for the help he had in pursuing a dual degree. Conroy will always remember his study abroad experience in Oxford, England as one of the highlights of his time at Salve. "Although this was only a short summer program, it has left a lasting impression on me and was truly a joyous trip that I would recommend to every business student," he said.

### Ashley D'Antuono '21

*Secondary education and Spanish*



D'Antuono will continue to engage in Spanish language and culture after graduation, and her dream is to visit Spanish-speaking countries and connect with new communities. She will teach high school Spanish and continue to live out the mercy mission in her daily life. "In my career, I hope to inspire others about Spanish language and culture the way I was inspired as a student," she said. "I want to continue to engage in my current field and discover new passions as a lifelong learner."

# CLASS OF 2021

## Clarke DiPiazza '21

*Business administration*



DiPiazza will begin a full-time position as a human resource and compliance administrator for the insurance agency Emerson Reid in his home state of New Jersey. He originally took a remote internship position for Emerson Reid and continued working for the agency after the course was completed. He said that the courses in which he worked on group projects will be most memorable and useful going forward. "They have taught me great skills on teamwork and being professional," DiPiazza said.

## Brianna Easton '21

*Social work*



Easton will begin her social work career at Child & Family as a family stabilization unit case manager. She will also continue her education in the fall at Sacred Heart University in the online master's program for social work. "During this pandemic, I have discovered my passion for advocating and providing support to those who need it," she said. "Over the summer (2020) I spent time making masks to sell on campus, with the proceeds going to nonprofit organizations around Aquidneck Island."

## Evan Elichalt '21

*American history and economics, minor in philosophy*

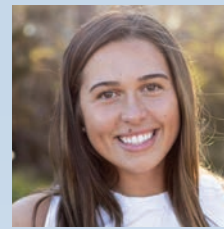


Elichalt will pursue a master's degree in history at Boston College or the State University of New York at Albany. Wherever he ends up, he's planning to expand on his undergraduate thesis study of populism – which

explored Andrew Jackson's presidency – and focus on the late 19th-century People's Party and the economic consequences of their movement. "Ultimately, I hope to work as a policy analyst and focus on historical trends that have shaped our current political landscape," he said. "I aim to apply my studies in history, economics and jurisprudence into something which helps the everyday person. I also have aspirations to someday return to academia later in my career and further my studies in American history."

## Abigail Frazier '21

*Elementary and special education*



During Frazier's student teaching placement, she obtained a position as a long-term substitute in a fourth-grade classroom at Newport's Pell Elementary School and will pursue her master's degree in education with a focus in literacy. Frazier hopes to stay in the Newport Public Schools and teach at the elementary level.

## Jesse Greene '21

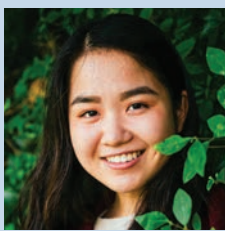
*Nursing, minor in music*



Greene will work as a registered nurse at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Massachusetts on a medical/surgical telemetry floor. She plans to eventually return to Salve Regina and earn her master's degree in nursing, and her ultimate goal is maternity nursing care, particularly in a neonatal intensive care unit as an advanced practice nurse. While she has nothing but rave reviews about the nursing program, Greene also enjoyed pursuing her minor in music as well. "The music department has brought me a beautiful sense of community throughout my time at Salve, and I am so grateful for the wonderful music and opportunities," she said. "I have absolutely loved serving as a cantor at Sunday masses throughout my four years at Salve, and I will always hold the Mercy Center close to my heart."

### Shuri Hatake '21

*Psychology*



Hatake returned to her home country of Japan to work as a psychologist at a day care center before pursuing her master's degree in educational psychology at University College London this fall. "All the faculty members greatly helped me in some way or another," she said. "As an international student, and since English is my second language, I had many questions about lectures, assignments and exams. However, every faculty member in the psychology department has been extremely caring, supportive, enthusiastic and always tries to help me."

### Grace Izzo '21

*Chemistry and secondary education*



Many students choose a university based off the academic programs that are offered. In Izzo's case, however, Salve Regina welcomed her with the intent of creating an entirely unique curriculum just for her. Because of this, Izzo is now graduating as the University's first chemistry and secondary education major. "I'm paving the way for others now," she said.

### Madison Kalkstein '21

*Global studies,  
minor in business administration*

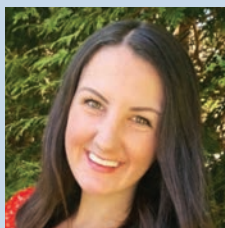


Kalkstein is working in Salve Regina's Business Office while pursuing her master's degree in international relations. In addition, she's working as a Spanish interpreter for the International Institute of New England in a remote, part-time role. "Eventually, I see myself working for a nonprofit or NGO abroad in a Spanish-speaking country," Kalkstein said. "I would love to move somewhere like Chile, Argentina or Peru and work toward

poverty alleviation and assist in the fight for the rights of women and children."

### Emma Kiely '21

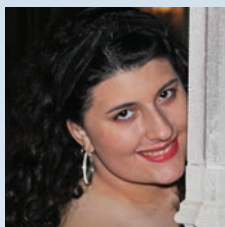
*Psychology*



Kiely is volunteering in an adolescent inpatient psychiatric unit at New York-Presbyterian Hospital for the summer. In the fall, she will attend Boston College to pursue her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. She plans to obtain her doctorate in clinical psychology and practice as a licensed clinical psychologist treating children, teens and service members/veterans with anxiety disorders and PTSD. "I cannot speak highly enough of the psychology faculty – each of them is so encouraging and highly competent in their respective areas of expertise," she said. "Psychology is a very broad field with a lot of sub-areas, yet Salve luckily offers a wide array of course offerings that allow you to explore many different areas."

### Joelle Lachance '21

*Healthcare administration and management*



Lachance accepted a position as an inside medical sales representative for Synchronized Sales LLC in Bristol, R.I. She hopes to continue her volunteer work with Island Moving Company, assisting with events and performances such as their annual Dance Festival and ballet recital. She also takes dance classes in both ballet and contemporary.

### Mikayla Lewandoski '21

*Nursing*



Lewandoski will begin her nursing career as a registered nurse on a general medicine unit at Hartford Hospital

in Connecticut – one of the largest and most respected teaching hospitals in New England. "Although I am starting my nursing career on a general medicine unit, I hope to eventually transfer to the emergency department and work my way up to becoming a level one trauma nurse," Lewandoski said. "After gaining hands-on experience working as a registered nurse, I plan on earning a master's degree in nursing with the goal of also serving as a nurse educator, a position that will afford me the opportunity to share my knowledge and skills to prepare the next generation of nurses."

### Erin Looney '21

*Nursing*



Looney will pursue a career as a registered nurse in general medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital as part of its Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program. Her eventual career goal is to transition to a critical care setting and continue her education to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

### Isabella Margi '21

*Art history, cultural and  
historic preservation*

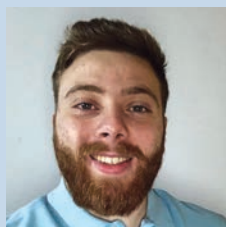


Margi plans to pursue a master's degree in art history. She has been accepted into some of the most prestigious graduate programs in art history and decorative arts in the country, including Bard Graduate Center, Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, the City College of New York and the University of York. "Following the completion of my master's and eventual doctorate, I hope to work in an art museum or historic house as a curator or a collections manager, while also conducting original scholarship on 18th- and 19th- century fine and decorative arts," she said.

# Class of 2021

## Fawzi Massouh '21

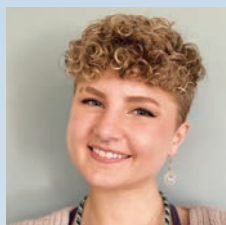
*Biology*



A refugee from Syria, Massouh plans to pursue a career in medicine in the United States and has been accepted to three medical programs. It was his experience in war-torn Syria that made him decide to study medicine and become a doctor in the first place. “The medical resources of Syria were grossly inadequate and the hospitals were constantly full beyond their capacity,” Massouh said. “I was left instilled with the necessity of medical care firsthand, having witnessed the effects of its absence.”

## Kristen Medicott '21

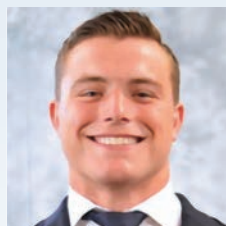
*Nursing*



Once Medicott has passed her nursing exams, she’s excited to explore the world. She has been accepted into the North American Language and Culture Assistants Program in Spain, which is an educational outreach program for college and post-grad students from North America and Canada. Those accepted into the program work in elementary and secondary schools as an English teaching assistant while also learning and adapting to the different cultures within Spain. “I am excited to find out where in Spain I will be placed and cannot wait to further develop my Spanish minor and language capabilities,” she said.

## Matthew Messner '21

*Biology*

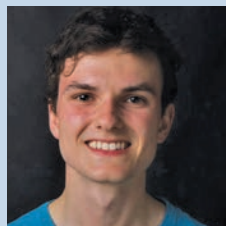


Messner will attend the University of Delaware to pursue his doctorate in physical therapy. Eventually, he hopes to work in an outpatient clinic with athletes. “My experience here was phenomenal,” he said. “Between the academics, athletics and

having Newport as your backyard, Salve had everything I could want in a college experience.”

## Ryan Miech '21

*Studio art, concentrations in graphic design, illustration and interactive media arts*



While attending Salve Regina, Miech formed many meaningful relationships and connections that he holds close to his heart, which have led him to valuable and unique pursuits, such as community service and the creation of a board game. Miech will work as a staff member for Nazareth Farm in West Virginia, where he participated in a service retreat during his 2019 spring break.

## Donovan Montville '21

*Financial management*



Montville accepted a full-time position with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center as a civilian contract specialist, which is a three-year program. He eventually plans to attend law school. “I would like to one day become an attorney and advocate for those who cannot do it for themselves,” he said.

## Chase Mulvaney '21

*Philosophy and political science*

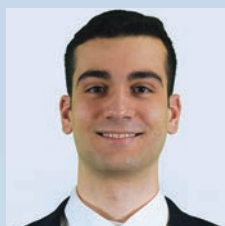


Mulvaney will complete his master’s degree in international relations at Salve. He hopes to pursue a career in public policy and law by taking the LSAT and Foreign Service Exam. He is interested in the Federal Pathways Program to enter the world of civil service. Salve Regina has afforded Mulvaney the opportunity to pursue all of his different passions and bring them together in unique ways. “I have been able to explore everything from forensic and earth science to the philosophy of Thomism and the politics of Latin America,” he said.

**Angela Nardi '21***Nursing*

Nardi has accepted a full-time position as a registered nurse in the graduate nurse residency program at Backus Hospital in

Norwich, Connecticut. After completing the program, which will be in a medical surgical unit, she hopes to transfer to the birthing center as a labor and delivery nurse.

**Stephen Natola '21***Biology, minor in chemistry*

Natola is excited to begin Boston University's doctor of physical therapy program. He'll be living in Boston for at least the

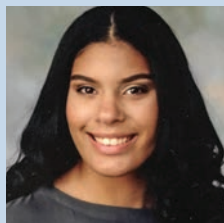
first year, and he's looking forward to experiencing the iconic city and all it has to offer. After that, he may relocate based on his clinical placements. "My plan is to complete my graduate studies at Boston University and become a licensed physical therapist," he said. "My goal is to be the best physical therapist that I can be and to help the most people that I can."

**Bridget O'Donnell '21***French, social work*

O'Donnell will attend New York University's Silver School of Social Work in the advanced standing program. After

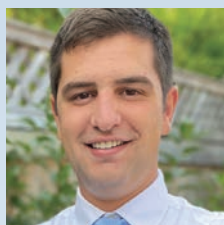
earning her master's degree, she hopes to work clinically in the mental health and substance abuse field as a social worker. One of her most memorable experiences at Salve Regina was the opportunity to study abroad. "I studied in France during my sophomore year, and it was an incredible opportunity," O'Donnell said. "I was able to meet so many new people, try new things and explore places I never would have had the chance to otherwise. It definitely broadened my view of the

world and helped me to understand some of the diversity I may come into contact with over the course of my career."

**Michelle Ostolaza '21***Administration of justice*

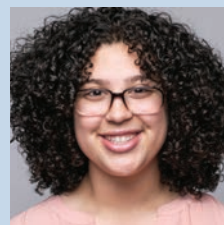
Ostolaza will pursue a master's degree in marketing at the University of Houston's Bauer College of Business, and will also serve

as the graduate assistant for marketing and communications for the Department of Campus Recreation. "My experiences with interacting with students from different backgrounds and working closely with the multicultural office taught me more than I could possibly imagine about tolerance, acceptance and educating myself and others," she said.

**Michael Rosati '21***Elementary and special education*

Rosati accepted a full-time position as director of youth development at Sterling House Community Center, a nonprofit

in Stratford, Connecticut. "In this role, I will be overseeing all of the current youth programs, including summer camp, the after-school program and the preschool program," he said. "I will also be responsible for expanding the youth programming, specifically to include more adaptive and therapeutically-based recreation options for individuals with disabilities." Rosati has a passion for working with youth, and his position will allow him to tap into his interests in education, youth development and inclusivity. "There is so much you can do with a degree in education," he said. "I never imagined I would be working in youth development as opposed to teaching in a traditional classroom. However, the skills I acquired and experiences I had in the education department at Salve let me discover passions I did not even know I had."

**Jessica Rozón '21***Financial management, minors in business administration and economics*

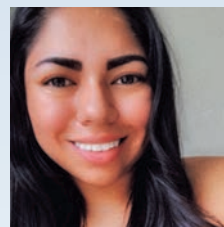
Rozón will continue her current internship at Calkins Wealth Strategies in Newport. She also plans to study

for her financial securities licenses to continue her education in the financial management field. Her dream is to hold a chief financial officer or executive office position in a hospital or other setting where she can truly make a difference.

**Vanessa Saucier '21***Administration of justice*

Saucier will pursue her juris doctor degree at New England Law-Boston. "I intend to become an

attorney and have recently found myself interested in family, juvenile and education law," she said. "I want to help women and children and am confident my education at Salve will only be enhanced in law school."

**Sarah Salemy '21***English and secondary education*

Salemy will pursue her master's degree in English literature at Boston College. She hopes to eventually earn

her doctorate in English literature and become a professor. Until then, she'll be pursuing other teaching opportunities such as tutoring or working in a high school. Salemy said that navigating the pandemic with her peers and professors was an eye-opening experience because it reminded her why she chose Salve Regina in the first place. "The community here is like no other," she said.

1960

**Deanna Encalada Nisbet '60**

received the 2020 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Nisbet

recently retired from her role as president of Belize High School and president and principal of Belize Elementary School.



She also taught at the former St. Catherine Academy in Belize, a Sisters of Mercy High School, and at

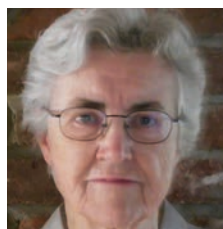
St. John College, a Jesuit High School, where she served for a time as acting academic dean. Nisbet was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from St. John's College Alumni Association and with the Catherine McAuley Alumnae Association Award for being a trailblazer in education and a Woman of Mercy. The Belize City Council also honored Nisbet by naming a street after her in recognition of her service as a top educator who has impacted the lives of three generations of Belizeans in her 50-year career in the field of education. The government of Belize named her Justice of the Peace for Community Service, and honored her with the Belizean Patriots Award for her outstanding and meritorious services to the country and to its people. She served on the board of directors for many educational, health, civic and community organizations and in the political arena, topped the polls in the 1986 Belize Municipal Council elections and served for three years.

1965

**Janice G. Raymond '65**, professor emerita of women's studies and medical ethics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, received the 2020 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. A former Sister of Mercy, Raymond was also an adjunct professor at Boston University School of Public Health, visiting research scholar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, visiting professor at Linköping University (Sweden) and



lecturer at Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University (Indonesia). She has traveled to the Syrian border to interview



refugees and a two-part article on her travels, "Pity the Nations: Women Refugees in Lebanon," was published in Truthdig. The 2007 recipient of the International Woman Award from the Zero Tolerance Trust in Scotland, Raymond is a longtime scholar and activist advocating to end violence against women, sexual exploitation and the medical abuse of women. She was co-executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and served on its board of directors. She is the award-winning author of six books, including "Not a Choice, Not a Job: Exposing the Myths About Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade" (2013.) In 2021, she received the Josephine Butler Abolitionist Award from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women for her work to abolish sex trafficking and prostitution.

1968

**Jeanne McMahon Barrett '68**

retired from her position as a personal investment officer at Compass Bank and is now active in volunteer work in her community. Barrett serves on the board of trustees of Colorado Kidsight and has spent time in schools and daycare centers providing vision screening to over 1,000 children each year.

1970

**Margot DiCairano Durkin '70**

received the 2020 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Durkin

retired as head of school at Browne Academy in Virginia in 2014, culminating a more than 40-year career in education that included teaching, institutional advancement and administration. Her strategic vision for



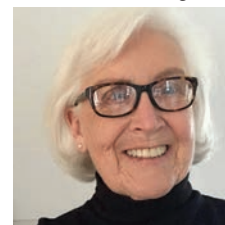
Browne, a K-8 independent school, developed both digital excellence and financial resources. For this she was recognized with the Greystone Award and honored with the dedication of the Grasshopper Cottage, a preschool and maker space, in her name. Her career took her from an elementary classroom in Montgomery County, Maryland, to administration at the Bullis School, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart and her high school alma mater, the Academy of the Holy Cross, from which she received the Distinguished Alumnae Award and later served as a trustee. Other trusteeships included the Woods Academy and the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, with service as board chair for both. She was a frequent speaker at regional and national educational conferences. As chair of the 1990 Washington Goodwill Ball, she raised funds to benefit the disabled community. In retirement she continues to mentor both teacher and administrative candidates. She earned a master's degree in administration from Trinity Washington University and a certificate in independent school leadership from the Principal's Center at Harvard University. Married for 50 years to James V. Durkin, she has two adult children, Timothy and Meredith. She enjoys beach life, reading, bridge and her schnauzer, Roxie Hart.

1971

**Martha Dolan-Cosgrove '71**

received the 2021 Exceptional Volunteer Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6.

Throughout her career, Dolan-Cosgrove has been a middle school educator, a marketing/advertising executive and an entrepreneur. Her business, the Children's Chef, produced and delivered daily meals to underserved children in preschools, after-school programs and summer camps. The company, which she sold in 2016, fed more than 2,300 children





daily at multiple locations throughout greater Boston. She also volunteered with some of her clients' programs – first as a play space activity leader at Horizons for Homeless Children, then at the resource learning center at St. Mary's Center for Women and Children. These days, when not visiting her grandchildren in Texas, she and her husband Brian are enjoying retirement on Cape Cod. She reports that Salve Regina holds a special place in her heart and that lessons learned both in and out of the classroom, still resonate. Dolan-Cosgrove deeply treasures the lifetime friendships she enjoys with a number of her classmates, and has helped to organize class get-togethers and reunions over the past 50 years. Her involvement with the 50th Reunion committee has further strengthened her ties with both classmates and the University. "I am proud to be a part of Salve's past, and I look forward with hope and optimism toward Salve's future."

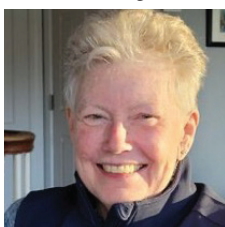
**Carolyn Reder Booth '71** received

the 2021 Exceptional Volunteer Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Booth came to

Salve Regina via Waterbury Catholic High in Connecticut. She earned a degree

in sociology and political science while developing a concentration in activism through student government.

Post-graduation she lived and worked in Boston, moved to New Mexico to teach and then returned to Newport. Marriage, four daughters, grandchildren and a career in education ensued. Family life, athletics, public schools and civic engagement kept her well occupied for 45 years. Post-retirement, she became a member of the Cliff Walk Commission. She embraced her Irish heritage as a member and officer of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in Newport and was honored in 2013 as Lady Hibernian of the Year. She also worked to develop and coordinate three scholarship funds for local Aquidneck Island students.



She and her husband John now reside comfortably off-grid in the New Hampshire mountains. The closing chapter is an adventure of tending chickens, gardens, sap lines and trails in the woods, reflecting upon life from the driver's seat of a pickup.

## 1973

**Victoria Almeida '73**, a former trustee, was honored with the Hall of Fame Award at Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly Excellence in the Law virtual event on April 8. Recipients of the lifetime achievement award are senior leaders of the profession who have practiced law for at least 35 years. Almeida was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1976 and has been practicing law for 45 years, 35 of which have been with Adler, Pollock and Sheehan P.C.

## 1977

**Joya Granbery Hoyt '77** is a filmmaker who has been making dance films in the Newport area since the 1980s. Recently, Hoyt and her sister shared their work on YouTube to highlight site-specific creations and feature Newport locations and performers.

## 1980

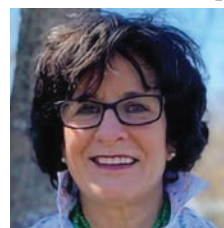
**Carol Penn Linton '80** was appointed to the University of Wyoming board of trustees by the state's governor and approved by the Wyoming Senate. She works as an associate broker with J.H. Real Estate Associates and lives in Jackson with her husband and three children. "As a strong advocate for education and a lifelong learner, I am looking forward to the challenges facing our board and to collaborate effectively to achieve its goals," said Linton.

## 1983

**Margaret (Meg) Atzbach-Jenkins '83** has worked as the Gilford (Connecticut) High School nurse for the past 20 years, having previously worked at Gilford Middle School. She received the National School Nurse Certification in the spring, a long sought-after professional goal, and later this year will be celebrating her son's wedding.

## 1986

**Maureen Philbin '86** has been appointed as the first female executive director of the Fall River Deaconess Home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Known for her energetic and visionary leadership, Philbin previously served as the chief operating officer of



Day One and senior vice president of network services for Child & Family. She has extensive experience managing nonprofit

organizations for child welfare, advocacy, education behavioral health and systems of care administration. She is also an adjunct instructor for the Department of Administration of Justice.

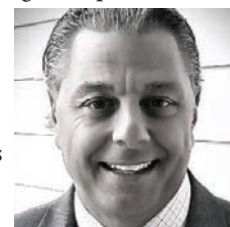
## 1991

**Steven G. Shaker '91** received the 2021 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6.



A Connecticut resident, Shaker earned his bachelor's degree in political

science, with a minor in history. He is a partner in the Shaker Automotive Group, with eleven franchises and seven locations in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The company, established more than 85 years ago by his grandfather, started out as a gas station and repair shop for trucks from the local farm. His brother Edward is also a Salve Regina alumnus from the Class of 1992 and together they have hosted local Salve events and participated in the University's corporate golf tournament. When asked who made a difference during his time at Salve Regina, he shared that Sister Ann Nelson and Sister Rosamond Ethier provided significant guidance. He is currently chairman of the board for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury, and sits on the board of the Exchange Club's Family Life Foundation, which works for the prevention of child abuse. He and his wife Holly have two sons, Sam and Joseph, and the family also owns a home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.



## 1992

**Victoria Revier '92 (M)** began her career in fall 1995 at Bristol Community College (BCC) in Fall River, Massachusetts, as an instructor and program coordinator of the medical administrative assistant associate degree program and medical office and medical transcription certificate programs. In 2005, Revier became a professor and was most recently voted to serve (after 25 years of teaching) as one of the two Grand Marshals at BCC's virtual 2021 commencement exercises in May, held on the same day that Revier celebrated her retirement. Each year, she proudly wears her Salve Regina graduation regalia to the BCC commencement exercises.

**Steven Soba '92** has been named Husson University's new vice president of enrollment management where he will have the opportunity to help increase enrollment at the university.

**Arlene Nicholas '92, '94 (M), '96 (M)**, professor of business and economics at Salve Regina, was a keynote speaker at the



INTI International University & Colleges Malaysia. Her virtual presentation titled "Understanding How Gen Z Learn" was based on her published article "Preferred Learning Methods of Generation Z" from Dec. 2019.

## 1993

**Sergeant Gregory Johnson '93** has over 35 years of experience as a police officer, serving as the SWAT team leader, honor guard leader, and the longest-serving union president in West Warwick, R.I. He retired as a captain in 2006 and currently serves as a member of the Warwick honor guard, rifle team, and as a field training officer and range officer. He also teaches the crash investigation class at the municipal academy.

## Transforming Education

**Suzette Wordell '96 (M)**  
is named R.I. Principal of the Year.



*Suzette Wordell attends Salve Regina Night at the Gulls July 12 to throw the first pitch.*

We all remember the daunting sound of being called to the principal's office in grade school. But Suzette Wordell '96 (M), principal of Pocasset Elementary School in Tiverton, has become so much more to her community than a disciplinarian and was honored as the 2021 Rhode Island Principal of the Year.

Nominated by parents, teachers and other administrators, Wordell never imagined she'd be receiving such an award when she attended Pocasset as a child, even though in the third grade she was a "student teacher" to classmates who were struggling learners. It was then that she knew she wanted to become a teacher. She attended Rhode

Island College and was hired at Gaudet Middle School in Middletown as a music teacher. After hearing a group of teachers talking about the M.Ed. program at Salve Regina, she immediately looked into applying.

Coming into the master's program as an experienced educator, Wordell sought to expand her knowledge and understanding of the education field. She reflected on her professors' teaching the value of action research in education and how she was pushed to rethink how all students can learn and grow in an inclusive, caring environment.

"The academic and teaching skills I learned at Salve Regina transformed me as an educator," said Wordell.

Even after graduating with an M.Ed. in elementary education, Wordell began a second master's program in school administration from Rhode Island College. She eventually transitioned from her position as a music teacher and started an academic-based teaching and grade leader position in grade five at Gaudet Middle School in Middletown. In 2000, she was hired as the principal of Fort Barton School and Nonquit School in Tiverton. Although Nonquit School closed due to low enrollment in 2013, Wordell remained as the principal of Fort Barton for 20 years. Because of her

leadership in this role, the school achieved the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2009 and was one of two Rhode Island Department of Education commended schools for seven years in a row. When the principal's position at Pocasset became available in 2020, Wordell requested an internal transfer to work at her former elementary school.

When asked what she remembers of her principals when she was a student, Wordell explained the very common perception many have of the role. "When I was a student, I thought principals were just for discipline and order – purely management," she said.

During her time as a teacher in Middletown, though, it was Gaudet Middle School's principal who encouraged Wordell to consider a principalship. Their subsequent conversation about the role of a school principal during that routine evaluation is what inspired Wordell to become a principal.

"To me, being a principal is such a great job. We're teachers of all – students and teachers, not just a traditional disciplinarian," explained Wordell. "It's a challenging, ever-changing job that can affect schoolwide change, not just classroom change."

Wordell visits her school's classrooms every day so that students recognize her as more than just a disciplinarian. Although she transferred to Pocasset because she loved it as a child, she has brought so much more than just a friendly face to the building's hallways.

"I saw the school struggle significantly with academics and culture and climate, yet I knew there were dedicated teachers and supportive families," said Wordell, who works as a collaborative leader, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, connecting teachers and families to create consistent and transparent communication.

Wordell has given students the opportunity to have a voice in recess equipment selection and schoolwide Dress Down Day themes, and has also increased family engagement. She has encouraged teachers to participate in their School Improvement Team, Principal Advisory Team, PBIS Committee and daily classroom walks. New programs like principal coffee talks and motivational Mondays have reconnected the school with families and the community.

"Pocasset Elementary was ready to change – I just helped facilitate the transformation," Wordell explained. "I'm so proud of the hard work we've done thus far and am invigorated to continue on this path together."

Wordell said she had lots of virtual meetings with staff and parents last summer and decided there were three things she needed to concentrate on. Communication, culture and student achievement. "From the fall to the winter, every single grade has improved between seven and 38 percent," Wordell said.



*Superintendent Peter Sanchioni (left) and Robert Littlefield, director of R.I. Association of School Principals, honor Suzette Wordell '96 (M) as R.I. Principal of the Year.*

Manny Cabral, principal of Ranger Elementary School, nominated Wordell for the award and has worked with her for 20 years.

"She's a fantastic administrator," Cabral said. "There's a real transformation here," he said of Pocasset, "and she's only been here for six months. She's hands-on and a hard worker."

In addition to her role as principal, Wordell serves as an executive board member of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP), a RIASP principal coach mentoring new principals, a Rhode Island Instructional Learning Association board member, a member of the Rhode Island Early Learning Council, an executive board member of the Tiverton Lions Club, and is a lector and musician at St. Catherine of Siena Church. Although her community service may not leave much free time, Wordell focuses on her work-life balance and enjoys yoga, golf, walking and hiking, practicing and performing music, and traveling. She is also a true lifelong learner, and is a doctorate candidate in educational leadership and management at Capella University.

After learning that she was being honored as the 2021 Rhode Island Principal of the Year, Wordell shared the news with her close family. Active in her Catholic faith, she celebrated by lighting a candle at St. Catherine's to share the joyous occasion with her son Ben, who passed away in November 2020 at the age of 19 from an aneurysm.

Wordell's dedication to Pocasset Elementary School has had a big impact in a short amount of time and she represents a great light within her community. Her leadership demonstrates how care and commitment can positively influence students, families and teachers alike as everyone works together to ensure an inclusive educational environment that fosters student success.

–Corilyn Henault Richard '15, '20 (M)

**Matthew Cullina '93** joined Sontiq, an identity security company, as the head of global insurance business. Cullina has experience as the CEO and director of global markets at Cyberscout and looks to advance Sontiq's strategy to add products and expertise while driving global growth and strategic partnerships throughout the international insurance markets. Cullina is known as a thought leader on cyber risk and insurance and is a public speaker on these topics.

## 1994

**Randy J. Earley '94 and Alison Witham Earley '95** received the



2021 Exceptional Volunteer Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. The Earleys met at Salve Regina and have been married for 21 years. They live in Charlotte, North Carolina, with their two teen-age children. They are very proud to be Salve graduates and love to get involved and give back whenever possible. They each volunteered for their respective 25th class reunion planning committees



to help raise awareness and donations. They credit Salve Regina with inspiring their strong commitment to volunteerism and giving back to their community, and support local charities such as Beds for Kids, Union County Community Shelter, Salvation Army and Common Heart Food Bank. Additionally, they support local school, church and youth sports organizations through donations, coaching, board membership and other volunteer activities.

## 1995

**Sarah M. Burkwit '95** received the 2020 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Burkwit is an assistant general counsel with the FBI where she is a subject matter



expert in asset forfeiture money laundering. She was also a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Massachusetts and Hawaii. At the FBI, she returns funds to victims of crimes and worked the September 11 investigation as a member of the Evidence Response Team. She is a member of the Class of 1995's 25th Reunion Committee, which successfully rallied classmates, family members and friends to establish Salve Regina's first endowed scholarship fund of its kind, honoring deceased members of the class. She is a proud military spouse with two daughters and is an avid volunteer with many organizations.

## 1996

**Jason N. Cofrancesco '96** received the 2021 Exceptional Volunteer Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Since



his graduation from Salve Regina, Cofrancesco has enjoyed devoting his efforts in full support of the University.



His desire to give back is driven by the memories from his time as a student as well as the positive impact Salve has had on his life. He has held open houses at his home in Sparta, New Jersey, for prospective students and their families, many of whom decided to attend Salve. He often reaches out to local and regional students who have chosen to attend the University and assists them in

networking with alumni, administration and staff. He also promotes Salve Regina at his alma mater, Pope John XXIII Regional High School, often meeting with students and bringing them to campus for tours and interaction with athletic programs. A former Seahawks football player, he looks forward to hosting the team when they are on the road in the fall.

**Ryan Freel '96** was honored by Chambers and Partners, an organization that identifies and ranks the most outstanding law firms and lawyers in over



180 jurisdictions throughout the world. A partner at Fragomen in Houston, Texas, Freel has been with the firm since 1999 and currently manages client relationships in the oil, gas and technology industries.

## 1997

**Michael Buckley '97** was recently promoted to deputy special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations' Miami field office following a two-and-a-half-year appointment as an attache to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. Buckley and his wife Denise, along with their three children, Kathlyn, Patrick and Ryan are now living in Weston, Florida.

## 1998

**Alison Palladino '98** was recently named the interim principal at Wickford Middle School in Rhode Island. Originally from New Jersey, Palladino enjoys her position at the school, thanks to the support and involvement demonstrated by staff, parents and guardians.

## 2002

**John Romano '02** is the director of operations for McKesson, a medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and healthcare solutions company, and has been leading kitting and vaccine distribution operations in the fight against COVID-19.



Edward C. Wu '06



Captain Daniel F. DiMaio '07, '08 (M) with his wife Nikki and daughter Ava

## 2003

**Christopher Cury '03** was named president of Cloudstar, a provider of cloud computing, cybersecurity and technology consulting services. Cury has been with the company since 2015 and played an important role in the organization's expansion and diversification. He is now responsible for strategic leadership while also continuing with the responsibilities of his current position as executive vice president of sales and customer service.

## 2004

**Amy Grzybowski '04, '05 (M)** was honored by Providence Business News' Business Women Awards 2021 as a "Woman to Watch" in the government/quasi-government sector. Grzybowski is the executive director of Rhode Island Higher Education & Industry Centers for the R.I. Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, managing the Westerly Education Center's programming and developing relationships with employers. She has raised \$1.7 million dollars in recent years for new programming and the Center has continued to offer college coursework and training amidst the pandemic. Grzybowski also serves as interim executive director of the Governor's Workforce Board and is the director of emergency management for the town of Westerly, where she was

responsible for COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites.

**Erin Máiréad O'Kane '04** completed the Enlighten: Faith Education for Today's Catholic Certificate in Oct. 2020.



A joint program sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York and Fordham University's Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education, the Enlighten certificate program was launched in 2017. Throughout the process, O'Kane had the opportunity to expand on her Salve mercy education and dive more deeply into her faith.

## 2006

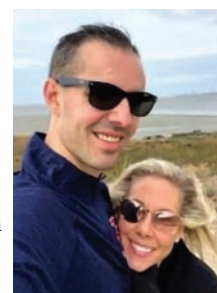
**Edward C. Wu '06** received the 2021 Alumni Achievement Award during Reunion Weekend's virtual ceremony held June 6. Wu received his bachelor's degree in information systems science, with a minor in business administration. He currently lives in San Mateo, California, and is the co-founder and chief technology officer at Side, Inc., located in San Francisco. He and his partner established the real estate brokerage firm in 2015. Previously, he co-founded and served as chief technology officer at Vidyad, a video platform for marketing and sales hosting. He is a



2011 graduate of the Silicon Valley startup incubator Y Combinator. A Connecticut native, he was a member of Sigma Phi Sigma at Salve Regina.

## 2007

**James Finke '07** is married to **Tiffany St. John Finke '07** and living in Connecticut with their three children. Finke recently published his first book, entitled "You Don't Need a Ph.D. to Find G-O-D." The book is an Amazon #1 New Release for Inspirational Christianity, Christian Apologetics and Christian Faith.



**Daniel DiMaio '07, '08 (M)**, a 12-year veteran of the Warwick (R.I.) Police Department, celebrated his promotion during a pinning ceremony, along with his wife Nikki and daughter Ava, at the City Hall's Council Chambers. DiMaio inherited a new patrol platoon and serves as the commander of the Warwick SWAT team. As a pistol, rifle, shotgun, taser and munitions instructor, as well as a physical fitness specialist, he has served the department in many capacities. In the past, he has also held positions in the Professional Standards, Community Services Division and Patrol Divisions.



## 2008

**Matt Anderson '08** began working as the executive director of Kids4Peace Boston, an interfaith organization using programming to bridge divides and create a more just, equitable and peaceful community, following his graduation from the University of Southern Maine with a master's degree in special education.

**Lt. Col. Paul Rainwater (Ret.)**

**'08 (M)**, a natural disaster management expert and retired U.S. Army Colonel, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from McNeese State University during its 156th commencement ceremonies in May. Rainwater received his master's degree in international relations from Salve Regina and is also a recipient of the McNeese Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## A Cheerleader at Heart

Leah DeCesare '21 (MFA) publishes her first fiction novel with help from the Newport MFA.

Though she just completed her MFA in creative writing, Leah DeCesare '21 (MFA) is already an accomplished author and a model for other writers who aspire to be published.

DeCesare is the author of the Naked Parenting book series, which gives advice on how parents can raise confident children, and her debut novel "Forks, Knives, and Spoons" won nine awards during the first two years of its publication.

So what was her journey into publishing like? It was a long one, both rewarding and challenging.

DeCesare graduated in 1992 from Syracuse University with a triple major in advertising, communications and marketing, and French. Right after college, she worked in event planning and as a child worker and parenting educator at hospitals. She began writing by starting a blog for the parents she advised at the hospital because she found that she was getting a lot of the same questions over and over.

DeCesare's inspiration to turn her blog into a series of books came from an ebook that she read on how to write a book in a weekend. Her parenting blog acted as an outline for her idea, and the concept of "Naked Parenting" came



from her parenting style of stripped down, open and direct communication. DeCesare's ideals apply to kids at any age and any stage, and the theme is cultivating confidence in both kids and parents.

"By the way, I did write it in a weekend," DeCesare laughed.

In fact, she started writing her very first book on a Friday morning, finished the first draft on Saturday night, and by Sunday afternoon she completed an entire first revision of "Naked Parenting: 7 Keys to Raising Kids with Confidence." She self-published the book, and went on to also self-publish "Naked Parenting: Guiding Kids in a Digital World."

Diving into the writing process was a great way for DeCesare to learn about publishing while gaining the knowledge and confidence she needed to begin working on her debut novel. Because deep down, she had always wanted to write fiction.

## 2009

**Tyler Dyment '09** is the assistant director of marketing and communications at Dexter Southfield, a private school in Brookline, Massachusetts. He is also an assistant coach for junior varsity girls' hockey at the school.

## 2014

**Robert Lippincott '14** was named SID Sailing Coach of the Year by

SailIDesign. Lippincott coaches youth of all levels – from new summer sailors to national competitors. His nominations stemmed from his willingness, dedication and openness to all sailors and their respective improvement and love of the sport, especially throughout the past year.

**Jiyon Ruffin '14**, an English communications major and sports management minor, is the Northeast territory account manager for Cisco Systems. His advice to current English

majors is to keep an open mind. “Regardless of the profession, the ability to communicate effectively is needed – so don’t be afraid to apply the skills you’ve learned during the pursuit of your English communication degree into other fields.”

**Zachary Springett '14** works at KVH in Middletown, R.I., as the night and remote monitoring supervisor. He and his wife Alyssa live in Middletown and are expecting their first child.

“I always had it in the back of my mind to get a master’s degree and an MFA,” DeCesare remembered. “When I was little and I thought of myself as being a writer, it was novels.”

As DeCesare found herself in her forties raising her children without having accomplished that lifelong dream, she decided that she was going to regret it if she didn’t write a novel. She knew Ann Hood, founder of Salve Regina’s Newport MFA, from being a writer in the Newport community, and a friend told her about the program at Salve Regina, which was launched in 2018.

“I went home that day, I looked it up, and I applied,” DeCesare recalled. “I literally didn’t look anywhere else.”

While the MFA was both rewarding and intense, she loved every bit of the two years that she spent studying with Hood. In fact, Hood wrote the blurb for “Forks, Knives, and Spoons.”

The novel is described as “a light-hearted, thought-provoking coming of age story that takes readers on a nostalgic journey back to the 1980s and 1990s” on its jacket. It’s a romantic, witty story about college girls growing up to find out what love really means. “Forks, Knives, and Spoons” has won nine awards, including the 2019 ScreenCraft Cinematic Book Award Semifinalist and the 2018 International Book Awards Winner in Fiction, General.

It took a lot of work, but with help from many editors, Hood, and the Newport MFA, DeCesare accomplished

her dream. She urges writers to continue practicing and learning the craft. It’s about never giving up.

“Don’t wait to learn it all to write, and don’t write without trying to learn,” she said.

DeCesare also urges students to take advantage of all free opportunities to learn – whether it be online resources, workshops or great writers and speakers that Salve brings in to talk with students. It’s all about being willing to learn and accept criticism. When DeCesare showed her first draft of “Forks, Knives, and Spoons” to Hood, the author helped her work through many of the things that were bothering her about her writing.

That is why, according to DeCesare, the best advice for young writers is to practice and become educated about the craft of writing. This requires revision, revision, revision. A writer must also accept the reality that their writing, however great, will never be perfect – and that a writer is always growing.

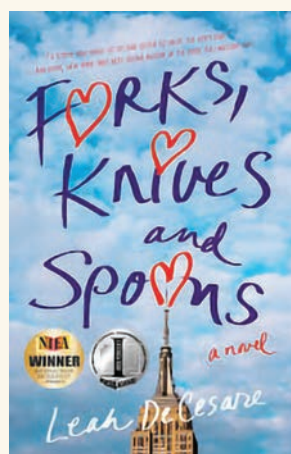
“I even look back now, and I’m still really proud of my book,” DeCesare explained.

“But there’s things I listen to and I go, ‘Oh, I would have changed that.’”

After reflecting upon her accomplishments, DeCesare has realized that her passion has always been about empowering people.

“I love being that cheerleader for other people and encouraging people to stand up for themselves, to be confident, to love themselves,” she concluded.

–Anna Downes '22





Madison Hartt '20



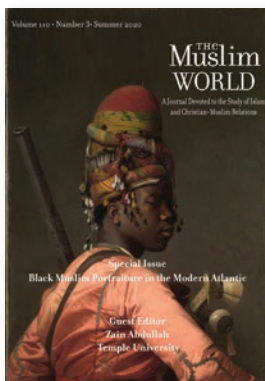
Tara McEnroe-Kent '20

## 2015

**Benjamin Viens '15** has recently been promoted to credit analyst II for Greenfield Cooperative Bank, where he has worked since 2018. Viens has been in the credit department since 2019 and his promotion was announced in early May by Greenfield's CEO, Michael Tucker.

## 2016

**Laura Macaluso '16 (Ph.D.)** recently published two articles in peer-reviewed journals: "The Spirit of 1776/1917: Town and Gown Go to War" in the Bulletin of the Auckland Museum and "A Reading of the Sengbe Pieh Portrait in the COVID-19 Era" in the Muslim World Journal.



## 2018

**Lea Carpanzano '18** is the social and digital media manager at Iona College in New York. Reflecting on her time at Salve, she says: "I've always been a really strong person, but being at Salve, I was able to grow as a student leader and lead with kindness. And now as someone who works with students, that's a really important quality to me! I think that kindness is something that is really only learned at special places like Salve."

**Alyssa Hirkaler '18** graduated with a master's degree in public relations and organization from Montclair State University, N.J. Hirkaler completed her degree while working as an account manager for Frontline Medical Communications-WebMD Health Corp. in Parsippany, N.J.

## 2019

**Katharine Jayne '19** is working for an education technology company, Elevate K-12, where she recruits 100% remote-certified teachers.

## 2020

**Madison Hartt '20** is currently a first-grade teacher at Claiborne Pell Elementary School in Newport, R.I. Hartt is a former Seahawk lacrosse player and volunteers helping with registration for the Island Youth Lacrosse team.

**Tara McEnroe-Kent '20** works as a simulations specialist at Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne, Mass. Kent is now managing the state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Training Center and serves as the academy's emergency preparedness coordinator. Under her leadership, the program will be a center for emergency planning and coordination while assisting community leaders and first responders in preparing for and responding to manmade and natural disasters. As the technical advisor for the academy's emergency management homeland security program, Kent instructs faculty and supports learning technologies while giving students the opportunity to work with professionals throughout the state to increase resiliency and preparedness.

Send your news and updates to [alumni@salve.edu](mailto:alumni@salve.edu).

Submit your wedding photos at [salve.edu/salvecelebrations](https://salve.edu/salvecelebrations) to be included in our Flickr gallery.



# In Loving Memory

Students, faculty, staff and administrators continue to mourn the passing of Devin Hamilton '21. A beloved classmate and teammate, Hamilton left an indelible mark on the campus community and is remembered by all for his kindness, compassion, friendship and service.

"Devin was loved by his teammates and was close to many," said Patrick Cooney, head lacrosse coach. "In the classrooms, dorms and café, they became friends and were supportive of each other. He was especially a positive influence on Salve's Class of 2021 and his athletics teammates." In addition to playing lacrosse, Hamilton enjoyed being a member of Salve's rugby team, enthusiastically demonstrating his Seahawk spirit both on and off the field.

A financial management major, Hamilton was awarded his degree posthumously during the Class of 2021 Commencement ceremony May 9, when his father Edward accepted the diploma on his behalf. A tribute to Hamilton also took place as part of the University's Earth Day commemorations, when a flowering yellow magnolia was planted in his honor beside McKillop Library April 22.

"Our hearts are heavy with Devin's loss but his spirit will always be a part of Salve Regina," said Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president. "As his tree grows and blossoms, we'll be reminded throughout the seasons of his smile, his friendship, his commitment to service, and his love for family, friends and the campus community."



**Devin Hamilton**

March 9, 1999–  
March 8, 2021

The University community mourns the passing of Dr. M. Rosamond Ethier RSM, a longtime faculty member who left an indelible mark on her students and colleagues in her role as professor and chair in the Department of Political Science.



**Dr. M. Rosamond Ethier, RSM**

March 3, 1934–  
July 13, 2021

A Sister of Mercy for 68 years, Sister Rosamond's career as an educator spans 50 years, 24 of which were at Salve Regina.

After teaching at the elementary and middle school level in the Diocese of Providence for 17 years, Sister Rosamond served as principal of St. Brendan School, then as chair of the Department of Humanities at St. Xavier Academy. She also served as vice principal of St. Raphael Academy, and, while earning her doctorate degree in government, she joined Salve's faculty.

During her tenure at Salve, Sister Rosamond served as a member of numerous professional organizations and developed a challenging politics program. After retiring in 2007, she enjoyed a busy retirement, serving on the board of Mount St. Rita Health Centre and volunteering at the Warde-Robe, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy.

"Sister Rosamond was the first person I met when visiting Salve Regina as a prospective student, and it was her presentation on politics that inspired me to declare a politics major and attend Salve," said Bobby Gondola Jr. '06. "She became my advisor and mentor. Sister helped me secure a competitive internship with the Democratic National Convention as well as internships in Congressman Kennedy's offices in Rhode Island and D.C. She helped shape my political beliefs and develop my internal compass. In her obituary it says she 'developed a politics program that was known for being rigorous and challenging.' My classmates will certainly agree – and she also gave her life to the teaching vocation in a way that best prepared her students for continued academic, professional and community success. Thank you, Sister Rosamond. Rest in power!"



## In Memoriam

Suzanne Prevatt Allard '65  
Joanne E. Armenia '85 (M)  
William J. Barone '94  
Mary Jane Barry  
(former professor of nursing)  
Mary Calenda '83 (M)  
Patricia McCabe Callahan '59  
Alma Cooper Cizek '54  
Francine Filipek Collignon '69  
Claire Randall Curtis '55  
Anita A. Dewitt '80, '88 (M)  
Christopher E. Emerson '96  
Joseph M. Gratto '88 (M)  
Marie Toppa Kerr '55  
Susan C. Kikwai '87  
Linda H. Koons '91  
Loretta Sieber LaFleur '77  
Roger J. Laliberte '82  
Elizabeth LaPierre '60  
Elizabeth Mahoney '61  
Margaret Feye Miller '51  
Frances Dematteo Murphy '65  
Heidi W. Murphy '95  
Adam J. Orlando '96  
Paulette La Cava Osterman '62  
Diane Rawald Papadogiannis '79  
Jane M. Quinton '54  
Ryan Rogers '17  
Nancy Laborio Sachuk '98 (M)  
Antoinette Albrizio Salmani '70  
Stephen Sanfillipo  
Ann Collins Searles '53  
Maureen A. Sherman '06, '09 (M)  
Gary L. Wells '02 (M)  
Eileen Wilson '61  
Leonard O. Woltersdorf '87 (M)

# Planting the Seeds of Compassion

Dorothy Ann Watson '77 reflects on how she never lost sight of her dream.

-by Dorothy Ann Watson '77



As a child during World War II, my hometown of Tullahoma, Tennessee, was the site of an Army installation called Camp Forrest. It was a training camp for the soldiers who were going to be sent overseas. Our land here was much like the land “over there,” and so they practiced maneuvers here like the ones they would be doing on the war front. Our town grew from about 5,000 citizens to approximately 70,000. The Army first brought the folks who built the camp, and then it brought the soldiers, and then it brought the soldiers’ wives and girlfriends who came to say goodbye to their loved ones before they were shipped out.

Our sleepy little town was changed almost overnight to a bustling metropolis and Tullahoma was not ready for this change. Of course, the soldiers were housed at the camp, but their loved ones needed places to stay. There was the small King Hotel, but it could not begin to accommodate the numbers who came. The citizens of Tullahoma were a very patriotic group, so they opened up their homes to these newcomers. Our community wanted to support the war effort in any way that they could and the folks who came were welcomed with open arms.

My family was no different. We lived in a large, old Victorian home with many rooms. In it lived my precious grandfather, my mother and dad and me. My sister was away in college, and my brother was away in military school and, later, in the Navy. So, my family opened our home to provide lodging to those who came to Tullahoma to be near their loved ones. I absolutely loved the young women who lived with us. They were like big sisters or aunts who had lots of time on their hands, so they were great playmates for me.

There was one who really stands out in my mind; she was a nurse, and she and I played dolls daily. We pretended frequently that my dolls were sick, and she taught me how to nurse them back to health. Sometimes we pretended they had chicken pox, measles and whooping cough, as did I. Some even had broken bones, and we would wrap their limbs using sticks as

splints, and miraculously, they all healed. This nurse even made a white pinafore for me and embroidered a red cross on the bib of the pinafore and made a nurse’s cap as well. I thought I was a real nurse! What this young woman didn’t realize was that she planted the seeds in my heart that made me want to be a nurse.

When it came time for me to pursue higher education to prepare for my life’s work, I announced that I wanted to be a nurse. At that time, there were only three choices for women: teaching, secretarial work and nursing. Of course, I picked nursing, but my father said “no” and he would not pay for me to study nursing. Since I could not type worth toot, that left teaching. So off to college I went, where I studied biology and became a secondary science teacher. I never gave up on my dream of becoming a nurse, though, and the seeds that my nurse friend planted kept sprouting and growing.

When my husband Tom, a career Naval officer, was stationed in Newport for three years, a door opened for me. There was a college there that had a nursing school! I hightailed it to the admissions office, and since I already had a bachelor’s degree in biology, I was told I could enroll, but I needed a course called Nursing Survey, essentially a history of nursing. But, they said they would loan me the textbook and when I had finished reading and studying it, I would be given the final exam. If I passed it, I could enter

the program that fall as a junior nursing student and graduate with a BSN in two years. My dream was about to come true. AND IT DID! With the amazing help of my husband and our two daughters, I became a graduate nurse and after passing my boards, I became an RN.

During WWII, my Dad had bought a number of war bonds, some of which were in my name. He had passed away, and I was able to use those bonds to fund my nursing education. I was 37-years-old when I became a real nurse, and I have loved every day of that career. And I must have planted seeds as well because both of our daughters have become nurses, and they both love their work. So, in essence, we never know what seeds we are planting and what they might sprout and grow into!

---

*“...my family opened our home to provide lodging to those who came to Tullahoma to be near their loved ones.”*



Dorothy Ann Watson '77 at age 4

*Editor’s note: Watson has retired from active nursing and is living back home in Tullahoma, where she has served on the local hospital’s board of directors for 12 years as well as on the Coffee County Board of Health.*

# Fall 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 28**

Men's and Women's Soccer  
Alumni Games

**September 16 – Oct. 13**

**BOSS Show**

(Best of Salve Students)

Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery

Reception: Sept. 16, 5-7 p.m.

**September 22-29**

**Mercy Week**

**September 29**

Reception for healthcare  
administration alumni

6 - 8 p.m.

Ochre Court

**October 3**

**Athletics Hall of Fame Induction**

**Ceremony and Reception**

Ochre Court

**October 15 – 17**

Class of 1970 and 1971

50th Reunion Celebration

**October 29 – 31**

**Fall Festival Weekend**

**October 29**

**Hunger Concert**

7 p.m., Casino Theatre

**November 6**

**Voices in Harmony Concert**

7:30 p.m., Ochre Court

**October 21 – Nov 18**

**Creatures of Imagination:**

**The Nature Cabinet**

Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery

Reception: Oct. 21, 5-7 p.m.

**December 1**

**Orchestra Concert**

7 p.m., Casino Theatre

**December 5**

**Band and Jazz Ensemble Concert**

3 p.m., Casino Theatre

**December 11**

**Christmas Choral Concert**

7:30 p.m., Ochre Court

**December 12**

**Christmas Choral Concert**

3 p.m., Ochre Court

**December 2 – 15**

**Whiteley Foster:**

**Hamilton Gallery Residency**

Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery

Reception: Dec. 9, 5-7 p.m.

## Join us to celebrate Fall Festival Weekend!



Families, alumni and friends are invited to join us for a weekend packed with exciting events showcasing campus life and Seahawk spirit.



**Alumni, Homecoming  
and Family Weekend**

**October 29 – 31**

**fall** WEEKEND  
**festival**



[salve.edu/fall-festival](https://salve.edu/fall-festival)

For the most up-to-date information, visit the calendar of events page at [salve.edu/events](https://salve.edu/events).



Salve Regina University  
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# ***SEAHAWKS TAKE FLIGHT***

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[salve.edu/takeflight](https://salve.edu/takeflight)



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photos by  
George Corrigan '22