

REPORT FROM NEWPORT

Salve Regina

University Magazine



Spring 2021



“Art in the Age of Pandemic: A Salve Student Photo Project,” at the Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery, Feb. 2021.

Campus Spotlights

Campus Spotlights 2

The Investment Planning class shares its earnings with the community; a new Chief Advancement Officer joins the campus community; Sasha’s Pet Therapy Fund is launched; the University ranks high in crises response; and student affairs staff are recognized by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators for their work.

Campus Conversations 12

Home Is Where the Heart Is
Meet Father Scott Pontes, University Chaplain.
with Samantha Tarbox ’21

Captains’ Corner 14

Paul Boutousov ’21 and Devyn DeFalco ’21 inspire Seahawk spirit in their teammates.
By Anna Downes ’22

Features

The Quest for a Vaccine 16

Noe Mercado ’14 is on the cutting edge of vaccine research.
By Teryn O’Brien

Shifting the Campus Culture 18

A Presidential Commission for Equity and Inclusion is launched.
By Matthias Boxler ’04 (M)

Advocates for Justice 22

Dr. Paul Joyce takes the helm of the Department of Administration of Justice. *By Tara Watkins ’04*

Getting Through It Together 26

Education alumni discuss the challenges of teaching through a pandemic. *By Tara Watkins ’04*

Community Connections 28

Amidst the pandemic, service opportunities keep students busy.
By Samantha Tarbox ’21

Making Magic 30

Tess Santore Bland ’11 brings her imagination to Disney World’s fireworks displays. *By Emily Whelan ’20*

Alumni News and Notes

The Way We Were 32

Alumni Profiles

Maria Guadagno ’84 runs an international olive oil company; Rob Oswald ’90 is honored to serve as a UPS pilot; and Alison Gold ’16 helps families remember their loved ones.

In Memoriam 46

The Salve Regina community mourns the loss of alumni, staff, faculty and friends.

Viewpoint 48

The Power of Story *By Ashley Bendiksen ’13*

Report from Newport

The Magazine of Salve Regina University
Spring 2021

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ABOUT THE COVER

Lorrie Burns (right), business and economics lecturer, conducts a team-building project with first-year students in MGT212: Business Communications on Sept. 24, 2020. Students worked on the rocky beach along Cliff Walk in small, socially distanced groups to build cairns, followed by a discussion about how important it is in business to work in teams, with different types of people. The class learned that successful outcomes sometimes require a balancing act—like the rock towers—and that adjustments are often needed to make things work.

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Message from the President

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

As this issue of Report from Newport arrives in mailboxes, it will be over a year since the pandemic's impact changed the way we live and learn at Salve Regina. As I look back, I am amazed by all that our community has accomplished since that moment. Thanks to the engineering feats of faculty and staff last summer to transform our campus to a safe learning environment, we have remained open and in-person for much of this academic year. In spite of the difficult start to the spring semester with increased cases of COVID-19, our numbers are now shrinking, thank God. The vaccine rollout is starting to gain momentum, and it looks like there will be spring sports in play soon. We are battle-worn, and carry some scars, but we are intact. This long ordeal feels as if the end is finally in sight.

Hints of spring provide hope for renewal and brighter days ahead—the sun lingers a bit longer each afternoon and the campus is brightened by spectacular blue skies and the sparkling ocean. The famous Newport daffodils soon will be in bloom and it is heartwarming to see groups of students heading down to the Cliff Walk just to witness the sheer beauty of our stunning views. Most health experts predict a better summer ahead for all of us, and we pray for a fall semester on campus that has mostly “normal” elements.

Although we are all so tired, there's still an underlying sense of gratitude for what we have as a community compared to so many. As I read the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and alumni in this issue, it is heartening to see the essential Salve elements shining through – service to others, social justice and kindness. Our indomitable spirit endures.

I came across this quote from Catherine McAuley, and it reminded me of our Salve family:

“The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh what a blessing; it should make all else pass into nothing.”

#salvesgotthis

Kelli





Doing Good by Doing Well

Investment Planning students donate \$15,000 from their portfolio earnings to charities.

Students who have managed a growing stock portfolio as part of the fall 2020 MGT320: Investment Planning class donated \$15,000 in earnings from the fund over the holiday season and set aside another \$30,000 for two sections of the spring semester 2021 classes to do the same.

Sam Sacco, lecturer in business and economics, said the “Doing Good by Doing Well” student initiative is their unanimous response to the current public health crisis, economic distress and hardship being experienced by many families.

The class was launched five years ago as a special topics workshop under the guidance of Sacco, when students opened a Morgan Stanley account with an initial \$1,000 investment. Students started making real stock purchases based on market and industry analyses and the equity portfolio, and has since grown from that initial investment to a valuation over \$62,000 in 2020.

“The portfolio has performed well and the class decided to spend some of its earnings on charitable initiatives that would support Salve’s mercy mission,” said Sacco. The students led all discussions on carrying out the initiative, determining which stocks to sell, how much of the portfolio’s earnings to donate and deciding which organizations to donate to, including specific departments within each organization.

Students decided to divide \$15,000 among four organizations, including: Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County to support after-school programs (\$4,400); Martin Luther King Jr. Center to support its holiday food pantries (\$5,600); Boston Children’s Hospital to support its “Extraordinary Needs” and “Every Child” funds (\$4,000); and Year Up Rhode Island to support its jobs training programs (\$1,000).

“I think the class felt that we had a responsibility of lending a helping hand to entities that face hardships



Samuel Sacco, business and economics lecturer, works with a student in the Center for Business Outreach.

even in perfect conditions, let alone in the middle of a pandemic,” said William Hanna ’21, a financial



management major who has a double minor in accounting and administration of justice. Hanna advocated to support Boston Children’s

Hospital. “I felt that if our class could help even just one family in any way possible, especially during the holiday season, it would make all the difference in the world,” he said.

“The portfolio has performed well and the class decided to spend some of its earnings on charitable initiatives that would support Salve’s mercy mission.”

– Samuel Sacco, Business and Economics Lecturer

“We all agreed that because so many people were going through hard times this year with COVID-19 that it would be the perfect time to donate some of the money,” said Samantha Dolan ’21, a financial



management major who advocated for supporting Year Up RI.

“Year Up’s mission is to close the opportunity

divide by ensuring that young adults gain the skills, experiences and support that will empower them to reach their potential through careers and higher education,” Dolan said. “I wanted the class to donate to this organization because it gives young adults the professional skills needed in the workplace and helps put them on a path to success.”

Tori Bickel ’21, a business administration major and economics minor, advocated to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County because she knows firsthand



how the organization helps in the community. “I have volunteered there on multiple occasions and have seen the impact they have on youths,” she

said. “It was important to me to give back to the community during these difficult times, especially when the opportunity exists to give back.”

Kelley Coen ’94, director of development for the Boys & Girls Club, said she is not surprised Salve students made such a heartfelt holiday gesture.

“We were thrilled to receive the call to let us know the Investment Planning class chose the BGC as a recipient of their generous donation,” Coen said. “There are many staff members here, including myself, who are proud Salve alumni. That should come as no surprise as the Salve mission is in direct alignment with ours here at the Club.”

Coen said the impact of the students’ gift is immediate. “Over 70 percent of the Club’s annual budget comes directly from philanthropy,” she said. “It is very impressive that the Salve students wish to pay it forward to the youth of our community.”

Sacco said it was an interesting discussion when the class made decisions about their proposed recipients and grant amounts. “The students expressed a strong desire to make contributions to established organizations and programs to have an immediate impact as opposed to providing seed money that may not be used immediately,” he said. “They also were wary of contributing to a single year of a

multi-year budget item or partially funding a larger budget item despite their philosophical support of the initiative.”

The Investment Planning course introduces students to the functions performed by financial managers and covers areas of setting investment objectives, determining investment values, types of securities, market procedures, analytic techniques, and regional and global markets. Capital budgeting and planning processes as well as the critical issues of accountability and fiduciary responsibility are stressed.

“I really enjoyed learning about the stock market by analyzing the class’s real investment portfolio and then getting to donate the earnings from the portfolio to causes of our choosing,” said Dolan.

“This class has taught me that earning profit on investments is heavily reliant on a plethora of external and internal factors,” said Hanna. “Professor Sacco has done an excellent job teaching us how to analyze many of these factors in order to earn a profit, but I think the best part of this class was the ability to donate the profit to organizations that have meaningful goals of serving the community. This class has definitely been an important part of my education and I will treasure what the class and Professor Sacco have done.”



It will be a true honor to serve Salve's mission that is so fully integrated with the Sisters of Mercy values of service and social justice for all..."

– MaeLynn Patten, Chief Advancement Officer

Meet the CAO

MaeLynn Patten joined the campus community in January as Salve Regina's first chief advancement officer (CAO). In this new position, Patten will lead the advancement team in all aspects of fundraising, with an immediate focus on the University's upcoming 75th anniversary in 2022.

"As higher education continues to evolve, it is imperative for institutions to recognize where they can build to achieve long-term success," said Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president. "Mae's extensive experience in major gifts fundraising, launching capital campaigns and creating strong infrastructures will help Salve Regina move to the next level in achieving our strategic goals."

Patten has worked for nearly a decade in leadership roles at Babson College (associate vice president, advancement and campaign strategy) and Northeastern University (associate dean, development and



MaeLynn Patten

alumni affairs, College of Engineering). She has also worked for a number of years as a senior consultant at CCS Fundraising, which partners with nonprofits to support transformational change.

As a senior consultant at CCS, Patten's fundraising work supported organizations focused on health care, higher education access and affordability, spiritual growth and other philanthropic causes. She has helped strategize campaigns supporting the Juvenile Diabetes

Research Foundation, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Clark University and a master's degree in social work from Smith College.

"Throughout the interview process, Mae expressed deep appreciation of Salve's unique mission and culture, and the many exciting opportunities at this particular moment in our history," Armstrong said. "I believe she will prove to be a wonderful addition to our community, as she is known for her energy, enthusiasm and empathy."

"I believe in the power of higher education to transform lives and in the power of philanthropy to exponentially deepen the University's impact," said Patten. "It will be a true honor to serve Salve's mission that is so fully integrated with the Sisters of Mercy values of service and social justice for all – a focus that is deeply important for our society and to me personally."

"Capture It!" photo contest winner



"Pink House" by Matthew Peterson '21

The Office of International Programs announced the winners of its annual study abroad "Capture It!" photo contest in December 2020. Photo entries were submitted by students who studied abroad during the 2019-2020 academic year, and entries were judged by the Salve Regina community on Facebook and in McKillop Library. The winners are:

Overall: Matthew Peterson '21 with "Pink House" from Lisbon, Portugal.

Salve Pride: Danielle Plouffe '21 with "The Vatican" from Vatican City, Italy.

Landscape and Surroundings: Kaitlin Carson '21 with "Lake Como" from Lake Como, Italy.

Filtered: Amanda Valentine '22 with "Halls and Lights of Christ Church College" from Oxford, England.

Customs, Cultures and Traditions: Ryley King '21 with "Aged Balsamic" from Verona, Italy.

Sasha's Stress Busters

Sasha, a beloved member of the campus community and Salve's unofficial mascot, was a familiar, friendly and furry face on campus for nearly 13 years. A sweet, gentle, miniature poodle who was always at Dr. Robin Hoffmann's side at office hours and University events, Sasha passed away on Dec. 22, 2020, and will be dearly missed by all.

His spirit lives on, however, in the Pet Therapy Program, which began in 2013 as an initiative to bring comfort and care to Salve students struggling with stress, anxiety and homesickness. Hoffmann and Jennifer Rosa, associate director of residence life, visited campus residence halls with Sasha and found that students looked forward to seeing him. From those visits, the pet therapy stress busters evolved, and the two have collaborated ever since in planning the much-anticipated events each semester.

"Sasha was a highly trained therapy dog and we were successfully evaluated five times to qualify as a Pet Partners Team," said Hoffmann. "We had an amazing time bringing pet therapy to Salve and hosting stress busters with his therapy dog friends. Sasha relished coming to 'work' and joyfully engaged with any students, faculty and staff who needed some love. Sasha, and the introduction of pet therapy, had a positive impact on the well-being and emotional health of our community."

Hoffmann enjoys organizing stress buster events, and collaborated with Rosa, Dr. Ellen McCarty, professor of nursing, and Dr. Louise Sullivan, assistant professor of nursing, to conduct a study about the effectiveness of pet therapy on campus. Titled "The effects of Pet Therapy Stress Buster sessions on the physiologic and emotional states of college students," the study investigated how pet therapy

stress busters affect student attendees' emotional and physiologic states.

Students completed a brief questionnaire after participating in an event, and physiological measures (blood pressure and pulse) were taken pre-and post-pet therapy interaction. Of the 157 students who completed surveys after attending a stress buster, 112 self-reported decreased levels of anxiety, stress, feelings of depression and sadness. Nearly 90 percent expressed that participation facilitated a feeling of connection with the University. For physiologic measures, out of 231 total participants across three sessions, a majority (61 percent), showed a reduction in blood pressure and 60 percent had a reduced pulse rate post-stress buster.

Nursing students representing all class levels were involved in various aspects of the project, such as making posters and fliers, greeting and inviting attendees to participate in the study, carrying out the consent process, assessment, recording and checking of pre-and post-stress buster blood pressures and pulses, and directing those leaving the area to complete surveys. The results of the study supported the finding that interaction with therapy dogs increased feelings of well-being by reducing feelings of anxiety, stress, sadness, depression, and a significant increase in feelings of connection with the University through participation.

"I love putting together our pet therapy events and can bring trained therapy dogs to campus for stress busters even without my Sasha," said Hoffmann. "I always have a cadre of students who serve as my pet therapy ambassadors. They assist with our stress busters and each is assigned to



Salve's unofficial mascot passed away in December 2020 but his memory lives on through the Sasha Pet Therapy Fund.

make sure a dog team is comfortable and has all they need.

"I plan to continue hosting pet therapy animals and have established a Sasha Pet Therapy Fund to provide resources for the program to continue," she added, while acknowledging that losing Sasha has not been easy. "I miss my best friend.

"The outpouring of support and sympathy from the Salve community has been uplifting. Two former students wrote in a note: 'Sasha was a light in the lives of many Salve students, ourselves included.' That says it all."

"I am incredibly thankful that Sasha brought Robin and I together back in 2013," said Rosa. "Sasha was the catalyst in our collaborative work bringing pet therapy and our stress buster events to Salve. Thanks to Sasha, what we've been able to develop and accomplish has been so meaningful and special for our students and he will be deeply missed. I look forward to continuing my work with Robin and having the Sasha Pet Therapy Fund in his name to continue our stress busters for Salve students."

Tales are often told of teachers inspiring students, but I find it is more often the other way around: my students have inspired me, each and every day.”

– Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady

Did You Know?

Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, was the keynote speaker for the Class of 2011’s Commencement May 15, 2011, where she also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Biden and her husband, President Joseph R. Biden, had a close connection to Senator Claiborne Pell and his wife Nuala. During her remarks as Commencement speaker, Biden shared a heartwarming story about Pell, to whom Salve’s Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy is dedicated.

“Many of you wouldn’t know this, but I’m an avid runner, so I always bring my running gear with me wherever I go,” said Biden. “Senator Pell once saw me dressed for a run and asked if he could join me. I said of course he could. But I was quite surprised when ... he



Dr. Jill Biden waves as she receives a standing ovation during Commencement May 15, 2011.

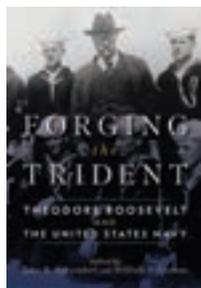
showed up in an Oxford button-down shirt, Bermuda shorts, black socks and black leather shoes.”

An educator and bestselling author, Biden plans to continue working as First Lady, just as she did while Second Lady during her husband’s term as vice president.

“People often ask me why I teach, and my answer to this is simple: it’s you. It’s the students,” Biden told the Class of 2011. “Tales are often told of teachers inspiring students, but I find it is more often the other way around: my students have inspired me, each and every day.”

Forging the Trident

Co-edited by Dr. William Leeman, associate professor of history, and John Hattendorf, a U.S. Naval War



College professor, “Forging the Trident: Theodore Roosevelt and the United States Navy” was published by Naval Institute Press in Annapolis,

Maryland, in fall 2020. The book is a collection of essays by leading naval historians that provides an examination of Roosevelt’s lifelong interaction with the U.S. Navy from his childhood, when he listened to sea stories from his maternal uncles who were Confederate naval officers during the Civil War, through his work as a naval historian, his service as assistant secretary of the Navy under President

The Reading List

William McKinley, and finally his presidency. Leeman’s work, “From Knowledge, Sea Power: Theodore Roosevelt, Naval Education, and the New Navy,” is included in the publication, which wraps up with an essay examining Theodore’s influence on his cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt.

“The publication of ‘Forging the Trident’ was the result not only of Dr. Leeman’s expertise in U.S. military and presidential history but also a successful partnership with co-editor and leading naval historian John Hattendorf, institutional collaboration between Salve Regina and the Naval War College, and the generous support of the Pell Center

for International Relations and Public Policy and the John E. McGinty Fund in History,” remarked Dr. Timothy Neary, professor and chairperson in the Department of History.

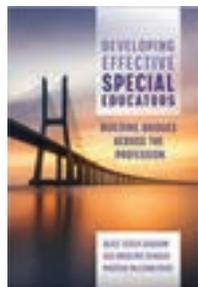
“Salve students and the reputation of the University benefit from Bill’s excellence as a scholar and teacher.”

“First as assistant secretary of the Navy and then as president, Theodore Roosevelt sought to use naval history and America’s naval heritage as a way to gain the support of politicians, the press, and the public for the expansion and modernization of the U.S. Navy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries,” said Leeman. “By examining his lifelong interaction with the Navy, this book provides new insight into Roosevelt’s multifaceted legacy as a naval leader and demonstrates how his naval policies and reforms helped to build the U.S. Navy of the 20th century.”

The Reading List

Building Epistemic Empathy

Dr. Alice Graham and Dr. Martha McCann Rose, both professors of special education, are co-authors,



along with former faculty member Gia Renaud, of a book titled “Developing Effective Special Educators: Building Bridges Across the

Profession.” Published by Teachers College Press, the book was released in August 2020 and outlines a program of collaboration enabling novice teachers to gain insights from their more experienced colleagues. The book fosters professional growth opportunities for those new to the classroom as well as continued engagement and connection by veteran teachers as they share the skills they’ve honed over the course of their careers.

“One aspect of the book that’s key

is its focus on building epistemic empathy,” said Rose. “Empathy is



the ability to walk in another’s shoes. Epistemic empathy is the ability to think/perceive as others do. Special educators must use epistemic

empathy when educating children with disabilities whose thinking is unlike the teacher’s. The purpose of this book is to help special educators generalize this ability and use it in professional and learning communities.”

Rose also placed second in a fall 2020 short story contest run by The Providence Journal. Entitled “LonelinessManagement.com,” her story is about a young woman who loses her mother to the coronavirus and subsequently creates a website to help others navigate the isolation and loneliness of a world in lockdown. It was chosen from nearly 100 submissions and published on

providencejournal.com on Nov. 12, 2020.

“April was the great equalizer,” Rose’s short story begins. “It was during April when stores closed, libraries shuttered, services stopped. The world halted, followed by a hushed few days, followed by the thud. Everyone was marooned; everyone was isolated. Suddenly, the pandemic had created a need that Cora could fill, since Cora was an expert at managing loneliness. As she stared out the window at the silent street, Cora thought of her mother’s promise, and softly whispered Mom’s words, ‘Everyone gets a turn, Cora. Your turn will come.’”

“I was very surprised,” said Rose. “There are a couple of strands in the story that really are part of my life. My mother died during the beginning of the pandemic—in February. She is present in the story—she drank Manhattans, she loved to rearrange the furniture and she always said, ‘Everybody has a turn.’ So it was an honor to my mother.”

The Apostle of Temperance

An article written by John Quinn, professor of history, is featured on the



cover of the summer 2020 issue of The Catholic Historical Review (cuapress.org). Titled “‘We Were All Prejudiced More or Less

against Him’: The American Bishops’ Response to Father Mathew’s

American Temperance Tour, 1849-1851,” the article discusses Father Theobald Mathew’s much-anticipated journey throughout the United States as Ireland’s famed “Apostle of Temperance.” Hoping that his visit would encourage Irish Americans to join their ranks, abolitionists were disappointed when Mathew chose to stay away from the issue of slavery and instead focused on his mission inviting people to pledge themselves to a life of sobriety and abstinence from alcohol.

“I first came across Father Mathew in graduate school,” said Quinn. “Knowing that the Irish and Irish

American communities have struggled with high rates of alcohol addiction, I was intrigued to learn of this priest who traveled the world, administering the temperance pledge to so many Irish men and women.

“In the last few years, I have been studying Newport’s Irish community,” he continued, “and was pleasantly surprised to find out that there was a Father Mathew Hall on Thames Street (where the Admiral Fitzroy Inn now stands) and that the Father Mathew Society members used to march each year in Newport’s St. Patrick’s Day parades.”

Salve Ranked No. Nine for Crises Response

Salve Regina has been designated as one of the top 30 colleges and universities nationwide for its expert management and adaptation in the face of two prominent crises that have dominated the news during 2020-21 – the coronavirus pandemic and the growing calls for social justice.

The University's comprehensive responses and action steps addressing both crises earned it a number nine national ranking by Great Value Colleges, which released the findings of its "2020 Crises Response" survey highlighting how 30 U.S. colleges handled a difficult year with expert responses. The final ranking is based on evidence of colleges keeping coronavirus cases on campus low, evidence of colleges making significant changes to promote racial justice, and colleges that have strong strategies at the start of 2021.

Salve joins institutions on the list such as Colgate University, Brown University, Princeton University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Boston College, Syracuse University and Harvard University.

"Some institutions struggled to make the necessary changes," editors wrote. "Others put measures in place that protected students, staff, and curricula and showed that they cared about equality. The 30 colleges in this article all excelled at those goals."

The editors at Great Value Colleges praised Salve for

keeping its positive coronavirus cases low throughout 2020 and for quickly implementing a shelter-in-place order when there was an uptick in cases in February 2021. On the social justice front, the University was praised for several actions implemented on campus to advance training and awareness, including the establishment of the Presidential Commission for Equity and Inclusion.

"By Dec. 11, 2020, Salve Regina University had only recorded 47 cases of coronavirus on campus," the editors wrote. "In early 2021, the college was just as stringent with its coronavirus safety protocols. For example, the college ordered its students to shelter in place when coronavirus cases began rising ... And in 2020, Salve Regina announced that it would take new steps to eradicate racism and make its campus more diverse."

In addition to sourcing reporting on both crises during 2020-21 by publications like Inside Higher Ed, the New York Times, U.S. News &



Salve's COVID testing site at Rodgers Recreation Center

World Report, National Geographic and Chronicle for Higher Education, the editors compared enrollment figures to positive coronavirus cases on campus. Any college with more than 1,000 coronavirus infections and/or an infection rate higher than 10 percent of the college's overall student population by Dec. 11, 2020, was excluded from the final ranking.



SOCIAL
DISTANCING
is temporary

Salve
is permanent



“Patty was one of my highlights going into Miley, she was always so pleasant and never failed to have a smile on her face.”

– Jenna Park '23

A Salve Icon

College life can be stressful. Hours of homework, difficult exams, important projects and extracurricular activities keep students busy and on the go. Often, a friendly face makes all the difference. Patty Miller, who retired from Sodexo Campus Services in December 2020, has been that friendly face in Miley Cafeteria for 41 years. Her contagious smile welcomed students at breakfast and lunch, brightened their days and helped take their minds off of all they had going on.

“I had the pleasure of working with Patty Miller for 33 years,” says Mark Rodrigues, general manager for Sodexo. “Patty is a Salve Dining icon loved by all! Miley Hall will never be the same without her serving our students.”

Miller’s positive energy and friendly demeanor made her a favorite among students. Ashley Daigneault '22, a social work major, remembers that Miller was always nice and had a way of making people smile when she served them.

“Patty was one of my highlights going into Miley, she was always so pleasant and never failed to have a smile on her face,” recalls Jenna Park '23.



Patty Miller

Having served generations of Salve students, the outpouring of congratulations for Miller’s retirement flooded social media. Ali Paquette '13 is just one of the many who extended their best wishes on Salve’s Alumni Community Facebook group.

“There was NOTHING better than coming into Miley on a Sunday morning to get breakfast from Patty. She is a Salve legend and was such a bright spot in so many of my days as a Seahawk. Congratulations on your retirement and best of luck in the next chapter. Salve is so lucky to have you,” wrote Paquette.

“Patty is a gracious, kind, and patient person who never failed to put a smile on my face, especially when I needed it the most,” commented Christopher Lyddy '05. “The best part, her unknowing intervention was always genuine and unassuming. Grateful for her! Congrats Patty on a career well done! Enjoy retirement!”

Roy Rossow '98 also shared his appreciation for Miller’s service. “Patty and all the staff were ALWAYS very courteous, polite and helpful. Thank you for feeding us all. Sometimes we don’t stop and think about how important this is in our education process.”

Miller’s kindness touched the hearts of thousands over the decades, leaving an indelible mark on the Salve community. Malcolm Smith, vice president of student affairs, knows that she has been one of the people who makes Salve “Salve.”

“I witnessed her checking on students, caring for them, learning about their lives, and making sure they got their meals. Students will miss her making their eggs and omelets in the mornings, but more so, they will miss her making them smile and feel at home. We will all miss Patty at Salve,” says Smith.

–Anna Downes '22



The Office of Student Engagement continues to offer fun, informative and engaging activities despite the many challenges of campus life in a pandemic. Here, students enjoy a winter’s evening skating on a temporary ice rink set up at Gerety Hall Jan. 21.



“I hope that my research will help change the campus environments for Black women and for all students of color.”

— Chiquita Baylor, Director of Student Engagement

NASPA Student Affairs Award Winners

Chiquita Baylor, director of student engagement, is the Rhode Island recipient of the Mid-Level Professional Award for the Doris Michiko Ching Excellence in Student Affairs Award, which is given each year by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). Following the state recognition, she is under consideration for the regional and national levels of the award.

“I was surprised to be selected out of nominees for a whole state, knowing that many of my colleagues around R.I. are doing many amazing things,” said Baylor. “I’m very honored to be selected.”

The award honors a student affairs professional demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the field through the development of programs that address the needs of students, the creation of a campus environment that promotes student learning and development, and active engagement in NASPA.

While Baylor has been working in student affairs for over 15 years, this recognition comes at a time of immense challenges across college campuses in the midst of a pandemic, social upheaval and racial justice. According to Baylor, the fact that her work has been noticed is affirming to her.

“We all are being asked to do more with less around campus and around the state,” she said. “And to be a Black woman receiving such an award during this time is also very honoring as well, because ... to be amongst some of the Black women honored this year is actually pretty

awesome, to know that I’ve made an impact.”

One of the anonymous nomination letters submitted for Baylor talks about the positive influence that she has in her role as director of student engagement.

“She’s been an influential role model and mentor,” the letter states. “She was my inspiration for pursuing a career in student affairs, and during my time as an undergraduate student, she routinely challenged me and pushed me out of my comfort zone to grow as an individual. For other students at our institution, she is a trusted staff member and provides a safe space for anything they may be dealing with.”

Baylor is a fourth-year doctoral student within the joint education program offered by the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, and she is completing it with research focused on examining the experience of collegiate Black women activists to improve their experiences on college campuses. Her research is timely based on the country’s current reckoning with racial tensions and injustice.

“I hope that my research will help change the campus environments for Black women and for all students of color,” said Baylor.

Connelly Clifford, office and student wellness coordinator for the Center for Student Development, was also awarded NASPA’s 2020-21 Wellness and Health Promotion of KC (Knowledge to the Community) Outstanding New Professional Award. The award

recognizes individuals, programs and research that have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of wellness and health education in higher education and student affairs. In order to qualify, a person must be in the profession less than three years, they must be actively promoting health and wellness opportunities at their campus, and they must be a member of NASPA.

“I’m so honored to be awarded,” said Clifford. “While it’s always been important, I think that mental health and wellness is really up and coming within higher education. Universities today are really starting to be aware of the importance of these topics in their communities.”

Clifford, who recently became the Region One NASPA wellness and health promotion KC representative, was surprised to learn she’d received the award — but her work on campus to promote health and wellness had been noted by other staff members who nominated her for the award.

“Connelly’s passion and advocacy for health and wellness has been apparent through all her actions since day one,” said one nomination letter. “She quickly became known as a staff member on campus who was knowledgeable in health and wellness and started to be contacted by students, staff and faculty. These actions and many more led to her promotion to Salve’s student wellness coordinator. Salve has never had a wellness coordinator before, and Connelly has set the bar high.”

Clifford joined the Center for Student Development in 2018 because she wanted to get into student affairs while completing



her master's in holistic and clinical mental health counseling at Salve. Through her work, she noticed a gap in terms of educating the community on the topic of health and wellness.

In 2020, Clifford built up the peer wellness educators initiative within student leadership positions on campus. She currently has 17 students who are peer wellness educators, and these students help

facilitate trainings and programs across campus to promote topics such as anxiety and depression, alcohol and drugs, time management and more. Throughout the year, they hope to bring approximately 30 student-run mental health and wellness initiatives to campus.

Additionally, Clifford helped launch the Salve Wellness Instagram, which now has over 1,000 followers. The account helps to educate the

student population about health and wellness through social media outlets, and students play an active role in making the content for it.

Clifford is excited about the ongoing work at Salve around health and wellness. "I'm truly honored and grateful that I have colleagues who recognize my work, and that I can step into a role to help assist students to speak out and also raise awareness of these topics," she concluded.

Virtual Ball Supports Student Scholarships

Even a pandemic could not stop the spirit of generosity in which Salve Regina alumni, families and friends came together—virtually, of course—on Dec. 5, 2020 to celebrate the holiday season. The "Ball at Home" raised more than \$550,000 for student scholarships, providing critical support during challenging times. The University is grateful to

event chairs Colin and Karen Kane, and to all those who participated from afar in making the Governor's Ball a remarkable success.

Stay tuned for details on celebration plans for your reunion year. From the Reunion Awards ceremony and online gatherings to celebration kits and champagne toasts, plans are under way to make



this year's reunion a special and unique party in your homes—and ours—to commemorate your special milestone year.



Brooke and John Solheim



The Hertzwig family



Shannon Sacharko Theobald '98 and Craig Theobald

Home Is Where the Heart Is

Meet Father Scott Pontes, University Chaplain.

~ with Samantha Tarbox '21



Enjoying Sunday brunch after Mass, exploring campus with his Yorkiepoo Buddy and the five Critical Concerns of Mercy. These, along with the excitement of being part of an educational community, are just some of the things that Father Scott Pontes loves about being a member of the Salve Regina family. Before joining the campus community in August 2020 as University chaplain, Father Scott lived an adventurous life filled with love, faith and mercy.

Born and raised in Bristol, Fr. Scott is a Rhode Islander at heart. He

joined the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, and studied at Providence College as well as L'Universite Laval in Quebec City, Canada. Though he left Rhode Island to pursue advanced studies in Lisbon, Portugal, his ministry keeps bringing him back to the Ocean State. From being a high school modern language teacher to studying the Portuguese language and culture overseas, Father Scott's experiences surrounding the Catholic, educational and traveling portions of his life mean that as much as there is to learn from him, there is just as much to learn about him.



When did you join the seminary and what prompted you to join?

In high school I had a girlfriend, who I was with into my college years, and we thought we would get married, have kids and all that great stuff. And then it just didn't work out. She started to go her separate way in faith; we weren't going to church together and that was a big part of my life. I remember thinking this really is not working out—the girlfriend and the dating scene, going out to bars and singing karaoke. I would always pray and say there has got to be more to life than this. I was teaching at the time with religious sisters and brothers and I saw the way they interacted with the students and thought, that's what I want. I want to be like them, working for God every day, but teaching in schools. So, in 1999 I decided to enter the seminary to give it a shot and ever since then it has been great.

Do you have any advice for college-age students who may be struggling with their faith?

I know that college students, and those even younger, have difficulty at times with that belief in God. I have a hard time understanding this a little bit because I never went through that difficulty, but I see it with my niece and some former students. I try to get them to persevere and continue going to church, even if they might not be getting something out of it right then and there. If you have that practice and make it a habit, it can really help. If you can't go every week, just go to have that relationship to build upon. It is okay to have your doubts and it is okay to voice them to others.

While growing up, was there anyone in particular who influenced your spiritual beliefs?

It's interesting because, no, I can't say there was. I grew up in a typical Catholic family, going to Mass on Sundays. We didn't do anything crazy, we weren't fanatical or anything like that. Growing up, my parents were a big influence just in going to church and living a good life. My father was particularly big on charity and helping out different organizations. My mother was always making sure everyone's feelings were okay and spiritually doing alright. They were a big influence, but I wouldn't say they pushed me toward the priesthood, they never mentioned it at all. My father actually died one week before I became a priest. I buried him on a Monday and then became a priest on Saturday. My mother passed away 11 weeks later and then my sister a year after that. At the time, it was difficult but, in a sense, it was freeing. It allowed me to go and do other things I probably would not have done, like go to Portugal or live in New Jersey.

Was there a moment in your life when you knew you believed and knew you had the faith?

There are a few. I remember when I was a senior in high school, I used to ride my bike to Colt State Park and there was one spot where I always felt God's presence. I would sit there easily—as a kid, sitting there for 15 minutes is like sitting there for an hour—and just take in God's presence. I always knew God and his love for me within the context of nature and the environment. That may sound like a childish thing, but it always stuck with me.

“Mercy to me is a way of life.”

– Father Scott Pontes, University Chaplain

Going through the deaths of my family members, I really started to understand the importance of God and my relationship with Him, rather than just a formal life of prayer. As priests we pray five times a day, we say Mass, we have all these things that are very ritualistic, which is great, but when experiencing those losses, I realized that just being in God’s presence and having God there with me was more important than having to go through all those rituals.

The most recent moment was coming here to Salve! I was the pastor of the largest Portuguese-speaking church here in Rhode Island. At one point, I knew that God was calling me to come back to education. I felt it so strongly that I went to the Bishop and, from there, went to New Jersey to serve at an all-boys’ school. In my prayers, I asked God to help me come back to Rhode Island because this is my home, and this is where my heart is. Someone then mentioned that Salve was looking for a chaplain and it was just amazing because you could see God’s hand in bringing me back to Rhode Island through Salve. Seeing how God brought me back here was pretty big.

What was your favorite course as an undergraduate?

My favorite course as an undergraduate was when I was studying at L’Universite Laval in Quebec City. I took a course on Quebecois Literature, in particular poetry – one of my favorite literary styles.

What is your favorite thing about Salve?

So far, I love the fact that I have a meal plan. On Sundays I can go and get brunch after Mass, which is great. I also love being around the students. The planning and doing different things, the excitement of the students and faculty is really wonderful. I am really excited because next semester I will be teaching a Core Curriculum course, *The Quest for the Ultimate*.

What was the best gift you ever received?

The most special, heartwarming gift was a long-sleeved T-shirt from my nephew who recently passed away at 11 years old. It was a “Proud Uncle” T-shirt with the logo of a wheelchair on it and a heart! The most fun gift I’ve ever received was a Wii (back when they were cool). The most crazy-expensive gift from a friend was a set of Elsa Peretti sterling silver rosary beads from Tiffany & Co. The weirdest gift I’ve ever received was a vintage oriental framed print of chickens.

If you were able to travel back in time to any period in history for a day, where would you go?

I would travel back to when my family first came over from the Azores, Portugal, in the early 1900s. This way I could see why they moved here and how the process went and what the living situation was like in the islands back then.

What has the pandemic taught you?

It has taught me patience, for sure. Not just in my prayer and spiritual life but in life altogether. You can’t do anything, you just have to be patient and wait. Having the churches closed for a while was really difficult. In all of this, the lesson to be learned is that we all need to appreciate what we have.

Do you have a bucket list? If so, what’s at the top?

I don’t technically have a bucket list, but there are a few things I’d like to do, such as visit Luxembourg. And I have always wanted to get a tattoo. I have it all picked out and designed; I just need to figure out where I’d like it to go!

What do you do in your free time?

I love to travel but can’t right now because of COVID. I used to travel at least four times a year to Portugal. I also enjoy reading; I like historical fiction and I love to read travel narratives.

What is the last show you binge-watched on TV?

“Queen’s Gambit” – great show!

How do you define mercy?

Mercy to me is a way of life. It’s not only love or just plain kindness or mere forgiveness – it’s living a life that promotes all of these things without effort and without judgement. It’s definitely something that we receive from God and are called to share with one another.

Do you have a favorite quote or motto that inspires you?

My favorite quote is from “The Little Prince” by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”



Captains' Corner



Leading with Grace

Paul Boutoussov '21 and Devyn DeFalco '21 keep things positive in the pandemic.

COVID-19 has changed the lives of people all over the world. Plans were cancelled and adjusted as the world acclimated to living with the virus. The sports community has been hit hard as physical contact is integral to many cherished sports. Athletes around the country had to take a seat while new regulations were put in place in order to stay safe. Salve Regina's student-athletes have felt the heartache of losing their seasons and during such trying times, passionate leadership is necessary to maintain optimism and motivation for future seasons. Devyn DeFalco '21 of the women's soccer team and Paul Boutoussov '21 of the men's ice hockey team have stepped up in their roles as team captains during this pandemic.



Devyn DeFalco '21

DeFalco, a nursing major, was devastated upon hearing the news of the Commonwealth Coast Conference's cancellation of all fall 2020 sports,

and admits she shed a few tears. She was hoping that she and her women's soccer squad could improve upon the 9-11-0 record that they earned in the 2019 season.

"No matter how many games you play in, or even if you sit on the bench, it is heartbreaking to learn that your season has been taken away," says DeFalco.

With permission granted to practice for six weeks last fall, the squad was divided into "pods" and went through three phases of progression in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions. By the end of the progression, the team pulled out their uniforms and played an inter-squad scrimmage to celebrate the Class of 2021.

"It is very easy to stop training all together," admits DeFalco. "I needed to teach myself to think positively in order to bring that positivity back to the team. I tried to encourage my teammates with this positivity and emphasize how lucky we were to even be playing at all."

In addition to playing soccer,



DeFalco is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Student Nurse Organization and Campus Activities Board. She likes to be involved on campus to demonstrate that student-athletes are capable of much more than just athletics. She enjoys keeping her teammates in the loop and developing important life skills that come from being a well-rounded student.

Head Coach Jane Walsh speaks highly of DeFalco. "She sets a great example for her teammates of how a high-functioning student-athlete should act. Devyn is a strong student, extremely engaged in our campus community, and a solid contributor on the field. In terms of what coaches look for in captains, she is the full package. I am very grateful to have had Devyn's influence on our program."

DeFalco's teammates know well her commitment and positive attitude. In helping lead SAAC's Thanksgiving food drive in November, DeFalco sent reminders to the team's group chat to encourage contributions, and even offered to go to the store if they were too busy with school work. Her encouragement and dedication on and off the field make her an admirable captain and teammate.

As senior captain of the men's hockey team, Paul Boutoussov also helped with the food drive, and is



another great example of Seahawk dedication. Boutoussov came to Salve after playing junior hockey in the Northeast, and like many who visit the campus, he fell in love with the scenery. Coming into his senior year with a couple of successful seasons as a Seahawk, he, too, was hoping to improve upon the 14-11-1 record that his team earned last year. Like DeFalco and the many devastated athletes who had their seasons taken away, Boutoussov had to put himself in an optimistic, positive mindset for his team.



Paul Boutoussov '21

Facing restrictions similar to those of the women's soccer team, the men's ice hockey team was divided into two isolated groups of 15 to practice on a limited schedule and with limited contact, working through progressions that slowly lifted restrictions. Boutoussov recalls that they had to wake up, sometimes as early as 5:30 a.m., for practices at the URI ice rink. During this time he tried to lift the team's spirits by, "talking through social media and group chats, going to the gym in small groups. We used to hang out outside when it was warm. We try our best to keep in touch."

Boutoussov is the president of SAAC, and enjoys doing volunteer work and fundraisers throughout

the year. He prides himself on getting involved within the Salve and Newport communities. He is also a peer wellness educator, helping to raise awareness about mental health stigmas and creating positivity around the issue. Boutoussov is a dedicated, passionate student-athlete whose hard work is celebrated by Head Coach Zech Klann.

"Paul has been through a lot at Salve and in this program. He has shown leadership in the dressing room, on the ice, and as the head of SAAC," says Klann, who hopes that Boutoussov and the rest of the team will be able to play and to continue to be one of the top 10 teams in the country.

- Anna Downes '22

New eSports Facility

A full-scale, state-of-the-art gaming experience has opened in Gerety Hall.



The facility features dedicated high-performance data networking, multiple HD video displays mounted on the walls, and ergonomically optimized gaming tables and chairs. Adjacent to the eSports facility are additional areas for recreational gaming use and for delivering Oculus virtual reality experiences.

Seahawk fans...
visit us online at salveathletics.com.

The Quest for a Vaccine

Noe Mercado '14 is on the cutting edge of research in developing a vaccine for COVID-19.

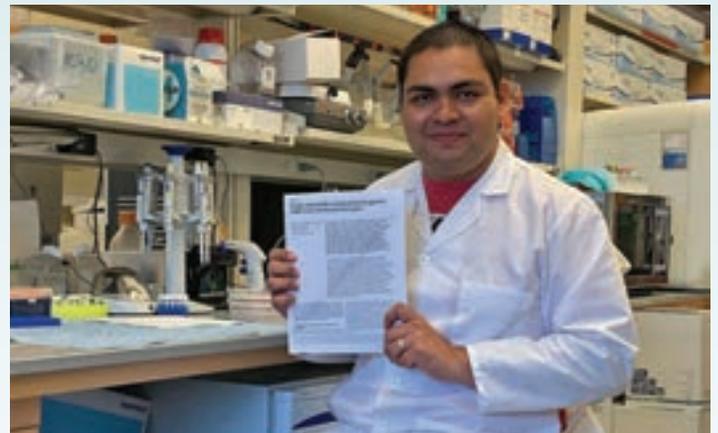


From El Salvador to Newport and beyond, the story of Noe Mercado '14 is one of triumph and determination despite the odds. His most recent chapter is no exception and his tenacity came in handy tackling one of the biggest challenges of 2020—working to create a vaccine for COVID-19.

Born in El Salvador and raised by his grandparents since the age of 1, Mercado didn't really "meet" his mother for the first time until arriving in the United States when he was 8 years old. She had moved to Providence, Rhode Island – leaving Mercado and his sister behind – in an effort to find a better life for their family. Mercado's mother, who does not speak English well, struggled to provide for the family by working long hours at minimum wage in a factory. They later moved to Central Falls, where Mercado attended high school and discovered his talent for biology and chemistry while taking honors classes. His National Honor Society advisor encouraged him to apply to Salve Regina, and set up a meeting with Sister Therese Antone, chancellor.

"Perhaps one of the greatest obstacles that I had to overcome was finding a way to afford college," said Mercado. "As I spoke to my mother about the costs of college, she would often say, 'I'm sorry, mijo [son]. I wish I could help you.'"

Unable to qualify for federal aid due to his immigration status, Mercado was advised to apply for the full-tuition Aquidneck Island Multicultural Scholarship (now known as the OCHRE Scholarship) that Sister Therese had instituted during her tenure as Salve's sixth president. Sister Therese also helped him gain assistance through other resources to cover his first year. After that, Mercado served as a resident advisor for three years and worked full-time each summer to fill in the gaps.



Noe Mercado '14

"My dream became a reality once I learned that I was awarded the [scholarship], which covered my tuition at Salve Regina for four years," said Mercado. "I felt so blessed."

Once he arrived at Salve, Mercado found the academics to be very challenging, but he flourished with the help of a supportive community. He was introduced to medical research, and he's never looked back. In 2013, he participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship of the National Science Foundation, and he also presented at several regional and national conferences.

"Research has been a major part of my life," said Mercado. "I learned several molecular techniques and also began working on a project that was funded by a research grant. I loved applying the concepts I learned in class."

After graduation, Mercado began working as a research associate at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston, Massachusetts, and has been there for five years. When he first started, his role was standard research. He did

“Back in January 2020, I remember to this day when I received an email from my boss. He said, ‘Can one of you extract the new coronavirus sequence from this file?’”

~ Noe Mercado '14



Noe Mercado '14 works in the lab at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

things like cloning, transformation and developing different vaccine platforms. Over the years, his position has evolved into a leadership position in the lab, where he gets to direct and lead much of the research. BIDMC has grown from being primarily focused on finding a vaccine for HIV to studying other pathogens as well. Research projects include tackling major diseases, such as cancer and tuberculosis.

“Back in 2016, we developed one of the first vaccines for the Zika virus and showed 100 percent efficacy,” said Mercado. “There was a lot of concern, a lot of different countries that came together and got their scientists to learn more about it. But there was a lot of effort, and because of the transmissibility, that was why it had to be contained.”

Handling problems like the Zika virus were precursors to what Mercado faced in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic began.

“Back in January 2020, I remember to this day when I received an email from my boss. He said, ‘Can one of you extract the new coronavirus sequence from this file?’” recalled Mercado. “We worked nonstop all weekend trying to unravel the genetic code, and things began progressing pretty quickly after that.”

Mercado said that initially they were not expecting the coronavirus to spread to the U.S, but as the world came screeching to a halt—and America went into quarantine in March—Mercado saw that things were going to get worse. The stakes were rising for coming up with a vaccine for COVID-19, and it was all hands on deck at BIDMC to find a vaccine.

Throughout the past few months, Mercado’s team has been able to produce a vaccine that has efficacy—a journey that has been highlighted in places like NBC Boston, the Boston Globe and the The New York Times. He and his team have also published numerous articles in scientific journals, including Nature and Journal of Virology.

“I can’t take the credit all by myself, because a lot of people have contributed,” said Mercado. “I’m so grateful to be part of this team, and we’ve shown that we can develop this vaccine, and that there is efficacy. We’re going to need not just one, but we’re actually going to need multiple [vaccines].”

Pharmaceutical companies including Moderna and Pfizer have already put their vaccines on the market, and it is clear that more vaccines are needed, as Mercado noted. He

has been working on the vaccine that Johnson & Johnson is producing; phase-three trials had shown the vaccine to be 66 percent effective globally at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, 28 days after vaccination. Overall, it’s been 85 percent effective in preventing severe disease and demonstrated complete protection against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death as of day 28. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued Emergency Use Authorization for the single-dose vaccine on Feb. 27.

“We need more vaccines to increase distribution, particularly in places where the infrastructure is not set up for ultra low temperature storage,” said Mercado. “The benefit of our vaccine is the single-shot approach as well as the long-term storage in a common refrigerator.”

At the end of the day, Mercado looks back on his life—full of struggles and pushing through enormous odds—and sees how everything has prepared him for the challenges being faced in the world. Being an immigrant, working hard to attain an education through Salve Regina, and now being at the center of the world’s fight for a COVID-19 vaccine fills him with gratitude for how far he truly has come.

“Would I do it all over again? Definitely,” he said. “Just be grateful for what you have and the people around you and all the experiences, because every experience has brought me to this point—everything that happened at Salve, and everything that I learned, and everything that I’m learning now. I couldn’t be more grateful for my time at Salve.”

-Teryn O’Brien

SHIFTING THE CAMPUS CULTURE

by Matthias Boxler '04 (M)

President Armstrong launches the Presidential Commission for Equity and Inclusion.

SIX MONTHS BEFORE OFFICIALLY TAKING OVER as Salve Regina's eighth president in July 2019, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong was hearing the community's concerns loud and clear. In smaller conversations during her interview process and in larger forums like the campus-wide town hall during which she was introduced to Salve students, faculty and staff as their next leader, the voices were anxious and the themes – racism, diversity, equity, inclusion – were consistent.

"It became clear that we needed a comprehensive effort," Armstrong said. "We weren't as well coordinated as we could be as a community, together, in terms of our efforts."

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States hard in March 2020, so much of Salve's collective resources were consumed by adapting safely and effectively to continue serving its community. But the voices of concern remained steadfast and bubbled over following the May 25, 2020, death of George Floyd. A campus-wide "Vigil and Forum for Racial Justice" was held virtually to mourn the tragic deaths of Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others.

"We could not wait," Armstrong said. "We needed to do something. Racism is one of the five Critical Concerns we are expressly called to engage with as a mercy, Catholic institution. We will not lose sight of what we stand for, and I am committed to listening deeply, particularly to our faculty, staff and students of color, so we can together



Dr. Kelli Armstrong

more fully advance our mercy mission and manifest an institutional commitment to anti-racism."

In fall 2020, Armstrong established the Presidential Commission for Equity and Inclusion with a mission to examine all aspects of University operations and develop action steps that will advance the institution's mercy mission. As chair, she has assumed a central role and will share the commission's progress regularly with an engaged Board of Trustees.

"This is one of the areas where I hope we can make significant progress here at Salve," added Armstrong. "We've assembled a group that is really incredible, contributing with their own set of experiences, their own backgrounds, to this community effort. It is a lot of important work and it is a real honor to work with them."

Prior to being hired as an admissions counselor, Santiago Durango '19 was active as an undergraduate student at Salve, serving the community as a resident advisor and on the Student Government Association (SGA). Currently enrolled in the master's program in humanities/humanistic studies, he said a big reason he joined the commission was to take the work he saw as a student and continue to advance it as a member of the staff.

"It's all about accountability. Hold us accountable," he told the Salve community during a virtual open forum hosted by the commission in January. "You know our faces, where



Santiago Durango '19

“WE CAN NEVER SAY ‘IT IS ENOUGH.’”

– *Familiar Instructions of Rev. Mother Catherine McAuley
Foundress of the Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy*

we are, where we work. We don’t know how to address these issues if we aren’t hearing directly from the community. Let us know. Bring it up. We’ll work together on it. This isn’t just a presidential commission.”

Durango said that now – as Salve approaches its 75th anniversary – is an important time for the University community to both reflect on its past and look forward to its future. “It’s critically important that our community is aware of the history, of the entire scope of work.”

While conversations about equity and inclusion on campus have been happening throughout Salve’s history, the late Sister Leona Misto, who served in a variety of capacities at the University for 36 years, including being appointed the first vice president for mission integration in 2001, formalized these discussions by bringing together key stakeholders. A defining moment in the movement occurred in 2012, when Dr. Sami Nassim joined the Salve community as founding director of the Office of Multicultural Programs.

who also serves as president of SGA. She points to the diversity initiative she helped launch in spring 2019 as a first-year student as one such example that has had a ripple effect in sparking campus-wide conversations around diversity.

“This community will grow stronger and move forward,” she said. “I have no doubt Salve can be this and will be this.”



Izabella Mangual-Solivan '22



Keith Thompson

Internal change is the primary focus, but bridges must also be built to the outside world, said Keith Thompson, a learning management systems specialist in the Office of Information Technology.

“The world has a problem, this isn’t just Salve’s problem,” he said. “We’re

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

STUDENTS:

Donnie Aikins '23
Naomi Cummings '23

Izabella Mangual-Solivan '22
Tracey Cunningham Martins '19 (M) '22 (M)

STAFF:

Rose Albert '13, assistant director of multicultural programs and retention
Jennifer Boulay, assistant director for assessment and institutional research, ex-officio member
Santiago Durango '19, admissions counselor
Jody Mooradian, director of athletics
Keith Thompson, learning management systems specialist

FACULTY:

Oyenike Balogun-Mwangi, assistant professor of psychology
Belinda Barbagallo, assistant professor of biology and biomedical sciences
Julie L’Europa, assistant professor of nursing
Tracy Pelkowski, assistant professor of education

trying to change the culture at Salve and hope this spills out into the world outside.”

For Tracey Cunningham Martins '19 (M), '22 (M), the opportunity to serve on the commission was welcome. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree from Salve in rehabilitation counseling, and is currently enrolled in the University's master's program in innovation and strategic management. She also has a daughter who graduated from Salve in 2019.

The associate director of employment for the State of Rhode Island, Cunningham Martins said she has devoted her entire career to working with individuals with developmental disabilities. She said she has witnessed the discrimination, exclusion and mistreatment of this population, and works every day to advance inclusion, employment, systems change, strategic planning, leadership development, culture change, workforce development, training and social justice.

“Salve has always been a treasured place,” she said. “I want to be a member of this dynamic team to develop strategies and processes that will allow every student and visitor to feel at home on the Salve campus.”

Oyenike Balogun-Mwangi, assistant professor of psychology, said many in the Salve community may be fearful and/or tentative about engaging in issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. “It is my deepest hope that the commission will introduce initiatives that will equip our community to wade bravely into these most important discussions and actively engage in the work of social change.”



Oyenike
Balogun-Mwangi

Rose Albert '13, assistant director for multicultural programs and retention, said she is thrilled to

serve on the commission and stands ready to challenge her beloved Salve community to do better. “We need to act upon the injustices that minorities are dealing with on campus and truly discuss those issues with understanding, empathy and transparency,” she said. “Equity works when everyone has what they need to thrive and Salve has some work to do to truly be inclusive.”



Rose Albert '13

Albert said the University community needs to stand willing and ready to truly make change happen without feeling threatened, targeted or upset by it. Solivan believes the community is up for the challenge.

“I love Salve with all my heart,” Solivan said. “And being involved with a community trying to improve is truly an honor.”



PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The commission is charged with the following duties:

- Regular review of Salve Regina's policies and procedures to ensure that they promote our University values and mercy mission and advance an institutional commitment to equity and inclusion.
- Review and recommendation of ongoing training and development for students, faculty and staff to foster a culture of equity, inclusion and support for all members of our community.
- Sponsorship of University-wide events and programs to promote deeper understanding of the systemic issues of social inequity and injustice and the ways in which a mercy education calls us to respond.
- Regular, ongoing data collection to monitor University progress on institutional commitments to equity and inclusion.



Multicultural Education Week panel discussion, fall 2020

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The commission will spearhead the following initiatives:

- Develop a statement to acknowledge and clearly define the University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and communicate a process to receive, review and redress bias incidents on campus that violate this statement.
- Host an annual Equity and Inclusion Summit for the campus community each spring to provide the best thinking on how to promote equity and inclusion on campus and give the University concrete best practices for improvements to its environment.
- Design and implement a training process for members of the Salve community, particularly those in high-impact roles, to offer a common vocabulary and understanding around issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion, in order to develop a deeper foundation for inclusive conversations and community on campus.
- Contribute to the development of a leadership development program for faculty and staff that will include training to better support members of the University community from diverse backgrounds with an increased awareness on how to leverage the power of our diversity in living our mission.
- Review University admissions and hiring processes and make recommendations for how to recruit, select and support future faculty, staff and students to ensure Salve reflects the diverse backgrounds and gifts of our wider community.
- Develop and implement a regular campus-wide climate survey to provide an ongoing measure of the University's commitment to advancing equity and inclusion.
- Review virtual and physical spaces on campus that support the work of equity and inclusion and make recommendations for modifications and improvement.

ADVOCATES *for* JUSTICE

By Tara Watkins '00

Salve Regina's administration of justice (ADJ) program leads the way in developing professionals grounded in the mercy principles of universal justice and creating a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.

"Salve's mission and commitment to developing the whole person, as well as the strength and reputation of the ADJ program really spoke to me," says Dr. Paul Joyce, assistant professor, who took the helm as chairman of the Department of Administration of Justice in August 2020, joining the Salve community with 32 years of policing experience, including 14 years as superintendent in the Boston Police Department.



Dr. Paul Joyce

In July 2017, Joyce received his Ph.D. in Criminology and Justice Policy from Northeastern University with his dissertation, "Street Gang Membership in Boston: A Life-Course Perspective." The qualitative study focused on a cohort of former Boston gang members who led the emergence of the street gang culture in the late 1980s and examined their lives from childhood through adulthood.

"During my time in the Boston Police Department, I found that if you treat people with dignity and respect, they will most often treat you the same in return," says Joyce. "I had former

gang members willing to sit down with me and share their life stories because I treated them fairly. It can be done."

Most recently, Joyce served as director of the homeland security studies graduate

program at Endicott College. He is excited to have the opportunity to work directly with undergraduate students at Salve, serving as a mentor and educator from their first day through their final day on campus.

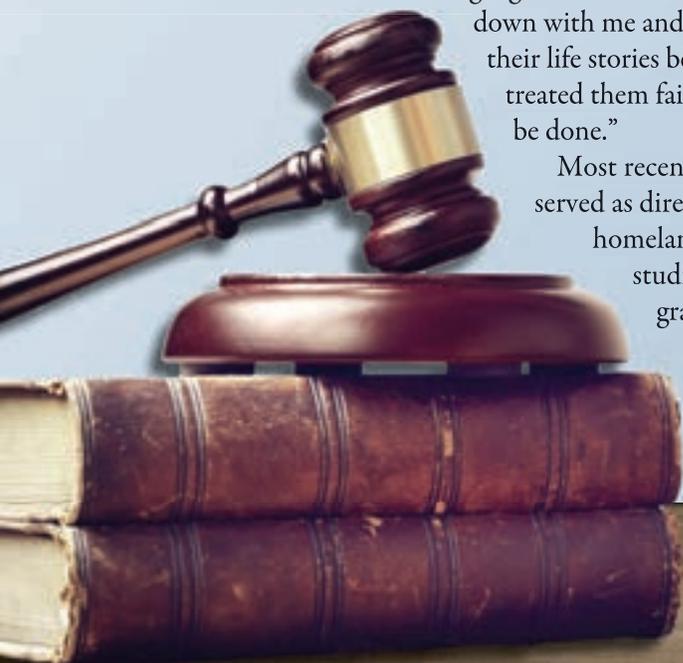
Joyce credits the support he received from fellow ADJ faculty— Dr. Michael Brady, associate professor, Dr. Robin Hoffmann, professor, and Vincent Petrarca, senior lecturer— as key to his smooth transition to department chairman. Having served at Salve for 20, 33 and 39 years, respectively, the trio's dedication to the program has impacted generations of students. "Their commitment to students and the department as a whole are a real strength and what helps make this program so successful," says Joyce.

This commitment, as well as opportunities for mentorship and career advising, are among the factors that make the program strong. Annie Avila '22 is a double major in social work and administration of justice, with career aspirations to advocate for the most vulnerable and marginalized in the court system.

"The ADJ professors are always willing to help," says Avila, "it really shows that they love their students. Mr. P. helped me pursue what I want to do. I wouldn't be on the path I am today without his guidance and support."

Avila believes her internship experiences are laying a firm foundation for future career aspirations. She completed an internship in fall 2020 at the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center in Warwick, R.I., where she operated the crisis hotline for the Center, which provides services to victims of domestic and sexual assault. Currently, she is interning as a domestic violence advocate for the Kent County court system. "Both of these experiences help build on my desire to work one-on-one helping people," says Avila.

Kellie Senecal '02, '03 (M) was hired by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 2004. Prior to her assignment as a special agent in the Providence, R.I., Field Office, she worked in Miami, Texas, Washington, D.C., and





“The ADJ professors are always willing to help, it really shows that they love their students.”

~ Annie Avila '22

Hartford, Conn. She credits the ADJ faculty with easing her transition from college to career.

“Dr. Robin Hoffman, Vin Petrarca, Dr. Michael Brady— with each of them I remember the time they took to talk one-on-one, to think about where I wanted to end up, to write a letter of recommendation, and to put me in touch with someone in that field.”

For Senecal, the five-year master’s degree program option was an added bonus. “I knew I wanted to pursue a career in federal law enforcement,” says Senecal, “but I wasn’t guaranteed the flexibility in my work schedule to pursue a master’s later on, so it was a huge benefit to be able to complete it in just one additional year.”

“The federal hiring process is quite lengthy,” she explains. “So after graduation, as I was submitting applications for job announcements, I was able to complete the graduate requirements while my background investigation was in progress.”

Paying it forward is important to Senecal and she enjoys being available to help current students network and explore their career interests, just as her alumni mentor, Theresa Murray ’83, did for her. “Mr. P put me in touch with Theresa, a veteran federal special agent. Theresa brought me on as an intern and helped me through the process of all the federal application paperwork. I’m lucky to still be friends with her today!”

Cynthia Lill ’18 was the first person in her family to go to college and is currently in her third year at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she serves as the executive chairwoman of the Human Trafficking Prevention Project. Lill is also a member of the Civil Justice Clinic, representing survivors of human trafficking and working on legislation aimed to expand criminal conviction relief for human trafficking survivors.

“Salve really helped teach me how I could make a

difference in my career field,” says Lill. She recalls how the advising and mentorship of Brady, Hoffmann and Petrarca were instrumental in her decision to go to law school.

“Dr. Brady helped focus my goals on what I wanted to get out of my college experience,” says Lill, adding, “Mr. P. really helped me probe more into why I wanted to go into law school, and if it was the right the decision for me.”

“Dr. Hoffman was my prelaw advisor,” she continues. “She helped me reach for and achieve my dream of law school. Her guidance made all the difference. Even today, she remains an incredible mentor. Without her I would not be in the place I am now.”

Lill credits a Day One anti-trafficking workshop with sparking her career path in human trafficking. “The workshop provided a lot of knowledge on this issue,” says Lill, adding “Salve was just wonderful at helping prepare and tailor my law school focus (anti-trafficking).”





“I remember the time they took to talk one-on-one, to think about where I wanted to end up, to write a letter of recommendation, and to put me in touch with someone in that field.”

~ Kellie Senecal '02, '03 (M)

“Salve’s mission of working to create a harmonious, just and merciful world is really embodied throughout the program,” she continues. “It runs through the coursework and critical thinking skills, as well as the presentation of different sides of issues, and in all we experience.”

Brendan Clancey '19, '21 (M) earned his master’s degree in ADJ and homeland security while working in Salve’s Technology Service Center, which plays an important role in assisting faculty, staff and students during the pandemic. He stresses that the variety and range of coursework are an essential element of the program’s continued success. “My favorite class was Criminal Procedure,” says Clancey, “It really guides you through what happens in the court system from arrest to conviction.”

Salve’s investment in the department’s cybersecurity and digital forensics labs really makes the program stand out, however. “The labs are state-of-the-art and very hands on,” says Clancey.

Joyce hopes to build on the department’s foundational excellence in providing broad-based coverage of the justice system within the context of mercy values by strengthening its relationship with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

“This is a difficult and challenging time for those working in the criminal justice field,” stresses Joyce. “It is important to take the opportunity to strengthen relationships, while also teaching and modeling the importance of building trust with

communities through being accessible and listening.”

In fall 2020, the ADJ program hosted a law enforcement panel discussion that was attended virtually by nearly 100 students. Senecal and Alfred “Chip” Cooke '17 were among the panelists.

Cooke is the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) supervisory special agent serving as chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Section at the DEA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Looking to broaden his career basis, he began researching master’s degree programs with a focus in homeland security across the United States.

“It was like the stars aligned when I found Salve,” says Cooke, who first saw the campus while vacationing in Rhode Island with his wife.

“I had been searching for years,” Cooke recalls. “I walked out of a tour of the Breakers and saw Salve’s campus. It was truly what I had been academically searching for and has greatly broadened my skillset as an agent.”

Cooke completed most of his coursework online. “For someone like me,” explains Cooke, “a mid-career, older student, the online option really worked well.”

“The world can be ugly at times,” says Cooke, “with people trying to harm others.” He emphasizes that Salve’s ADJ program focuses on ways to protect humanity. “We learn to think about how we can advance people, help them to be more resilient, and bounce back from tragedy. I am proud to be a graduate of this program and recommend it to others.”



“My favorite class was Criminal Procedure. It really guides you through what happens in the court system from arrest to conviction.”

~ Brendan Clancey '19, '21 (M)

Meet the Professors



Dr. Robin Hoffmann



Dr. Michael Brady



Vincent Petrarca

Q: What keeps you at Salve?

Hoffmann: I love both the students and tremendous sense of community. Some of my most meaningful work has been as an advisor to student organizations. Currently, I'm the advisor to the Black Student Union (BSU). Each year I work with the BSU to plan a Black Lives Matter March. I've also been fortunate to have the opportunity to work on many student satisfaction initiatives.

Petrarca: I don't think of going to work at Salve as a job. I really love what I do. I have taught generations of students, parents as well as their children. I am dedicated to my students and love to see them do well.

Q: What do you love about teaching in the ADJ program?

Brady: As ADJ faculty, we are passionate about what we do. The day I get up and find that I no longer have the passion for what I do is the day I should retire. I teach because I love it.

Hoffmann: I love working with students and having the opportunity to open their hearts and minds. Our students are our future and I feel hopeful that they will go on to make a difference and distinguish themselves in the vast justice field. This enables me to introduce them to controversial issues in justice with the knowledge that they may effect positive change.

Petrarca: I still keep in touch with many of my students even after they have graduated. I love to see how they are doing and where their careers and life have taken them.

Q: How do you think the program embodies the University's mission statement?

Brady: I think the ADJ program really is a personification of the mission statement. Professors, students and graduates all work for universal justice. We are citizens of the world, working toward a more harmonious, just and merciful society. Our job is to take the demands of an ever-changing society and teach our students how to balance societal interests and the rights of those accused of violating the laws of our society. This goes hand-in-hand with what students experience in our program every day.

Petrarca: I believe that you cannot make the world more harmonious, just and merciful without being your best self. If you do this, you're going to be successful. I think it's important for students to hear this message.

Hoffmann: During my time in the administration of justice program, I implemented a mentoring program at the R.I. Training School, the state's locked facility for delinquent youth. Hundreds of students in the ADJ department became role models and mentors to troubled youth. This shows how our department actively embodies Salve's mission. In 2015, I had the honor of being selected as a recipient of a Mercy Award.

Q: What makes the program stand out?

Petrarca: Naming the program "Administration of Justice" and not "Criminal Justice" was intentional because it has a broader appeal. Student interests often change over the course of their four years in college. I have students who started out thinking they wanted to be police officers, but over time, realized they really were called to be firefighters. Others have become superior court judges, federal law enforcement, probation officers, lawyers, police officers...I could go on...the degree is just so versatile.

Also, our professors are not just in academia but also practitioners in their fields. This has been important in our program since the very beginning. Our current department chair, Paul Joyce, was a police officer in Boston for over 30 years.

Brady: Our department faculty are passionate about what we do both in the classroom and as practitioners. We are excited about the topics we teach and show our students the reality of what happens in the justice system. Academics teach students how things should work in a perfect world. That is not always the case in real life. Practical experience helps teach our students the skills and coping mechanisms necessary when real life does not go as we planned it.

Q: Are there any interesting facts you'd like to share about yourself?

Hoffmann: I started the pet therapy program in 2013 with my beloved therapy dog, Sasha. We have held many "stress busters" since then and conducted a study with Louise McCarty from the Department of Nursing and Jenn Rosa, associate director of residence life, of the efficacy of pet therapy on college students that is being written up for publication.

Petrarca: I was in the Air Force for 26 years; fought in two wars, Vietnam and the Gulf War; worked in juvenile probation for 35 years; and coached football at various levels over 20 years (including at Salve from 1992-99).

Brady: I've been blessed to have had three careers in the justice field that I've loved; serving as a police officer for 20 years (retired in 1998), a practicing criminal law attorney for the past 22 years, and also as a professor at Salve for the past 20 years.

GETTING THROUGH IT

Together

Salve education alumni discuss the challenges of teaching during a pandemic.

Salve Regina's education graduates are among the many who have faced adversity and risen to the challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic. When in-person instruction halted in March 2020, education switched solely to online or "distance learning." Educators adapted, learning quickly how to bring curriculum to students in new, engaging and interactive ways.

"At first, I didn't know what to do," says Nicole McDermott '01, who has been Head of School at Pinecrest School, located in Annandale, Virginia, for the past 15 years.

But then, McDermott remembered her guiding principles of gratitude and grace. "There is always something to be grateful for," she states. "I tried to lead by example, knowing there would be challenges and that we would handle them with grace."

"When I'm on a Zoom call and my screen freezes, I might feel like panicking, but it's okay," she explains. "I try to stay calm and get back on the call as quickly as I can, and to remind everyone else to do the same."

"I try to start from a place where doing hard things is possible, not impossible" continues McDermott. "We went through five versions of COVID protocols before even starting the school year last fall. Over the summer, when we were thinking about starting school with masks and shields, many thought it would be impossible. Parents asked whether kids would be able to wear masks all day. But kids are more capable than we think."



Nicole McDermott '01 reads to first grade students in Nov. 2020.

Having completed months of in-person learning, McDermott confirmed that the seemingly impossible is possible after all. "Everyone is surprised by how easy it was to acclimate to wearing masks all day," she says. "We don't love it, but we can do it."

One of the biggest pandemic challenges is living with uncertainty. "Connections are important to me," explains McDermott. "I try to sit with our staff, students and families in the uncertainty, just be fully in the moment with them. That's really all we can do."

Jallah Leonard '98 agrees. He tries to teach from the perspective of meeting students and families where they are at, both during the pandemic and beyond. Leonard is a math teacher in the alternative learning program at Rogers High School in Newport. He has 22 years of experience in education, both at the high school and college levels.

"I love helping kids learn and reach their full potential, especially student-athletes," says Leonard. "I try to instill that there is no separation between the classroom and the field. Whatever you bring to the classroom you also bring to the field and vice versa."

According to Leonard, weaknesses are areas for potential growth, but without the right mindset, they can hold a student back. This is one reason why he strongly feels that in-school education should remain an option during the pandemic.

"It's hard for a lot of my students to learn math virtually," says Leonard, "I need to be in front of them, be able to take a pencil and explain how something works out."

He explains that although distance learning might work for some school districts, those with less access to resources and supports





Jallah Leonard '98 (left) and Vincent Petrarca

outside of school really depend on the in-person instruction and structure to nurture and develop their educational development and well-being.

Leonard tries to lead by example, a skill he learned from his coaches at Salve Regina, Vincent Petrarca, administration of justice senior lecturer, and Timothy Coen, former head football coach.

“Coach P. and Coach C. still inspire me,” says Leonard. “Coach Petrarca loves helping people, tells it like it is, and empowers others. Coach Coen taught me to Refuse to Lose. That doesn’t mean you win all the time, but it puts you in a mindset to push yourself beyond your comfort zone.”

Kaci Gallo '08 believes that now, more than ever, working closely with colleagues as a team is especially important. For the past 11 years, Gallo has taught students with IEPs at Rogers High School. In addition, she has coached Salve’s cross country and track and field teams for nearly a decade.

Rogers High followed a hybrid model for much of the fall 2020 semester, with special education teachers co-teaching in the classroom both in person and virtually to students. “Working in partnership with other teachers really helps,” says Gallo. “This year I’ve been teaching ninth-grade English and algebra. It can be hard to give the same level of attention virtually to students, so I try to be available for one-on-one Google meets at the end of the school day.

“As a high school teacher,” she continues, “Seeing your kids progress across the four years, and then watch them walk across that stage, is very fulfilling and makes all the struggles we experience worthwhile. We will persevere through this pandemic.”

Karin Cordeiro Faria '05 has been teaching kindergarten

in the Somerset, Mass., school system for the past 15 years. She agrees in the importance of leaning on peers for support during the pandemic. “Having colleagues to help problem-solve makes all the difference,” she explains.

Helping students be successful during the pandemic requires more preparation than ever before. “I teach in person but have to prepare lessons for both in-person and online classes,” explains Faria. “I try to give my students more time to complete assignments when they are home because I don’t always know what kind of direct support parents are able to provide during lessons.

“I know it can be hard for 5-year-olds to stay in one spot during distance learning, they like to move,” she continues. She tries to work quick movement activities into the lesson plans when possible. “I also have to be more animated and over-exaggerate my voice on screen to get my message across since I’m wearing a mask.”

But Faria, whose mother was also in education, knows that being a teacher often requires thinking outside the box. “My mother was a foreign language teacher, she modelled how to be a good teacher. I always knew teaching was a lot of work and not a job that ended at 3 p.m.”

“Education is a real vocation,” says Christina Simons '00 who works in early childhood special education in White Plains, New York. “Salve prepared me well. I learned skills for how to engage students and work with families that I still use every day.”

Like Leonard, Gallo and Faria, Simons works in person while also managing distance learning students. “It’s been a wild ride,” she says, “learning how to engage 3- and 4-year olds in virtual conversation and activities.”

Simons has an iPad where she uploads and posts videos into Google classroom. “It can be challenging at times, juggling the balance of educational needs with the new regulations and safety protocol around hand washing every 20 minutes and mask wearing,” admits Simons. “But I try to break it down into terms my kids will understand. I try to explain that we are doing these extra steps to help keep our bodies safe and whole right now.”

McDermott also believes that teaching is a vocation. “Since I was in second grade I knew I wanted to be a teacher,” she says. “I always feel like it chose me rather than I chose it.

“My relationships at Salve, particularly with some of my professors, taught me so much about community building, which is so important to me today,” she continues. “Staying connected matters, and especially in this moment in time, trying to process through it to keep moving forward with ease and not anxiety. That’s the goal.”

“We might feel like we have more questions than answers at times during this pandemic, but it will flip eventually...and we will get through this, together.”

~ by Tara Watkins '00

Editor’s note: Salve acknowledges with appreciation all education alumni teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of you; thanks for all the hard work you do day in and day out to advocate for children and provide quality education.



Community Connections *in a pandemic*

By Samantha Tarbox '21
Illustration by Ryan Miech '21

Despite the challenges, both virtual and in-person service opportunities keep students busy.

With 118 service opportunities, 346 student volunteers and 32 service advocates, Salve Regina combated the struggles posed by the pandemic and continued to serve the surrounding community in typical Seahawk fashion throughout the fall 2020 semester.

“Even with COVID, it was a great turnout of volunteers, which is amazing considering all of the challenges students had to face,” said Kelly Powers, director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service.

Throughout the fall 2020 semester, the biggest challenge faced by the Center for Community Engagement and Service was developing virtual service opportunities for students. Typically, service programs are generally planned six months in advance. Kathleen Rendos, assistant director, shared that the Center had to adjust to a more day-by-day approach to planning.

“It was difficult to wait until the last minute to plan service opportunities, but things would constantly change with the community partners, the volunteers and general logistics,” said Rendos. “Our traditional methods of thinking and planning didn’t work as we had to always adapt to new obstacles.”

As with many procedures in the pandemic, configuring virtual service was an evolving experience that offered lessons from which to build on moving forward. Nevertheless, virtual service occurred over the course of the semester in several different forms. Saarah Papineau '23, who is part of the service advocate program, coordinated phone calls between Salve students and residents in Aldersbridge Communities nursing home in East Providence, R.I. From these interactions, several wonderful friendships blossomed. Salve students found a way to create meaningful connections with the residents that filled a void so many have experienced during the pandemic.

Another opportunity for service was “Virtual Reading Rooms” for children, which took place during the Day of Service at the start of the fall 2020 semester. Participating students read and acted out children’s books while recording themselves. The videos have been posted on McKillop Library’s YouTube page, and are shared by community members and teachers with their younger students. An additional group of students made holiday door decorations for children at Lucy’s Hearth, a 24-hour emergency and transitional shelter in Newport County.

Rendos is extremely proud of the Center’s work to create virtual opportunities, and explains how everyone had to step out of their “comfort zones” in order to expand outreach. Thirty-two service advocates stepped up, taking the lead on new opportunities and contributing 1,112 hours at various community organizations. They have been a constant support in getting more student volunteers out into the community.



Georgia Rossetti '22 works with student volunteers to make flower arrangements for Newport Hospital.



Student volunteers gather to tie-dye masks for the Boys & Girls Club while taking part in the Day of Service on campus.

“They have risen to the occasion to become an advocate for the community needs that pop up,” explained Powers.

Rendos’ favorite memory from the fall semester was the Service Plunge, which took place Sept. 2-6, 2020. The annual service immersion experience was more important than ever in a world impacted by the pandemic.

“Our Service Plunge facilitators dove head-first into the plunge before the semester even began,” explained Rendos. Incoming students participating in the Service Plunge were able to have a great experience, thanks to the highly dedicated facilitators who committed to following all COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions in order to keep both Salve and their community partners safe. Students dedicated their time to nonprofits such as Child and Family Services, Methodist Community Gardens, Rhode Island Food Bank and Gifts to Give.

During the holiday season, service advocates hosted Thanksgiving and service week events if they stayed on campus, and wrapped and delivered gifts from Angel Tree donations.

“They are truly ambassadors for service and their positive influence continues to enhance Aquidneck Island,” said Powers. “Salve is a place where students with a natural passion for serving can go above and beyond.”

While Seahawk student-athletes were unable to represent the University on the court, rink, field and track due to the Commonwealth Coast Conference’s decision to cancel intercollegiate competition, they shined instead in other ways. Through the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), they redirected their energy to various service opportunities. Paul Boutoussov ’21, president, shared that despite the pandemic struggles, SAAC was able to engage with the community, although some of the annual events that are considered “close-contact” proved challenging.

“This year has been a bit tough, but we raised more canned goods than the previous years for our Thanksgiving Drive,”

said Boutoussov.

With seasons postponed, annual fundraiser games could not take place, but athletes were not discouraged from helping the community. In collaboration with Clean Ocean Access, more than 80 student-athletes helped clean local beaches. In November 2020, 50 campus community members joined together in a walk for equality hosted by SAAC, which supported the NCAA’s diversity and inclusion campaign. Boutoussov, who is a member of the men’s ice hockey team, made sure attendees were kept safe at all events by wearing masks, social distancing and wearing gloves when necessary.

“I think that Salve Athletics is a wonderful organization filled with wonderful people,” said Boutoussov. “There are always individuals from numerous sports teams who are willing to lend a helping hand.”

Big or small, groups of Salve students were positively impacting Aquidneck Island all semester long. In September and October 2020, over 20 volunteers helped with Newport’s Zorro Brigade, passing out free masks on busy streets and along Cliff Walk.

“Salve students were a real shot in the arm for the volunteers who’ve been out there all summer long with the Zorro Brigade passing out masks to anyone who needed them. The students were prompt and conscientious, and a complete delight,” remarked Susan Taylor, former Newport city councilor, as she expressed gratitude for the Salve community.

Like Catherine McAuley in 19th-century Dublin, Salve students do not back down in times of uncertainty, and are dedicated to volunteering their time with mercy and gratitude, taking action to help wherever possible. The Center for Community Engagement and Service is always ready and willing to launch new initiatives to assist neighbors in need.

“We encourage students to talk to us if they have additional ideas for virtual service opportunities,” said Rendos.

Making Magic



TESS SANTORE BLAND '11 VIVIDLY REMEMBERS VISITING DISNEY WORLD'S MAGIC KINGDOM as a child and watching with awe as the fireworks lit up the night sky over Cinderella's Castle. It seemed as though everything, from the music to the lighting, was timed just right in order to make the spectacle perfect. She always knew she wanted to pursue a career in pyrotechnics, but her fascination with the art didn't start in Orlando, Florida. It began back home in New Jersey, where her family has owned and operated Garden State Fireworks, Inc. since 1890. Coming from three generations of pyrotechnicians, Bland was destined to work in the field. Today, she is the fireworks and special FX designer for Disney Parks Live Entertainment, creating the same shows that filled her with wonder at a young age.

Bland's favorite part of the job is what used to be the best part of her vacation—seeing the guests' reactions when they watch her work come to life. "It's so cool to think that families are making memories from the work that I am doing," she said.

At Salve, Bland majored in chemistry to better understand the science behind the art and learn how the chemical reactions could produce such brilliant colors. The combination of her studies and her family's background in the business helped pave the way to her dream job today. After graduation, Bland was accepted into the Disney College Program. A few months later she accepted a role as an entertainment technician. In this role, she helped to execute the shows that were already designed and built and continued to grow her knowledge in special effects. In March 2016, she began her current role as a designer on the nightly shows, choreographing the displays that include everything from confetti to flames to bubbles.

"I ask myself how I will best be able to tell a story through the show," she said, "My hope is that people walk away remembering what they saw."

Bland and her team are responsible for two popular, nightly Hollywood Studios shows. "Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular" fills the air with music and fireworks as scenes from the movies are projected for the audience to see. "Disney's Wonderful World of Animation" takes guests on a journey through more than 90 years of Disney and Pixar animation in just 12 minutes. The projection show includes moments from various Disney films, and fittingly begins and ends with Mickey Mouse.

In the fall of 2019, Bland completed the year-long endeavor of replacing the holiday fireworks at Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party. The project included developing a new musical score, storyline, projection ideas and fireworks displays. In order to get things just right, she viewed computer renderings that captured the fireworks and the castle projections to 1/100 of a second. After a lot of work alongside a team of show directors, lighting, broadcast and projection partners, and a few overnight test-runs, "Minnie's Wonderful Christmastime Fireworks" debuted on Nov. 8, 2019, in front of a sold-out crowd.

"I think we not only met every expectation, but surpassed them all," Bland said. The countless hours that are put into creating the show all become worth it when it opens to the



Tess Santore Bland '11 and her husband Tyler are on duty for the opening night of Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway.

"I think it's so special that I get to be a part of creating memories for families and guests every day."

-Tess Santore Bland '11

public. "Hearing the guests in the crowd is something that won't ever get old," she added.

Bland lives just outside Orlando with her husband Tyler and their dog Molly. Tyler is the rigging and rope access program manager for all of Walt Disney World's property. The couple met at the park in 2012 while working a New Year's Eve event at Disney's Hollywood Studios. In May, they will celebrate three years of marriage. They have their own slice of paradise on just under five acres, surrounded by 400 acres of orange groves. When they aren't working or visiting the parks, they enjoy taking on home projects, traveling and visiting family. Bland considers herself pretty lucky.

"It's amazing to think back to standing with my family at Disney World and watching the fireworks. I can remember it like it was yesterday! I think it's so special that I get to be a part of creating those memories for families and guests every day."

-Emily Whelan '20

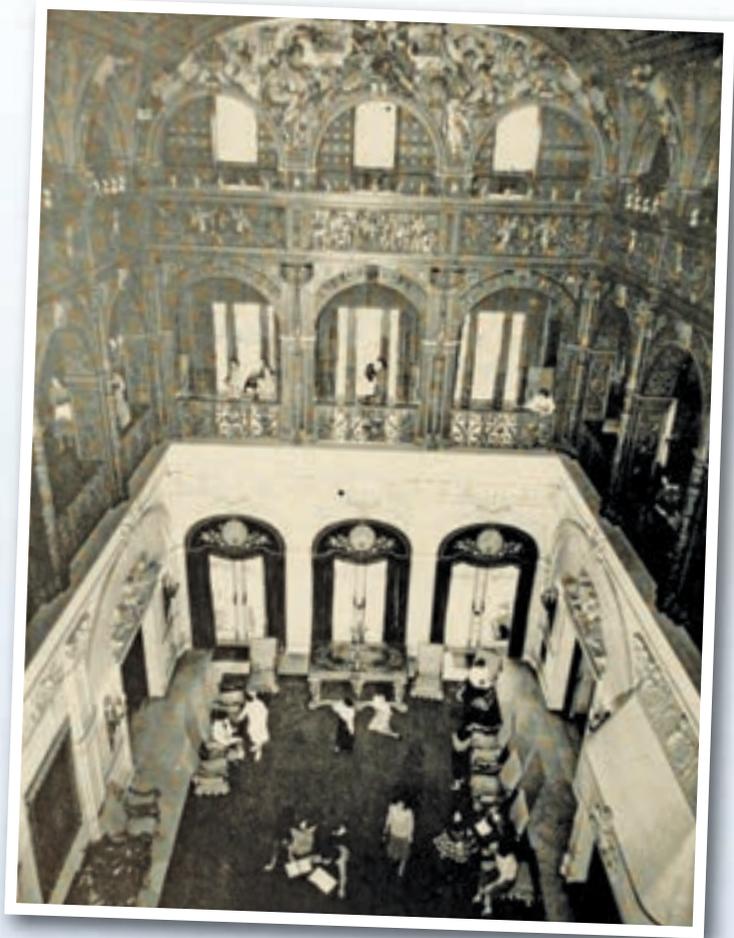
Editor's Note: At press time, Disney Parks are open with health and safety measures in place to protect employees and guests. Bland continues to design pyrotechnic projects and looks forward to sharing them with visitors in the future.

The Way We Were

Photos courtesy of Regina Maris yearbooks.



1951: Left to right: Jane Quinton, Mary M. Shea, Frances Almonte.



1951: Eileen Schwenk, Claire O'Connor and Frances Bridgeman



1961: Sister Mary Antonine, RSM, Nancy Ellis, Carol Rourke and Judith Kelley



1961: Freshman and sophomore students



50 years
1971

1971 Fun Facts

- Most popular TV show was "All in the Family."
- Album of the year: "Tapestry," Carol King
- IBM introduced the floppy disk.
- The Walt Disney World Theme Park opened in Orlando, Florida.
- NASA's Apollo 14, the third manned mission to the moon, launched.
- Greenpeace formally comes into existence.
- Federal Express was started by Fred Smith.
- The first Starbucks opened in Seattle, Washington.



25 years
1996



1996 Fun Facts

- Most popular TV show was "Frasier."
- Album of the Year: "Falling into You," Celine Dion
- Pokemon is first introduced.
- Bill Clinton was re-elected as president.
- Dolly the Sheep was the first mammal to be successfully cloned.
- Ebay started its online auction and shopping website.
- Doing the "Macarena" became a popular dance craze.
- Tomb Raider video game was introduced.



History majors from the 1960s to 2020—and all decades in between—got together on Zoom Feb. 11 for a fun-filled and informative reunion. The conversation included faculty updates on Department of History initiatives and research projects, and alumni shared news on where they are living and working. A great time was had by all and plans are under way for another gathering in the future.

1952



Eileen Schwenk '52 (bottom left) is a member of the Maryknoll Sisters Eastern United States Region. She uses her nursing and counseling experience to help friends and neighbors.

1965

Sandra Flowers '65, '06 (Ph.D.)



is in her 12th year on the Newport, R.I., School Committee, serving on several subcommittees. Flowers was recently nominated to be president of

AARP of Newport County, and serves as vice-chair of the Newport Democratic City Committee and corresponding secretary of Forum Lodge, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. She continues to be active in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, including teaching religious education classes for grades five and six.

1966

Susan Allard Erinakes '66 has 12 grandchildren and learned the challenges of online education during the pandemic in her role as a middle school Spanish teacher

1969

Helen Dorflinger Ryan '69, who serves on Salve's Board of Trustees, was awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, also known as the Cross of Honor, from the Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, S.C. The Papal honor comes directly from the Holy See and is composed of a gold medal with the name of the honor inscribed, as well as a scroll. The honor was established in 1888 and is given to Catholics aged 45 and above who have shown distinguished service to the Church and to the Papal office.



1970

Donna Place Cox '70 owns her own SAT/ACT tutoring company, Cox Tutoring Group. She has been tutoring for 18 years and has three associate tutors who work with her. Cox completed her 25th year as chair of the school/business partnership committee for her local Chamber of Commerce in North Attleboro, Mass.

1972

Dodie Kazanjian '72 is the founder and director of the new art exhibit in the August Belmont Memorial Chapel in Newport's Island Cemetery. Originally built in 1886, the chapel has been transformed by Kazanjian, in collaboration with artist Piotr Uklanski, the Island Cemetery Company and the Belmont Chapel Foundation with the curated exhibit, "Piotr Uklanski: Suicide Stunner's Séance." The paintings and renovations were inspired by the chapel's neo-Gothic architecture and history.

1973

Linda Skya Brown Abbate '73 earned her doctoral degree in bioethics in May 2020 from Loyola University Chicago.

1974

Judge Ourania Papademetriou '74 serves on the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. In this role she has shared her experiences, insights and advice, demonstrating her commitment to seeking justice for those in need.

1981

Reverend Vincent Howell '81 (M) was recently appointed director of the Congregational Faith and Learning Center at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, N.C.



Howell was ordained as an elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church nearly 25 years ago.

1983

Karen Miguel '83 has been working on the front lines of the pandemic since before the coronavirus arrived in the U.S. In her role as a patient safety officer of radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital Care Services, she helped monitor the spread of the virus across Asia and into Europe during early spring 2020. Miguel helped create the hospital's Interdisciplinary Proning Team, which is responsible for helping to care for COVID-19 patients who are in crisis, and trained more than 80 staff members in three days.

Gretchen Berrigan Muschamp '83 decided to choose a different direction in her long nursing career and joined Care Dimensions, a hospice/palliative care organization on the North Shore of Boston. She has always felt that Salve Regina prepared her in a special way to

meet the challenges of being any type of nurse and felt a true calling to become a hospice nurse at this time in her life.

1984

Janet Titus Boudreaux '84 won the 2020 Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award at Heartland Community College, Illinois, where she teaches psychology in the liberal arts and



social sciences. She uses active learning, emphasizing her high expectations with high support, and a sense of humor in order to help students understand the fundamental principles of psychology and the connections between learning and real-world experiences.

1986

Katherine Aldrich '86 is the deputy counsel for the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. Aldrich is responsible for assisting the counsel in her duties as the senior legal advisor to the commandant, the deputy commandants and numerous other top officials. Aldrich was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2020, and her experience supervising over 100 civilian and marine judge advocate attorneys and support staff at Marine Corps Headquarters and 14 other field offices worldwide has helped her prepare for this position.

Gerald Willis '86, '88 (M), director of alumni, parent and family programs, was chosen as the 2020 recipient of the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County's



Outstanding Service Award, which is given to an individual who has gone above and beyond with volunteering their time and energy in the community.



An olive branch is well known as a symbol of peace. A business management major, Maria Guadagno '84 could not have predicted just how that symbol would play a central role in her life.

Running an errand one day after she had graduated, she met her future husband, who was taking a summer class at Salve. Five years later, Guadagno traded the Atlantic Ocean, which had been a part of her life as a Rhode Islander, for the Mediterranean Sea and her husband's native country.

"I was not sure if we would move to Greece forever, but it became evident that it was God's plan for us, as I have been here for the last 30 years," said Guadagno.

Adapting to a new lifestyle wasn't easy. Being a woman of great faith, Guadagno embodied resilience throughout her struggle to find comfort. She relentlessly tried to find work in Greece but found it difficult. Women faced inherent biases in the workforce, whether or not they had a University diploma, as she did.

"It was very hard for me in the beginning, as I was in a new land, a new culture, and very far from the freedoms, luxuries and opportunities I had in the United States," she explained.

The Elixir of Life

Maria Guadagno '84 relies on faith and resilience as she continues working to be her best self.

Many people saw Guadagno struggle and wondered why she had left the land of plenty for a land in dire need. She was unphased by the negativity and fueled by faith.

"I trusted God to find a position for me somewhere, somehow, because times were hard in Greece and bills were piling up," said Guadagno. "I remember a professor of mine once told us, when you have a problem or burden, go out and help others."

With this valuable lesson in mind, Guadagno made it through her hardships. As she waited for God to help her find work and wisdom in her new life, she formed a loving community of people.

"I spent so much time encouraging and praying and sharing all I had with those in need, I was able to create my own ministry, which I took very seriously and still am very active with," said Guadagno.

As time went on, God began providing for Guadagno and her family in surprising ways. One day, when on a walk with her two young children through the olive groves that her husband inherited, Guadagno had a realization about the fallen olives. "I was sad because attention was not given to collect these olives and produce olive oil, which is something that is necessary for good health," she recalled.

At the time, olive oil was not a big commodity in Greece, Guadagno explained. After collecting her first harvest and creating her first batch of olive oil, she knew she had found a treasure. "I started to notice the freshness, fruity smell, gorgeous color and never mind the taste... I wanted to offer this oil to the whole world."

With the strong faith, business skills and determination that she had developed as a Salve student, Guadagno created Loutraki Oil Company, which has become an international success in the olive oil industry. "Against all odds and many competitors, together with my husband, my two children and my wonderful team, ELEA and other fine olive oil products are shipped worldwide."

Highly dedicated to everything she does, Guadagno knows that success means not cutting edges or slacking off. She does everything in the best way she can and is constantly encouraging and teaching those around her to do the same. And the lessons she learned while on Salve's campus are put into practice each day thousands of miles away.

"I promised I would be my best possible self every single day," said Guadagno. "Salve has helped me, my family, and so many people I minister to in Greece, and even so many others who plop themselves in my office chairs hoping to try to sell our product without even knowing where to begin."

- Samantha Tarbox '21



1989

Dr. Barry Black '89 (M), '16 (Hon.)

was featured in a June, 2, 2020, ChristianHeadlines.com story by Michael Foust. Respected by both



Democrats and Republicans, Black has served as U.S. Senate Chaplain since 2003 and delivered Salve's 2016 Commencement

address. Opening the June 1 Senate Session in the wake of George Floyd's death, and amidst both the racial protests and global pandemic, he prayed that God would "use our lawmakers for [His] glory. May they strive to find a vaccine to inoculate our nation against hate, sin and despair."

Maria Catanese Hurley '89 was named senior vice president of people at the NIP Group, a business insurance program manager located in Woodbridge, N.J. Hurley brings a wealth of expertise in the human resources field after receiving her undergraduate degree in human resources and finance from Salve and completing Harvard Business School's Strategic Human Resource Management Program. Hurley plans to further promote growth through the company's successful human resource strategies.

1992

Catherine Chace L'Heureux '92 is a nurse anesthetist in an ICU who has worked throughout the pandemic. As Maine faced a shortage of PPE, she reflects that "one thing that Salve gave me during this horrific time was the ability to rise to the challenge, be my best self and a whole lot of prayer."



1994

Dan Titus '94, associate director of user support services, was appointed to the board of directors for the Fort Adams Trust in Newport, R.I. As someone who is passionate about historic preservation and history, Titus has been volunteering for the Trust since the 1990s and considers Fort Adams his "home away from home." The Trust has made amazing progress preserving this national treasure and is currently working on the stabilization and preservation of the southeast demi-bastion, which houses the heart of the fort – its kitchen. Titus' most recent project was to clear and remove graffiti on Battery Belton, a c. 1903 defensive position.



Dan Titus '94 stands amid the historical Fort Adams.

Alumni Spotlight

Tia Scigulinsky '94 was honored with the 2020 AARP Rhode Island Andrus Award for Community Service, an award that recognizes recipients for their ability to enhance the lives of AARP members, improve the community and inspire other volunteers. She is proud to be a part of an organization that cares about the elderly and provides so many benefits.

Noting that it was a privilege to be recognized by AARP, Scigulinsky said: "Upon my retirement, I joined the thousands of AARP volunteers to support the many issues that AARP promotes. AARP has the ability to focus on relevant issues, not only for the 50-plus population, but for all Americans. Health care, drug prices, homelessness and livable communities continue to be priority concerns."

Scigulinsky's other volunteer activities include the Portsmouth Library, NEA Retired RI, Partnership for Families and Children and Rhode Island PBS.



She and her husband also sponsor foreign officers attending the Naval War College, one of her favorite roles as it provides the opportunity to greet families and ensure they have a place to stay. They have hosted families from all different religions, sharing their Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions.

"I appreciate that we are able to help other people who have not been as fortunate as we have and need to connect outside of their homes," said Scigulinsky.

-Jessica Reitz '23 (with portions excerpted from a story published by EastBayRI.com, Dec. 8, 2020)



Honor Bound

Sitting at the controls of a UPS cargo plane, Rob Oswald '90 runs a mental checklist per corporate standards. Are you honest? Check. Don't steal anything. Check. Sober? Check. On time? Check.

And then he asks his own question.

Am I honored to do this work?

Check.

Oswald's devotion to honor began on the soccer fields and in the math labs of Salve Regina, not 35,000 feet above ground. Sister Madeleine Gregoire, his math professor, and Father John Meade, the Seahawks soccer coach at the time, formed in him a powerful fusion of intellect and leadership. These hard-earned qualities led him to serve in the United States Air Force, eventually becoming an Air Force pilot.

"Once I learned I could earn a good living doing something I love - like flying planes, I never looked back," said Oswald. After retiring from the Air Force in 2015 after 24 years of service, and while actively serving in the reserves, he went on to fly for Northwest Airlines, American Airlines, and, finally, UPS, where he has served as a pilot for 15 years and is now a captain.

The son of an engineer, Oswald discovered his knack for math in Sister Madeleine's classroom, alongside a small cohort of four math majors.

"Sister Madeleine was one of the kindest and most compassionate people I've known," Oswald recalled. "She instilled in me a love of problem-solving and equations."

Oswald ultimately found his home on Father Meade's soccer field.

"Once you played for Father Meade, you were his son and your teammates were your brothers," Oswald said. "Father Meade used humor and kindness to help us form long-lasting bonds."

A particularly memorable soccer match proved dire during the first half. But Father Meade's speech during half time was so passionate and galvanizing, the team returned to the field to win the game.

"Most of the time, we had no idea what Father Meade actually said," Oswald admitted. "His Irish brogue was so thick! But his charisma and emotional demonstration provided the clarity we needed. His message was never lost."

"When I was a Salve student," he continued, "I didn't realize I was developing as a good team member and leader, or building a capacity for honor, but my experiences at Salve Regina followed me to the Air Force where I stood

out and fast-tracked my career."

In addition to flying for UPS, Oswald established the Pilot Career Consulting Group, LLC, in 2015, and also serves as an Air Force Academy liaison officer. "Both roles support my passion for helping young adults who aspire to be a part of the aviation community, whether through the Air Force or a non-military route," said Oswald.

"I've taken the compassion and mercy that underscored my Salve experience with me throughout my life, always bringing it to my work," he added. "A powerful combination of luck, hard work, and collaboration has blessed me with an exciting life. And the bonds I formed at Salve Regina are built to last. For all of this, I am very grateful."

-Meghan E. Butler



1995

Rebecca Clark Homer '89, '95 has been working at Newport Hospital's Birthing Center as a labor and delivery nurse for nearly 20 years. In summer 2019, she went to the Dominican Republic with her daughter to work with Haitian refugees as part of a medical mission, which she says was an amazing and life-changing experience.

Susan Harrington-Shuby '95 was



promoted to senior quality engineer at Perkin-Elmer, an American global corporation focused on diagnostics, life science research, food, environmental and

industrial testing. She graduated in April 2020 from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition and is now a health and wellness coach. She started her own business called "Vibe with ur Tribe LLC" in Shelton, Conn. Shuby's goal is to educate and coach others to help "redefine" their goals.

1996

Rocco Santurri III '96 returned from an assignment with the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary in December 2019. He served as an advisor to the U.S. Department of State and the Hungarian government on civil-military relations and military cooperation. Santurri will be graduating from American University's School of International Service in August 2021 with a master's degree in international service and a concentration in global governance, politics and security. Santurri has also been collaborating with a Hungarian musician on his recent album. One song, titled "Coming Home," was recently released and has been entered in two competitions in Europe



Rebecca Clark Homer '89, '95

1997

Steven Magno '97 was appointed as principal at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School in Peabody, Mass. He has had 22 years of experience in education and has served as an administrator for the past 10 years at Revere High School.

1999

Shauna Falanga-Liverotti '99 has been working with Florida Virtual School, a leader in online public education, since 2008. She also consults for the National Council for History Education as a master teacher and writer. Over the past four years Falanga-Liverotti has been serving on the colloquium team for a grant with the Astronauts Memorial Fund at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. She works on a team with historians and museum personnel to teach teachers from all over the country how to implement strategies in the classroom for student success. She has had the opportunity to meet many astronauts, rocket engineers, safety officers and high-ranking U.S. Air Force personnel, and witnessed history with the successful launch of SpaceX's Crew Dragon abort test.

David Kriso '99 was published in Tourist Attractions & Parks magazine with a story about Six Flags America in Washington, D.C., and has other stories that will be featured in multiple magazines. Kriso has also written magazine articles about Pittsburgh's historic Kennywood Park as well as a story about the top 15 places to drink beer in Pittsburgh, which was featured recently in The Beer Connoisseur.

Danielle Carvealle Walsh '99, '00 (M) has successfully led the Needham Banks accounting department for the past 11 years.

2000

Cynthia French '00 (M) specializes in medical surgery at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. Having earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, in 1995, she then completed her master's degree in health services administration from Salve Regina in 2000.

Lisa Rowe '00 began a new position as account services manager at Finger-paint in Cedar Knolls, N.J., as part of their account service team. Prior to joining the agency, she was an account supervisor at Aircraft Health, where she managed client accounts through day-to-day support as well as long-term goal planning.

2003

Jennifer Perrault-Minshall '03 was selected as the recipient of Massachusetts' 2020 Stanford Teacher Award, which recognizes and celebrates 51 inspirational teachers from across the country for the learning environments they create and how they motivate their students.



Sarah Stone '03 won top spot in a four-way contest for the North Attleboro, Mass., school board. Stone was serving as president at an early learning center and volunteering with a weekend food program in elementary schools but became more involved after her two sons began as students in the school system. Stone's focus on the board was to create a reopening task force composed of parents, teachers, staff and administration during the pandemic.

2004

Julie Carroll '04 was appointed to the position of interim director of music for Lynn, Mass., Public Schools, overseeing the music

education programs for over 17,000 students at 26 schools. Carroll was one of the Salve Regina's first music education majors when the program debuted fall 2000.

2005

Vice Admiral John W. Miller '05 (M) (Ret.) joined the Atlantic Council as a nonresident senior fellow. Miller is also a consultant, policy advisor and speaker in Washington, D.C. He attended the United States Naval Academy and earned his master's degree in international relations at Salve Regina.

Jared Wallin '05 has joined T.A. LaBarge of Harwich, Mass., as project manager on the high-end residential construction team.

2006

Erinn Gloster '06 graduated from law school in 2014 and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar Association the same year. She is working as an associate at Melick & Porter, LLP in Boston and volunteers as a teacher for Discovery Justice, a program designed to teach inner-city students about issues associated with constitutional civil rights. Gloster is also an associate board member of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation's Boston chapter.



Alumni Spotlight

The fear of failure often holds people back from accomplishing their goals. Overcoming this fear is a key motivator for **Mary Milanesi Koenig '96**, who is the national marketing director for the Juice Plus + company.

The Juice Plus + Company offers products such as juice capsules and vitamins for healthy living, as well as the Tower garden program, which enables people to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

As a mentor for over 400 members of the direct sales team worldwide, and someone who has experienced the fear of public speaking, Koenig motivates her newest employees to overcome their fears of rejection in sales pitches. "When people are new to sales, they often have a fear of rejection and take it personally when the person they are reaching out to doesn't want to buy the product," says Koenig. "Action leads to momentum and momentum leads to confidence."

Koenig has always believed in



eating right and staying fit, and was drawn to the Juice Plus + Company by **Renee O'Neil '96**, whom she met as a freshman living in Miley Hall and is also an executive marketing director for the company. Like O'Neil, Koenig received her bachelor's degree from Salve in social work, and went on to earn her master's degree in elementary education from Fairleigh-Dickinson University in Morristown, N.J.

"She's like a sister to me," says Koenig. "She is an integral part of my success and the one who introduced me to the products and the company."

Even though Koenig lives in New Jersey and O'Neil lives in Pennsylvania, they have remained close over the years and consider each other "best friends for life." They even collaborated on creating a team-building business known as Best Friends CEO LLC, which is an organization that exists within the Juice Plus + Company. Along with Koenig, O'Neil also motivates employees to overcome their fears in their work in order to inspire people to embrace good nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

A member of her 25th reunion committee, Koenig is looking forward to re-connecting with her friends and classmates. Reunion planning is well under way and she is trying to get the word out to as many people as possible.

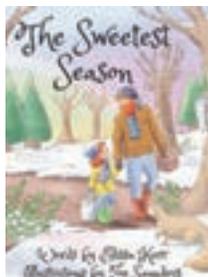
-Emily Dussault '04

2007

Lieutenant Daniel DiMaio '07, '08 (M) is a 10-year veteran of the Warwick, R.I., Police Department. Now serving as team commander, he has been a member of the SWAT team since 2013 and is also a pistol, rifle and shotgun instructor for the department.

2008

Elissa Slason Kerr '08 published a children's book, "The Sweetest Season," in 2019. A childhood education major, she is excited to expand her resume.



Amanda Goodheart Parks '08 and Michael Parks '08

Amanda Goodheart Parks '08

recently earned her Ph.D. in History from the University of Massachusetts Amherst after successfully defending her dissertation, "No Seas Can Now Divide Us: Captains' Wives, Sister Sailors, and the New England Whalefishery, 1840-1870." She began researching the topic as part of her undergraduate history thesis at Salve and is currently working on a book about women in the New England whaling communities.

2009

Tyler Dymont '09 was working at the University of California as assistant director of residence life before moving back to the East Coast to take on the role of assistant director of marketing and communications at Dexter Southfield, which is a private elementary school in Brookline, Mass.

Mark Jumper '09 (Ph.D) received tenure as associate professor and director of chaplaincy and military affairs at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is co-editor of "The Holy Spirit and the Reformation Legacy," and has authored several articles regarding constitutional law and religious free

exercise, which have been published in "Religion and Contemporary Politics: A Global Encyclopedia." Most recently, Jumper provided a plenary address to the 70th Anniversary Symposium of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps on "Healthcare Ethics and Conquering Zero Harm: A High-Reliability Organization Perspective." Jumper continues to lead the Professional Advisory Group for the clinical pastoral educational program at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Virginia.

Karl Krohn '09 joined Mercyhurst University as an assistant professor in the Intelligence Studies Department.

2010

Theresa Teofilak-Wilson '10 has been working in the mental health field since she graduated, and started a private practice in holistic mental health counseling, Happy and Free Healing. She expanded her firm to a group practice with eight therapists in 2019 and opened a yoga studio in 2020. A lifelong learner herself, Teofilak-Wilson runs education classes for other mental health professionals and is working toward her 1,000-hour yoga therapist certification.

2011

Lynda Casarella '11, '20 (M) was recently promoted to controller at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, N.Y. She and her husband transferred to Fort Hamilton Army Base in 2015.

2012

Joel Ewing-Chow '12 (M) was named police chief for the South Kingstown, R.I., Police Department after serving as interim chief. He has been serving the town for 25 years, starting as a civilian dispatcher in 1995 before he became a police officer in 1999.

2013

Ashley Bendiksen '13 was featured on whatsupnewp.com in July 2020 for the release of her debut memoir, "The Language of Time." The author, who was valedictorian for the Class of 2013, serves on the Board of Directors of the Women's Resource Center of Newport County, and is a nonprofit spotlight writer for Newport Neighbors Magazine. Having cared for her mother, who developed early-onset Alzheimer's, Bendiksen also served as chairperson of a regional Walk to End Alzheimer's from 2014 to 2017, has testified on behalf of Alzheimer's policy change, and has raised countless dollars for research. She shares her experiences in her book, which is described as "a powerful, moving, and honest account of one daughter's sudden and unplanned journey as a caregiver. It combines journal entries, transcribed conversations, and vivid storytelling that will make you both laugh and cry, while provoking reflection on life, meaning, family, and time." See page 48 for Bendiksen's "Viewpoint."



Katharine Hanavan '13 graduated in May 2019 from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with her Master of Social Work. She is now pursuing her clinical social work license and works at a Wilmington non-profit as a care manager.

Quadry Oladayo Olalekan '13 (M), '16 (M) has introduced Listbuy, an e-commerce software platform with Escrow payment technology, to his start-up business in Nigeria. Olalekan's new company, IderaOS, will transform the e-commerce market in Africa by protecting online buyers from fraudsters. Olalekan chose the name of the company, IderaOS, because "Idera" is the Yoruba word for ease, which he hopes to bring every user.

Alexis Gallipoli Paquette '13



returned to Middlebury College as assistant director of athletic communications after working at Wesleyan University for a time, where she

managed the social media and graphic design for athletics.

Katherine Picarde '13 published her first children's book called "The Little Ouch."



Picarde wrote the story to illustrate children's experiences with anxiety and discomfort when

receiving shots. Her goal is to bring humor to children who struggle with this fear.

2014

Mark Cooper '14 (M) was named vice president of Neighborhood Health Plan of R.I.'s INTEGRITY, a health and drug plan that covers both Medicare and Medicaid

benefits. Cooper also serves as council president for the City of Attleboro and is a member of Sturdy Memorial Hospital's Board of Managers. Cooper is also a licensed registered nurse in Massachusetts and a respiratory therapist.

Kara McGuire '14 was honored as Teacher of the Year at Chastain Road Elementary School in Liberty, S.C., for the 2019-20 academic year. McGuire has been a special education teacher at the school since September 2017. She is an avid "CrossFitter" and is currently working toward her master's degree in special education.

2015

Sheila McKenna '15 works as a nurse at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston, Mass. She currently serves on a 44-bed medical unit and has been at the hospital for over four years. McKenna and her coworkers, all healthcare heroes, have been on the frontline since spring 2020 in the battle against COVID-19, treating patients suffering from the virus. In her work at BIDMC, she has refined the skills she learned as a Salve nursing student and was one of the first staff members to be vaccinated for the coronavirus, receiving her first dose on Dec. 29, 2020.

James Pickering '15 was named the 2019-20 Businessperson of the Year for Massachusetts Future Business Leaders of America. He has volunteered for the organization as the State Leadership Conference competitive events coordinator.

Taylor Robertson '15, '16 (M) is currently working for a healthcare IT company, Surescripts, as an event planner on the marketing team. She helps plan and support 80 events a year ranging from 40 attendees to 40,000 attendees.

2016

Jennifer Chelo '16 is a nurse at the Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center at Newport Hospital. Chelo's greatest challenge over the past year was when the Center's patient capacity more than doubled to accommodate Rhode Island's surge plan during the pandemic. Chelo, who worked as a float nurse at Newport Hospital for four years prior to joining the Center, has loved seeing the hospital staff come together during such a difficult time.

Courtney Flynn '16 was working



at New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan during the pandemic, where her floor was turned into an intensive care unit

for patients with COVID-19. She plans to go back to school to study to become a nurse practitioner.

Patrick Golden '16 participated in the 11th annual Run to Home Base presented by New Balance. The goal of the event is to raise funds for Home Base, a partnership of the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans of all eras, service members, military families and families of the fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research.

Captain Scott Robillard '16 is a 19-year veteran of the Warwick, R.I., Police Department, after having previously served on the West Warwick Police Department for three years. He spent 10 years training new recruits as an emergency vehicle operation and control instructor at the R.I. Municipal Police Training Academy and was a field training officer and supervisor for many years.

2017

Ariana Puopolo '17, '18 (M) opened a nutrition-based smoothie bar, Sblended, in Beverly, Mass., in May 2020. Due to the pandemic, Sblended was restricted to takeout only and Puopolo admits that she was unsure how the business would do. Sblended has thrived, however, attracting passersby with its grab-and-go menu and Puopolo is thrilled that her shop has brought joy to others during such difficult times.

2018

Michelle Baptista '18 is currently working as a care coordinator in the Supportive Adoptive and Foster Families Everywhere Program at St. Mary's Home for Children in North Providence, R.I. Baptista also accepted a spot in the advanced standing Master of Social Work class at Rhode Island College, taking on a full-time graduate assistant job in the Learning for Life Program on campus.

Caroline Bender '18 is working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee as a research assistant on border security and immigration issues.



Glowing Memories

Allison Gold '16 helps families deal with losing those they love.

Allison Gold '16 began her nursing career with a summer internship at Katz's Women's Hospital in Queens, N.Y., in the labor and delivery unit. Upon graduation, she was selected for the 2016 William Randolph Hearst Critical Care Nursing Fellowship. Over the three-and-a-half years that she worked as a registered nurse, she advocated for her patients and families, developed tools to enhance the patient and family experience, and worked as an integral member of the interdisciplinary team.

Having resigned from her full-time position as an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse, Gold is now in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)- Nurse Anesthesia program at Florida International University and has turned her focus toward creating a positive experience for all patients and families.

"As an ICU nurse, I think it is important to offer physical and emotional support to each patient as well as their family in situations that can range from joyful to tragic," says Gold.

To honor the human spirit in the event of a loved one's passing, Gold created Glowing Memories™, a small memory box consisting of cherished mementos. The gift is presented to each family after their loved one has passed, providing a sense of closure and closeness to their dearly departed. She received the Zuckerberg Family Award for nursing service excellence in May 2019 for the creation and implementation of memory boxes in the hospital.



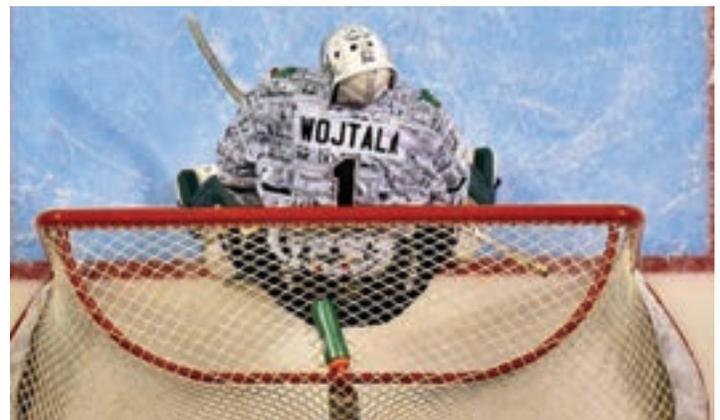
Each memory box contains a heart shaped frame in which the nurse may place a fingerprint, two small glass vials that can contain an EKG strip of the loved one's heartbeat, a packet of forget-me-not flower seeds to plant in memory of a loved one, and a nondenominational prayer card to offer condolences. Each box also contains an individual ink strip to complete the fingerprint for infection control purposes. Though Gold volunteered her time putting the boxes together serving in the Medical ICU, they are now pre-packaged so that they can be distributed as needed.

"In an ever-changing world where personal contact can often be lost, this small yet thoughtful gesture confirms that a healthcare organization values patient and family-centered care," says Gold. "Upon seeing the difference this small gift makes in a grieving family's hospital experience, I knew I had to expand further. My ultimate goal is for every family who has lost a loved one in the healthcare setting to return home with cherished mementos of their loved one, to honor their life and keep them in their hearts forever.

"The University's nursing program taught me that you can do anything you set your mind to," Gold continues. "With the nursing skills I gained throughout clinical and didactic courses, paired with a focus on mercy and giving back to others, I was able to start my own company. I am grateful for my education and experiences while spending four years at Salve Regina."



Ariana Puopolo '17, '18 (M)



Blake Wojtala '18

Alexandra Curtis '18 (M), a former Miss Rhode Island, is now serving her state and country as a second lieutenant for the Army National Guard. In competing for Miss America, Curtis used her platform to show the world that women can be in leadership positions. Curtis was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in summer 2020, and participated in the training exercise of Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course Class 3-20. Curtis continues to work full time as a public affairs specialist with the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Kaela Kennedy '18 has exhibited her artwork in Austin, Texas, and Florence, Italy, and participated in the Jamestown Arts Center's 2017 members' show. After graduating from Salve, Kennedy joined Aurora Collaborative as the nonprofit organization's graphic designer and visual arts director and has designed its programs and advertising. She continues to work as a freelance graphic designer for a variety of clients; "Nordic Triptych," however, will be the first time her work has been incorporated into a concert.

Jessi McNeill '18 has been accepted into the doctoral program in anthropology at City University of New York's graduate center with a full scholarship. She also received the Provost Enhancement Fellowship and will act as a graduate mentor to undergraduate students in the CUNY pipeline program.



Jessi McNeill '18

Tommy Seaver '18 is the football coach for East Catholic High School in Manchester, Connecticut. Seaver has worked with the baseball and basketball programs at Rocky Hill High School and was an assistant baseball coach at East Catholic before being appointed to his new position.

Brianna Wilcox '18 works in a cardiothoracic surgical step-down unit at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. Following the onset of the pandemic, she began working in the COVID-19 ICU unit.

Blake Wojtala '18 is a goalie for the ECHL's Marksmen hockey team and has been instrumental in their victories. Their 2020 season was shortened due to COVID-19 but the

team ended with a record of 19-5-2, including two shootout losses and two overtime losses.

2019

Edward Cullinane '19 successfully completed his comprehensive exams in October 2020 and plans to graduate with a master's degree in higher education administration from Boston College in May 2021.

Allison Daly '19 is an assistant field hockey coach at Marblehead High School. In her role, she has been helping the team's goalies with their penalty strokes and the forwards on looking for angles.

Abigail Gray '19 is in a graduate program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and spent three weeks living and studying in Cuba in January 2020. Gray had the opportunity to research crisis management in the context of education abroad, which was an incredible experience to have had pre-COVID-19.

2020

Michaella Pace '20 started working on Block Island after graduation as the only pump-out girl. Pace's role is to assist boats in emptying their waste systems after a day on the water. When she is not pumping out, she can be found sailing or singing karaoke. Price hopes to be part of the Harbors Department for many summers to come.

Alumni Spotlight

Through her work for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (MLK Center) in Newport, her dream of working for social justice and equality for all has come true for **Mirasia Cassese '19**. She began volunteering at the MLK Center to fulfill a requirement for her degree in social work and found that she loved doing so. She dedicated her time at events such as Santa's Workshop, the breakfast programs and coat drives and, later, landed a position as mobile food pantry coordinator after receiving her bachelor's degree from Salve Regina, as well as her master's degree in social work from Rhode Island College.

Because the MLK Center holds a special place in her heart, Cassese said that it was an easy transition from volunteer to full-time employee. The goal of the mobile food pantry is to alleviate food insecurity and increase accessibility to food and toiletries for low-income families in the Newport County area.

"What I love most about my job is that even though my title doesn't read 'social worker,' I'm able to use all the skills and knowledge I learned throughout my college and practical field experiences in a way that benefits the MLK team and those we serve," said Cassese. "It's also an honor and privilege to work with such a great



group of people who are driven by the same mission that I strongly believe in.

"I know this won't be my final destination because I plan to achieve my state social work licensure in order to work in the Newport school system," she continued.

Cassese not only wants to make a difference in the Newport schools, but she also hopes to become part of the school committee and city council. She believes that she inspires others to create a harmonious, just and merciful world.

"Here I am, a black, LGBTQ+ individual, raised by a single mother, and I have achieved both my bachelor's and master's degrees by the age of 23," said Cassese. "I am proud of my individual success, but I stand for a lot more than what meets the eye -- as early as 60 years ago, those with my minority background couldn't have dreamed

of what I've been able to accomplish today."

Cassese looks back fondly on her time at Salve Regina, remembering her professors and classmates and the impact they had on her life. "I found that Dr. [Mary] Montminy-Danna was not only very passionate about the profession of social work, but also about her students," said Cassese. "She is the epitome of a great professor to me."

After participating in a retreat held by the Office of Multicultural Programs, Cassese was so moved by a "privilege walk" exercise, which seeks to raise awareness of various forms of privilege in order to appreciate diverse individual backgrounds through participants affirming various statements, that she changed her major from biology to social work.

"This was one of my favorite memories at Salve because it affirmed the realization of my journey to become involved in social work," she reflected.

In offering advice to those who are interested in making a difference in their communities, Cassese says they should believe in themselves and believe in others. "We can't lose faith in ourselves or other people if we want to see a future world better than the one we live in presently."

-Emily Dussault '04

Salve Celebrations

Weddings

Melissa Janco Brennan '17
and John "Jay" Brennan: July 4, 2020

Tyler Dymont '09
and Salome Miclette: June 29, 2019

Mia Hargadon '10
and Grant Tankos: Oct. 4, 2019

Jody Zerrenner Jones '17
and Garvin Jones '16: Oct. 10, 2020

Maryann Oudheusden '11
and Peter Adelman: Sept. 18, 2020

Corilyn Henault Richard '15, '20 (M)
and Rylan Richard '15: Oct. 29, 2020

Meghan Baker Sophocoles '07
and Nicholas Sophocles: Aug. 24,
2019

New Arrivals

Carrie Bonanno Reinhardt '96
welcomed Davis Michael Reinhardt
to the world in July 2019.

*Submit your photos at
salve.edu/salvecelebrations
to be included in our Flickr gallery.*



Send us your news
alumninews@salve.edu



In Loving Memory

Living a life of service, Jim Farrington left an indelible mark at Salve Regina during his 18 years as part of the campus community. A former professor and chairman of the Department of Administration of Justice, he enjoyed his work, serving as teacher and mentor to both undergraduate students and police officers, and in 1993 received a student-nominated Teacher Excellence Award.



**James C. "Jim"
Farrington**
July 24, 1925-
January 5, 2021

A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, Farrington flew on C-47s as a radio operator in World War II before earning his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire, and an LL.B.

from Boston College School of Law in 1952. He joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in June 1957 as a special agent in the Newark, N.J., and then Washington, D.C., field offices. Assigned to the Crime Records Division at headquarters in 1961, he later was chief of the Freedom of Information Unit and then inspector-deputy assistant director in the Legal Counsel Division before retiring in 1980 and beginning his new career in higher education.

Farrington was a dedicated volunteer in the Newport community, where he helped to feed hungry people each week and facilitated financial and other assistance to those in need in the soup kitchen and emergency food pantry at St. Joseph's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Newport. In 2008, he received the Newport Daily News Community Service Award, and also received a Humanitarian Service Award from the Former Agents of the FBI Foundation. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame in 2011 and also received an Ozanam Award in 2017 from St. Vincent de Paul R.I., which he accepted on behalf of the volunteers at St. Joseph's soup kitchen.

"Professor Farrington was a visionary who recognized the need for ethically-centered law enforcement who would be imbued with the mercy orientation and liberal arts education achieved at Salve Regina," says Dr. Robin Hoffmann, administration of justice professor. "During his years as chairman of the department, he imparted the highest standards of integrity, ethics and professionalism to those aspiring to enter the vast justice system. His contributions will live on in the distinguished careers of those whom he educated and mentored. He was my mentor and friend."

The University community is saddened by the passing of U.S. Army veteran Adam DeCiccio '19 (M), who received a standing ovation following his inspirational and impactful remarks as the keynote speaker for the graduate Commencement ceremony May 16, 2019. A sergeant in the 10th Mountain Division, Second Battalion, 22nd Infantry, DeCiccio was a highly decorated veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom ('03-'04) and Operation Iraqi Freedom ('05-'06). His actions during service earned him many honors, including three Army Commendation Medals.

"I joined the U.S. Army infantry when I was 17 on Sept. 7, 2001; four days later the world changed forever," DeCiccio said. "Over the next six years I was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq fighting for our country. It was my job to be on the front lines and, most of all, to keep everyone safe around me so we all got back home. This was my mission."

After his military service, he earned his bachelor's degree from Johnson & Wales University, and his master's degree in clinical mental health and vocational rehabilitation



Sgt. Adam DeCiccio '19 (M)
Oct. 31, 1983-Dec. 5, 2020

counseling from Salve. DeCiccio continued his work with veterans, most recently serving as a health science specialist for the Providence, R.I., VA Medical Center. He was also a veterans service officer and member of the Kelley Gazzo VFW Post 2812, continuing his civilian service by helping veterans obtain benefits.

DeCiccio said he struggled in his transition back into civilian life, something he shared with many veterans. "I sought help at the VA hospital and began searching for something that would fill the void and that gave my life meaning," he said. "I began my post-military life by helping newer veterans navigate the VA system. My VA counselor recommended that I consider

helping veterans as a career and pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling."

DeCiccio set out following graduation with a new mission: to improve access to housing, mental health and employment services for veterans. Embracing the motto "Deeds not words," he lived a life of service through countless acts of kindness to his fellow veterans and remains an inspiration to the Salve community.

The Salve Regina community lost a legend in the passing of Donald Mosher, known affectionately by all as “Moe the Shuttle Driver.” A native Newporter, Mosher began working early in life to help support his family before he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Germany and Austria as a company clerk in the Dixie Division. Following his tour of service, he returned to Newport to work a variety of jobs including as a tester for braided hoses for the Apollo space program and as custodian for the Newport School Department, where he had the reputation of having the cleanest school in each location that he was assigned. While working for the schools full-time, he ran a Sunday newspaper stand that was a weekend tradition for many residents who enjoyed Mosher’s friendliness and commitment to customer service.



Donald L. Mosher
Sept. 5, 1931-Jan. 23, 2021

As a shuttle driver for Salve, his most recent position, he transported students to and from campus for 19 years. Much more than a driver, Mosher was a mentor, storyteller and friend to the many students he met, often giving them advice or sharing a story from his life. Always a favorite, he was often specifically requested by those who called in for a ride and even had his own student-created Facebook page, “Moe the Shuttle Driver.”

“He was my next-door neighbor,” wrote Debbie Nellis, Salve’s mail distribution clerk, in a Facebook post following news of Mosher’s passing. “He was so kind and always such a gentleman. His laugh was contagious and he was always happy and had a kind word for everyone. He was a great family man, storyteller

and a hard worker. If you were lucky enough to know him, you loved him. So many cherished memories of him. He will truly be missed by all.”



In Memoriam

Mary A. Adams '68
Catherine O'Connor Andersen '77
Marcy Roggero Anderson '70
Meghan E. Ashe '04
Susan Anderson Baker '69
Audrey E. Banks '86 (M)
Mary Baruffaldi '92
Marcia E. Bliss '65
Mary Kolkmeier Burk '69
Paul E. Burke, Jr. '89
Sharon Henry Caine '56
Jonathan A. Castaneda '13
Claire Phelan Clark-Siegel '56
Adam DeCiccio '19 (M)
Adeline Donohue-McDonald '76
Rose Mary Healy Dougherty '69
Gail A. Dowling '81, '84 (M)
Daniel J. Driscoll '87
Sister Bernadette C. Duggan '67
Lois Scialo Ellis '65
Sister M. Christine Escalante '67

Constance Lynch Feely '54
Brenda Collins Finn '63
Peter J. Flatley '91 (M)
Sister Joyce M. Flowers '70
Juanita Butler French '76
Dorothy Maclaughlin Glover '61
Sandra Dennis Gould '69
Kathleen Kelly Graw '65
Marilyn T. Hamilton '94
Marilyn Fontes Jose '61
Dr. Robert Kulo, *former professor of English and speech communication*
Shelly Laroche '18
Ellen Delaney Linn '71
Frank L. Lupo '73
Kathleen Kane Lynch '78 (M)
Marie I. McCarthy '61
Doris C. McElroy '65
Carole Freeman Mendes '72, '81 (M)
Lori A. Merritt '19 (M)
Ann Heaney Moan '52

Terri Carmody Molloy '64
Sylvia J. Mulligan '79
Lindy Pilibosian Muraca '98
Barbara A. Nass '90
Elena M. Natalizia '71
Carl “Nick” Nykaza,
former financial aid director
Anne Curry Porter '94
Largie M. Richardson '81
Madeleine O. Robinson '57
Elizabeth Hennessy Seaman '60
Russell S. Serpa '73, '92 (M)
Elaine M. Sheridan '73
Richard M. Spirlet '78
Sister M. Mauricita Stapleton '62
Joy Ann Stauffenberg '76
John B. Tilley '70
Patricia Walsh Toto '56
Margaret Bruton Ward '61
Marilyn Mattox Wiener '52

The Power of Story

Finding purpose in her past, Ashley Bendiksen '13 uses her story to educate and inspire.

Early on, I learned the power of story. I was just 20 years old, fresh out of an abusive relationship, and at the end of a six-year cycle of trauma. I was homeless, penniless and a college dropout. I remembered wondering what path my life would take. Despite having nothing left, one thing I knew was that I was determined to grow from my experiences. I wanted to embrace the opportunities in my “rock bottom,” instead of limitations. I wanted to rewrite the narrative of my life.

I began by simply surviving, one day at a time - working, finding a safe place to live, saving money as best I could. I also knew I wanted to somehow help others. I reached out to my local domestic violence agency, and as a volunteer, I learned and got involved. It was here that I found my first speaking opportunity. I was asked to share my story and was terrified. Now, I haven't stopped telling it since.

This was the moment in which I learned I could use my story as a tool to educate and inspire. I also fell head-first into advocacy, victim services and social justice. These became my new path in life. It informed what I'd study when I returned to school, the jobs I took, and the business I would build. Little could I have imagined that today, I'd be an expert on domestic violence prevention, an award-winning activist, a published author, and a national speaker traveling the country educating everyone from students to the military.

Many ask about this full-time profession of mine - public speaking. Truly, it all began with a choice to tell my story. I was given that one fateful opportunity, and this opened my eyes to the world of speaking and the power of storytelling to drive change. My speeches have evolved over the years, now filled with research and education. However, at its core, the story is where impact happens. Stories help validate a person's experiences, build solidarity and build community. They also teach others new ways to think, live and respond.

It's no surprise then, that when my mother was diagnosed with a rare case of early-onset Alzheimer's at age 48, I turned to writing. I journaled simply to vent and process what was going on. Though soon, I also realized that I was chronicling a story that needed to be told. I blogged occasionally, sharing my sudden journey as a caregiver, and was validated by how helpful it was to others. I also wrote about life struggles. By this time, I was a student at Salve working toward becoming



Ashley Bendiksen '13

“Within each of us is a capacity to serve. I’m a believer that our life experiences happen to us for a reason. Each of us has a story that can impact the lives of others.”

valedictorian (even after dropping out). I was serving on two boards of directors in my community and running my own nonprofit initiative.

It was here that I learned the importance of self-care. So often, we let the needs of others or our to-do lists run the show. In this, we lose ourselves. I lost myself as a teen, as a victim of violence, and at times, even as a caregiver despite all I knew and had learned. Today, running a business and still wearing a dozen hats, self-care is my non-negotiable. I make it an intentional daily practice. I give myself permission to take breaks. I require an element of fun each day. I set boundaries on my time, space and emotions. I prioritize my health. I don't let drama or others' opinions take over. I know my own well-being has to be my top priority in order to serve.

Within each of us is a capacity to serve. I'm a believer that our life experiences happen to us for a reason. Each of us has a story that can impact the lives of others. We can create

solutions to the problems we see. We can play a role in social justice, show others what's possible, and build a better world. And part of this big responsibility is taking time for you, too - whether you pray, meditate, journal, dance or sip your morning coffee a few times a week on the Cliff Walk.

I like to call this finding balance between the “doing” and the “being.” Life can quickly revolve around never-ending lists. The challenge is to balance all the action-taking with intuition and grounding. This balance is where inspiration comes. You find your power and your unique purpose. Today, that has me running my own mission-driven business as a speaker, coach and writer. I also run an online global storytelling platform for survivors - allowing others to heal and serve using the power of story.

So lean into yours... learn from your story, find meaning from it, share it, consciously keep writing it. You are here to fulfill your truest purpose. The world needs what only you can offer. Remember this.

-Ashley Bendiksen '13, Class of 2013 Valedictorian

Ashley Bendiksen earned her bachelor's degree in administration of justice. She is the author of “The Language of Time,” a memoir chronicling her journey as a caregiver. Learn more about her book, as well as her speaking and coaching programs at ashleybendiksen.com.

Salve Regina University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit **April 18-21, 2021**, by a team representing the **New England Commission of Higher Education** (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, NEASC).

The New England Commission of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 220 institutions in the six-state New England region as well as several American-style institutions overseas.

Salve Regina University has been accredited by the Commission since 1956 and was last reviewed in 2011. Its accreditation by the Commission encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, Salve Regina University has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on Salve Regina University
New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514
E-mail: info@neche.org

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by April 21, 2021.

The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.





Salve Regina University
100 Ochre Point Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island 02840-4192



Growing The SALVEfund Introducing Salve Regina Celebration Gardens

Make your gift to The SALVEfund this spring and you will be recognized in one of three perennial gardens planted on campus. Gifts to The SALVEfund are the seeds needed to help the University thrive through support of scholarships, academics and campus life. Celebration Gardens for 2021 are the Commencement Garden at O'Hare Academic Building, the Alumni Memorial Garden at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel and the Reunion Garden at Ochre Court.

The first 200 gifts of \$25 or more will receive a packet of lavender seeds as a special thank you and a reminder of the flowers on Salve's beautiful campus.



salve.edu/celebration-gardens