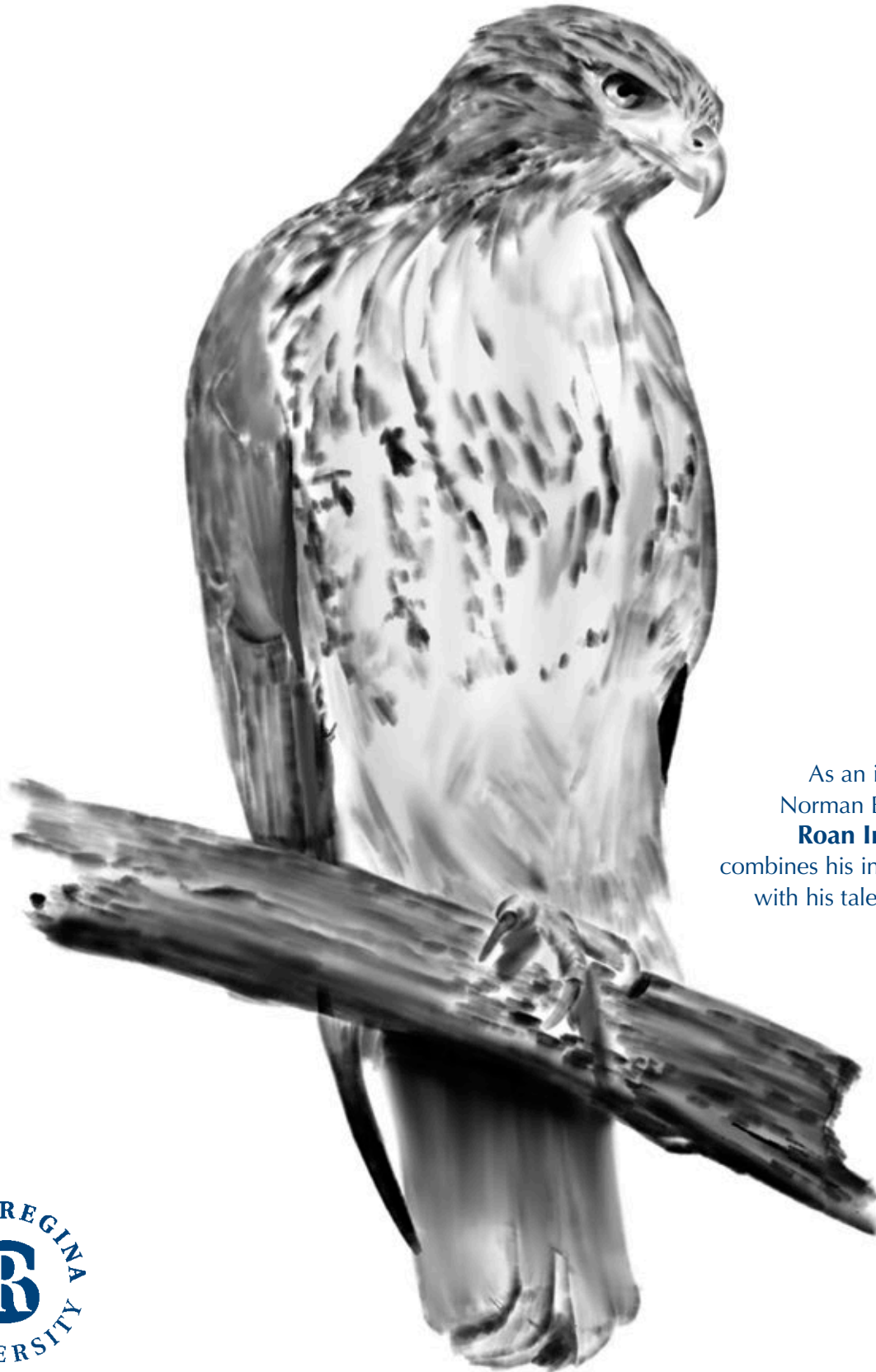


REPORT FROM NEWPORT

Salve Regina

University Magazine



As an intern at the
Norman Bird Sanctuary,
Roan Iribarren '24
combines his interest in ornithology
with his talent for illustration.



Spring 2022

Inside this Issue

26

Capturing the Extraordinary
in the Ordinary

Campus Spotlights

Campus Spotlights 2

The campus community prepares for the University's 75th anniversary; Salve Regina delegates attend COP26; a new vice president for student affairs and vice provost for graduate and professional studies join the campus community; and service advocate Matt Shore '22 shares his experience volunteering with the Salvation Army.

Campus Conversations..... 10

Meet Kathleen Farley, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

With Catherine Fiocco '23

Athletics 12

The men's hockey team sponsors a fundraising game night for Newport Mental Health, and the baseball team has worked hard to prepare for the spring season.

Features

Ornithology on Aquidneck Island 14

Roan Iribarren '24 connects with nature through his illustrations.

by Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

Opening Doors by Asking Questions 16

Dr. Denise Mitrano '08 conducts ground-breaking research.

by Mary Edwards '86, '12 (M)

Vouloir, c'est pouvoir 20

French teaching assistants Casey Donahue '18 and Megan Parham '19 learn that "where there's a will, there's a way."

by Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

Counting Our Chickens..... 22

ABA graduate students study behavior analysis by training chickens.

by Matthias Boxler '04 (M)

#Rugglesatsalve 24

Photo collage of Ruggles' first year at Salve.

by Meagan Rood '22

Capturing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary 26

Mark Dunn '09 sees endless possibilities through the lens of his camera.

by Tara Watkins '00

Alumni News and Notes

Alumni Profiles 34

Lisa Kennedy '78 sings with the Northwell Nurses Choir on "America's Got Talent"; Wanda Blake '79 shares her expertise in human resources as a trustee; George Speropolous '86 leads MCR Technologies and reflects on the foundation Salve provided for his success; Sarah Baker '10 is living her dream as a project manager for Disney +; Brooke Hobson '17 and Jackie Connor '18, '21 (MBA) launch their own businesses; and Ryan Alleyne '21 completes two master's degree programs.

In Memoriam 46

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

Philanthropy..... 48

Colonel Gilbert Green establishes an endowed scholarship in economics to assist future leaders in the field.

by Anna Downes '22

Report from Newport

The Magazine of Salve Regina University
Spring 2022

PRESIDENT

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

PUBLISHER

Kristine Hendrickson
*Associate Vice President
& Chief Communications Officer*

MANAGING EDITOR

Mary Edwards '86, '12 (M)
*Director of Constituent Communications
& Design*

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Paula Telford, *Senior Visual Designer*
Anne Boerner, *Visual Designer*
Meagan Rood '22, *Design Services Intern*

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES

Taylor Majkowicz '22
Jessica Reitz '23
Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)
Josie Rock

CONTRIBUTORS

Matthias Boxler '04 (M)
Anna Downes '22
Catherine Fiocco '23
Teryn O'Brien
Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)
Samantha Tarbox '21
Tara Watkins '00

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sara Cooney
George Corrigan '22
Mark Dunn '09
Joseph Gugliuzza
Andrea Hansen
Dave Hansen
Jessica Pohl '01

ABOUT THE COVER

Roan Iribarren '24 interns at the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, R.I., where he creates illustrations of local birds. The spring 2022 cover features his illustration of a red-tailed hawk.

Report from Newport is printed by
Meridian Printing of East Greenwich, R.I.,
with 100 percent wind energy.

VISIT US ONLINE: salve.edu/report-newport

SEND US YOUR NEWS!
Just moved? Email your new address to
alumni@salve.edu.

Message from the President

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Members of the Salve Regina community continue to inspire me with their stories. Whether through the lens of a camera or microscope, with a stethoscope or a sketch pad, students and alumni follow their dreams with passion and purpose. Sharing a common thread of mercy-inspired impact, the individuals highlighted in the following pages are exploring possibilities and finding ways to make our world a better place.



The spring semester has been busy for the campus community, with a focus on creating opportunities for conversation around equity, inclusion and the Critical Concerns of Mercy. Students, faculty and staff commemorated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during MLK Week, celebrated Multicultural Education Week with a variety of activities and presentations, and gathered together to watch Pope Francis' historic dialogue with university students from North, Central and South America.

As we prepare to commemorate Salve Regina's 75th anniversary, we have much to be grateful for as a community. Reflecting on all that has been accomplished by those who have walked Salve's path, I believe that Catherine McAuley would be proud. As we plan for our future, Salve students will have ample opportunities to engage with the greater community as scholars, leaders, volunteers and change-agents. I am excited to share in the celebration of Salve's Mercy heritage and the enduring vision that continues to guide the University forward.

Wishing you peace and blessings,

Kelli





Ochre Court postcard from 1960s

Fulfilling the Promise: Salve Celebrates 75 Years of Mercy Education

In celebrating its 75th anniversary, Salve Regina University recognizes its founders, the Sisters of Mercy, who as leaders of change since 1831, have responded with one voice to the unmet needs of the times.

Throughout our anniversary year beginning in 2022, Salve Regina will reflect not only on its history as a transformative, academic community, but also on how together, we can fulfill the Mercy Promise of giving light to those around us, seeking where we can

have an impact and working for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful, now and well into the future.

Plans are under way to commemorate the milestone, with a community celebration kick-off during Mercy Week and Fall Family Weekend in September. The year-long jubilee will feature an array of events and publications, including lectures, presentations, library displays and the annual Cultural and Historic Preservation Conference. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and



neighbors will be invited to participate in honoring the University's rich heritage, celebrating the ongoing academic and campus life of our mercy community, and launching important initiatives that will set Salve apart as we move into the future.



Bishop Keough, Mary Matthew Doyle, RSM, and the Goelets, who gifted Ochre Court to the Sisters of Mercy, celebrate Salve Regina's opening in 1947.



Salve Regina's first library in Ochre Court.

“I spoke to people from all corners of the world; having listened to their stories, it is my responsibility as a young person to fight for them.”

– Florencia Reiche Blanco '23

COP26: Addressing Climate Change

In efforts to address climate change issues, the United Nations (UN) brings together each year almost every country around the world for global climate summits called the Conference of Parties (COPs). As part of the 2021 delegation, Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology and biomedical sciences, Florencia Reiche Blanco '23, a double major in environmental studies as well as sociology and anthropology, and Cassidy Curry '23, an environmental studies major with a double minor in liberal studies and religious studies, attended COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland Nov. 8-12, 2021.

“It is an amazing and humbling opportunity to participate in the undoubtedly most significant global environmental issue of our time,” said Dr. Chace. “The significance will largely depend on what nations do or don’t do before 2025 and will be reflected upon by later generations as a moment of universal triumph or colossal failure. That Salve Regina has the opportunity ... to bring any small part of mercy to this international affair might be the most significant thing we can do.”

Salve Regina was first admitted as an observer organization to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the advocacy of Dr. Peter Liotta, former executive director of the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy and contributing member of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In 2019, Salve Regina’s institutional membership in the UNFCCC as an admitted NGO observer was renewed by President Kelli J. Armstrong and the Office of Mission Integration, paving the way for Salve Regina to send a delegation to COP26.

Curry and Reiche Blanco have both been interested in climate change issues since they were in high school, and they both picked Salve Regina because of its

strong environmental studies program. After hearing of the opportunity for COP26, they applied to be part of the University’s delegation.

“COP26 has different levels of discussions that focus on different areas and problems around climate change,” described Curry. “Each day has a different theme to them — so there are more economic-based solutions, there are more cultural-based solutions and more social solutions that they discuss in these meetings. There’s also a lot of different forums ... and other things to do on the side.”

Reiche Blanco, who is originally from Costa Rica, was excited to learn about how different countries are tackling climate change, as well as to network with like-minded people from around the planet.

“The Conference of Parties is an opportunity for the world to meet and discuss one topic, climate change,” said Reiche Blanco. “COP26 expanded my knowledge on the unnoticed effects of human activities, especially those relating to small-scale communities and indigenous peoples. I spoke to people from all corners of the world; having listened to their stories, it is my responsibility as a young person to fight for them.”

According to Salve Regina’s three delegates, the goal is to bring back information gleaned from COP26 to Salve Regina, with the hopes of collaborating on future educational events on campus in coordination with the Office of Mission Integration. Climate change directly ties into the Critical Concerns of Mercy, so they hope that COP26 can spark further conversations.

“I’ve been interested in a lot of environmental justice and a lot of urban development conversations, which I think are really cool,” said Curry. “Making sure that we can implement these changes on a day-to-day level for an average person, and it’s not just huge changes that only



Cassidy Curry '23 (left) and Florencia Reiche Blanco '23

the really rich can afford to make. I’m excited to bring information back and see if there are things that we can incorporate into our community here.”

The delegates were joined by Dr. J. Timmons Roberts, professor of environmental studies and sociology at Brown University, in a lecture and conversation Feb. 16 titled “Political Power and the Common Good: Why Climate Actions Is Hard.” Sponsored by the McAuley Institute and Mercy Interdisciplinary Faculty Collaborative on Earth, the presentation featured discussion on how, despite the devastating impacts of climate change being known for decades, action has lagged perilously. Having also attended COP26, Roberts argued that powerful economic interests have developed a complex set of institutions to thwart ambitious action by our nation, our state, and universities. The audience was challenged to engage in the pressing issue of climate justice and consider their role in advancing the common good in our common home.

“The knowledge we return to Salve will hopefully inform our community with greater knowledge about the issues, the process and the people involved,” said Chace. “I hope we can hand off this opportunity to other faculty and students for COP27, COP28, and onward — allowing as many people as possible to be involved.”

New Leadership in Graduate and Professional Studies



David Altounian, a longtime business executive and entrepreneurial leader with more than a decade of higher education experience as both a professor and administrator, joined the campus community as vice provost for graduate and professional studies Dec. 1, 2021. He brings 30 years of corporate experience in both domestic and international strategic marketing and operations positions, including

serving as a CEO and COO. Altounian spent the last 13 years in academia, most recently as the associate dean of academic programs and director of the MBA program in the Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.

"David is an agile, entrepreneurial and creative leader who has had the rare experience of successfully leading people in both the academic and corporate arenas," said Dr. Nancy Schreiber, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "We are very fortunate to have David bring his vast talent to accelerate programming in areas where our mercy mission meets the market."

While at St. Edward's, Altounian worked closely with the Texas business community as a board member of the Austin Technology Council, and as a partner and mentor at Capital Factory, one of the leading entrepreneurship centers in the country. He served on the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce board, receiving the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year Award for Global

Technology and Innovation in 2018. He said he looks forward to working with Salve Regina's talented faculty to innovate and expand opportunities for graduate students.

Altounian earned his doctorate in business administration from Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business, a master's in business administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and his bachelor's in business administration from California Coast University.

"I firmly believe in the value of cultivating strong partnerships between universities and communities, a pursuit that has underpinned much of what I've strived to accomplish throughout my career in business and higher education," Altounian said. "Salve's diverse programs in graduate and professional studies stand out because of the faculty's unwavering commitment to developing opportunities and pathways that empower students to make societal impacts."

Pursue your passion.

Advance your career.

Seek new opportunities at Salve Regina today.



Graduate and Professional Studies

- Administration of justice
- Applied behavior analysis
- Business administration and management
- Counseling: Holistic
- Counseling: Rehabilitation
- Creative writing
- Expressive and creative arts
- Healthcare administration
- Leadership dynamics and practice
- Humanities
- International relations
- Nursing



Fostering a Sense of Belonging

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone has joined the campus community as the University's new vice president for student affairs. She comes to Salve Regina with more than 25 years of leadership experience and a passion for fostering student achievement, engagement and success.

Most recently, Gambrell-Boone served as the director of research initiatives and public hearings at the Equal Employment Practices Commission in New York. In this role, she led the development, assessment and evaluation of sexual harassment prevention programs, as well as managed projects related to the creation of equitable opportunities for underrepresented minorities and workforce planning.

Prior to that, Gambrell-Boone was vice president for student success and engagement at Virginia State University, where she helped create a vision for involvement that centered on several main components. One of those was honoring each student's strengths, and another was ensuring that the university served as a brave and safe container for students to explore and grow their values and core competencies through civic engagement.

"I am excited to be joining a team at Salve Regina that values the beliefs of others and challenges its community

to seek wisdom and promote universal justice," Gambrell-Boone said. "This is the kind of environment in which my deeply ingrained core value of fostering a sense of belonging will thrive."

A first-generation college graduate, Gambrell-Boone said she understands the critical role of the University in providing a supportive environment for students to begin their educational experience with an end goal in mind, such as a career path. That experience has helped to shape her leadership approach in higher education, providing invaluable insight into how to create an environment conducive to academic success for all students.

Gambrell-Boone is the former director of the assessment center, and executive assistant to the president and chair of the Department of Education at Hampton University in Virginia; has served as special assistant to the president at Ramapo College of New Jersey; and held the position of deputy to the university dean for recruitment and diversity at The City University of New York. She was also the program manager for President George W. Bush's African Textbook Initiative.

"I am committed to transforming educational communities by establishing a culture of belonging, equity and inclusive excellence as core values that are



inextricably connected to the institution's mission," Gambrell-Boone said. "I'm especially excited about the opportunity to act as an advocate, thought partner and consultant as we develop and execute a vision for the next era of Salve Regina."

Gambrell-Boone earned her doctor of education degree from The George Washington University. From Hampton University, she received both her master's degree in counseling with a concentration in college student development and her bachelor's degree in marketing.



Gift of the Blessed Mother

A beautiful bronze wall sculpture of the Blessed Mother was donated to the University on behalf of its owner, Richard Quinn. The piece, which now hangs in Gerety Hall, is a replica of a sculpture created by artist Russell V. Vacanti for St. Mary's Church in Newington, Connecticut. Quinn, an architect, was involved in the design of St. Mary's in 1967, and also consulted on the design of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel at Salve Regina.

Stigmatization Around COVID-19



Dr. Hyoyeun Jun, assistant professor of English, communications and media, co-authored and presented a paper titled “When Stigmatized Groups Have an Infectious Disease: Korean LGBTQ+ Individuals’ Intersectional Stigma During COVID-19 Outbreaks and

Effective Risk Communication to Test, Trace, and Treat” at the 2021 virtual conference for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The paper earned the LGBTQ Interest Group’s Top Faculty Paper Award at the event, which was held virtually Aug. 4-7, 2021, and is the premiere conference in communications, public relations, advertising and journalism studies.

“In Spring of 2020, in Seoul, South

Korea, the COVID-19 outbreak in nightclubs exposed additional stigmatization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer-identifying (LGBTQ+) individuals, as governments and media attempted to communicate COVID-19 risks,” said Jun. “This research was conducted to learn more about stigmatized groups, who are members of the LGBTQ+ groups in South Korea, engagement in testing, tracing, and treatment for COVID-19.”

Medical Ethics from a Catholic Perspective



Dr. Peter Colosi, associate professor of philosophy, joined Dr. Timothy Flanigan ’04 (Hon.), former trustee, in presenting “Preparing for the End of Life: A consideration and conversation of Catholic teachings.” Held Sept. 15, 2021, at St. Barnabas Church in

Portsmouth, R.I., the discussion invited all those interested in educating themselves on Catholic teaching on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

As an associate member of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA), Colosi presents on topics of medical ethics from a Catholic perspective at the CMA’s annual summer program for medical students and residents. He has also published in the *Linacre Quarterly*, the official journal of the

CMA, and is a member of its editorial board. In addition, he published “A Catholic Anthropology and Medical Ethics” in *Catholic Witness in Health Care* (CUA Press, 2017). Flanigan is an ordained permanent deacon of the Catholic Church who has been named among the “Top Doctors in America” for over 15 years. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his leadership in both his practice of, and research for, his specialty in infectious diseases.

Research Grant Award



Dr. Susan Meschwitz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry, was awarded a supplemental INBRE grant on Women’s Health from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health. The title of the funded research project is “Targeting Quiescent *E. coli* for Prevention of Recurrent Urinary Tract Infections.” The overarching goal of the Rhode Island IDEa Network of

Biomedical Research (RI-INBRE) program is to increase hands-on student training and improve institutional research capacity for biomedical excellence in Rhode Island. The research funded with this grant will be carried out with undergraduate students in the laboratory, in collaboration with University of Rhode Island investigators.

In the United States, there are approximately 11 million urinary tract infections (UTIs) reported each year and more than 50 percent of women will be diagnosed with at least one UTI. Twenty-seven percent of patients with a UTI experience a recurrence within 12

months, even after successful antibiotic treatment. Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (UPEC), a leading cause of initial and recurring UTIs, are thought to survive antibiotic treatment by entering a quiescent state in the bladder, which allows them to resume growth at a later time once antibiotic treatment is halted. With this grant, Meschwitz will conduct research that will help discover molecules that prevent uropathogenic bacteria from entering an antibiotic-tolerant, quiescent state and identify candidate molecules that may lead to new treatment approaches for recurrent UTI infections with multidrug-resistant strains.

“It is humbling and makes you thankful for the life you have.”

– Matt Shore '22

More than a Gilded Facade

Traditionally, Salve Regina students are required to complete a minimum of 10 community service hours before



Matt Shore '22

graduation. Matt Shore '22 has gone well over that number and is projected to reach 1000 hours before he graduates. Shore has been a service advocate since his sophomore year, primarily partnering with the Salvation Army.

At a young age Shore was mesmerized by Newport, having visited from New Jersey many times with his family. “I remember being 4-years-old going on Cliff Walk, looking at the school saying ‘I want to go there someday,’” he recalls. While his parents were focused on getting him through kindergarten, he already had his heart set on Salve.

As a child, Shore didn't realize the great need that exists in Newport but his volunteer service through Salve soon opened his eyes. “When thinking of Newport, little me thought ‘oh there are mansions and rich people everywhere.’ What I learned from my many service opportunities is that it's just a gilded

facade. That's what I like to call it,” shared Shore.

Through the Salvation Army, Shore has learned a great deal and formed meaningful relationships. But it wasn't easy.

“Some people aren't as open to your help,” said Shore. “For instance, if you aren't the face they normally see, they won't recognize you or respect you but since I've been around for the past three years or so they began to open up to me.” He now knows many people by name and they share things about their personal lives.

Soup kitchens and food pantries are where many of Shore's service hours have accumulated. “I like to cook so I enjoy the soup kitchens. It is especially nice during the holidays. It felt like we were celebrating holidays as part of a family.” Shore was a cook for five years so he is happy to share that part of his life with others.

“It is humbling and makes you thankful for the life you have,” said Shore about community service. The winter community meals have shifted Shore's view of service, helping him realize that even when the service is complete, more help is needed. “Before Salve and in high school I didn't pay much attention to after they leave and



Residents of Donovan Manor enjoy a visit from Matt Shore '22.

after we're done serving. But it's tough when you know the stories of the people and realize when you're going back to your warm car and house, so-and-so is on the street.”

Not realizing the demand for service on Aquidneck Island, Shore originally thought “maybe I'll do 15 hours and then call it but it has just been a crazy journey.”

–Samantha Tarbox '21

Shared Spaces

Dr. John Quinn, professor of history, joined Keith Stokes, vice president with the historical consulting firm 1696 Heritage Group, in a talk entitled “Shared Spaces: The Irish and African



Dr. John Quinn

Heritage Experience in Gilded Age Newport.” Presented Sept. 13, 2021, both in-person and virtually, the lecture was the first in the Museum of Newport Irish History's 20th annual Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series.

The two examined the interaction between Irish and African heritage families in several Newport neighborhoods, demonstrating how the two groups were often allies as

well as neighbors. They also shared the connections between African American community leaders such as George T. Downing and the Rev. Mahlon Van Horne, and Father James Coyle, the Irish-born pastor of St. Joseph's Church. Coyle sought to include Downing and Van Horne in his efforts to promote Home Rule for Ireland, the temperance movement, and the campaign to extend suffrage to foreign-born Rhode Islanders.

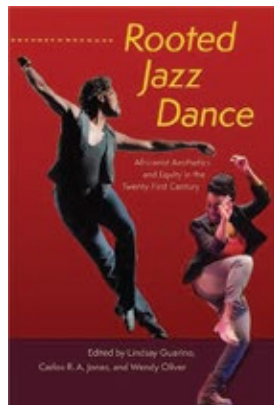
Challenging the Devaluation of Jazz Dance's Black American History



Lindsay Guarino, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, has published her second text on jazz dance, entitled “Rooted Jazz Dance: Africanist Aesthetics and Equity in the Twenty-First Century” from the University Press of Florida.

“Rooted Jazz Dance” challenges dominant narratives on jazz dance by looking critically at the impacts of white supremacy on a Black American art form. Co-editors are Carlos R. A. Jones, associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and professor of musical theatre and dance at the State University of New York College at Buffalo, and Wendy Oliver, professor of dance and chair of the Department of Theater, Dance and Film at Providence College.

Guarino, who has previously co-edited “Jazz Dance: A History of the Roots and Branches,” authored three chapters in the new book: “Whiteness and the Fractured Jazz Dance Continuum,” “Where’s the



Jazz? A Multi-Layered Approach for Viewing and Discussing Jazz Dance” and “Connective Threads: Jazz Aesthetics, Jazz Music, and the Future of Jazz Dance Studies.”

In the book, the authors argue that jazz dance’s inaccurate historical narrative often sets Euro-American aesthetics and values at its inception. Yet the writers argue that jazz dance’s roots were systemically erased and remain widely marginalized and untaught, and the devaluation of the Africanist origins and lineage in jazz dance has largely gone unchallenged.

That history of jazz dance is closely tied to the history of racism in the United States, according to the writers. Each contributor challenges a century of misappropriation by leaning into difficult conversations of reparations for jazz dance. The volume overcomes a major roadblock to racial justice in the dance field

by amplifying the people and culture responsible for the jazz language.

The writers in “Rooted Jazz Dance” also offer strategies for teaching rooted jazz dance and provide examples for changing dance curricula. Featured are jazz dance scholars, practitioners, choreographers and educators from across the United States and Canada who share a goal of changing the course of practice in future generations.

“[The book] explores the long overdue recognition of jazz dance as historically a Black American form of dance, steeped in Africanist aesthetics that parallel the cultural history of Black people in the country,” wrote Halifu Osumare, author of “Dancing in Blackness: A Memoir,” in a review. “It is not only a timely correction to our dance culture, but is also necessary for proper assessment of who we are as a national culture.”

Jill Flanders Crosby, co-author of “Situated Narratives and Sacred Dance: Performing the Entangled Histories of Cuba and West Africa,” also gladly endorsed the book. “Jazz has long assumed multiple identities, many that obscure its Africanist roots,” she said. “With courage and conviction, contributors do justice to the form and all of its identities while taking a firm stance in where it is truly rooted.”

“The book is a product of true kinship, the result of community and conversation among Black and White editors and authors with a deep respect for each other,” said Guarino.

“We were all negotiating with jazz through our personal lenses, shaped by our racially informed experiences, and communicating openly and honestly about our lived experiences to arrive at shared truths about jazz. Jazz celebrates individuality within community, and the book reflects that essence of jazz through and through.”

“Our students benefited from his expertise and our teachers were pleased to compare their teaching methods and to learn more about his current research.”

– Aude Jeannerod, director of the School of Modern Letters

Coming Home to Lyon

Dean de la Motte, professor of French and comparative literature, had long had



an interest in being a visiting faculty member in France. Despite the pandemic, that dream became a reality during a semester-long sabbatical at the Université

Catholique de Lyon (UCLy), where he combined independent research on the idea of progress in 19th-century France with a series of guest lectures and faculty collaborations in Lyon, which also happens to be the delicious “capital of French gastronomy.”

One of France’s largest and most beautiful cities, Lyon has a long and rich history, from its position as the provincial capital of “the Three Gauls” under the Roman Empire to its central role in finance, trade and printing in the Renaissance. In the early 19th century, its silk weavers (*the canuts*) were the first French workers to rise up against poor working conditions during the Industrial Revolution, and a few decades later the Lumière brothers developed the cinema, as it would become known more widely in the 20th century.

“Coincidentally, my own French ancestor, Jean-Antoine de la Motte, was born in Lyon in 1626,” said de la Motte, “so this was also a ‘coming home’ of sorts for me.” His successful sabbatical proposal combined an invitation from UCLy to be a visiting scholar with a plan to revisit his past and present scholarship on 19th-century France in the shape of a proposal for a future book-length study, “Going Nowhere Fast: Narratives of Progress in 19th-Century France.”

Throughout the fall 2021 semester, de la Motte participated in an interdisciplinary research group on “Culture(s), Language and the Imaginary,” a monthly seminar with colleagues from across

the disciplines and around the world, including various Western and Eastern European countries, Latin America, and the Middle East. At the final meeting in December, he gave an overview of his research agenda, guest lectures and classroom visits, engaging his colleagues in a discussion about the role of research at small, teaching-intensive institutions such as Salve Regina.

“Professor de la Motte joined us for a semester that passed far too quickly, during which he was associated with a number of university activities,” said Franck Violet, head of international relations at UCLy. “Our students benefited from his knowledge of the work of Charles Baudelaire as well as the concept of progress and its relation to 19th-century French literature in general.”

Lectures included several in French literature classes, where de la Motte connected his research to the topic at hand; one in a class devoted to cultural policy and institutions, comparing the funding of cultural institutions in France and the United States; and a handful in English classes, including a talk on the Brontë sisters, a subject he teaches at Salve. He found the students to be kind, polite, thoughtful, and most of all, very curious about the United States and much more like Salve students than he had expected.

“My informal visits to English conversation classes were perhaps the most fun of all—and certainly the easiest to prepare,” said de la Motte. “They were, indeed, very much like my advanced French classes at Salve Regina, but with, of course, everything in reverse. I also made a short video, in English, encouraging UCLy students to study abroad in general, and at Salve Regina in particular.”

“Having Dean here at the Faculté de Lettres Modernes was a real pleasure and a great opportunity for us all,” said Aude Jeannerod, director of the School of Modern Letters. “Our students

benefited from his expertise and our teachers were pleased to compare their teaching methods and to learn more about his current research.”

In his free time, de la Motte visited a number of places in France and Belgium for the first time, despite the disruptions of the pandemic, including Avignon, Nimes, Carcassonne, Quimper, Lille, Dunkirk, Brussels, Bruges, the Jura mountains, Lake Geneva, and the Luberon region of Provence.

“I also reconnected with a number of former Salve students and Fulbright language teaching assistants,” he shared, “including Megan Parham ’19, Casey Donahue ’18, and Sarah Marlien (FLTA, 2020-21), all of whom joined me in Lyon for a Thanksgiving feast.

“While I am excited to resume my life in Newport,” de la Motte continued, “I will miss my new (and yet also ancestral) home of Lyon, where I plan to return as often as I can. I am grateful to Salve Regina’s sabbatical program for allowing me the time to pursue my research and participate in the life of a French university, as well as to get to know this marvelous city and its lovely people, and to my new friends at the Université Catholique de Lyon for hosting me.”



Energizing the Student Experience

Meet Kathleen Farley, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

– with Catherine Fiocco '23



Hailing from Buffalo, New York, and the Great Lakes region of the United States, Kathleen Farley joined the Salve Regina community in July 2021. Though she only visited Newport once prior to her interview for the position of associate vice president for student affairs/dean of students, she found the transition to Rhode Island to be smooth and has enjoyed soaking in the oceanside experience. She has also found similarities between her previous upstate New York neighbors and that of Newport residents in the close-knit communities found in both locations.

Farley previously worked for 14 years in the student affairs division at her alma mater, Canisius College in Buffalo. There, she received her bachelor's degree in education and mathematics, and later earned a master's degree in college student personnel administration. Through the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education, she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in higher education, with a focus on studying how students experience institutional mission through the prism of their social identities, and whether these experiences impact their sense of belonging.

Having attended Mount Mercy Academy, a college-preparatory high school, Farley was exposed to the history of the Sisters of Mercy and their

philanthropic efforts. She knew that she wanted to be an integral part of a mercy institution as she experienced firsthand their ability to impact students and their community.

"It was important for me to work in an institution whose mission and values I felt like I could support and help advance through the student experience in some way," explained Farley. "I feel a strong connection with Catherine McAuley's vision for educational experiences."

Upon meeting Farley, it's evident that she is excited to be in a position where she has the ability to energize students and impact their campus experience. As a doctoral student, she also now understands, more than ever, the challenges that come with balancing work, cramming for exams, and pushing assignments until the night before they are due, all while continuing to navigate a global pandemic.

One of her top goals as a leader in student affairs is to sift through student surveys conducted at the beginning of the academic year and carefully consider programming that supports the transitions experienced as a first-year or graduate student.

"I think it's a really important time now, specifically, not just because I just started this year, but also where we're at in the pandemic," said Farley, "... coming out of a year and a half, where

some students were almost all entirely remote, depending on where they came from. I think the needs are different. So what I'm hoping to do is to have a plan in place of what that transition process could look like here to meet the needs of our students. I am hopeful that there will be some changes in really positive ways for next year's programming."

In her free time, Farley likes to flex her creative muscles in order to feel like herself. She especially enjoys photography, and spends time assisting friends in taking family and senior portraits, as well as shooting scenes in nature. Like many during quarantine, she took the opportunity to take up a new hobby. While working at home, she found herself in the kitchen more and more, learning how to cook and refine different recipes. Loving the content created by Bon Appetit, Farley has combined her hobbies and now photographs the meals she has prepared.

Farley's higher education experience includes serving as an instructor for graduate courses in student development in higher education, assessment and advanced research, and first year experience courses. While at Canisius, Farley managed assessment and evaluation for the student affairs division. Deeply committed to advancing efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, she also served as co-chair of the college's Bias Resource and Response Team.

She is an active member in many higher education and student affairs professional organizations, including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) and the College Student Personnel Association of New York State (CSPA-NYS). She has also held leadership positions with the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators.



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

– Kathleen Farley, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students

Where is your “happy place”?

I love this question! My “happy place” is by the water. Although I grew up beside one of the Great Lakes, and not the ocean, I find peace and centering when near a body of water. It definitely helps to have access to a “happy place” right on campus! I try to find any opportunity to walk along the Cliff Walk when traveling in between meetings.

What do you consider to be the best advice you ever received? Who gave you that advice and did you follow it?

I was exchanging emails with a friend and colleague at another university during a great deal of transition in my life. She sent me a prayer by a Jesuit priest named Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin called “Patient Trust,” which ends by stating: “Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.” I love that advice because it’s a great reminder that everything may not always make sense in the moment, but it’s important to accept those moments for what they will bring you down the road in life. It’s about learning to find comfort and peace in moments of discomfort.

What are the top five items on your bucket list?

I’m a big believer in having a bucket list for each decade. I started this in my 20s and plan to continue the trend. That way, I feel accountable in not waiting too long to check the items off the list. The items remaining on my current list are finish my dissertation, visit where my family is from in Ireland, and enroll in another photography course.

What is a movie that you can watch over and over again?

I know this is a controversial opinion, but “Love Actually” is my favorite holiday movie and I watch it every year. I stand by my opinion!

Who has been your greatest inspiration?

I draw inspiration from both of my parents. I inherited my father’s dedicated work ethic and passion for reading. My mom greatly influenced my commitment to education and thoughtfulness, especially when it comes to generosity for others.

What was the best gift you ever received? Who was it from?

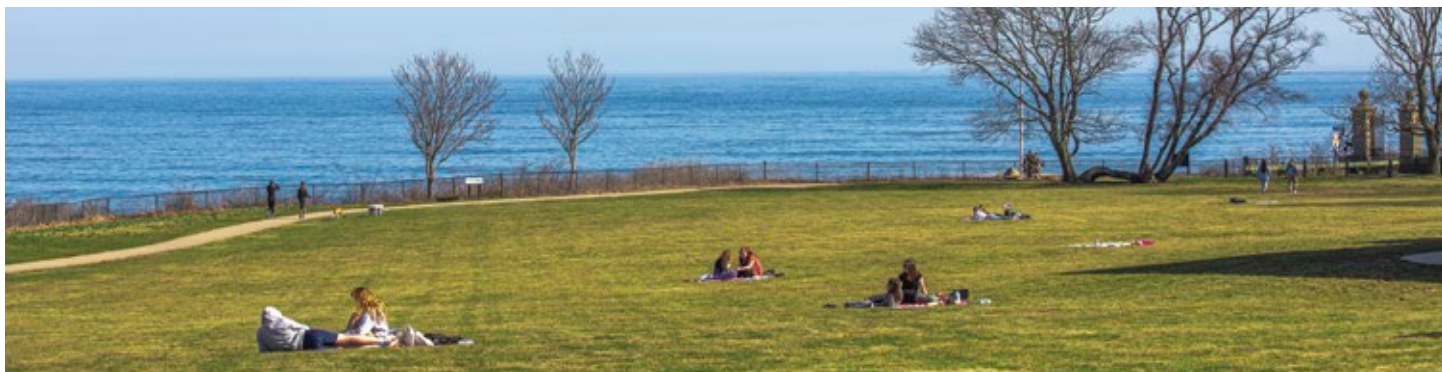
I’m sentimental and appreciate almost everything that is gifted to me, but my sweet – and super crafty – niece recently made me a pillow right before I moved to Rhode Island. It’s now my travel pillow and I think of her whenever I use it.

What do you consider the world’s best invention? The worst?

I think cell phone cameras are simultaneously the best and the worst. They can be the worst when they distract us from living in the present and fully embracing moments, but they can also be the best in helping to document experiences and achievements. One of my favorite things to do with friends on New Year’s Eve is to review and share our year in photos from our phones.

What is the biggest reward in your position?

The biggest rewards in my position are, without a doubt, the connections that I make with students. When I was the director of international student programs at my previous institution, I received a photo of one of my former Japanese students who married an American student. They invited their friends to attend the wedding in Japan. To see my former students from the U.S., Japan, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Spain and Germany all celebrating a momentous occasion in life together was one of the coolest things. Knowing that you played a small role in helping them to establish those friendships and connections is so meaningful. I’m looking forward to experiencing those moments with students at Salve!





Highlighting the Importance of Mental Health

- by Anna Downes '22

Thus far, the Class of 2022 is the only undergraduate class that has experienced a full year of a “normal” college experience. As the pandemic drags on, college athletics have adapted to encompass COVID restrictions in order to allow athletes to participate in their sport while trying to prevent the spread of the virus. Younger student athletes are adjusting to a new dynamic of college sports played during a pandemic, while older teammates strive to provide the experiences they had as freshmen.

Men’s ice hockey captains George Sennott '22 and Cameron Boudreau '23,



George Sennott '22

along with teammate Anthony Azzano '22, have put in a lot of work to support the team chemistry and mental health of their fellow players. With that in mind, the three student-

athletes organized a fundraiser for Newport Mental Health during their home game against Suffolk University on Dec. 4, 2021.

Sennott and Boudreau point to Azzano as the initial driving force behind the idea for the fundraiser, which raised \$2,000 for the local organization. Both agreed that “Tony was the brains behind everything.”

Azzano transferred to Salve as a junior, and as a psychology major, mental health is important to him both inside and outside of the classroom. At his previous institution, he was a part of a mental health club



Anthony Azzano '22

that focused on Movember, a national organization highlighting men’s mental

health during the month of November.

“I took a few things from my old school, and I wanted to try and implement them into the Salve community,” said Azzano. “Because of COVID...I felt like this was a great way to bring the community together.”

The team created special jerseys for the event and auctioned them off, donating all profits to Newport Mental Health. For Boudreau, a financial management major, planning the event was great practice and he learned a lot through the process. They were able to make a lot of great connections with local businesses in addition to O’Brien’s Pub, which sponsored the event. Raffle tickets for gift baskets with merchandise from Surf Club and Breakwater Surf Co. were sold by Newport Mental Health, and the staff members were very thankful and appreciative of the work the men’s hockey team did for their organization.

“Every team wants to have a special night,” said Boudreau, describing the excitement that was evident in all who attended the event.

Sennott, Boudreau and Azzano noted that a variety of responsibilities were involved in organizing the event, such as marketing and editing skills, in order to get the word out and encourage fans to attend. The players want to encourage other Salve students to get involved in helping spread positive messages about inclusion and mental health through social media and hope to continue this work in future seasons in order to bring their team closer to the campus community.

“We are building this event for future years,” said Azzano. “It is important for other students not even involved in hockey to know they can be a part of it and realize there are other opportunities that come with it.”

Hosting a mental health fundraiser is important to Sennott, Boudreau and Azzano because of the unique



environment in which students are now living and studying.

“Nowadays, our age group, especially at the college and high school levels, is always surrounded with technology and the news,” said Sennott. “I think there is a lot of anxiety built up ... and it’s really scary when you are alone.” As athletes, the teammates recognize that they are lucky to have their team to fall back on when things get hard, and they understand that not everyone has a support system.

“The mental health night really helped show that when you are having a tough time you are not alone,” said Boudreau.

This season, the team is excited and grateful to have a season. Sennott said that, compared to last year, maintaining positivity and good team chemistry has been a whole lot easier.



Cameron Boudreau '23

“Last year simply was just a nightmare,” he admitted. “It was a very dark and lonely time.”

“Obviously everyone is really excited to play this year since we didn’t get to play last year,” said Boudreau. “It can be difficult dealing with all of the restrictions, but it’s better than not being able to play.”

Putting in the Work

- by Matthias Boxler '04 (M)

Just two wins away from making it to the College World Series in 2021 is when head baseball coach Eric Cirella '05 believes the cumulative impact of navigating COVID-19 for two seasons in a row finally caught up with his team. They posted two victories in the NCAA Championship Regional, including a win over No. 11 nationally ranked Southern Maine, before a 7-4 loss to Wheaton College knocked them out.

The Seahawks had overcome the emotional challenges of a 2020 season abruptly canceled in March after playing just five games (4-0-1). And in 2021, they pushed through a campaign that included 30 games canceled or postponed during March, April and May, struggling to keep their bodies in shape throughout the pandemic-induced restrictions on facilities and gatherings while playing most of their games without spectators.

"Fortunately, we had some depth and we had guys step up, but it was



Eric Cirella '05

it was tough to deal with it," said Cirella, who is entering his ninth season as head coach after taking over for his father, Steve, who served as head coach for 14 seasons. "We had a year away from the sport and less strength conditioning, less attention to bodies in the training room. We had some guys whose bodies were just kind of withering away at the end of the year because it was a lot more difficult to take care of them. I actually heard a lot of coaches across the entire country complaining that they had more injuries last year."

Despite all those challenges, the Seahawks posted a 16-7-1 record in 2021 and won the Commonwealth Coast Conference championship – their fourth



CCC title in five years. They entered the 2022 season ranked 24th in the NCAA Division III pre-season poll of College Baseball Newspaper's coaches.

The national recognition can be a mixed blessing, Cirella acknowledged. While gratifying for the players, coaches and support staff who put in a ton of work to earn it, Cirella is more interested that the team stays hungry and goes out on the field to prove it ... again.

"Championships are won right now when coaches aren't present with the guys and that's where a really good culture and strong leadership will push guys through," Cirella said. "It starts with getting stronger and faster, and taking care your body, eating the right things, doing well in school, making a class schedule that is conducive to traveling and playing 40 games in the spring. All those little things."

Strong leadership is critical and Salve is fortunate that seven players who were named All-CCC last year are returning to the Seahawks roster this season. That includes First Team catcher Dylan Ketch '20, '22 (MBA) and outfielder Matt D'Amato '23; Second Team pitcher Patrick Maybach '20, '22 (MBA); Third Team pitchers Joe Escandon '23 and Andrew Roman '22; and Third

Team outfielder Jared Beniers '22 and utility infielder/designated hitter Sean O'Malley '22. Maybach and Ketch, two captains from last year's roster, are both graduate students in the University's five-year MBA program who bring a wealth of experience to the team.

The players have been putting in the work since returning last fall. They joined with coaches over three days in November 2021 to install 105 rolls of sod on the field and have been self-managing their daily weight-training groups, and training room treatments.

It isn't just about baseball. The culture of accountability extends into the classroom. Last year, the team earned its sixth straight American Baseball Coaches Association's Team Academic Excellence Award for maintaining a cumulative grade point average over 3.0. The Seahawks earned a 3.268 GPA during the 2020-21 academic year.

"We wouldn't be able to win four championships in the last five years without that success component," Cirella said. "It's not a coincidence. It's because you have a group of guys who get out of bed and they compete at everything they do. It's not just what you do on the field but the academic achievements of the team as well."

Ornithology

on Aquidneck Island

~ Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

"We see them everywhere, and we coexist with them like God wanted, but taking for granted the lives of animals is what blinds us to truer wisdom," said Roan Iribarren '24, reflecting on his connection with nature and birds.



Roan Iribarren '24

As a political science major, Iribarren discovered ornithology, a branch of zoology that studies birds, through an environmental studies course with Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology, in spring 2021. Although ornithology classes can be hard to find in higher education, he took advantage of bird walks on Aquidneck Island, knowing that zoology takes an extraordinary turn when a student can take it

outside of the classroom. With access to Newport's Cliff Walk and the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, the political science major and artist independently searched and researched birds that are native to the island's habitat.

"I began my interest in ornithology toward the end of my high school years," said Iribarren. "It birthed out of my love for the outdoors. [But] Dr. Chace's class had pushed me to undertake bringing my ornithology artwork to a larger organization."

Having grown up on Aquidneck Island visiting the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Iribarren knew of its national reputation and is now enjoying his time there as a year-round intern. He can be found photographing the trails and birds or managing their social media accounts. His favorite, and possibly most impressive, undertakings at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, though, are his illustrations. Not only does the organization sell Iribarren's illustrations, but his artwork is also used on letterhead and other documents. Iribarren first pitched the idea of putting his skills to work at Norman Bird Sanctuary himself. After gaining their interest, the internship position was created specifically based off his abilities. He now takes on projects for them as needed, blending his talents through the responsibilities of the internship.

"Birding is an activity that connects us with nature, birds, and the world in which the birds provide," said Iribarren. "It's an easy and vital way for humans to connect with the nature and universe around them. All you need is a pair of binoculars and a field guide."

Iribarren's process of illustrating begins with finding photographs of birds in books or websites, but often, he uses the photos he takes himself. After printing and hanging the images, Iribarren uses pencil and charcoal to begin his illustrations. Once completed on paper, he transfers his drawings to his tablet and uses Procreate, an online design tool that enables him to clean up the illustrations.

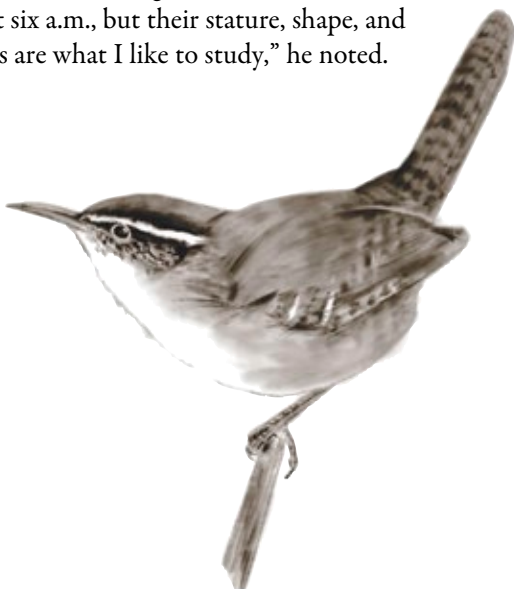
Illustration has been a part of Iribarren’s life for as long as he can remember, inheriting his creativity and talent from his late father. Known for his work in advertising in New York City, Iribarren’s father designed the well-recognized “MSC” logo on the side of the Mediterranean Shipping Company’s mustard-yellow shipping containers.

“His initiative and bravery to move from Chile to the United States for a better life brought him wild success within our family, and I can’t help but want to carry that with me,” said Iribarren, who plans to become a lawyer and, later, a politician.

Knowing that his talent for illustrating is one that will never leave him no matter what career path he follows, Iribarren continues pairing his talent with ornithology as often as possible. With experience sailing and racing, Iribarren also spends time as part of Salve Regina’s sailing team. His love of the outdoors includes sailing, hiking, skiing, fishing, shooting and lacrosse. In recent years, Iribarren found himself wondering “who” he was experiencing nature with, though, which led to birding.

“Birds interested me the most,” he said, sharing that his favorite bird to illustrate is the winter wren.

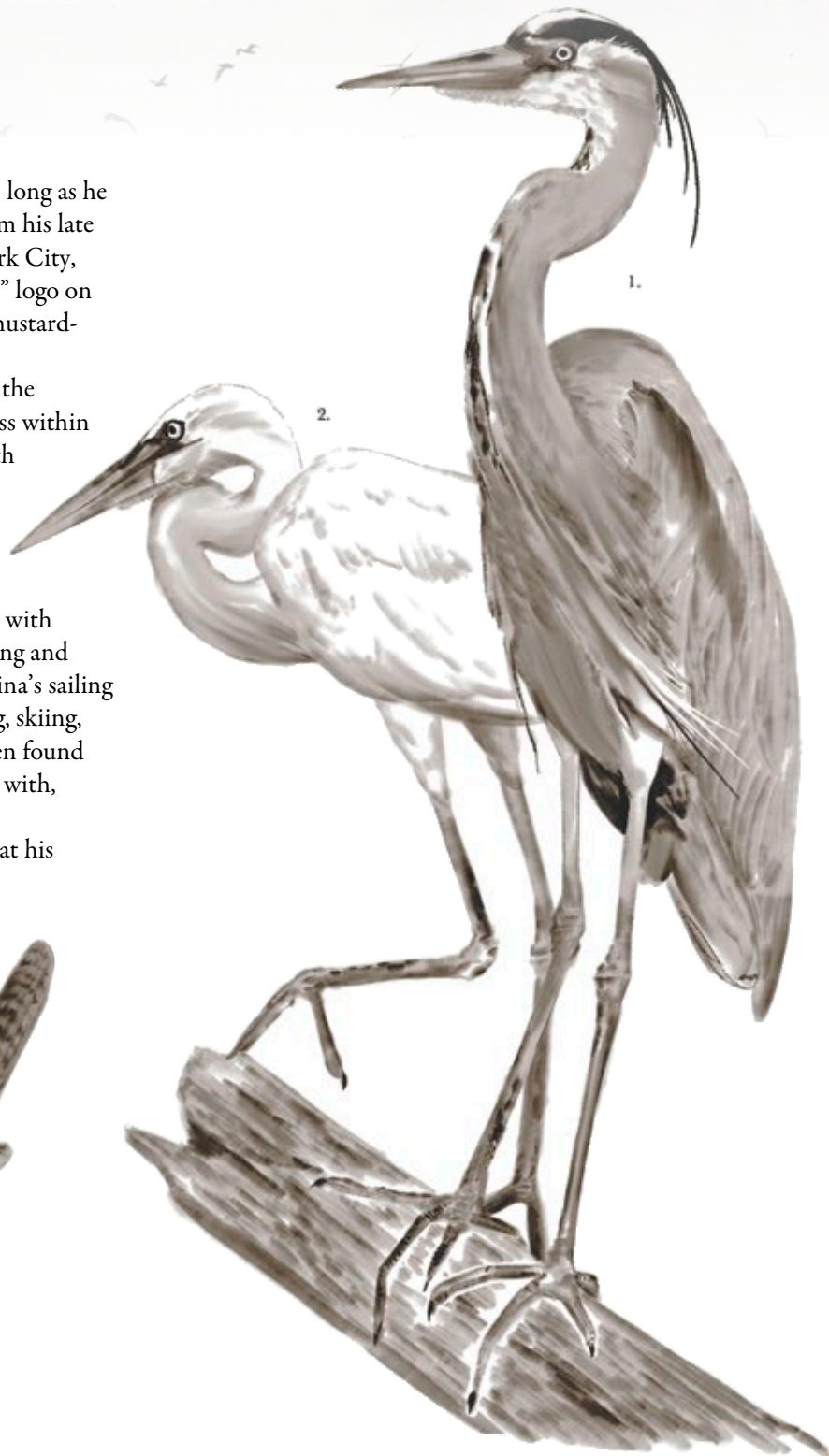
“Small birds are among the loudest and most annoying at six a.m., but their stature, shape, and mannerisms are what I like to study,” he noted.



Carolina Wren.

THRUYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS . Latham, 1790

Adult—Female.



Great Blue Heron.

ARDEA HERODIAS . Linnaeus, 1758

Male, dark form, 1. Female, white form, 2.



Opening Doors by Asking Questions

**Award-winning geochemist
Dr. Denise Mitrano '08 conducts ground-breaking
research in environmental sustainability.**

Denise Mitrano '08 enjoys hiking the Alpine countryside in her free time.

So far, 2022 has been a good year for Dr. Denise Mitrano '08. A geochemist and assistant professor at ETH Zurich in the Environmental Systems Science Department, Mitrano is the recipient of the James J. Morgan Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Science from ES&T and the ACS Division of Environmental Chemistry, the Emerging Leader in Atomic Spectroscopy Award, and has been named to the list of 100 most influential people for "Who's Who in Zurich." She was also awarded the 2022 Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) Prize for Outstanding Young Woman Researcher of the Year from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), which recognizes an outstanding woman researcher who is an inspiring role model, has achieved impressive results during her funding period, and made major advances in her career.

Mitrano's research assesses the impacts of anthropogenic activities and particles on the natural environment. Most recently, her research team has been focusing on how man-made plastic pollutes the environment. As mismanaged plastic waste breaks down into micro- and nanoparticles, it poses an increasing problem not only for the oceans and their inhabitants, but also for lakes, rivers and soils. For a long time, it was very difficult to quantify and track these particles in natural systems, which are as small as a few millionths of a millimeter in size. Mitrano has found a way to track how these particles spread through the environment and has developed a method to track micro- and nanoplastics in water, soil and even organisms.

"As a researcher, I have developed a certain set of tools and techniques which I can then apply to a diverse set of problems, but with certain foci," Mitrano explained. "In my case, this is measuring metals in the environment, measuring particles,

and understanding how particles move ... through the water, through the soil, or are taken up by biological organisms. I try to see where there are research gaps in a particular field where I may be able to use my expertise to answer questions no one else would be able to. I also like to understand how human activity is impacting the environment – and if there is a way we can make materials, use resources, or have better practices to minimize negative environmental consequences."

In this context, Mitrano's research group uses results to assess risks of anthropogenic materials, which are caused or produced by humans, across various ecosystems and scales. An interest in a "safer by design" approach for both engineered nanomaterials and plastics is exemplified by working on the boundaries of environmental science, materials science and policy to promote sustainability and environmental health and safety of new materials.



Denise Mitrano '08

“I want to encourage young women to be confident in pursuing their own ideas and not to be too put off by criticism and failure. It takes courage, but it’s worth it.”

~ Denise Mitrano '08



Denise Mitrano is awarded the SNSF Marie Heim Vögtlin Prize at ETH Day by Sarah Springman.

The 13th winner of the MHV Prize, Mitrano sees the award as valuable recognition of her work to date and as motivation to continue in the same vein. She also wants to promote young female researchers within her own research group, which she has been leading since 2020 as an assistant professor with a SNSF Eccellenza Fellowship.

“I know from my own experience how inspiring female role models can be, so I’m now all the more happy to become a role model myself,” said Mitrano. “I want to encourage young women to be confident in pursuing their own ideas and not to be too put off by criticism and failure. It takes courage, but it’s worth it.”

Plastic on the move – in water, soil and plants

Originally, Mitrano was not interested in plastics but in engineered metal nanoparticles, such as those found in textiles and cosmetics, as well as how natural metal nanoparticles behave in the environment. Her breakthrough idea was to transfer the analytical methods used to measure such nano-sized metals to plastic particles; she developed a process for chemically adding metals to plastic particles. The advantage of this is that metals can be measured with much more sensitive methods than plastics – and also much faster.

As an example of the utility of these materials to study the fate and transport of plastics, in a replica of a small-scale sewage treatment plant, Mitrano investigated what happens to plastic particles and was able to show that the plant removes over 95 percent of the micro- and nanoplastics from the water, accumulating them in the sewage sludge. “But that doesn’t solve

the problem of plastic pollution entirely,” she explained. “In many countries, sewage sludge is used as fertilizer for agricultural soils, which means that the plastic particles end up back in the environment.”

In further experiments, Mitrano investigated what happens to microplastics in soils and plants. Among other things, she discovered that the particles are taken up by plants and trigger a stress reaction in them. “The more we know about the pathways of plastic particles and their harmful effects, the better we can prevent plastic from entering the environment in the future.”

Mitrano is involved at the interface of science and policy and recently published an assessment of new definitions and regulations on microplastics from the European Chemicals Agency ECHA. She also believes in the value of collaboration in research. Following her recognition for the Emerging Leader in Environmental Science Award, Mitrano shared her thoughts on how her work impacts other scientists.

“The thing I like most about being an analytical chemist is that other researchers are able to use our methods and take them even further to better investigate their own research objectives,” she shared. “In a way, this amplifies my contributions across the field of environmental sciences to provide others with the tools to answer their most interesting questions ... Being an expert in nanometrology has allowed me to collaborate across many different research fields with colleagues whose expertise is very different than mine, and so I’m constantly able to learn about new areas of science.

“It is both exciting and humbling for my work to be recognized ... and to have my name be listed amongst the other excellent up-and-coming researchers in the field of environmental sciences,” Mitrano continued. “I am very passionate about the work that we do in my lab but also inspired by the amazing students who work alongside me and thankful for my mentors and colleagues who have helped shape my career and outlook to date.”



Environmental Chemistry of Anthropogenic Materials lab group at ETH Zurich.

“Denise exemplifies what is best about Salve where our students get great training and opportunities here, but then encouragement and recommendations to also study and work beyond Newport.”

~ Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology

Studying science within the context of liberal arts

As an undergraduate chemistry major, Mitrano learned about structure and problem-solving from Dr. Susan Meschwitz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry; the skills she acquired in Salve Regina’s labs continue to help her in her research today.

“One reason I chose Salve was that the class sizes were very small and close-knit and therefore the professors were also very available to give all students individual attention and help personalize not only the course material but career and life advice,” said Mitrano. “I particularly have appreciated the variety of coursework a liberal arts education provided, which helped shape my understanding and worldview in addition to understanding basic scientific information in my core subject areas.

“In Europe, most students who study in STEM fields focus only on science, which of course can be beneficial to have a deep(er) understanding of the topic,” she continued, “but especially as my research focuses on sustainability issues which also takes cultural and economic aspects into consideration, I am happy to be able to put science into a broader context.”



Synthesizing nanoplastics and microplastics in the laboratory at ETH Zurich.



Nordic ski touring in Norway.

Mitrano also credits Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology, as another positive influence on her early career. With his assistance, Mitrano secured a summer research position at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, located in the abandoned mining town of Gothic, Colorado.

“Denise exemplifies what is best about Salve where our students get great training and opportunities here, but then encouragement and recommendations to also study and work beyond Newport,” said Chace.

“This was my first time working with many different research scientists and developing my own research questions,” said Mitrano. “I fell in love with Colorado and so it also prompted me to look for Ph.D. positions there. I eventually enrolled in the chemistry and geochemistry department at Colorado School of Mines.”

Throughout her doctoral studies, Mitrano discovered a passion for cutting-edge research and sharing her work around the world at conferences and universities. As she began to consider postdoctoral research, she decided to focus solely on opportunities in Europe, which would enable her to learn about other cultures and ways of life.

“I got quite lucky in the fact that I was presenting my research at a conference and a professor from Switzerland found my work interesting and offered me a job on the spot,” said Mitrano, who has lived abroad for the past nine years. “Even though I had never been to Switzerland before, I love living in the mountains. I knew I could be quite well connected to other parts of Europe for travel - either personal or professional. So, I accepted and I haven’t regretted it for one minute!”



Cycling over Schwägalp pass, Switzerland.

Embracing the European work/life balance

Despite the many professional accolades Mitrano has received, her life is not all work and no play.

“One great thing about living in Europe is that there is a big emphasis on work/life balance, and as a minimum, everyone gets 25 paid vacation days a year (in addition to public holidays),” she shared. “While I love my job and do spend a lot of time working, it’s important to take breaks to come back to the office/lab refreshed and ready for new ideas.

“I am a very active person and spend a lot of time doing various activities in the mountains, such as cycling, hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing,” she continued. “We do a lot of day trips around the Alps so we can see a lot of countryside and experience the diverse areas of Switzerland. It’s very safe and accessible to cycle - we can put our bikes on the train, cycle over a few Alpine passes, and then return home in the same day. Switzerland also has a vast network of mountain paths to walk – ranging from easy strolls to climbing high Alpine peaks. Most winter weekends I cross country ski with my partner, again in different regions of the country since the public transport can take us anywhere we want to go!”

Taking advantage of Switzerland’s geographic location in the center of Europe, Mitrano and her boyfriend also enjoy traveling to remote and/or developing regions. They rent an old car to get around and sleep in a tent each night.

“We’ve done several trips in Eastern Europe, which I think is a very underappreciated area (Montenegro, Albania, Armenia, Georgia), and also further away (Nepal, Ethiopia),” she said. “Since travel distances are not so far, we can also take many city trips easily; it’s only a few hours flight to Morocco, Spain, Greece, Turkey, or a short train ride to Paris, Munich, Berlin, Venice, Florence, etc. This makes even a long weekend possible in a new culture and city.”

According to Mitrano, few “negatives” come with living abroad. From the security of a socialized system around sick time, healthcare and unemployment to the myriad research and funding opportunities available to conduct high-level research at some of the best universities in the world, she has found the experience overwhelmingly positive and recommends it for everyone, even if only for a short time.

Thinking outside the box

Looking ahead, Mitrano hopes to continue to bridge academic science with other stakeholders from policy, industry, and the public to make scientifically informed decisions about the materials we use and how this impacts the natural environment.

“On a day-to-day basis, to me, science ... is about problem-solving and the excitement when you have finally accomplished a difficult puzzle (sometimes after much trial and error!),” she shared. “But the implications of our work go beyond the laboratory. The natural environment is experiencing ever-increasing pressures from anthropogenic stressors. Understanding how human activities influence physical, chemical, and biological cycles is a central component of modern geosciences, and I find it very rewarding to contribute knowledge that can lead toward the protection of our waterways and soils.”

In considering advice to share with students, and young women in particular, who are just beginning their studies at Salve, Mitrano suggests exploring many different areas of research until they find one that “clicks.”

“Be brave and think outside the box! As a young scientist, you have the opportunity to focus on a new field and develop innovative methods that are not yet established,” Mitrano advised. “This may entail risks, but in the best-case scenario, you can become a pioneer in your own field.

“Perhaps the two things that have helped my professional success the most are to keep an open mind and to ask many questions,” she continued. “This has opened the door for a lot of new ideas and collaborations which wouldn’t have come about if I were solely focused on my day-to-day work. Learning to balance the demands of organizing multiple projects on different topical subjects simultaneously took time, but in the end, I feel that I am gaining an increasingly holistic view of my field which helps me to better identify key research gaps and develop better research objectives.”

“We are so proud of Denise for her impressive accomplishments in the field of environmental science,” said Meschwitz. “Denise is the epitome of a passionate collaborative researcher and will be an inspirational role model for other young women pursuing research in the sciences.”

Editor’s note: Portions of this article are reprinted and excerpted from the Swiss National Science Foundation and an ACS Axial story published online Dec. 9, 2021.

Vouloir, c'est pouvoir

~ Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

Vouloir, c'est pouvoir. Where there's a will, there's a way. This is what both Casey Donahue '18 and Megan Parham '19 told themselves after graduating from Salve Regina. Both had the desire to become English teaching assistants in France and were given the opportunity to do so through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). Run by the French Ministry of Education, TAPIF gives recent graduates the chance to work in France for seven months teaching English to French students of all ages.

"I knew from my second year in high school that whatever I ended up doing in my life, it would revolve around France," Donahue explains. While working as an international student advisor in Boston, Donahue found herself assisting many French-speaking students. She knew that it would only benefit her professionally if she was able to experience the French education system firsthand.

Parham, on the other hand, had the experience of spending her entire junior year studying abroad in Paris. As a double major in French and business administration, Parham promised herself that she would move back to France and work there in whatever capacity possible. After graduating from Salve Regina and moving to Seattle, Parham found the encouragement and support from her new friends to apply for TAPIF.

"My motivation [to apply for TAPIF] lay somewhere between fulfilling the promise I made to my 21-year-old self to return to France and seeking the personal and professional growth that comes with beginning a new life journey," says Parham.

Many students imagine themselves landing a specific job after graduating from college, but it's less common to dream of that job being in a different country. With the threat of the coronavirus pandemic and its variants still looming, Parham and Donahue went through a rigorous application process for TAPIF. They had a three-month window to apply, and both graduates had to provide a variety of documents including their birth



Megan Parham '19

certificates, background checks and transcripts. Donahue, while applying for a second time to the program, had plenty of time to gather those documents, but Parham decided to apply at the last minute, cutting her deadline down to only a week. After choosing their top three regions of France to work in, both submitted their application with hopes of being accepted to the program.

"This teaching position had actually been presented to me by professors at Salve Regina in 2019," Donahue explains. "My favorite memory at Salve was living in the language house on Shepard Ave. with native French and Spanish speakers. It opened up a world of possibilities for me and gave me many international friends for which I am very grateful!"

One of the most appealing parts of TAPIF is the variety of locations where teaching assistants can work and the ages of their students. Parham was placed at an elementary school in the Académie de Versailles just outside of Paris while Donahue shares her time alternating between a middle school and a catering high school in Touquet-Paris-Plage, a small, coastal city, like Newport, that is a big tourist destination.

"Because of this, students at the high school are training to work in the tourism industry. There is a small hotel in the school so students can practice cleaning the rooms, and it even has a restaurant for students to perfect their knowledge of French cuisine," says Donahue, who has firsthand experience in hospitality from her years working at the Hotel Viking in Newport. She uses this experience to hold discussion-based classes, focusing on activities that revolve around customer service skills in English.

The most notable difference between school in America and school in France is the timing. Although some French teachers agree that it's too long for students to be in school, many schools run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and even sometimes as late as 6 p.m. French students are often shocked to hear that American schools finish the day around 2 p.m. In France, *le principe de la*



Casey Donahue '18

laïcité, or the principle of secularism, is enforced in schools, meaning that students are prohibited from wearing visible religious symbols at public schools as a means of promoting equality within education.

When asked if they would recommend this program – or international employment in general – to other Salve Regina graduates, both Parham and Donahue were in full agreement. With the advice of going into it with an open mind and a sense of adventure, Donahue says to make a list of the things and places you want to do and see in your free time.

“Just remember that your professional level of French is going to improve immensely, especially when you’re in a small town outside of a big city,” says Parham, who agrees that there is plenty of time outside of work to explore. With a 12-hour work week requirement and *vacances*, or school vacations, every six to seven weeks throughout the academic year, both have taken advantage of the opportunities to immerse themselves in the culture and happenings of France.

“I would recommend TAPIF to individuals who have a passion for adventure and consider themselves self-sufficient,” says Parham. “TAPIF provides a handbook to serve as a roadmap for language assistants as they prepare for the program, but language assistants are required to get themselves where they need to go. Those that commit to the program must secure a French visa, find an apartment, book their own travel plans, set up a French bank account, and learn how to budget. Moving to a different country is not an easy process, and it’s important to be prepared for the challenges that come with it.”

Outside of the classroom, Parham has enjoyed weekly pilgrimages to Shakespeare and Company to pick out new books as well as neighborhood walks by the Canal Saint-Martin. Donahue has been practicing yoga at a studio not far from her apartment, and she also enjoys delicious pastries and *chocolats chauds* made with dark chocolate while preparing for her classes at a handful of cafes. During the seven-month program, both Parham and Donahue have hopes of traveling outside their respective cities. While their journeys in France will be coming to an end in May, they plan to visit Italy, Austria and parts of southwestern France including Bordeaux and Toulouse. Both graduates kept in touch with Dr. Dean de la Motte while on his sabbatical in Lyon, France. Even across the world, members of the Salve Regina community are connecting and sharing new experiences.

Editor’s Note: Read about Dr. Dean de la Motte’s sabbatical experience on page 9.



Megan Parham '19 (center) enjoys Paris with a friend.

Casey Donahue '18 visits Sacré-Cœur in the Montmartre neighborhood of Paris.



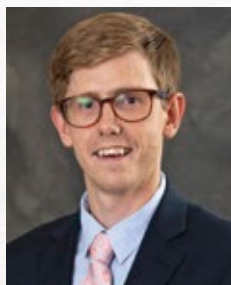
Counting Our Chickens

- Matthias Boxler '04 (M)



It didn't take very long for Salve Regina graduate student Ryan Hartley to have "Red," a four-month-old Rhode Island Red chicken, eating out of his hand at Casey Farm in Saunderstown, Rhode Island. More notably, it didn't take Red very long to shape her behavior precisely the way Hartley wanted in order to earn a few more pecks at the cornmeal and sunflower seed reward dish.

Hartley joined five of his applied behavior analysis (ABA) graduate program colleagues at the historic farm on a fall 2021 Saturday morning to participate in one of the chicken training workshops embedded into Dr. Cody Morris's PSY 520: ABA Concepts and Principles class. Using a reinforcing "clicker"



Dr. Cody Morris

followed by the reward food, students taught the chickens to select specific icons out of an increasingly complex array by pecking it. The workshop demonstrated two important behavior analytic concepts – shaping and discrimination – critical to the work they will employ after graduation when helping individuals with developmental disabilities learn the skills they need to

live as independently and autonomously as possible.

"Behavior analysis is a field that applies to all living organisms and we can truly teach new behaviors through its various concepts and principles," said Hartley, who works as a treatment coordinator at Autism Care Partners in Warwick, R.I. Hartley will pursue BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) certification and is considering a career in law enforcement.

"The chicken training was cool because it gave us the opportunity to see the concepts we've been learning in class, in practice," said Rebecca Ward, who is enrolled in the five-year ABA master's degree program. Ward works with children with autism and other developmental disorders as a behavior technician at Pathways Strategic Teaching Center in Coventry. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology (with minors in Spanish and political science) in December 2021 and will receive her master's degree in 2022.

"It's one thing to learn about shaping

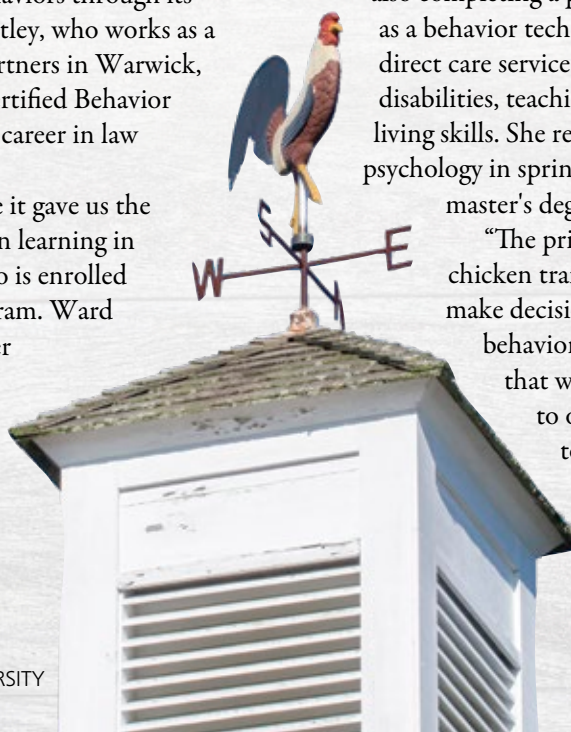


(l-r) ABA graduate students Ryan Hartley, Thomas Calitri, Jacqueline Wilson, Rebecca Ward, Gabrielle Viegas and Emily Smith join Dr. Cody Morris at Casey Farm in Saunderstown, R.I.

behavior in class and a whole different thing to implement it," Ward said. "In the future, I hope to be a BCBA and work with children with autism and other developmental disabilities in a school or clinic setting. This program and practical experience put me in the best position to achieve that."

Five-year ABA graduate student Jacqueline Wilson is also completing a practicum at Pathways where, as a behavior technician, she provides one-on-one direct care services to children with developmental disabilities, teaching them academic and functional living skills. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology in spring 2021 and will receive her ABA master's degree in spring 2022.

"The primary takeaway I'm getting from chicken training is how important it is to make decisions in the moment when shaping behavior," she said. "It is just as important that we, like our clients, adapt in response to our environment. I plan to apply this to my work with clients when teaching them new skills; particularly, how to better meet them where they are so that I can map out concrete steps to help them reach a terminal goal."



Hatching the workshops

Morris, assistant professor and ABA graduate program director, said medical professions often require students to learn about simple animal anatomy before graduating to human anatomy because it is easier to demonstrate certain concepts and structures with more basic organisms before extrapolating that information with advanced organisms. “Similarly, many behavior analysts find it helpful to expose their students to basic concepts and principles of behavior using basic organisms, before applying that information to humans.”

Most behavior analysis programs that provide opportunities to work with animals do so through lab work with rats or pigeons. But Morris said maintaining animal labs requires a great deal of unsustainable resources.

“So, when I decided to embed an animal training experience into Salve’s program, I was eager to use more sustainable options,” he said. “Chickens are a great alternative to rat and pigeon training because, like rats and pigeons, they attend to stimuli well and are food motivated. But unlike rats and pigeons, they are accessible without having to disrupt their natural environment much.”

Casey Farm is a great partner, Morris said, because the farm and its parent organization, Historic New England, already offer a wide variety of resources for the community, including hands-on learning opportunities that now range from pre-school to graduate school. The farm team includes Jane Hennedy, Southern New England site manager for Historic New England; Lindie Markovich, farm manager; and Mason Hawes, animal caretaker.

“They were all indispensable in helping me pull this off,” Morris said. “When I contacted the farm and pitched my idea, they were immediately willing to help. Each of them, along with everyone else at Historic New England, was very generous with their time and resources.”

To prepare for the workshops, Morris pre-trained eight chickens at the farm by working with them two-to-three times a week for about two months to ensure they had the requisite skills to respond well to the training. Most of the pre-workshop training consisted of systematically exposing and desensitizing the chickens to stimuli they might be fearful of initially – like being handled, exposed to new people and to new sounds. “I paired the sound of a clicker with the delivery of food to establish the sound of the click as a reinforcer, which is what we used to encourage the chickens to engage in the behaviors we were targeting.”

He also got the chickens comfortable walking around on the plastic tables used in the training and he brought in bystanders to stand around while preparing sessions so the chickens became used to strange spectators.

“All organisms are born with certain predispositions that make them unique and affect the way they interact with the world,” Morris said. “Each chicken that we worked with during the workshop had certain predispositions and patterns of behavior that were apparent in the pre-training and training



Dr. Cody Morris and Ryan Hartley use chickens to demonstrate behavior analysis experiments.

sessions. For example, some of the chickens were less fearful of new stimuli, more explorative, and more focused. Those chickens responded faster and better to the training because they were quicker to interact with the environment and contact the reinforcement that my students were providing. On the other hand, some of the other chickens were more timid, conservative, or prone to distractions. Those chickens still respond to shaping and discrimination training, but they needed more learning opportunities and, in some cases, supplemental interventions.”

In the same way that students had to identify and accommodate the differences among chickens during the workshop, as ABA professionals working in the field, they will have to recognize each client’s individual skills and needs so that they can personalize treatment to maximize effectiveness.

“Humans are not unlike other organisms in that we all have certain predispositions,” Morris said. “Sometimes, individuals with developmental disabilities might engage in maladaptive behaviors that are harmful to themselves or others, such as attacking their caregivers. My students will frequently work with individuals that engage in such behaviors and will need to identify the specific cause of the maladaptive behaviors and help the client learn to replace them with more adaptive behaviors such as communicating about their needs.”






#RUGGLES

Salve Regina's community resource dog, Ruggles, has settled into his new home on campus and has enjoyed meeting students, faculty, staff and alumni throughout the academic year. Follow his adventures on Instagram @rugglesatsalve.



WOOF! 

PLAY TIME



ESAT SALVE



Graphic design
by Meagan Rood '22



Rainy Day at the Pantheon, Rome, Italy 2008



Beauty in Simplicity, New York 2020

Capturing the EXTRAORDINARY in the Ordinary

~ by Tara Watkins '00



As a child, Mark Dunn '09 spent hours drawing in nature. "I was always an artist," Dunn recalls. "Art is my way of connecting with the world."

When Dunn was 15 years old his father bought him his first camera, a Minolta film. Receiving this gift was a life-changing moment for the young artist and he began capturing photographic "moments of art" involving family, friends and landscapes.

"I loved the process of exploring and finding myself through this medium," says Dunn.

During his college search, Dunn submitted his portfolio for review and Barbara Shamblin, retired art professor, recognized his potential.

"Barbara Shamblin saw my portfolio, and knew I was something," says Dunn, who considers the former chair of the Department of Art one of his most influential mentors. "She really believed in me and pushed me to hone my skills and challenge my comfort zone."

In 2008, Dunn pushed his comfort zone even further by participating in a study abroad opportunity offered through Salve Regina's partnership with the Lorenzo de Medici Institute in Florence, Italy. While at the institute, Dunn experienced his first taste of fashion photography and photos from that class remain part of his professional portfolio today.

"Living in Italy transformed how I see the world," he says.

Dunn graduated from Salve with a bachelor's degree in studio art, graphic design and photography. As a professional photographer, he has travelled the world, including places such as Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, the Caribbean and the south of France. Some of his past commercial clients include (but are not limited to) Wayfair, Polo Assn, Reebok and the women's shoe brand Keds.



The Vatican, Vatican City, Italy 2008



Guard, Rabat Morocco 2019



Barbara Shamblin, former professor of photography, and Mark Dunn '09

"I never set out to be anything, in particular, as a photographer," says Dunn, "only to live creatively, to use my hands and imagination to push the scope of my experience through passion, storytelling and adventure.

"I'm hypnotized by unfamiliar frontiers," he continues, which for Dunn, means capturing a photo often considered ordinary in a way all his own. "This is where my heart beats hardest and my mind expands with purpose. I love going into the unknown of being, and self, to capture moments. I believe this is what God, or the Spirit, is trying to use me for. Photography is how I connect to the world and the Spirit."

In 2015, Dunn entered the Coast Guard where he completed six years of service as a storekeeper in logistics, eventually returning to photography in public affairs.

"I have always had an affinity for the ocean, its magnificent power and beauty," says Dunn. "The United States Coast Guard was the perfect manifestation of all my ideologies and what I believe in: honoring the power of Mother Nature by protecting the environment, saving lives during natural disasters or when lost at sea, and protecting our freedom at all costs. I have always wanted to serve my country in any capacity or be a part of humanitarian aid. I honor those who help humanity, may it be nurses, teachers, firemen, and I want to give back to the country and environment that allowed us to have so much opportunity."

For Dunn, having a grandfather and uncles serve in World War II offered an immediate connection to the importance of serving to protect freedom.

"The Coast Guard allowed me to be part of something bigger than myself," says Dunn. "It taught me integrity and the importance of sacrifice."

"I learned the perspective of knowing not to take life for granted," he continues, "respecting each other and Mother Nature, and honoring those who give up their lives to protect freedom from tyranny and injustice in this beautiful world that the Spirit has given to us."

After the Coast Guard, Dunn returned to professional photography. Currently, he is a full-time photographer based in Boston and New York City, contributing to multiple fashion, food and lifestyle publications worldwide. He develops engaging concepts to help motivate, uplift and inspire others through the stories that come to life in his professional work. Dunn often works side by side with production companies and consultancies in digital television, print, editorials, art buying, video production special events and celebrity endorsement.

As Shamblin once challenged him to test his comfort zone, Dunn now challenges his clients and companies to do likewise.

"I like to challenge my clients to think past the traditional stereotypes and be more inclusive and focused on the needs representing their target audience," Dunn explains.

With a mission to help clients in the commercial, private and public sectors, Dunn has helped companies turn themselves around by encouraging them to step outside the ordinary into the possibility of the extraordinary.

"I love helping clients push boundaries, and step outside comfort zones," says Dunn, "especially on definitions of gender, masculinity and other areas of



Flower market, Brick Lane, London 2019



Freedom Ride, Dallas, Texas 2017



Boston Ballet 2019



Wild Kiwis, Nelson, New Zealand 2008

inclusion. Sometimes when we are uncomfortable is where growth happens, and there is usually a good photo in this moment. If we stay where we feel safe, we may never explore our full potential."

Dunn often finds himself returning to the lessons of his mentor and tries to instill a message of empowerment in his photography subjects.

"I learned that photography is an art piece from Barbara," he says. "She taught me the importance of believing in yourself."

"I like helping people from all walks of life feel beautiful," he continues. "I love honoring the beauty that is around us. Everyone has a purpose. There's always a story to tell from a photo."

Editor's note: To view more of Dunn's extraordinary work, visit markjamesdunn.com or Instagram @beneaththewaves.



"I love honoring the beauty that is around us. Everyone has a purpose. There's always a story to tell from a photo."



Husband, St Tropez, France 2019





The Wisdom Steps - Abel Tasman, New Zealand 2017

The Way We Were

Photos courtesy of Regina Maris yearbooks.



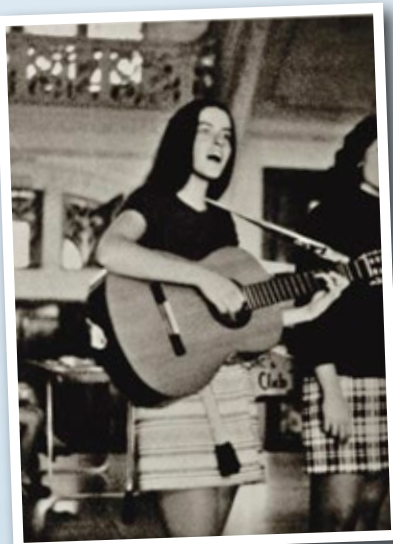
1952: Annual May Day procession includes placing a floral crown on Mother Mary statue in front of Ochre Court.



1952: Student nurses Catherine Hawkins, Mary Fitzgerald and Pauline Choquette.



1962: The Mission Club members assemble to auction off college banners to fund shipments of medicine and clothing to Belize for Hurricane Hattie victims.



1972: Students perform in Ochre Court.



1997: Sen. Claiborne Pell addresses a press conference at which Sister M. Therese Antone announces plans to establish the Pell Center.



1972 Fun Facts

- TV show "Sanford & Son" starring Red Foxx premieres on NBC.
- Album of the year: "Talking Book," Stevie Wonder
- The pop music group "ABBA" was formed.
- The first handheld calculator is introduced for the price of \$395.
- Nolan Bushnell founded Atari with an investment of \$250.
- Gas was \$.36 per gallon.
- Average cost of a new house: \$27,500.



1997 Fun Facts

- Most popular TV show was "Seinfeld."
- Album of the Year: "OK Computer" Radio Head
- Newport, R.I. is the filming site for Steven Spielberg's "Amistad."
- James Cameron's "Titanic" debuts in theaters.
- Nelson Mandela receives Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending apartheid in South Africa.
- DVD players and digital cameras appeared in the marketplace for the first time.



1968



Susan Lawlor '68 celebrated 53 years of friendship with classmates from 1968. (l-r); **Jeanne McMahon Barrett, Lynn Mary Munson, Jo-Anne Galvin Sheehan, Susan Dunphy Lawlor.**

Beatrice Abraham '68 traveled to Lebanon to bring medical and other supplies to eight families due to the nation's financial crisis.

1971

Ellen Schillace '71 is vice president of the International Association of Female Artists, a new organization and global voice for women artists worldwide.

1972

Christopher Gontarz, Esq. '72 was elected as the secretary of the Rhode Island Bar Association in July 2021. He is an attorney with Lynch & Pine, concentrating on criminal defense, ethics, and professional misconduct. Gontarz has served as the special assistant attorney general in the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General and was also a commissioner on the Rhode Island Supreme Court Judicial Tenure and Discipline Commission. He was awarded the Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award in 2008 and the Joseph T. Houlihan Lifetime Mentor Award in 2017, the same year he was elected to the American Law Institute. He is the author of "Sentencing in Superior Court, Guide to Superior Court Practice in Rhode Island," published by MCLE, New England. Following his graduation from Salve, he received degrees from American University and The New England School of Law.



Salve's Got Talent

Lisa Kennedy '78 sings with the Northwell Nurses Choir.

Working as a medical professional in the wake of COVID-19 is a heroic vocation that has been honored and celebrated over the past two years, but not enough attention has been paid to the mental health of these strong workers. Salve Regina's own Lisa Kennedy, a graduate of the class of 1978, has been through the hardship of being a nurse during the global pandemic. She is working hard to remain positive, and to encourage other nurses and healthcare workers to do the same, with the Northwell Nurses Choir, one of the finalists on last season's "America's Got Talent."



Kennedy's decision to study nursing was influenced by her mother's work as a nurse in World War II. She enjoyed her time at Salve, where she learned invaluable lessons and met lifelong friends.

"I made friends for life in Miley that I still get together with to this day," said Kennedy.

Even though the campus experience was different in the '70s, the nursing program was just as challenging as it is today. Kennedy recalls her clinicals and lectures with Sister Mary Brenda, who taught anatomy at the time, and the other professors in the program who helped her to become a well-rounded nurse by emphasizing the importance of empathy and compassion in addition to the science behind the vocation. They also taught her the value of hard work.

"If you work hard you can achieve anything," said Kennedy, who also learned that "...you can have fun too, and that is the balance I have tried to continue to achieve in my life."

After graduation, Kennedy left for University of Virginia (UVA), where she attended a six-week orientation program for nursing graduates to help strengthen clinical skills in order to make the transition from nursing school to working as a registered nurse as smooth as possible. She ended up staying for a year. She enjoyed the program as she was able to work her schedule around having children. The great thing about nursing, and what Kennedy emphasizes for current nursing students, is that you can find your niche in different locations and departments. Once you have done something for a while, it is easy to transfer and start doing something new. After her work at UVA, she spent some time working in an ICU unit, and then she became

a certified lactation consultant, a position that she has been passionate about for the past 20 years.

Kennedy explains that mothering is very important to her, and she finds fulfillment and enjoyment in helping women become mothers.

“In our society some women have never experienced being around a newborn,” she explains, “... being a mother is one of the biggest things you will do in your life.”

During the pandemic, new mothers had a difficult time when they came into the hospital for their delivery and were not allowed to have visitors. Usually mothers, grandmothers, and other seasoned moms would help out, but for the safety of the baby and the visitors themselves, this was not permitted. Instead, nurses like Kennedy would step in to help new mothers adjust. She conducted many consultations via Zoom, guiding and supporting new moms throughout the pandemic.

“I get to work with mothers and babies every day,” says Kennedy enthusiastically. “People from all walks of life, new and experienced mothers from different socioeconomic backgrounds – becoming a mother levels the field. To help women embrace the power they have to nourish their infant by breastfeeding and help them transition into their roles as mothers with confidence is the greatest gift ever.”

The pandemic was an extremely stressful and disheartening time for nurses and those who work as medical professionals and New York-based Northwell Health started a fundraiser



The Northwell Nurses Choir performs on "America's Got Talent."

in November 2020 to help raise their spirits. Out of 250 nurses who originally auditioned as part of the event, which was a Memorial Day tribute to veterans and healthcare workers, Kennedy was one of the first 50 to make the cut.

The performance caught the attention of talent scouts for “America’s Got Talent,” and the choir was asked to audition for the show. Kennedy made the second cut, as 18 nurses were chosen to appear on the show with the choir. All of the nurses were from the Northwell Health system, which is one of the biggest healthcare organizations in the state, but none were from the same department or hospital.

“We never met each other before March [2021] and only practiced around six times before we auditioned,” Kennedy says. Despite their quick formation and brief practice period, the choir quickly meshed and ended up being one of the top 10 acts of the season.

Music has always been uplifting for Kennedy, and with the choir, her goal was to create music to inspire healthcare workers and remind people, including the nursing community, that they are resilient.

“It was such an incredible experience,” says Kennedy. “I feel that we helped bring light into a very dark time in our history.”

With her participation on the show as part of the choir and the wide audience they were able to reach, Kennedy hopes to remind nurses that they have passions inside them that bring them joy outside of nursing, and that such things can help them find hope through any hardship they may experience through their work.

“As nurses we are the beacons of light,” says Kennedy. “People understand that the nurse is the person who is their advocate. I always tell my mothers that they have a superpower... they make milk for their infants. As nurses we have a superpower, too... and that is to inspire hope. We are human, but when we don our scrubs or uniforms, we put on the armor we need to fight for all our patients. And when we get overwhelmed, singing can bring us comfort and joy.”

—Anna Downes ’22



Choir members join host Simon Cowell on stage.

1977

Faith Zabriskie '77 met up with classmates during summer 2021 to reunite after 40 years. Zabriskie joined Class of 1977 alumni **Fern Silva**, **Anne Maria Fayan** and **Marybeth Scanlon** for brunch in Hyannis, Mass. Silva currently works as a medical technician. Fayan teaches math, and Scanlon is employed as a registered nurse.



1981

Maura O'Toole '81 recently accepted a position as president of two Illinois hospitals: Northwestern Medicine's Kishwaukee Hospital in Dekalb and Valley Hospital in Sandwich. She began her career as a bedside nurse in Boston 40 years ago and has risen in the ranks to lead the organization, which will transform healthcare in Western Chicago.

Inspired to Lead

Trustee Wanda Blake '79 brings her expertise to help shape Salve's future.

Wanda Blake '79 was appointed to Salve Regina's Board of Trustees in October 2020. Blake's career as a human resources leader culminated with her role at Takeda, where she served as a senior director and human resources business partner working directly with the heads of manufacturing sciences, research and development quality, vaccines quality, and manufacturing sciences quality. Her areas of expertise include strategic management, talent acquisition, executive and management development, change management initiatives and employee relations, as well as diversity and inclusion programs and solutions.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Blake earned her undergraduate degree in criminal justice at Salve but after being accepted to the CIA, decided to pursue other options. A conversation with a job fair recruiter on the similarities between criminal justice and human resources – both require the ability to “peel the onion” in order to go deeper and uncover the layers beneath – led Blake to make the move to a new field.



Reflecting on the rewards and challenges of her profession,

Blake shared how much she enjoyed helping people navigate their careers and coaching them along the way. She also learned the importance of understanding where people are coming from and meeting them there in order to best support their professional development.

Blake is the recipient of the Raytheon Business President's Award for her work in revitalizing a cooperative education program with Northeastern University and is a member of the Greater Boston Advisory Board for the Salvation Army's Massachusetts' Division and was appointed to the Nominating Committee after joining the Board.

“My mother was a community leader and volunteer with the Salvation Army in the late '60s,” said Blake. “I always admired what they did in the communities they serve so her memory is a big inspiration for why I decided to get involved.”

While at Salve, Blake made many lasting friendships. “To this day we continue to support each other,” she said. “We keep in touch throughout the years depending on what's going on. We're already talking about our reunion in 2024.”

Blake and her husband Ken reside in Andover, Massachusetts. They look forward to traveling once again and prior to the pandemic, enjoyed visiting places such as Australia, Egypt, Israel, Turkey and New Zealand.

In the meantime, her work on the boards of the Salvation Army and Salve Regina keep her busy.

“I'm excited to be able to contribute to the future of the University,” said Blake. “I'll be able to use my skills in business, HR and governance to help tackle problems and make decisions. Also, Salve's mission resonates with me because its tenets resemble my personal values such as extending compassion and mercy to others and encouraging social justice.”

When asked what advice she would give to students and recent graduates just starting out in their careers, she shared suggestions based on her years of experience in the field of human resources.

“I would say explore the different opportunities that the company has,” Blake responded. “Meet other people, get involved in the company's social groups – several companies have employee resource/affinity groups where employees can learn about and value the many aspects of diversity and expand their professional and personal network.”

The Importance of a Good Foundation

George Speropolous '86 recalls his Salve experience.

While moving into Carey Mansion his freshman year, George Speropolous '86 was worried about meeting his two new roommates who both knew each other prior to starting the school year. He had been drawn to Salve Regina after visiting his two sisters, who had also attended, because of its tight-knit community and the beautiful ocean views from campus.

"Years later, my roommates told me the following story," he recalled. "When my parents took me out to eat after moving in, my roommates had talked about the fact that they were looking at my clothes and prejudging me. We had different styles...I was from the city in Massachusetts, and they were from the suburbs of Connecticut. We were all business management majors and had similar interests, but on that first day, I remember them questioning my leather coat and funny shoes."

Little did he know, though, that his new roommates would become lifelong friends. He and 10 of his fellow Salve alumni gathered for a mini reunion at a friend's house in York, Maine, in summer 2021.

Although he was a business management major, Speropolous's favorite class was Psychology of the Male. Outside of class time, he enjoyed studying at the library, which was in McAuley Hall at the time, where he could see the ocean views. He also often explored Ocean Drive and went for walks on the Cliff Walk between classes.

As a student-athlete, Speropolous played on the hockey team and ran track. When the school began busing students to hockey games at St. George's School in Middletown, the team went from having just a few spectators to a rink full of fans.



"It was also exciting to have uniforms and buses provided for games too," Speropolous remembered. His teams were a second family that he knew would always be there for him. They also provided the opportunity to develop key leadership skills, which helped to prepare him for his future career.

"Salve left its mark on everyone, from finding friends who became family to shaping your career path and more," said Speropolous. "My mark was creating lifelong friends and giving me the confidence that I could accomplish anything I was willing to work hard for."

After graduation, Speropolous worked for his family's business for eight years. Eventually, he left that job to work for Converge. He was the senior trader in the electronics industry and sold to Fortune 500 companies nationally and globally. After 15 years at the technology company, Speropolous wanted a new challenge. With his father considering retirement, he decided to purchase his family's business. Eleven years later, Speropolous continues to lead and grow MCR Technologies, which provides patient nutrient management and food-service software systems to the healthcare industry.

In addition to owning a successful business, Speropolous is very active in his community. He has served as member and chairman of the advisory board for the Jordan Boys and Girls club in Chelsea, Massachusetts and is the treasurer of the Ipswich Little League, along with coaching hockey and baseball teams.

Speropolous stressed the importance of having a good foundation educationally and spiritually.

"That is the key to being successful," Speropolous explains. "Salve Regina has helped carve out who I am today."

—Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

1987

Leslie Barrett '87 was presented



with the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding professional and personal development, during Fall Festival Weekend Oct. 31, 2021. She is the president and chief operating officer at Medical Park Hospital and system vice president of surgical

and anesthesia services for Novant Health, where she oversees regulatory compliance, facility needs, financial health, quality and systemwide patient outcomes. Barrett earned both her MBA and a master's degree in health administration from Pfeiffer University. Her success at Novant is a testament to her



passion for successful patient outcomes as well as her strategic leadership skills for building successful teams and identifying opportunities for their upward mobility. She is a strong advocate of giving back through her volunteerism and philanthropic activities in her communities. She has been a long-term supporter of Salve Regina and is a patron for the Humane Society of Charlotte, including her rescue transport drives for dogs headed to their forever homes.

1988

After 24 years as a bedside NICU nurse, **Mary Diaz-Raymond '88** changed fields to outpatient adults and was promoted to outpatient director at Hartford Healthcare after her first year in the position.

1989

Yvonne Conti-O'Brien '89 retired from her career as a middle school Spanish teacher and has opened her own cookie company. Red Rooster Cookie Jar has been in operation since 2018 in The Villages, Florida.

1990

Deborah Tamulis '90 is the executive director for Thomson Partners, which specializes in investment sales and analysis, joint venture partnerships, private equity, tenant lease representation, construction and project management. In her role, she works with clients to secure commercial real estate development projects.

1991

Donna Thibodeau Frye '91 is the associate director and value stream leader at Collins Aerospace located in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. She has over 30 years' experience in program and operations management in the aerospace industry and serves as a mentor for students in Salve's business and economics program.

1994

Carrie Miranda '95 (M) was presented with the Distinguished Graduate Alumni award during the Fall Festival Weekend brunch Oct. 31, 2021. Miranda is the executive director at Looking Upwards, Inc., a private, Middletown-based nonprofit agency offering a wide array of services to adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and children with special healthcare needs. Currently serving more than 1,300



individuals throughout Rhode Island, the organization has over 40 years of experience in the field and a corps of skilled professionals who are well-respected in the community. Their mission is to promote the growth and independence of children and adults of all abilities so they may realize their potential and live fulfilling lives.

Miranda has served in numerous leadership roles, including president and vice president of the Community Provider Network of Rhode Island. She was elected the Rhode Island representative for the American Network of Community Options and Resources and has served as the Rhode Island representative for the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Known by her colleagues for her ability to engage people's talents by creating focused momentum toward a goal, Miranda is a visionary leader who creates new possibilities by directly facing challenges. She has worked in the human service field for over 25 years and is a past recipient of the Providence Business News "Forty under Forty," awarded to Rhode Island professionals selected for their commitment to the community.

1996

Brian Burke '96 was promoted to the rank of major with the Bristol, R.I., Police Department in July 2021. Burke's role as commander of the administrative division oversees national and state accreditation, policy development, training, internal affairs, budgeting, communications and civilian support staff. Burke was also assigned as the department's integrity officer and network administrator.

Erik Costa '96 was selected to become the next chief of the Middletown Police Department. Costa was selected by an interview panel, comprised of law enforcement officials, public safety personnel and community residents, due to his dedication and experience in the field.

2000

Akeia Bowman de Barros Gomes '00 works as the senior curator of maritime social histories at Mystic Seaport Muse-



um, focusing on curatorial projects of race, Indigenous histories, ethnicity, slavery and diversity in New England's maritime activities. She was also appointed as a visiting scholar to Brown University's Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. In this role, she plans to engage with questions of race and sovereignty while weaving new narratives with the creative use of visual and material culture, archaeology, oral traditions, songs and performance. Additionally, Akeia leads a curatorial team in the development of education programs, both in-house and online, related to those themes.

Sergio Gonzalez '00 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Oct. 3, 2021. Gonzalez has held Salve's career save percentage mark for over



20 years, and his goalkeeper wins mark stood atop the all-time list for nearly 20 years for men's soccer. He owns the school record for solo shutouts (22) and goals against average and was named the 1999-2000 Salve Regina Male Athlete of the Year just before graduating. He boasts more than two decades of coaching experience, including eight years with both women's and men's Big 10 Conference programs.

2007

Bernadette Moonan Butler '07 has been the assistant principal and curriculum coordinator for the past four years at Cunningham Elementary School in Milton, Mass., where she attended school as a child. She received her master's degree at Bridgewater State University and her administrator certification at Curry College. Butler was married in 2015 and has welcomed three children to her family since then.

When Opportunity Knocks

Sarah Baker '10 shares the importance of effective communication in her role with Disney+.

If Disney World is the place “where dreams come true,” then Sarah Baker '10 is living her own dream as a project manager for the Disney+ streaming service.

Baker was drawn to Salve due to her desire for a small school experience, the beautiful location of Newport, Rhode Island, and the women's lacrosse program. “I knew that a smaller setting would be a lot more conducive to my learning because I knew I would have a closer relationship to my teachers and my classmates,” Baker recalls, explaining the ideal learning environment she required as a student with dyslexia and ADHD.

As an English communications major, Baker credits Dr. Matthew Ramsey, professor and chair of the Department of English, Communications and Media, and the support she received from the department as a whole, with the success she found post-graduation. She recalls a workshop she attended where she learned what career options are available for communications majors. It was an important conversation for her because she realized that she needed to understand what she is passionate about to discover the career options that were right for her.

Baker also alludes to the senior thesis project to highlight the importance of passion, as the paper can seem daunting, but once she found a subject she was passionate about, she found herself having fun. Her passion for entertainment is evident in her thesis, as the topic was centered around how hip-hop influences politics and the presidential election.

“I found that I was more engaged in an area that I was passionate about,” she says, “so I knew that when I graduated I wanted to work in entertainment.”

The road to Disney did not come immediately; Baker had to pay her dues in the industry before she was able to be a part of the magic. She took six months off after graduation, but then found an internship opportunity with Vevo, a U.S.-based company that works multinationally to host and provide videos and is best known for providing music videos for YouTube. At the time, Vevo only offered credit-bearing internships and Salve was able to help Baker obtain the position despite her status as an alumna. She spent six months working five days a week, including weekends, as an unpaid intern, while living at home with her parents, but she took advantage of the opportunity to learn as much as possible.

“I made a really purposeful practice of connecting with everyone in every department so I could really understand what they do and narrow down what I didn't want to do,” says Baker of her experience.

“That internship really opened the door for all my other opportunities,” says Baker. “So I think Salve, being able to work with me, even post-grad, really helped me with my career.”

Through her internship at Vevo, Baker found a job working as



a program manager for Disney+, the company's streaming service. In her role, she works with the Launch Program Management Operations team (LPMO) and is responsible for the organization's global launches.

“What's really fun for me, and what a lot of people in my immediate circle don't realize, is it's not just the U.S.,” explains Baker. In 2019, Disney+ launched in the U.S., along with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Puerto Rico.

Then, Baker worked on the launch for a group of countries in Europe and Latin America. She and her team are currently working on their Asian-Pacific launch in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

“Even though we don't work directly with the studios and the filmmaking process, we do try to tackle elements of it,” explains Baker, “like the supply chain of when the film is ready for release, how it goes from the filmmakers'/editors' room to Disney+, and then with the global expansion there are a lot of elements with the filmmaking process that our team is involved with in terms of globalization and localization.”

Disney markets their films according to their audiences, and depending on the country and their culture, the goals for a film might change. For example, the popular film “Zootopia” is known as “Zootropolis” in Australia. Also, Mickey Mouse is the face of Disney in the U.S., while Disney fans in The Netherlands have a much stronger association with Donald Duck. Baker's job is to ensure the launches are appropriate for the target audience.

“My number one job is communication,” says Baker. She stresses the importance of being able to communicate effectively and efficiently, as her job requires her to utilize internal communication within her department, and across departments, to discuss initiatives, deadlines, and translate between different groups. She also appreciates lessons learned as an English communications major around being comfortable with having honest conversations, as those gave her the confidence to have discussions with her team and her supervisors about projects and deadlines.

When things get stressful, being immersed in the wonder of Disney reminds Baker that her work is fun and unique. She may be having intense conversations about the Marvel Universe, but she's doing so while surrounded by images of Donald Duck and other Disney characters as she lives the dream she has courageously pursued.

—Anna Downes '22

Kate Greci '07 is the camp director and property manager for Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey. Though the camp was unable to operate in 2020, Greci welcomed campers back during summer 2021. Current students **Carina Gallagher '24** and **Madelyn Sattan '24** joined Greci as camp counselors. "I was overjoyed to work with them; they truly epitomize the Salve mission and were model counselors for the rest of our team," said Greci.



(l-r) Kate Greci, Madelyn Sattan and Carina Gallagher

2008

Becca Bertrand '08 is the first-ever executive director of the New York Yacht Club Foundation for Historic Preservation, having served as both managing director and executive director for newportFILM, which grew in popularity and scope under her leadership. Bertrand also serves as a trustee on the board of Preserve Rhode Island, the state preservation advocacy nonprofit, and as a committee member for the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' annual fundraisers.



2010

Myles Proe '10 began a new position in summer 2021, joining the Quincy Credit Union as a business banking manager.



Anthony Hannon '13 works with MassMutual for their cybersecurity team and participates in the CEO Action for Racial Equity Fellowship. The fellowship is made up of over 200 fellows representing more than 100 companies. It's focused on opportunities for improvement in the economic, education, healthcare, and public safety areas affecting Black and African Americans. He and his wife **Kayleigh Falcon Hannon '14**, along with their two children, live in Longmeadow.

2011

Ryan Birrell '11 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Oct. 3, 2021. Birrell is the all-time leader in games started (103) and assists (572) and the single-season record-holder in both categories for men's basketball. He equaled the mark of free throws made in a season (156) with fellow Hall of Famer, **Justin Hackley '96**, who did so in the 1994-95 academic year. Birrell led the Seahawks in back-to-back conference title game appearances, with Salve Regina winning three times on the road in 2010-11 to capture its first championship since 1994-95. As a graduate student in the Commonwealth Coast Conference, Birrell earned Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in 2011-12 and finished as the program's fifth all-time leading scorer (1,309 points). He is an enterprise account executive for Validity Inc. in Boston.



2013

Ashley Bendiksen '13 was presented with the Salve Regina University Mission Award during the Fall Festival Weekend brunch Oct. 31, 2021. Bendiksen is a national

speaker, author, award-winning activist, and former valedictorian for the Class of 2013. Her work is inspired by



her own experience as a survivor of abuse in her adolescent years. She has turned her passion into her purpose and today, impacts communities across the U.S. as an expert in abuse prevention, youth mental health, resilience and leadership. She is also a certified life coach and cognitive behavioral therapy practitioner, mentoring survivors as well as teen and millennial girls. As a multi-passionate activist, Bendiksen has served on numerous boards and committees advancing a variety of causes including Alzheimer's awareness and fundraising in honor of her late mother who passed away from the disease. Presently, she serves on the board of directors of the Women's Resource Center of Newport County, is a volunteer nonprofit spotlight writer for Newport Neighbors Magazine, and is the founder of the Blue Hearts Project – a global storytelling platform for survivors.

Kaitlyn Boisvert '13 began a new job as a copywriter at Belfort Group, a Boston-based marketing agency.

2014

Clare Adams '14 was the first Seahawk volleyball player inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Oct. 3, 2021. Adams graduated with the most kills (990) and second-most service aces (129) all-time. She earned three major awards as a senior (Athlete of the Year, Distinguished Senior Scholar, Sister Philemon Banigan Award) while leading her team to its greatest single-season winning percentage and




most wins. Adams also received honors from the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) for first team outside hitter in 2013, was on the CCC All-Academic Team three times and was the NEWVA Senior All-Star in 2013. She is currently the director for Open Door Ministries' Esther House, a Christian oriented transitional housing program for women coming out of crisis situations such as homelessness, addiction and the sex trade, located in Denver, Colorado.

Kellie Merner Brigandi '14 is a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Connecticut Children's where she has been working for the last six years. Brigandi was featured as a Healthcare Hero of the Week on Jimmy Kimmel Live for her efforts through the pandemic. Since becoming a NICU nurse, Brigandi has been involved in the March of Dimes, planning fundraisers and unit events to help support research, advocacy, and education to decrease the risk for premature births. She and her husband **Jacob Brigandi '13**, an actuary at Aetna in Hartford, live in Connecticut.

"I have been able to carry out the Salve Mission in my everyday work as a NICU nurse," Brigandi says. "I have prepared for the challenge of learning as I continue to learn every single day. As the medical profession is always evolving, I am using the foundation Salve built for me and my skills as I continue to expand my knowledge and seek research to stay current in my field."

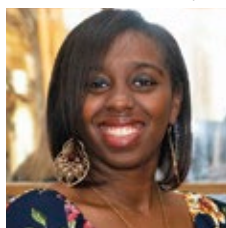
2015

Ruth T. McNally '15, '21 (DNP)

 was presented with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award during the Fall Festival Weekend brunch Oct. 31, 2021.

The award recognizes the exceptional achievements of graduates who are younger than 35-years-old. After graduating from Salve Regina with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2015, McNally began working as an emergency room nurse. She continued her education at Salve Regina, earning her Master of Science in Nursing in 2018 and passing

her Family Nurse Practitioner boards. She then advanced her career even further by graduating from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Salve Regina in 2021. Currently, McNally works in



internal medicine and home care where she provides direct medical care, disease management, and education to

adults with common and complex health conditions. "I fell in love with Salve Regina because of its belief that all people are stewards of God's creation," McNally said. "Salve has always been a safe place for me, allowing me to advance my education and career while encouraging me to expand out of my comfort zone ... Salve Regina's mission means treating all people with mercy and kindness and making the world a better place." McNally recently put the mission into practice when she participated in a medical mission trip to Togo, West Africa. While there, she assisted in the diagnosis, treatment and management of tropical diseases.



2016

Whiteley Foster '16 was the Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery's 2021 artist-in-residence Dec. 2-15, 2021. A New England-based cartoonist and illustrator, Foster relocated their studio to the Hamilton Gallery for two weeks following the Thanksgiving holiday. During this period, Foster shared their creative process with the Salve Regina community to incite new opportunities for learning and collaboration on campus.

Through digital illustration and animation, Foster develops stories with a LGBTQ+ focus. Their work provides a safe space free of adversity and abuse for the LGBTQ+ community to explore themes of love and acceptance. In recent years, Foster's professional practice has shifted from a computer-centered studio to an untethered iPad, allowing them to both draw and travel with a greater range of possibility.

Foster is also an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Art and Art History. They teach courses in drawing and illustration. Foster received their MFA in cartooning from The Center for Cartoon Studies in 2018.

Foster is currently a freelance artist working on original art for publication. Their previous experience includes work as a colorist at Disney-Hyperion on published projects such as the "Brightly Woven" book, a designer for King Arthur Flour, and a clean-up artist for The Charles Schulz Studio on original "Peanuts" comic strips.

Foster's current illustration work includes the series "Friend of the Devil."



Beer by Day. Calligraphy by Night.

Brooke Hobson '17 opens
Cookie Calligraphy Co.

There's no telling where a marketing degree will take someone, and Brooke Hobson '17 is the perfect example of how one never knows where their path might lead. After completing her undergraduate degree at Salve Regina, Hobson moved to Boston with her now-husband, Chris Cure '17. She accepted a position at the Boston Athenaeum in their development department, which has led to many new experiences in the literary and art world.

The Boston Athenaeum is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States, hosting many famous books and pieces of art. Her position with the not-for-profit organization, working directly beneath the chief development officer, connected Hobson with members of the board of trustees who hail from esteemed backgrounds in art and leadership. Following her tenure at the Boston Athenaeum, she found a new career in marketing for food and beverage and now serves as a community manager for Narragansett Beer.

During the pandemic, Hobson and her husband decided to move back to Newport. "We quickly decided that we may never leave," reflects Hobson. "Salve Regina has such a tight-knit community, which I was truly able to enjoy and appreciate when I was attending college, but moving back has made me realize that Newport has such an incredibly welcoming community as a whole."

As community manager for the 131-year-old company, Hobson manages the day-to-day marketing operations for both the national brand and the Providence Brewery. This role includes managing, creating and operating Narragansett Beer's social media platforms, creating large-scale events, and assisting in public relations opportunities. Hobson also collaborates in developing beer can designs.

She often hears stories from people whose parents worked in Narragansett Beer's original factory and the impact that had on their lives. Others tell her about the fond memories they have of enjoying Narragansett Beer at family gatherings.

"Working for a company that was founded in 1890 is so incredible," says Hobson. "It's so rewarding to hear stories from our loyal fan base that developed over the years."

Although much of her day is centered around beer, Hobson started her own business, Cookie Calligraphy Co., in May 2020. While planning her wedding, she discovered a talent for calligraphy after writing her guests' names on oyster shells for

place holders. Hobson has since designed over 2,000 shells.

When asked what the hardest part of owning her own business is (in addition to working full-time at Narragansett Beer), Hobson describes the roadblocks that come with operating any company. With no perfect-fit manual to go by, she has learned to navigate finances, production, shipping times and expenses. Her biggest focus, however, has been learning to understand exactly what a client needs and wants when they order from Cookie Calligraphy Co.



"The most rewarding part is easily people's reactions when they get their products from me," Hobson explains. "It's truly the honor of a lifetime to have my work at people's weddings, showers, rehearsals, parties and homes. I have to pinch myself sometimes."

Her own marriage to Cure, a Salve alumnus with a master's degree in cybersecurity, took place in September 2021. Being Newporters at heart, they had Diego's restaurant cater the event, and, of course, Cookie Calligraphy Co. did much of the decorating. Hobson enjoys running the streets of Newport and exploring Ocean Drive with her husband. They regularly join in RunNewport and Run N' Chug events and recently ran in the Dallas Marathon.

Hobson reflects that being surrounded by like-minded people has motivated her over these past years. Since graduating from Salve Regina, she has explored many fields, but is grateful to have returned to where her journey began in Newport as she shares her passion for bringing other's visions to life through calligraphy and marketing.

—Corilyn Richard '15, '20 (M)

Meaghan Harden '16, a former guard who played for the Seahawks women's basketball team, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Oct. 3, 2021.



Harden earned back-to-back years with recognition as the Salve Regina Female Athlete of the Year for 2015 and 2016. She also earned First Team All-CCC honors all four years as a player and finished as Salve's all-time leading scorer, women or men, with 1,945 points. The most prolific scorer in Seahawk history, Harden added a D3Hoops.com All-Region team pick to her honors as a senior captain. She is a customer success manager for HealthEdge in the Providence area.

2017

Julia Pierce '17 graduated with a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of New Haven. Pierce completed her degree while working in the New Haven County Courthouse as a victim advocate for domestic violence victims.

2019

Brooke Pennington '19, '20 (M) has been promoted from a graphic designer to a project manager at



The Lightstream Group in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Her new position at the marketing agency involves printing, website hosting, voice-overs and video shoots.

Eddie Cullinane '19 graduated in May 2021 from the Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College with his master's degree in higher education administration. He then started a new role as the executive coordinator in the Office of the President at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Vigen Ciottone '20 was accepted as a graduate student into the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), which is widely considered to be one of the top programs for international studies in the country.

SAIS was founded in the 1940s to prepare men and women to cope with the international responsibilities of the U.S. following the end of World War II. According to Ciottone, he is incredibly excited to be given the chance to enter such an academic legacy – but he also thinks back fondly to the ways that Salve Regina prepared him for this new challenge.

When Ciottone first arrived at Salve Regina, he didn't really know what he wanted to major in, but his interest was sparked by an international relations class that he took as a first-year student.

"I fell in love with it," he said. "I could not get enough of international relations."

After that class, Ciottone decided to become a political science and history major. He was part of the Nuala Pell Leadership Program at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, and he conducted research alongside Dr. Jim Ludes, executive director of the Pell Center. Ciottone also had

two incredible internship experiences as an undergraduate: one with a branch of the Raytheon Company in Rhode Island, and one with the majority whip of the Rhode Island State House.



What really attracted Ciottone to the Johns Hopkins SAIS program was the fact that it's the only program that truly has an international

experience; Ciottone will be experiencing his first year of the program in Italy and his second year in Washington, D.C. He is also excited that the program allows people to have two concentrations – one of which is a mandatory emphasis on international economics.

After graduating from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Ciottone plans to go to law school. Eventually, he wants to have a career in public service.

"Salve was the pinnacle reason to my acceptance to this program, because of what I was introduced to while here," he said. "Through the faculty [and]... the wonderful community in Newport, I was able to open my eyes and open doors to some things I didn't even imagine... It allowed me to shoot for the stars, so I can't thank Salve enough."

Maddie Key '19

accepted a position in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University, working as program manager of interdisciplinary programs and supporting the diversity and inclusion leadership program.



Jolie Slater '19 started her doctorate in clinical psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

2020

Sarah DeWolfe '20 is a production assistant for ESPN NEXT, a highly competitive development program designed to train future leaders in the sports media industry. In this role, DeWolfe works on the set of different ESPN shows, editing

and creating content while learning from knowledgeable mentors at the company's headquarters in Bristol, Conn.

Zach Eekof '20 was accepted to Columbia University's master's program in insurance management. Eekof is one of the founding members of ENACTUS, Salve Regina's student organization focusing on improving entrepreneurial and creative skills.

2021

Timothy Jaeger '21 published an article titled "Dietrich von Hildebrand as an Intuitionist Philosopher" in the October 2021 edition of Dialogue, the undergraduate journal of Phi Sigma Tau, the international Philosophy Honor Society. Jaeger is the former Philosophy Club president and the recipient of Salve Regina's Department of Philosophy Award; he is currently applying to graduate programs in the field.

Building Out a Business

Jackie Connor '18, '21 (MBA) wears every hat as a small business owner.

Jackie Connor '18, '21 (MBA) has fulfilled her dream of owning a small business in Newport.

After being furloughed from her job as a result of COVID-19 and moving home from Boston, Connor researched the business of charcuterie boards. She soon found herself returning to Salve Regina for her MBA. When combining the lessons learned at Salve with her multimedia talents, Connor was able to create a brand entirely on her own.

"The idea for Bellevue Boards came to be during the pandemic, but really ramped up in summer 2021," said Connor. "Building out Bellevue Boards has been so much fun because I am able to use skills I've learned through my education and previous job experiences to bring my vision to life."

The commitment and passion that Connor has applied to creating Bellevue Boards ensure that her business truly represents her vision. From the logo and branding, the website and photography, to the boards themselves, Connor has built every part of Bellevue Boards on her own. While she feels lucky to have family, friends and mentors who are willing to listen to ideas, provide feedback and help with struggles, Connor says it is currently a solo mission.

"I love that this is my business," said Connor. "Sure, it's the biggest challenge wearing every hat in the business, but it also is so empowering."

BellevueBoards.com is more than just a place to order unique, handcrafted charcuterie arrangements, picnic boxes and other delicious bites. "Behind the Boards" is a compilation of stories on Newport's mansions, the history of charcuterie, food safety, how to create your own unique board and more.

Connor remains connected to Salve through professors and, since launching Bellevue Boards, has returned for alumni networking and professional events to speak with students. She is also grateful for purchases made by students and the Campus Activities Board. "It was such a pleasant surprise to see the University supporting me," said Connor.

—Samantha Tarbox '21

Editor's note: Visit bellevueboards.com to learn more about Connor and her inspiration for creating custom charcuterie boards.



Alejandro Rojas '21 has been a field intern for Battelle Memorial Institute working on the National Science Foundation's NEON long-term climate change study in Manhattan, Kansas. He was part of the fauna field team, which gathered field samples and was responsible for some of the lab processing of ground beetles, ticks, mosquitos, small mammals, and soil to better understand how ecosystems and populations are changing over time. Field sampling was conducted in three different locations including the Konza Prairie, the surrounding area of the University of Kansas field station, and Kansas State's agricultural area. "Some of the most memorable things about the experience were spending time with the bison on the prairie and being amongst a team of likeminded individuals working for a better tomorrow," said Rojas. "Kansas' hot days were filled with lots of hiking and a lot of ticks, but getting the opportunity to be a part of such an important study made it all worthwhile."



Isabel Thornton '21 is a social media specialist for Weaving Influence, an agency that creates marketing plans for authors publishing books.



Salve Celebrations

Weddings

Bronya Shillo Belanger '03
and Mitchell Belanger:
October 11, 2021

Gabriella Milo McNamara '16
and **Michael McNamara '16**:
July 18, 2020

Brittany Toce Ryan '10
and Sean William Kelly Ryan:
May 15, 2021

Send your news and updates to alumni@salve.edu.

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

Striving for Excellence

Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Alleyne '21 (M) earns two master's degrees in 12 months.

Ryan Alleyne '21 (M), an international student from Barbados, has done what many couldn't pull off. He has completed two master's programs simultaneously – one at the Naval War College and another at Salve Regina. And he did it all in one year.

In the island country of Barbados, Alleyne has had 26 years of active duty as a lieutenant commander for the Barbados Coast Guard. He was also a ship captain for nine years before transferring to the Barbados Defense Force, a military base that is responsible for 645 personnel.

The Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, provides higher education for military officers, both local and international students, and Alleyne came to Newport to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by the college. He wanted to complete a master's program in defense and strategic studies, but only 10 international students are accepted into the program each year.

Alleyne applied, but he knew that there was a possibility he would not be accepted into the Naval War College program. Since the Naval War College also has a unique association with Salve Regina, Alleyne applied to the University to obtain a master's degree in innovation and strategic management.

Ultimately, Alleyne got into both programs. He decided to embark on a journey to complete two graduate degrees at once, so he moved to Newport in 2020 and began a whirlwind adventure.

His Naval War College degree in defense and strategic studies focuses on strategy and policies, joint military operations and leadership in the profession of arms.

"This allows me as a senior officer to now have tools to pull from for dealing with various issues in a military environment," he said, explaining that the degree will amplify his military pedigree and open opportunities that he wouldn't otherwise have had.

Alleyne hopes to use his Salve degree after his retirement from the Barbados Coast Guard.

Salve Regina's innovation and strategic management program emphasizes managerial decision making, problem solving, nonprofit management, organizational development, human resource management and organizational transformation. Alleyne stresses that the courses he took to complete this degree have helped him understand the true importance of decision making when it comes to managing in a variety of capacities.



"I know how to create a strategic mission, organizational structure, future forecasting for a sustainable, ethical ... organization," Alleyne said. "And these skills are especially helpful to learn during the pandemic, as this time has demanded a lot of change from organizations."

The skills learned through his studies at Salve are already coming in handy for the nonprofit organization that Alleyne's family founded in Barbados. Called Togetherness, the nonprofit is a community support group for those in need, offering items like gift baskets, school supplies and other help around the holidays. Alleyne tells a story of a family in Barbados whose house burned down in a fire. Togetherness collected food, furniture and other things the family needed to get back on their feet.

"It is a program where we give back," explained Alleyne. "It's about looking out for each other through the community ... to make everyone feel as if they are wanted and that they are not left out during the holidays."

Alleyne participated in a ceremony that officially made Barbados a republic completely free of rule from the British Empire. The event made international news, and he could be seen escorting Rihanna, who is originally from Barbados and was honored during the ceremony.

Now an alumnus of two graduate programs, Alleyne has enjoyed Newport, traveled the world and learned so many things that he will continue to bring back to his beloved country. He draws inspiration from his military background and the motto they preach.

"Continue to strive to be excellent," he said. "It takes determination and the will to not give up to pursue your goals and dreams."

—Anna Downes '22

In Loving Memory

Kiley Krause '24

August 31, 2002 – December 22, 2021

The Salve Regina community continues to mourn the loss of Kiley Ann Krause '24, who passed away Dec. 22, 2021, from injuries suffered in a tragic car accident. The daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Krause of Wallingford, Connecticut, Krause was a special education major. She graduated with honors from Lyman Hall High School in 2020 where she was captain of the Unified Sports Team and mentored for numerous programs such as Best Buddies and the Power Play Programs. In 2019 she participated as a unified partner in the Special Olympics summer games in the 1500M Unified Walk and was invited to attend the New England Student Leadership Conference. Krause was honored with the 2018-2019 Mike Savage Exemplary Unified Teammate Award in recognition of outstanding dedication and sportsmanship.



At Salve, Krause's dedication to her studies earned her a place on the Dean's list. She also worked as a behavioral technician doing what she loved most, which was helping special needs children and young adults, as well as working independently for a very special family that grew near and dear to her heart. The campus community shared in remembering the beautiful spirit and friendship that Krause brought to Salve Regina during Mass Feb. 20.

Michael Papademetriou

November 6, 1943 – October 4, 2021

Michael Papademetriou, former manager for Sodexo Dining Services and a familiar face around Salve Regina's campus, passed away on Oct. 4, 2021. Papademetriou joined the Air Force and after being honorably discharged in 1967, attended culinary school through the GI Bill. After graduation he was hired in the culinary field and traveled the West Coast, working in Hollywood on various television sitcom sets such as MASH. Serving people was Papademetriou's passion; he rounded out his career in the food service industry managing Sodexo's campus cafés and events. He engaged students, faculty and staff in conversation to discover where they were from, what they were studying or teaching, and what food or beverage they enjoyed most. If it wasn't on his menu, he would work to bring it in and surprised many customers with their favorites. Papademetriou also managed events during the filming of "True Lies" on campus, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis. He was known for his gregarious personality and made it a point to call people by their first name, making them feel welcome.



Riccardo Fornaro '21

January 13, 1998 – November 25, 2021

A member of the Class of 2021, Riccardo Fornaro passed away Nov. 25, 2021. He graduated with a degree in accounting and had started his Master of Professional Accountancy, while interning at Ernst & Young in the



Providence office. Fornaro left an indelible mark during his time as a Salve student and was a bright light amidst the campus community.

"Riccardo Fornaro was a very hardworking student who was loved by everyone who met him," said Paul McKillop, senior lecturer of business and economic and faculty advisor for Fornaro. "Riccardo was warmhearted and compassionate and always took the time to help and support his fellow students. He would often be seen studying his accounting subjects with his fellow students in an effort to learn and help his classmates to pass that next quiz or exam. He was an extraordinary young man who will be sorely missed here in our community and much further abroad."

Sydney O. Williams

April 20, 1928 – August 10, 2021

Sydney Williams, a doctoral candidate in the humanities program and member of Salve Regina's Circle of Scholars, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on August 10, 2021. Williams was featured in



"Age is but a Number" in the fall 2019 issue of Report from Newport for his dedication to lifelong learning as he pursued his Ph.D.

Williams spent the majority of his career in the Newport Public School system, teaching elementary and junior high school before rising through the administration and retiring as assistant superintendent of schools. He was a mentor for doctoral candidates at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and served as a volunteer archivist for the Newport School Department from 1992 until his death. He also maintained an interest in local and statewide educational affairs.

"Syd had not only a lively and intellectually curious mind, but an innovative mind," said Dr. Sean O'Callaghan, graduate director for the doctoral program in humanities. "He wanted to reassess the world of military deception, drawing on historical examples and then reframing them in the light of contemporary drone warfare and the world of military cryptography. His research ideas were at the cutting edge, and I would have loved to have supervised and read his dissertation."

Continually fascinated by intellectual challenges, Williams shared his thoughts with RFN readers on working toward his Ph.D. in his 90s: "You never get too old for this. It allows you to create, where maybe you haven't been creative in a particular area before. It allows you to feel a little bit younger than you may realize, to dream just a little bit. That's how I see it, and I'm excited. Some people think I'm crazy at 91 to try this. Too bad, 'cause I'm doing it, and I'm going to give it a hell of a shot. Ninety-one to me is just a number."

In Memoriam

Madison Bailey Jr. '73

Daniel Barboza '83 (M)

Lori Barile '21 (M),
systems and technology librarian

Beverly W. Buckley '05 (M)

Nancy White Connell '72

Oscar L. Coston Jr. '84 (M)

Emily E. Dauenhauer '06

Mary Jane Patriarca DiMaio '61

Martha Lyons Donovan '60

Father John J. Duggan '90, '95 (M)

Jane Murphy Farley '51

Dorothy A. Garman '77

Nancy Sullivan Hurley '64

Kathleen Reardon Kennedy '68

Timothy P. Kennedy '91, '92 (M)

Diane M. Kulha '02 (M)

David G. Mack '01

Anthony Marandola, *former trustee*

Lois Souza McCormick '62

Susan M. McGee '87

Frank S. Moniz Jr. '81

Sandra Robertson '82

Richard M. Spirlet '78

Louis J. Testa '80 (M)

Ellen L. Vermette '76 (M)

Stella Volpicelli '79



Prayer REQUESTS

The University's chaplains, Father Scott Pontes and Father Ray Malm, initiate outreach across a network of local communities of worship (from multiple Christian and other faith traditions), host multi-faith services on campus and connect students with local faith communities to support their religious and spiritual life and development. The Salve community is welcome to participate in religious and spiritual events, have their children baptized in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, request a Mass in remembrance of a deceased loved one, or request prayers of gratitude, thanksgiving, petition and intercession. Visit salve.edu/chaplains for more information.

The Beauty of Opportunity

by Anna Downes '22

Soldier, veteran, professor and businessman – Col. Gilbert Green's career has taken him around the globe and back again but the time he spent teaching at Salve Regina holds a special place in his heart.

Green found himself at Salve after years of meaningful life experience. A native of a small paper-factory town in Michigan, he was the first person in his family to attend college. He attended Michigan State University and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1954 with his undergraduate degree. He returned to college in the 1960s, attending American University to receive a master's degree in operations research and systems analysis, as well as a certificate of advanced graduate studies in information systems.

Green's military career with the United States Army took him to Vietnam several times between 1963 and 1975. His final tour, in a diplomatic role, ended during the evacuation in 1975. He then spent a year of study at the Naval War College and remained on the faculty as a professor of defense management. He retired after 27 years of service. At the same time, a partnership was under way allowing for War College faculty to teach night classes on a part-time basis at Salve Regina. Green fell in love with the Salve campus and community.

"I love teaching. My first love in education has always been teaching," said Green.

The opportunity to become a full-time professor came when Green was asked to

build an economics program within a more structured business department. He worked with Sister Lucille McKillop, Salve's fifth president, to create a four-year major and business degree with a focus in economics. Green stayed on to see the class of majors graduate in 1984. Having ensured the

foundations of the economics major were secure, he left to pursue a career in investment management.

"This was another opportunity to be somewhat of a teacher, and an opportunity to use what I had been learning and teaching my former students over the years," said Green, who spent the next 30 years in this profession.

Now retired and living in Florida, Green has kept an eye on the University's expanding infrastructure and programs, which look very different than they did when he was teaching in the 1980s. He is proud of the school and his own role in its growth. It has also been very gratifying for him to hear of students who have succeeded in their personal and professional lives.

"That sort of feedback is very fulfilling for someone who has decided to assist students who need help," said Green, who knows that it takes a lot of hard work and dedication when pursuing a college degree. "I had to work nights to get through college. I would go to school during the day, to work at night, and sleep in the middle."

As someone who grew up in the era of the Great Depression and World War II, Green was taught that if someone had the opportunity to help someone, they should do it. In honor of the hard-working students

at Salve Regina, therefore, Green has established the Colonel Gilbert R. Green Endowed Scholarship in Economics, which recognizes sophomores, juniors and seniors who demonstrate academic achievement in the study of economics. His hope is to assist future generations of leaders in the field and his inspiration to provide for the scholarship comes from the students.

"I loved teaching [at Salve], I love the institution, I love the discipline, and I love the students," said Green. "I just so enjoyed the process.

"I am not able to teach," he continued, "but I am able to assist in the process of education by making a scholarship that will hopefully last a long, long time."

Thomas Flanagan, associate professor of business and economics, was a pioneer in the department alongside Green and knows that the scholarship was created out of his love for the students and the school.

"He takes great pride in everything he does, the effort he put in the Department of Economics was evidence of that," Flanagan reflected. "He was creative, hard-working, and dedicated to the students.

"[Green] is giving back years after he left here ... but the memory never left," he

*"I loved teaching [at Salve],
I love the institution,
I love the discipline, and
I love the students."*

–Col. Gilbert Green

continued. "He enjoyed it so much and believed in the college and he carried that with him."

When asked what message he would like to share with current Salve students, Green emphasized the importance of discipline and hard work.

"When I look at economics, I look at the beauty of discipline," he said. "The advice I would give to students, someone in business, or anyone is to have a discipline which supports what you are going to do with your life...and what you are going to do with this wonderful opportunity you have. The world really is your oyster, and you can make it whatever you want to make it."



**Now, more than ever,
your gift to
Salve Regina
impacts our students.**



Whether you support The SALVEfund, student scholarships, or the newly established Salve Student Wellness Fund – your contribution will enhance our student experience.

When you give, at any amount, you advance Salve Regina's mercy mission.



salve.edu/give-salve • 877-SRU-GIFT • thesalvefund@salve.edu



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

Registration is now open!



salve.edu/reunion