

REPORT FROM NEWPORT

Salve Regina

University Magazine
Summer 2020



Virtual Salve

RFN, like so many other things in 2020,
goes online for the summer edition.

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Message from the President

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Our lives have changed considerably since the spring issue of Report from Newport was published, with many families experiencing great loss as they continue to struggle with the havoc wrought by the pandemic. Here at Salve, faculty and staff have been working tirelessly, both remotely and on campus, to ensure that we are prepared to welcome students back for the fall semester. One thing has become abundantly clear to me in the blur of these past months—our Salve community is the only one with which I'd want to weather such a storm. The ongoing support, compassion and kindness have been uplifting and inspiring; I cannot imagine being anywhere else.

As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving circumstances, know that the health and safety of our community is our first priority. I encourage you to visit our Back to Salve website for the most up-to-date information in the coming weeks. With her visionary wisdom in the tradition of mercy, Catherine McAuley's words are a comfort in these uncertain times: "A community in which this universal charity reigns, is capable of surmounting all difficulties."

May you and your loved ones stay safe and well.



Report from Newport

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Summer 2020

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Salve's Got This

by Teryn O'Brien



Though the global pandemic turned the world upside down, the Salve Regina community rallied in infinite ways and #salvesgotthis became a confident hashtag as well as a unifying call to action commemorating an unprecedented time in the University's history.

Virtual Salve housed a host of information for remote learning and communications for the campus community, while SALVEtoday became a resource for engaging content that was organized by themes – from Mercy Mondays to Fun Fridays – and pushed out across social media channels.

Academic Innovation Amid a Pandemic

Turning the hands-on, experiential learning that Salve is known for into a remote learning environment wasn't easy, especially in such a short time. But professors created meaningful educational moments for their students despite the challenges.

Lindsay Guarino, associate professor of dance, came across a project called "Exquisite Corps" by Mitchell Rose, who created a visual chain letter where one artist filmed themselves dancing, and then the next dancer would add on, and then the next and the next. In collaboration with Southern Methodist University and Western Michigan University, Salve dancers created their own jazz version entitled "[Collective Groove](#)."

"It really challenged them to explore the jazz concepts that we're always talking about in the studio — which are community, individuality, rhythm, energy," said Guarino. "So

it's really cool to come out of this with something tangible and documenting this bizarre time we're living through."

While individual music instruction carried on through Zoom and WebEx, music ensembles also experimented with various apps such as Acapella, where people can stack recordings of different musical parts together to make a cohesive group recording while being thousands of miles apart. The Department of Music used apps and other editing software to help create group versions of their work, continuing to collaborate despite being physically apart.

"It's a therapeutic type of fulfillment," said Dr. Don St. Jean, associate professor of music and instructor for the Madrigals and University chorus. "It helps you to heal as a person, and I think for a lot of our students, that has been sort of a saving grace. It's something to distract you ... from such ominous news that we are hearing."

The biggest challenge faced by the Department of Nursing was how to replace the vital, hands-on learning component of the clinical experience. Using vSim for Nursing®, students were able to practice treating virtual patients. Depending on the choices selected by the nursing student regarding treatment, the patient will get better or worse; once the simulation is over, the student receives feedback and a score.

"They get patients with serious complications, whereas in the real world, no one says, 'Let's



Collective Groove dancers



Rose Klein '20

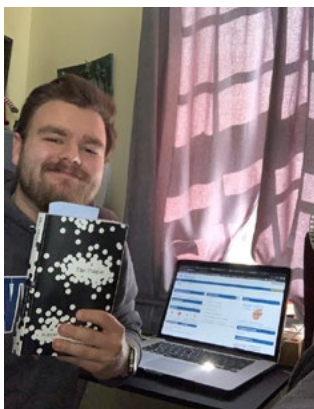
let the nursing student take care of the sickest patient,” explained Mary Lou Lyons, lecturer and assistant chairwoman of nursing.

Working with Labster, a software program that creates online laboratory simulations, biology students had access to virtual experiments that could be performed

without having lab equipment in their homes.

“The simulations are powerful because if you actually make a mistake, something will happen – like you’ll blow up or there’ll be a fire,” said Dr. Steve Symington, associate professor and chairman of biology. “So they’re made to be sort of real life where if you make a mistake, it shows the student they made a mistake.”

Dr. Craig Condella, professor of philosophy, assigned Albert Camus’ “The Plague” in order to help students wrestle with the pandemic, which offered the opportunity to understand the crisis in the context of the philosophical movement of existentialism.



Evan Elichalt '21

“People think a lot of philosophy isn’t entirely relevant and it’s not something they need, but here’s a connection to the real world during COVID-19,” said Condella. “I think this pandemic speaks to the notion that philosophy comes to the forefront when other things break down.”

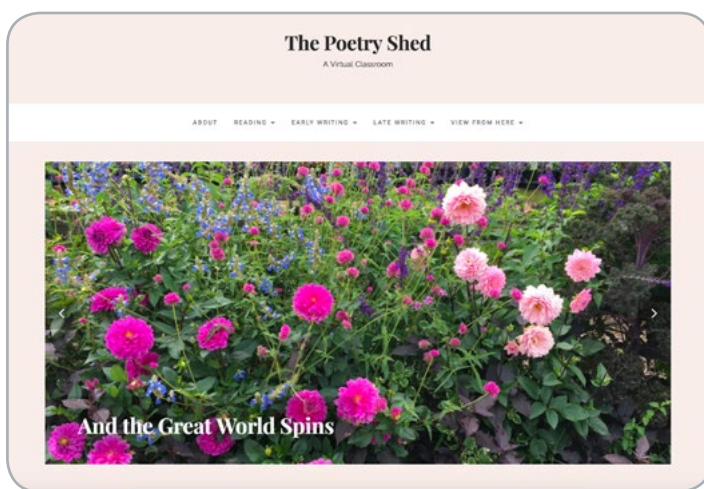
Dr. Myra Edelstein, associate professor of business studies and economics, had scheduled



Oliver Hazard Perry Tall Ship

a class visit to the SSV Oliver Hazard Perry Tall Ship, but after the world went remote, students logged into a Webex class instead and toured the ship virtually under the direction of the captain and engineer.

“This was a unique opportunity for students, and the Oliver Hazard Perry educational crew’s willingness to work with us was just wonderful,” said Edelstein.



The Poetry Shed

The Salve Advantage

What became clearer than ever throughout the coronavirus crisis was what President Kelli J. Armstrong called “the Salve advantage.”

“I have never been so grateful to be at a small institution that prides itself on personal attention for every student,”

Armstrong said.

“Translating coursework to remote learning mid-stream is no easy feat for any faculty, but



because all of our classes are small, our faculty were able to connect with each student personally. Our student affairs and mission integration teams also quickly developed online programs so that our students could stay engaged daily with the Salve Regina community.

“We have responded to this crisis by generously supporting each other’s needs and spirits—it is truly amazing,” added Armstrong. “There is something deeply special about Salve Regina, and this uniqueness has been brought to the forefront in this crisis.”

Dr. Jen McClanaghan, associate professor and writer in residence in the Department of English, Communications and Media, made an entire website to host her students’ creative writing efforts during the pandemic, and the result was a moving collection that helped students process such a significant moment in their own lives and in the history of the world.

“I wanted it to be a place that’s almost like a time capsule for this particular period,” said McClanaghan. “A place where they can come back a couple years from now and see how they were processing.”

Silver Linings

by Emily Whelan '20

Illustration by Ryan Miech '21

The Salve community finds ways to stay connected during a challenging semester.

News that students would not be returning to campus for the remainder of the academic year was delivered on March 20, along with the cancellation of all on-campus events as classes were moved online. Spring semester traditions such as the annual SRyou student exhibition, thesis presentations and senior week were not to be, and the Class of 2020's graduation was postponed to 2021. While the news brought great sadness, students, alumni, faculty and staff, with true Salve spirit, were able to find the silver linings and make the best of the unique times. As stores, restaurants and churches across the world closed their doors, students logged into their WebEx accounts and began to adjust to the new normal.

In an interesting twist, it was phones and computers, the same devices that were once blamed for keeping people apart, that kept the community together during the pandemic. Offices and departments across campus worked to keep everyone connected through virtual game nights, club meetings and town hall updates. Though laptop and phone screens could never replace face-to-face interactions, they served as a helpful substitute for the unprecedented times.

The Office of Student Engagement hosted a number of popular events virtually, such as Monster bingo, trivia and bake-along nights, a scavenger hunt, the senior cocktail party and the senior dance party.



“We wanted to make sure we were providing opportunities for the students to step out of the classroom setting to unwind as well as still feel like they were in the Salve environment, even if it was virtually,” said Meghan Larkin, student engagement office coordinator. “We worked

to make sure the students knew we were there for them.”

Other virtual gatherings were created in the midst of remote learning. After moving off campus, some students and professors organized a group to pray the rosary together

each week via WebEx gathering every Friday at 4 p.m. to pray together and offer encouragement. They plan to continue this new tradition until at least the end of the summer, with more students, faculty and staff joining in prayer each week.

“The virus has left us isolated and very much aware of the fragility of our existence,” said Dr. John Quinn, reflecting on the importance of meditating on the mysteries of the rosary. “Praying the rosary helps to bring us together as we seek the Virgin Mary’s intercession during this difficult time.”

“It is so beautiful to have a virtual Salve community of faith during the pandemic,” said Kathleen Christ '20, a history and religious and theological studies double major. “It reminded me that Salve gave me such a blessed community, and I’m really grateful for that.”





The strong sense of community on campus is often mentioned by students as one of their favorite things about Salve Regina and inspired a number of students to create videos to show their appreciation for faculty and staff. Michael Rosati '21, an elementary and special education major, coordinated a [video](#) for the professors in the Department of Education featuring students holding signs and thanking their professors for their hard work.

“Our professors have gone above and beyond for us, especially during these crazy times,” said Rosati. “The education faculty is comprised of inspiring, compassionate and dedicated individuals who use their expertise to help us become the best teachers we can be.”

Rebecca Rhein '21, a biology major, also took it upon herself to organize and put together a [video](#) of students showing their love for their school.

“I take such pride in being a Seahawk, and I wanted to show how much students really miss Salve,” said Rhein. “I loved seeing all of my professors’ faces in some of the videos that Salve released, and I thought that they should feel the same as we expressed our gratitude.”

Athletics staff also went above and beyond to keep the Salve community close through the COVID-19 pandemic. Ed Habershaw, associate athletic director, created [SeahawkTalk™](#) - a podcast to engage in live conversations with Salve’s athletic community.

“Seahawk Talk emanated from my background as a sports producer for an award-winning sports talk show on local radio,” said Habershaw, who conducted 180 interviews and livestreamed 45 broadcasts on YouTube from March 30 through June 1. “With no live events to cover or broadcast during the pandemic, I had nothing but time on my hands.”

Habershaw’s favorite shows featured both current and alumni athletes. “We have such a great history, and being able to revisit these happenings with our guests was a privilege and a pleasure.”

While the move to remote learning was potentially most upsetting for the Class of 2020, they were not the first group

of Salve seniors to have their college careers end abruptly. Fifty years ago, Salve Regina closed campus and sent students home two weeks early following the Kent State shootings in Ohio in the midst of the Vietnam War. When five members of the Class of 1970 – Pam Sweeney Foss, Jeanne Murphy Knox, Linda Zerilli Martella, Marifrances Kelly McGinn and Joan Digney Schmid – recalled their senior years and noticed the similarities, they joined together to share a message and a [virtual toast](#) on Zoom.

“The Class of 2020 will always be defined by the leadership, perseverance and mercy you are demonstrating throughout your senior spring in the face of an unanticipated global pandemic,” said Knox. “Like we did 50 years ago, you are learning flexibility, compassion and the joys of simple connections.”

The Office of Alumni, Parent and Family Programs hosted virtual events for many classes throughout the pandemic. The events were an opportunity for alumni across the decades to check in with each other without having to leave the living room couch.

“It was great to reconnect,” said Dr. Kimberly Rothwell-Carson '86. “Some people never change, and it was fantastic to chat with folks as if it was still the '80s, but also hear how this new reality is for them...I love that Salve continues to be an important connection in my life and helps me to be my best self.”

“We’ve been doing Zoom events with our alumni community on everything from professional networking, yoga, cocktail parties, rosary recitals, sing-alongs and more,” said Dr. Gerry Willis '86, '88 (M), director of alumni, parent and family programs. “While the global pandemic caused the postponement of many highly anticipated events, we were very busy engaging with members of our community, our students and our alumni. Wherever they are, that’s where Salve is.”

With all that came about as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the campus community is stronger than ever, having discovered the importance of being together, even if only through a screen. With more changes in store, and more silver linings to be found, as the campus prepares to reopen for the fall semester, Seahawk spirit will continue to connect all those who call Salve home.



Top of the Class

Meet Class of 2020 Valedictorians Kathleen Christ and Aurora Dziadul.



Valedictorian Kathleen Christ '20, who is from Port Jefferson, New York, actually found out about Salve Regina while on a family trip to Newport in fourth or fifth grade.

“We went on vacation,” Christ described. “And we went to the Breakers, and we passed by the gates of Salve, and I have this really distinct memory of my mom saying, ‘Oh, maybe you’ll go there someday!’”

On that day long ago, Christ wrote in her journal about the experience, expressing her hopes to one day attend Salve and, years later, her dreams were realized. An American history and religious and theological studies double major with a minor in secondary education, Christ was president of the History Club for two years, a member of SRU Dance and the Mercy in Motion leadership team and also tutored other students.



Aurora Dziadul '20, who is just 16 years old, has grandparents who live in Newport, so she has been walking along the Cliff Walk, passing Salve, since she was a child. Originally from Griswold, Connecticut, Dziadul attended Quinebaug Valley Community College, where she received her associate’s degree before attending Salve for her last two years of college and graduating with a bachelor’s in psychology and a minor in Spanish.

“Overall, it was a great experience as a transfer student,” said Dziadul, giving credit to an awesome peer mentor in her First Year Transitions class who helped the transition go smoothly – so smoothly that she became a peer mentor herself to incoming transfer students. She was also involved with the Dialogue Club, which works to promote thoughtful conversations around varying topics, joined the swim team for two semesters and served on the Student Conduct Hearing Board.

“I feel blessed,” said Christ, who was genuinely surprised when she received the news that she was one of the valedictorians. “Being named valedictorian is an honor I would never have imagined. Of course, it’s not my own doing completely, it’s by the grace of God and all those who supported me along my journey here that I was able to succeed. I feel so grateful for each and every person I met at Salve, and my family, because without those who believed in me and my abilities, this never would have happened.”

Christ will be pursuing her master’s degree in education through Providence College’s Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers (PACT) program, where she’ll be teaching social studies and religion full-time at a middle school in Fall River, Massachusetts.

Dziadul spent summer 2019 studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain, to hone her Spanish skills. She also loved her experiences with both the psychology and language departments, including research projects with Dr. Arthur Frankel and Dr. Kaitlin Gabriele-Black.

While Dziadul is dedicated to her studies, she was still shocked to find out that she earned the distinction of valedictorian. “When I got the letter in the mail, I just kind of sat there,” she said. “It was awesome news—I was just so honored.”

Dziadul is hoping to apply to law school in the future, but she is patiently waiting for things to settle down with the coronavirus pandemic. Whatever the future holds, she will never regret her time at Salve. “I just really loved the Salve environment,” said Dziadul. “I’m really glad I got to be a part of it, even if it was a shorter amount of time.”



Q: What do you consider a pivotal moment during your time at Salve?

Christ: I would have to credit the Winter 2019 Mercy Center Retreat as the point in my Salve career that had the greatest effect on me. It was there, in the woods somewhere in Massachusetts surrounded by people who I did not know that well (yet) that I was found. I found myself, I found a faith community, and most of all, I found God for the first time on my own and began to cultivate a personal relationship with Him. I came back from that retreat a rejuvenated soul, and I thank Jesus Christ for His grace in bringing me closer to Him and seeing the world again as something beautiful, even if things may not always be perfect or easy.

Dziadul: It's hard to think of one specific moment that had such a big impact on my life while at Salve. Instead, I would say that a lot of smaller moments and experiences helped me grow and change into who I am today. Studying abroad was definitely one of the most influential experiences I had, as well as various classes and extracurriculars at Salve. Being a peer mentor taught me a lot about understanding and helping other people, as well as communication and cooperation with my co-facilitators. So as I said, it is hard to pinpoint one!

Q: What's your favorite TV show, and why?

Christ: I adore the beauty and captivating saga that is "Downton Abbey." Its visual appeal, lovely characters, and the fact that I watched it for hours on end with my Mom and twin sister will always be a cherished memory for me. However, I think my all-time favorite TV show would be the timeless "Little House on the Prairie" series, because I have loved it since I was a child, and its wholesome content usually brings tears to my eyes. The resilience, love and faith of the Ingalls family never fail to fill my heart.

Dziadul: My favorite TV show is Criminal Minds, since I would eventually like to work for the FBI in a similar position as the characters on the show. The psychological aspect of how they solve crimes has always fascinated me. Additionally, I think that the interpersonal dynamics between the characters as well as their philosophical questions about the people and crimes that they deal with offer an interesting perspective.

Q: If you could have a conversation with one influential or famous person, who would it be?

Christ: I would love to speak with Mother Teresa. I have been inspired by her faith, sacrifice, and ever-flowing love. Having the opportunity to speak with her and learn from her would be surreal; I doubt I would leave that conversation the same person.

Dziadul: I would love to have a conversation with Samantha Power, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under the Obama presidency and has had a successful career as a journalist and human rights advocate as well. I am inspired by how she has managed to stick to her ideals and the issues that she is passionate about and work to further those causes in everything that she has done. She is incredibly brave, travelling to war zones to learn more about the actual people who are affected by humanitarian crises and advocating for them even when under political pressure not to. Though not in her exact footsteps, I hope to pursue a career in government and reflect her bravery and perseverance in doing so.

Q: What has the COVID-19 pandemic taught you?

Christ: More than anything else, COVID-19 has taught me that we must have faith and be grateful for the present because the present is all that we are guaranteed. We must appreciate each second we have; each one is a gift. However, because each moment is sacred, we should use it for good, to share love, to praise the Lord and to serve others. I pray that we all can be grateful for what we have, and love with our whole hearts, because we are called to be excellent, and should do our best in all things. What is the point of doing anything, if we are only going to do it halfway?

Dziadul: There are many things to be learned from the pandemic, but the biggest lesson I have taken away is the importance of community, and not just in the local sense, but the national and global one as well. Throughout this pandemic, we have seen how people can work together to make the situation as good as it possibly can be for each other, and we have also seen the effects of what happens when such cooperation does not occur. More than anything, I think that we have become more connected with the rest of the world through this international crisis, and I hope that we continue this way in the years to come.

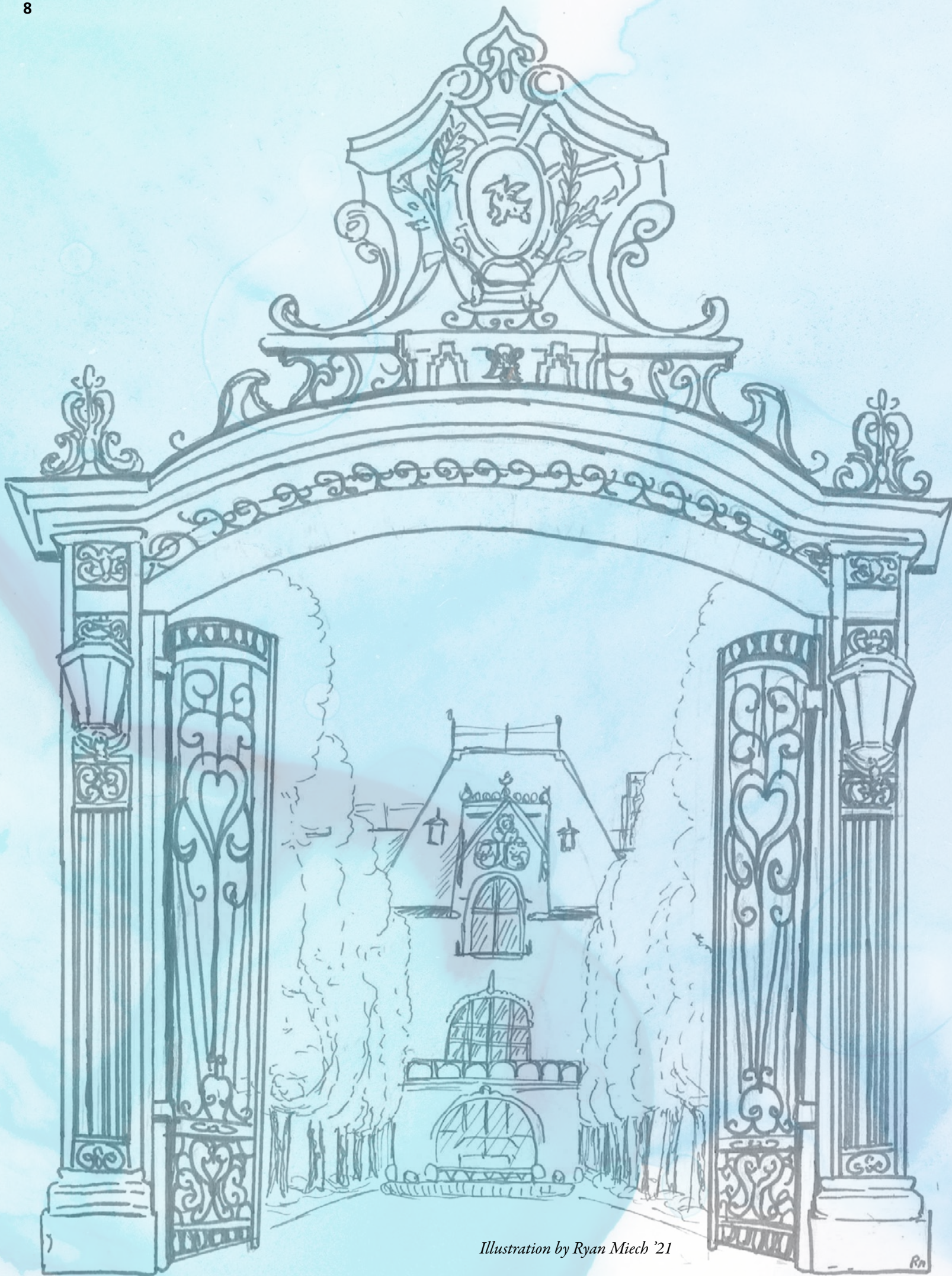


Illustration by Ryan Miech '21

The FUTURE 20 belongs to the class of 20

by Teryn O'Brien

THOUGH THE CLASS OF 2020 FINISHED THEIR LAST SEMESTER REMOTELY, THEY HELD STRONG, ACCOMPLISHED THEIR GOALS TO GRADUATE, AND ARE READY TO TAKE ON A WORLD WHERE SALVE'S MERCY MISSION IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER. THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY LOOKS FORWARD TO JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING A POSTPONED COMMENCEMENT IN MAY 2021 WITH OUR NEWEST GRADUATES AND, IN THE MEANTIME, WISHES THEM WELL AS THEY EMBARK ON NEW ADVENTURES.



> JENNY PAGE

Hailing from Ipswich, Massachusetts, Jenny Page '20 is an American studies major with a minor in history. With a Salve resumé that includes participation in the Pell Honors and Nuala Pell

Leadership programs, she was also the Student Government Association (SGA) president in her senior year. Page is spending the summer as a seasonal National Park Service Ranger at the Boston African American National Historic Site before attending James Madison University to pursue a master's degree in public history in the fall. Page hopes to pursue a career as a historical site interpreter for the National Park Service.



> COLE TINDALL

Originally from Georgetown, Delaware, Cole Tindall '20, a biology major and chemistry minor, has been accepted into the National Institutes of Health post-baccalaureate IRTA program, where he will be completing a two-year trainee position at the National Center for Advancing

Translational Sciences in the Division of Preclinical-Innovation. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in biomedical sciences, specifically focusing on molecular pharmacology and toxicology. Tindall enjoyed learning from Dr. Steve Symington, associate professor of biology and biomedical sciences, who taught him everything about research and helped him develop his passion for science.

"He was there for me along the way to becoming the first one in my family to not only graduate from college, but get into an awesome program that will set me up for my future endeavors in the scientific community," said Tindall.

> ABIGAIL GRABHERR, CHANDLER JOYCE AND NICHOLAS POILLUCCI

Not one, not two, but three Class of 2020 accounting majors have been offered positions at the prestigious firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), considered one of the “Big Four” in accounting services worldwide. Abigail Grabherr will be joining PwC’s Connecticut office, while Chandler Joyce and Nicholas Poillucci will be starting in the company’s Boston office.

Both Grabherr and Joyce attributed their success to multiple factors, but the genuine one-on-one relationships they developed with professors was so important. “I felt so recognized as a student by all of my teachers during my time at Salve,” said Grabherr.

They had a lot of good things to say about Jamie Carlone, senior lecturer in the Department of Business and Economics. “Mrs. Carlone was the one who convinced me to become an accounting major in the first place,” said Joyce, who was president of the Accounting and Finance Club. “She believed in me when I did not believe in myself. She has supported me every step of the way and has helped me through everything over the past few years.”



Abigail Grabherr



Chandler Joyce

Grabherr added that, “Mrs. Carlone made sure I was able to connect and network with alumni who were in the field I was interested in. This made all of the difference in helping me achieve my post-graduation position.”

Joyce, who is attending Bentley University in the fall to complete her master’s degree in taxation, hopes to stay at PwC for a long time, then eventually start her own business providing financial and tax services. Grabherr said she might eventually want to switch to a smaller, private firm in the future after gaining experience at PwC, and Poillucci hopes to be a financial advisor someday as he gains more and more experience in the field.

“Majoring in accounting provides you with an extensive and professional degree, while connecting you with great people,” said Joyce. “I got more out of my college experience than I ever expected. These were the fastest and best four years of my life.”



> JILLIAN BROOKS-DUVAL

An English communications major from Berkley, Massachusetts, with minors in theatre and business administration, Jillian Brooks-Duval kept busy during her undergraduate years as a member of the StageFright executive board, a MainStage Theatre performer, a resident advisor and a student employee for Sodexo and the Office of Conferences and Events. She also attended service trips, including volunteering at Give Kids the World in Florida, and completed two internships. Her plans for the fall are truly magical, as she has been hired as a character performer at Walt Disney World as part of the Disney College Program. This unique opportunity allows participants to network, attend career development classes and build transferable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and effective communication.

“Disney has always been my dream, so to be able to say I am achieving it is the best feeling in the world,” said Brooks-Duval. “In the future, I plan to keep auditioning. I would love to be a performer on cruise ships while I am young so I can also see the world, but eventually, I want to get into casting.”

“DISNEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM, SO TO BE ABLE TO SAY I AM ACHIEVING IT IS THE BEST FEELING IN THE WORLD...”

-JILLIAN BROOKS-DUVAL

> For more senior success stories, visit salve.edu/senior-success-stories.



> LUCIE FORD

Lucie Ford '20, a biology major and chemistry minor from Moncton, New Brunswick, was one of 21 student researchers from across the United States to win a competitive Pfizer Society of Toxicology (SOT) Undergraduate Student Travel Award while attending Salve. "I have been able to develop such strong relationships with both faculty and students at Salve," she said. "The small community has opened up many opportunities for me that many undergraduate students from bigger universities would never be able to experience."

Ford was recognized by SOT for her research on the adverse health impacts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals that are found in many everyday household items such as frying pans, rain jackets, food packaging and stick-resistant products. She was also a Fulbright U.S. Student Program finalist, and plans to continue her research in the field of toxicology through Texas A & M's Ph.D. program in the fall.

“THE SMALL COMMUNITY HAS OPENED UP MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME THAT MANY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM BIGGER UNIVERSITIES WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE.”
- LUCIE FORD



> DELANEY DALY

When Delaney Daly '20 arrived at Salve from Danbury, Connecticut, she knew that she wanted to major in cultural and historic preservation, but she had no idea how much that decision would change her life.

Daly's college experience includes internships with the Newport Opera House, Providence Preservation Society and the Preservation Society of Newport County. She also traveled to Washington, D.C., where she presented research at the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission's annual conference, and became the first undergraduate student to present at Salve's annual historic preservation conference.

A student ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Daly also served as vice president of the History Club, president of the Cultural and Historic Preservation Society, captain of the Salve United Club Soccer Team, and was a member of the Art and Art History Guild and College Democrats.

"I am so thankful for my time at Salve, and for all the amazing faculty and staff who helped me achieve my goals," said Daly, who is applying to the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware for the 2021-2022 academic year. "Dr. Jeroen van den Hurk has been a driving force behind my success. He has been an amazing professor and mentor, and I cannot thank him enough. He was always available if I needed advice, a paper edited, or someone to talk about soccer with."

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Legacy Graduates

Matthew Ciulla
Eleanor Haley Ciulla '83

Gabriella DeStefano
Laura Duffy DeStefano '91
and William J. DeStefano '91

Isabel Ould-Sfiya
Kathleen Bradley Ould-Sfiya '90

Diana Sitnik
Joyce Przybylski Sitnik '84

Kelsi Delio
Marie Dellaripa Delio '87

Emily DiAntonio
Katherine Kellogg DiAntonio '90
and William C. DiAntonio '89

Meaghan Peirson
Harry W. Peirson '99 (M)

Molly Skillman
Susanne M. Keebler-Skillman '89

Thomas DeNault
Robert A. DeNault '87

Allison Gilson
Deborah McCarthy Gilson '92
and Brian J. Gilson '92

Karina Rapoza
Martha Rubi-Rapoza '96

Madison Tilton
Peter M. Tilton '88

Benjamin Gross
Carol Schaab Gross '86

Catherine Schneider
Elizabeth M. Kramer '04 (M)

Katherine Simoniello
Alice McKeon Simoniello '88



Karina Rapoza and Martha Rubi-Rapoza



Brian, Allison and Deborah Gilson



FEMA *Flexible*

by Tara Watkins '00

Kathleen Philp '06 and Robert Pesapane '06 are ready to go at a moment's notice.

Following Proclamation 9994, which was issued on March 13 declaring a national emergency in response to the coronavirus outbreak, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to begin supporting state, local, tribal and territorial governments and other eligible entities with the health and safety actions necessary for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Robert Pesapane '06, '07 (M) and Kathleen Philp '06 have been on the frontlines ever since.

Graduating with a degree in cultural and historic preservation, Philp went on to the University of Pennsylvania to obtain her master's in city and regional urban planning. In 2011, she transitioned from Boston's nonprofit sector into state government, working for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Then in 2018, she began a job at the federal level as a historic preservation specialist in environmental and historical preservation for FEMA's Region 1, which is based in Boston and, prior to COVID-19, was responding to 16 different situations throughout New England.

"Much of my time involved site visits to work on strengthening sea walls in colonial coastal towns such as Quincy, or with Vermont communities that had undersized bridges and culverts that were frequently knocked down from storms or floods and required rebuilding," said Philp. "I worked closely with states to help utilize cultural resources and maintain local historical and cultural integrity of bridges and other affected historical structures.

"Knowing I can help empower someone to come back from what may feel like one of the worst days of their lives, identify what matters most to them and how we can work together to help protect that...there is just nothing like it."

- Kathleen Philp '06

Many are also unfamiliar with the process for initiating FEMA's aid in times of emergency. "FEMA doesn't just show up after something happens," explained Philp. "Our agency is not able to respond unless the state's governor first asks directly for help."

Philp and most of her 200 Boston colleagues have been reassigned to COVID-19 efforts. She is up early each morning talking to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and working with colleagues compiling and writing a situational brief to present to FEMA's New England regional director. The report serves as the key source of information during daily briefings with each New England state governor.

"At first it felt like we were living and breathing this pandemic," said Philp. "I've worked some very long days, but I'm happy with the work I've been doing."

Much of FEMA's supportive efforts in Region 1 involved a partnering with state governments regarding PPE access and distribution, helping to oversee medical stations run by the National Guard and facilitating the community-based testing sites. Now that states are entering the "reopening phase," FEMA is transitioning into recovery efforts, while keeping in mind the need to prepare for a potential second COVID wave in the fall.



Kathleen Philp '06

"Our job as FEMA's historic preservation staff is to protect the pieces of communities that make them special, those pieces that make up their identity, so that they do not lose anymore," Philp continued, noting that most people don't realize that FEMA has archaeologists and preservationists on staff. "It is extremely rewarding helping communities protect their historic and cultural resources after they have been damaged or helping them protect the resources that make their communities special."



Pesapane earned his bachelor's degree in political science and economics, as well as a master's degree in international relations. He took his first steps in emergency management while interning at Rhode Island's Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) as part of his master's level requirements.

After graduation, Pesapane became a regional planner for RIEMA. He went on to work in FEMA's Region 1 and Region 3 National Preparedness Divisions, as well as FEMA's headquarters within the Response Directorate Planning Division before joining Region 9, which covers Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and 156 tribal nations, in 2016.

His roles with Region 9 include director of national preparedness and federal preparedness coordinator and he currently serves as the regional recovery director. In his current position, he supervises the implementation of FEMA's Public and Individual Assistance Programs, including overseeing multibillion-dollar recovery grant programs for public infrastructure, disaster survivor temporary housing, debris removal operations and federal assistance to disaster survivors. Once the national emergency was declared, Pesapane was assigned as a deputy federal coordinating officer for the response and recovery efforts in Region 9.

For over a decade, Pesapane has responded to natural disasters including Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, West Virginia flooding, California wildfires, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 2018 typhoon. However, he considers COVID-19 the most challenging response of his FEMA career.

"We are dealing with a nationwide pandemic that affects every state, territory and tribal nation," explained Pesapane. "Usually our work is just with one state or territory at a time. During COVID, we have had to figure out how to best channel our funding and resources to help every state, territory, tribal and local governments."

Both Philp and Pesapane agree that although personnel may be stretched thin, they remain "FEMA flexible," meaning that anyone at FEMA may, at any time, be called on to enter a new role, asked to do something that might not be in their original skill set, or deployed to help with an emergency response.

"I've had to respond to a lot of disasters, some being really complex and challenging," said Pesapane.

"My colleagues and I are very passionate about our mission and give a lot of heart to the work we do."

- Robert Pesapane '06

"The length of deployment really depends on the situation. I've been deployed for two weeks and also for over two months. Every response is different."

"We might also deploy immediately, like for a no-notice earthquake," he added. "But with other situations, like when a hurricane is projected to make landfall, we may have about 72-hours' notice."

Philp agreed that deployment is always a possibility.

"So far, I've only been deployed for a week or two at a time around New England," she said. "However, as a FEMA employee, we are all trained emergency managers and need to be ready to deploy anywhere at any given time. It would be hard to be away from my family for a long stretch, but it's part of the job, so I am 'FEMA flexible' and ready, if needed."

Both Philp and Pesapane consider FEMA's mission statement—helping people prepare before, during and after disasters—to be at the core of what they enjoy most about working at the agency.

"My colleagues and I are very passionate about our mission and give a lot of heart to the work we do," said Pesapane. "At times being a public servant can be a difficult balancing act. But I love public service. It runs in my family and I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

"Knowing I can help empower someone to come back from what may feel like one of the worst days of their lives, identify what matters most to them and how we can work together to help protect that...there is just nothing like it," agreed Philp. "I see myself continuing at FEMA for many years to come."



Robert Pesapane '06

Editor's note: The Salve Regina community is grateful to all our alumni working with FEMA, both in their routine duties as well as on the frontlines of COVID-19.

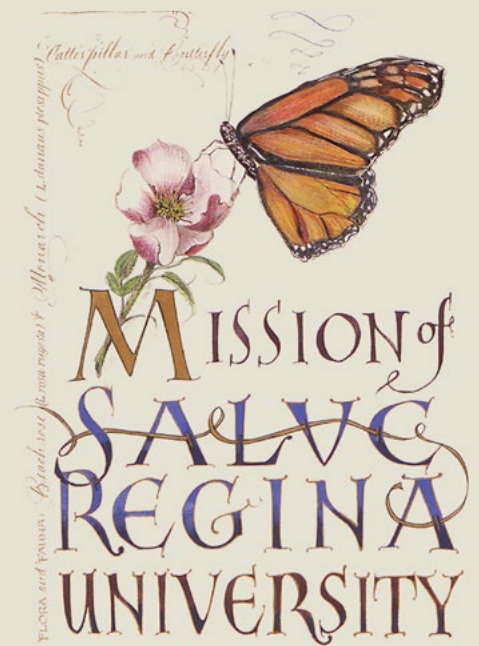
Mission Moments

by Emily Whelan '20

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, Salve Regina students, faculty, staff and alumni found creative and thoughtful ways to give back to their local communities. While some called elderly neighbors and others provided free meals to essential workers, they all lived the University's mission to work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.

In a President's Corner message on SalveToday, President Kelli J. Armstrong wrote, "I have witnessed a growth in strength of community at Salve Regina through many acts of kindness to one another during these difficult days... You lift me up, Salve Regina family, and how truly fortunate I am to be part of this very special and loving community."

Here are just a few of the "mission moments" highlighting the campus community's dedication to helping others in times of crisis.



Students

Saarah Papineau '23, a global business and economics double major, coordinated a "phone pal" program with Aldersbridge Communities, a network of independent assisted living facilities in Rhode Island. Due to the pandemic, residents were unable to leave their rooms or host visitors. When remote learning began, Papineau worked with her grandmother,



who is the activities director at Aldersbridge Communities, and the Center for Community Engagement and Service to recruit and manage three dozen participants for the program.

"This program is extremely important because of the isolation that the residents experienced," said Papineau, who was grateful to help bring joy to those so deeply impacted by the pandemic. "They were not able, and are still not able, to see visitors or participate in activities with other residents."

Faculty and Staff

The Office of Mission Integration's Salve Cares outreach, an initiative designed to reach out to each and every undergraduate student to check in and offer support, was an extraordinary expression of the University's mercy mission and served to uplift students navigating an unprecedented time. Sixty-three faculty and staff made 2,638 phone calls over the course of two weeks. Students were very grateful to be receiving a personal call.

"The time seems to be meshing together, and the days go by so fast," said Sarah Engel '23. "It is lovely of the Salve community to reach out to all of us students. All of my professors have been really understanding, so that has made it way easier to adjust. Salve is definitely a really special school in that regard."

Having phone pals gave them something to look forward to and kept them entertained and busy. The students were a new form of companionship."

Jillian Gaffga '23 continued her involvement as a service advocate with Learning Unlimited, an educational program that offers students the opportunity to partner with adults who have developmental disabilities, during the weeks of remote learning. Gaffga helped to keep the momentum of Learning Unlimited going by participating in events such as a virtual paint night hosted by Mermaid Masterpieces, a local Newport business.

"The program is more important than ever, especially to me, as community members and Salve students are isolated in their homes. It's a way to connect to one another and the University," said Gaffga, an accounting major. "I am so excited to have another three years at Salve and with Learning Unlimited."

Kelly Powers and **Kathleen Rendos** worked with Sodexo, the University's food service, to donate milk, bread, vegetables and paper goods to the Salvation Army as students left for the semester in March. They also sent trays of frozen food, bread, granola bars, chips and utensils to St. Joseph's Church in Newport. These sites are among the select food pantry sites on Aquidneck Island that provide outreach to those facing food insecurity. In addition, facilities and housekeeping donated toilet paper and toiletries to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and Newport's Health Equity Zone. The Department of Chemistry also donated much-needed gloves to first responders at the Newport Fire Department, as well as medical professionals on Aquidneck Island and in Providence.

World that is harmonious, just, and merciful.

Alumni

Jason Cofrancesco '96 and his family have owned and operated the Homestead Restaurant in Sparta, New Jersey, since its beginnings 31 years ago. At the start of the pandemic, they provided meals for medical and front-line staff at Newton Memorial Hospital.

"As frontline heroes in the fight against coronavirus, healthcare workers such as doctors and nurses often sacrifice their own physical and mental well-being in order to take care of others," said Cofrancesco. "The restaurant industry has always been one to support their communities and the Homestead Restaurant is no different. Providing meals to front-line medical workers was a natural response to the current situation; feeding people is what we do best."

The restaurant has a history of giving back to the community; they have donated to fundraisers, hosted benefit dinners for families and provided meals to the Red Cross during local disasters. "As a family, we were raised with a sense of social responsibility and philanthropy. Doing our part has always been second nature," he said.

Alex Dube '17 and her mother, Jonna, both nurses, were featured in a [Boston 25 News segment](#) for fighting the pandemic alongside one other. Dube spent her childhood looking up to her mother, who is now the senior director of ambulatory services at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"I knew I wanted to do what she did and help people," said Dube. "I thought that was just the coolest way to spend your life, and not many people get to say that their job helps people every day." Dube was originally hired to work on the pediatric floor at UMass Memorial Medical Center but was moved to work in the adult ICU as a member of the 'prone team'— a small group that oversees COVID-19 patients on ventilators. Starting nursing in the middle of a pandemic was not what she expected, but she is grateful for the opportunity to be helping others in such unprecedented times.

Steve Ramponi '95, a Newport resident and local landlord, offered a 25 percent discount on rent to retail stores and restaurants on Thames Street during the pandemic. "My main motivation is for other landlords to see this and act now before businesses have to close," he said.

Working three jobs and managing a startup, Ramponi lost money in the stock market but continued to have a

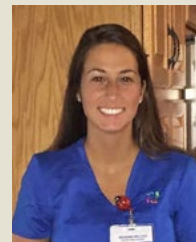
positive outlook. His idea to sell "Buckets of Love" through Winner Winner, a rotisserie and fried chicken restaurant and one of his tenants, was an immediate hit with managing partner Steve Yerger. The restaurant is offering customers a "Bucket of Love" for \$25. With each purchase, Winner Winner will provide a dinner for four to a family in need. In the first three months, the promotion provided 3,000 meals to families.



"[Steve] wanted to make meals available to people who needed them in a pay-it-forward kind of way," Yerger said. "Winner Winner is just a vehicle for his great idea and other people to do something nice."

"At the end of the day, [others are] hurting more than me, and it's good for everyone to do their part," said Ramponi. "We all need to pitch in together."

Brianna Wilcox '18 is a registered nurse and clinical nurse leader on a cardiothoracic surgical step-down unit at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. At the beginning of the pandemic, many nurses were trained to assist in the ICUs in order to help the nurses and other team members manage the high number of COVID-19 patients. She admitted that at first it was scary, but as everyone's knowledge grew regarding the virus, she felt very supported by her co-workers.



"Everyone came together as a strong team and we were very prepared and willing to help out in any way we could," said Wilcox. "I knew we would get through this pandemic together."

AS A COMMUNITY THAT
WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ALL BELIEFS,
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY,
a Catholic institution founded by the
SISTERS OF MERCY, seeks wisdom and
promotes universal justice.

The Power of Community

Thanks to her fellow classmates, the spirit of Sprinkles '15 lives on.



Greg Demeule '15 and Sprinkles '15

Greg Demeule '15 and Rylan Richard '15 connected easily when they first met in 2011 during the Class of 2015's orientation and ended up as roommates in Walgreen Hall for their first year at Salve Regina. Demeule pursued psychology while Richard was a marketing major.

Despite different academic paths, both shared a strong bond with Demeule's golden retriever service dog, Sprinkles, who quickly became a well-loved member of the campus community.

Because of Demeule's cerebral palsy, he relied on Sprinkles' constant assistance, including carrying his books via a specialized harness, and more.

"I could see how critical this service was to him," said Richard, who spent a significant amount of time caring for his furry roommate who, once her service harness was off, would playfully run through the hallway, entertaining students and occasionally stealing the wooden wedges that held open neighboring doorways.

"Sprinkles and I were never apart,"

said Demeule, now an academic advisor at Southern New Hampshire University. "She's been on boats, planes, even to Vegas with me!"

True to form, Sprinkles shared the graduation stage with Demeule, proudly receiving her diploma as the first dog to receive an honorary degree from Salve Regina University.

Unfortunately, in late 2019, Sprinkles was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, and passed away the same week that the coronavirus outbreak quarantined much of the nation.

Demeule panicked, wondering how he would pay for another service dog and how he would navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic. While mourning his loss, and learning to adapt to this chapter in crisis, he faced numerous insurance barriers in his endeavor to secure a new dog.

Insurance agents deemed service animals too risky, advising he get a wheelchair, because they are under warranty and easily replaced – a safer bet.

"While all this was true," noted Richard, "wheelchairs cannot open doors. They won't



"Having a service dog helped me gain confidence to know I'm capable of doing what I want in life."

Greg Demeule '15



pick up a bag of books and place it on a table. And they don't have that symbiotic relationship specially trained dogs share with owners – the ability to detect stress in a person before visible signs are shown, as we see with dogs and veterans with PTSD. The risks don't compare to this quality service."

Demeule added that having a dog always gave him freedom and comfort, beginning as a child when he quickly learned that there weren't many other children like him.

"Having a service dog helped me gain confidence to know I'm capable of doing what I want in life," he explained.

"I can build strength," continued Demeule, who maintained an athletic lifestyle, active in jiu jitsu and wrestling, prior to the pandemic, "but a service dog provides balance, mobility aid and object retrieval."

Still, no amount of pleading worked with regard to insurance coverage, so Demeule turned to the only remaining choice—fundraising.

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD) offered to partially fund costs, but like countless other organizations whose traditional fundraising efforts were derailed by COVID-19, ECAD struggled to meet their own costs. Thus, Demeule was tasked with raising a significant portion of the \$25,000 price tag and began fundraising privately.

"Greg is independent and strong," said Richard, "He'd never ask for help."

Richard's marketing skills kicked in as he listened to Demeule's story. He knew time was of the essence – even when funding goals are met, waiting and training take up to a year.

"I wondered if there wasn't a way some of us could come together and help fundraise," said Richard. "I wanted to help him devise a plan."

Together, both looked to their Salve community, researching what fellow alumni were up to, and found several classmates who ran successful blogs with strong followings. They formed an online group with 15-20 alumni from the

Class of 2015; some they knew well, others they didn't.

It was Salve's strong sense of community, "shining a beam of light in this dark world," according to Richard, that pulled everyone together. On May 19, all members shared Demeule's story and fundraising pitch on each of their social media pages exactly at noon.

The response was instantaneous.

"We wouldn't have gotten where we are without that push from our classmates," said Richard.

The campaign rapidly gained momentum, reaching beyond the Salve community. CrossFit Gamut, a large training center in Rhode Island, sponsored a virtual memorial workout as a tribute to Sprinkles, and donated proceeds from the event. Scully's Wonderful Stuff, a New York-based company that manufactures sanitizing products, donated goods to top donors, incentivizing efforts.

On the last day of May, Demeule – with the help of so many – met his goal.

"I did not expect to raise that much in two weeks," he remarked. "ECAD said they'd never seen anyone able to raise that so quickly. I've been very fortunate."

Greg will now be matched with a new dog within the year.

"No one should have to pay for a service dog companion on their own," noted Richard. "It's unacceptable."

"The help of so many has taken a huge burden off my shoulders," commented Demeule. "I didn't expect this, especially during a stressful time for so many."

Next, the former Salve roommates plan to reach out to legislators.

"Veterans and folks with disabilities shouldn't be limited by lack of funds or connections to receive this critical service," said Richard.

"The Salve Regina community is unique," added Demeule. "They don't need to rely on showmanship, because Salve and its leaders genuinely show mercy."

Editor's note: For those interested in donating to ECAD in order to assist others like Demeule, please visit ecad1.org.

-Michelle Faucher Cote '05



A LIVING LEGACY AT WORK

As part of a
successful family
business,
Shenton King '01
puts people first.

Common lore often places sons at odds with the family business and eager to create their own future. But Shenton King '01 proudly bears the responsibility of his name and his family's organization, King Industries, Inc.

As a vice president in charge of marketing and commercial operations, King leads a human-centered workforce that creates, sells and markets coatings and additives on the cutting edge of the chemical industry – supplying solutions and products to the auto, aerospace, military, industrial and infrastructure sectors mostly in the form of additives for paint or lubricants.

"It's impossible to look around any room – at home or at work – and not find an item that isn't impacted by King chemistry," King said. "Similarly, one cannot look at an airplane, automobile, or bridge without considering that King chemistry is likely in the paint or lubricants used to protect such things."

Where some successors are handed the keys to the kingdom, King works every day to earn his. He spent childhood summers working at the facility in Norwalk, Connecticut, painting fire hydrants and working in the maintenance group. He later went on to work in the production buildings, then the engineering department for several years, and finally onto his home in sales, marketing and commercial development.

The early years weren't spent solely on earning money. They provided countless hours creating context by absorbing the goings on around him and forging sound relationships with employees, who gave him a real understanding of the hard work that went into each of their roles.

And, as in every case, but especially this one, context is king.

"We are constantly innovating to find new ways for chemistry and material science to improve performance," King explained. "We pioneered the chemistry behind the automobile industry, moving from air-dry paint to industrial oven-baked coatings by means of incorporating our

groundbreaking paint catalysts."

For example, King paint additives can make cars and planes lighter and improve fuel efficiency. They also protect commercial planes as increasing pressure from high altitude flight changes the structure and performance of the fuselage – and ultimately, the paint. Select King additives allow aerospace paint to expand, contract, and resist other chemicals like hydraulic fluids that could hurt the coating.

"Our business processes, science and application are so technical, it really requires constant passive exposure to master it and to be viewed as a resource for our customers," said King. "Our sales teams are at their best when they spend time 'in the room' with customers working one-on-one with the client in a mutually beneficial technical exchange."

This reality was recently tested when COVID-19 became a global crisis.

"We have partner companies and distributors in Asia and Europe who talked to us about COVID before we heard it on the news here," said King. "As soon as it impacted their business and manufacturing abilities, we immediately started tracking the spread. We were several weeks ahead of the government guidance.

"Our crisis and business continuity plan accounts for everything from natural disasters, to global events – even a health pandemic," he added. "We dusted it off and deployed action items immediately with only minor adjustments for this specific event."

In this case, the gift of foresight saved King Industries.

The company drew on its agility and resourcefulness to swiftly ground the sales force and re-engineer its business processes. King produced a video seminar series to keep the sales force engaged and current, to continue creating useful context and utility typically only found in face to face discussions. This resource is extended to its customers and international distributors as a value-added benefit. Response has been phenomenal.



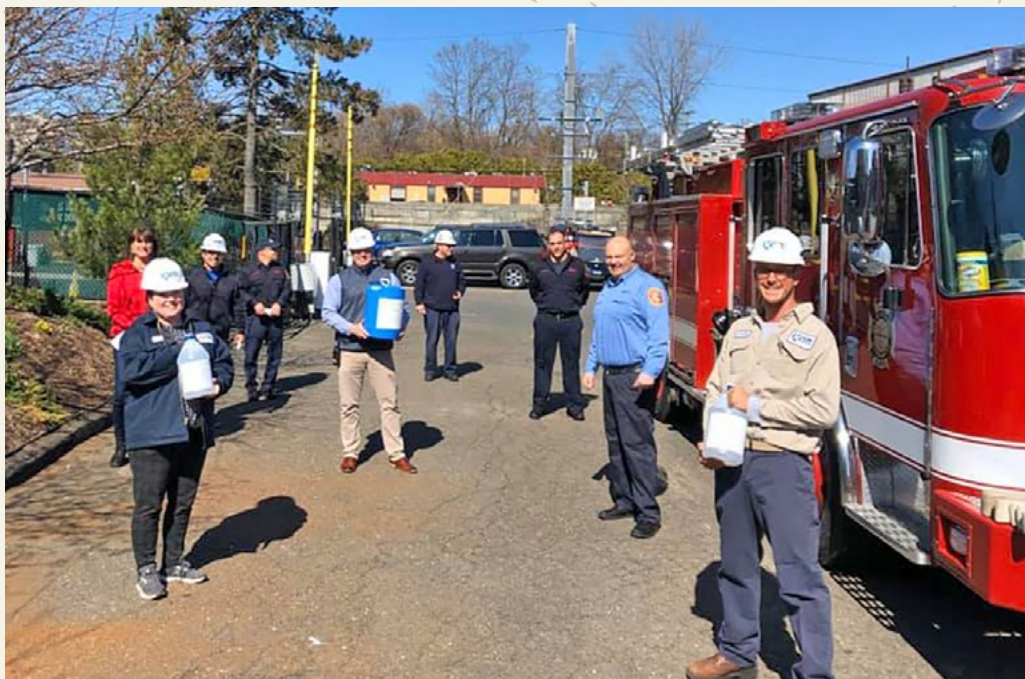
A member of the Waterbury, Connecticut, fire department picks up King Industries' first batch of hand sanitizer to be distributed among police and fire stations.

The King name represents trust, innovation and dependability. It has built a reputation for creative problem-solving and performance innovation, the spirit of which extends well beyond the manufacturing plant and into the community.

In addition to ensuring its typical business and manufacturing operations, King retrofitted part of its facility to produce isopropyl alcohol-based hand sanitizer. In the process, it earned the historic designation of conducting – and passing – the first virtual inspection by the department of consumer protection in Connecticut.

King Industries leveraged its distribution network and production capabilities to provide the FDA-approved sanitizer to local hospitals, fire and police departments, as well as other health care and essential workers on the frontlines.

Shenton King '01 (center, holding blue pail) joins King Industries' leaders and members of the Norwalk, Connecticut, fire department, who then distributed sanitizer to Norwalk Hospital and other municipal service locations.



“As a family business, we believe the spirit of family extends to all of our team members and their families, and definitely to our communities,” said King.

In the past, the company orchestrated relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy and Maria, all with the help of their distribution parts and customer networks, in the form of transportation, clearing devices like chainsaws, phone charging stations, and truckloads of home and personal care goods to help people rebuild their lives. During Hurricane Maria, several employees, armed with newly purchased satellite phones and construction-based skills, were sent to check on dozens of various extended family members.

“With communications down and no way to account for loved ones, this move proved to be very comforting to our employees with family in Puerto Rico,” said King.

A business management major who followed his late mother Maryhelen Kolkmeier Burk '69, a nursing alumna, to Salve Regina, King comes by this value-based and people-first approach to leadership naturally.

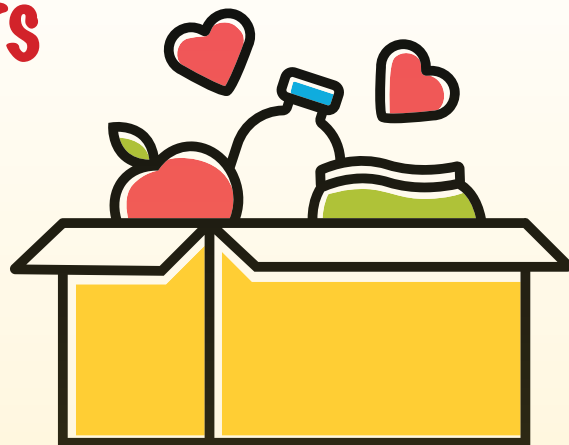
“My outlook on business shifted dramatically when I began my business courses with the late Dr. Atkins,” said King.

“Dr. Atkins laid the groundwork for my human-centered approach to business and social responsibility,” he continued. “He was so genuine and really took the time to help us understand the more intricate concepts of business theories, and infused in us the belief that our people are as valuable, or even more so, than the product or services themselves.”

That sentiment has stuck with King throughout his career and helped develop him into the leader he is today.

“It’s not about corporate social responsibility. It’s about using every asset you have to do good in the world,” King said.

From Our Table to Yours



“In a crisis, our family’s first response is ‘What can we do to help?’”

- Guy Bottari '87



Theresa and Audrey Bottari

The spirit of Salve Regina is alive and well on a secluded, shady lane in Portsmouth, R.I., where one branch of the Bottari family was hunkered down, safe at home, enduring the unprecedented pandemic. The family legacy boasts multiple alumni as well as the Bottari Family Scholarship, which was established to honor the late Dr. Leo Bottari, a beloved biology professor who taught at Salve for many years.

Guy '87, his wife Audrey, and their three daughters – Theresa '23, a nursing major, Rose '24, who is majoring in marketing and studio art, and Christy, currently in high school – are navigating uncertainty with grace and aplomb.

But perhaps most meaningfully, they’ve banded together to care for their neighbors. Surrounded by a number of older, “at-risk” neighbors, the Bottaris learned quickly of the hardship of isolation and the potential exposure to COVID-19 while shopping for necessities.

“In a crisis, our family’s first response is ‘What can we do to help?’” Guy explained.

The Bottaris made socially distanced visits along their street, assessing the needs of their neighbors, and then quickly went to work with a shared commitment to making and distributing meals weekly.

“It was very organic,” Theresa said. “We established a weekly family gathering in our kitchen where we made meals and care packages.”

This small gesture quickly grew to an organized effort, complete with lists and assembly lines.

“Our neighbors are grateful, happy and very sweet,” added Rose. “The isolation is very hard on them and this brings them a moment of connection and levity. I love that our family is bringing happiness to a difficult time.”

While wholly altruistic, the effort proves to benefit the Bottaris, too.

“Our shared purpose brings us together on the weekend when we would otherwise be going in dozens of different directions, even during a lockdown,” Christy said.

“It’s more than just providing food, it’s nurturing connections and fostering community among our neighbors. We do everything we can to take care of our little neck of the woods,” Guy added.

The short-term impact is obvious. But it’s the long-term and sustainable impact that’s slowly showing itself.

“We hope this leads to a circle of generosity,” Rose said.

- Meghan E. Butler



Rose and Guy Bottari

zoomboom

Stephanie Savage '10 is on the forefront of video conferencing.

When it comes to being in the perfect company for opportunity and growth during a global pandemic, a technology business like Zoom, which enables people to work and connect remotely, is the place. That's exactly where Stephanie Savage '10, a sales representative for Zoom, found herself during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I absolutely love it," said Savage. "It's the best company I've ever worked for, and it's such a cool time to be part of the company, too."



Savage began her position at Zoom in October 2019. The company was already growing, but things really heated up when the pandemic hit and people began to quarantine in March. Suddenly, it seemed like the entire country was trying to figure out how to use Zoom to stay on top of work and connect with friends and family.

"We had what we call the 'Zoom Boom,'" laughed Savage. "It was insane. I was

working 15 hours a day, and I couldn't even keep up with how much was coming my way."

Success aside, it's always been important for Savage to work for a company she believes in. She saw firsthand how Zoom's CEO Eric S. Yuan wanted to give back to the community during the crisis. For example, Zoom enabled free access to the platform for all K-12 institutions across the United States to help support remote education when schools were shut down and teachers were forced to teach remotely.

"It made me proud to work for this company," said Savage. "Their responsiveness to ... everything going on in the world is also amazing. They've been hosting conversations for everyone to discuss what's going on, and they're taking care of us."

According to Savage, a lot of the businesses she works with have no intention of bringing employees back into a physical space any time soon. Employees are proving that they can be productive and effective while working from home, and the crisis has forced companies to innovate into the digital space in ways that will be beneficial for the future.

"I think we're going to see a really big shift in the future of our work place," said Savage. "Digital transformation is here ... so I think that technology is going to continue to do really, really well. Companies need technology to stay ahead of the

curve and continue to function when they can't be in the office."

Aside from work, Savage has enjoyed seeing people use Zoom in a variety of personal ways. The company has published a website called Together On Zoom that highlights the numerous ways the platform has been used to connect remotely—including wedding ceremonies, notarizing documents, musicians' meet-ups, art classes, ballet and yoga instruction, family reunions and so much more.

Savage originally attended Salve to become a journalist and graduated with a bachelor's degree in English communications. Studying abroad at the University of Rome, however, completely changed her life. "I credit so much of my success and just who I am as a person to that study abroad program," said Savage. "And I loved all of my professors [at Salve]. Dr. Ramsey was definitely one of my favorites—I wrote my senior thesis on Seinfeld, and spent the whole year working with him, which was an awesome experience."

Although she worked abroad for a few years after graduating and has traveled to 40 countries, Savage's home is in Denver, Colorado. She has served in a variety of sales roles with different companies before landing her job with Zoom.

While she never thought of herself as a salesperson, it just comes naturally—because to Savage, sales is ultimately all about helping people. "I love helping people work through what their pains are and then coming up with a solution for them to help solve their problems," she said.

Savage is also on the board of directors for a nonprofit in Colorado called RMA Children's Foundation, a nonprofit run by an all-female group of philanthropists that helps raise funds for children in need. RMA raises approximately \$150,000 a year for local charities, which go through a rigorous grant review process in order to receive donations.

"I love my role as fundraising director because I am able to inspire and empower the women of our organization, while also helping to make an impact on the children of our community," said Savage.

Savage believes that, despite the challenges everyone is facing in the world right now, it's innovation, a willingness to truly adapt, and an undying optimism that will help people push through all of the uncertainty. These are all skills she's been able to implement in her own life and that she sees in the culture at Zoom.

"I've always just been someone who gets really excited about what's ahead in the future, and I've always looked at the glass half full," she said.

- Teryn O'Brien

Salve Salutes

Dr. Stephen L. Trainor, professor emeritus of English, started at Salve in summer 2000 as dean of undergraduate studies with the primary task, among many, of strengthening the University's academic rigor. By the end of his first year, he helped develop and implement a new undergraduate core curriculum, one that was subsequently recognized as a model program by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Trainor also worked with John Rok, then vice president for student affairs, to develop a new First Year Experience Program, elements of which (the sophomore mentor program, the pairing of academic and transitional course sections) are still in place. Perhaps his most lasting accomplishment was the creation of the Pell Honors Program, which was designed very specifically to address the issue of academic rigor.

Trainor says he's most proud of working to strengthen Salve's Catholic identity and mercy mission, especially with reference to the educational philosophy of Cardinal, now Saint, John Henry Newman. "The Catholic identity of the institution is much stronger and the commitment to the mercy mission is greatly enhanced, due in large part to the work of Sister Leona Misto," Trainor says. "The sciences are now in much better shape, and the ability of the humanities departments to place students in world class graduate programs (Yale, Brown, Duke, Chicago, Edinburgh, etc.) is beyond anything we were doing 20 years ago."

In addition to his role as undergraduate dean, Trainor has served in a variety of positions over the years, including as interim director of the graduate program and as chair of the biology department. He has been professor of English since 2008.

"I think my favorite class was the one in which I did the least. It was called 'The Inklings: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and their Circle,' and we ran it not as a class but rather as a literary society modeled on the Inklings," Trainor says. "We met on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:45 p.m.; I would bring



"I am deeply grateful to the students for the honor of having been their teacher."

- Dr. Stephen L. Trainor

tea and the students undertook to supply cookies and cake and scones. There were no quizzes or tests or exams; rather we would have reports and readings from the works under consideration ('The Four Loves,' 'The Lord of the Rings,' 'Gaudy Night,' etc.) and in each class a student would present a formal paper and then lead the discussion. It was very much a student-based operation.

"At the end of the semester, instead of a final exam, we would meet at the Fastnet Pub in Newport (the Fastnet filling in for the Eagle and Child in Oxford) and read out a series of toasts to the Inklings," he continues. "I recall that one year several students were weeping at the end of this experience, and I took this as a good metric of success, that students would cry when a course was over."

Trainor developed the Oxford Study Abroad Program, which exemplifies his approach to teaching literature not as a cool, detached, critical experience but rather as something intensely personal, engaged and transformative. "Faculty and students are

living together in the same house, eating together, going to class, going on daily field trips, attending lectures and concerts and religious services, much like what life must have been like at Oxford in the 19th century," Trainor says. "The intensity of the personal element of the month in Oxford was always breathtaking, and a model for me of what the teacher-student relationship should be."

Trainor says he is grateful for the opportunity to have served these past 20 years, and for all the encouragement and support he has received at both the University and departmental levels. He is proud that a former student, Tim Halpin, endowed a need-based scholarship in Trainor's name to support undergraduate students in the LGBTQ community.

"I am deeply grateful to the students for the honor of having been their teacher," he says. "I shall miss both my students and my colleagues. We are moving into very challenging times in higher education, but I am very confident that, with its current faculty and academic leadership, Salve will not only survive, but thrive."

our retiring faculty

by Matt Boxler '04 (M)

Dr. Carol E. Gibbons, professor and former chairwoman of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, has witnessed plenty of change on the Salve campus during more than three decades here. In addition to the construction of McKillop Library, Rodgers Recreation Center and Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, Gibbons witnessed the college transition into a University, the academic caliber of its students reach new heights and the faculty gain new prominence through both teaching and research.

In many ways, however, it is what has remained the same at Salve that Gibbons most cherishes as a teacher.

“Our small size makes it possible to connect with students at a personal level,” she says. “I am proud of the fact that many students told me their attitudes toward math, and their ability to do it, had improved. It is satisfying to know that many students whom I encouraged and mentored went on to graduate school or fulfilling careers.”

Gibbons was a non-traditional student herself, having stayed home to raise six children until the youngest was in first grade before pursuing her career. She received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Merrimack College and her master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island. Hired as an instructor at Salve in 1989, she was teaching full-time while earning her Ph.D. in applied mathematics at the University of Rhode Island. Subsequently, she became associate professor, was awarded tenure and ultimately promoted to full professor.

Over the course of 30-plus years in the department, Gibbons has taught “just about everything,” including general math offerings, all courses in the calculus sequence, linear algebra, abstract algebra, statistics and analysis.



“It is satisfying to know that many students whom I encouraged and mentored went on to graduate school or fulfilling careers.”

- Dr. Carol Gibbons

She has served the University on many committees, including several terms on the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee (including as speaker for two years), Faculty Advisory Committee on Salary and Benefits as well as the rank and tenure, sabbaticals and grievance committees.

“I am especially proud of the collaborative work I have done, and continue to do, with colleague Jayme Hennessy in the religious studies department,” Gibbons says. “Dr. Hennessy and I did a joint sabbatical in Spain and Morocco, studying the spirituality and geometry of Islamic tiling. I also enjoyed creating and teaching a freshman seminar called ‘From Here to Infinity,’ which looked at the concept of infinity from mathematical, philosophical, literary, artistic and religious aspects. Most recently, I created a Math Walk brochure for departmental and University use, which guides a visitor around the campus and looks at embedded mathematics, such as the sculpture on the lawn between O’Hare and McAuley and the LaFarge stained glass windows in the chapel.”

As she begins her retirement in the face of a global pandemic that is straining the resources of families, companies and schools alike, Gibbons says she believes Salve will make it through these challenging times because the faculty are creative, resourceful and will always place students first.

The department has changed in recent years, she says, with younger faculty introducing new areas of mathematics, such as data science, into the curriculum. “If I had any advice to share, it would be to enjoy these years ... they go fast. And look for ways to collaborate with other departments. This helps the students to see that our courses are not isolated from other academic areas, but just one aspect of a whole.”



One of Salve Regina’s longest-serving faculty members, **Dr. Lois Eveleth ’62** retires after more than 50 years as a professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy. Her service to the University impacted generations throughout the years, beginning in 1969. Her dedication to the many students whose lives she touched lives on in the alumni community and colleagues across campus wish her well as she begins the next chapter.

“When I think of Lois, I think of someone who had a deep understanding and commitment to the mission.” reflects Sister Therese Antone, chancellor. “A true scholar, Lois committed to ongoing research and writing that informed her teaching and her unending quest in the pursuit of Truth. A very kind person, her reasonableness and sense of humor made any intellectual or professional interaction we had, including disagreement, a stimulating, thought-provoking and enjoyable experience.”

Envisioning Justice for All

The campus community mourns the loss of Sister Virginia Walsh.



Virginia Walsh,
RSM
Sept. 4, 1925-
July 12, 2020

One of Salve Regina's most legendary social justice and anti-discrimination advocates, Sister Virginia Walsh lived her life filled with a deep passion to make the world a more just and merciful place. Formerly Sister Mary Terence, she was a Sister of Mercy for 76 years, and leaves a legacy of mercy, which she exemplified through her role in the teaching ministry first with youth in the dioceses of Fall River and Providence, and then later during her decades of educating college students at Salve Regina.

Sister Virginia taught at Saint Mary Academy Bay View, where

she was known as both knowledgeable and demanding. In the late 1960s, she was assigned as principal of Saint Michael's elementary school in South Providence. In this role, she utilized her skills as an innovative educator and administrator. She implemented changes there that recognized the diverse, cultural, ethnic and religious background of the community and worked to actively engage and address the needs of students. Over the years, former students kept in touch, inviting Sister Virginia to milestone celebrations such as high school graduations and wedding ceremonies.

Eventually, Sister Virginia was called to bring her talents to higher education through an appointment at Salve Regina. The impact of her years as an educator in South Providence were not forgotten, however. She felt a strong calling to prepare students to live and work in a society prepared to change unjust structures. Thus, she requested and received approval to pursue a doctoral degree in sociology at Boston University. Her dissertation (available at the Rhode Island Historical Society) analyzed the lives of immigrant women who worked in the state's jewelry industry.

Sister Virginia taught at Salve for more than 35 years, serving as chairwoman of the Department of Sociology and influencing thousands of students who took classes on topics such as Race and Ethnic

Relations, Gender in Society, and Deviant Behavior. Sister Virginia had a genuine interest in her students' personal growth as young adults and took most seriously her commitment to preparing them to analyze powerful structures in a world that is often unjust and unfair.

"Sister Virginia was more than just my sociology advisor, she was also a mentor," says Tara Watkins '00. "She encouraged us how to think, not what to think, and to strive to reach our full potential. She taught us to ask questions about life and why things are the way they are in society, to not accept them without first some exploration and then try to work to change those things we find not right."

Sister Virginia had her morning coffee each day in a mug featuring Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the words "I Dissent." Leading by example, she informed her students that she would never miss a class, and she never did. In the 1990s, she created an anti-racism training program for local law enforcement, designed to call attention to racial profiling. She then volunteered her time each week to personally engage with participants in the program.

Along with Dr. Johnelle Luciani, RSM, Sister Virginia established the Vision of Mercy Scholarship Fund at Salve, which is awarded to undergraduate female students who are committed to the materially poor, to peace and justice, and to working with advocacy groups on behalf of underserved individuals, all in accordance with the vision statement of the Sisters of Mercy.

"Sister Virginia instilled in us a desire to work for social justice," says Erin Hanna '02. "She challenged us to think and physically go outside our comfort zones. There is no question that I am the radical, justice-oriented activist and thinker I am today because of her guidance and example.

"She was more than just a legendary professor in our lives," Hanna continues. "She was a really good friend and an incredible mentor. We were profoundly blessed by her presence and I will miss her more than I could ever fully express."

Donations in Sister Virginia's memory may be made to the Vision of Mercy Scholarship Fund at salve.edu/give-salve.

The Magician

Roland LaFlamme's ability to transform the stage was magical.

Echoing the sentiment of Tom Gleadow, artistic director of the Casino Theatre, Salve's stage is a little darker with the loss of Roland LaFlamme, who served as technical director for more than 35 years.

In 1980, LaFlamme designed his first Salve Regina show "The York Nativity Play" as part of Christmas in Newport. He continued to teach part-time at Salve for many years while simultaneously teaching in the Providence School Department, where he had been an educator since 1966. In the late 1990s, LaFlamme retired from his Providence teaching career and joined Salve full time, where he designed set, sound and lighting for theatre productions until his retirement in 2012.

LaFlamme's passion for theater touched the lives of many of his former students, who fondly describe him as an amazing storyteller and vessel of knowledge with immense magical powers anchored in his love of Disney.

According to Francesco Nuzzi '04, experiencing the work of LaFlamme was a truly magical experience. "He wielded great craftsmanship and lighting prowess," explains Nuzzi, "transforming the space of the 75-seat black box theater into a magical world of enchanted forests, storefronts (that converted into store interiors), Imperial Japan and so much more."

"Mr. LaFlamme was Mickey's Sorcerer's Apprentice standing atop the mountain making the stars (on stage) shine bright, fueled by his love for the theater and all who had the privilege to know and work with him," adds Nuzzi. "He truly has touched the lives of so many."

Gregory Luzitano '03 agrees. "Mr. LaFlamme exemplified a generosity of spirit matched only by

his boundless energy, wit and creativity. He taught us how much a creative mind can do with limited space, budget and resources, provided you approach it with a can-do attitude and a child-like twinkle in your eye."

"It's appropriate," adds Luzitano, "that he was such a devotee of Disney, because asking him to create something for a show was a bit like wishing on a star; anything your heart desired, he was able to manifest in an impossibly short amount of time and nearly single-handed...Not only was every production he touched improved by his spirit, so was every student."

Mary Beth Pelletier '06, '12 (M) recalls LaFlamme's humble and generous nature. Always giving, LaFlamme anonymously donated clothes and supplies to his elementary school students and others. "He will be missed dearly and fiercely by his Salve family," says Pelletier.

As a tribute to one of Salve's legends, the [Roland LaFlamme Memorial Award](#) has been created through the Theatre Alumni Scholarship Fund to help support deserving students who demonstrate the same passion and artistic ability for creating magic onstage. Donations may be made by visiting salve.edu/give-laflamme.



Roland LaFlamme

July 19, 1943-
June 3, 2020

Mercy Emergency Relief Fund



[The Mercy Emergency Relief Fund](#), established for use during unanticipated situations, has become a critical source of funding to bridge the financial gap that many of our undergraduate students face. It can be considered a 'helping hand' to assist with technology, tuition, wellness and other critical needs that may arise. Since the pandemic's onset, Salve Regina alumni, family, friends, faculty and staff have raised more than \$301,000 from over 1000 donors to support students in need.

With the University's reopening, the Mercy Emergency Relief Fund remains a vital resource in ensuring the delivery of Salve's signature academic experience. As students return to campus—their home away from home—it is our hope that the Salve Regina family, in the spirit of the Mercy tradition, will continue its generous support for the Mercy Emergency Relief Fund.

salve.edu/give-relief

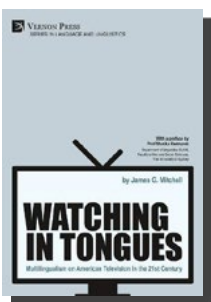
The Reading List

by Matt Boxler '04 (M)

New publications by Department of Modern Languages faculty explore a range of topics.

'Watching in Tongues'

The power of television's impact on shaping American attitudes toward a given language, group and culture is examined in a new book by Dr. James G. Mitchell, professor and chairman of the Department of Modern Languages. In "Watching in Tongues: Multilingualism on American Television in the 21st



Century" (Vernon Press), Mitchell asks questions that have not previously been posed about second language use on television. His answers not only shed light on issues of the

representation of language learning and language use, but also constitute a lens through which American society as a whole might be understood.

"As a television junkie from a young age and a second language learner from almost as early, I have always been interested in when and why languages other than English were being used in real life and, of course, on the television that I'd watch growing up in a suburb of New York City," Mitchell says.

In his research, Mitchell analyzes shows that aired from 2003-2019 on the five major U.S. broadcast networks, ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC and the CW, as well as basic cable networks like ABC Family (now Freeform), Cartoon Network, TNT, USA, and a single show from a premium cable channel Cinemax. He also included analysis of "a very relevant episode of 'The Simpsons' from 1990."

The book is divided into four three-chapter sections: "Humor and Homicide," "Language Learning," "Subtitles and Stereotypes," and "Language Attitudes and Mediation."

'Confined Women'

Dr. Emily Colbert Cairns, associate professor, has published a series of essays exploring the topic of confinement, especially of women, through the ages. In "Confined Women: The Walls of Female Space in Early Modern Spain" (Hispanic Issues Online 2020), Colbert



Cairns and co-editor Dr. Brian M. Phillips present examinations of female enclosure and social anxiety in the early modern period that continue to resonate in the present.

"Confinement is front and center in American life, a unifying, mainstream experience that will come to define this time, with unknown and widespread effects on our culture," Colbert Cairns says. "Confinement, however, is a thread running through Western history, something that occurs on borders, in our prisons, to our radicals, and crucially, to our women. I think there's never been a better time to think about confinement, as it normally, abnormally occurs."

Drawing upon literary texts and historical treatises, among other sources, the collection addresses a variety of questions, like: How were women's bodies, minds and language monitored? How did women interact with ideals of the "virtuous woman" or the "perfect wife"? And what did the physical, metaphorical and emotional barriers of their enclosures look like?

The volume is organized into three sections: "Religious and Devotional Spaces," "Literary Spaces of Confinement," and "Religious, Metaphorical, and Literary Confinements, Then and Now."

Death and Crises in the Hispanic World

In an edited volume, written in Spanish, that is currently in production, Dr. Esther M. Alarcón-Arana, assistant professor, draws connections between death and crises in the Hispanic world from a multidisciplinary perspective. The essays presented in "Muerte y crisis en el mundo hispano: Respuestas culturales" (Death and Crises in the Hispanic World: Cultural Responses) analyze



these topics that are commonly depicted in literary texts, graphic novels, zarzuelas and cinema.

"Death and crises are two topics that receive lots of attention on TV, in art, literature, etc., but separately," Alarcón-Arana says. "What I am doing in this book is to put the two together." She says the idea for the volume originated in 2015 while preparing course materials for her Salve students.

In addition to editing the volume, Alarcón-Arana writes both the introduction and chapter IX. "Although crises and death are seen as these events of life we must fear, the articles of this book focus on one aspect of the etymology of the word 'crisis,' which is the idea of opportunity," she says. "Following Michel de Certeau's idea of tactics when he studies consumers as producers of language and culture – and not merely passive victims of the system – I affirm that the 'critik' produced by those affected by crises and death have the potential of creating the change that will affect our own future lives (and deaths)."

The book is divided in three parts: "Death, memory and national crisis," "Crises and suicide," and "Gender, crisis and death."



Click on the photo above to hear

Pitches with Attitude

sing their joyous rendition of
"Salve Regina" for the
Class of 2020's virtual Commencement.

