SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

REPORT *from* NEWPORT

Rising

Salve's momentum continues to rise with generous donor support for programming and new facilities.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH CAPSTONE PROJECTS | CELEBRATING OUR 75TH COMMENCEMENT

SUMMER 2025

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Report from Newport

The Magazine of
Salve Regina University

Summer 2025

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Report from Newport is printed by
Signature Printing, East Providence, R.I.

SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY

Dear Salve Community:

The summer months have been busy here on campus. We kicked off the month of June by welcoming our alumni for a spectacular Reunion Weekend where friends and classmates reconnected, reminisced and made new Salve memories. We also enjoy showing our beautiful campus to prospective students and families, and many visitors are learning about Salve from our Cliff Walk student ambassador, who is stationed behind O'Hare Academic Building to serve as a resource for passers-by.

The stories that follow, such as the Wallace family's tradition of philanthropy (p. 2) and the expansion of our campus facilities (p. 6) highlight Salve's continued rise in momentum and its commitment to the enduring vision of our founding Sisters of Mercy. Through our comprehensive campaign – ***Our Mission. Our Moment.*** – and the generosity of our donors, our mercy-inspired education will provide unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning, research and leadership development that prepares students to become alumni who make the world a better place.

President Kelli J. Armstrong (middle) with summer student ambassadors (l-r) Giselle Brooks '28, Kai Thomas '26, Delenn Ferrer '26 and Molly Hawk '27

I am grateful to be a part of our extraordinary Salve community and look forward to welcoming our new and returning students for the fall semester.

Wishing you all the best,

Kelli J. Armstrong
President

OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.
The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

For stories highlighting the impact of Salve's comprehensive campaign, look for ***Our Mission. Our Moment.*** throughout the issue.

THE WALLACE FAMILY'S
generational giving:
lifting Salve at every inflection point

BY JULIE MILLER

OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.
The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

In February 2025, Salve Regina University announced a $12 million gift from the *Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation*, focused on creating innovative experiences in business with the naming of the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics. It also supported the creation of the Anita and Robert R. Young Department Chair of the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics.

The gift is the latest of many from the Wallace family, the University's most generous benefactor with donations of more than $24.6 million over many years. Bringing the Wallace and Young families together in the recent gift also honors the role that the Youngs, neighbors to Salve's campus, played in establishing the special relationship between Salve and the Wallace family and encouraging their active role in the University's evolution.

The Wallace family's deep roots with Salve have underpinned the University's core strategies for decades. They have supported the renovation, restoration and construction of 12 campus buildings, an annual student scholarship and faculty research, and have continued to support initiatives that help the University grow, compete and provide students with the values and skills needed to make a positive impact in the world.

SUPPORT FOR SALVE'S MISSION

The relationship between Salve and the Wallace family began in the early 1980s. David Wallace, then-manager of the Robert R. Young Foundation, was introduced to Sister Therese Antone, then vice president for university advancement.

When Antone became Salve's president and developed an ambitious plan for its future, the Wallaces provided key enabling support with a $2 million gift from the Young Foundation to support the construction of Rodgers Recreation Center. Later, after David Wallace began his tenure on the board of trustees, a gift from the Wallaces helped to fund the renovation of the former Young carriage house into a unique student residence, Wallace Hall.

"As Jean and David became familiar with our mercy mission and the plan for Salve's future, which was based on respect for and acceptance of all, they embraced that vision. It was who they were," Antone recollected.

At the celebration of her 10th anniversary as Salve's president, Antone received a gift from the Wallaces. They restricted it to anything Antone determined would be helpful to the University and also requested that it should bear her name.

"I was humbled," said Antone. "When I told them my choice was support for faculty scholarship, research and teaching, they were very pleased."

CONTINUING TO FUND INNOVATION THAT SHAPES SALVE'S FUTURE

In 2019, Salve named the central common area in the O'Hare Academic Building Wallace Commons in honor of David and Jean Wallace, whose deep and con-

Left page: David W. and Jean Wallace

> We are grateful to recognize our parents and the Youngs together with Salve's expanding business and economics department. It is an honor to be serving on the Salve board.

ANNE WALLACE JUGE

sistent support touched every area of campus life. Daughters Anne Wallace Juge and Mary Wallace Strizek, co-presidents of the family's foundation, accepted the honor on their late parents' behalf.

"David and Jean Wallace were good, kind people who loved Salve and its mission," said Antone. "Anne and Mary are following in their parents' footsteps in many ways. They are also very aware of the needs of others, responsive, respectful and kind."

Continuing the legacy of their parents' support, the sisters remain closely connected to Salve and its mission. Juge currently serves on the board as a trustee. To meet the needs of students in a rapidly evolving global society, they again stepped in to support the 2019 strategic planning, design and launch of the Salve Compass program, a key initiative of President Kelli J. Armstrong. This signature experience spans all four years and extends to every Salve student, connecting college to a successful career and the ability to lead a meaningful and productive life.

"The value of the Wallace family's gifts to the University cannot be overstated. We would not be where we are without them," said Armstrong. "This latest gift will help us strengthen the business and economics department, scale up our experiential learning, support faculty research projects and provide the tools for our students to serve communities when they graduate. It positions us to create opportunities that build real-world readiness for all."

> "This latest gift ... positions us to create opportunities that build real-world readiness for all."
>
> PRESIDENT KELLI J. ARMSTRONG

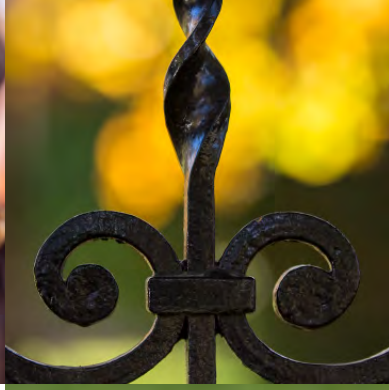
The Wallaces designed the gift specifically to honor their parents' love of Salve and their commitment to the University's mission to provide students with the values and skills needed to make a positive difference in the world.

"We are grateful to recognize our parents and the Youngs together with Salve's expanding business and economics department. It is an honor to be serving on the Salve board," said Juge.

Strizek noted, "Our father considered Robert Young a dear friend and mentor, and our families remained close throughout their lives. We are so pleased to honor them together at Salve and know they would be proud to be part of the accomplishments of new generations of Salve students."

WE MEAN BUSINESS DAY

On April 8, the **Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics** hosted its inaugural "We Mean Business Day," a student-led initiative that brought together more than 500 attendees, 50 dynamic speakers and countless opportunities for professional connection. Organized by 14 students in the course MGT399: Practicum in Event Production, the full-day conference was a bold, hands-on experience that bridged classroom learning with real-world impact.



Breaking new ground to enrich the student experience

BY JULIE MILLER

Architectural rendering of new residence hall located on the corner of Lawrence and Shepard avenues

Here at Salve, we continue to break ground, literally and figuratively, in our efforts to deliver a transformative educational experience for each student. That momentum persists in 2025, when two beautiful new structures will begin to emerge on our oceanside campus – a state-of-the-art residence hall and a new garden pavilion for student programming and events.

WELCOMING MORE STUDENT RESIDENTS ON CAMPUS

In December 2024, Salve reached an agreement with the City of Newport and our neighbors to begin construction of a long-planned residence hall on the corner of Shepard and Lawrence avenues, near the historic William Watts Sherman House. The new residence hall, which will house 205 undergraduate students, is part of the University's strategic plan to provide more student housing on campus to help build a vibrant university culture and extend the Salve experience to more students while relieving some of the housing shortage in downtown Newport. Construction of the new facility is under way with a plan to welcome students in fall 2026.

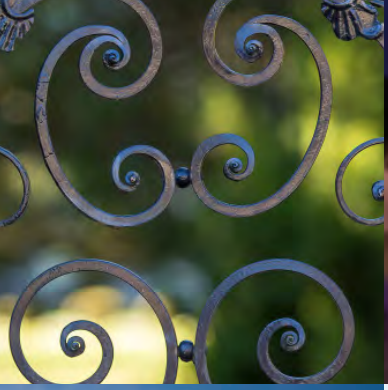
As part of the project, the University will add sidewalks to Shepard Avenue to promote pedestrian safety. A second property on Victoria Avenue also is earmarked for potential redevelopment as a natural-grass athletic field.

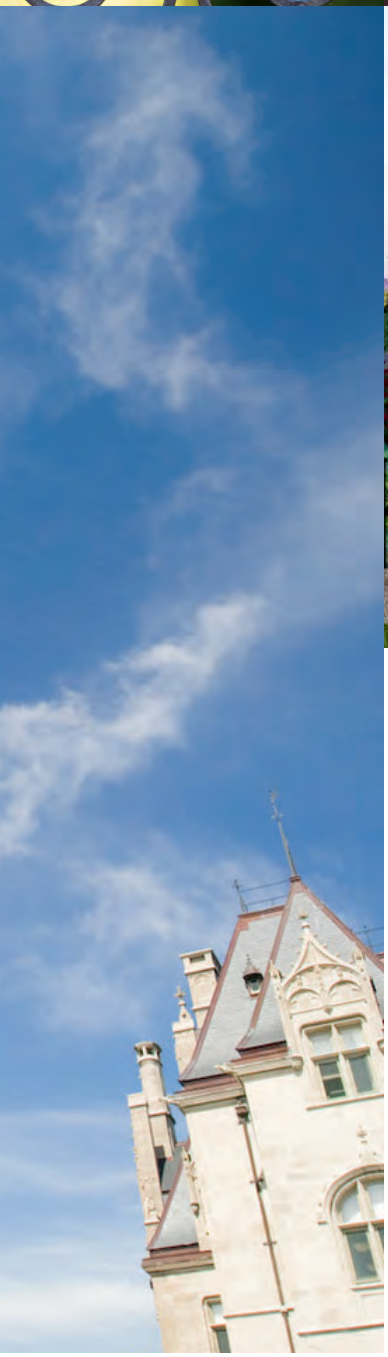
"We are grateful to our neighbors and the City of Newport for this agreement and believe that the new residence hall will be a wonderful addition to our campus and to the local community to which we're so closely connected," said President Kelli J. Armstrong.

CREATING A SPACE FOR STUDENT PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

A generous gift is enabling Salve to create a new garden pavilion on campus that will be a flexible space for student/faculty programming and events. The gift, from Trustee Barbara A. Papitto, will cover the entire cost of the facility, estimated to be $5 million.

The 5,400 square foot wooden structure will be built between Gerety Hall, our hub for student life, and McKillop Library. It will accommodate nearly 300 seated in lecture style and include a catering kitchen. The new pavilion will open at the start of the fall 2026 semester.





Papitto Pavilion architectural rendering

> Salve has built innovative programs that bring rigorous academics together with a focus on purpose and service. I'm continually impressed by their students' accomplishments and the depth of their commitment to the mercy mission. Knowing that our gift will play a part in continuing Salve's work guiding young people to lead purposeful and meaningful lives and careers is a wonderful legacy.
>
> BARBARA A. PAPITTO

"Salve has built innovative programs that bring rigorous academics together with a focus on purpose and service," said Papitto. "I'm continually impressed by their students' accomplishments and the depth of their commitment to the mercy mission. Knowing that our gift will play a part in continuing Salve's work guiding young people to lead purposeful and meaningful lives and careers is a wonderful legacy."

Designed by DBVW Architects of Providence, the Papitto Pavilion will be located in the sunken part of the garden space, preserving and complementing the Barbara Antoinette Mallardi Rose Garden in which it will sit. The design features a hipped metal roof that references historic greenhouses and multiple doors with arched glass on three sides.

"Barbara Papitto is recognized across our state for her incredible generosity and devotion to reducing barriers for people through education," said Armstrong. "As we continue to extend our Salve Compass program, the Papitto Pavilion will be a place for the kinds of retreats and career-connected speakers and programs that empower our students to chart their educational journey with purpose. It will also give our student organizations a dedicated and beautiful space to hold their events and build community. We are eternally grateful to Barbara and all she does for our University."

Sister Therese Antone, chancellor, Cheryl Mrozowski, board chair, Barbara Papitto, trustee, Kelli J. Armstrong, president, and David Bazarsky, trustee

RENOVATING MUNROE CENTER

In addition to brand new construction, Salve continues to renovate and re-shape current facilities to campus life and spaces.

Munroe Center, a 9,600 square-foot stone building constructed in 1889, will be re-purposed from administrative offices to student residences – 24 beds in eight apartments. Construction is under way and scheduled to be completed in time to welcome student residents for the fall 2025 semester.

EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER

Criminal justice and cybersecurity capstone projects provide opportunities for students to hone skills in analytics and research.

BY CLAIRE CURRY

In 52 B.C., Julius Caesar is said to have written the Latin phrase ***"Ut est rerum omnium magister usus,"*** which translates to "EXPERIENCE IS THE TEACHER OF ALL THINGS" or "EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER." This centuries-old proverb is the philosophy behind the many opportunities Salve students have to deepen their knowledge and understanding of various subjects by applying theories and concepts to practical, real-life situations. One example of such experiential learning is the criminal justice and criminology capstone course in which students use what they learn in the classroom to analyze real-world public safety issues for federal and state agencies.

What factors contribute to hate crimes in Rhode Island? What is the economic impact of gift card fraud? What are the behaviors of outlaw motorcycle gangs? Why does the drug Xylazine present challenges to emergency service personnel?

These are the kinds of questions students investigate in CJC450 Capstone: Application of Knowledge, required of all seniors pursuing this major. Taught by Robert Hehl, a retired intelligence officer with the FBI and the U.S. Army, the course pairs classroom instruction in intelligence analysis with an intensive semester-long project called the Capstone Research Assessment. Student teams conduct extensive research, analyze data, interview law enforcement experts and craft intelligence reports on their findings using standardized U.S. Intelligence Community guidelines as required by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Students also receive formal instruction in professional briefing to FBI Academy standards. During numerous briefing practice sessions, commonly called "murder boards," they receive real-time feedback from Hehl, a certified U.S. intelligence community advanced analyst. The teams polish their presentations and briefing tradecraft skills prior to receiving approval from Hehl that they are ready to present to public safety officials and their staffs. The project culminates with formal presentations the students deliver before senior officials from federal and state public safety agencies.

"The focus is for the students to work on what we in the profession call a 'key intelligence question,' a topic a particular agency has a real interest in," Hehl said. He then trains students on research and interviewing techniques and how to use "ICD-203 Analytic Tradecraft Standards and Estimative Language" to write intelligence reports. These, he said, are "stringent standards in form, substance and analytic verbiage" designed to ensure clear, unambiguous, unbiased and meaningful communication across agencies, their decision-makers and intelligence consumers.

"If the CIA wrote a report and somebody from the FBI read it, they would fully understand the contextual basis of the judgments in the report, called 'levels of likelihood' of an event happening and the overall 'confidence levels in the sources used,' which underlie all report judgments," Hehl explained.

The capstone research assessment project benefits the agencies students work with by offering a fresh perspective on current issues detailed in well-researched, professional-quality intelligence reports. Students gain a highly specialized skillset that not only gives them a competitive edge as job candidates, but is directly transferable to the careers they pursue upon graduation.

PUTTING NEW SKILLS TO WORK IN THE FIELD

Lia-Sophie Keller '23, '24 (M) said that the capstone course prepared her for her current role as a special agent with Homeland Security Investigations.

Her student team was tasked with analyzing neighborhood street gangs in New England. After conducting and analyzing their research, the students concluded that it was very likely that gang membership and activity in Rhode Island would increase in the next year; that their activities would include an increased amount of financial fraud; and that street gangs would expand their activities into the suburbs of Providence.

"This is super prevalent to what I'm doing because cartels and other organizations are now classified as foreign terrorist organizations, which fall into our purview," Keller said about the focus of the project. "On a more practical level, we learned how to do open-source research on a complex topic, set up professional interviews, think critically and effectively write an informative and factual assessment, concisely and without bias. That definitely helped prepare me. When we're doing that here, I'm at the top of my game."

Nathaniel Whipple '23, a patrol officer with the Newport Police Department, agreed that the capstone research assessment project helped him develop skills he uses every day on the job.

His team explored the factors that would contribute to or inspire hate crimes in Rhode Island. As part of his research, Whipple interviewed a legal expert in the court system. "We discussed what has been happening across the state in terms of hate crimes and she provided me with a presentation she had on it and [corresponding] data," he said.

> "The focus is for the students to work on what we in the profession call a 'key intelligence question,' a topic a particular agency has a real interest in."
>
> ROBERT HEHL

(From left) Daniel Brien '25, Gabrielius Bazikas '25 and Rebecca Morrison '25 at the Rhode Island State Fusion Center

In addition to sharpening his interviewing and research skills, Whipple said he gained valuable experience collaborating with others and "presenting to – and networking with – professionals in high-level positions."

Not long after he completed the course and graduated from Salve, Whipple attended the Rhode Island Police Academy and was officially sworn in as a police officer for the Newport Police Department in December 2024.

GIVING STUDENTS A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Emily Glory '25 dreams of becoming an attorney and said that the project has driven her closer to her goal.

Her team researched the prevalence of Xylazine in Rhode Island and the challenges this substance poses for emergency department personnel treating overdose patients. Narcan, the treatment that reverses the effects of many drugs, does not work with this sedative.

Like the other teams, the students conducted interviews with law enforcement agencies, summarized their research findings, developed "key judgments" conveying the results of their investigation and predicted their confidence levels on those judgments along with a future outlook on the use of Xylazine in Rhode Island and its impact on first responders.

"The presentation felt like a victory lap after a semester of hard work," said Glory, who will go on to pursue a law degree at Roger Williams University. "As far as I know, most undergraduate programs do not teach these skills, which

means that this program gave my resume – and my law school applications – a unique boost."

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

All of the students noted that Hehl's storied background as an intelligence officer made the capstone experience truly "real world" and invaluable. He served for nearly 21 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, retiring as a military intelligence officer for South Asia at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in Washington, D.C. He went on to serve as a civilian intelligence officer with the DIA, then spent 19 years as an FBI counterterrorism and counterintelligence analyst in Boston and Providence before retiring in 2021. Hehl noted that the University's entire criminal justice and criminology faculty is comprised of "career practitioners" who have worked in law enforcement and intelligence, corrections and the legal field.

"We know what it takes for our students to be successful," said Hehl. "I've served at the FBI Academy as a mentor for new intelligence officers and with the training that our students get here, they would be able to walk into that program, hit the ground running and excel. When our students leave Salve, they are light years ahead of their contemporaries in being prepared and experienced and knowing what their purpose is going to be."

(From left) Maya Shaughnessy '25, Natalie Conover '25, Caroline L. Burnett '25, Mia E. Sabino '25 and Brody M. Valentine '25 at the U.S. Navy War College

WINNING STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

Imagine purchasing a colorful bouquet of flowers – and a refreshing mocktail – from a quaint flower cart rolling through the streets of Newport. It sounds like something you'd see on a Hollywood movie set, but it's actually the vision for The Tipsy Tulip, a business idea that won a team of Salve seniors first place and a prize of $1,250 at the Seahawk Tank pitch competition held May 3 at Innovate Newport.

The team, which includes Giabella Childs '25, Margaret Egan '25, Abigail Figlock '25 and Emily Santamaria '25, spent the fall semester working on the concept and a corresponding business plan as part of the business planning capstone course, required of all seniors studying business.

"It's a startup process where they identify a consumer problem and a solution, identify the target market, and then develop a full-blown business plan to support the idea and attract investors," said Sam Sacco, business and economics senior lecturer, who teaches the course.

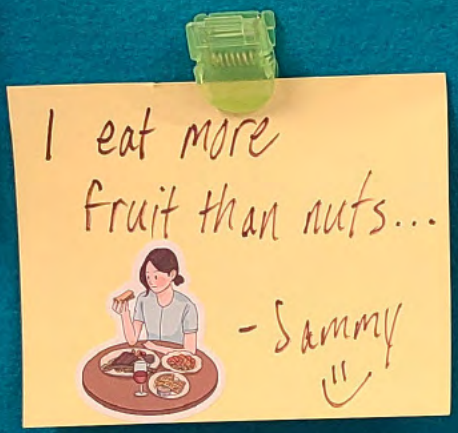
"I didn't realize how much went into developing a business plan," said Childs. "This class gave great insight in the amount of work and time that it takes to start a business." She added that she developed skills that will pay dividends as she pursues her MBA at Salve and in her future career in healthcare administration.

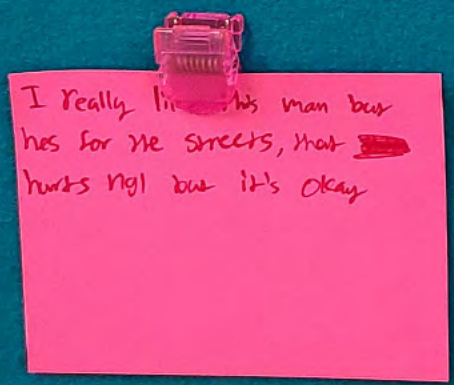
Entrepreneurship programming and initiatives are supported by donors who believe that the skills students gain by focusing on critical thinking, analysis, research and teamwork will help them to stand out in the job market and prepare them for roles in whatever field they choose.

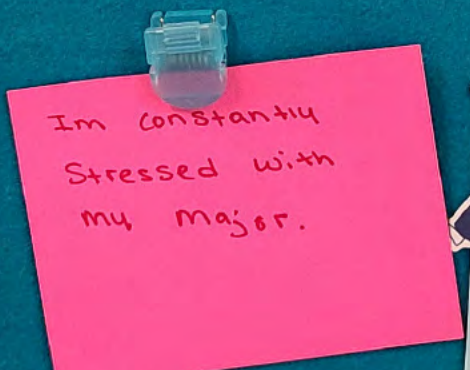
Salve Responds to Students' Needs

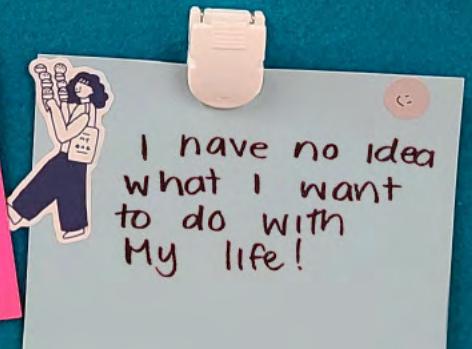
MENTAL HEALTH FAIR REACHES MORE THAN 500 STUDENTS

BY KAREN CARLO RUHREN









More than 500 students participated in Salve's first-ever IMALIVE Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Fair Feb.19. The all-day event, held in O'Hare Academic Building, was designed to give students the strength to share anonymously their inner-most struggles, to help them realize they are not alone, and to present possible tools for coping. Through interactive and educational activities, it illuminated what was on the hearts and minds of the student population.

"This was powerful information gathering," said Tracy Hauver, mental health coordinator. "Yes, we have risks, but if we're going to empower young people, we need to lean more into strength-based strategies. We want to show students that they have tools they never knew they had or can improve on."

Jennifer Pretsch, director of counseling services, described the fair as an event that met students where they were and provided an "energy of shared intentions" in a space that "nurtured hope and welcomed engagement."

"Just coming took courage," said Pretsch, who was impressed by the participation.

Nationwide, according to Hauver, the state of mental health in 18- to 24-year-olds is an urgent public health issue. She cites a 2022-23 national report from Healthy Minds Study that estimates 41% of college students are reporting depression, half of which are diagnosed as "extreme." Only 36% have positive mental health, 36% experience anxiety disorder, 29% have initiated non-suicidal injury and 14% expressed suicidal ideation.

Hauver explained that on college campuses throughout the United States, most of these mental health problems stem from five risk factors: loneliness, relationships, transitions, alcohol and other drug use. Many of these widespread problems were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

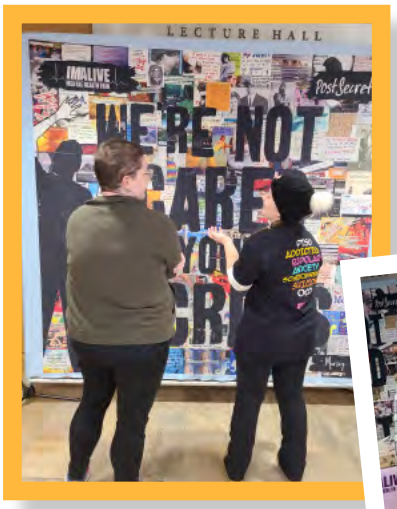
Salve is not immune to the nation's mental health crisis, which is why candid conversations and sharing are such dynamic strategies to bring awareness to these issues. At the fair, students engaged in table activities guided by trained peer wellness educators. One table invited participants to share a secret privately on index cards, some of which – with permission – were posted anonymously on a wall to let students know they were not alone in their personal struggle. On a large graffiti board, students also were encouraged to offer messages of hope to their classmates.

Other tables offered trivia games that prompted dialogue about misconceptions of mental health issues, such as bipolar disorder and suicide prevention, and paved the way for learning about these topics and many more.

"I was not surprised, but touched by what they shared, and the yearning to do so," said Pretsch.

Jazlyn Rivera '26, a peer wellness educator, guided one

> “All of these activities allowed us to identify challenges our students are having in real time.
>
> TRACY HAUVER, MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR



of the “share a secret” tables and was heartened by the huge response from students. “It’s super important. [The students] want more, and most are not aware of the available resources,” she said.

A psychology and criminal justice and criminology major, Rivera understands the importance of immediate help during a mental health crisis. She works as a volunteer victim advocate at Day One social services agency in Providence. Though the organization’s environment differs vastly from the IMALIVE setting, a yearning for help is still evident among her college peers.

“We don’t get a lot of this education in high school,” said Rivera, who believes the tools at the fair were new to many of her classmates and that sharing their secrets anonymously was especially comforting because it validated them.

“All of these activities allowed us to identify challenges our students are having in real time,” said Hauver. “It showed a desire to engage in mental health conversations and told us we need to do more of what we’re doing.”

What is Salve doing? Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, vice president for student affairs, shared that the student experience is built on four pillars: vibrancy, belonging, inclusion and wellness. Together, these key areas bolster mental health.

“At Salve, it’s a commitment to and dedication of time, space and human resources,” said Gambrell-Boone. From a recently created director of campus recreation position to the IMALIVE fair, Salve is investing in increasing its programming of all sizes.

“We must understand the needs of our students beyond best practices,” said Gambrell-Boone, who sits and talks with students at lunch or dinner one-on-one to hear from them directly. This “listening tour” has put her in touch with the students she has served since arriving at Salve in early 2022.

Gambrell-Boone, Hauver and Pretsch recognize that mental health has different faces, and more events like IMALIVE are important to de-stigmatize these struggles.

Using data collected from the fair and other tools, Hauver is planning programming for the upcoming academic year. She looks forward to organizing the second IMALIVE event, launching a student-athlete mental health week and starting a one-credit program exploring the basics for a balanced life. She also will continue mental health training for faculty and staff and a student gatekeeper training for suicide prevention.

The bottom line, however, is always how Salve can best serve its students.

“Listen to them,” said Rivera.

To support wellness programming for Salve students, please contact the Office of Advancement at 401.341.2902 or advancement@salve.edu.

"You are Not Alone"

Salve alumni create NOSOLO to promote kindness and connection, while raising support for mental health.

It's the personal notes that let Sarah Holfelder Toracinta '13, '19 (M) and John Toracinta '21 (MBA) know they're making an impact.

John recalls an email from a Florida father, who said the message of NOSOLO, the Toracintas' product line with a purpose, helped him through the loss of his 18-month-old daughter. The man first became aware of the company's mantra, "you are not alone," from Tampa Bay Lightning star Victor Hedman, a NOSOLO ambassador, who wore a hat bearing the company's logo ahead of the 2022 Stanley Cup finals.

"If we're getting stories like that, it's exactly what we set out to do," said John, who co-founded NOSOLO with Sarah in 2021 to shine a spotlight on mental health.

Both Toracintas have dealt with emotional challenges in their own lives. John has lost family members to suicide, while Sarah grew up with a mother who struggled with mental well-being, and shares that she personally battled depression and anxiety as a teenager.

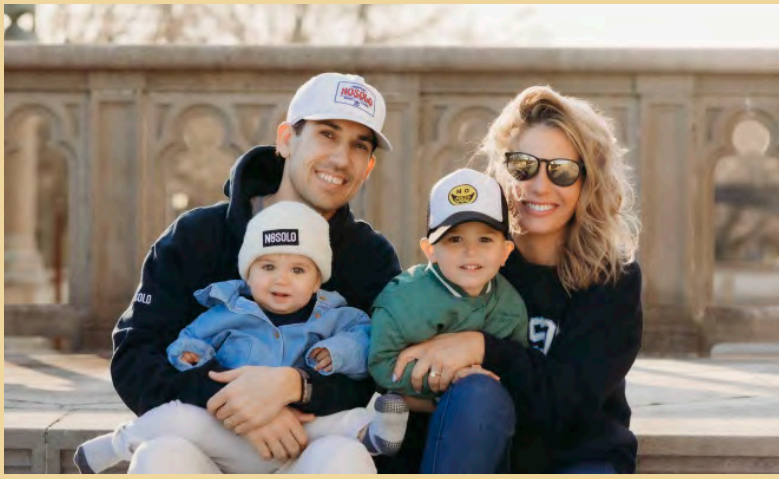
"I didn't want to be ashamed by it because, even though I have my ups and my downs," said Sarah, "it does not define me at the end of the day."

Their personal experiences, combined with complementary skills, motivated the couple to create a brand to spark important conversations on the topic. Sarah earned her undergraduate degree in elementary and special education from Salve and returned for a master's in behavior analysis. She currently works as a board-certified behavior analyst, focusing on adults and children with developmental disabilities. John's experience is in marketing and product management, promoting a global apparel line for FootJoy.

The seed for NOSOLO was planted on their 2019 honeymoon to Croatia. While exploring the country on a moped, John and Sarah made deep connections with locals, which made them realize the universal nature of mental health challenges.

"We started having these open, honest conversations and realized it doesn't matter who you are, where you're from or what you do," said John, "this whole idea that kindness should be transcendent is something everybody should live by."

Today, the Toracintas are proud of the progress they've made through NOSOLO to offer a platform for discussing and normalizing emotional wellness. Their simple and



appealing product designs, featuring positive symbols and affirmations, along with the company logo (an interlocking "N" and "S" that form a chain to represent connection) have caught the attention of notable influencers. Among those who have endorsed the NOSOLO message are NHL players Hedman and Nate Thompson, NFL quarterback Jared Goff, professional snowboarder Natalie Allport and former "Bachelor" Ben Higgins.

"To have these people say, 'I've struggled with mental health, but I'm still successful' is a powerful message," said Sarah.

The Toracintas have also spread the word through partnerships with Salve. NOSOLO employs student interns to help with social media, graphic design and market research. The company also supports the cause through philanthropy, with 20% of profits donated to mental health charities and their own recently established NOSOLO Giveback Foundation.

The Toracintas are looking to expand NOSOLO's impact. Sarah hopes to develop educational programming around mental health, while John wants to pursue more collaborations that amplify the "you are not alone" tagline. Ultimately, the driving force is the couple's commitment to making a meaningful difference.

"It's about reaching as many people as possible with an important message," said Sarah. "We like to say we're taking action, not just raising awareness. At this point, we all know creating change is about much more than awareness."

- Jana F. Brown

Building Animal Research Connections:

Pet therapy program gives nursing students a research edge and a community bond

Mix research, practical experience, campus involvement and Ruggles the community resource dog…and you've got a winning project. Nursing students at Salve Regina University are well versed in this successful combination, thanks to BARC: Building Animal Research Connections.

Since 2021, undergraduate nursing students, with guidance from Dr. Louise Sullivan, associate professor of nursing, have been working closely with Ruggles, Salve's favorite black labrador retriever and official community resource dog. Together they are bringing the merits of pet therapy to campus while gaining valuable practice in experiential research. This includes taking blood pressures and heart rates of classmates, processing consent forms and administering surveys. Their efforts take place entirely outside the scope of coursework—a true labor of love.

"I like to think of this as my pet project," said Sullivan with a smile. "This program offers so much benefit to students. It's a chance for them to wear lab coats and use stethoscopes, as well as build confidence and provide a stronger connection to their peers and faculty."

The idea behind BARC began in 2019, when Sullivan was teaching pharmacology.

"Students showed me pictures of their pets from home. They missed them very much," said Sullivan. "And there seemed to be a common love among students and their pets. So, I thought, why not use [nursing students'] clinical skills to study the effects of socialization with dogs? We could make this into a nice project."

Sullivan teamed up with a former member of the student affairs team and

enlisted interested nursing students to coordinate a "stressbuster" event during finals, introducing pet therapy dogs to help calm end-of-semester anxieties. About 100 students attended, and Sullivan knew this partnership had potential.

For Erin Dalton '26, the nursing student pet therapy research group has become an instrumental part of her Salve experience. "The program helped me step out of my comfort zone," said Dalton, who recalled her Introduction to Professional Nursing course with Sullivan, where she talked about her beloved dogs and their positive effects in her life. "I could tell Dr. Sullivan really cared."

Similarly, Kayla Machado '26 felt an instant connection with Sullivan through their shared love of pets. "I was showing Dr. Sullivan photos of my dogs, gushing about how much I missed them. She told me about [the research group] and I was determined to give Dr. Sullivan all the resources she needed," said Machado.

Dalton and Machado agreed that to gain traction on campus, the group needed to become a University-recognized organization. With Sullivan as their advisor, they made this a reality in fall 2024, when they coined the name BARC and formed an executive board. BARC continues to grow and now has over 30 members. Machado serves as the group's president.

Lucy Campbell '27 appreciates the group's potential for research collaboration.

> Knowing that I could be part of the research and data collection as an underclassman feels empowering.
>
> LUCY CAMPBELL '27

BARC executive board members (from left): Erin Dalton '26, Kayla Machado '26, Jesse Lester '26 and Lucy Campbell '27

"It opened my eyes to an extremely important part of nursing that I hadn't considered before: research within the nursing field. Knowing that I could be part of the research and data collection as an underclassman feels empowering. I was excited to improve critical nursing skills like measuring blood pressure and talking to patients," said Campbell.

To date, the group has completed seven projects, including five stressbuster events and two studies with Ruggles. The most recent was a randomized crossover study that involved 18 participants exposed to two interventions – a slideshow of their pets and playtime with Ruggles – to measure the response of each sub-group. Nursing students took participants' blood pressures and heart rates before and after the 15-minute interactions. Results revealed that most students who attended the interactive pet therapy session experienced a decrease in blood pressures and pulses, as well as a decrease in perceived stress and anxiety.

These findings are heartening for the value of pet therapy and encourage additional study. BARC is poised to continue.

"We're getting more savvy," noted Sullivan who, with her students, is looking forward to repeating and expanding the study. BARC has also recruited more certified pet therapy dogs to help with upcoming projects, giving Ruggles some rest.

Sullivan says she is humbled by the students' response to the program and encouraged by its progress. "The program helps them feel good about becoming a nurse and broadens their awareness of ways to help patients," she says. "I'm so proud of the students and couldn't do any of this without them."

-Karen Carlo Ruhren

A DOG WITH A MISSION

In addition to participating in the BARC studies, Ruggles is a dog with a mission and plays a key role for the Pawsitive Alliance with Students (PAWS) program, which is funded, in part, by the generosity of many donors. Its objectives: engage students, provide pet therapy, build relationships between the Office of Public Safety and the student community, and educate students with courses such as CPR and self-defense.

"My job is to build relationships with students. Ruggles is the bridge," said Michelle Caron, public safety officer and community resource dog handler. "Students come to discuss or even cry about tests or personal matters. They trust me to steer them to the right resources and often say that Ruggles was just what they needed."

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UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 2025 INSPIRED TO PUT THEIR MERCY MISSION IN MOTION

In an energetic, relatable and inspiring keynote address, former White House chief speechwriter for President Barack Obama, Cody Keenan, spoke to Salve's Class of 2025 undergraduates about the importance of discovering their sense of purpose, worldview and family during the University's 75th Commencement ceremony on May 18, when President Kelli J. Armstrong conferred 508 bachelor's degrees.

Keenan offered three pieces of advice to help navigate life after Salve. "Find your people and dream up cool stuff with them, make people's lives better, not worse, and with compassion and conviction, humor and joy, boundless faith and relentless hope, never, ever stop moving forward."

Referencing Salve's focus on its mercy mission, he urged the graduates to "be proud to fight for the hungry, for the sick, for the stranger, for this planet, for each other. People will follow your example. And, as long as you don't give up, neither will they."

Keenan was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The University also awarded honorary degrees to Tiziana C. Dearing, host of WBUR's "Morning Edition" and to Kasim J. Yarn, director of the State of Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services.

Cody Keenan

Armstrong's remarks to the graduates spoke to the constancy of Salve's culture, the essential elements derived from our mercy mission that make the University special – kindness, service to others and valuing each and every person.

"At its heart, Salve is about caring more for the collective good of this community than our own individual gain, and the Class of 2025 is the embodiment of that collective good," said Armstrong.

Class of 2025 valedictorian Jenna Martin referenced connections between Salve's unique Newport location and the graduates' own journeys. "The back terrace of Ochre Court may resemble the bow of a ship poised for voyage, but it stands still overlooking the open ocean: a reminder that the greatest journeys do not begin with staggering motion, but with a moment of stillness."

She further reflected, "One of the greatest lessons I am leaving Salve with is this: staying grounded, in our community, in our compassion and in our calling, is what best prepares us to one day set sail."

-Julie Miller

Jenna Martin, Class of 2025 valedictorian

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Salve celebrated its Class of 2025 graduate Commencement, conferring 206 master's degrees, 18 doctoral degrees and 11 Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees May 15. The ceremony honored not only academic achievement, but a profound commitment to service, leadership and ethical scholarship.

Among this year's graduates was Jeremy Spector, a former Naval officer and U.S. diplomat, who was chosen to deliver the keynote address – a speech that echoed the values at the heart of Salve's mission and resonated with the graduating class.

His reflections underscored one of the core messages of the day: that education at its best prepares individuals not just for success, but for service.

"In a world that often feels divided, this program has been a powerful reminder that thoughtful conversation and genuine curiosity can bridge differences," he said. "I hope we leave here not just with new knowledge, but with a renewed dedication to lead with integrity, to engage with curiosity and to serve something greater than ourselves."

-Catherine Dolan '23

Humanity, Technology and the Role of AI

While the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) has been around for decades, its recent and continuing advances now seem to be happening at warp speed. From health care to manufacturing to the financial sector, the use of AI technology is gaining momentum across industries.

In higher education, AI is both a tool to be embraced and a challenge not to be ignored. Since 1989, when Salve Regina University's Ph.D. program in humanities was launched, doctoral students and faculty have been exploring a complicated question: "What does it mean to be human in an age of advanced technology?" Recently renamed as Doctor of Humanities and Technology, the program has stayed ahead of the curve by examining the advancement of technology and its ethical implications in government, the military, academia and business.

"The name change makes apparent the area of research that our program has been concentrating on since its inception," said Dr. Troy Catterson, associate professor of philosophy and graduate program director for the Ph.D. "It has always been about the humanities in dialogue with the sciences and technology. We have changed the name so that those who are interested in pursuing the highest levels of such a dialogue will now know that it is being pursued here.

Two recent publications from Dr. Sean O'Callaghan, associate professor of religious and theological studies and former doctoral program director, and Ph.D. candidate Russell Suereth showcase the Salve's commitment to exploring the ever-evolving field of AI.

Co-authored by O'Callaghan and published in March by Baker Academic Press, "AI Shepherds and Electric Sheep: Leading and Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" examines the role of AI in politics, economics, medicine, law, the military and many other areas. According to O'Callaghan, he and his co-author thought that there was a lack of resources available to inform spiritual leaders about the nature of AI and provide

Dr. Troy Catterson, humanities and technology graduate program director

Russell Suereth, doctoral student

Dr. Sean O'Callaghan, associate professor for religious and theological studies

> "The question of the relationship between technology and what it means to be human is more pressing than ever before.
>
> DR. TROY CATTERSON

them with the tools to discuss it with their congregations or students.

"AI has a huge role in decision-making," said O'Callaghan. "For the first time in human history, we have a non-human entity either making decisions for us or with us. We need to take notice of it, or we will sleepwalk into a world we don't understand and haven't had a role in constructing."

For O'Callaghan, AI is an attractive research subject. He has always firmly believed that faith needs to be relevant to the age in which it exists. If it is not, he says, then it has nothing to offer and no answers to give. O'Callaghan says that he began with that premise and then started to explore how faith and AI could dialog with each other.

"I looked at different definitions and, while you have to begin with the technical definitions, the ones proposed by technologists and scientists, I quickly realized that AI technology starts in the research laboratories, but then it shapes the world we inhabit," he said.

In December 2024, Suereth published "Caring in AI: Considering the LIDA model" in World Scientific Research, a peer-reviewed journal that covers a range of technology topics. His article examines whether caring can be designed into an artificial intelligence system. In particular, the research considers a specific AI design known as the Learning Intelligent Decision Agent (LIDA) model and describes both the cognitive cycle and the global workspace within it.

"For the readers, one takeaway is that human caring can be complex," said Suereth. "Yet there are simple and limited forms of caring that we already perform today in hospital and health care situations. Another takeaway is that these simple forms of caring can be designed as a safeguard in AI systems to help ensure that they won't harm people.

> "For the first time in human history, we have a non-human entity either making decisions for us or with us. We need to take notice of it, or we will sleepwalk into a world we don't understand and haven't had a role in constructing.
>
> DR. SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

"From my personal viewpoint, I feel that the article highlighted a couple of avenues of caring," Suereth continued. "First, it highlighted that both AI systems and human individuals must have some degree of caring to function properly in our world. Second, it highlighted that I care deeply about this matter in AI systems and about caring in general in our human relations."

For Suereth, who has a background as a software developer and an interest in the humanities, AI is an area that fascinates him. He sees the field as a combination of software engineering and human connection.

"It's hard for me to stay away from AI," he said. "I find that it's quite intriguing. For me, caring is a vital aspect of our everyday human lives, and it should also be for any model or machine that has human characteristics."

Salve's humanities and technology doctoral program challenges students to consider the essential link between the two, seemingly disparate, disciplines. "In my view, the question of the relationship between technology and what it means to be human is more pressing than ever before," said Catterson.

"The objective is to evaluate what it means to be human in an age of advanced technology, to demonstrate how culture and the liberal arts blend with and inform science and technological innovation—and to pursue that in a scholarly, academic environment," said O'Callaghan.

-Andrew Clark

TURNING PASSION INTO PROGRESS: DR. JILLIAN WISE'S CANCER RESEARCH AT SALVE

For Dr. Jillian Wise, assistant professor in the Department of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, the path to cancer research and computational biology was rooted deeply in personal experience. As a child, she witnessed first-hand the profound effects of cancer through the loss of a beloved neighbor and the illness of a close childhood friend. These early moments planted a powerful desire to help others – one that would carry her through both an extraordinary academic and personal journey.

Originally aiming to become an oncologist, Wise pursued genetics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where she also fell in love with global exploration through research projects abroad in London and Namibia. While interning in oncology settings, she realized her passion didn't lay at the patient's bedside, but rather behind the scenes – contributing to the creation of new cures through research. This revelation led her to MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, where she earned her Ph.D.

Her work then took her to Norway, where she contributed to groundbreaking lymphoma studies and taught herself the coding language "R" to better analyze massive genomic datasets. There, Wise set out to determine whether there are DNA changes that confer resistance to the standard care therapies in B-cell lymphomas in order to provide personalized medicine options for those with the worst prognoses. To deepen her computational expertise, Wise completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, developing cutting-edge skills to understand genetic mutations and therapy resistance.

When her son was diagnosed with a rare form of congenital muscular dystrophy, Wise's professional and personal worlds collided. Leaning on her scientific knowledge, she became scientific director of the

COL6 Fund, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing research for her son's condition. Today, a mouse model replicating her son's exact genetic mutation is being used to test potential therapies – a direct result of Wise's relentless advocacy and scientific drive.

At Salve, Wise has found the ideal environment to weave together her passions for research, teaching and compassionate care.

"Here, I get to teach genetics courses in cancer immunology and bioinformatics, which is a combination of my son and cancer," shared Wise. "This hope for making a larger impact on student education through my research and experience has made all the difference in my ability to host my program. Not all small institutes provide support for research, and I hope to see this develop even further at Salve."

Her current research on campus is focused on improving cancer patient care by developing computational tools that analyze cancer cells from blood samples, eliminating the need for invasive surgeries. Partnering with Mass General's pioneering microfluidics lab and utilizing a cutting-edge technique called single-cell RNA sequencing to understand chemotherapy resistance and cancer relapse, she and her undergraduate students are working to advance personalized medicine for pediatric brain cancers – a historically underserved area in clinical research.

> "This hope for making a larger impact on student education through my research and experience has made all the difference in my ability to host support for research, and I hope to see this develop even further at Salve."
>
> DR. JILLIAN WISE

"With research moving toward mass data accumulation, AI and machine learning, teaching these skills early is necessary with science moving forward and a key component of setting up these students to really change lives," Wise said.

Beyond the lab, Wise is energized by her students. "They come in with this unmatched enthusiasm for science. They're all super excited, and they all want to learn," she said. Her students are already making their mark, presenting research at conferences and collaborating with hospital researchers through Salve's supportive academic programs.

Wise feels strongly that the University's mercy mission, centered on compassion, justice and service, perfectly complements her work. "Salve's mission is about taking care of others, and that is what my lab is all about – alleviating that unnecessary burden of health care versus other unjust societal issues."

-Catherine Dolan '23

The 2025 SRyou Student Exposition, held April 2, featured research, performances and presentations by nearly 275 students across academic disciplines. The annual event is organized and implemented by a student committee, and showcases the wide variety of work that takes place in and out of the classrooms. Pictured here with their poster presentation on their work in the hydroponics lab are, from left, Maeve Newton '25, Grady Provost '25, Hanna Lloyd '25, Maggie Theofanides '26 and Avari Litka '25.

Creating a Place for Wonder

When Ben Hohman and his 4-year-old daughter travel over the Jamestown Bridge enroute to Salve Regina University, the assistant professor of religious and theological studies smiles as his little girl invariably says hello to the lighthouse. Through the car window, the splendor of the ocean, the boats and the lighthouse are exciting to her. It's a fitting nod to Hohman's work as he examines ecological and environmental theology.

"There's something religious and spiritual about the ocean," said Hohman, who was born and raised in Indiana and likes to say he grew up surrounded by "seas of corn, not saltwater." Yet Hohman, who joined the faculty in fall 2024, instantly felt at home in the Ocean State and knew that Salve was a natural fit – from the warm welcome by colleagues and students to the school's small, intimate setting.

"I grew up on a campus not that different from Salve," said Hohman. Both of his parents were professors of theology at Marian University and, along with his sister (who also pursued academia), the family enjoyed "rich conversations around the dinner table."

Despite the stereotypical angle that environmental spirituality often draws, Hohman has always approached the discipline from a different perspective. "My entry to the field was not granola and Birkenstocks, but theology," he noted.

"I take seriously the academic work of theology because its goal is to change the way we experience reality," said Hohman. "My interest in eco-theology is to get us to think about grace in relationship to the natural world...and create a place for wonder."

> "I take seriously the academic work of theology because its goal is to change the way we experience reality."
>
> BEN HOHMAN

In a field of larger-than-life questions, Hohman understands that big issues should be shared with students in a way that is specific and applicable to their lives and believes that the task of religion is a lot like that of autobiography.

"In both cases, we lack experiential access to the beginning and end of the story, but we can use the tools we're given to create meaning of the middle."

Hohman looks to engage students with academic concepts such as nature, grace and conversion—specifically how people's lives are transformed by grace. The topic holds special interest to Hohman, who is editing a book on Augustine's "Confessions" and exploring conversion not as "changing teams," but as falling in love with God.

He is also examining "ecological conversion" in Pope Francis's 2015 papal letter on the environment, namely the question of humans, animals and the rest of creation joined in Heavenly unity.

"Never before has a Pope talked so inclusively about Heavenly glory. I'm hoping to think rigorously about the implications of this development," said Hohman.

Underpinning all of Hohman's objectives is Salve's mercy mission, which he believes ties in perfectly with the concept of theology and the environment.

"The scientific method can adopt too narrow of a lens and miss the interconnection of things," he said. The idea of mercy, he points out, is refreshingly opposite and spiritually uplifting.

"It asks us to stay open...and approach each day in wonder."

-Karen Carlo Ruhren

VALUABLE INTERNSHIPS CREATE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR MORGAN BELLO'S CAREER GOALS

Global business and economics major Morgan Bello '25 lives by the motto "If I can dream it, I can be it, with a lot of hard work and goals." Bello's Salve experience embodies this statement. As a student-athlete for the Seahawks' softball team, Bello maintained a 3.96 grade point average while completing two impressive internships – first, as a legislative intern under Sheldon Whitehouse in Washington, D.C., during summer 2024, and more recently as a Virtual Student of Foreign Service (VSFS) intern for the United States Department of State and U.S. Embassy Consulates in Morocco.

"I try to live the best life I can, work hard, aim to be successful, and put it forward to better the world," said Bello.

Lorrie Burns, lecturer for the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics, met Bello when she was a first-year student in Burns' introductory management course and later taught her senior year professional internship class.

"It's been an amazing experience to watch Morgan grow during her time at Salve," said Burns, who describes Bello as a student who stands out with curiosity, ambition and an entrepreneurial spirit. "I've read her internship journals about researching Middle Eastern relations, the King of Morocco, and international investments. I do not doubt that Morgan will do great things in her future career."

"I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity with the United States Department of State Rabat Embassy in Morocco," said Bello, who credits her VSFS internship with establishing a strong foundation for her career aspirations. "It has been incredibly valuable."

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Morgan Bello '25

"Combining my studies of global economics with my internship at the Rabat Embassy has been so enriching," said Bello. "Learning about diplomatic partnerships between Morocco and countries like Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE has underscored the importance of diplomacy and economics.

From researching Morocco's investments in other countries to understanding the political workings of the monarchy, each project contributed to her growth as a student and future leader.

"Learning about the causes and effects of peace and war – especially as they relate to economics and cultural distinctions in the North African region – allowed me to apply my education in economics and global business while also pursuing my passion for politics, international studies and security," she shared. "This experience taught irreplaceable lessons about historical research for future decision making, soft diplomacy through commonalities between neighbors like Morocco and Mauritania, and the importance of maintaining strong allies in both economic and political spheres.

> "I try to live the best life I can, work hard, aim to be successful, and put it forward to better the world.
>
> MORGAN BELLO

"Looking ahead, as I pursue my master's degree in security studies with a concentration in Intelligence within the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, I am confident this internship will support my research on regional security and political relations in times of peace and conflict."

-Tara Watkins '00

RecSports has something for everyone

Salve's recreational program now offers 15 club sports - and counting.

Ranging from traditional athletics teams like rugby, soccer and volleyball, to trending sports such as pickleball and eSports, Salve's expanding recreation program now offers 15 club sports – with more on the way – for full-time undergraduate and fifth-year graduate students, including out-of-season varsity athletes.

Pam Heroux, director of recreation, is leading Salve's RecSports initiative, which is sparking enthusiasm across the campus community. As a long-time member of the admissions team prior to taking on her new role, she recognized that although many f ormer high school athletes choose not to play at the NCAA Division III college level, they do want to continue participating competitively in sports.

"I kept hearing that students wanted a sense of belonging and to be a part of something," said Heroux. "A highlight for me is seeing groups of students be active and bringing people together who would've never met without the program."

"The women's basketball club has allowed me to meet so many new people and be a part of something bigger," shared Kiley Abendroth '27, president of the women's basketball club. "Being involved has helped me grow both on and off the court, improving my leadership, teamwork and time management skills."

"Being a part of the golf club has been a great experience for me," said Ryan Martin '27, president of the golf club. "I've enjoyed getting to play and compete, but more importantly I've enjoyed the camaraderie that comes along with it."

In addition to club sports, intramurals offer league or tournament competition in a number of sports, all within an inclusive atmosphere. Salve has a number of student organizations centered around active lifestyles. From indoor rock climbing to yoga on the beach to hiking in the White Mountains, students can find plenty of ways to satisfy their spirit of adventure.

"It's something accessible to everyone," said Heroux. "Our mission is to be active, be healthy and belong."

-Morgan Rizzo '23

> "A highlight for me is seeing groups of students be active and bringing people together who would've never met without the program.
>
> PAM HEROUX, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

Seahawks' Spring Highlights

SOFTBALL

- Morgan Bello '25, Sam Franceschi '25, Alex Kelly '25 and Skylar Wicklund '26 were named to the 2024-25 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District® Softball Team.

BASEBALL

- The 2025 NEWMAC conference champions advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals after winning the Penn State Harrisburg Regional.
- Brayden Clark '24, '25 (M), Brandon Grover '24, '25 (M), Christian Homa '25, Andrew Wertz '25 and Kyle Carozza '26 earned spots on the 2024-25 CSC Academic All-District® Baseball Team.
- Eric Cirella '05, head baseball coach, was recognized by the American Baseball Coaches Association and ATEC as Regional Coach of the Year for the NCAA Division III Region 1.

MEN'S LACROSSE

- Advanced to the NEWMAC semifinals after beating Coast Guard 10-8 in the first round.
- Justin Haverly '25, Adam Laber '26 and Nate Strassberger '28 were each recognized as NEWMAC Faceoff Specialist of the Week (Haverly is a three-time recipient of the award).
- Daniel '26 and Jack Naglieri '25 were named Offensive Athlete of the Week and Defensive Athlete of the Week respectively.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

- The Seahawks advanced to the postseason and Adelaide Baird '28 earned a spot on the 2025 NEWMAC Second Team All-Conference and was also named Defensive Athlete of the Week.

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Thank you to the many donors who support our Seahawk teams! Visit **salve.edu/giving** to learn more about how you can enrich the student-athlete experience.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- The Seahawks broke multiple school records this season: Anna Weygang '27 set a school best time in the 5k at the Silfen Invitational with a time of 18:07.65; Kelsey Chiasson '26 threw 10.92m in the shot put for a school record and a fifth-place finish at the same event; and Olivia Tacconi '27 broke her own school record from last season at the NEWMAC Championships in the 100m with a 12.53 finish.

MEN'S TENNIS

- Alexander Colon '25 and Jacob Faulise '26 were named to the 2024-25 CSC Academic All-District® Men's Tennis Team.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

- Natalie Barros '25, Elena Murdock '25, Stephanie Davis '27 and Madigan Murphy '27 were named to the 2024-25 CSC Academic All-District® Women's Tennis Team.

EQUESTRIAN

- The equestrian team ended their season at Zone 1 Finals. Captain Tamsin Nicholson '27 qualified for zones and finished fourth overall in Zone 1 limit flat.

SAILING

- Seahawk sailors wrapped up their spring season at the Southern 7 Fleet Race, placing fourth of eight teams. The Seahawks completed an impressive year after qualifying for the New England Fleet Race Championship by finishing in second place overall at the New England Dinghy Tournament.

SEAHAWK AWARDS CEREMONY

- 60 Seahawk student-athletes were inducted into the 2025 National College Athlete Honor Society. This brings Salve to a total of over 800 student-athletes over the years. This year, the minimum GPA increased to 3.5 from previous years of 3.4.

-Emily Winslow

For the latest news and scores, visit salveathletics.com.

REUNION WEEKEND 2025

Every June, I come home to Salve for Reunion. As an alum, I've been coming since I graduated. I love getting to know alumni of all ages and it's fun to see familiar faces I've met in years past.

When I talk to alumni across the spectrum, I've learned our experiences are never that different—I always find we have a great education, heartfelt memories and strong Salve friendships in common. The welcome reception perfectly encapsulates the impact of those memories and friendships. Seeing everyone come together for the first time, often after years apart, never fails to move me.

June weather likes to surprise you and the rain during Saturday's block party was no exception. But Seahawks know how to manage a storm! We simply moved the party inside and continued to enjoy the music, the conversations and food and drinks from Island Time Catering (an alumni business!), Newport Creamery and others.

The all-class dinner and dance party are yearly favorites. This year, I bonded with a fellow soccer alum I met at dinner before moving inside for dancing. Everyone had such a great time together on the dance floor, which was packed, remembering their favorite songs while still vibing to the music from other eras.

If you haven't attended Reunion Weekend in a while, or ever, I highly recommend it. You might be surprised by the friends you make and how much fun it is to come back. I know I've never been disappointed.

-Anna Downes '22, '24 (M)

For Anna's complete recap, and our "official" photo album for the day, **visit salve.edu/alumni.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Reunion Weekend 2026

JUNE 5-7

SALVE

TIESHA NIEVES SINOUTHASY '09 IS THE FOUNDER OF PEACE OF MIND NANNIES.

When Tiesha Nieves Sinouthasy '09 arrived at Salve Regina University in 2005, she knew right away that her calling was social work. "I feel passionately about the fact that so many have paved the way for me, and it's really my duty to help pave the way for others," said Sinouthasy, who was drawn to Salve's mercy mission and its goal of giving back to the community. Despite facing challenges relating to academic obstacles and her identity as a BIPOC woman on a predominantly white campus, Sinouthasy credits her college experience with helping her develop a passion for civic engagement and awareness of the importance of advocacy.

Upon graduating, Sinouthasy decided to join AmeriCorps, where she spent time assisting with a nonprofit organization based in Providence, Rhode Island. After this service work, she took on roles as a mentoring coordinator at the YMCA and an outreach and recruitment coordinator at Year Up, both organizations that focused on developing youth leadership.

Sinouthasy then spent two years as the community partnerships manager at the Swearer Center at Brown University. Throughout these experiences, she remained involved in various babysitting and nannying roles, always maintaining that working with kids fuels her and brings her joy. When she began to hear moms talking about their struggles finding adequate childcare, she endeavored to address this issue using her own expertise.

> "I feel passionately about the fact that so many have paved the way for me, and it's really my duty to help pave the way for others.

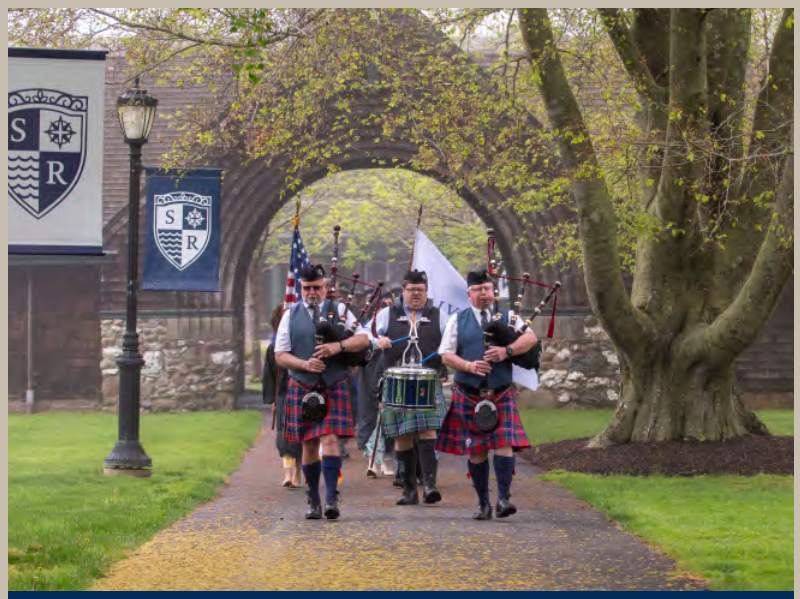
In January of 2020, Sinouthasy founded Peace of Mind Nannies, a babysitting and nanny placement agency that provides care for children and young adults, including those on the autism spectrum or with other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Currently, Peace of Mind Nannies is the only agency in R.I. and Massachusetts that specializes in the care of those with special needs. "Our goal is to help families find high quality, professional, reliable caregivers," said Sinouthasy, who has now connected over 140 families to services through her company. When considering the obstacles impacting the childcare industry, she credits a lack of oversight with creating challenges for nannies themselves, in addition to families searching for reliable care. To ensure that guidelines regarding wages and pay are successful in treating domestic workers fairly, Sinouthasy hopes to see legislation like the Massachusetts Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights expanded into other states, especially Rhode Island.

Sinouthasy's deep care for the nannies and babysitters on her team is evident in her advocacy for them and other workers in the industry to be offered fair working conditions. "I take my role as the founder of Peace of Mind Nannies as one that is a mentorship to the nannies to ensure that they grow into their best professional selves, but also personally, that they feel fulfilled and valued in their line of work," said Sinouthasy, whose mentorship travels far beyond her business. The recipient of Salve's 2024 Alumni Achievement Award, Sinouthasy also served on the Center for Women and Enterprise Rhode Island Advisory Board and currently serves on the East Providence Affirmative Action Committee, both roles where her guidance and advocacy have shone through.

As Sinouthasy looks towards the future, there is one factor that she is not afraid to face: failure. "I see failure as an opportunity to grow, and I love when I am faced with a challenge that I have never dealt with before," she said. Embracing this mission of personal growth, Sinouthasy hopes to obtain a master's degree by the time she is 40 and would like to focus her studies on a social work and business administration dual program. Additionally, she aims for Peace of Mind Nannies to become a vendor through health insurance companies so she can support more families in the New England area.

In addition to her mentorship and advocacy, Sinouthasy enjoys spending time connecting with her community and derives her joy and laughter from her wife, chosen family and the kids that she continues to nanny. As she works to further the expansion of reliable childcare and create a more inclusive and just world, her spirit and optimism will continue to guide the way.

-Leah Spengler '26



A FAMILY TRADITION

A special note of congratulations to the Class of 2025 graduates who are children of alumni:

CHRISTINE M. BOTTARI
Guy C. Bottari '87

SARAH W. HAUPTMAN
Deborah Hauptman '85

ANABELLA R. LAVIANO
Laura J. Laviano '00

GRACE E. MAGNO
Steven R. Magno '97

SHAE P. MINICUCCI
Jennifer C. Minicucci '99 and
Nicholas Minicucci '97

CASEY E. MOTTA
Ann M. Motta '93 and
James S. Motta '93

ALEXANDRA-NEEVE NEWSOME
Brooke A. Newsome 04, M'18

HARRISON R. OSGOOD
Patrick Osgood '98

BENJAMIN WEBER
Kristen M. Weber

Her Feet Never Touch the Ground

Cheryl Mrozowski '70 retires from illustrious career in dance and education.

Although Cheryl Mrozowski '70 recently bid farewell to a 55-year international teaching and dancing career, "retirement" is not in her vocabulary. Mrozowski currently chairs Salve Regina University's Board of Trustees, which she has served since 2007, and her calendar of responsibilities is full.

"My feet never touch the ground," she said with a grin.

Mrozowski concluded her tenure as professor of dance at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where she also chaired the theater and dance studies department and served as artistic director of the Wheaton College Dance Company.

To celebrate Mrozowski, three decades of devoted dance alumni orchestrated a surprise performance on the Wheaton College stage in May. "It was wonderful," said Mrozowski. The tribute was the perfect way to say thank you to a beloved teacher, mentor and colleague.

By any measure, Mrozowski loves her craft. After dancing most of her childhood at the State Ballet of Rhode Island, she majored in history and secondary education at Salve and found a teaching position at a high school in Ohio.

"But my real job was coordinating the drill team," she recalled with a laugh. Her love of dance was undeniable, and she multitasked – dancing with the Dayton Ballet when she wasn't teaching during the school day.

Marrying a military officer led Mrozowski to Cambridge, England, where she earned her dance teaching credentials from the esteemed Society of Russian Style Ballet Schools. "I was dancing six to eight hours a

day, six days a week, about 365 days a year... and I loved it," she said.

After returning to the United States, she earned her master's degree in dance from American University, expanded her jazz training and continued teaching and performing at a pace that some might consider chaotic.

"I wouldn't recommend it," she added, "but I kept all the balls in the air."

In 1987, Mrozowski was put in touch with a Boston Ballet soloist. The impromptu luncheon led to a lifelong friendship and an integral move in her career.

"I was now in my 40s and was asked to dance professionally again with the Commonwealth Ballet Company in Massachusetts. I said yes!" she recalled. About the same time, the faculty position at Wheaton College opened up.

"I remember my first day as director of the [student] dance company," said Mrozowski. "The girls told me they rehearsed only once a week. That will change, I told them."

Mrozowski is proud to have "elevated the level of Wheaton dance." During her tenure, she broadened the department's scope to include a major and minor, with classical ballet, jazz and theater dance and recruited some of the best choreographers from many companies, including Dance Theater of Harlem and the Boston Conservatory. The students thrived.

Her commitment to her art is something that Mrozowski takes seriously. "Anything you need to learn in life, you'll learn through dance. It's physical, intellectual and spiritual."

Back to Newport now, Mrozowski has embraced her love for Salve and her duties as board chair. "Our president, Kelli Armstrong, and her cabinet have the best, engaged people," she said.

A former Miss Rhode Island, Mrozowski was instrumental in forging a partnership between Salve and the Miss Rhode Island Scholarship Program. She has worked closely with the alumni and advancement offices and is always willing to lend a hand at Salve where needed. Currently, she is excited about the Salve Compass program and looks forward to seeing the campus grow with the addition of the Papitto Pavilion as well as the new residence hall under construction.

"The education at Salve is transformative," said Mrozowski. "Students leave so well prepared because of our focus on experiential learning."

-Karen Carlo Ruhren

2025 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

ALEXA L. BRACCO ’15

Nominated by
Dana R. Zucker ’11, ’17 (M) and
Julie Mascellaro

Bracco is a positive force in her community, both personally and professionally. She has excelled in her work as a registered nurse and was on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using her own experience with disabilities to help others work through their own challenges, she not only teaches the skills required to play field hockey but also fosters a sense of teamwork and self-pride in all of her athletes.

Exceptional Volunteer Award

HEATHER BYRNE CLUNE ’00

Nominated by
Jessica Mink ’00 and Andrea Pasternak ’00

Described by her friends as an inspirational, motivated and exceptional individual, Clune is known for her commitment to service both for her alma mater and in her local community. Whether delivering meals for Kitchens of Hope, working with teens at her parish or volunteering for Rhode Island 4-H, Clune’s dedication to serving her communities is a beautiful example of Salve’s mercy mission in action.

Alumni Achievement Award

CHRISTINE IMBRIGLIO ’90

Nominated by
Thomas C. Hannon ’90, ’91 (M)

As interagency liaison at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, Imbriglio is a leader in her field known for her advocacy and collaboration. In addition, she has been involved in West Bay Community Action and served on the board of directors for Rhode Island’s Coalition Against Domestic Violence, demonstrating her commitment to giving back to her community.

Mission Award

CAROL JUSSAUME, RSM ’71

Nominated by Jeremy Joseph Dias ’14

As a Sister of Mercy, Jussaume’s commitment to the Critical Concerns has echoed through her work as an educator, advocate and mentor. English Department Chair for St. Mary Academy – Bay View, she embodies the principles of Catherine McAuley in a career marked by compassion, justice and the importance of nurturing future generations of women to become agents of positive change.

Distinguished Alumni Award

ERIC S. RODKO ’90

Nominated by Maureen Whelan ’90

At every turn, Rodko is committed to service, whether it’s hosting fundraisers to support veterans, providing elder care services or creatively sharing his faith through his published books for children. As administrative manager for the North Central Area Agency on Aging, he continually demonstrates that faith and community are the cornerstones of life.

Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award

LUCY ROSE ’22 (M)

Nominated by Jennifer M. Gentile ’21

Chief of talent and learning and development for Children’s Friend, Rose embodies the definition of servant leadership and strives to make the world a better place through leading by example and spreading kindness wherever she goes. A role model to her holistic leadership classmates, Rose is a lifelong learner who inspires others to keep growing personally and professionally.

Class of 1973 roommates and friends gather together at the entrance of the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, Ireland.
Front row (l-r): **Margie Bourke Fallow, Diane Bonnefant Terrace, Angela Kasper, Susan Trent.**
Back row (l-r): **Marcie Hudson Davidson , Gerry McLaughlin Osborne, Martha Costello McGahan**

1980

Colette Recupero '80 received the Naval Chaplaincy School Domain Civilian of the Quarter Award for her work as a learning standards officer in the Center for Service Support.

1986

Tricia Farley-Bouvier '86 received an honorary doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts at the school's Commencement ceremony in May. She has served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 2011 and represents the city of Pittsfield.

1991

Donna Frye '91 has fallen in love with sourdough and baking after retiring from 32 years in the aerospace industry in 2023. She started culinary school and opened her home micro-bakery, Simply Sourdough 06029, in June.

1992

Crista Durand '92 accepted the position of president and CEO at the Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) in New Britain, Connecticut. HFSC is the fourth largest long-term acute care hospital in the country, serving both pediatrics and adults.

1997

Kevin Farrell '97 spent seven weeks visiting Jerusalem and one week in Tel Aviv during a trip to Israel in October and November 2024.

2002

Alfred Bucco '02, '11 (M) is currently serving as the deputy chief of police in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Last year, he was selected to attend the prestigious FBI National Academy and is currently serving as an adjunct professor in Salve's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology graduate program.

2004

Michael Walsh '04 was featured in an article published by The Muse in March 2025 detailing his work as a leader in sales. Currently, Walsh is the global head of mid-market sales at Atlassian and oversees a team of 150 sellers and leaders serving over 10,000 customers.

2005

Elizabeth Bartek '05 is the marketing and communications manager at The Book Industry Study Group, a membership organization made up of publishers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, libraries, retailers and industry partners. Bartek spent more than a decade working hands-on in bookselling and retail operations and is excited to expand her knowledge of the publishing industry.

Christopher Lyddy '05 is returning to the Newtown, Connecticut state legislature as a senior staff member to the senate Democrats. Previously, Lyddy served two terms as a Newtown state representative from 2009 to 2013.

2006

Mary Cate Cornish '06 was named 2025 Teacher of the Year for the Winchester, Virginia, public school system. She spent the past 16 years teaching, with the last nine of those years at Daniel Morgan Middle School as an English for speakers of other languages teacher.

Patti Tutalo '06 (M) founded Patti Tutalo Consulting, where she guides efforts in sexual assault and harassment (SASH) prevention, cultural transformation and inclusion strategies for organizations that are embedding these principles into their core operations. She offers workshops to provide practical tools to build inclusivity.

2007

Amy Long '07 was promoted to vice president of enterprise risk management at Farmers Mutual Insurance Company in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sarah Nekrasz '07 was appointed as Chief Nursing Officer at Newport Hospital. She had been serving as the interim CEO since September 2024 and has more than 26 years of experience at the hospital.

2009

James Nightingale-Griffen '09 celebrated his 10-year anniversary at the Buffalo Police Department, where he currently serves as a detective sergeant, in January. He was on patrol until March 2021 and was then promoted to detective.

2010

Sara Jane Pruell '10 graduated in May with a law degree from the Roger Williams University School of Law.

2014

Jennifer Stringfellow '14 was recognized by the Attleboro Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution as an Outstanding Teacher of American History for the 2024-2025 school year. Stringfellow has taught courses in United States history, world history, world geography and east Asian studies during her 11 years at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

2015

Fr. Paul Halladay '15 (M) was named the vocation director for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Previously, Halladay was a priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama and is a retired, decorated 20-year veteran U.S. Army chaplain.

Amanda Iacampo Khalil '15, '21 (MFA) married Muhammad Khalil in October 2024, in Cranston, Rhode Island. They tied the knot at Alpine Country Club, where Amanda's mother and late father were married.

Send us your news and updates!
alumni@salve.edu

2016

Michael Falcone '16, '17 (M) announced that after spending a decade working with the Newport Gulls as an intern and director, he is starting his own company, Falcon Sports and Entertainment, which offers a comprehensive suite of services to elevate the brand of companies and individuals alike, while presenting unique events and experiences.

2017

James Dawson '17 has joined the Burlington, Massachusetts, Police Department. Prior to this role, he served as an infantry platoon leader in the New Jersey National Guard and spent three years as a New Jersey state trooper.

Alyssa Root '17, '19 (M) and her husband **Alex Root '14, '15 (M)** welcomed a new baby in December 2024.

2018

Brooksie C. Fontaine '18 has had her fiction and non-fiction stories published by Bending Genres, Defenestration, Eunoia Review, Aureation Zine, Report from Newport, Boston Accent Lit, Anti-Heroin Chic, the Cryptids Emerging and Things Improbable anthologies and more. In 2022 she obtained an MFA in Illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

2019

Mikayla Crieger '19 obtained a master's degree in art therapy from Lesley University in 2021 and now works as an embedded clinician at Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc. In Bristol, Rhode Island.

2020

Shealyn FitzPatrick '20 was selected as a 2024-2025 Advanced Practice Provider Orthopedic Fellow for Orlando Health in Florida upon graduating with her MSN from Regis College. In this role, she will be rotating through orthopedic specialties and learning under highly renowned surgeons in the area.

2021

Evelyn Alejandro '21 was named executive director of the Professional Young Visionaries of Tomorrow group by the Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. In this role, she will lead the organization's membership growth, event programming and strategic initiatives to foster career development for young professionals.

Joelle LaChance '21 is using her commitment to healthcare administration, patient advocacy and business development in her role as a pharmacy technician at CVS Pharmacy.

Stephen Natola '21 obtained a doctorate in physical therapy from Boston University in May 2024.

2022

Cameron Boudreau '22 worked as a customer relationship advocate at Fidelity Investments after graduating, and recently started his own business, Husky Concrete Resurfacing LLC based in Salem, New Hampshire.

Richard Stanley '22 was recently featured in a Newport This Week article where he spoke about his commitment to keeping enthusiasm for jazz music alive in Newport. As a music education teacher at Rogers High School, Stanley brings this music both to students in the classroom, and to lucky listeners at Sardella's Restaurant where he performs bi-weekly with his jazz quartet.

2025

Nick Mendillo '25 (MFA) will begin the MFA program in writing for film and television at Emerson College in fall 2025. A graduate of The Newport MFA in Creative Writing at Salve and a recipient of the Ann Hood Scholarship, he also earned a master's degree in English from the University of Rhode Island.

IN MEMORIAM

The Salve Regina community mourns the loss of alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have recently passed away.*

Skya Brown Abbate ’73
Anthony Agostinelli, Circle of Scholars
Larry Bauer ’84 (M)
Cynthia Bearse ’01 (M)
Jane Walsh Bethoney ’65
Mary Bisson ’64
Joan Cullinan Casartello ’54
Sarah Ann Conaty ’52
Maureen Dieckhaus ’89
Jane Brown Duffy ’73
Dolores Albanese Dupre ’53
Wright Ellis ’85 (M)
Lori Sears Estrella ’95 (M)
Theresia Schlomberg Ferris ’73, ’76 (M)
Eileen Flaherty ’58
Donna Desimone Goldstein ’84
Gregory Hartnett ’11 (M)
Denise Abondolo Hennessy ’73
Judith Gray Holcomb ’68
Henry Jackson ’84
Lucinda Nolin Johnson ’80
Theodore Kacharo ’74
Stanley Koziol ’74
Josephine Lafleur ’88
Patricia Gavic Leonard ’69
Margaret Magin ’73
Kathleen McArdle ’70
Catherine McGill ’88
Mary McKivergan ’62
James McSparren, former staff
Mary Folks Mullaney ’62
Sheila Foley Perry ’62
Beryl Slocum Powell ’07 (Ph.D.)
Rosemary Prisco ’65
Lillian Rivet ’78
Patrick Sainsurin ’13 (M)
Dr. Caroline Salvatore, former faculty
Elaine Segerson Schwartz ’60
Patricia Dunigan Silberblatt ’60
Sharon Warner Simms ’68
Richard Steiner ’77
Victor Tavares ’00
Richard Wallace ’04

Editor's note: The above list was compiled on May 22, 2025.

THE WAVE

Interested in reading about news and events from our coastal campus?

Sign up today to receive Salve's e-newsletter.

Christmas at Ochre Court

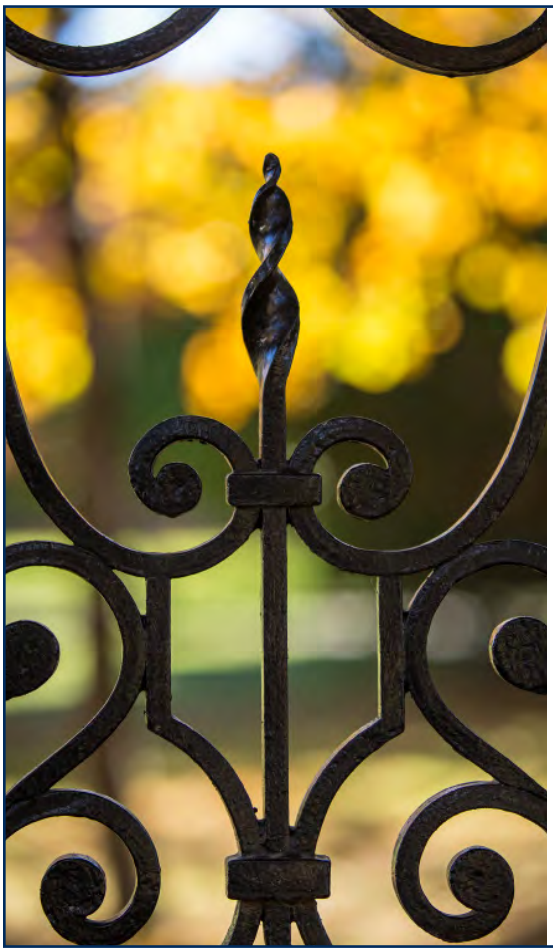
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Caroling • Santa • Crafting
Sweet Treats • Cup of Holiday Cheer

Kick off your holiday season by joining us for an afternoon of fun and festivities.

A digital photo in front of a grand holiday backdrop is included in the price of admission.

Contact **alumni@salve.edu** or **401.341.2346** for more information.



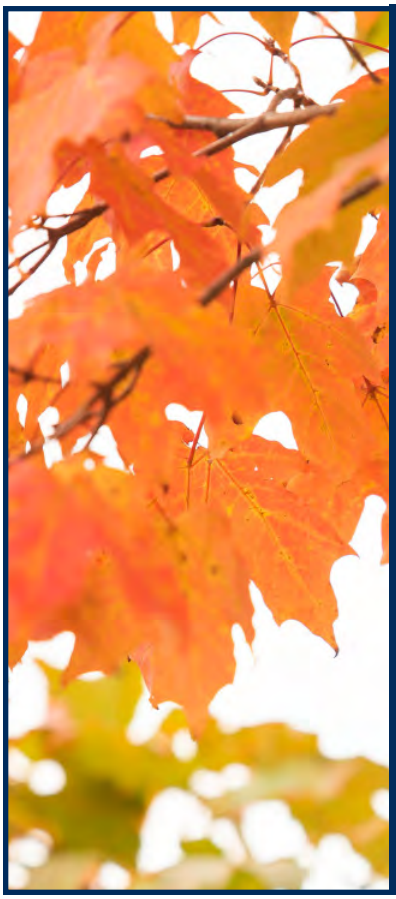
Salve LEGACY Society

A planned gift to Salve is more than a donation. It is an expression of your desire to make a difference—at Salve, and in the world—while leaving a lasting legacy.

Contact **SANDRA ANTHOINE** at ***sandra.anthoine@salve.edu*** or ***401.341.2101*** and learn how you can impact future generations while also achieving your philanthropic goals through planned giving.

salve.giftplans.org

SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY
100 Ochre Point Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island 02840-4192



Fall Festival and Homecoming Weekend

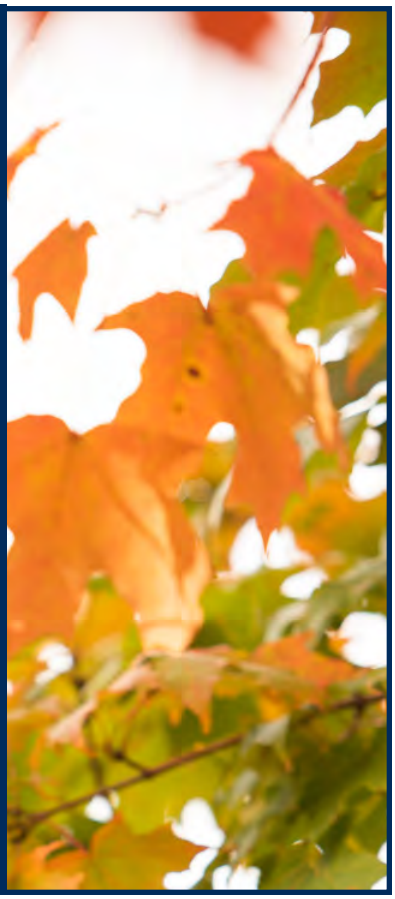
OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

Annual Hunger Concert

•

Connect with friends old and new

•

Cheer for the Seahawks as they compete in conference matchups

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for more information.