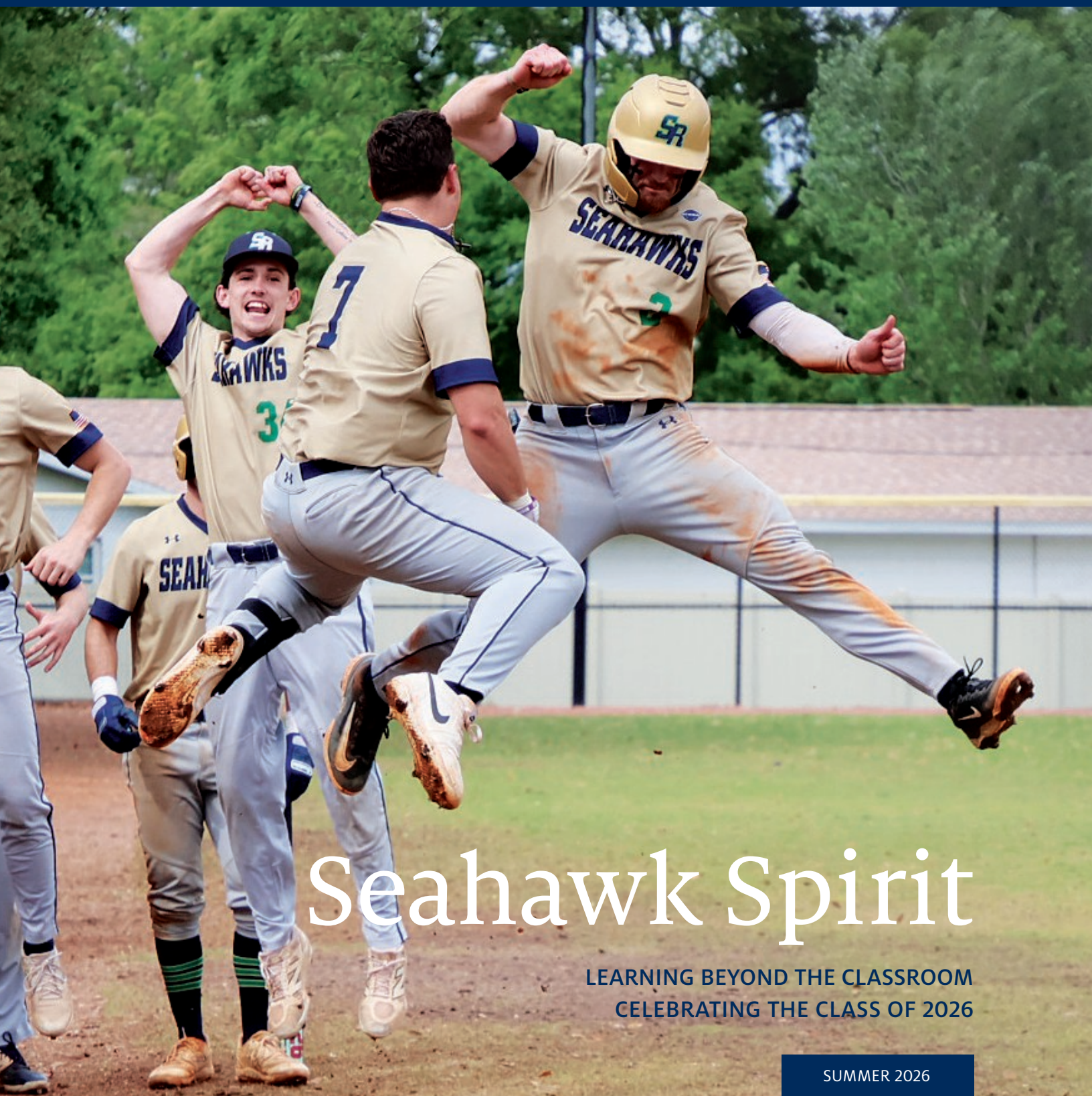


SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY



REPORT *from* NEWPORT



Seahawk Spirit

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

SUMMER 2026



A background photograph showing a group of young people, likely students, cheering and smiling. One person in the center is pointing upwards. They are outdoors, and the scene is bright and lively.

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SALVE STUDENTS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Integrating experiential learning into every student's journey

By Julie Miller

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The Class of 2026 celebrates its accomplishments

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A look at the community behind Seahawk athletics

by Catherine Dolan '23

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About the cover: Seahawk spirit is in full swing on the baseball field as Matthew Nardone '29 (#34), Brady Smolinski '25, '26 (MBA) and Shane Williams '26 (#2) celebrate a home run by Williams at a game in Florida. Photo by Michelle Donovan.

REPORT FROM NEWPORT

*The Magazine of
Salve Regina University*

SUMMER 2026

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Dear Salve Community:

From the Class of 2026 Commencement to the baseball team's win at the NCAA Division III regional tournament, Seahawk spirit is everywhere. I see it in our students as they explore, compete, research, volunteer and celebrate; in our faculty and staff who work year-round to ensure that the Salve experience is exceptional in every way; and in our alumni who continue to carry the mercy tradition forward, bringing their best to all they do.

Seahawk spirit is demonstrated by determination, empathy, curiosity and conviction that inspires a connection with the communities in which members of our Salve family learn, live and work. This issue showcases that spirit in feature stories highlighting our athletics community and the real-world experience that students gain through faculty collaboration, along with Salve alumni who continue to engage with their alma mater in a variety of ways.

It is also a spirit that has driven the remarkable success of ***Our Mission. Our Moment. – The Campaign for Salve Regina University.*** We continue to accomplish amazing things thanks to the generosity of those who believe in Salve's enduring mission. Here in the campaign's final stretch, I invite alumni, families and friends to take this moment to become a part of an important milestone in University history by contributing to one of our campaign priority efforts: the **Athletics Excellence Fund, Experiential Learning Fund and Mercy Response Fund.** Each provides critical support that enables our students to fully experience the impact of a Salve education. And each gift, no matter the amount, makes that impact possible.



President Kelli J. Armstrong and Kyle Carozza '26

It is a privilege to be a part of this community and to witness the growth of our students as they bring their best to all they do. And I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors who believe in the power of our Salve experience.

With gratitude,

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

For more information on ***Our Mission. Our Moment.*** and its priorities, please contact MaeLynn Patten at mae.patten@salve.edu or 401-341-2462.

“

My Salve experience would not have been the same without the generosity of our donors. College is not only about academics; it's the experiences and relationships that truly define your four years. For me, that journey has been enriched by the incredible clubs, organizations and student activities that bring our campus to life.

CAROLINE '26

”



OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.

The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

“ Your generosity has done wonders for my life and I’m excited for what is to come...My time at Salve has already been such a gift and it is a result of your thoughtfulness.

KEVIN '26



Your support of faculty-student research advances important issues and develops pivotal learning experiences for undergraduate students.

DR. STEPHANIE JONES

Assistant Professor, Psychology

Everything that we do on campus and for the broader Newport community exists because of the support we receive from our great donors.

DR. JAMES LUDES

Executive Director of the Pell Center

Thanks to the generosity of donors, we have been able to increase the number of scholarships for prospective students, allowing them to choose Salve and take full advantage of our amazing mission.

JAMES FOWLER JR.

Vice President for Enrollment Management

The impact of donor support for our Seahawks cannot be overstated. It affords our athletes the opportunity to face the highest level of competition by funding out-of-region travel, advanced sports-specific training equipment and makes facilities upgrades possible. Simply put, donor support is essential to the student-athlete experience.

CORI HUGHES

Head Coach, Women's Basketball



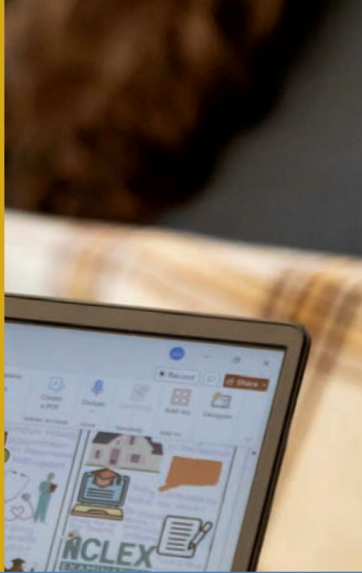
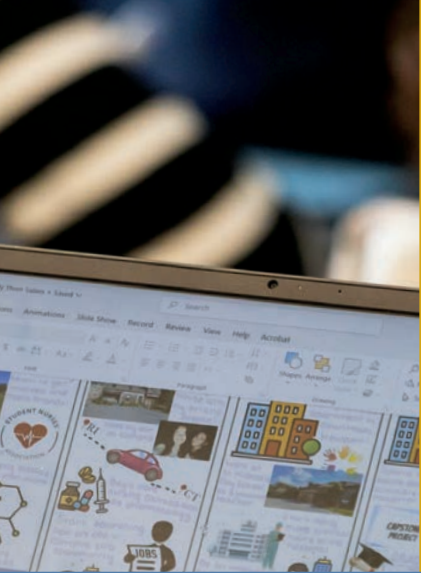
Due to the generosity of donors, we are able to send students to national conferences where they present their independent research to audiences of professionals from across the world.

DR. HEATHER ROCKWELL

Assistant Professor

Cultural and Historic Preservation

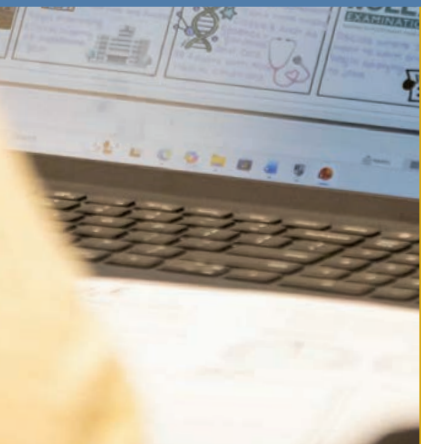




Salve students hit the ground running

From internships to fieldwork, conferences, study abroad and exploration, Salve integrates experiential learning into every student's journey.

BY JULIE MILLER





OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.

The Campaign for
Salve Regina University



Hands-on learning HAS BEEN A HALLMARK AT SALVE SINCE THE FOUNDING SISTERS OF MERCY FIRST OPENED THE GATES OF OCHRE COURT WITH *an enduring mission* IN MIND.

As higher education evolves, that focus is more important than ever. Through its annual survey, the National Association of Colleges and Employers consistently finds that students engaged in experiential education benefit in many ways – garnering more job offers and higher starting salaries, along with greater career progression and job satisfaction.

The Salve Compass program is where our strong academic foundation, experiential learning and intellectual exploration come together to build the skills students need to turn their passion into careers and make a difference in the world. Many universities offer internships, research or other opportunities to those who actively seek them out. With the support of generous grants, philanthropists and sponsors, including the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation, Gigi and Carl Allen, and the Ryan Family, Salve is able to integrate those opportunities into the experience for every student.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO HISTORY

In 2025, Sydney Dufresne '26, an American history and cultural and historic preservation double major with a minor in sociology and anthropology, enrolled in the week-long Compass Summer program "Archaeology, Preservation and Geophysics." There, she gained experience using ground penetrating radar (GPR), electrical resistivity, magnetometry, global positioning systems and other advanced archaeological techniques at sites in Jamestown and Newport.

That experience inspired her to develop a thesis project that combined her areas of study; to identify subsurface features that inform understandings of conflict, occupation and preservation in Revolutionary War-era New England.

"I collected research in the field, then went out to the different sites and set up grids, conducted GPR, magnetometry and resistivity on all the grids, and made sure we documented it properly," Dufresne explained. "Next was completing all the

maps and making sure they were in the right location. After that, it was defining the research question and situating Rhode Island within the broader historiography of the American Revolution."

The Noreen Stonor Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation Program is funded in part through a generous endowment by the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust and much of its cutting-edge technology and equipment was purchased through a grant from the Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation.

Dufresne has presented her research at the New Hampshire Archaeology Society's and the Eastern States Archaeological Society's annual meetings, at the SRYOU Student Exposition and at the Society for American Archaeology's national conference in San Francisco. At graduation, Dufresne had four job offers and accepted a position as a region field archaeologist at The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., a leading New England cultural resource management firm.

PLANNING AND EXECUTING A PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE

When you're an undergraduate student, attending a professional conference is a great opportunity. Planning and building one is on another level. Dylan Larsen '26, a business administration major, and Faith Ellin '27, a communications major – both with minors in hospitality and tourism management, seized that opportunity when they took over the reins for the second annual We Mean Business Day (WMBD) expo.

The full-day business conference, held in March, is 100% student-organized, under the guidance of Dr. Melissa Varao, associate professor of business and economics. For nearly a year, Larsen and Ellin worked on planning the event, earning course credits for their specific roles in the process. In spring 2026, four students from MGT050: Operations Practicum



We Mean Business Day event team, from left: Claudia Jankovich '27, Kamryn Lynch '28, Dr. Melissa Varao, Dylan Larsen '26, Faith Ellin '27, Bailey Higgins '27 and Da'kodah Girardin '27

joined Larsen and Ellin to execute on their plans around event design, food and beverage coordination, marketing, public relations and overall event production.

While conference content is tailored to business and economics majors, it is open to all Salve students. The event, funded by corporate sponsorships secured by Larsen and Ellin and the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation, brought industry professionals, workshops and hands-on experiences together in one place where students could network, ask questions and gain insight to guide their careers from those working in the field. Primary sponsors were BankNewport, Newport Restaurant Group and Discover Newport.

Larsen and Ellin put together WMBD 2026 from start to finish, welcoming more than 500 attendees.

“Through coordinating 40 external speakers, 25 corporate partners and 30 career fair exhibitors, the event grew into something that brought together students, professionals and alumni for a day of real conversations about careers, opportunities and life advice,” said Larsen.

“We learned a great deal by this event being so hands-on. It’s nice to not have a ‘hypothetical,’” he added. “We managed the budget, put together every detail and all the communication involved.”

“This event is all about the students,” Larsen emphasized. “It was amazing to see people my own age engaged in

something so deeply. Many of the speakers mentioned how respectful Salve students are and how good we are at networking. It was truly special.”

RESEARCHING MINDFULNESS IN A FACULTY-RUN PSYCHOLOGY LAB

Since arriving at Salve in 2022, Dr. Ilana Haliwa, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, has run an active research lab with five to 10 undergraduate students each semester. The lab focuses on understanding the relationship between mindfulness practices and psychophysiological health and is funded by a combination of external grants, internal funds and philanthropic support including the Claiborne Pell Fellowship and The Durkin Endowed Fund for the Pell Honors Program.

In Haliwa’s lab, students combine subjective and objective measures of wellbeing through self-report questionnaires, performance on behavioral tasks, and physiological measures such as pupil dilation and salivary cortisol.

Haliwa tailors the research questions and studies within the lab to students’ unique areas of interest and career goals. To date, 16 students (six now alums) have benefited from undertaking this hands-on research. Many have also been able to present their findings at regional and national conferences, with travel and registration expenses supported by donor philanthropy.



RESEARCH LAB ALUMS WHO HAVE GONE
ON TO ADVANCE THEIR STUDIES AFTER
GRADUATING:

Mairead Brickley '25, Johns Hopkins University
Master of Counseling

Bridget Esposito '24, Boston College
Master of Mental Health Counseling

Meghan Holland '24, Assumption College
Master of Clinical Psychology

Sophia Howard '24, Tufts University
Master of Child Study and Human Development

Danielle Sangermano '25, University of Buffalo
Neurosurgery research assistant

"I absolutely believe that my experience doing research with Dr. Haliwa and presenting those findings at the American Psychological Association (APA) Convention made me a more competitive grad school applicant," said Howard. "Not only was it a great addition to my resume, but it also allowed me to feel more confident in conversations with researchers and opened doors to more opportunities. I am starting an internship at Boston Children's Hospital soon as a clinical research assistant, and I would have not been given the chance to be a part of this research had I not worked with Dr. Haliwa and presented at APA. Getting the experience during my undergraduate studies of conducting research, analyzing data and presenting findings gave me a significant head start in the grad school research world."

Class of 2026 Senior Gift: A Legacy of Opportunity



Class of 2026 senior gift committee members: (back row, from left) Kiara Russin, Morgan Kirby, Leah Spengler, Taylor Pendleton, Emma Rothrock, Jennie Battcher, Juliana Webber; (front row, from left) Alix Rousseau, Caroline Stump, Taylor Barnaby, Libby Gilbert, Ellie Koenig

At Salve, philanthropy is part of the student experience—and the Class of 2026 has embraced that tradition. Each year, seniors unite to support a cause that reflects their shared values and time on campus. This year, led by the senior class gift committee, they chose to direct their efforts toward the Experiential Learning Fund.

The Experiential Learning Fund opens doors for students across all disciplines—supporting conference travel, immersive programs, internships and other real-world learning experiences beyond the classroom. It ensures that every student, regardless of financial means, can take advantage of these defining moments.

Throughout the year, the committee also convened members of the class on three occasions where they promoted the power of philanthropy, facilitated conversations about the lasting impact of the fund and reflected on how giving back strengthens the Salve community for generations to come.

The senior class gift is more than a contribution—it is a statement of gratitude to the place they've called home for the past four years, a desire to ensure that those who follow have the same opportunities they experienced, and a powerful example of student philanthropy in action.

The University is deeply grateful to the members of the senior class gift committee, whose leadership and passion inspired their peers to come together to raise more than \$2,500 in support of future Seahawks.

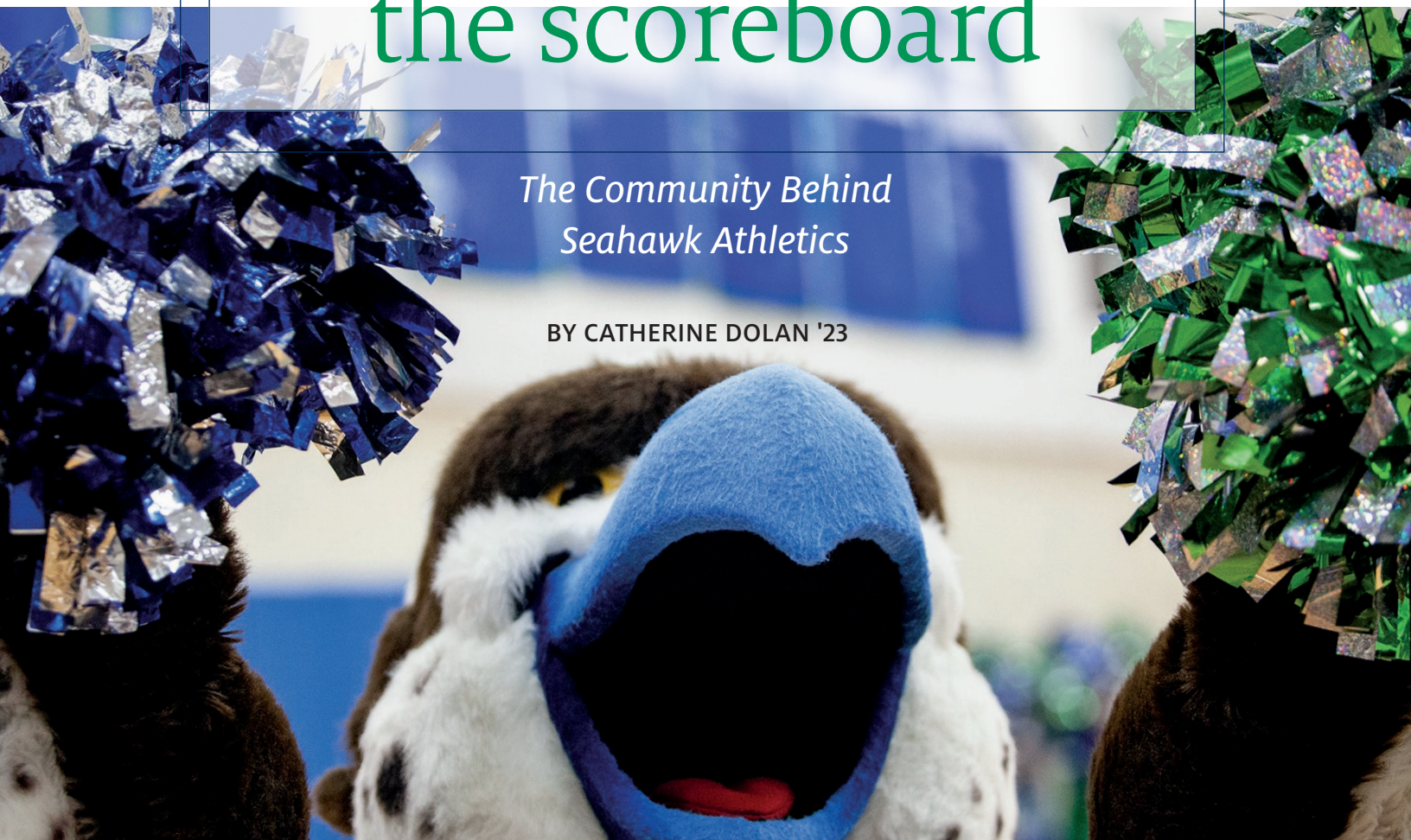
TO LEARN MORE
about supporting experiential learning at Salve,
visit salve.edu/give-salve or
contact maelynn.patten@salve.edu, 401-341-2143.

SEAHAWK SPIRIT

goes beyond
the scoreboard

*The Community Behind
Seahawk Athletics*

BY CATHERINE DOLAN '23



At Salve Regina University, varsity athletics depends on far more than the athletes competing on the field, court, ocean or ice. Coaches, athletic trainers, team managers, communications staff, photographers, student workers and teammates all help shape the culture behind Seahawk athletics – one built as much on relationships and accountability as wins and losses.



That shared responsibility is part of what makes the NCAA Division III experience at Salve so unique. While Salve is known for its close-knit campus culture, its athletics operation is expansive, encompassing more than 20 varsity teams, nearly 650 student-athletes and hundreds of contests each year across both on-campus and off-campus facilities.

“We get to enjoy and really get excited about the finished product, but there is so much more that goes into getting us to the opening whistle,” said Sean Sullivan, director of athletics. “We don’t function without the entire ecosystem of everyone who is a part of Salve athletics, living and breathing together and working together and supporting one another.”

For men’s basketball player Sean Seymour ’26, the meaning of his collegiate career became clearest after the team’s semifinal loss to Babson College this spring. Reflecting on his final game, Seymour said the lasting impact of Division III athletics had little to do with wins or statistics.

“DIII athletes don’t show up because they have to,” said Seymour. “We show up because we want to. Because we care. Because the locker room becomes a second home and your teammates become family. The friendships, the culture, the accountability, that’s the return on investment.”

“Division III gave me more than basketball. It gave me community,” he added.

Women’s ice hockey player Taylor Stirling ’26, this year’s recipient of the Dr. Christopher M. Kiernan Scholar-Athlete Award, said those relationships and support systems are what defined her experience at Salve.



Taylor Stirling '26



Sean Seymour '26

“A great team manager is somebody who is making all the sacrifices that a coach or player would be making ... and we have had a lot of great team managers.”

ERIC CIRELLA '05, HEAD COACH, BASEBALL



Eric Cirella '05

“My teammates have become some of my best friends,” Stirling said. “I’ve met so many incredible people who I consider to be lifelong friends. They’ve pushed me academically, physically, mentally and personally.”

Stirling said some of the moments that stand out most are often the smallest ones: “passing other student-athletes in the hallways of O’Hare, cheering each other on at our respective sports, or even a simple hug or check in after a long day.” Those daily interactions, she said, created “a home away from

home” and reinforced the close-knit community that defines Seahawk athletics.

“Being part of Salve athletics showed me the value of surrounding yourself with driven, supportive people,” she said.

Some of those support systems come from students working behind the scenes.

Business administration major and women’s lacrosse player Alix Madden ’27 has spent the last two years working in athletic communications, helping with statistics, broadcasting and game-day operations while also balancing her own season and coursework.

“Without the student employees, how you experience and engage with a game in real-time or afterwards wouldn’t be possible,” Madden said.

During lacrosse games, for example, students may simultaneously track goals, assists, turnovers, ground balls and draw controls while helping coordinate broadcasts and in-game operations.

Outside of her official role, Madden also photographs games and team media days, documenting moments many athletes later remember most.

“Photography tells a story,” said Madden. “When you see a picture of someone playing the sport they love and have dedicated so much time to, you get to understand a whole different side of that person, and maybe even their sport.”

For head baseball coach Eric Cirella ’05, who recently celebrated his 350th career win and was recognized by D3baseball.com as Coach of the Year for Region 1, those supporting roles are inseparable from the success of the program.

“It takes a village,” Cirella said. “We have student managers, student coaches, someone who handles social media, volunteer coaches – there are so many people that help out that honestly, if you weren’t involved in it, you would have no idea.”

Cirella pointed to student managers feeding baseballs into pitching machines for hours during practice, former players returning to help coach and staff members coordinating countless moving parts on game days.

“A great team manager is somebody who is making all the sacrifices that a coach or player would be making,” he said. “And we have had a lot of great team managers.”

Many students involved with Salve athletics also use those experiences as pathways into careers in sports. Cirella noted that former student managers and social media coordinators

have gone on to work for organizations including the MLB, the Worcester Red Sox and the Boston Red Sox.

On the men's lacrosse team, newly elected captains Griffin Caiozzo '27, Ryan Bothe '27 and William Frazier '27 said those relationships and shared responsibilities are what define the program's culture.

The captains described a team environment built through everyday interactions – studying together after practice, sharing meals in the dining hall, supporting other athletic programs and learning from upperclassmen and coaches.

"Everyone has the same value toward the team," said Frazier, describing the importance of every role within the program. "The smallest job and the biggest job – everything needs to be done to the best of everyone's ability for the team to be functioning."

That perspective extends to the team's managers and support staff as well.

"Our two team managers are both first-year students," Caiozzo shared. "Collectively as a team, everyone loves them. They come to all of our events and just having them around is two extra faces that we get to call brothers."

Across Salve athletics, that sense of connection is what many student-athletes remember most. Long after seasons end and final scores fade, it is the people behind the programs who leave the lasting impact.

“When you see a picture of someone playing the sport they love and have dedicated so much time to, you get to understand a whole different side of that person, and maybe even their sport.”

ALIX MADDEN '27

"It really humanizes the experience, the fact that so much of the experience is done by people that are not just your peers, but people you've grown up with here for the last few years," said Sullivan. "The person doing the announcing at your game might be someone that you know from the Compass program, might be someone that you lived in the same residence hall with two years prior. Everyone matters, and everyone makes a difference."

2026-2027 men's lacrosse team captains: Griffin Caiozzo '27, Ryan Bothe '27 and William Frazier '27



Seahawks Spring Highlights

EQUESTRIAN

Emma Hufford '27 and Tamsin Nicholson '27 qualified for the IHSA National Championship to compete among the top 16 riders in the country.

SAILING

The Seahawks team won the 2026 New England Dinghy Tournament April 4, securing a berth in the Open NEISA Fleet Race Championship's Coast Guard Alumni Bowl. This marked Salve's most regatta wins in a single season since spring 2022.

TENNIS

Congratulations to our men's and women's tennis team graduates: Cayla Dolan '26, Jacob Faulise '26, Sloane Nelson '26, Rei Otake '26 and Sadie Rieg '26.

SOFTBALL

Emily Cronin '27 was named to the NEWMAC Second Team All-Conference.

MEN'S LACROSSE

The team advanced to the first round of the NEWMAC tournament as the No. 4 seed. Captain Daniel Naglieri '26 scored his 100th career goal, his 100th career assist, and his 200th career point and was named to NEWMAC's First Team All-Conference while Heath Sumwalt '28 was named to the Second Team All-Conference.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's lacrosse advanced to the first round of the NEWMAC tournament as the No. 7 seed. Goalie Flynn Kayajan '28 had two NEWMAC Defensive Player of the Week honors and Adelaide Baird '28 was named to the NEWMAC First Team

All-Conference. Alix Madden '27 led the team in goals scored (48) and assists (15).

BASEBALL

Ranked fourth nationally, Seahawks baseball captured their third straight NCAA Division III Regional Championship with a 13-8 win over Ramapo College May 17. The program has been ranked top five in NCAA's Division III all season and was the number 1 ranked team in the NEWMAC heading into the conference championship, advancing to the NCAA tournament with an at-large bid. Shane Williams '26 was named NEWMAC Player of the Year, Nolan Romanowski '28 claimed NEWMAC Pitcher of the Year, Grady Schopps '28 was titled NEWMAC Defensive Player of the Year and the Seahawks coaches were named NEWMAC Coaching Staff of the Year. Williams and Romanowski also earned ABCA/Rawlings All-America honors.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

At the NEWMAC Championships, Kelsey Chiasson '26 set a NEWMAC record in the heptathlon shot put while Olivia Tacconi '27 set a new school record taking second place in the 100m.

-Emily Winslow





THANK YOU to the many donors who support our Seahawk teams! To learn more about how you can enrich the student-athlete experience, visit salve.edu/give-salve or contact maelynn.patten@salve.edu; 401-341-2143.



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

A Built-In Mercy Compass

BY JULIE MILLER



*The Class of 2026
celebrates their
Commencement.*

The sun was shining upon the Class of 2026 as Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, conferred 525 bachelor's degrees under the oceanside tent along Cliff Walk at the University's 76th Commencement May 17.

In his keynote address, award-winning broadcast journalist and author Ray Suarez urged graduates to "be creative, bold, risk-taking and serious" in this transformative time.

Suarez shared his hope for students as they work to repair the world they inherited while also building lives for themselves in it. "I hope your time here has helped you see your way to having a soul that's in good shape, even if you're still working out what it means to have one. Because when times are rough, having your soul in good working order is going to get you through times of no money, much better than money is going to get you through times of no soul."

“Light up every room you’re in,” Suarez told the graduates, “Don’t be bored and don’t be boring. Be salt... be bread... be light... be a gift to everyone you meet.”

Suarez, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, has spent decades as a broadcaster, hosting NPR’s “Talk of the Nation” and “On Shifting Ground,” “The PBS NewsHour,” Al Jazeera America’s “Inside Story” and PBS’ “Wisdom Keepers.” He also has authored several books including “We Are Home: Becoming American in the 21st Century” and “The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration.”

The University also awarded honorary degrees to James J. O’Connell, M.D, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and to Helen Ryan ’69, Ed.D., a lifelong educator and nurse who, along with her children, established an endowment to fund the Ryan family executive director for Salve Compass, which enables the ongoing transformational work of this signature program, and the newly established Ryan Family Scholarship.

Armstrong spoke about the quiet power of mercy leadership, reminding students, “You have been Salve-made. You have the mercy compass built into your DNA now. As you leave this beautiful campus, supported by your faculty, staff and student mentors, as you achieve many successes that you have toiled hard for along the way, remember that as a mercy graduate you are called to work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.”

She urged the Class of 2026 to “Go out and be the steady hand in the storm. Go in peace, to love and serve a world that is waiting for the person that you have become.”

In her remarks, Emalyn Osborne ’26, one of three valedictorians, along with Alexia McConahy ’26 and Olivia Augustine ’26, listed some of the many accomplishments



“ Be the person who shows up, who keeps trying, who leads with curiosity, with courage, and of course, with mercy.

EMALYN OSBORNE '26,
VALEDICTORIAN



Ray Suarez '26 (Hon.), keynote speaker





of the Class of 2026, noting that even more important than what they've done is who they've become in the process.

"The labels we carry may open doors for us—but it's our character that will define what we do once we walk through them," said Osborne. "Wherever life takes you—classrooms, hospitals, courtrooms, labs or places we can't even imagine yet—go forward not just as what you've accomplished, but as who you have become. Be the person who shows up, who keeps trying, who leads with curiosity, with courage, and of course, with mercy."



GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS LEADING WITH MERCY

During Salve's graduate Commencement on May 15, the University conferred 204 master's degrees and 30 doctoral degrees in a celebration of

academic achievement, but also of resilience and purpose-driven leadership.

Cara O'Donnell '26 (MS) captured that spirit in a keynote address that resonated deeply with her classmates – a cohort made up of working professionals, caregivers, researchers, health care leaders and lifelong learners whose journeys looked vastly different, yet shared a common thread of perseverance.

"When we picture a moment like this, we often imagine a clear path that led us here," O'Donnell told graduates gathered in the tent on the oceanside campus. "But for many of us, that is not what this journey looked like."

O'Donnell, who completed her master's degree in healthcare administration along with a graduate certificate in healthcare leadership, also works within the Mass General Brigham Health System. Drawing from both personal hardship and professional experience, she reflected on the quiet strength that defines so many graduate students' lives.

Her words acknowledged the realities many graduates faced while earning their degrees – balancing coursework with careers, parenting, healing and personal challenges that often remain unseen.

"Every person here has overcome something to sit here today," O'Donnell



said. "And that is what makes this moment so meaningful."

That message echoed the University's mercy mission and the values at the heart of graduate education at Salve – compassion, ethical leadership and service to others. O'Donnell emphasized that mercy is not only something extended outward, but also inward, particularly during moments of uncertainty and change.

"At Salve Regina University, we are not just taught how to succeed," she said. "We are taught how to live with mercy. And mercy is not only something we extend to others. It is something we must learn to give ourselves."

Throughout the ceremony, graduates were reminded that their education was never solely about earning a credential, but about becoming leaders capable of navigating complexity with empathy and humanity.



"As we leave here today," O'Donnell said in closing, "do not just carry forward your degree. Carry forward your story, your resilience and your compassion. Because the world does not need a perfect version of you. It needs a real one. A resilient one. A deeply human one."

-Catherine Dolan '23



OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.

The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

Salve Day of Giving

Because of you, Salve Day of Giving was an amazing success!

Thank You!



990
GIFTS

from students, families, faculty,
staff and friends



\$268,000+
RAISED

SALVE

MERCY IN
ACTION

\$115,000

TRUSTEE CHALLENGE

unlocked



\$8,600+

RAISED BY

17 student groups



This is what mercy in action looks like.



OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.

The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

Active Measures:

BREAKING DOWN DISINFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

At the Pell Center, Dr. Jim Ludes, vice president for strategic initiatives, and his longtime collaborator turned co-host Mark Jacobson, are helping audiences make sense of an increasingly complicated information landscape – one podcast episode at a time.

Through the “Active Measures” podcast and newsletter, Ludes and Jacobson bring together journalists, researchers and policy experts from around the world to break down the growing role of disinformation in politics, media and everyday life.

The project began years ago after the two met as young doctoral students at Georgetown University researching political warfare and propaganda during the Cold War. What started as ongoing conversations between colleagues eventually evolved into a newsletter and podcast focused on helping audiences better understand how those same tactics are now playing out online.

Even the podcast’s name reflects that history. “Active measures were a tool set the Soviets used to try to shape Western perceptions,” Ludes explained.

Today, the podcast explores modern versions of those same strategies. Recent episodes have examined Russian influence efforts during the Hungarian election, AI-generated political influencers designed to spread extremist messaging online, and the growing use of manipulated videos and memes in international conflicts. The show has also featured reporters from Reuters, the Associated Press and experts studying digital information campaigns across Europe and Asia.

Despite the complexity of the topics, Ludes said accessibility is one of the podcast’s biggest priorities.

“If you begin the conversation talking about hybrid warfare, for example, people who don’t know what that is, you’ve lost them,” he said. “We try not to be too jargony and really talk about what’s actually

happening, because that’s the level at which people can process it.”

That approachable style is intentional. Episodes often feel less like lectures and more like thoughtful conversations, helping listeners understand how disinformation impacts the stories, headlines and social media content they encounter every day.

“We’re not just consumers of news anymore,” he said. “We’re also purveyors of news. Before you like something, before you share something, apply some critical thinking skills to what you’re consuming before you perpetuate it.”

That focus on thoughtful engagement closely reflects the broader mission of the Pell Center and the University. “We’re all thinking about the power of information and story and narrative to shape the nation and shape the decisions that we make as people,” Ludes said. “We’re educating our students to be good critical thinkers and good people, and hopefully we’re modeling some of that here.”

-Catherine Dolan '23



Story ^{in the}
Public
Square

Big Issues | Great Guests

Story in the Public Square
is celebrating its 20th season

of bringing thoughtful conversations and impactful storytelling to national audiences. Hosted by Dr. Jim Ludes and G. Wayne Miller, the award-winning program continues to explore the stories and narratives shaping how people understand the world around them.



TONY CERINO '14, '15 (MBA) NAMED EXECUTIVE-IN-RESIDENCE FOR E3 PROGRAM

For many Salve Regina University students, the right conversation at the right time can change everything. For Tony Cerino '14, '15 (MBA), it certainly did.

Cerino, a financial advisor at UBS Financial Services and a two-time Salve graduate with a bachelor's degree in financial management and an MBA, is now helping create those moments for today's students as the executive-in-residence for the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics' newly reimagined E3 Residency Program.

The program, which refers to executives, entrepreneurs and experts, combines mentorship, networking and career development into one flexible initiative designed to connect students with business professionals, alumni and industry leaders. Through career advising, networking events, classroom engagement and real-world problem-solving opportunities, E3 aims to help students build confidence and meaningful professional relationships before graduation.

For Cerino, the role feels less like a title and more like a continuation of something he has been doing for years.

"This program puts a title to something that I do a lot of anyways," he said. "If I'm making an impact and people want me to continue making an impact and it's positive, then sign me up."

That mindset has defined Cerino's relationship with Salve since he was an undergraduate. As a student, Cerino interned with Stacey Carter, strategic partnership



officer for the Center for Business Outreach. Through that experience, he met business lecturer Lorrie Burns, who introduced him to the team he still works with today at UBS Financial Services.

"I wouldn't be where I am without the two very important connections I made during my senior year at Salve," Cerino said. "So being that I'm still in the area, it makes it really easy to want to give back and try and help the students."

That belief in connection-building sits at the heart of the E3 program. Cerino knows firsthand how much one connection can matter – and he also knows that students today are entering a competitive job market.

"Simply applying for jobs that you see on LinkedIn or Indeed is not enough," he said. "Building that connection and that network during your time in school is going

to make a much bigger difference."

Over the years, Cerino has served as a mentor, panelist and guest speaker for Salve's business students, often helping connect them to internships and professional opportunities. Recently, one of those students impressed him during a business planning presentation and eventually became an intern on his team before transitioning into a full-time role at UBS.

"It goes to show that these connections and opportunities to engage with professionals can really make all the difference."

Outside of work, Cerino's life is grounded in family, community and gratitude. He and his wife, Martha, are expecting their first child, and he says there is "nothing better" than coming home to Martha and their two dogs, Sadie and Lucy.

That same spirit of gratitude and community shapes the advice Cerino gives most often. He encourages students to use their time well, build relationships early and remember that the people around them are often more willing to help than they might think.

Through the E3 Residency Program, Cerino is ready to be one of those people – a familiar face, a thoughtful mentor and a bridge between Salve students and the professional world waiting beyond campus.

"If you have time, find people who have experience," he said. "And if you feel like you don't know where to start, come bug me."

-Catherine Dolan '23



OUR MISSION.
OUR MOMENT.

The Campaign for
Salve Regina University

Revitalizing the Casino Theatre



An updated Casino Theatre opened its doors to the Newport community this spring. Together with the International Tennis Hall of Fame, our long-standing community partner, Salve made significant updates that revitalized the historic playhouse for the community to enjoy. These were made possible by generous gifts from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust and the van Beuren Charitable Foundation.

Built as a ballroom on the Newport Casino campus in 1881, the Casino Theatre

now houses Salve's music, theater and dance performances and provides rental space for other arts and cultural performances and events. During the summer, the venue serves as a designated press space for the International Tennis Hall of Fame's induction celebration and Hall of Fame Open tournament. The most recent renovations were completed over the winter, and include updates to sound, technology and operational support, as well as modernized safety features.

It's the Journey that Counts

The Duponts give back to their alma mater through mentorship and experiential learning opportunities.

Always be in pursuit of your most perfect day.” Mark Dupont ’05 takes his personal mantra seriously. Inspired by his realization early on that time, and how one chooses to spend it, is life’s most valuable commodity, he and his wife Dana Emmerich Dupont ’03 have built a life of purpose that includes giving back to their alma mater in various ways and mentoring the next generations of Salve students.

“A lot of people are in pursuit of money or a goal or dream, but it’s the journey you are on,” said Mark. “And when I think of that journey, I think of Salve because that’s where it started for me.”

Mark grew up in Tiverton, Rhode Island, in a humble, hardworking family. He enrolled at Salve as a commuter student and took a job on campus with the grounds department to help make ends meet. Mark had a natural affinity for finance and a professor encouraged him to pursue it.

Over the two decades since he earned his bachelor’s degree, Mark has held positions at Fidelity Investments, Bank of America and Focus Financial Partners. Today, he is partner and president of Coastal Bridge Advisors, an independent wealth management firm serving more than \$10 billion in client assets. He’s also an entrepreneur and co-owner of J&R Seafood and co-founder, along with his wife Dana, of Revival Resort, a boutique rental company in Ludlow, Vermont that the couple built together and officially launched in 2020.

“The community of Salve gave a kid that grew up without much an opportunity to start a campaign and build my own career brand,” said Mark, who earned his bachelor’s degree in finance. “The school had such a



Dana Emmerich Dupont '03 and Mark Dupont '05

“ Always be in pursuit of your most perfect day.

MARK DUPONT '05

profound impact on me and it [inspired] my vision [for the future].”

Salve is also the site of another important beginning. It’s where Dana and Mark met, celebrated their marriage and began their journey in life together. Dana, who is originally from Westchester, New York, pursued a social work major at first, but pivoted along the way, before graduating in 2003.

“I switched to information systems science and absolutely loved it,” said Dana. “I had great professors. I got into mergers and acquisitions at Citizens Bank and after a little bit, realized it wasn’t for me. I needed to be helping kids. That was always my passion all along.”

Dana returned to school and earned a master’s in counseling at Manhattan University. For years, she worked as a college advisor and high school placement counselor. Today, she devotes her time to raising the couple’s four daughters—Ava, Emma, Isabelle and Oliana who range in age from 14 to 6—volunteering at various nonprofits, and overseeing Revival Ventures LLC.

“We built it ourselves,” explained Mark about the rental property located a stone’s throw from Okemo in the Green Mountains of Vermont. “We drew the plans and our kids designed the logos. We’re a family that’s very involved every step of the way.”

Both Dana and Mark express deep gratitude for their years at Salve, a formative time when they not only discovered their strengths and set foundations for the future, but one in which lifelong friendships were formed and fond memories were made to be forever cherished.

Despite their hectic schedules, Mark and Dana have expressed their Seahawk spirit over the years quietly and proudly by giving back to Salve in numerous ways. For years, Mark served on the Business Advisory Council and as the executive-in-residence in the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics, roles that gave him the opportunity to encourage and prepare younger generations of business professionals to succeed in the workforce. He led a presentation and networked at We Mean Business

Day, continues to lecture at two annual weekend workshops called “Building Your Career Brand,” and makes himself available through the Center for Business Outreach and LinkedIn.

“I enjoy working with students to help them figure out what they are good at and connect the dots,” he said. “I was lucky to have some great mentors in my life and a lot of the advice I give them is very simple. Send handwritten thank you notes. Make eye contact. Become a networking machine. What I really dive deep with them on is teaching them the art of storytelling.”

Mark has referred or hired several Salve alumni, most recently Mary Orena ’24, who works closely with him as an investment strategy associate at Coastal Bridge. The couple has continued to mentor many Salve students and enthusiastically promotes



Mark Dupont and Mary Orena '24

alumni business internships to help prepare them for future employment opportunities. Mark and Dana are generous donors who have supported a variety of student-centered projects, including early funding for the

Investment Club’s annual competition travel to Chicago and arranging for the University community to have free access to investment-portfolio stress testing software for use in the classroom.

At the end of the day, what does Mark consider the “perfect day?”

“Mine is typically when I’m in Mystic, Connecticut, on the boat with my wife and four wonderful daughters,” he said. Dana’s perfect day is a close match, spent “with Mark and the girls on the beach somewhere warm, wherever that may be.”

-Claire Curry

FACULTY FEATURED ON THE BOSTON GLOBE RHODE ISLAND REPORT PODCAST



Dr. Anna Matos-Mournighan, graduate program director for healthcare administration

Six faculty members shared their expertise on important current issues this spring on the weekly podcast from the Boston Globe, the award-winning “Rhode Island Report.”

In February, history lecturer Dr. Erin Redihan joined to discuss politics and the Olympics, and Dr. Jim Ludes, executive director of the Pell Center at Salve, shared perspectives on U.S. foreign policy. Dr. Anna Matos-Mournighan, director of the graduate program in healthcare administration, joined in March to look at how different states regulate private equity in healthcare and protect patients. Political science professor Dr. Mary Anderson, the David and Carolyn Brodsky Chair in U.S. Constitutional Democracy and Culture, discussed how the role of First Lady has evolved to impact policy-making to close out Women’s History Month.

In April, history professor Dr. William Leeman looked at the founders’ intentions in creating presidential war powers and their evolution to present day, and biology professor Dr. Christine Ramsay educated listeners on the impact of climate change on our coastlines and some of the different approaches to preservation.

-Julie Miller

2026 Reunion Weekend



More than 500 alumni, families and friends gathered for Salve's annual Reunion Weekend, which was held June 5-7. Guests arrived on Friday afternoon and quickly found familiar faces at the welcome reception, along with an exciting line-up of events.

Two harbor cruises, one specifically for the Class of 1986, provided the opportunity for alumni to set sail on Narragansett Bay later that evening. A beautiful sunset was the backdrop for much laughter and reminiscing as guests enjoyed the adventure with friends old and new.

The following day, the Class of 1976 was welcomed into the 50th Anniversary Society at a luncheon where classmates celebrated the milestone with joy and nostalgia. With sunny skies overhead, Saturday's block party on the McAuley lawn along Cliff Walk brought alumni together for an afternoon of food and fun, including Newport Creamery Awful Awfuls, chowder, games and great conversation.

That evening, alumni from across the decades gathered under a tent alongside Ochre Court for an all-class dinner before moving

inside for dancing in the Great Hall. In the past, Hunter Nicolson '16, '26 (MS), advancement associate, has helped with planning and running Reunion Weekend but this year, he joined the activities as an alum.

“ I’m always so struck at how special Salve is for so many generations.

HUNTER NICOLSON '16, '21 (MS)





“Reunion Weekend has always been enjoyable, but this year was more meaningful for me because I was celebrating my 10th reunion,” said Nicolson. “Ten years – it doesn’t seem possible. Watching people reconnect, often after years apart, is always moving and the feelings of joy and excitement are infectious. This year, I was one of the alums reconnecting and those feelings resonated more than usual.”

Nicolson also shared the evening with a very special guest – his mother, Jill Washay ’91, who was celebrating her 35th reunion.

“I’m always so struck at how special Salve is for so many generations and the night was all the more meaningful because I could share this milestone with my mother,” he said. “The dance party was hopping. I found an energized group of 2016 graduates that reminded me how special our University really is. We reminisced about dorms, classmates, professors, etc., that impacted our time at Salve—similar to conversations that were happening throughout Ochre Court that night.”



Sunday morning’s Mass in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel was a lovely way to begin the day and the brunch honoring this year’s alumni award recipients was a sell-out (see page 28). Celebrating the many ways in which our alumni impact their communities, carrying the University mission wherever they go, was the perfect wrap-up to a weekend highlighting what it means to be a member of the Salve family.



A NEW HOME FOR THE BARBARA ANTOINETTE MALLARDI ROSE GARDEN



From left: Tommy Rakowicz, Ashton Mallardi (holding daughter Rowan), Tricia Mallardi, Cheryl Mrozowski '70, chair of the Board of Trustees, Vincent Mallardi III '86, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, and Sister M. Therese Antone '62, '23 (Hon.), chancellor

In a Reunion Weekend highlight, the Salve community gathered with Vincent Mallardi III '86 for the rededication and blessing of the Barbara Antoinette Mallardi Rose Garden, named in memory of his mother. Recently relocated to its new home between McAuley Hall and O'Hare Academic Building, the garden is a cherished campus space offering a breathtaking view that invites visitors to pause and reflect.

Joined by his wife, Tricia, members of his family, fellow classmates, alumni, trustees and administrators, Mallardi shared that he spent time in the garden as a student and believed his mother would love that it is dedicated in her memory. He spoke warmly of her enduring presence and the comfort of knowing that her spirit remains close in the lives of those who remember her with love.

Known for her exuberant spirit, great humor and contagious joy, Barbara was quick to smile and had a knack for making each person she met feel special.

"Today is about more than a name on a garden," said Mae Patten, vice president for advancement. "It is about love, memories and the ways those we cherish live on through our acts of love, charity and service made in their honor."

President Kelli J. Armstrong noted that Barbara is remembered as "a woman of deep faith, generosity and kindness, with a boundless capacity to care for others—and a love of roses," and said it is an honor for Salve to carry forward "this expression of love and remembrance."

Cheryl Mrozowski '70, chair of the Board of Trustees, called the dedication "a beautiful and encompassing" example of the Salve family circle.

The Barbara Antoinette Mallardi Rose Garden is open to all; visitors are invited to enjoy its beauty, with more than 140 roses in bloom across the summer season.

**save
the date**

Reunion
Weekend 2027
June 4-6

Upcoming 2026 Events

Mark your calendars and come home to Salve!

Summer Soirée

August 16

Our latest tradition provides the perfect backdrop for celebrating summer in Newport.

Fall Festival and Homecoming Weekend

October 2-4

Students, alumni, parents, families and friends gather for food, fun and to cheer on our beloved Seahawks.

Fall Alumni Day

October 3

Alumni are invited to back to campus for a fun day of activities as part of Fall Festival and Homecoming Weekend.

Athletics Hall of Fame Induction

October 4

Join us in recognizing individuals who have contributed to the rich traditions of Salve athletics.

Tree Lighting and Luminaria

December 3

Salve's Christmas tree is lit for the first time while 1,000 paper lanterns light up the campus.

Lights of Mercy

December 5

We gather to celebrate the generosity of Salve's Mercy Society Donors.

Christmas at Ochre Court

December 6

Our annual open house kicks off the holiday season.

2026 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

A highlight of Reunion Weekend, the alumni awards brunch, held June 7, recognized members of the Salve family who bring the University mission to life in their work and in their communities.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

COLLEEN CLOONAN SWAIN '16, '17 (MS)

Nominated by Austin Swain



Swain is senior manager of grants, ministries and international giving for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, leading strategic philanthropy supporting global ministries. Previously, she represented Mercy International Association at the United Nations, founding a women's leadership fellowship and advancing advocacy on human trafficking, migration and environmental justice.

Alumni Achievement Award

REBECCA J. CAMPBELL '96

Nominated by Donna Campbell



Campbell is the director of the Tavares (Florida) Public Library. Through her work and vision, she demonstrates how public libraries are dynamic hubs of learning, culture and community. She is a passionate advocate for intellectual freedom and was recently published in Florida Libraries journal.

Alumni Achievement Award

KELLEY DOW COEN '91

Nominated by Tara Brabazon Nielsen '91



Coen has over 30 years in the non-profit world and is currently the CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County. Founder and president of The Newport Tartan and a former staff member of Salve's advancement office, she demonstrates a deep commitment to the Newport community and to her alma mater.

Mission Award

SCOTT RUSZCZYK '91

Nominated by Steven G. Shaker '91



Ruszczyk serves as patrol sergeant for the Newtown (Connecticut) Police Department. In response to the Sandy Hook tragedy, he joined the HEART 9/11 organization to co-author and lead stress management and resiliency training for first responders. He is dedicated to fostering the well-being of police officers through his daily work and his volunteer role.

Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award

SARAH HOLFELDER TORACINTA '13, '19 (MA) AND JOHN TORACINTA '21 (MBA)

Nominated by Sean Sullivan, athletics director



The Toracintas are the co-founders of NOSOLO, an apparel brand designed to raise awareness and take action on mental health. Proceeds from their sales benefit many mental health organizations, including their own recently established nonprofit, the NOSOLO GIVE BACK FOUNDATION. The couple frequently partners with Seahawks athletics and offers internships to Salve students.

Exceptional Volunteer Award

ROBERT P. MORAN JR. '86



Moran has been involved with Salve in volunteer roles for many years. A steady and enthusiastic leader for the Class of 1986, he does a great job keeping his classmates connected and involved as alumni. A former member of the University's Board of Trustees, he continues to support Salve with generosity and commitment.

A FAMILY TRADITION

*A special note of
congratulations to the
Class of 2026 graduates
who are children of alumni*



NICHOLAS BLUTE

Thomas Blute '86

Jodie Blute '87

ETHAN BOUCHER

Janet Bourque Boucher '00

ALEXA CALABRESE

Amy McLeod-Calabrese '99

ABIGAIL COLE

Christianne Richard Cole '97

KAYLEE COLLINS

Jennifer Andreozzi Collins '95

MARIANA CORNEJO

Gloria Gomez Cornejo '11

ERIN DALTON

Gail Petersen Dalton '97

ELLA DAVIS

Paul Davis '95

Jill St. Germain Davis '97

ELINORA-ROSARIA DEININGER

Thomas Deininger '92

Marcella Guido Deininger '92

KELLY ENWRIGHT

Cathleen Cunningham Enwright '90

RILEY GUILBEAULT

Robert Guilbeault '96

Gina Rondini Guilbeault '97

KELLY HAYES

Emmett Hayes '89

Bridget Kelley Hayes '87

JOSEPH LOGUE

Kevin Logue '79

CAMERON PAGE

Amy Greenwood Page '98

MORGAN PERITZ

Kathleen Lewis Peritz '90

CARTER SCHOELL

Jill Landry Schoell '91

CAMERON SMITH

Kimberly Burkle Smith '90

GEORGIA SMITH-RASMUSSEN

Melissa Smith '91

AOI TAMURA

Hikari Tamura '00

LEANDHY WILLIAMS

Lenty Gordon '17

CHRISTINA STONE '86 NAMED ENDOWED CHAIR AT MGH

Christina Crowley Stone '86, associate chief nurse, was recently appointed the Blum Family Endowed Chair in Nursing for Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston. In this role, she will partner with nurse directors, clinical nursing supervisors, care management leaders and senior nursing and administrative leaders across numerous services. Stone's career spans more than 39 years at Mass General as she assumed progressive clinical and leadership roles.

"I am honored and delighted to be appointed the next incumbent of the Blum Family Endowed Chair in Nursing," said Stone. "It is a privilege to serve as the next endowed chair."



Instilling Positivity

Andrew Hackett '05 publishes his latest children's book.

Ollie swallows an acorn and transforms into a tree. Curlilocks takes her hair into her own hands on school picture day and gets herself into a “tangle.” And little Hope finds joy to combat her loneliness through the beauty of the ocean.

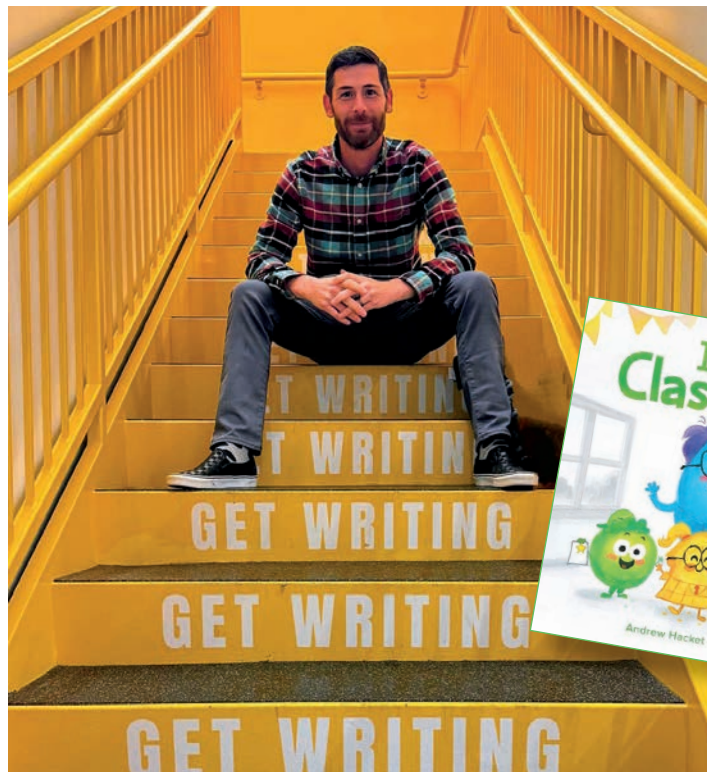
Each of these adventures unfolds in the children's books of author and elementary school teacher Andrew Hackett '05. Inspired by “nature, children and all the wonders yet to be imagined,” Hackett is taking the publishing industry by storm and, even more importantly, infusing positivity and possibility in his classrooms through his storytelling.

“When we come to [the classroom] with joy, positivity and creativity, the children respond in kind and read our energy, and I try to give them the best I have to offer,” said Hackett, who teaches second grade at Major Howard W. Beal School in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

With 20 years of teaching experience, Hackett has been building rapport with his students through honest social emotional learning strategies. “I’m especially proud of being a positive male role model for my students and sharing all of my emotions,” he said.

This genuine sharing got him thinking of other ways he could use scenarios from his students' lives to help them learn grace and compassion. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, Hackett decided to make use of his time at home and penned his first children's book: “Ollie, the Acorn, and the Mighty Idea.” He believes an experience he had at Salve stoked his motivation to write.

“Back at Salve, I had to write an English essay comparing poems. My professor commented, ‘Keep writing; we need you to.’ It was inspiring and an affirmation that I could



do this,” said Hackett. Not long afterward, Hackett wrote a children's story for his educational technology course. The seed was planted.

It was also Salve that launched his primary teaching career.

“I grew up in Rhode Island and knew I wanted to teach,” said Hackett, whose brother and mother are also alumni. “At Salve, the faculty were passionate about what they were doing. They were there for us and the kids we were going to serve, too,” he said. Hackett particularly remembers Dr. Camille Allen, his former elementary education professor. “She truly prepared us to love the career.”

At Beal, Hackett also recognized a practical draw: “I saw the chance to get into the classroom quicker,” he recalled. The depart-

ment required, and still requires, education students to observe classrooms in their sophomore year, complete two semesters of hands-on practicum in their junior year and student-teach in their senior year with follow-up in the classroom during their final semester. They are immersed.

Like many education majors—then and now—Hackett student-taught at Aquidneck Elementary School in Middletown, where he also secured long-term substitute positions before relocating to Massachusetts for a second-grade teaching position that eventually landed him at Beal. “It’s been a great source of professional growth here,” he said.

At Beal, Hackett has been able to implement one of the many teaching methods he learned at Salve: promoting multi-genre

writing projects and blending disciplines, such as STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math)-based lessons. This interdisciplinary approach is testimony to what he learned at Salve. “We’re not teaching in a silo,” he said.

“Salve sparked my creativity,” Hackett added. “It made me ask myself, ‘how do I make it interesting, and what do I know about six- or seven-year-olds?’”

This introspection has been a huge source of inspiration for Hackett’s successful publishing career. His students, along with his role as dad to three young children, help him keep his stories real and appealing. And the ideas keep flowing.

Published in June, Hackett’s latest book, “In This Classroom,” is a “heartwarming celebration of the school year, capturing the joy, struggles and growth of students and teachers as they embark on an unforgettable journey of learning, friendship and personal achievement.”

“I think of it as a collection of messy mishaps and misunderstandings that happen inside a classroom,” he said. “My hope is that it can be used to set the tone of positivity and collaboration at the beginning of each new school year for both students and teachers.”

One book at a time, one student at a time, Hackett continues to put Salve’s mercy mission into action.

“We make the choice of what we put out to the world...just be a kind person,” he said.

-by Karen Carlo Ruhren

DOMENIC DIPIERO '94 APPOINTED TO NEW JERSEY INVESTMENT COUNCIL



Domenic DiPiero '94, president and founder of Newport Capital Group, was appointed to serve on the New Jersey State Investment Council. In this role, DiPiero will collaborate with fellow Council members to oversee investment policy and ensure strong fiduciary management of the State’s public pension and retirement funds.

DiPiero brings decades of institutional investment and fiduciary experience to the Council. He founded Newport Capital Group as a single-family office and has since grown the firm into a nationally recognized investment advisory organization serving institutions, foundations, endowments, affluent families, business owners and executives. As a trusted advisor and peer, DiPiero is known for helping clients navigate the complexities of generational wealth while providing guidance on significant life decisions aligned with their long-term interests.

“It’s truly an honor to serve on the New Jersey State Investment Council,” said DiPiero. “I don’t take lightly the responsibility of helping protect the life savings of New Jersey’s public employees and retirees. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Council members to steward these assets with care, integrity and a long-term perspective.”

Under his leadership, Newport Capital Group has earned numerous industry accolades, including recognition from Barron’s, Pensions & Investments and Financial Advisor Magazine in 2025.

Opening Doors

Networking and hustle have led to a niche sports marketing career for Isiah Pringle '14, '15 (MBA).

During the summer of 2025, motorists crossing the Brooklyn Bridge were surprised — and enchanted — by the image of NBA legend Michael Jordan ascending into the sky over the East River, his signature wingspan augmented to match the length of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge.

The projection of Jordan was created by more than 3,000 drones, programmed to celebrate the conclusion of the global finals of “The One,” an annual one-on-one basketball tournament that brings together teenagers from different countries to compete for a weekend.

One of the men behind the curtain of the event was Isiah Pringle '14, '15 (MBA). Now leading brand marketing for Nike's Jordan Brand NYC, Pringle is a driving force in bringing events and experiences to life on behalf of the swoosh giant. Pringle's rise at the company is one he manifested for himself in a job he never knew existed as a basketball-obsessed youth.

“The biggest perk of the job is to be able to create moments for kids that truly don't have access to these things,” said Pringle, who grew up in Queens, New York. “It wasn't a dream job because I didn't know it was available. The beauty I have now is being a representation of opportunity for kids who look like me.”

Before joining the world of sports marketing, Pringle was an athlete. He won a high school national basketball championship at Brewster Academy in New Hampshire and was a member of Salve's last conference title team in 2011, finishing with more than 1,000 career points.

When an injury sidelined him as a senior, Pringle used his final year of athletic eligibility while earning his MBA at Salve, which led Pringle to the NBA as he parlayed his on-court hustle into networking prowess.

“I didn't recognize it early on, but I've always had a way of creating space where people feel seen, heard and valued,” he said. “From there, real trust sort of comes naturally.”

While completing an internship at Newport's Tennis Hall of Fame, he built a relationship with a classmate connected to the Cleveland Cavaliers. When it came time to find a job, that relationship, combined with Pringle's New-York-City-hustle mindset, helped him open doors. His forward-thinking mentality led directly to four years with the Orlando Magic, where he developed a marketing approach that merged ticket sales with corporate partnerships, now widely used across the sports industry.

When the NBA partnered with Nike in 2017, Pringle continued to hustle, taking self-funded trips to company headquarters in Oregon, where he scheduled a series of networking meetings through LinkedIn contacts, trying to secure a job. In 2021, Pringle officially joined Nike as a brand manager.

While it might be hard to top the drone-light mega-Jordan, Pringle continues to promote the brand. In New York, he's charged with creating connections



Isiah Pringle '14, '15 (MBA) and Luka Dončić of the Los Angeles Lakers

between the city and the brand and developing experiences, from local events to NBA All-Star Weekend. Last summer, Pringle accompanied Luka Dončić of the Los Angeles Lakers on a Jordan Brand-sponsored tour of key North American cities to connect with fans and communities.

Looking toward his future, Pringle is particularly interested in making basketball and the Jordan Brand accessible, in creating pipelines for students of color at Salve, and highlighting Newport's overlooked diverse history.

“However things take shape,” he said, “the constant will always be shaping lives and leaving something meaningful behind.”

—by Jana F. Brown

A Bridge to Experiential Learning

Cassandra Earle '14 (MBA) shares her industry expertise through new tourism and hospitality major.

Cassandra Earle '14 (MBA) fell in love with the uniqueness of Newport's hospitality and tourism industry over 20 years ago. Now, as a seasoned member of one of the oldest and fastest growing premier destinations, Earle serves as a bridge between classroom and field-based learning opportunities for Salve students enrolled in the recently launched tourism, hospitality and event management major.

Transferring from another university to complete her MBA, Earle was drawn to Salve for the ability to continue her career pursuits on Aquidneck Island while also immersing herself in an MBA program nestled in a hospitality and tourism hub.

"Newport's vibrant hospitality and tourism community sparked my passion and served as a gateway to discover and develop skills across nearly every facet of the industry – from events and restaurants to hotels and tourism management," said Earle.

Her decades of expertise working in the area range from her current role as the director of communications for Discover Newport to director of travel marketing for AAA Northeast and director of marketing and business development for Newport Vineyards. She has also served as the regional director of field marketing for Hyatt Hotels Corporation. In addition to her MBA, Earle holds certification in both professional destination management and sustainable tourism.

"Earning my MBA from Salve, coupled with my Newport industry experience, opened doors to opportunity on a national scale," said Earle.

"I always felt a sense of community both on and off campus," she added, stressing that she continues to feel this sense of community when interacting with students through various forms of campus engagement.



As a strong Salve advocate, Earle welcomes informational interviews with students both when she is participating in events on campus as well as in the field.

"I try to be an open door when I speak with both MBA and undergraduate students," she said. "Everyone's educational path looks different. I really don't feel there are silly questions, all questions are welcome."

Earle has been involved in a number of initiatives over the past few years, including serving as a panelist for the Building Your Career Workshop and as an intern field instructor. She has also participated in the Sophomore Studio workshops as a session speaker and SRYOU Student Exposition as a professional networking attendee. She looks forward to remaining involved in other ways to help students build connections in the industry.

The tourism, hospitality and event management major prepares students to thrive as leaders in one of the world's most dynamic global industries. Rooted in the strength of the Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics, the program

“Earning my MBA from Salve, coupled with my Newport industry experience, opened doors to opportunity on a national scale.”

CASSANDRA EARLE '14 (MBA)

offers specialized courses so that students develop expertise in areas such as global destination management, international tourism economics, food service operations, lodging operations, event production and design and service quality.

"Whether close to campus or across the globe," said Earle, "Newport's strong industry foundation and genuine passion for hospitality create meaningful pathways for students to explore, learn and grow."

-by Tara Watkins '00

'60s

Jo Eva Johnson Gaines '66 was honored by the Rhode Island Foundation with its 2026 Black History Month Award in recognition of her role as a trailblazer for Black educators and students. In addition to serving as a classroom teacher and as director of guidance

for Middletown Public Schools, she was a member of the Newport School Committee and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees and serves on the Rhode Island Board of Education.

Dorothy Rottmund Wilkins '66 is a member of the Golden Girls softball league and Virginia Retired Teachers Association. Her career in education spanned 34 years teaching in Connecticut and Virginia.



Class of 1969 friends, including Joanne Murray Dunphy, Jane Lynch Hanley, Margot Nief Kramer, Elizabeth Fiore Serra and Patricia Gallagher Snyder met in New York City and enjoyed a visit to the Botanical Gardens.

'70s



Members of the Class of 1976 celebrate their 50th reunion at Ochre Court during Reunion Weekend.

'80s

Colette Davis Recupero '80 received the Civilian of the Quarter Award in April 2025 from the Naval Chaplaincy School in commemoration of her 24 years of dedicated service to the Navy as a Department of Defense civilian.

Colleen Hill Dansereau '82 has been appointed vice president for emerging discoveries at Boston Children's Hospital. She is responsible for the institutional assessment, planning and implementation of novel gene therapies and treatments.

Maryellen Falvey Loucks '85, a registered nurse, became credentialed in faith community nursing and completed a certificate in spiritual direction.

Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff '86 (MA) has been selected as one of the inaugural recipients of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Service Beyond Service Award. This award recognizes Vietnam veterans who continued to serve the nation and its communities through volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service and philanthropy after returning home.

Ann Marie Hurley McCusker '87 earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Hartford in May 2025. She works at UMass Memorial Medical Center (Massachusetts) as senior director of acute care services.

'90s

Ana Klawitter '90 was nominated as the 2027 Brooklyn (Connecticut) Paraeducator of the Year, recognizing her exceptional dedication and impact in special education for more than 20 years in the public school system.

Crista Falzarano Durand '92 was recognized as one of the 50 Top Women Leaders for Connecticut in 2026. As president and chief executive officer of Hospital for Special Care, a nationally recognized long-term acute care facility based in New Britain, Connecticut, Durand oversees a wide range of clinical services.

Rich Ptaszek '95, '96 (MBA) retired from the Rhode Island State Police in July 2025 after serving 28 years, leaving at the rank of lieutenant and in charge of the financial crimes

unit. Since retiring, Ptaszek has become the director of security and investigation for Navigant Credit Union.

Kevin Farrell '97 and his wife Susan have been enjoying travels around the globe, including Egypt, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey, Israel, Morocco and France.

David Kriso '99 has published a story about Amtrak's Silver Meteor in Trains Magazine. His piece highlights both the train and must-sees in the Miami, Florida area.

'00s

Jessica Samson Golino '04, '05 (MBA) was recognized as one of the 50 Top Women Leaders for Connecticut in 2026. She is the senior director of sales strategy and operations in oncology at Eli Lilly and Company. With 21 years of experience, she is an award-winning district sales manager in the specialty pharmaceutical industry.

Tina Anderson Handren '06 was appointed chief people officer for Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, a nonprofit that creates opportunities for individuals through residential and outpatient behavioral health treatment, re-entry services for justice-involved individuals, veteran services and senior living.

David Zannelli '06 was nominated to serve as the chief of police for the New Haven (Connecticut) Police Department. An 18-year veteran, he began as a patrol officer and

progressed through the ranks, receiving multiple community awards and recognition for his distinguished service.

Michelle Barry '07 was named to the Verde Valley Sanctuary Board of Directors. Verde Valley Sanctuary is a women's shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

'10s

Erin Fuller Brian '10 was profiled in a May 2025 article by the River Journal for her work as a senior genetics scientist at Regeneron Genetics Center, where she served as a resource to local high school students, modeling what it is like to study science and pursue a career in this field.

Vita Duva '12 announced the release of her debut poetry chapbook, "Sunflowers Will Still Bend," with Bottlecap Press.

Ashley Bendiksen '13 has released a new children's book designed to help families talk about boundaries, safety and self-advocacy. "A Kids Book About Boundaries," published by DK Books / Penguin Random House, offers a practical way for families to begin important conversations about personal safety and healthy relationships.

Allison Park Lacas '14 and **William Lacas '14** welcomed their son William Christopher in November 2025.

Mary Keator '16 published her latest book in February. "Actual Intelligence: Yeshua and the Living Field" is for the everyday spiritual seeker in the age of technology.

Helen Paquette '18 graduated from Lesley University with her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling with a specialization in art therapy in May 2025. She and her husband Jeff also welcomed their first baby, Skylar Jean, in August 2025.

Devin Bates '19 works at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She recently received the Colette Cantin Nursing Award of Excellence, which is given to nurses who have made a significant contribution to their field.

Caden Buckley '19 was promoted to a wealth management associate for financial planning at Cape Cod 5. Through this role, he will further enhance support for clients seeking personalized financial strategies.

'20s

Samantha Bodge Lowe '20 and **Robin Lowe '20** welcomed a baby girl in June 2025. Samantha is an elementary special educator for Cranston Public Schools and Robin is the supervising consulting behavior technician for Pathways Strategic Teaching Center in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Brielle Salamone '20 earned her master's degree in traditional Oriental medicine and the Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese medicine from the Pacific College of Health and Science in San Diego, California, where she now runs her own acupuncture practice.

Reanna Sahoo '20 earned her MSN in nursing informatics from Western Governors University in 2023. She works as a clinical quality specialist at North Adams (Massachusetts) Regional Hospital and has also earned the Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality certification.

Joelle LaChance '21 published a memoir titled "Joy and Love through our Broken and Beautiful Endeavors," which is available through Amazon.

Scott Efflandt '24 (Ph.D.) announced the publication of his book, "The New Warrior Caste: How Recruiting Failed the All-Volunteer Force." After completing his degree at Salve, Efflandt took a position as the director of the military talent pipeline at Texas A&M – Central Texas. His book examines the force on its 50th anniversary to evaluate its current institutional and military performance.

Brendin Hopkins '24 (MBA) was appointed administrator for Heritage Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, a subacute rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility in Smithfield, Rhode Island, where he will oversee daily operations.

Samantha Foulsham '24 has worked as a second-grade teacher and early childhood center assistant in Massachusetts while pursuing a master's degree in speech and language pathology at Pepperdine University.

Ryan Janz '24, '25 (MBA) recently accepted a position with Atlantic Records through Warner Music Group as a senior analyst/finance.

Samantha Mansolf '25 accepted a position as a production assistant with the Worcester Red Sox for the 2026 season.

IN MEMORIAM

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



Thomas R. Beall '23	Mary Crowell Krapar '72
Sharon Squillacioti Bowley '70	Mary Elizabeth Murray Magee '54
Leonard E. Burgmyer '84 (MS)	Elizabeth Tyson Magiera '78
Kenneth F. Camadeco '03, '13 (MA)	Norman S. Mather '71
David G. Carney '91 (MA)	Janis L. McKernan-Markof '84
Sheila Croughan Chenard '60	Jacqueline A. McCormick '90
Robert Cleary, former staff	John J. Melvin '80 (MA)
John B. Cohen '78	Karl W. Nelson '96
Therese Sullivan Croteau '52	Elizabeth A. O'Neil '77, '03 (MS)
Thomas D. Gidley, former faculty	Jeremy A. Plotkin '98
Joan A. Gleckel '65	Joanne Lebeau Rebello '83
Douglas E. Goolsby '97 (MA)	John P. Souza '77
Jacqueline Feeney Hole '80	Patricia Slavin Stallings '85
Dorothy Bobba Hopkins '79 (MA)	Catherine McCaffrey Standish '58
Jaclyn M. Jermin '07	Eugene T. Tinelli '85 (MS)
Barbara Flynn Johnson '90	Sandra Miele Tordoff '65
Elizabeth Hines Kilmer '67	Carlene Ladino Ventura '70
Theodore R. Kramer '87 (MA)	Marianne R. Walsh '78
	Elizabeth Flannery Whisler '67

Editor's note: The above list was compiled on May 18, 2026.

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

THEWAVE



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