Welcoming
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Salve Regina University’s
Eighth President
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Students process from O’Hare Academic Building to the oceanside tent on McAuley Lawn to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong as Salve Regina’s eighth president Sept. 20.

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Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, once said: “A good beginning is of great importance.” Since my arrival on campus in July, the Salve Regina community has gone above and beyond to ensure that my own beginning has been very good, indeed.

It has been a pleasure meeting faculty, staff, alumni and our extraordinary students who have welcomed me so warmly and impressed me with their dedication to all that Salve Regina represents. In my short time here, I have witnessed the value of mercy operating in multiple ways and at multiple levels at our institution – on the individual level, the local level and in the world beyond Rhode Island. I am inspired by such commitment to our mission.

Within the pages of each edition of Report from Newport, I believe you’ll find much to be proud of as alumni, parents and friends of Salve Regina. Throughout this issue, in particular, the mercy mission rings loud and clear. It is what makes us different and it is what serves as the foundation for the caring environment we provide our students as they discover who they are and what they’re meant to do in the world.

We have a wonderful story to tell and I look forward to sharing with you all of the good news that is happening here on campus. I am blessed to be a part of the Salve Regina family and I am excited for what the future holds.

With best wishes for a joyous holiday season,
Members of the Class of 2023 assemble outside of Gerety Hall before joining the Convocation procession Sept. 3.

Fuzzies vs. Techies
Convocation address discusses why the liberal arts will rule the digital world.

“Put down your phones. Slow down.” It’s a drone Salve’s first-year students no doubt have heard countless times in their lives prior to arriving on campus. This time it wasn’t a directive coming from frustrated parents but, rather, strategic advice from a tech expert who has embraced liberal arts as a road map to success.

As the University officially opened its academic year with Convocation Sept. 3, keynote speaker Scott Hartley, bestselling author and venture capitalist, told the incoming Class of 2023 that the intersection of technology and the liberal arts is where truly great things happen. “If you look around Silicon Valley, the top technologists are often not ‘techies’ at all,” he said.

Hartley would know, having worked for Google, Facebook and Harvard’s Berman Center for Internet and Society. “Susan Wojcicki runs YouTube,” Hartley said. “She studied history and literature. The founders of LinkedIn, PayPal and Slack are all philosophers. The founders of Airbnb were designers from RISD, and Alexis O’Hanian, the creator of Reddit, studied history.”


He said tools like Facebook connect communities unlike ever before in human history. Yet in the platform’s immense reach come threats to privacy, and even democracy. “The promise of artificial intelligence, big data and autonomous vehicles herald newfound efficiencies, convenience and personalization, but codify into code some of the gravest ethical questions,” he warned.

“In a world drowning in information, we are starved for wisdom because we forget that though Google may contain all the world’s information, it is still us sitting before a blinking cursor,” he said. “Technology still beckons to us, ‘what is it that you’d like to know?’ We decide.”

Hartley argues that the greatest opportunities come when technology, distinguished by its humanity, is applied to solve real world problems. “We find information in ones and zeros, but we discover wisdom in the human interpretation in how we ask questions, how we interrogate ideas, how we grapple in ambiguity. It was Voltaire who once said only to judge a person by their questions, not by their answers.”

His thinking parallels Salve Regina’s approach of interconnecting academic programs to form a foundation for students to reflect and learn within the context of Catholic values. The University’s mission prepares students for active roles within a global society through responsible citizenship and public service.

“When we think about the world’s problems and how we want to solve them, we need to think about them in..."
The Class of 2023 officially joined the campus community on move-in day Sept. 1, marking the largest freshman class in University history with 654 full-time students. Ninety-eight percent are living on campus and 168 are enrolled in the Pell Honors Program. The Marist Mindset List (formerly compiled by Beloit College) offers a glimpse at the world in which our first-year students, most of whom were born in 2001, grew up.

- Like Pearl Harbor for their grandparents, and the Kennedy assassination for their parents, 9/11 is an historical event.
- The primary use of a phone has always been to take pictures.
- Passengers have always had to take off their shoes to slide through security on the ground.
- Snapchat has become their social media app of choice, thus relieving them of the dilemma of whether or not to friend Mom on Facebook.
- YouTube has become the video version of Wikipedia.
- By their sophomore year, their generation will constitute one-quarter of the U.S. population.
- Apple iPods have always been nostalgic.
- It has always been illegal to use a hand-held cell phone while driving in New York State.
- Most of them will rent, not buy, their textbooks.
- There have always been “smartwatches.”
- Monica and Chandler have always been married on “Friends.”

Editor’s note: For the full Mindset List for the Class of 2023, visit marist.edu/mindset-list.
Black Elk is an exemplification of what it means to live the Christian life and what that can look like. It’s a vision that’s different from others.”

– Dr. Miguel Romero, Assistant Professor of Religious and Theological Studies

Spirits of Mercy
Nicholas Black Elk finds power in Christianity.

Damian Costello, an international expert on the life and legacy of Nicholas Black Elk, was the featured speaker for the Atwood Lecture Sept. 26 with his presentation, “When the World Falls Apart: Nicholas Black Elk, Sainthood, and the Spirits of Mercy,” in which he shared the story of the Native American elder who is now up for sainthood in the Catholic church.

Costello has served as the advisor and consultant to documentary projects on Black Elk, and he is currently the vice-postulator for Black Elk’s cause for canonization in the Catholic church. His writing, research and advocacy is informed by five years of ethnographic study among the people of the Navajo nation.

Pope Francis officially recognized Black Elk as a saint in March 2015.

Dr. Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley, vice president for mission integration, began the lecture grateful for the timely nature of Costello’s presentation. “At the conclusion of Mercy Week, I am so grateful that we have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Costello around the invitation and challenge of Nicholas Black Elk, who opens up anew the radical promise and call of mercy,” she said.

Black Elk (1863-1950) was a member of the Oglala Lakota people, a cousin of Crazy Horse and a leader in the Ghost Dance. When he was 9 years old, he fell ill and entered a coma for 12 days. During this time, he received a vision of two men coming from the sky explaining that his grandfather was calling him. The two men took Black Elk up to the clouds, where he visited the spirit world. There, Black Elk was given two specific powers: the power to heal and the power to destroy.

This vision was a call for Black Elk to become a holy man and made him responsible for the survival and prosperity of his people on earth. In his book “Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism,” Costello writes, “Black Elk interpreted his life based on this message and continually tried to find the way that best corresponded to his vision.” In doing so, he dedicated himself to the communal life of Lakota Catholicism.

Black Elk first encountered Christianity in 1888 while in Europe and admired the custom of believing in God. Four years and many Christian encounters later, he married his first wife, who also converted to Catholicism. They raised three sons in the Catholic tradition.

After converting to Catholicism on the Feast of St. Nicholas in 1904, he took the name Nicholas Black Elk. In the following years he took long-term mission trips, preached the gospel to other Native American tribes, brought over 400 people to the faith and was a godfather to 113 people.

Now, Black Elk is up for sainthood in the Catholic Church.

Dr. Miguel Romero, assistant professor of religious and theological studies, says that Black Elk’s case for canonization is important for the whole church. “It’s always a gift when we recognize the particular ways that Christianity can be performed and lived. That’s the gift of the saints,” he said. “Black Elk is an exemplification of what it means to live the Christian life and what that can look like. It’s a vision that’s different from others.”

– Emily Whelan ’20

Climbing Higher

The U.S. News & World Report’s 2020 Best Colleges survey revealed that Salve Regina’s overall ranking among the best institutions of higher education in the United States climbed five places. The University was also hailed in categories for best undergraduate teaching, best value school, best college for veterans and top performer on social mobility.

Salve Regina ranked 23rd overall in the publication’s Regional Universities – North category, as well as 28th in best undergraduate teaching, 11th in best colleges for veterans (up two spots) and 31st as a best value school. The University also ranked 114th in a new category - top performer on social mobility, which recognizes success in enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.
Hands-On Innovation

President Kelli J. Armstrong, Sen. Jack Reed, and Warwick Mayor Joe Solomon were on hand for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting Oct. 8 to celebrate the opening of two new labs at Salve Regina’s Center for Adult Education in Warwick. The advanced practice nursing and digital forensics labs support the University’s graduate programs in nursing, administration of justice and cybersecurity.

“We ask every student at Salve to become their best selves, and to use what they learn in the classroom to serve their communities,” Armstrong said. “The cutting of this ribbon marks a great advancement forward in our ability to provide the best environment and technologies for our students to learn in our Center for Adult Education.”

The digital forensics lab features 18 business class desktops loaded with proprietary software to aid students in digital forensic analysis of mobile devices. Students learn and simulate malware attacks, virus infection and detection, key-logging attacks and more. The lab leverages Salve Regina’s academic partnership with Cellebrite software, the industry gold standard for mobile forensics.

The advanced practice nursing lab simulates a clinical environment. Utilizing the new Nursing Anne Simulator, a realistic female simulator operated via a touchscreen device, students develop confidence by practicing patient-care scenarios. Educators can vary vital signs and patient characteristics, including spontaneous breathing and blinking eyes, as well as limb movements and internal sounds.

“Salve is stepping up the game by giving students access to two sophisticated laboratories,” Reed said. “This will emphasize hands-on learning for people who are looking for new jobs or trying to enhance their skills on the job, allowing them to become more productive and more creative for our economy and our state. This is the key to our future: education, innovation and giving Rhode Island the best skilled workforce in the country.”

A Salve Welcome

Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong (center) welcomes the families of incoming international students Zara Abubakar, Pearl Lattanzi, Jack O’Brien, Florencia Reiche and Oskar Tullberg at a reception Aug. 26. The Class of 2023 is one of Salve’s more diverse, with students representing 12 countries on three continents. From left: Jim Fowler, vice president of enrollment management, Emma O’Brien, Colette O’Brien, Karen Lattanzi, Carlos Reiche, President Armstrong, Dan Tullberg, Jennifer Douglas-Abubakar, Paul O’Brien, Faisal Abubakar, Ronn Beck, director of international recruitment and admissions, and Liam O’Brien.
Salve Regina University hosted 136 players at Newport Country Club for its 30th Annual Golf Tournament Sept. 16. Under the leadership of co-chairs Tim Burns, trustee, and Harry Mroczowski, 44 corporate and individual sponsors helped to raise nearly $132,000 for student scholarships.

Her Rightful Place

In a Mercy Day celebration commemorating the anniversary of the opening of the first House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland, the community gathered Sept. 24 for the dedication and unveiling of a statue of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

“We are gathered today to formally receive and dedicate the statue of Catherine McAuley that will forever stand on this campus,” said Sister Therese Antone, chancellor. “Catherine was a wonderfully energetic, generous and intelligent woman who devoted her time, talent, treasure and emotional strength to building hope among those whose lives were marred with poverty and rejection.

“The moment of placing Catherine permanently on our campus signals the stabilizing force and future of mercy at Salve Regina University,” continued Sister Therese, as the cord was pulled to uncover the nearly life-size bronze sculpture, created by Sister Marie Henderson.

Dr. Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley, vice president for mission integration, blessed the statue, and the ceremony concluded with the University’s all-female a cappella group Pitches with Attitude singing “Hail Holy Queen.”

Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, extended her gratitude to Kathleen Bonsignore Walgreen for her generous support in bringing this meaningful symbol to campus. “We now have a more tangible way to remember our Catherine’s heritage,” she said.

-Teeing Up for Scholarships

A variety of items valued at more than $27,000 were generously donated by alumni, friends, local businesses and nonprofit organizations as awards, player amenities, and raffle and auction prizes. The raffle featured sports memorabilia, a My Father Cigars package, dinners and hotel stays in Newport.

This year’s auction set a new record in dollars raised and, for the first time, was launched online before the tournament. The auction included items such as front-row seats at Audrain’s Newport Concours & Motor Week concert with John Legend, a week-long stay and round of golf in Scotland, artwork, and golf experiences in Florida and New England.

Editor’s note: Visit salve.edu/golf to view the 2019 Tournament program and photo gallery. Save the date for our 31st Annual Golf Tournament to be held Sept. 14, 2020. For more information, contact Bill Douglas, associate director for major gifts at (401) 341-2457 or via email at william.douglas@salve.edu.
Open for Business

Students are now able to fuel their studying with sandwiches, salads and Starbucks drinks on the first floor of McKillop Library. The new dining option on campus opened with the new academic year.

“The new cafe provides a comfortable gathering space that is reminiscent of the coffeeshops found in Barnes & Noble,” says Mark Rodrigues, Sodexo’s general manager. “It offers extended hours and meal exchange options, ensuring that students don’t have to step away from studying to enjoy a snack or meal.”

Last spring, local contractors, architects, and Salve Regina staff members began to plan the cafe’s construction. “The building process took the entire summer, starting right after commencement, and finishing touches were completed just before move-in weekend,” says Jared Coleman, assistant director of facilities, who oversaw the construction process. “It seems to me that it’s been very well-received, and the students are enjoying the new food options.”

Paige Schulz ’22, a Spanish and health care administration double major, enjoys the many food options and the central location on campus. “It’s convenient that I don’t have to leave the library to get food,” she says. “The staff is so friendly, and I love seeing them here.”

Along with the sandwiches and salads, the cafe features snacks such as yogurt parfaits, fresh fruit cups, granola bars, trail mix, muffins, chips and cookies. Students are also able to use their Seahawk bucks toward their purchases.

Meghan Quinlan ’20, an elementary and special education double major and a student employee at McKillop Library, appreciates that the cafe has “drawn a larger crowd to the library all throughout the day.”

-Emily Whelan ‘20

All that Jazz

More than 100 jazz artists, educators and practitioners from the United States, Canada and Europe visited campus July 30-Aug. 2 as Salve Regina’s dance program hosted the National Dance Education Organization’s (NDEO) jazz dance conference.

Organized by Lindsay Guarino, associate professor of dance, “Jazz Dance: Hybrids, Fusions, Connections, Community” was designed to deepen participants’ understanding of what jazz dance is today in all its vibrant shapes and forms. Guarino is an active member of the NDEO community and the jazz instructor for the organization’s online professional development institute.

Eight students and alumni – Rose Bogardus ’22, Sara Chlastawa ’20, Michaela Darragh ’20, Allison Deluca ’21, Morgan George ’22, Marissa Masson ’19, Kenzie Stewart ’21 and Maddie Stewart ’19 – volunteered during the conference and participated in classes and events.

“Community is central to the Africanist aesthetics at the core of jazz dance, and the NDEO community is passionate about honoring the roots of jazz while recognizing the rich multicultural traditions that shape jazz dance today,” Guarino said.
Celebrating Cultures

Salve Regina’s annual Multicultural Education Week was held Oct. 21-25, kicking off with keynote speaker Junius Williams, a nationally recognized attorney, musician and educator. He shared his experiences of being at the forefront of the civil and human rights movements for decades.

Williams returned on Tuesday night to be a part of the panel discussion “When Worlds Collide: Race Relations in the Current Climate,” which explored how to navigate moral, political and cultural differences in the U.S. Panelists included: Matthew Shenoda, a professor, author and founding editor of the African Poetry Book Fund; Malysa Kettavong ’18, who recently earned her master’s degree in public affairs from Brown University; Tim Mentor ’20, a political science major and vice president of the Black Student Union; Izabella Mangual-Solivan ’22, who is a double major in global studies and religious and theological studies and chief justice of the Student Government Association; and Amadi Umi ’20, an administration of justice major and active member of the Black Student Union.

“It’s important to have panel discussions on race because often times we get distracted with other things,” says Umi. “What I hope the community gets out of this is a renewed commitment to this part of the mercy mission. I hope that students, faculty and staff feel deputized to deal with issues of race on campus. Moreover, I hope that these conversations cause them to feel empowered to jump into conversations that aren’t comfortable and be available as allies to minority groups on campus.”

Other events included a multicultural coffeehouse, a one-woman play called “Scarf Diaries” by Antoinette Ellis-Williams, and the annual Friday night festival, which showcased magnificent cuisine from every corner of the globe, a fashion show and dances from a variety of cultures.

Dr. Sami Nassim, assistant vice president for student success and director of multicultural programs, is proud that the week has become a tradition. “Students look forward to it each year,” says Nassim. “It helps to foster meaningful and in-depth dialogue focusing on the five critical concerns of mercy.”

- Emily Whelan ’20

A Gathering Place

Members of the University community and the Wallace family attended the official dedication of Wallace Commons Aug. 29. The centrally-located common area in the O’Hare Academic Building was named in honor of the late David and Jean Wallace, longtime benefactors whose deep and consistent support touched every area of campus life.

For more than 30 years, the couple took a personal interest in Salve’s success, supporting the renovation, restoration and construction of 12 campus buildings and underwriting everything from scholarships to the Seahawk sailing team.

“I’d like to express my own appreciation and gratitude, on behalf of the faculty, for the Wallace family’s continued generosity and for recognizing that this space, Wallace Commons, is such an important part of the Salve experience,” said Dr. Nancy Schreiber, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “It’s here that we all cross paths—faculty, staff, students and visitors—sharing moments that create a vibrant campus community unlike any other. Some settle in for a while to study with friends; some meet with professors, advisors or mentors for guidance; and some just need a break from a busy day to recharge and enjoy the view.”

“The Wallace family’s guidance and gifts have left an indelible mark on Salve Regina,” said Michael Semenza, vice president for university relations and advancement. “This honor pays tribute to their dedication, passion and embodiment of the mercy mission. Their visionary generosity continues to shape the University’s future through impactful philanthropy and a commitment to all that our students can achieve.”
A Warm Welcome to New Trustees

Jacqueline Marie Kieslich, RSM, Ph.D., played an integral role in the formation of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community as the integration team co-chair overseeing the merger of six regional communities in 2006. Since then, she has served as a member of the Community’s leadership team and, most recently, as its president from 2014-2018. The leadership team is responsible for both civil and canon law mandates affecting the Community as well as the care and support of the Sisters in all areas of community life and retirement. In her position, Sister Jacqueline Marie also maintained relationships with sponsored ministries and supervised all operational functions such as finance, disposal and acquisition of property, mission advancement efforts, human resources and communications.

Prior to her position with the Mercy Northeast Community, Sister Jacqueline Marie’s ministry in higher education spanned more than 25 years at Trinity College of Vermont, culminating as president. She has served as a board member for numerous organizations including Burlington Community Land Trust, St. Michael’s College, Trinity College of Vermont and the Conference of Mercy Higher Education, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Gerald Lavallee was a senior vice president/partner with the CBRE/New England Advisory and Transaction Services team in Rhode Island. A 30-year veteran of the New England commercial real estate industry, Lavallee’s concentration is in industrial land, building sales and leasing. He has executed projects that range from investment sales to repositioning real estate to alternative uses in response to changes in the market. His expertise is in the sale and leasing of large land sites such as the current redevelopment of the 3,100-acre Quonset Business Park from a former Navy base to one of New England’s premier business parks.

Focused on creating value for his clients through relationship-based marketing, Lavallee’s experience in servicing corporate and commercial real estate portfolios gives him extensive knowledge in understanding market trends and accurately addressing client needs. He currently serves as a board member for the R.I. Public Expenditure Council, Dunes Club, Point Judith Country Club and Button Hole.

Mooradian is an adjunct professor at Villanova University’s Charles Widger School of Law and George Mason University’s Business School. She sat on the board of Hoop Dreams, a not-for-profit dedicated to helping high school students in Washington, D.C. She received her master’s degrees from Bryant University in taxation and from Rhode Island College in education. She is a certified public accountant.

Jay Sullivan is the managing partner at ExecComm, a communications consulting firm. He is an award-winning author and columnist, as well as an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law. His book, “Simply Said: Communicating Better at Work and Beyond,” was released by John Wiley & Sons in 2016. Sullivan writes regularly for Forbes.com on leadership, communication skills, and careers. He spent two years in the Jesuit International Volunteer Corps after graduating from Boston College. As part of that experience, he lived at Alpha Boys School, an orphanage run by the Sisters of Mercy. His book about that experience, “Raising Gentle Men: Lives at the Orphanage Edge,” was named the 2014 Best Book by a Small Publisher by the Catholic Press Association. He received his J.D. from Fordham University and served as in-house legal counsel at Covenant House, a crisis shelter for runaway and homeless teenagers, before practicing corporate law for seven years. He also sits on the board of directors of Dot Foods, Inc., the nation’s largest food distributor.
Faculty/Student Spotlight

Socks for a Cause

Erin Harnisch ‘22

The Newport community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Pell Bridge in June and the Newport Sock Exchange had just the accessory for the occasion—bridge-inspired socks designed by Erin Harnisch ‘22.

Harnisch submitted the design as part of a contest open to Salve students. In fact, three of her designs were the top vote-getters in an online poll. Her other two designs, “Holy Cow” and “Cool Cat,” were also produced and are available at the Thames St. store, which donates proceeds to the Newport Coffee Cup Project that provides free transportation for Aquidneck Island seniors.

“I love wearing fun socks,” said Harnisch, a studio art major. “I have so many of them, so when I saw the flier [for the contest] I thought it was a great idea.”

Paul LaGreca ’20, who works at the Sock Exchange and is involved with the American Institute of Graphic Arts club on campus, decided to organize the competition to give design students an outlet for their work beyond the classroom. Submissions had to fit under a category, such as tourism, animals, puns and weddings.

“I love when I can get my club to exercise creativity in something other than school projects,” he said.

“When I saw the voting, I was really excited and happy to see that because now I can go get socks that I designed, which is pretty cool,” Harnisch said.

Editor’s note: This story was excerpted from an article by Derek Gomes that appeared in the Newport Daily News April 4.

Sharing Research

Dr. Elaine Silva Mangiante, associate professor of education, and Dr. Tracy Pelkowski, assistant professor of education, appeared at the 26th International Conference on Learning at Queens University Belfast in Northern Ireland July 24-26.

Silva Mangiante presented the results of a study examining third and fourth grade students’ speech-acts (student statements during small group decision-making) when working in teams during an integrated science/engineering design unit in 13 elementary school classes.

Pelkowski presented part one of her findings from a mixed-methods case study examining freshman secondary education students’ racial identity development and perceptions of their required course, Introduction to Race and Inequity in American Education. Her research was conducted with assistance from Dr. Kaitlyn Black, assistant professor of psychology, and in collaboration with student researchers Andrea Dockendorf ’20, Calissa Silva ’20 and Eden Zaleski ’21. Part two of the research study, which discusses the qualitative data, was accepted as a presentation at the Northeastern Educational Research Association’s conference October 16-18.

Silva Mangiante also developed a guide for designing windowsill hydroponics systems, which was published in Science Scope, the National Science Teaching Association’s peer-reviewed journal, on July 1.

“Engineering a Windowsill Hydroponics System to Grow Lettuce” presented an integrated science/engineering unit for middle school classrooms in which students design a windowsill hydroponics system for the home.

The hydroponics unit was partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Procured by Dr. Jameson Chace and a colleague from Boston College, the grant provided hydroponics systems, materials, curriculum and professional development to middle and high school teachers in Rhode Island and the Boston area over the course of three years.

“Using a multidisciplinary approach to learning, the unit was effective not only in fostering significant learning outcomes for students in different communities, but also in serving the needs of concrete learners as well as those who thrive from a conceptual challenge,” said Silva Mangiante.
Catholic Boot Camp

Dr. Peter Colosi, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, organized two June conferences, which were held in the United States and the Netherlands, bringing together Catholics from around the world for discussions ranging from the practice of medicine to promoting human dignity in a secular age.

Leading Catholic Medical Association physicians, priests and moral theologians facilitated their annual Medical Student and Resident Boot Camp June 9-16 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary) in Mundelein, Ill. The retreat was designed for current medical students and doctors who participated in an intensive formation experience of prayer, study, practical training and mentoring. The goal was to assist Catholic medical students to more fully live and understand the Catholic faith and moral tradition in order to thrive as faithful Catholic physicians.

“Unfortunately, ethics is not a prominent feature of medical schools, and when it is, typically utilitarianism is the approach taken,” says Colosi. “Furthermore, even Catholic medical schools are not Catholic in the full sense. This fact was the initial impetus behind starting the boot camp, which is a baby step toward creating a medical school that is fully and faithfully Catholic.

Colosi also organized, and was a featured presenter at, the fifth International Symposium on Theology of the Body, which was held June 28-30 in the Netherlands. Designed to promote John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body,” the symposium brought together experts from around the world for discussions focusing on the theme, “Defending and Promoting Human Dignity in a Secular Age.”

Editor’s Note: All of the dynamic and inspiring talks by experts from a wide range of fields were professionally recorded and can be viewed at tobinternationalSYMPOSia.com.

Nurse of the Year

Dr. Debra Cherubini, assistant professor and chairwoman of the Department of Nursing, was recently named “Nurse of the Year in an Academic Setting” by Rhode Island Monthly as part of the magazine’s annual Excellence in Nursing Awards.

This year’s awards honored 13 nurse practitioners, nurse educators, home health nurses and student nurses. In conjunction with the Rhode Island State Nurses Association, the nurses were nominated by their peers and selected by a panel of nursing professionals and educators.

When asked what her favorite part of her job is, Cherubini replied, “The students, of course! It is wonderful to see students achieve that ‘a ha’ moment when everything clicks and they understand the importance of the application of the knowledge and clinical skills they have learned.

“Nursing school is a rigorous academic journey,” she continued. “The curriculum is very demanding, intense and challenging. Nurses cannot only memorize information; application of this knowledge is required to develop clinical competency. Nursing is a profession that requires continuous education to maintain knowledge of current nursing practice. Florence Nightingale once said, ‘Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses. We must be learning all of our lives.’”

Editor’s note: Parts of this story were excerpted from the September issue of Rhode Island Monthly.

Validated Art

Jodie Mim Goodnough, assistant professor of art and art history, received a grant from the New York-based Pollock-Krasner Foundation last spring. The foundation, established in 1985, distributed over $3 million in grants to 111 artists and 13 nonprofit organizations. The funds support new work, exhibition production and other expenses that artists face as they create and prepare to showcase their pieces.

“The grant I received this year was incredibly validating to me as an artist,” Goodnough said. “I am using the funds to pay for a large studio space as well as some new equipment, including a large format printer and a new camera. I’m grateful for both the recognition and the support of the foundation.”

Goodnough has exhibited her work nationally in solo and group exhibitions. Her most recent exhibition “Biophilia” was featured at the Newport Art Museum studio gallery from April 27 to Sept. 8. Focusing on the influence of environments on one’s mental health and well-being, “Biophilia” brought together Goodnough’s work from multiple projects.
It wasn’t until she had accepted the position as Salve Regina’s eighth president, and was preparing to address the campus community in a Town Hall meeting in February, when Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong discovered that the Sisters of Mercy had been in her life all along.

“My grandmother and her seven siblings attended Cathedral Grammar School in Portland, Maine. The children were orphaned when my grandmother was 8 years old,” says Armstrong, “but the Sisters who ran the school supported them and allowed them to continue their education.

“I’d always wondered how Nana had developed her strong moral compass and love of education,” she continues. “I’d grown up hearing about these Sisters and when I asked my mother which order had educated Nana, she said, ‘Kelli, they were the Sisters of Mercy.’”

Today, a pearl ring serves as a daily reminder of her grandmother’s strength, love and uncanny ability to “just make things happen.”

“Nana was a force, filled with determination and blessed with great charisma,” says Armstrong. “She died almost 20 years ago and though she owned very little, she always wore a ring given to her by her younger brother, who became a Maryknoll priest. My mother passed it on to me after my grandmother’s death and I’ve never taken it off.

“I really owe my family’s legacy to the Sisters of Mercy,” she continues. “Every Sister I’ve met has been a strong, smart and compassionate woman who lives to do good for others. Their commitment to service, social justice, and to making sure that the students they serve understand that their role is to make the world a better place is really amazing.”

Armstrong met her husband Brian Griffin in the kindergarten bus line and, while she wasn’t terribly impressed at that moment, he declared for the first of many times that she was the girl he was going to marry. Though they did not start dating until after college, a close friendship between their families ensured that they never lost sight of one another and Armstrong believes that she wouldn’t be where she is today if not for the phenomenal support of their marriage. Together they raised two sons, David, who is in graduate school at Boston College, and Jake, a sophomore at Carleton College in Minnesota.

As the parent of two philosophy majors who holds a deep appreciation for the value of a liberal arts education, Armstrong believes that Salve “provides students the opportunity to find out who they are and what they’re meant to do in the world.” She has pledged to make sure she listens to all voices in the community in order to get to know as deeply as possible what makes Salve ‘Salve.’

“I’m here to support the best parts of our culture and to spark innovation in order to prepare us for the future,” says Armstrong.

While she believes that “we would be a beautiful place, even if we didn’t have this gorgeous setting, because of who we are inside,” Armstrong acknowledges that Salve’s extraordinary surroundings are a wonderful gift.

“Whenever I need to think deeply,” she says, “I love to walk by the ocean because of its restorative quality. The beautiful seaside setting is one of the blessings of Salve and I feel renewed after a stroll on the Cliff Walk at sunrise.

“I don’t think I realized how quickly I would become attached to this community,” says Armstrong. “I’ve been fortunate to meet many students, faculty, staff and alumni, and you can easily witness the passion for Salve, which has been so encouraging. I’ve become more and more convinced that this is our time; this is our moment in history.”
As Salve’s first lay president, what would you like our readers to know?

I would like our community to know how fortunate I feel to be part of such a special place. The Sisters of Mercy have created an amazing institution for all of us. I am blessed to follow in the footsteps of their leadership, and to advance the mission by continuing their legacy of commitment to service and social justice.

What advice would you give to the Class of 2020? Is it different from advice you’d give to those in the Class of 2023?

Our seniors are fantastic. I would share with them that a Salve education is one that will sustain them throughout their lives, and to hold onto the values that they have developed while they were here, particularly the importance of having a positive impact on the lives of others.

For our first-year students, I ask them to be open to new ideas and perspectives, and to take full advantage of the many offerings available to them at Salve so that they can develop in ways that allow them to become their best selves.

If you could talk to one person (living or not) for an hour, who would it be?

Since I’ve come to know Salve, I’ve been fascinated by Catherine McAuley – her courage, her vision, her leadership. I would love to show her how her vision has persisted and to ask her advice about mercy institutions as we progress into the next era.

Tell us about someone who makes you laugh.

Both of my children have a sharp wit and all of their lives they have made me laugh with their unique perspective on everyday things. I remember my son, David (now 25), when he was 2 years old. He was in his highchair, refusing to eat his dinner. I said, “You haven’t touched your food!” He then pointedly stuck his finger in his dish with an impish grin, illustrating that yes, he did touch his food.

How do you spend your free time (if there is such a thing)?

Since I was a little girl, I have loved to read. I can’t sleep at night unless I spend at least a little time reading. As a former English major, I always have at least one novel on my nightstand. Reading allows me to relax and escape into another world, even for a few minutes, and I’ve always had an appreciation for beautiful language.

What was your favorite book as a child?

Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women” was a favorite, probably because I grew up in a family of four daughters and she was a Massachusetts author. My mother also loved the book – my youngest sister was named Amy after “Amy” in the story.

What’s at the top of your bucket list?

I don’t have a real bucket list, but I still feel that there are many places in the U.S. that I haven’t seen, including some of our beautiful state parks that I’d like to visit out west. I’d also love to take my family to Ireland and visit the places where our families originated; my family was from Galway and my husband’s family was from Kerry.

If we asked your family to describe you in just five words, what would those be?

Depends on the family member, but my husband and sons would likely describe me as: energetic, determined, thoughtful, loyal and bossy!

What music do you like to listen to?

I’m hopelessly stuck in the ’70s. I love James Taylor. I also enjoy jazz – something my dad and I have always shared, so it is thrilling to be in such a wonderful setting as Newport for music.

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

I think the telephone – our ability to talk to anyone in the world in real time – was a game-changing invention. The worst inventions have been nuclear weapons – the ability to destroy one another with the push of a button.

What is the one movie you could watch again and again?

I’ve watched “The Sound of Music” many times since I first saw it as a child. The music is beautiful and the message is inspiring and timeless. Recently when I watched it, I noticed in particular the role of the Sisters – their wisdom and their act of rebellion against fascism. Loved that!

Do you have a favorite quote that inspires you?

I’ve always liked Ghandi’s “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” It is engraved on a stone that sits on my desk and when I glance at it, it serves as a reminder of how important it is to continually think about how we as individuals can have a significant impact on those around us.
Hall of Famers

Four individuals – George “Andy” Andrade, Kaitlyn Birrell Haskell ’13, John Picozzi ’97 and Brian Shanley – were inducted into Salve Regina’s Athletic Hall of Fame as part of Fall Festival Weekend activities. The induction ceremony and brunch was held Oct. 6 in Ochre Court.

Andrade was the coach of the baseball team from 1985-1999. During that time, the Seahawks won more than 240 games and five conference championships, including the first in school history. He coached eight Hall of Fame members, including two all-New England players and the school’s valedictorian for the class of 1997.

Haskell was a member of both the basketball and soccer teams during her time at Salve. A two-time Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) defensive player of the year for women’s basketball, she scored more than 1,000 points and is Salve’s all-time leader in assists in a season and career. The team won back-to-back conference championships in 2011-2012. A two-time CCC offensive player of the year for women’s soccer, Haskell is the Seahawks’ all-time record-holder for goals and points in a game, season and career. The women’s soccer team had its most victories during Haskell’s time on the team.

The recipient of the Sportsmanship Award in his senior year, Picozzi played football during his freshman year and was a member of the tennis team throughout his Salve career. He recorded the most singles wins in a season for any men’s tennis player in the 1990s and was part of three conference championship teams. He graduated with the most career singles wins; only three individuals have surpassed his record since 1997.

Brian Shanley, a former assistant to the dean of admissions, coached the cross-country team from 1996-2000 and the men’s tennis team from 1996-2009. During that time, the men’s tennis team won 10 CCC championships and advanced twice to the second round of the NCAA championships. Shanley was the ITA Northeast coach of the year, the CCC coach of the year eight times and one of four finalists for National Coach of the Year in 2007.

Seahawks Soar

With regular-season schedules completed, more than two dozen student-athletes garnered spots on the All-CCC squads with some earning major awards.

In men’s cross country, Riley Rancourt ’20 was recognized as a CCC Scholar Athlete. Women’s cross country placed third overall with the second-place individual finisher Olivia Owen ’20, Cate Norton ’22 and Christina Moran ’22 also finished in the Top 15 to earn All-CCC recognition.

Top two scorers in field hockey are Seahawks – first-team All-CCC Ashley Cody ’20 and second-team All-CCC Eliza Timms ’22. Hannah Filiault ’20 earned her third nod on the squad, while Vanessa Frost ’20 and Kristen Wales ’22 are first-time honorees.

After winning the regular-season title for the second straight year, men’s soccer won the CCC Championship game Nov. 9. Head coach Craig O’Rourke was selected as Coach of the Year while seeking the program’s third ever automatic bid to the NCAA Championships. Casey Kelly ’21 took home Defensive Player of the Year honors and was joined by James Davies ’22, Jacob Guerra ’21, Evan MacDonald ’20, Noah Medeiros ’20, Alessandro Oggiano ’22, Dana Sundell ’20 and Seth Wolins ’23 on the All-CCC teams.

Meagan McLaughlin ’23 and Jenna Park ’23 joined teammates Molly Leary ’22 and Carah Cote ’21 on the All-CCC squad for women’s soccer. McLaughlin led the team in scoring and earned Rookie of the Year honor.

Lauren Harvey ’22 played first singles and first doubles for the second straight season and earned the coaches’ votes for first team All-CCC Singles once again.

Annie Donahue ’20 has the respect of the league’s volleyball coaches to earn her fourth-consecutive selection to the first team All-CCC at middle blocker. Her remarkable consistency and efficiency was recognized along with teammates Andee Bender ’21 and Nicole Karabaich ’22.
 Shortly after graduating in May with a degree in business administration, Angela Augusta ’19 was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, a blood cancer that attacks the body’s immune system. A four-year player for the women’s ice hockey program, Augusta is the inspiration for “Angela’s Army,” made up of family, friends and fellow Seahawk athletes who are working, and playing, to raise awareness for the disease.

The women’s ice hockey team participated in the University’s Relay for Life Sept. 28 in honor of Augusta, raising $500 to aid in the fight against cancer. The community-based fundraising event for the American Cancer Society is one of more than 5,000 Relay For Life events that take place in over 20 countries each year. The mission of Relay For Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

“We celebrated and paid tribute to people who have conquered cancer and support those who are still fighting the disease,” said head coach Beth McCann. “It is our mission and passion to support our teammate and continue the efforts of Angela’s Army to promote awareness, contribute to the fundraising efforts to eliminate cancer and, most importantly, support the ones still battling cancer and their families.”

The field hockey team took to the field as Angela’s Army on Oct. 19, hosting Endicott College and sponsoring a fundraiser in support of Augusta’s vision to raise awareness about Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and give back to cancer patients who cannot afford certain health care expenses. Both teams played in support of Angela’s Army by wearing bracelets during the game and the women’s ice hockey team, which held a similar fundraiser during their game Nov. 23, sold bracelets and T-Shirts.

“My goal is to help raise awareness about Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and give back to cancer patients who cannot afford certain health care expenses,” says Augusta. “Going through a hardship of this magnitude is not something easy, but turning it around and making it a positive learning experience is what I want others to do. My aspiration for Angela’s Army is to build a nonprofit organization to provide comfort and simple cancer necessities to patients and survivors. I want to use the money accumulated from this fundraiser to donate wigs, beanies, clothes, and blankets to cancer patients in need.”

A Go Fund Me account has been set up for Angela’s Army and donations may be made online at www.gofundme.com/f/angelasarmy.

Angela Augusta ’19
An inauguration is less about honoring an individual than it is about marking a particular moment in history.

That’s how Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong took comfort amidst all the attention swirling around her when several hundred people — including Salve students, faculty, staff, distinguished guests and her family — gathered on Sept. 20 for her formal installation as the eighth president in University history.

Armstrong, the University’s first lay president, focused her remarks on continuing to champion the University’s mission while projecting a bold new voice and vision for Salve’s future.

“Today, I believe that we are on the brink of a new era for Salve Regina and our mercy education,” Armstrong said. “Part of our expression of mission has been in our humility. We serve humbly and without need for acknowledgment or glory. Although we serve humbly, we can no longer be quiet about who we are. This is our time to show the world what a mercy education means because the world needs us more than ever.”

Salve’s new leader then outlined a strategy to deliver the mercy promise.

“In the coming years, we will expand our geographic reach,” she said. “We will bolster those areas in our institution that best represent our mission. We will seek where we can have the greatest impact. And we will enhance Salve’s ability to shine a light on the world. We will work to strengthen and protect our University so that the mercy mission is secure, and so that many future generations can benefit from our transformative education.”

Her words inspired a standing ovation from all in attendance, including about 80 of Armstrong’s former colleagues in higher education who traveled from across New England to attend the ceremony, held beneath a tent on McAuley Hall’s oceanside lawn. Special guests included U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, delegates from the Religious Sisters of Mercy, representatives from the Rhode Island State House, Newport Mayor Jamie Bova, Monsignor Albert Kenney of the Diocese of Providence, Salve Regina trustees, Chancellor and sixth Salve President M. Therese Antone, RSM, and representatives from several educational, civic and social organizations.

“As we look forward to Salve Regina’s future, one doesn’t need to research deeply to understand that the world of higher education in these times is tumultuous and under siege,” Armstrong said.

“Many institutions seem to have lost their center and we have witnessed higher education communities and the students they serve faltering around us. Beyond the walls of our educational institutions as we view the chaos of the world in its current state, many organizations and individuals have lost sight of what is truly important.”

Salve, she said, has never lost sight of the depth and power of its mercy education. “We have always stood behind our beliefs and our commitment to the idea that each student has a gift to bring to the world, as well as the responsibility to do so.”

Dr. Nancy Schreiber, Salve’s provost and vice president for academic affairs, said Armstrong brings to the University a rich variety of academic and administrative experiences along with her strong commitment to the Sisters of Mercy. “[Her ascendancy] offers not only the potential for new achievement, but also assurance that our newly chosen leader truly understands the work that takes place at the core of this academic community,” said Schreiber.

Cheryl Mrzowski, chairman of the board of trustees, said Armstrong will lead an academic institution where ideas and values are of equal importance. “You are tasked with envisioning a firm path for the future of this mercy institution and for providing for the thoughtful exchange of ideas and knowledge in an atmosphere supporting reflection.
and spiritual growth,” said Mrozowski. “A vision that is guided by anticipating the educational and spiritual needs of new generations, and by challenging the creative spirit of this University community.”

Prior to arriving at Salve, Armstrong served the Boston College community in a variety of positions, including vice president for planning and assessment (2012-2019), associate vice president (2006-2012), and founding director of the institutional research department (2004-2006). She served as associate vice chancellor for enrollment management at the University of Massachusetts Boston (2002-2004), and as director of institutional research and enrollment services for the UMass system office and the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. She also has worked as a research analyst at Tufts University and as an assistant dean of admissions at Bates College.

Patrick Keating, former executive vice president at BC and a longtime mentor for Armstrong, introduced his former colleague as a bright and analytical mind with expertise across the entire university landscape.

“Kelli has a caring, giving and merciful soul,” an emotional Keating said. “She’s a mentor, a servant and a leader. She’s well aware of the challenges facing a university president today. But she also understands the opportunities available to Salve Regina. She knows the importance of the faculty to the mission of Salve Regina. She will listen to and mentor students. To the alumni, she’ll be a visionary and she will ask for your help. She will be a good neighbor to the community, a partner to the board of trustees, and a person the Sisters of Mercy will be proud of.”

“Having begun her tenure as president in July, Armstrong said she has witnessed both talent and deep commitment from all corners of the institution – from students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends. “And I am invigorated by what we can do together as we approach our 75th anniversary to launch this extraordinary University to the next level of service in the world,” she said.

She invoked the words of the late Sister Leona Misto, former vice president for mission integration: “Mercy calls for action. Mercy is compassion in action.”

“The wonderful aspect of acting with mercy in the context of an educational setting is that we discover who we are by giving ourselves in loving service to others,” Armstrong said. “An educational environment like Salve invites reflection, and when we reflect on the values of compassion, service and justice, we come to a clearer understanding of the purpose of our own lives.

“Mercy is not superficial here but deeply, inextricably, woven into the fabric of our University.”

- by Matt Boxler ’04 (M)
Izabella Mangual-Solivan ’22

(l-r) Bryce Sholtes ’20, Jennifer Page ’20, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong and Priscilla Gaspard ’20

Members of Pitches with Attitude sing the University hymn “Salve Regina.”

Ashley Dantuono ’21, President Armstrong and Abigail Williamson ’21

Cheryl Mrozowski, President Armstrong and Sister Therese Antone

President Armstrong, center, with (l-r) her parents, Carol and Jim, husband Brian Griffin and son, David.
Kaitlyn Bric loves to paint trees. Her canvases hang side-by-side with those of her peers on the walls of Studio 57 at Looking Upwards. Despite her visual impairment, the paintings are bursting with energy and color. When a visitor praises her talent, Kaitlyn responds with a shrug and a shy smile. “I just paint what I see,” she says.

Kaitlyn is 29 years old and is one of more than 1,000 adults and children who receive services at Looking Upwards, a private, nonprofit agency in Middletown, R.I. Founded in 1978, Looking Upwards supports people with developmental disabilities and special health care needs so they may lead rich and satisfying lives. In partnership with family members, Looking Upwards develops personalized plans based on the individual’s dreams and needs.

Carrie Miranda ’95 (M) is the executive director at Looking Upwards and Michele Banks ’82 is the organization’s day and community services administrator as well as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Education. In her role at Salve, Banks has come full circle by teaching Learning Unlimited (LU), the service-learning special education course, which she took part in as an undergraduate student when only a small group of community students participated.

“Carrie graciously supports my position and allows me the flexibility to adjust my schedule in order to fulfill my responsibilities to Salve,” says Banks, who has been coordinating and facilitating LU for 14 years, serving as a link between the program and Looking Upwards.

Each year, approximately 50 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the community continue their education through LU, which is supported through the John E. Fogarty Foundation. In conjunction with Salve’s special education program, LU is designed to promote an inclusive learning community by offering an accessible and welcoming environment. LU also creates opportunities for undergraduate students and people with developmental disabilities to connect with, and learn from, each other through education, recreation and socialization.

The collaborative partnership between LU and Looking Upwards has been transformational for generations of Salve students. The relationships forged through the program help to break down both personal and community barriers. LU has provided countless service-learning opportunities to social work majors, as well as community service opportunities across all academic disciplines, resulting in expanded perceptions, knowledge and understanding of living life with disabilities in today’s society.

“For close to 40 years Learning Unlimited and Looking Upwards have partnered for an experience that provides an opportunity for relationships and collaborative learning,” says Miranda. “The program benefits the students and participants equally. Learning
Unlimited is one of the most popular and highly desired experiences for the participants of Looking Upwards. They look forward to it every semester.”

Looking Upwards has also provided numerous internships to social work and psychology students. “Recently, two students changed their career paths due to their experience at Looking Upwards,” says Banks. “We’ve hired many students as well who have contributed greatly to our agency’s mission.”

“The University encourages students to work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful,” she adds. “By taking part in Learning Unlimited, they are doing just that. At the same time, they’re developing skills, expanding their knowledge and awareness, and cultivating values that will serve them well throughout their lives.”

Each Salve student works as a learning partner, supporting learners like Kaitlyn through individualized activities and attendance at weekly workshops. First-year students, who are just beginning to gain knowledge about, and experience with, providing instruction, must commit to pre-service training and at least one five-week session at the agency. However, many students elect to continue their involvement with their learning partners for the full semester or longer, and a number of students have taken part through their four years on campus.

Jessica Tosches ’19 is one of those students. A social work major, Tosches participated in LU as a freshman in order to fulfill her community service requirement but stayed for the next three years because she loved the program and its impact. Wanting to become involved even further, she began working at Looking Upwards. She loved her work at the agency, whether it was taking part in group excursions or running a weekly “Girls Night Out” in conjunction with the Community-Based Family Services program.

“This is a very special place to me,” says Tosches. “In what you would think might be a chaotic environment, Looking Upwards creates beautiful lives. And it all starts with Michele, who has been my best boss ever.

“I’ve learned so much about myself and the people I work with,” she continues. “I know it sounds corny, but my favorite quote is ‘the only disability in life is a bad attitude.’ The people here are so positive and so happy to be alive – I mean, how is that a disability?”

Through their experience with LU, says Banks, Salve students are “forging connections and breaking down barriers,” while learning that all people, regardless of their background or abilities, have gifts, talents, dreams and the same needs as anyone else.

“I always looked forward to Thursdays because of Learning Unlimited,” says Lillian Villacorta ’21, who is majoring in social work. “I could spend time with my community partners and we got to catch up and talk about our week and other things that interest them. I also like doing the different classes that were provided, such as Orlando’s workout class, because it made working out fun.

“Learning Unlimited has opened my eyes to potential job opportunities that I can look forward to in the future,” she continues. “There was always a great atmosphere when I showed up each week because everyone who was there wanted to be there.”

“We like to quote from a poem by Silfath Pinto that reads ‘May we all embrace our differences. May our hearts be filled with love, joy and peace. May we look at each other and see our beauty, truth and divinity.’” says Banks. “In keeping with the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy who started Learning Unlimited over 40 years ago, we recognize that all people are stewards of God’s creation.

“We work hard every day to continue Salve’s mission. It’s been a wonderful journey.”

- by Steve Cardone
The mission is front and center at Salve Regina.

by Mary Edwards ‘86, ‘12 (M)

“... the ocean is made up of individual drops of water, or in other words, each and every little action helps.”

— Emma Randazzo ’20
On a rainy August day, Christy Rippel, an out-of-town visitor traveling through New England, parked “Penny,” her 1978 Volkswagen bus, alongside The Breakers in order to take photos. When she returned to the vehicle, she discovered that Penny’s battery was dead. After asking a couple of people for help and being declined, Rippel resigned herself to calling roadside assistance.

“It was at that point that a member of your faculty stopped and asked if I needed help,” Rippel recalled, in an email to the University. “I was so grateful to him! As he was pulling closer so we could connect the jumper cables, another member of your faculty asked if he could also help. Then, a third faculty member who was getting into her car offered to let us borrow her umbrella because it was raining.

“I was a complete stranger in your community,” she continued, “literally 3,000 miles from home, with car trouble, and it was raining. Not one, not two, but three members of your faculty stopped to help me in need. You can bet I will never forget your hospitality!”

Though a small and seemingly insignificant example, Rippel’s experience reflects the spirit of mercy that abounds at Salve Regina University. Stepping in when and wherever needed, students, faculty and staff embody the mercy ideals in their interactions on and off campus.

For students, it starts before they even enter a classroom. Each year, as the newest members of the Salve Regina community wrap up their busy first days on campus, they are offered a glimpse of the very real and pressing needs that often go unnoticed in the shadow of Newport’s Gilded Age mansions. By participating in the Exploratory Day of Service on Sept. 3, the Class of 2023, along with student mentors, faculty and staff, set out across Aquidneck Island to volunteer with area nonprofit organizations in a variety of tasks including yard work, boat storage, shoreline clean-up, facility maintenance and more.

“The mission statement is a reasonable, lovely piece to live by. It is my inspiration to get involved and be the brightest light I can be on campus.”

- Carly Chervenak ’23

“Salve’s mission of mercy was something that, when I first heard it, I was able to get behind it and say ‘I can live by this.’ Community service isn’t something I do for a requirement or to add to a resumé but to really feel fulfilled as a person and member of my community.”

- Gilberto Grave ’23
Kelly Powers, director of community engagement and service, opened the day by recalling the words of Catherine McAuley and emphasizing that the University’s mission begins with “striving to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.”

“Today is your first step in working toward a more harmonious, just and merciful community,” continued Powers. “As you work through your extraordinary day, I invite you to be mindful of the five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. Fullness of life for women, anti-racism, immigration, care for the Earth and non-violence.” With those words in mind, more than 650 Salve Regina ambassadors boarded buses and embarked on what, for most, would be the first of many opportunities to embrace the mercy mission and bring it to those in need.

In an exploration of the role of mercy in higher education, Dr. Jayme Hennessy, professor and chairwoman of the Department of Religious and Theological Studies, describes mercy as “the love that strives to restore or preserve the dignity of a human person as created in the image of God. It is a love that is willing to enter into the gaps of who we are and who we are capable of becoming,” says Hennessy. “Grounded in the desire for another’s well-being, mercy is a feeling response that values humanity.”

Mercy transforms. It insists on reciprocity, leaving all involved changed in some way. Mercy is, essentially, an action verb.

In her course Mercy in Christian Life, Hennessy challenged students to model what is considered to be at the heart of the lives of the Sisters of Mercy—action and contemplation. In partnership with Newport’s Martin Luther King Jr. Center (MLK Center), the class researched a number of topics including the feasibility of a mobile food pantry, responses to panhandling, hunger and college students, access to hygiene supplies via food pantries, and social mobility.

“The definition of mercy that most reflects our project is the definition that is told in the parable of the Good Samaritan,” says Emma Randazzo ’20. “This story defines mercy as the love of one’s neighbor by showing how a common man could act mercifully toward a stranger when those of a higher power did not. A problem that I encountered was the idea that I did not have enough power or resources to make a large impact on the community, and it took me the entire semester to realize that...”

It was in the shadows of 19th-century Dublin, where widespread poverty left its indelible mark, that Catherine McAuley, the inspirational foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, found herself called to bravely bridge the disparities in her beloved city, laying the groundwork for a religious order that would span the globe and the generations. Not content to look away from the sick and the suffering, the heiress with the means to live a life of comfort plunged in with fervor and purpose, determined to do all she could to alleviate the misery that was rampant in her world.

In welcoming a new president and looking ahead to Salve Regina’s upcoming 75th anniversary, the University’s theme for the current academic year is “The Mercy Promise: A Celebration of Community, Collaboration and the Creative Spirit.” With that in mind, Catherine’s words continue to resonate as the ripple effect, which began at the house on Dublin’s Baggot Street, is still going strong nearly 200 years later. Mercy’s call for action is still relevant, still vital, and remains deeply connected to Salve Regina’s own founding sisters, whose vision helped to define the University mission that so profoundly empowers the pursuit of a harmonious, just and merciful world.

“Every Sister of Mercy I’ve met has been a strong, smart and compassionate woman who lives in the world to do good for the world and for others,” says Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president. “Their commitment to service...is really amazing.

“The mercy mission lives in all of us at Salve,” she continues. “It’s how we represent the mission, what we do, how we serve people, and the ways we carry out elements of social justice—the way we make the world better. I think how the campus community weaves that into everything we do is how we keep the mercy tradition going.”

“We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.”

- Catherine McAuley

Sisters of Mercy
Five Critical Concerns
Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence, Racism and Women
the ocean is made up of individual drops of water, or in other words, each and every little action helps.”

When tasked with researching the feasibility of a mobile food pantry to serve those who are unable to visit the MLK Center, Ashley Schaefer ’20 discovered that empowering people with the means to help themselves is just as critical as addressing their immediate needs.

“It’s important to preserve autonomy and independence, while helping others,” says Schaefer. “In this way, people gain strength in their self-efficacy and can develop into people who are able to ‘pay it forward’ and help others as well.

“There are people who are unable to access the food pantry at the community center,” she continues. “By having the pantry come to them, more people will be able to provide for themselves and their families.”

The Critical Concerns have been a driving force behind the University’s Civic Action Plan, an initiative that infuses civic learning and community engagement into the curriculum. Bert Emerson, associate professor of art and art history, developed a semester-long project, partnering with Clean Ocean Access (COA), an organization whose goals are to eliminate marine debris, improve coastal water quality and protect and preserve shoreline access. Students in his Graphic Design I course were charged with creating a poster highlighting a single-use product and its impact on the environment in order to highlight the implications of marketing and mass production.

“Throughout the semester, students gathered research at monthly COA beach cleanups collecting and categorizing types of single-use items they found,” says Emerson. “These items were placed in a trash can lid and became a pallet for inspiration. Eleven specific trash items were chosen and researched further in consultation with COA and students ultimately created a type and graphic image poster to show the harmful effects of unsustainable single-use products.”

“The aim, along with learning basic design skills and process, is to develop a conscience that designers play a key role in the destruction of ecosystems and natural resources,” continues Emerson. “Designers have a choice to refuse work that is toxic/harmful and should offer alternative environmentally-sustainable methods.”

The students’ artwork has been showcased in the

Above: Students package daffodil bulbs to distribute for planting October 19.

Left: Waverly Dombkowski ’23 cleans the kitchen at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Newport as part of the Exploratory Day of Service Sept. 3.

“Real wisdom comes from learning about the interrelationships of all beings and the dignity at the heart of every person. Mercy illuminates justice and propels it to action.”

— Sister Therese Antone, Chancellor
community at a number of events, including COA’s World Oceans Day, held June 6 at Easton’s Beach Rotunda, the BOSS (Best of Salve Students) fall art show, and the Sustainable Oceans art exhibition in Warren, R.I., Oct. 23.

The partnership with COA is just one of many collaborative academic initiatives that highlight the importance of the Critical Concerns and their role in transforming the global landscape. In addition, events throughout the year, such as Multicultural Education Week, Mercy Center presentations, Pell Center roundtables, the Atwood Lecture Series and more, ensure that the campus community has ample opportunity to thoughtfully consider and actively work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.

Add the dozens of student organizations with a focus on service, as well as the more than 9,300 community service hours tallied in 2018-2019 alone by student volunteers and service advocates, to underscore the mission’s deep and lasting impact that transforms the student experience and lays a foundation for alumni who continue to make a difference.

“Mission is front and center,” says Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, “not only because that’s what we believe, but I think it brings comfort to those who have been part of the community for a long time that there’s continuity and that the Sisters’ beliefs and values will persist beyond levels of administration and kinds of administration. That’s what makes Salve different.”

Whether random or intentional, acts of kindness—of mercy—are par for the course for students, alumni, faculty and staff. Just ask Rippel, whose experience, though fleeting, illustrates the essence of Salve Regina University.

“All too often we don’t take the time to acknowledge such small but impactful acts of kindness,” says Rippel. “If your staff is this exceptional, I can only imagine the quality of the students you produce. Keep up the fantastic work!”

“We need leaders today who possess not just competence, but compassion, not just intelligence, but empathy. Like Catherine McAuley, almost 200 years ago, we open our doors of Mercy to all.”

– Dr. Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley
Vice President for Mission Integration

Fall 2019
At 91 years old, Syd Williams is the essence of lifelong learning.

The mission of any university demands the fusion of teaching and learning. Mainstream thinking would have it that the process seeks to engage young minds at the undergraduate level and prepare them for higher academic achievement in a predictably linear fashion should they take the next step into graduate study. The assumption is that formal education provides the intellectual basis for life’s work and thus, most logically, precedes it. College campuses are citadels of youth.

Enter the Circle of Scholars, Salve’s lifelong learning program open to anyone 50 years of age and older committed to pursuing knowledge, expanding perceptual horizons and rekindling personal discovery. Syd Williams, 91, joined the Circle of Scholars three years ago. He went on to sign up for the doctoral program in humanities, and is now well on his way to a Ph.D. His is a remarkable journey, a testament to the notion that learning is a perpetual endeavor capable of enriching life at any age.

Salve Regina’s Circle of Scholars was founded in 1994, designed to offer its members the opportunity to investigate a wide range of topics including literature, history, science, health, music, art, public affairs, religion, theater and film through organized seminars and workshops. Free of any formal requirements or credentials other than age, eligibility is gauged by a participant’s desire to learn. Continuing education is on a non-credit basis, but all members become part of the University community with access to the McKillop Library, computer labs, theater productions, Pell Center lectures and other University resources.

As a child, Williams questioned the value of a formal education. But he encountered what he described as an epiphany at the age of 17 after toying with the idea of dropping out of school altogether. Then, as a young man, he found himself at Rhode Island College with decidedly ironic career aspirations.

“Here is a person who hated school,” he said, “looking at the Rhode Island College of Education to become a teacher. And somewhere along the route I began to think, well, maybe, just maybe, I could help children like school better than I did. So, I graduated in 1953 and started teaching in Newport at Cranston Calvert School. And I decided I wanted to teach a little differently.”

Differently meant breaking the mold, bypassing conventional methods of instruction, interacting with his students and tapping into their intellectual curiosity outside the confines of a textbook. “I talked to the principal and said I’d like to try something new, and he said, ‘Fine, as long as you are helping each and every one of these students become the best that they can be.’ Well it became FUN! And the kids opened up to it. I tried to make it what I thought it should be when I was growing up.”

Williams received a master’s degree in administration in 1966 and became Newport’s Superintendent of Schools. He remained in the school system until 1986, retired, lost his wife 18 years ago, and ultimately discovered that education remained a passion.

“I had heard of this program at Salve, Circle of Scholars,” he said. “And I got into that and I found that it was genuinely what I had been looking for, even years ago as a kid. You could contribute. You could ask questions. You wouldn’t be laughed at. You were with adults. I fell in love with the Circle of Scholars.”
It doesn’t end there. Salve’s doctoral program in humanities was inaugurated in 1989 as an interdisciplinary course of study that looks at the essential link between the humanities and technology and debunks the notion that they are mutually exclusive. 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.

“It was set up around 1989, and I’m not sure when the connection between the humanities and technology was made, but whoever made it was inspired,” said Dr. Sean O’Callaghan, program director and associate professor of religious and theological studies. “It’s become a big thing now, to combine two completely different fields. In the modern world technology has become divorced from the humanities. So people are trying to redress that balance.”

The intellectual challenge fascinated Williams. Already a member of the Circle of Scholars, he looked beyond that to something more. “About a year or so ago,” he said, “I turned 90. I said alright, what am I going to do now? My wife is gone. Then I saw a notice about the doctoral program in a Salve publication, and said to myself, well, maybe?”

He sat down with O’Callaghan and found immediate encouragement. He had the academic qualifications, and on top of that he had an idea that fit the program syllabus perfectly. He calls it “Deception.” The process of deception often runs the sharp edge of technology through the soft tissue of humanity, requiring firm command of both. In the military, for example, the value of covert technological deception is based on a target’s cerebral response, on human evaluation and appraisal. Williams wants to study how deception has been used in past military operations and look at ways in which new technologies enable the same deception to be employed in a different era.

“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor.”

–Henry David Thoreau, “Walden”

“Syd had this idea—Deception—something he’s always wanted to explore,” said O’Callaghan. “And this is his opportunity to do it in depth. When you pursue a Ph.D., you become married to the thing, it’s with you continually. And you’re always thinking about it, and if you have had that idea in your head as Syd has, then you can carry it around for a long time. You think, I want to drill down into this, but I want to do that in a guided way.” That’s where Williams is now.

His enthusiasm is infectious. Susanne Reid is another Circle of Scholars member in the doctoral program. She is studying virtual reality in terms of an aging population necessarily sedentary as a result of decreased cognitive and physical abilities. She sees virtual reality as a modern technology aimed, for the most part, at young people, yet potentially beneficial to the senior community beyond its entertainment value.

“Syd was my inspiration,” she said. “Because I thought, well if he can do that, I’m crazy not to try.”

Both are immersed in the process, researching support for their dissertation topics, taking doctoral core courses and humanities electives, and doing what dedicated students do at a time of life few would equate with academic pursuit.

“You never get too old for this,” said Williams. “It allows you to create, where maybe you haven’t been creative in a particular area before. It allows you to feel a little bit younger than you may realize, to dream just a little bit. That’s how I see it, and I’m excited. Some people think I’m crazy at 91 to try this. Too bad, ’cause I’m doing it, and I’m going to give it a hell of a shot. Ninety-one to me is just a number.”
A Festive Fall Weekend

From bonfires to brunches, Fall Festival Weekend showcases the best of Salve spirit.

Autumn at Salve Regina is a glorious time of year; made even more so with more than 1,000 alumni and family members visiting our spectacular campus for Fall Festival Weekend Oct. 4-6. With Friday night’s bonfire at Gerety Hall kicking off the weekend’s events, Seahawk spirit was contagious as the community celebrated with homecoming games, the Seahawk Village, scholarship awards, brunches, Sigma’s induction ceremony and more.
The 16th Annual Fall Festival Awards Ceremony

The 16th annual Fall Festival Awards ceremony showcased student achievements with more than 130 students receiving scholarship awards in recognition of their academic excellence, extracurricular involvement and commitment to the University mission through service. In addition, the Office of Alumni, Parent and Family Programs recognized the dedication of exceptional alumni and parents who share the message and the mission of Salve Regina in their daily lives.

William F. Bundy ’05 (Ph.D.), associate provost for warfighting research and development for the Naval War College in Newport, received the Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award. His illustrious career includes more than 30 years with the U.S. Navy, where he earned numerous commendations and awards for his service, and positions including director of the Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Naval Warfare Research Group, vice president for FleetBoston in the area of operations and technology, and director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

Eileen M. Creaton ’81 is the 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Currently a research nurse in the medical oncology division at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Mass., Creaton’s desire to make an impact has led to continued growth centered around the patient experience as well as her involvement with a number of organizations including the Boston Oncology Nursing Society, the American Cancer Society Education Committee, Brighton Chapter, the Milton Food Pantry, Joe Andruzzi Foundation and the Labouré Center in South Boston.

The recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumna Award, Elizabeth Duggan ’08 is the founder and executive director of Amenity Aid, a volunteer-run nonprofit organization working to ensure Rhode Island’s most vulnerable populations have access to hygiene products vital for good health. A frequent business traveler in her role as director of marketing for the Institute for Operational Excellence, Duggan began donating hotel amenities to local nonprofits and soon discovered the high demand for basic hygiene products like soap and shampoo. After exploring solutions to meet the demand, she founded Amenity Aid, which partners with local organizations serving homeless, at-risk and low-income individuals as well as victims of violence, in 2013.

For Chris Holloway ’85, recipient of the Mission Award, service is a way of life. He has mentored more than a dozen interns, and his extensive community service work includes serving as a volunteer and member of the advisory boards for the Salvation Army of New London, Conn., Catholic Charities of Southeastern Connecticut and Junior Achievement of Connecticut. He has also been a member of the board of directors for East Lyme Babe Ruth Baseball and Old Lyme Little League Baseball, in addition to coaching for Old Lyme Youth Soccer and serving as manager and coach for several Tee ball, Little League, AAU and All-Star baseball teams.

The proud parents of Michael ’19, Marco ’21 and Matthew ’23, Leana and Michael Mongelli are the recipients of the Exceptional Parent Volunteers Award. Whether opening their home to prospective students and alumni for “meet and greets” or setting up tailgate extravaganzas for the men’s lacrosse team, their remarkable Salve spirit is ever-present. The Mongellis are generous with their time and talent as parent ambassadors and event committee members and have also been leading sponsors for the Governor’s Ball. Their enthusiastic support for Salve Regina is an inspiration to the entire campus community.
To view Fall Festival Weekend photos, visit flickr.com/salveregina
The Way We Were

Photos courtesy of the Regina Maris yearbooks.

1964: As always, the library is a focal point for research and study. Miss Katherine McAvoy checks in Barbara’s overdue books, while Sister Mary Isabel willingly searches out reference material.

1964: Dr. Ascanio DiPippo looks somewhat sceptically at the conglomeration of equipment. It seems that someone failed to clean up the chemistry lab.

Kiki’s room usually appears to be the cultural center for “music appreciation,” much to the dismay of Sister Mary Eloise.

Students play a game of volleyball in the Great Hall of Ochre Court during the Goodbye to Summer Beach Party Nov. 1, 1985.

Salve Celebrations

Weddings
Christine Hopper Wood ’10, ’13 (M) and Warnel Wood: July 6, 2019
Jaclyn Horgan ’12 and Ben MacDonald: Oct. 26, 2019
Heather Kapatoes ’14 and Aaron Isch ’13, ’14 (MBA): Oct. 18, 2019

New Arrivals
Daniel Girardin ’10 and Samantha Lombardi Girardin ’11: Stella Shea, Dec. 24, 2018
Nicole Warren Shevory ’10, ’14 (M) and John-Paul Shevory: Walter Francis, Mar. 28, 2019

See our Flickr gallery to upload your captioned photos and share your good news.salve.edu/salvecelebrations.
Alumni from across the decades gather at Central Wharf Company in Boston on July 18.

Alumni from the Class of 1966 gathered for lunch and a mini-reunion at White’s of Westport, Mass., on July 18.

Alumni from the Class of 1962 met at the O’Hare Academic Building for a Lunch and Learn technology boot camp on Aug. 8. Led by Andrew Baik ’13 (center), the group, which included, from left, Helen McGowan-Gardner, Sheila Matonis, Frances LaSalle and Mary Donnelly, explored the benefits of connecting through social media.

Members of the Class of 1968 met for lunch on Aug. 8 at The Boathouse in Tiverton, R.I. Pictured from left are Sara Harton Mitchell, Trish Latham Tinsely, Mary Lou Gualtieri Riker, Sue Dunphy Lawlor, Jo-Anne Galvin Sheehan and Terry Nunes Dall.

Alumni from the Class of 1966 gathered for lunch and a mini-reunion at White’s of Westport, Mass., on July 18.
1974

Regina Tracy ’74 joined Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, R.I., as the institution’s senior director for advancement and development. In the newly-created position, Tracy will be responsible for overseeing alumni relations and fundraising activities. She brings more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and management, having previously been involved with multimillion-dollar fundraising campaigns for the New England Conservatory, Smith College, the University of Connecticut and the University of Maryland.

1975

Molly Donohue Magee ’75, executive director of Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance, was named 2019 Career Achiever as part of the 12th Providence Business News Business Women Awards in April. Magee has worked for more than 40 years in the defense industry, rising through the ranks of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, reaching the position of chief financial officer. Six years ago, she was hired as the first executive director of the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance. Since then, she has grown the organization from all-volunteer to a five-employee group providing economic and workforce development to the defense sector. Magee also serves as director of the Maritime Cybersecurity Center and the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium and is a member of the Rhode Island Cybersecurity Commission, the Rhode Island Defense Economy and Planning Commission, and the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council.

1979

Martha Costa Machnik ’79 has joined The Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island (CMCRI) as its executive director. Prior to joining CMCRI, she worked for nearly 18 years with local YMCAs, most recently as the chief operations officer for the Attleboro YMCA and as both the district executive director and director of healthy aging for the YMCA of Greater Providence. Machnik also serves in a volunteer capacity as president of the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center in Warwick, R.I.

1981

Donna Daly Maguire ’81 has worked at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Mass., for 36 years and now serves as a clinical compliance senior consultant. She and her husband Kevin attended the Boston alumni event July 18.
On a dark night in December 2002, Peter LeClerc ’94, ’96 (M) lost a friend and fellow Osprey when officer Joseph J. “Joe” McGarry Jr. ’97 was shot and killed on the job in Myrtle Beach, S.C. For LeClerc, who has been an officer with the Cranston, R.I., Police Department since 2002, it was a brutal taste of reality in a profession too often tarnished by such tragedy.

Today he keeps the memory of Joe and countless other fallen officers alive by participating in the Police Unity Tour, an annual 315-mile bicycle ride from northern New Jersey to Washington, D.C., run every May to raise public awareness for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. On average, 151 police officers die each year across the nation. Along with honoring those men and women, the event also raises funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum in Washington.

LeClerc rode in the 2019 Unity Tour for his seventh straight year. The first four were on a bicycle, covering up to 100 miles a day with intermittent stops over the course of four days. More recently he has made the trip on a motorcycle, one of 50-60 in his chapter, the Rhode Island Contingent, escorting some 800 bicyclists along the route.

This year the event culminated on May 12 when participants from across the nation converged on Washington. “We all met at RFK Stadium, 2,300 bicycles and 300 motorcycles,” recounts LeClerc.

From there, the group rode two-by-two, down streets lined with supporters, to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. “When you have 2,300 bicycles going two by two, you see a lot of survivors,” he says. “It’s difficult, everybody’s clapping, everybody’s crying, you are fighting back tears and trying not to drop the motorcycle, but you are trying to take it all in at the same time. It’s unbelievable.”

The gravity of the tribute cannot be overstated. Joe McGarry was a close friend of LeClerc, going back to their time as students at Salve. LeClerc’s wife Michele Adragna ’96 was also on campus at the same time—it’s where the two met—and the bond between all three remains indelible.

“Every year I ride for Joe, no matter what,” says LeClerc. But he rides for others, too. The Unity Tour motto says it all: “We ride for those who died.”

Participants are required to raise at least $1,950 in order to qualify. In May, the ride raised $2.7 million for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, bringing total donations since the event’s inception in 1997 to $23 million.

“I don’t stop at $2,000,” said LeClerc. “Every year I try to raise $5,000-$6,000, through Facebook, Rhode Island businesses, Salve alumni and local fundraising events.”

And he won’t stop riding, either. “I will continue to do it as long as my health is there and I have the support from my wife and my children, and if the day comes that I can’t go riding my motorcycle, I’ll go back to riding the bicycle. There’s not many things that I get involved in other than Michele and family life, but this is one thing that’s near and dear to both of our hearts.”

- Quentin Warren

Editor’s note: The Unity Tour is a fully tax-deductible, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, funding from which benefits the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum. Donations are welcome and can be made payable to the Police Unity Tour, care of Peter LeLercl, Cranston Police Department, 5 Garfield Avenue, Cranston, R.I. 02920.
1989
Sister Rayleen Giannotti ’89 was named principal of Mercymount Country Day School in Cumberland, R.I. She had been serving as vice president and director of mission integration at Trinity Health in Chicago and Philadelphia since 2016. She taught middle school religion at Mercymount from 2002 to 2008 and also served as a novice minister with the Sisters of Mercy in Laredo, Texas, and St. Louis, Mo.

1990
Dr. Kim Perry ’90 was appointed senior vice president and chief medical officer for Kindred Healthcare, LLC, a healthcare services company based in Louisville, Ky. She will help drive Kindred’s value proposition with managed care payor partners as well as lead the organization’s physician strategy and executive physician team. Perry received a doctorate of osteopathic medicine from A.T. Still University—Kirksville’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her career includes serving as a multi-state chief medical officer with UnitedHealth Group as well as leadership roles with BJC Healthcare in St. Louis, Mo.

1992
Crista Durand ’92 was recognized as an Industry Leader in Health Care Services as part of Providence Business News 2019 Business Women Awards in April. As president of Newport Hospital, Durand is credited with a turnaround in recruiting, fundraising and community outreach. Since taking the position in 2014, she has launched a community newsletter and lecture series, recruited 60 new physicians and led the hospital’s first capital campaign in 20 years to fund expansion of its emergency department and intensive care unit.

1997
Joe Hart ’97 served with the North Kingstown, R.I., Police Department for 30 years. He retired in fall 2018 as a lieutenant patrol commander and is now a vessel captain with Conanicut Marine Services in Jamestown, R.I.

1999
Betty C. Jester ’99 (MBA), a Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport customer advocate and technical representative to the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, located at the Stennis Space Center, Miss., received the Department of Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award Feb. 28. The award is the third highest Navy honorary award for contributions that are of high value or benefit to the Navy. Jester has been employed by NUWC for 26 years and was recognized for her vision, leadership, problem-solving and dedication.

2004
Jackie Yun ’04 was appointed as the inaugural director of Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Student Center. In her new role, Yun will work with the administrative staff and GSAS Student Center fellows to enhance the support and intellectual and social activities offered. She joined GSAS in 2014 and previously served as the department’s director of student services.

2007
John Demling ’07 was promoted to general manager of Homewood Suites Louisville Downtown. An employee of White Lodging, a hotel property management company, Demling received the 2018 Inspiring Fellowship and Rising Excellence Award and was invited to be on the President’s Council for 2019.
Never let it be said that Heath Brightman misses an opportunity to make the world a better place. Holder of two master’s degrees and two certificates from Salve Regina, as well as undergraduate and graduate degrees from three other institutions, Dr. Heath Jordan “Hank” Brightman is a full-time professor and endowed chair at the Naval War College (NWC), an adjunct faculty member at Salve and a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve who was recently selected for commander. He also maintains a part-time private trauma and wellness practice in Newport and is a personal trainer and certified clinical hypnotherapist.

“There always seems to be a place I need to be. I believe you never pass up the chance to take on a new challenge,” he says. “And you never, never stop learning.”

His circuitous, but always purposeful, path has taken him from his Massachusetts birthplace to a large state university to positions as a law enforcement ranger, chief ranger and environmental protection specialist with the National Park Service. After receiving a master’s degree in criminology, he went to work for the U.S. Secret Service as a criminal research specialist. Meanwhile, he earned an Ed.D. in leadership and supervision, leading to a full-time faculty position as chair of the criminal justice department at Saint Peter’s University in New Jersey, across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan. From his office, he watched the World Trade Center towers crumble to the ground on Sept. 11, 2001.

“I felt like I needed to do something,” he recalls. “I told my family, it’s up to you – I can go back into the Secret Service, or I can join the military.”

They chose the latter, yielding a direct commission as a cryptologic warfare officer in the Navy Reserve. That eventually led to some short-term assignments at the NWC in Newport and, later, a position as a visiting professor in the NWC’s War Gaming Department. He fell in love with the school, the work and the Newport area, so much that gave up his tenured position as an associate professor and chair at Saint Peter’s and accepted a full-time civilian professorship at NWC. Meanwhile, he continued his career in the Navy Reserve, commanding two security force units in New Jersey and Connecticut.

“My crews served in overseas contingency operations, and they went through a lot. When they returned from deployments, many of them had trouble adjusting,” he says. “Back then, much of the Navy’s approach to resolving trauma was pharmacological. I wanted to find other ways to help them.”

That decision led him to the expressive and creative arts program, currently directed by Christopher Carbone.

“I looked at counseling programs at schools all over the country, but it turns out the one that most appealed to me was right in my backyard,” he says. “I was really drawn to the diversity of programs at Salve and the focus on thinking clearly and creatively. “I kept coming back to Salve until I had completed every degree and certificate I could in the holistic counseling and leadership program.”

In 2014, he created a private, part-time practice as a trauma and wellness specialist, where he uses a variety of non-traditional tools, including fitness, hypnotherapy, expressive arts and an understanding of Jungian archetypes and symbols, to help support his clients’ recovery.

“The Salve mission encourages us to live responsible lives and cultivate values,” he says. “To me, that means serving others and empowering them to achieve everything they’re capable of. I’ve sought to do that all my life.”

— Steve Cardone

Editor’s note: The views presented by the faculty do not reflect official positions of the Naval War College, DON or DOD.
2009

Erin Donovan-Boyle ’09 (M) was recognized as a Woman to Watch in Nonprofit/Social Services as part of Providence Business News 2019 Business Women Awards in April. In her role as executive director of the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, she recently spearheaded a regional economic development division and plays a key role in Innovate Newport, a collaborative effort with the City of Newport and the Economic Development Foundation of Rhode Island, and its initiative to redevelop the city’s historic Sheffield School into a technology business hub.

No Time for Sleeping

For some visitors, it’s the breathtaking oceanside vistas that sell them on Salve. For others, it’s the welcoming vibe on campus.

For Kate Simpson ’13, it was the mermaid door handles. “I loved everything about Salve on my first visit – the location, the people, the quality of the education,” recalls Simpson, a nursing major. “But the handles on the front doors at Ochre Court seemed like a sign.

“I’ve always loved art and design, and my mother used to call me her little mermaid. So, when I saw those door handles ...”

Today, while working full-time as a nurse, Simpson has turned her artistic bent into a business. She sells her creations and those of other artists at two stores, Cerulean and Shades of Vintage, which she owns and operates in Warren, R.I.

Cerulean, which Simpson opened with a partner in 2017, sells handmade items including jewelry, cards and home goods. Shades of Vintage, opened the following year as a multi-vendor marketplace for used, vintage and consignment objects, occupies the space next door.

How did a nursing major get into the retail business? “I’ve been making jewelry and other kinds of art since I was in high school,” she explains. “I started selling some of my jewelry while I was at Salve, kind of as a side hustle just to de-stress myself from the pressures of the nursing program.”

And while her Salve degree prepared her for a nursing career, it was Simpson’s experiences outside the classroom that taught her how to run a business.

“I was always involved in athletics on campus. I managed the men’s lacrosse team, and I worked for men’s and women’s soccer and ice hockey,” she explains. “I did everything – stats, film, whatever was needed – and I learned a lot about working with people, multitasking, and managing my time.”

The urge to open her own store came during her time at Salve, where she sold her jewelry online and at craft fairs. “I was doing an outdoor show at a parking lot in Providence and I heard about a space that was opening up in the neighborhood – kind of a shop within a shop, which was ideal for me,” she explains. “That got me started. Eventually I realized I wanted a space of my own.”

While managing both stores, Simpson maintains a full-time professional schedule, working nights at a nursing home in North Providence. “I don’t sleep much,” she says, with a laugh.

About her business plans for the long term, she says, “Right now, Warren feels right. It’s coastal but affordable, and they’re very supportive of the arts here. I’m focusing on doing the best that I can with these two stores. But if I find the perfect space in the future, who knows?”

- Steve Cardone
Having grown up just a few miles from Henry David Thoreau’s cabin on Walden Pond, Sage Staven ’14 knows something about marching to the beat of her own drum. While many of her classmates have launched fulfilling careers in corporate offices, health care facilities and universities, Staven’s professional path has led her to the forests of northwest Montana. And for her, as another noted New Englander once said, that has made all the difference.

During her first winter in Montana, Staven conducted carnivore research as a volunteer wildlife technician for the U.S. Forest Service, snowshoeing to remote locations and setting up bait stations in the Flathead National Forest. It was through her connections in that role that she landed a position as a full-time wildlife technician for the 2018 summer season. Her days were spent observing loons, eagles and goshawks nest sites in the early summer, and analyzing habitats of cavity nesters, grizzly bear and lynx later in the season.

Staven was also volunteering for Montana Wild Wings Recovery Center, working to rehabilitate sick or injured raptors. Once again, networking through volunteerism led to a paid winter position with the Forest Service, working as a ranger/naturalist at Whitefish Mountain Resort, where she conducted guided snowshoe hikes with school groups as part of an Animals in Winter program.

Though Staven was planning to work another season in the field this past summer, funding for a technician’s position fell through and she continued working as a ranger/naturalist. As passionate about science education as she is about scientific research, she was thrilled to share her knowledge with the 200-plus visitors who came through the summit’s nature center each day. In this role, she led daily wildflower walks, introducing people from around the world to the diversity of the Rockies’ beautiful alpine wildflowers.

“I love interpreting the natural history of the wildlife found here,” says Staven. “I had the opportunity to develop and give my own interpretive presentation to a group on a week-long guided tour. I talked about prominent American naturalists, whose passion for observing nature, and writing about it, inspired the formation of our national parks, forests and reserves. I then taught the group how to experience the outdoors as a naturalist through prompted nature journaling.”

Staven enrolled at Salve determined to major in biology, but was less certain about her area of concentration and somewhat unfamiliar with the idea of fieldwork.

“Believe it or not, what made my mind up was a pamphlet I received in the mail from Salve,” she says. The pamphlet’s cover featured Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology and environmental studies coordinator, who spends much of his time creating opportunities for undergraduates to gain experiences in field ecology. “He’s passionate about getting students out in the field, and that really appealed to me,” says Staven. “He showed me I could have a wonderful career as a wildlife biologist. I wouldn’t be where I am today without his influence.”

Staven made just as strong an impression on Chace, who says, “Sage had a deep appreciation of nature, an intense inquisitiveness about the natural history of all organisms, and a devoted concern for biodiversity loss. Her enthusiasm about the natural world was absolutely infectious in my classes.”

That passion has been evident since Staven arrived in Montana. She’s gotten where she is, in part, by her willingness to volunteer her time working on projects she believes in.

“I tell anyone who’s interested in this kind of work that you have to constantly put yourself out there. Volunteer, keep learning, make as many contacts as you can - and never give up.”

– Steve Cardone
Brendan Lavery ’09 joined Enterprise Rent-A-Car after graduating from Salve and currently serves as the remarketing account manager in the New England region for the company’s truck rental division.

Alaina Smalley ’09 received her Master of Nursing with a focus on executive management from Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2017. She currently serves as a nurse manager in the ambulatory surgery department and post-anesthesia care unit at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. Since the fall of 2012, Smalley has also been singing classical music with the New York Choral Society and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and on tour with Andrea Bocelli.

2010

Gina Campbell ’10 is a program manager for internal medicine residency at the Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine.

Daniel Girardin ’10 is the manager of technical recruiting at ezCater, an online marketplace for corporate catering.

2011

Nicole Warren Shevory ’10, ’14 (M) works for the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Central Office as a management analyst, where she managed the implementation, and now oversees the daily operations, of the National Work Queue, an electronic workload management initiative for the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Samantha Lombardi Girardin ’11 is a trauma ICU nurse at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Alyssa Lozupone ’11 is the director of preservation for the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF). Prior to joining NRF, Lozupone worked at the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

Live Local Takes the Stage

Jamie Horoszko ’16 gives local musicians room to play.

When Jamie Horoszko ’16 began his freshman year at Salve, his plan was to pursue a career in writing. But he changed his mind in 2015 after spending the summer in Newport. He fell in love with the entire atmosphere and was particularly drawn to the local music and art scenes. Struck by the bands performing at the bars and restaurants, he made it his mission to give them a bigger stage.

Horoszko recalls that this dream began when his friend took him downtown to Perro Salado to see a three-piece surf rock band called the Z-boys. “They blew me away and my eyes began to open to the Newport music scene,” he said. He needed to figure out a way for more people to experience it.

Because of this new passion, Horoszko returned to school in the fall and changed his major to marketing. His dream of combining this new major with the music industry came to life over a FaceTime call with his friend, Patrick Murphy, who was living in Hawaii at the time. A third-generation Rhode Islander, Murphy expressed his desire to host a Newport music festival for locals, by locals, where they could perform on a bigger stage. This couldn’t have come at a better time, and Horoszko was eager to start the project.

It wasn’t long after that call that Murphy moved back to Newport. The two friends met every day to put together a business plan for what would become the Live Local Music & Arts Festival.

They decided to host the festival on the large lawn outside the Great Friends Meeting House, which is owned by the Newport Historical Society. “We attained a contract and approval from the city, and then Live Local was born,” Horoszko said.

The third annual festival took place on July 20, with nearly 1,000 attendees. Despite the oppressive temperatures, Horoszko said that the weekend went very smoothly. “The art and music were the best we’ve had so far,” he said. “We’ve only been receiving positive feedback.”

His favorite part of running the festival has been watching the development from year one to year three. “It is great to see this growing collection of like-minded artists and community members from all different backgrounds coming together with the benefit of Newport in mind.”

Horoszko believes that Live Local is important for the platform it gives to lesser-known artists and musicians. “We take for granted how many people there are in Newport and the world in general. Only a very small percentage really get the opportunity to display their talents and passions,” he said.

As Horoszko has watched his dreams become reality, he is especially grateful that the festival has given local artists more opportunities to grow, while also giving Newport residents a chance to discover them. “That’s what it’s been about all along,” he said.

– Emily Whelan ’20

Zachary Saul ’11 (MBA) was named director of finance for South Kingstown, R.I., and also serves as the town’s chief financial officer. In addition to his master’s degree, he holds an executive leadership certificate from Cornell University and a bachelor’s degree in accountancy from George Washington University. Saul’s main responsibilities include maintaining the town’s accounting, budgeting and financial management systems.

2012

Jaclyn Horgan ’12 teaches fourth and fifth grade special education for Westport (Mass.) Elementary School. In her role as the inclusion special education teacher, Horgan makes the curriculum accessible to students with learning and health disabilities, social and emotional disabilities, autism and Down syndrome so that they can remain in the regular education classrooms with their peers. She also conducts after-school tutoring and runs the Mindful Meditation Club for students to explore various calming and focus strategies.

Jerry O’Shea ’12 works on the sales team at DataRobot in Boston, where he sells predictive analytics software to data science professionals to help them optimize their business.

2013

Jillian P. Clifford ’13, ’18 (M) is a pediatric nurse currently practicing with Ocean State Urgent Care-Primary Care in Cranston, R.I. She is a certified family nurse practitioner and a member of the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Salve Regina in 2018.

Elizabeth Coyne ’13 works for RSM US LLP in Boston, Mass., as a talent acquisition strategic initiatives senior associate. In this role, she helps to develop and drive RSM’s recruitment strategy for campus, experienced and executive recruitment across all regions of the U.S. and Canada. Her team spearheads projects in the realms of technology roadmap, data analytics, culture diversity and inclusion, brand enhancement, social media and candidate experience.

Andi Hoxha ’13 is a finance manager for STAG Industrial, Inc., a real estate investment trust specializing in buying and operating single tenant industrial buildings, where he is responsible for budgeting and cost projections for a portfolio of properties. In his free time, Hoxha enjoys golf, travel and is active in Boston soccer leagues. He recently traveled to Europe on a multi-country excursion and also visited Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park, and has plans to visit Sedona, Ariz., and the Grand Canyon.

2014

Jeff Bielefeld ’14 is a team lead for Northeast enterprise sales at Rapid7, a cyber security company that offers a variety of software and services providing visibility, analytics, and automation for organizations to better understand their security posture. Bielefeld is in a sales role specifically focused on Fortune 1000 organizations based in the New York and New Jersey region. As a team lead, he is focused on helping develop other members of his team ensure quarterly and annual yearly success. Bielefeld lives in Boston and also plays in two men’s basketball leagues with fellow alumni Nick Bates ’17, Ryan Birrell ’11, Pat Dinneen ’14, Barrett Hanlon ’16 and Alex Pratt ’14.

Alyssa Marti ’14 is an operating room nurse at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, a specialty hospital which focuses on ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and related medicine and research.
Marina Hare Pano ’14 is a market specialist, supporting transactions lawyers in their business development, for the international law firm of McDermott Will & Emery in Boston. She is also the membership chair for the Legal Marketing Association’s Boston regional group. She and her husband Ori enjoy traveling and have recently visited Albania, the Bahamas, Corfu, Los Angeles, Miami and Spain.

Yveline Bayonne-Hulse ’15 (M) was named Exemplary Elementary School Counselor by the Michigan City Area Schools in November 2018. With an extensive background in social work and counseling, she has made an impact on the students at Coolspring Elementary in the time she has worked there. “I devote my career to advocating for the students at MCAS,” says Bayonne-Hulse. “I tell the kids, ‘When I walk through the doors in the morning, I’m walking in for you.’ Our kids are good kids. Our goal is to do the best we can by them every day.”

Stephanie Fappiano ’15 is a chemotherapy infusion nurse at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where she administers chemotherapy in an outpatient setting to breast and gastrointestinal oncology patients. She is also a certified Kick It By Eliza instructor, teaching classes that feature kickboxing and a music-driven group fitness method.

Kailey Fitzgerald Gingras ’15 (MBA) is a senior creative content project manager at Brafton Inc. in Boston, Mass. In her role, Gingras manages clients from a variety of industries from banks and technology companies to financial advisors, construction agencies and interior designers. In her free time, she enjoys yoga and practicing calligraphy, a hobby that has provided the opportunity for occasional commission work for weddings and events.

Sam Handy ’15, was promoted to director of marketing for Siren Marine in Newport, R.I. He first joined the organization in 2017 as marketing coordinator and has since taken on additional responsibilities as the company launched new products on a global scale. Handy also serves on the steering committee of R.I. Marine Trades Association Future, an under-40 young professionals group with a focus on promoting professional development within the marine industry.

Lauren Kane ’15 lives in New York and is the assistant editor at The Paris Review.

Murphy McCann ’15, a video editor for Animus Studios in Providence, R.I., debuted her film “Burning My Tongue” at the Provincetown International Film Festival in June. A filmmaker and member of the LGBTQ community, McCann describes her film as “a small anecdotal piece showcasing that LGBTQ relationships are just as endearing/relatable/awkward as straight/cis ones. It’s just two humans trying to figure it out.” While she plans to submit “Burning My Tongue” to more festivals, McCann says: “The film was very well received. We had three screenings and Q&A sessions; it was a blast! We’re off to a promising start with premiering at PIFF.”

Fletcher Bonin ’16 is pursuing his Ph.D. in English Language and Literature at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Alexander Croce ’16 is a senior accountant at Forensic Risk Alliance in Providence, R.I. He is currently pursuing his master’s degree in accounting at the University of Connecticut and plans to sit for the CPA exam after finishing the master’s program in 2020.

Kathleen Gallogly ’16 is a health care contract data analyst II at Boston Children’s Hospital. She is also busy working weekends as a makeup artist for fellow alumna Allison Barbera ’04, a licensed esthetician and makeup artist who founded the Newport-based Allison Barbera Beauty that specializes in weddings, events, commercials, corporate work and more.

Stephanie Marvel ’16 graduated summa cum laude on June 1 as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Saint George’s University School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her clinical studies at the University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville and accepted a position at a large animal veterinary clinic in Kaitaia, New Zealand beginning in October.

Charles Modica, JD, chancellor, gives Stephanie Marvel ’16 her diploma from Saint George’s University School of Veterinary Medicine.
Finding Her Niche

When it came to moving to England and pursuing a master’s degree at the University of York, Rose Barley '16 jumped in without hesitation. The Connecticut native and former art history and French double major is set to graduate next winter with a Master of Arts in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management.

Barley is well aware of just how “niche” her chosen field is and credits, in part, her undergraduate professors and classes in her decision. The experience that ultimately pushed her toward becoming a stained-glass conservator came during a trip to the French city of Reims while she was a junior studying abroad at L’Institut Catholique de Paris. It was there in the Notre-Dame de Reims that Barley decided that she would become a conservator.

“I wanted to preserve that feeling of awe and being for others,” she says, “so that they, too, can experience the beauty of the edifice as it was meant to be.”

In order to offset the costs of moving to England and a two-year graduate program, Barley spent a year living at home while working at the Stanley Black & Decker plant in New Britain. Despite keeping odd hours — her 12-hour shifts ran from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. — she was also able to enroll in an online chemistry class run by the educational charity group International Academic Projects in order to build her résumé.

Once she had joined her program at the University of York, Barley was placed at commercial conservation studio Glasmaleri Peters, located in Paderborn, Germany, to gain practical experience. Despite initial nervousness at being placed in such a large firm, she says that her placement was challenging and, ultimately, very rewarding.

“[It] was honestly the best part of the course and an integral component of learning hands-on conservation and gaining practical skills in an otherwise highly theoretical course,” says Barley.

Newport’s own wealth of stained glass has not been lost on Barley. In fact, her time in Salve’s art history and historic preservation classes supplied a topic for her master’s dissertation: the Charles Eamer Kempe windows in Gerety Hall on the Wakehurst estate. Barley returned to Newport to take high-resolution photographs of the windows in order to complete an assessment of their condition as well a maintenance plan to preserve them. Interestingly, despite Gerety Hall being an almost exact copy of Wakehurst Place, owned by the United Kingdom’s Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, designer Charles Eamer Kempe created a series of panels just for the house in Newport.

“Instead of importing period panels to match the period interiors,” says Barley, “Kempe created completely new ones. They are unique to Gerety Hall.”

So what is next for Barley? In addition to finishing her master’s dissertation, she will be marrying her fiancé William and moving to his native France in order to pursue apprenticeships and further conservation certification. “I am super excited to be learning about French stained glass. I absolutely love working in a studio and cannot wait to go back to that environment.”

- Michaela McMahon ’19
Shannon Harrington ’18 is working as a marketing administrator for the Breachway Grill in Charlestown, R.I.

Claire Latsko ’18 is an assistant account executive with the Charmin account at Saatchi and Saatchi in New York.

Erin Barry ’19 is working as a communications assistant for the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy.

Veronica Beretta ’19 is a graphic designer in Framingham, Mass., at Quilling Card, a greeting card company that uses the ancient art of rolling, coiling and shaping strips of paper to create intricate three-dimensional designs. Beretta’s responsibilities include designing the background artwork used as a base for the quilling, product photography, weekly email blasts and traveling to trade shows across the country to promote the company and its products to wholesalers and retailers.

Michael Jacques ’19 (M), a Westport, Mass., police officer, participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge Aug. 3-4 in honor of his uncle, Christopher Collins, who died at the age of 47 after a two-year battle with kidney cancer. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and 100 percent of each rider’s fundraising goals goes directly to research. “[Collins’] character traits are something I strive to have in my own life,” says Jacques. “Because he was that much of an example and inspiration to me, I have this motivation to bike in his memory for cancer research. I plan on making this a yearly tradition.”

Shannon Miller ’19 was accepted into the Peace Corps in Senegal and began training as an environment volunteer in September. “I specifically applied to Senegal because I was intrigued by the agroforestry program,” says Miller. “I have a strong passion for environmental studies and conservation biology - I feel a call to service and feel very lucky to be able to share this with others.” She will work in cooperation with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in Senegal.

Megan Parham ’19 is the recipient of the Excellence in French Award from the Alliance Francaise of Newport, an organization whose mission focuses on the promotion of the French language and culture. Parham graduated magna cum laude, majoring in business administration and French, and spent a year in Paris as part of her academic studies.

Kelly Runda ’19 is an admissions counselor for Salve Regina, with a territory that includes all of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. “Most of my time in the fall was on the road attending college fairs, school visits, and interview nights within my territory,” says Runda. “I cannot think of a more rewarding opportunity than to travel and spread the word about this institution I’ve called home.”

Julia Morisi ’17 received the Mercy International Association’s inaugural emerging leaders fellowship. Morisi was one of 10 women worldwide to receive the fellowship, which is designed to stimulate creative and critical thinking and promote collaborative leadership and personal reflection. In addition to the United States, fellows hail from Australia, Ireland, Papua New Guinea and Peru.

In addition to research projects, grassroots engagements and related activities, fellows will complete three international engagements, which include attending the United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Young Mercy Leaders pilgrimage in Dublin, Ireland.

The first event was an induction and retreat in Cambodia in August where the cohort, according to Morisi, “started to explore the Mercy International themes of displacement of persons and degradation of earth, including a project focused on water and sanitation. We also focused on disarmament and reconciliation.”

Morisi, a double major in English literature and religious and theological studies, is currently pursuing a master’s degree in theology and conflict transformation at Boston University. “I am excited to have this fellowship as a way to focus my current studies,” she said. “I want to focus my education into the types of global concerns that the Sisters of Mercy prioritize, and I hope to direct my career path toward a profession that promotes mercy and justice.”
In Loving Memory

A distinguished scholar, teacher and missionary, John J. Greeley left an indelible mark on the Salve Regina community and is fondly remembered by faculty, staff and students. He retired in 2011 after 31 years as a professor and chair in the Department of Religious and Theological Studies and is an integral part of University history.

Known affectionately as 'Dr. J' from his early days on campus, Greeley is survived by his loving wife Mary Louise, who was a professor and chair of the Department of Biology and Biological Sciences, and their son, John J. Greeley Jr. After graduating from Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in New York, Greeley entered the Novitiate of The St. John Baptist De La Salle Brothers of the Christian Schools. He received his bachelor’s degree at The Catholic University of America and earned his master’s degree at Manhattan College. He received his licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) and went on to complete his Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.), both at The Catholic University of America. In 1979, he received his dispensation from the Pope to leave the Christian Brothers.

John Rok, associate professor of religious and theological studies, recalls visiting Greeley in his office on the second floor of Angelus Hall, which was shared with Dr. Frank Maguire and Dr. Lubomir Gleiman. “My office at the time was on the first floor,” says Rok. “For me, going upstairs to chat with John was like being a student at the Academy in ancient Athens in the company of these three intellectuals.

“As most people who knew John are aware, he was a very accomplished runner in high school,” adds Rok. “I truly enjoyed the occasions when we ran a few Navy 5Ks out at the base on Friday afternoons.”

Greeley assisted in the Roman Catholic Initiation of Adults Program at St. Mary’s Church in Newport for many years. He also helped with Troop 1 Portsmouth Boy Scouts.

“As I remember John as a tireless and dedicated scholarly teacher,” says Sister Therese Antone, chancellor, “his peaceful demeanor and ever present smile signaled his happiness and enduring love of humanity. He always shared these generously with his colleagues and students.”

In Memoriam

Lora Ann Carberry ’69
Marilyn Donnelly ’86
James Geer ’79, ’89 (M)
Robert D. Gregory ’76
Roberta Motha Hobart ’63
Stephen Kennedy ’83
Elise LaParle, former assistant to the dean of admissions
Beverly Ann Lewis ’62
Stephen Lipman,
COS executive board member
Mary Ritchie McCormick ’74
Joan Megley ’83
Col. Kurt Dexter Philip Norman
(US Army RET) ’03 (MBA)
Christine Piezzo ’89
Karen Connelly Ricci ’63
Regina Robinson ’80
Joseph Silveria, longtime shuttle driver
Capt. Esmond Douglas Smith ’92 (M), ’94 (Ph.D.)
Keith Spencer ’93 (M)
Roy Twaddle III ’99 (Ph.D.)
Chris Unsworth ’92, ’94 (MBA)
How is it this hot, I thought, as I trudged through a blistering, humid Southeast Asian jungle. The cicadas screamed overhead as my ears pricked for sounds not made by animals or insects, a sign of danger. I fantasized about the Newport breeze as I breathed in air so thick with humidity it was suffocating. My 50-pound pack, loaded with rice and medicine, slid painfully on my shoulders and my hamstrings protested in effort. I never would have imagined that, a year after I walked across the commencement stage at Salve Regina University, I would be bushwhacking through a jungle with a tape recorder and camera in hand to document human rights violations and attempting to bring love, hope and justice into the war zones of Burma.

Seventy years of contention and subnational conflict has left Burma one of the most divided countries in the world. Home to the longest-running civil war in recorded history, the Burma Army continues an unrelenting attack on its ethnic population. The military’s campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide has led to the murder of thousands of innocents and displacement of millions.

I was first introduced to the conflict while sitting in a stifling hot classroom during my semester abroad in Thailand. The ancient projector depicted images of dead children, villages burned to the ground, and victims of landmine explosions as the professor tried to explain the number of refugees who have sought asylum in Thailand’s northern mountains.

The question of how I could help plagued my mind for months until I serendipitously happened upon the Free Burma Rangers (FBR). FBR trains, supplies and coordinates Ranger teams to help provide emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing and human rights documentation to those in the conflict zones.

Feeling strongly about the organization’s mission, I packed my bag and moved to Thailand to join the Ranger team. I fell quickly into step with FBR’s mission and took to the jungle to bring aid to those displaced by the conflict and document the atrocities happening to the people.

I am always surprised when we enter a village. You would think that after being displaced and constantly fleeing armed battalions, those affected would be left battered, hopeless and despondent. But the opposite is true. You enter a village and laughter fills your ears. Children are playing, adults are cracking jokes, telling animated stories and singing traditional songs at the top of their lungs while farming. Somehow, though these individuals have been through the most arduous of circumstances, the oppressed in Burma have a fervor for life and appreciate beauty in a far greater capacity than I have ever seen.

I began conducting interviews, and soon my tape recorder was filled, not only with instances of human rights abuses, but how men, women and children exhibited acts of courage and resilience that kept life going around them.

“Tell my story, don’t let [the world] forget me,” my friend and translator Ajah told me one night as we lay on a cool rock, looking at the incalculable number of stars splattered across the black sky.

And just like that, it clicked. I found my role. I made it my goal to become a vessel, a tool of communication, and a platform to those whose voices are silenced by oppression.

I am here to tell the story of Paw-Naw-Moo, who, at the age of 5, was forced to watch her mother as she was sexually assaulted by a Burma Army soldier, and has now made it her mission to combat the weaponized use of rape in the contested states.

I am here to tell the story of Kawpru, who trained to become a medic after watching her brother die from an infected gunshot wound inflicted by the Burma Army.

I am here to tell stories not only of horror, but also resiliency. I am here to galvanize the international community into action, or at the very least, to make sure these people are not forgotten.

- Sarah Morehouse ’17
2019/2020 Upcoming Events

Nov. 23
Extensions Dance Company
Fall Preview
7:30 p.m., Casino Theatre
401.341.2250

Dec. 3-17
Artist in Residence - May Babcock
Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery
401.341.2981

Dec. 7
Newport County Orchestra
3 p.m., Casino Theatre
401.341.2295

Dec. 7
43rd Annual Governor’s Ball
8 p.m., Ochre Court
877.SRU.GIFT

Dec. 8
Newport Community Symphonic Band
3 p.m., Casino Theatre
401.341.2295

Dec. 11
50th Anniversary Society
Holiday Luncheon
Noon - 3 p.m.
Ochre Court
401.341.2346

Dec. 12
Open Studio Reception
May Babcock
5-7 p.m.
Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery
401.341.2981

Dec. 14
Choral Concert
7:30 p.m., Ochre Court
401.341.2295

Dec. 15
Choral Concert
3 p.m., Ochre Court
401.341.2295

Feb. 8, 2020
Madrigals Cabaret Dinner
7 p.m., Ochre Court
401.341.2295

Feb. 13, 14, 15, 2020
Theatre Alumni Show
7:30 p.m., Megley Theatre
401.341.2250

Feb. 16, 2020
Theatre Alumni Show
2 p.m., Megley Theatre
401.341.2250

Feb. 27, 28, 29, 2020
Extensions Dance Company
7:30 p.m.
Saturday matinee, 2 p.m.
Casino Theatre
401.341.2250

Mar. 15, 2020
Alumni Wedding Showcase
11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Ochre Court
401.341.2460

June 5-7, 2020
Save the Date!
Reunion Weekend
401.341.2346

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