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Branching Out

The SRyou Student Exposition, titled “Ten Years of Branching Out” in honor of its 10th anniversary, took place March 27, as students shared their accomplishments, research and passions with members of the community. The annual event showcases undergraduate students’ involvement in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities through poster presentations, table displays and performances.

Michael Rosati ’21 believes that SRyou is important because students get to see what others are involved in beyond the classroom. An elementary and special education major, he shared his experiences as the treasurer of the Best Buddies Club in a table display.

“Best Buddies has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people who I would not have otherwise met,” said Rosati. “The community is one-of-a-kind and the love and support is so special.”

The poster section presented a variety of scholarly work and research. Sociology, anthropology and history major Calissa Silva ’20, along with two of her peers, presented research on acknowledging racial identity in pre-service teachers. “Our goal is to produce educators who are culturally responsive in order to fight systematic inequities,” said Silva. “I am grateful for the opportunity to show others what we have been researching and for the chance to engage in other students’ work.”

In Angelus Hall, members of the dance, music and theatre programs performed. Lauren Flynn ’21, an elementary and special education major and a soprano in the all-female a cappella group, Pitches with Attitude, wowed the audience with two solos. She believes that SRyou is especially valuable to the music department because most people don’t realize who is passionate about the arts until they see a performance.

“A lot of my professors didn’t know I sing,” said Flynn, “and that is a huge part of who I am. It was awesome to see my teachers there supporting the various musicians, dancers, actors and actresses.”

The student expo ended with a closing ceremony and ice cream social in Ochre Court. Erin Barry ’19, an American studies major and chair of the SRyou planning committee, spoke about her favorite part of the day.

“I love seeing students proudly show up in the morning with their work and share their excitement with other presenters,” said Barry. “The conversations happen organically, and we all learn from one another. In the words of Sister Jane, this is Salve at its best.”

— Emily Whelan ’20
“Salve Regina has a bright, exciting future and I look forward to working with the entire University community to advance its mission.”

New Beginnings

Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong joins the Salve Regina community as the University’s eighth president July 1. She is the first lay person to hold the office since the institution’s founding by the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 1947.

“I’m humbled and honored to serve at such an exceptional institution,” says Dr. Armstrong. “What sets Salve Regina apart from other universities is that in the great tradition of a mercy education, we help our students become their best selves and make a difference in the world.”

Dr. Armstrong has served the Boston College community in a variety of positions, including associate vice president, director of the institutional research department and, most recently, as vice president for planning and assessment, where she oversees a broad range of activities and initiatives that promote the use of information and planning in strategic decision making.

Faith, a commitment to service and the value of education were instilled at an early age in Dr. Armstrong, who is the eldest of four daughters in a Catholic family. She and her husband Brian have two sons, both of whom have embraced the family’s liberal arts tradition through the study of philosophy.

“My role at Salve will be to do everything in my power to ensure that the Mercy mission prevails,” says Dr. Armstrong, “The Sisters of Mercy’s values of social justice and service closely align with my own. They have created a wonderful educational environment that is unique in its preparation of students for lifelong learning with a moral compass. Salve Regina has a bright, exciting future and I look forward to working with the entire University community to advance its mission.”

New Dean Takes the Helm

In addition to a new president, the University community welcomes Dr. Steve Rodenborn as the new dean of undergraduate studies, starting in July.

“A student-centered, mercy education is a transformative experience,” says Rodenborn, who comes to Salve from his position as director of the honors program and chair of the Department of Religious and Theological Studies at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. “It’s clear to me that Salve Regina prepares graduates who are uniquely capable of examining the world with nuance and engaging the world professionally. It will be an honor to work with Salve’s incredibly talented faculty in the coming years to hone this distinctive kind of education for new generations of students.”

Rodenborn has a B.A. in theology from Creighton University and both an M.T.S. and Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame.

“As a systematic theologian with a personal and professional background deeply rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, Dr. Rodenborn has expertise and a strong track record as a collaborative leader with past success working across disciplines to further strengthen student outcomes across all majors,” says Dr. Nancy Schreiber, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Dr. Rodenborn is very experienced working with a diverse student body and will bring bold ideas as we look to continue to strengthen our academic profile.”

Taking the Plunge

Service Plunge 2.0 benefits local residents as student volunteers help with local home improvement projects during Rebuilding Together’s community service event April 5.

Spring/Summer 2019
Tales of the Voiceless

Elizabeth Kolbert, best-selling author and staff writer for The New Yorker, received the 2019 Pell Center Prize for Story in the Public Square March 4. Awarded annually since 2013, the prize honors a storyteller whose work has significantly influenced the public dialogue. Kolbert’s most recent book, “The Sixth Extinction,” a masterpiece of environmental writing, received the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 2015 and was selected by The New York Times as one of the 10 best books of the year. She is also the author of “Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change,” and she edited “The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2009.”

“It’s a real honor to be receiving the Pell Center Prize for Story in the Public Square,” Kolbert said. “The characters I’ve been writing about in recent years are often the sort that can’t speak for themselves – birds, corals, rhinos, bats. I hope the tales of these creatures – most endangered, some already extinct – have helped people understand that human stories are not the only ones worth attending to.”

“The challenge posed by climate change, by human actions that cause it and by our collective inaction to tackle it will be the defining, tragic story of the century,” said Jim Ludes, executive director of the Pell Center. “Elizabeth Kolbert is telling the stories we need to hear, now, to understand the consequences we will face in this century. It is our hope that in recognizing her, we will help spur further public discussion and action on the threat posed by the changes humanity is forcing on the planet’s environment.”

Blue Innovation

The marine technology industry is growing and innovating at a breakneck pace, and Salve Regina is taking a leading role in connecting the industry and higher education by hosting the Blue Innovation Symposium, which will be held on campus Jan. 14-16, 2020.

“As a University committed to innovation and technology, we are always looking outward to share our expertise and connect the University with industry, organizations, and state and federal agencies,” says Dr. Tobias Stapleton, dean of graduate studies and continuing education. “Our cybersecurity and strategic innovation and management programs contribute to the knowledge base that drives companies like the ones represented at the symposium.”

More than 200 participants from private companies, research institutions and the military gathered in Newport Nov. 27-28, 2018, for Salve’s first symposium, which was co-hosted by the Consulate General of Canada in Boston. The theme, “The Ocean, Data and You,” focused on data analytics and cybersecurity initiatives. Presentations and panel discussions provided an overview of trends in the industry, and an interactive display area allowed companies to demonstrate their new technologies.

Rand LeBouvier ‘11 (Ph.D.) handles strategy business development at General Dynamics and was a panel member discussing the practical applications and a prognosis for the future of artificial intelligence. “AI and robotics were the focus of my thesis work as part of the humanities Ph.D. program,” he says. “Yes, that’s right... the University prepared me particularly well to understand and address this topic in a more deeply interdisciplinary way than a purely technically-oriented curriculum could.

“A holistic approach to such challenging and intriguing subjects can often lead to unique perspectives and unexpected advances valued by both humanists and technologists alike,” Le Bouvier continues. “For me, the search for AI has reunited philosophy and technology in a contemporary and relevant way, and it is very rewarding to share that experience.”

Editor’s note: Learn more at salve.edu/blue-innovation-symposium.
Taxing, but Rewarding

Preparing a tax return, for many, is a chore best handled by someone else, but the added cost of hiring a professional may be daunting. Thanks to 11 students participating in AARP’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, however, Newport County residents meeting the criteria received free tax assistance and basic income tax return preparation for the 2019 filing season.

Michaela Carrera ’21, Ashley Cody ’20, Johnna Coletti ’22, Joshua Cyr ’20, Amanda Doscher ’20, Amanda Fantasia ’20, Alish Kelleher ’20, Junda Qian ’21, Michael Tuttle ’19, Kyle Wisniewski ’20 and Amber Woodard ’20 became IRS-certified as part of their fall 2018 Federal Income Taxes I class with Paul McKillop, senior lecturer of business studies and economics. To become eligible to volunteer through the VITA program, students needed to pass three certification tests through AARP.

The results are in and the numbers are impressive. Students completed over 50 percent of the federal returns submitted through VITA in Newport County, including business, rental income and capital gains schedules. In addition to on-campus sessions at McKillop Library, they worked at a variety of sites such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Edward King House, Middletown and Newport public libraries, and Portsmouth and Middletown senior centers. Students also gained experience preparing state returns for New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Virginia, Maine and New Jersey.

“This work will serve our accounting and finance students well,” says McKillop. “The VITA experience will be recorded on their resumes and noticed by employers as they apply for jobs.”

“Odd as it may seem, there are heartwarming stories associated with the recently completed tax preparation season,” says Robert Lobecker, AARP coordinator for the VITA program. “Students prepared 327 tax returns, many of which were for low income taxpayers who qualified for tax credits due to earned income, child care costs and education expenses. The tax refunds for these clients were typically between $4,000 and $7,000; a bounty that came when heating bills were mounting, or when a car had broken down, or there was some other need. These happy clients left knowing that, for the short term, their financial problems were under control.

“Two thirds of the clients served are elderly, on fixed-income pensions and social security,” he continues. “Salve students saved each of these clients between $200 and $500, money that they would have paid to private tax preparers, and with typical refund amounts, we estimate $150,000 was given back to the community.”

Empowering Women

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the campus sponsored a series of events, including yoga, meditation sessions, dress-down days and a presentation on intimate partner violence.

In addition, the Female Empowerment Organization (FEO) hosted the second annual empowerment march on April 6, where the Salve Regina community came together for an afternoon of inspiration and activism. With the participation of more than 20 student organizations, the event featured food trucks, student and guest speakers and performances, and collected toiletry donations to benefit the Women’s Resource Center in Newport.

“Watching the collaboration of so many students, staff and other organizations was truly a sight to see,” says Kristen Medlicott ’21, a nursing major and president of FEO. “The goal of the Female Empowerment Organization is to inspire and empower women of all different races, sexualities and ethnicities. We strive to support the development of female individuality and skills, as well as enable them to pursue leadership roles on and off campus.”

“We also strive to educate Salve’s campus community on gender equality and provide a safe environment for any and all students to meet and build alliances for individual and social support,” she continues. “As the mission states, the University through teaching and research prepares its students for responsible lives by imparting and expanding knowledge, developing skills and cultivating enduring values, all of which are enhanced through the work of the FEO.”

Spring/Summer 2019
A March that Matters

The Black Lives Matter March, sponsored by the Black Student Union April 29, took participating faculty, staff and students back through the centuries with milestones in African-American history posted along the route that began and ended at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. The simple, yet powerful, statements describing the violence and racism perpetrated against the black community served as a reminder of the past as well as an admonishment for moving forward that we can, and must, do better.

“We are continuously working on improving the climate of Salve because we cannot go on with an ‘us versus them’ mentality,” said Rose Albert, assistant director for multicultural programs and retention. “It is time for it to be OUR community where we can rely on each other for support. So, Allies, be active, because intolerance, prejudice and discrimination are not just black issues.”

The Black Student Union is a proactive student organization that focuses on the black experience both on and off campus, seeking to create awareness for issues that plague communities, to promote inclusion on campus, and to shed light on racism, one of the five critical concerns of mercy.

Amadi Umi ’20, treasurer of the Black Student Union, thanked the crowd for taking the time to become more mindful of the struggle faced by so many and cautioned them that each individual has a role in effecting change.

“As this march and this semester comes to a close, I want to remind you all that you are now deputized,” said Umi. “Through this march, we have given you a taste of the inequality, and I implore you now not to turn a blind eye to it. Stand with us; continue to support us; and don’t balk at the chance to speak out and be vocal when you see an injustice.

“On this campus, lower your tolerance for ignorance,” she continued. “Make yourself available to educate and be educated on social issues like racism. And most of all, hold yourself and others accountable. For when we are all accountable to each other we can push toward a society that is harmonious, just and merciful.”

Twelfth Night

Students, faculty and staff join the Black Lives Matter March April 29.

Sister Jane’s Tree

Jason Black, center, and Micaela Griffin ’19, right, stand with Sister Jane Gerety before the Tricolor Beech tree planted in her honor during Arboretum Week.
A 20th-Century Hero

William Taubman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer who authored the first comprehensive biography of the Soviet Union’s last leader, discussed Mikhail Gorbachev’s legacy and its relevance in the age of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the third John E. McGinty Lecture in History April 25. Established in honor of the late John E. McGinty, former trustee and parent of John W. McGinty ’01, the McGinty Fund furthers the educational advancement of undergraduate students in history through lectures, presentations and experiential learning opportunities.

Taubman is the Bertrand Snell Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Amherst College. His latest book, “Gorbachev: His Life and Times,” was published in 2017 and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for biography. He has written extensively about Russia, including “Krushchev: The Man and His Era,” for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 2004.

Taubman called Gorbachev, who was the head of the Communist Party from 1983 until 1991, a hero. During his time in power, the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union dissolved. In the domestic sphere, he fostered democracy, with the country’s first free elections, a functioning parliament and free press.

“Gorbachev was a visionary, a dreamer, an idealist,” Taubman said to the standing-room-only audience in the Bazarsky Lecture Hall. “He hoped that someday what he called the common European home ... would become one. He hoped that the distinctions, the differences, the tension between East and West would disappear.”

Taubman also discussed the similarities, and camaraderie, between Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Both came from small towns, favored one parent over another, and were eternal optimists with devoted wives who watched for political enemies. Together, they signed the first nuclear arms reduction agreement.

The momentous changes set off by Gorbachev’s leadership resulted in economic struggles and ethnic strife and many of his democratizing measures have been rolled back, but not completely undone, by Putin.

In addition to the McGinty Lecture, Taubman and his wife, Dr. Jane Taubman, visited Dr. John Quinn’s 20th-Century European History class, held a morning discussion on current U.S./Russian relations, and filmed a 30-minute interview with Dr. Jim Ludes and G. Wayne Miller for an episode of Story in the Public Square.

“The McGinty Fund not only affords us the opportunity to bring to campus world-class scholars to speak on significant historical and contemporary issues, it also allows the Department of History to support student research through senior thesis travel grants, an ongoing oral history project, and annual summer fellowships at the Newport Historical Society for recent graduates,” said Dr. Timothy Neary, associate professor and chairman of the department.

“The McGinty family’s support has been a game-changer for the department,” he added.

Editor’s note: Portions of this story were excerpted from an April 27 Newport Daily News article by Derek Gomes.

Documenting History

Salve Regina University Archives and Special Collections, in partnership with the South Kingstown town clerk’s office and with support from the Rhode Island Foundation, completed describing 78 colonial-era documents, representing 300 pages of original documents, and has published them in Artstor, an online image resource for faculty and students.

History major Sarah Christiana ’21 identified people, activities, and places throughout these documents, with particular attention to illuminating the situations of enslaved individuals whose lives are little represented in the documentary record. Wills often gifted members of enslaved families to different individuals, or even granted shared ownership of a human being to multiple inheritors.

Duplisea believes that important archival work often has an emotional toll, and hopes that this project helps to re-center historical analysis on marginalized individuals in the region.

“It is completely different to learn about slavery in a classroom setting than seeing the actual papers that are splitting enslaved workers and their families apart,” says Christiana. “It is eye-opening and it makes it more personal.”

Domestic Reminiscence

Veronica Beretta ’19 displays her artwork at the opening reception for the Honors Senior Thesis Exhibition in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery April 15.

Spring/Summer 2019
Capital Networking

Ten administration of justice students working as assistant researchers with Dr. Jennifer McArdle, former assistant professor of administration of justice, joined her in Washington, D.C., April 25-26 to share their findings in defense technology innovation, artificial intelligence and military training with experts in policy-making, cyber defense and the military.

The students joined McArdle in meetings at the American Foreign Policy Council, Microsoft, Govini, Air Education and Training Command at the Pentagon, CAE, and the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA).

At the Pentagon, the students piloted simulators, essentially flying virtual aircraft like the F-35 and F-16 over cities as diverse as Washington, D.C., Boston, San Francisco, and even the pyramids outside Cairo.

Participating graduate student researchers include Maria Hendrickson ’19, Gabrielle Cusano ’17, Abigail Verille ’18, Erin Rorke ’18, John Crooks ’17, Santiago Durango ’19 and Eric Baucke ’18 visit the Pentagon.

Mercy on the Road

Bonfire smoke rises to a midnight sky speckled with every star. A lazy crick gurgles as farm dogs bark in the distance. Laughter and warmth accompany days filled with hard work. These are just a few of the memories that I carried back from West Virginia.

The Mercy Center offered an amazing spring break opportunity to travel to Nazareth Farm. A longtime fan of Appalachian music, I jumped at the chance to go. Several weeks and a 13-hour van ride later, my group arrived at a place hidden in the hills and hollers. Immediately we were greeted by strangers saying “welcome home.” Little did I know exactly what was in store for me.

Nazareth Farm is built on four pillars: community, simplicity, service and prayer. Throughout the week we expressed these ideals in many ways. With community, we lived with college students from different schools in one house. We worked together, ate together and laughed together. Despite such a short time with these individuals, we all grew remarkably close. I miss them all dearly.

Simplicity was showcased in the way we treated the farm itself. We had no phones and no cell service. We were not allowed to know the exact time, which freed us from the burden of worrying. We lived simply so we could focus on what really mattered.

Service was present in the work we did each day: learning about the plights of Appalachia and building porches for its people. Prayer is the final cornerstone. We prayed in the mornings, before meals, at work and ended each night with prayer.

It is funny to think that only one week later, this strange place would feel like home. Nazareth Farm represents an ideal to strive for: the idea that the world can be changed through love. I hope that I brought a piece of that back with me.

— Ryan Miech ’21

Editor’s note: This story is a reflection by Ryan Miech on his experience with the Mercy Center’s spring break service trip to West Virginia March 9-16. Led by Amy Cady, assistant director of the Mercy Center, and Dr. Paula Martasian, associate professor for psychology, five students worked throughout the week helping local residents with home improvement projects.
“Sister Jane has left us with a great many things, the greatest of which may be hope and dreams.”

— Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology and biomedical sciences
A Fellow and His Art

Ernest Jolicoeur, assistant professor of art and director of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery, has been awarded a highly competitive $5,000 fellowship by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) and General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island to support his studio work in painting.

RISCA Fellowships are unrestricted awards that encourage the creative development of artists by enabling them to set aside time to pursue their work and achieve specific creative and career goals. The awards, selected through an anonymous panel review of submitted work samples, are based solely on artistic merit and are highly competitive.

“I am honored and grateful to have my artistic contributions recognized by RISCA in 2019,” Jolicoeur said. “Their endorsement is truly impactful, not only on the development of my current work as a painter, but on the growth and livelihood of the arts statewide.”

Reinterpreting Mythology

Dr. Anthony Mangieri’s book, “Virgin Sacrifice in Classical Art: Women, Agency, and the Trojan War,” has been selected as part of a new series on gender and art launched by Routledge, a global publisher in the humanities and social sciences. An associate professor of art and art history and coordinator of the women, gender and sexuality studies program, Mangieri explores how the representation of the mythological sacrificial virgins in Greek, Etruscan and Roman art offers new interpretations and ideas on women’s identities and female agency in the ancient world.

The book, which was published by Routledge in 2018, offers a broader cultural history that reveals what people in the ancient world were seeking in these stories.

“While most scholars agree that the ancient Greeks and Romans did not practice human sacrifice, the myth of virgin sacrifice appears persistently in Classical art and literature for over a millennium,” Mangieri said. “My book seeks to explain why. I was interested in learning what ancient people were seeking in the stories of virgin sacrifice.”

His book is the first of its kind to analyze and interpret how representations of the sacrificial virgin in art express manifestations of female power and agency that were previously unrecognized, and that present a more nuanced understanding of female agency in the ancient world.

“What ultimately led me to pursue this opportunity were the chances that I would get to collaborate – not only with students from all over the country, but with clerks, journalists and senators,” Umi said. “I live in the D.C. metro area, so the chance to experience the inner workings of policy change and what it takes to pass laws that benefit my area is so valuable to me.”

Eying a career in conflict resolution, Mentor feels that the program’s focus on policy reform is key. “Lasting change – especially in developed nations – means policy reform, and in developing nations it means drafting policies that will stand the test of time,” he said. “I think the Henry Clay fellowship will be instrumental in helping to show me what it means to work in this field.”
Building Research Capacity

An interdisciplinary research team that includes Dr. Bernard Munge, professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded an $80,000 collaborative research grant through the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) to support their work designing an integrated water sampling and chemical analysis device.

Munge, together with colleagues from the University of Rhode Island and Brown University, is designing a device for profiling the commercially and environmentally important polysaccharide component of dissolved organic matter. The new device would dramatically simplify sample processing and improve analysis reliability and performance by enabling real time monitoring.

Munge’s team is one of five selected to receive funding to support projects that directly address the Rhode Island National Science Foundation EPSCoR themes of assessing resilience, understanding complexity, new innovations, increasing engagement, improving sustainability and identifying new tools or techniques to capture, analyze and disseminate data.

The collaborative research grant program funds projects that focus on building research capacity across institutions and advancing the competitiveness of Rhode Island researchers to secure additional funding.

“This is the spirit of our department, trying to create research experience opportunities for our students,” says Munge. “This award will support one Salve undergraduate research student during our 2019 summer undergraduate research fellowship program. It is an honor to be a part of this collaborative effort.”

Inspiring Inclusion

Ashley Delgado, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in holistic clinical mental health counseling, has been named a 2019 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a nonprofit organization supporting civic engagement on college campuses throughout the country.

Newman fellowships recognize students who engage in collaborative action with others in order to create long-term social change, take action in addressing issues of inequality and political polarization, and demonstrate the motivation and potential for effective long-term civic engagement.

Delgado’s civic engagement has focused on supporting LGBTQIA+ youth and building community by promoting inclusion and education. She has lobbied with LGBTQ Action RI to ban conversion therapy in Rhode Island, met with middle school and high-school GSAs (gay-straight alliances), presented at conferences and provided further resources to support GSAs.

Delgado hopes her experience will provide opportunities to become more involved with the campus community. “I am looking forward to working more on campus with student leadership and inclusion efforts, helping to inspire students to be actively involved in making positive change,” she said.

Presidential Portrait

A special presentation took place during the faculty assembly May 1 when Victor Aguirre-Williams ’21 unveiled the portrait he painted of Sister Jane Gerety. A studio art major, Aguirre-Williams collaborated with Ernest Jolicoeur, assistant professor of art and art history, to paint the portrait as a farewell gift to Sister Jane on behalf of the entire faculty.

Painted from a photo series by marketing major Mohammed Meraay ’19 and Jolie Slater ’19, a psychology major, the portrait will hang in Gerety Hall as a tribute to Sister Jane’s ten years as president of Salve Regina.

“I’ve always loved painting people,” says Aguirre-Williams. “I’m inspired by the history of portrait painting, especially medieval and renaissance. When I first heard about Sister Jane’s retirement, I thought painting her portrait would be a great opportunity to commemorate her time at Salve.”
Moved by Mercy

Making the move from the West Coast to the East Coast was no small endeavor for Dr. Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley, vice president for mission integration and assistant professor of religious and theological studies, but she sums up the motivation behind the decision in just three words.

“Our mercy mission,” she explains. “I have focused much of my research, and then my professional life, on the ways in which the charism of Catholic religious communities, such as the Sisters of Mercy, have been expressed, engaged, and ‘tradi...tioned’ by lay associates and colleagues. The invitation to come to Salve was an extraordinary opportunity to deepen this work of traditioning, partnering with committed University colleagues to bring forward the work of mercy.”

“I believe that the work of Catholic higher education is a sacred one,” says Ladrigan-Whelpley. “I have been inspired by the leadership of Ignacio Ellacuria, S.J., and others, who highlighted the mission of the Catholic university as ‘inescapably a social force: it must transform and enlighten the society in which it lives.’”

Finding that catalytic and transformational force to be woven into the history of the Sisters of Mercy, Ladrigan-Whelpley has also taken inspiration from her predecessor, Sister Leona Misto, who passed away in October 2016.

“Her legacy, and the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, grounds my leadership,” says Ladrigan-Whelpley. “I’m honored to be carrying this light forward.” After nearly a year spent in dialogue and visioning with faculty, staff and students, Ladrigan-Whelpley is finding emerging paths to foster Salve’s mission.

“Catherine McAuley, in founding the first House of Mercy in Dublin, sought to impact and transform the society in which she lived,” says Ladrigan-Whelpley. “I believe Salve Regina is called to be this transformative leaven in the lives of our students and the world today – we are called to bring about a more harmonious, just and merciful world on our campus and in the community.”

“Amplifying the transformative work of our faculty, staff and students is one way I believe we can live out our mercy vocation as an institution,” she continues. Mercy is compassion in action and, according to Ladrigan-Whelpley, living mercy as an institution “is a communal practice.”

As branches of the Office of Mission Integration, the Mercy Center for Spiritual Life and the Feinstein Enriching America Program’s Office of Community Service offer a variety of initiatives to cultivate personal and spiritual growth through community, reflection and service. Ladrigan-Whelpley sees her role as a catalyst and bridge-builder, partnering with these offices and collaborating with faculty, staff and students to bring forward the work of mercy across the University.

Ladrigan-Whelpley also serves as vice-chair of the mission officers’ council of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education and on the mission officers’ task force for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, where she works to develop integral collaborations that celebrate and cultivate the future of mercy and Catholic higher education more broadly.

“It’s a gift, really a privilege to be about this work in such good company,” continues Ladrigan-Whelpley. “There are so many people deeply invested in Salve and animating our mission.”

Life Before Salve

Ladrigan-Whelpley grew up in Rochester, N.Y., across the street from a college founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, where her mother served as a professor for 35 years.

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree in biology from Villanova University, she deferred admission to veterinary school and lived in community at the Queen of Peace Benedictine Monastery in North Dakota. It was there, discerning a vocation to religious life, that she ultimately decided to pursue further study in theology, following her questions of faith and call. She completed her Master of Divinity degree at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, taught high school for a few years in Atlanta, and continued on to complete her doctorate at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

Prior to joining the Salve community, Ladrigan-Whelpley served for 12 years at Santa Clara University in California, where she directed the Bannan Institute in the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education. There she developed thematic university programs around the Catholic intellectual tradition and fostered dialogue and interdisciplinary exchange across diverse campus and community constituents, advancing the university’s Jesuit, Catholic vocation.
How do you define mercy?

Love freely offered in the face of need. Love that transforms. Mercy is total gift – it is to love as God loves with no zero-sum calculus. Pope Francis reflects that the name of God is Mercy; we can serve as collaborators of mercy because we have been the recipients of God’s mercy.

How do you live the mercy mission daily?

Catherine McAuley, in responding to one of the sisters who was grumbling about whether or not those coming to the door were deserving, wrote: “It is better to relieve a hundred imposters – if there be any such – than to suffer one really distressed person to be sent away empty.” I think living the mercy mission in daily life means to receive each student, each faculty and staff member, each community member, each family member with openness, compassion, interest and gratitude, knowing that they possess inherent dignity and are worthy of our attention and care.

What do you see as your biggest challenges and/or opportunities here at Salve?

The enterprise of higher education is facing significant financial and cultural challenges with questions of access and ROI increasingly at the fore. As we seek to adapt our offerings, modalities and structures to be responsive to the needs of our 21st century technologized and globalizing world, our biggest challenge and opportunity will be discerning how to live out our Mercy, Catholic mission in a bold and dynamic way into the 21st century.

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

For our wedding liturgy almost 16 years ago, my husband Andy and I selected the Gospel reading from John 13:1-17, the story where Jesus washes the disciples’ feet. Monsignor Kenneth Lasch, who witnessed our marriage, urged us to “love one another into being” through the practice of radical equality in self-giving service. This is the most penetrating advice I have ever received. When we love others in the midst of their particular human needs and without regard for station, we become more fully human. This self-giving love changes all of us, the giver and the receiver. I’m sure I don’t always follow this advice, but it continues to call to me.

What is one thing you always wanted to learn to do but have yet to find the time?

Play the piano!

What new initiatives do you have in the works?

I have secured two grants for the coming academic year to support the development of interdisciplinary faculty-student research and teaching collaboratives around the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. We are also launching the McAuley Institute for Mercy Education, with pilot offerings this spring for staff and administrators, such as the Mercy Leadership Colloquium, and additional offerings in the year ahead, including Mercy Faculty Dialogues.

What are you currently reading? What is the last book you recommended to a friend?

Since I live in Pawtucket and commute to Newport, I have taken up listening to books during the drive each day. I am just finishing a book recommended to me by one of our newest faculty members, who will be joining us in the math department next year: “Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy,” by Cathy O’Neil.

The last book I gave as a gift was “The Book of Joy,” a conversation between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

How do you spend your free time?

My husband and I have three kids, so we spend much of our free time with them! Our family enjoys playing board games and card games together, as well as camping and hiking. We have been exploring our new home in Rhode Island with adventures to Chepachet Farms, where we learned about maple sugaring, and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, where we saw a snowy owl. We also have family in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, so it has been wonderful to enjoy time with cousins and explore the larger area together as well.

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

My grandmother read every paper I ever wrote. She listened to me deeply as a young person through to adulthood. She saw me, beheld me, loved me, and always wanted to know my thoughts, stories, perspective. To be seen and known and loved in this way is the greatest gift I have ever received.

How would your children, in 20 years’ time, complete the following sentence: If I had a dollar for every time my mother said [fill in the blank], I’d be rich.

Be true. Be kind.

“I believe Salve Regina is called to be this transformative leaven in the lives of our students and the world today...”

– Dr. Theresa Ladrgan-Whelpley
A Champion on the Ice

Susanna Pearson ’21 of York, England, played on the United Kingdom’s women’s ice hockey team at the world championships in April. A global studies and political science double major, Pearson plays defense on the Seahawks women’s ice hockey team. She travelled back to the UK for two weeks to skate in her fourth world championship, where her team won a silver medal. Since the games were all streamed on national television, it gave the women’s sport a great platform throughout the country.

“The fact that we won silver is great, as we still have a very young squad with players from around the world. We are all growing together,” said Pearson, who started playing hockey when she was 5 years old. “My dad tried to make me a figure skater, but my older brother played hockey and I thought that was way cooler. Once I got gear, I went right on the ice with all the boys.”

Pearson has played for a number of teams, including the Kingston Diamonds, Great Britain U18 and the Nottingham Vipers. She was excited to play in the world championships and looks forward to the rest of her hockey career at Salve and beyond.

— Emily Whelan ’20
Playing On

Recent success with the Seahawks has allowed men’s ice hockey players Blake Wojtala ’18, ’19 (M) and Colin Clapton ’20, along with baseball’s Patrick Maybach ’20 to continue their passions in their respective sports.

Wojtala signed a professional contract with the Worcester Raiders of the East Coast Hockey League. The Raiders play their home games at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., and are the ECHL affiliate of the New York Islanders. In four seasons at Salve Regina, Wojtala is the program’s all-time leader in wins (63), saves (2,900), save percentage (.927), goals against average (2.32), and shutouts (11).

After transferring to Salve in 2016, Clapton played three seasons at Salve Regina tallying 46 points, including 26 goals. He has signed a professional contract with the Evansville Thunderbolts of the Southern Professional Hockey League. Wojtala and Clapton become the seventh and eight Seahawks to join the professional ranks in ice hockey.

Current ace of the Seahawk starting rotation, Patrick Maybach ’20 will spend the summer pitching for the Newport Gulls, the first Salve Regina player to play for the collegiate team.

“What I’m looking for is consistency. I want to put a guy in the lineup or put a guy on the mound and know what I’m going to get,” says head coach Eric Cirilli ’05. “I think that’s the beauty of Pat – even when he doesn’t have his stuff, he gives you a chance to win, and when he does have his stuff, he gives you a chance to beat anybody.” A Rhode Island native, Maybach has been a driving force atop the Seahawk rotation since arriving on campus in 2017.

“I am excited for the opportunity to represent Salve and the baseball program playing for the Gulls,” says Maybach. “It will be a lot of fun to play in Newport during the summer.”

- Salvatore Gualtieri ’19

No Horsing Around

Makenna Rooney ’21, a marketing major and member of the equestrian team, competed in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association’s national competition, held May 2-5 in Syracuse, N.Y., placing seventh in the intermediate over fences division.

Riders are judged not only on their ability to negotiate the course, but also on their style and position while they do it.

Rooney was introduced to horseback riding 14 years ago when her parents were considering a trip to a dude ranch and wanted her to have experience.

“Needless to say, I fell in love with the sport – and we have never been to a dude ranch,” she said.

A Massachusetts native, Rooney and her horse Jasper train and compete with JPh Equestrian in Concord. Throughout middle and high school, she competed in the International Equestrian Association (the IHSA equivalent for riders in grades 4-12), advancing to the zone finals her junior and senior years.

“There are no words to express my gratitude toward my parents, my coaches, my teammates and everyone who has helped me get to where I am today,” said Rooney.

Spring/Summer 2019
Gratitude took center stage during Salve Regina’s 69th Commencement when President Jane Gerety, RSM, stood before graduating students for the final time as their president. Family members, friends, faculty, trustees, staff and alumni in attendance joined with graduates-to-be in giving Sister Jane a standing ovation as she was conferred with an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

A proud new member of the Class of 2019, Sister Jane – as she has so often done during her 10-year tenure as Salve’s seventh president – graciously expressed all that she was grateful for, beginning, of course, with the students.

“What I’ve learned from you is immeasurable,” she said in her commencement address prior to conferring 505 baccalaureate degrees on Sunday, May 19. “I’ve learned to speak up even when it makes me uncomfortable. From you, I’ve learned to keep going even amid really difficult life circumstances. I’ve learned to lose gracefully, and I’ve learned how a member of a team acts.”

Sister Jane invoked the words of Nelson Mandela, “I never lose; I either win, or I learn,” in acknowledging that life doesn’t always go the way one believes that it should.

“I want to keep learning,” she said. “I want to keep to be a student for the rest of my life.”

In the weeks leading up to Commencement, Sister Jane reached out to students for their reflections on what they wanted to take with them from Salve, and what they wanted to leave behind.

“These answers really did my heart good,” she said. “You recognized the value of knowledge, advice, passion and kindness from your professors and also the value of the friendships you made here that you hoped would last a lifetime.

“You want to take with you what you learned from living with others – even roommates who left passive-aggressive...
Students for their reflections on what they doesn’t always go the way one believes that it should.

Commencement, Sister Jane reached out to president. Family members, friends, faculty, students for the final time as their Gerety, RSM, stood before graduating Commencement when President Jane roommates who left passive-aggressive learned from living with others – even hoped what would last a lifetime.

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wanted to take with them from Salve, and what preceded them,” said Sister Jane. “I didn’t like feeling that anxiety and doubt, but I wouldn’t give anything for what I learned from the process. I learned to ask advice, to tap into the wisdom of others. I learned to live with confusion until the path became clear. In making a decision about people, I learned empathy, to put myself in another’s place, and finally, I learned to trust God to lead me. If the definition of mercy is love in the face of need, I know that I have experienced mercy.”

Sister Jane joined Salve Regina’s Board of Trustees in 1995 and chaired its committee to rewrite the University’s mission statement, re-affirming its mercy mission and Catholic intellectual tradition. Inaugurated as president in 2009, she worked over the next 10 years to introduce several new academic programs, expand student scholarships, and oversee major renovations on campus. But first and foremost, Sister Jane became known across the University community as the students’ president, as her daily walk to Ochre Court after lunch at Miley Cafeteria, with a cone of frozen yogurt in hand, signaled that all was well.

“She has been an extraordinary leader, educator and friend,” Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) declared on the U.S. Senate floor, where both he and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) made public remarks on the occasion of her retirement.

“We will miss her dearly in Rhode Island as she retires and embarks on her next adventure,” Reed said. “Sister Jane embodies the founding principles of Salve Regina. On campus she is known as the students’ president, perhaps the highest praise for a university leader. Under Sister Jane’s presidency Salve Regina has grown, thrived and helped address vital needs of the community.”

Sen. Whitehouse echoed these sentiments. “Sister Jane’s work has extended beyond our state’s border,” he said. “Under her management, Salve Regina has strengthened its Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy. Today, more than ever, the Pell Center is a fitting reflection of its namesake, Sen. Claiborne Pell, for whom our democratic ideals held limitless power. As impressive and praiseworthy as those professional accomplishments, is the immediate, personal and lasting difference Sister Jane has made in the personal lives of so many around her.”

In 2017, Sister Jane told a reporter from Providence Business News that she cherished her work of ensuring that every Salve graduate enters the “real world” with the best chance to succeed – both personally and professionally. “I believe that education is more than training in specific disciplines and that success in work depends not just on technical skills but on a broad education,” she stated. “Knowledge of a particular field should be enhanced by study of the liberal arts, enabling an employee to think critically, read carefully, speak articulately, write coherently, and imagine new ways of doing things. That’s the education of
leaders, and that’s what we do at Salve.”

Hope has been an abiding message from Sister Jane over the years, said Dr. Jameson Chace, professor of biology and biomedical science who also served as director of faculty development during her tenure. “She entered during a financial crisis, dealt with a great deal of administrative turnover of deans and provosts – not to mention gas outages, hurricanes and blizzards – all the while with the ever-present ‘demographic cliff’ of higher education looming somewhere off on the horizon.”

Throughout the calm and the turmoil, Sister Jane steadfastly supported and championed faculty scholarship. Under her leadership, faculty generated $3.9 million in grants, gave more than 1,500 scholarly presentations, and produced more than 500 publications, works of art and performances.

“As her legacy reflects, Sister Jane has worked tirelessly to advance this University and to increase the value of a Salve Regina education,” said Janet L. Robinson ’72, ’98 (Hon.), chairman of the Board of Trustees.

During her presidency, Salve Regina launched doctoral programs in nursing and international relations, a low residency master of fine arts degree program in creative writing, expanded its programs and experiential learning opportunities in business, supported faculty-student research partnerships in the sciences and established a campus in Warwick to serve the academic needs of working adults seeking graduate and continuing education opportunities.

She helped introduce new bachelor’s degree programs in biochemistry, global studies, environmental studies, health care administration and management, a 3+2 engineering degree program and a fully online RN to BS nursing degree program, not to mention a number of new undergraduate minors, graduate certificate programs and a complete revision of the undergraduate core curriculum.

Sister Jane supported interdisciplinary studies by creating the Department of Cultural, Environmental and Global Studies and strengthened programming in an increasingly technological world by incorporating cyber education across the undergraduate curriculum and opening the University’s digital forensics lab. The Arboretum at Salve Regina, established in 2016, serves as a living, learning laboratory for faculty and students across all majors, and is a vibrant public space for the University community and beyond.

Sister Jane directed the Miley Hall cafeteria expansion; the conversion of Carolyn House, a historic carriage house that now serves as a student residence; the renovation of Toppa Field to better serve the needs of our student athletes; and implemented expansive improvements to improve energy efficiency.

She spearheaded the $26 million O’Hare Academic Building project – the largest renovation and expansion in Salve Regina’s history – that was completed in 2017. The project added 23,000 square feet to the University’s flagship academic building and provided critical updates to educational spaces, including establishing a collaborative learning environment and renovating laboratories for programs in science and nursing.

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More than $10 million was raised for the O’Hare project, including a challenge grant to alumni that produced more than $1 million and the highest alumni participation for any building project. Campus buildings and programs were dedicated and named with philanthropic support, including the Rodgers Family Department of Nursing, the Noreen Stonor Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation Program, the Lily Haseotes Bentas Center for business and nursing, and the John E. McGinty Lecture in History. Over the last 10 years, Salve Regina’s annual Governor’s Ball for scholarships nearly doubled in support, raising more than $500,000 in 2019 alone as the University’s signature event.

Sister Jane also initiated a major campaign, “Scholars and Scholarships,” to reach 100 gifted, endowed funds valued at over $15 million to support students, faculty and research.

“The success and long-lasting benefits of this program is a true and fitting reflection of a president who placed her commitment to, and passion for, students and their access to education at the very top of her leadership priorities,” Robinson said. “It is surely not an accident that Sister Jane Gerety is widely known as the students’ president. Every student on this campus during the 10 years of her presidency knew that Sister Jane put their needs first.”

Jasmine Santiago, 22, a member of the graduating Class of 2019 who majored in administration of justice, told a Rhode Island Catholic reporter that a 30-minute conversation with Sister Jane four years ago was what convinced her to attend Salve Regina as a freshman. “She was the nicest person I’d ever met,” said Santiago, a Meriden, Conn., native who played on the women’s rugby team at Salve. “She was just so warm and so welcoming. We sat down, talked about what I was interested in and why she thought I should come here. It just kind of fit.”

When she announced in 2018 that she would be retiring the following June, Sister Jane told students: “You have changed in your time at Salve and so have I. Looking forward, we all share a bit of fear for the unknown and also hope for the excitement that is to come. “I’ve loved being part of the spirit of Salve, which I really think is imbued with mercy,” she said. “I hope I’ve helped to cultivate that spirit.”
When considering colleges during his senior year in high school, Andrew Siaba looked mostly in Rhode Island because he wanted to stay close to his Natick, Mass., family. He knew he wanted to find a program in financial management but on top of his list of considerations was to find his “home away from home.”

Siaba attended all the accepted student days at different institutions but when everyone suddenly erupted in laughter in Ochre Court during his memorable visit to Salve, he knew he had found someplace special. Because he had a high school basketball game later that day, Siaba remembers wearing his letterman jacket and hanging it on the back of his chair.

It took Siaba a few moments to discover the cause of the outburst. Brian Shanley, former special assistant to the dean of admissions, had grabbed the jacket and was parading around the room, wearing it as though he were a star athlete. Shanley even gave a presentation to the accepted students while wearing it, much to everyone’s delight.

“To many, something as simple as this might not be a big deal,” Siaba told the Class of 2019 during his valedictory address May 18. “But to me, it meant everything in the world. In that moment I thought to myself, ‘this is a family, and this is where I want to be.’”

To say Siaba hit the ground running the moment he began his freshman year would be an understatement. A member of the Pell Honors Program and the Nuala Pell Leadership Program, he served as chief financial officer for the Campus Activities Board, played rugby, performed trumpet and piano in Salve’s jazz band, and participated in a short-term study abroad program in Salzburg and Vienna. During his senior year, Siaba interned with the U.S. Secret Service in Providence, where he was assigned to counterfeit money and financial fraud cases.

Even with his busy schedule, Siaba excelled academically, earning acceptance into Salve’s five-year MBA program, which he intends to complete next year along with a certificate in cyber security. At the same time, he’ll be working as an advisor representative with Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, a job he started eight days after Commencement.

A member of Delta Epsilon Sigma national scholastic honor society for universities with a Catholic tradition, IAHS honor society for achievement in accounting, and Sigma Beta Delta national honor society of business students, Siaba also received the Financial Management Award from the Department of Business Studies and Economics.

He is most proud, however, to have shared Salve’s sense of family with new and prospective students by serving as an orientation leader and First Year Transitions peer mentor.

“When I talked to new students, the first thing I told them was to get involved right when you get on campus,” he said. “Go to Club Rush and sign up for everything and take advantage of all the University has to offer. You might not like everything, but guaranteed you’ll find something.

“The people of the Salve Regina community have been the most inviting and welcoming people I have ever met,” he said. “You cannot find a better community at any other university.”
A Responsibility to Serve

Keynote speaker Adam DeCiccio ‘19 (M) receives a standing ovation at the graduate Commencement.

Promises made and promises kept. Sister Jane lauded graduate students, their families and friends, and the Salve faculty for the commitments that were made and honored as part of the journey to the Commencement stage.

"Each person and each journey is different," Sister Jane told graduates on May 16, before awarding 263 degrees, including 12 Doctor of Philosophy degrees and, for the first time, two Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. "One thing you have in common, however, is that you did not get here alone."

For U.S. Army veteran Adam DeCiccio '19 (M), who received his Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and presented the keynote address, the journey was born from tragedy and depression. On Sept. 7, 2001, DeCiccio joined the U.S. Army Infantry at age 17. Four days later, while completing a training run with his fellow soldiers, the world changed forever when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

"Over the next six years I was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, fighting for our country," he told the audience, which stood in ovation. "It was my job to be on the front lines and, most of all, to keep everyone around me safe so we all got back home. This was my mission."

Once discharged, DeCiccio struggled to transition back into society. "For most veterans and me, these thoughts and feelings usually led to depression, anger and trouble," he said. "Unfortunately, this part of my story is not unique...I have lost more military buddies to suicide than in actual combat. I wondered, was this punishment for my service and my survival?"

He sought help at the VA hospital, a decision that gave him new life and new purpose — including a pathway to Salve Regina. "My VA counselor recommended that I consider helping veterans as a career and pursue a master’s degree in mental health counseling," said DeCiccio. Now a regional manager at Veterans Inc. in Pawtucket, R.I., he has a new mission: to improve access to housing, mental health and employment services for fellow veterans and to help create more military and veteran-specific programs in graduate studies.

"I firmly believe we all have a responsibility and an opportunity to serve," DeCiccio said. "We can make meaning of our lives through service, regardless of the disciplines we studied and now pursue for our careers."

Sister Jane cautioned that the world outside the commencement stage is a dangerous one. "Civil wars rage and terrorism lurks. So many people have lost faith in the institutions they have always relied on—the government, the church, the internet. So many feel that they can’t count on these institutions to keep their promises," she said. "And yet, you must still keep yours. One of the most important promises, I think, is the promise that you make to yourself, the promise you make to be true to who you are."

“A Salve education inspires us to balance being true to what we believe in with being open to the beliefs of others,” Sister Jane continued. “There are things about which I may be wrong, and my promise to myself is that I will try to let the truth in, no matter how uncomfortable it may be. The promise that I make to myself—daily—is to be brave in proclaiming what I believe to be true and fighting for it, but, at the same time, to be open to the truths of others who are different from me.”
It seems like just yesterday that we, the class of 2019, moved into Miley, Walgreen and Reefe as first-year students. A quick four years later, we are Salve Regina graduates, moving on to the next chapter in our lives. During our time here, we have accomplished so much. We are 505 students strong, representing 40 majors, 20 states and countless different experiences. Members of our class have been scholars, leaders, athletes and volunteers, impacting many areas of campus life. Our Salve education has had a profound impact on who we are, and we will carry the Salve Regina name and mercy mission into the world as alumni.

— Eddie Cullinane
Master’s Degree Candidate, Boston College

DaSilva, a first-generation college student and first-generation Brazilian-American, stepped out of her comfort zone when she moved to Rhode Island to attend Salve. Since then, she has continued to go outside of that zone by studying abroad, learning two new languages, and will soon be moving to upstate New York to work at SUNY Potsdam as a residence hall director. She hopes to make an impact in the higher education world by mentoring marginalized and underrepresented college students.

DaSilva believes in giving back to the community that gave her the opportunity to grow and will always be thankful for the unending support she has received from her mentors at Salve. The community she found here will always be a shining example of how mercy can, and will, change the world.

Izabella DaSilva
Residence Hall Director
SUNY Potsdam

“The relationships I have built with my professors have led them to understand that as a student, I get the most out of science when I can bring a creative aspect into it. Through this understanding, they gave me the opportunity and the space to explore this way of learning, which I will continue to benefit from in the long run.”

Richard Tegtmeier
Ph.D. Candidate in Plant Biology
Cornell University

“I decided to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps because I knew I wanted to make a difference internationally. I participated in study abroad programs and it made me realize my love for travel. I like the program that the JVC offers because it involves faith in action, something that I really value. Eventually, I want to open a non-profit that focuses on giving more opportunities to ex-offenders.”

Hope Vaughn
Jesuit Volunteer Corps
Chile

“At Salve we are given the opportunity to work with incredible hospitals and learn from a variety of highly experienced professional nurses, something I feel has made all the difference when looking back at my success. The connections that I have made, and clinical skills I have acquired will help me greatly as I transition from Student Nurse to Registered Nurse.”

Megan McCue
Oncology Nurse
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“I consider myself a person of action and if I see a problem I like to solve it. So that is exactly what I did. I found a program that would allow me to help the students of Chicago who were directly impacted by crime and corruption. I chose AUSL because they shared the same passion and call to action that I had within me. They not only work with the teachers but also with the schools and community so that the student is positively impacted in all areas of their life.”

Morgan Conneely
Academy for Urban School Leadership
Master in Education Candidate
National Louis University
Members of the Class of 2019
Are ready to begin new adventures.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Madisen Archibald</td>
<td>Laboratory Research Technician, Neurological Sciences Department, University of Vermont</td>
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<td>Caroline Aubin</td>
<td>Registrar/Assistant Site Manager, Fall River Historical Society</td>
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<td>Abigail Burke</td>
<td>Biological Technician, Cape Cod National Seashore Intern, Yellowstone National Park</td>
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<td>Hanna Caisse</td>
<td>Manager, Newport Vineyards</td>
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<td>Mirasia Cassese</td>
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<td>Kyle Cavallaro</td>
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<td>Daniel Donnelly</td>
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<td>Maureen Doyle</td>
<td>Donor Relations, International Tennis Hall of Fame, Master's Degree Candidate, Salve Regina University</td>
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<td>Kailyn Leary</td>
<td>Paralegal in Veterans Affairs, Chisholm, Chisholm &amp; Kilpatrick, Ltd.</td>
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<td>Erica Little</td>
<td>Child and Family Support Specialist, Brockton Area Multi Services Inc.</td>
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<td>Gillian Murphy</td>
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<td>Sophia Tiano</td>
<td>Ph.D. Candidate in Chemistry, University of Rhode Island</td>
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And here we are, with Salve’s mark stamped proudly on our hearts, ready to continue the rest of our lives—with friends, staff, professors, community members held so fondly in our minds we reach. Grow. Move forward, with nothing but the future ahead. If we look back, we see Salve Regina standing proudly behind us. While the waves may no longer be a reaching distance away, the calming feeling of an Ocean Drive on our ride home from class no longer an opportunity, Newport, R.I., will always be our home.

— Madeline Key

Editor’s note: Visit salve.edu/2019-success for more on the Class of 2019 graduates.
“I was chatting with Lindsay (Guarino) the other day and she told me I was one of the hardest working dancers she’s ever seen. I don’t realize that because I don’t feel like I’m working. How can I not work hard toward my one dream?”

– Casey Sheehan ’14
He day after he walked across the commencement stage to receive his Salve Regina diploma in 2014, Casey Sheehan reluctantly woke up in his parents’ house in Warwick, R.I., stared at the ceiling and wondered, “Now what?” For someone who painstakingly prepares for everything, he failed to anticipate how difficult this moment would be.

“It was one of the hardest days of my life,” Sheehan recalled during a visit to campus in January. “I should have just planned to be somewhere else.”

To think that a few short years later he’d be sharing the stage alongside Lady Gaga in Las Vegas was beyond inconceivable. In his bedroom at home, Sheehan – a business major and dance minor – had no job, no immediate plan and no comfort zone at Salve to fall back on. What he did have, though, was his dream.

“I’m stepping off into the universe and I was definitely scared, definitely hesitant on whatever my next move was going to be,” he said.

**Born this way**

When Sheehan enrolled at Salve as a freshman – fulfilling his parents’ wishes that he to go to college and get an education – he quickly discovered a campus community that possessed great energy. While he had never danced previously, it wasn’t long before the idea of dance fell into his lap. He joined SRU Dance and began spending a lot of time on this new “hobby,” more than most who were involved in the club.

During his sophomore year, Sheehan choreographed a piece for a club performance. “It must’ve been brewing in my body and brain since I was a young kid because as soon as I had the opportunity, I knew exactly what I was doing. This is how we walk in, in the dark, the music comes on, we drop, everything black and red …”

Lindsay Guarino, associate professor of dance, saw the performance and approached Sheehan afterward, intrigued, asking him simply, “Who are you?”

So they talked. “She loved it,” Sheehan said. “She thought it was amazing. And I knew that she wasn’t blowing smoke at me. You need to be honest at this level and she was honest. It convinced me, and kept me going, going, going … until it happened. I wouldn’t be where I am today without Lindsay.”

Sheehan took as many dance classes as he could possibly cram into his schedule. A street dancer, he found himself in Friday morning ballet classes. Somehow, he knew he was meant to be there. He soaked in the expertise of new teachers and new instructors. He started to
believe that dance didn’t need to be kept on the back burner. No longer a side hobby, dance became real for him. He joined Extensions Dance Company during his junior year and literally changed the way the company moved with his strong hip-hop influence.

He didn’t even tell his family what he was up to. “I was out here as a renegade dancer and I never questioned it,” said Sheehan. “This could be my purpose here. This could be my soul route. And Lindsay really helped me realize that dance can be anything. It doesn’t have to be what you expect. You can make it anything you want. This might be why I’m here.”

Do what you want

Empowered by his dream, Sheehan didn’t wallow for long at his parents’ house after graduation. He auditioned for Static Noyze, a hip-hop dance company in Boston, but the hour-and-a-half grind each way to get to rehearsals for no pay wasn’t how he pictured it should be. He leveraged his business degree to land a job as an associate manager at a custom men’s suit store near his house. As his dancing with Static Noyze gained momentum, Sheehan found it challenging to balance full-time work while pursuing his dream. So he quit his job and moved to Boston. A week later, because “it didn’t feel right,” he moved back home.

“Drop everything and go to New York to get signed,” was the advice he received from a Static Noyze family. So Sheehan did, auditioning for seven hours at the first opportunity. He returned to Rhode Island and on a day that he was visiting Salve to film an audition video with Guarino’s help, Sheehan’s phone lit up with news.

“I’m in McKillop with Lindsay and I get signed and I get my first professional dance job on the same day,” Sheehan said. “Thinking about it now, that was probably the biggest moment for me since graduation [10 months prior]. That might have been it for me.”

Living in New York City as a professional dancer, singer and actor with Clear Talent Group, things started happening for Sheehan. He worked New York Fashion Week and did jobs for Moncler, Nike, Vogue and Alicia Keys, all within his first year.

“People were noticing,” says Sheehan, who stands 6 feet, 3 inches tall. “I was fresh, I was new; there weren’t too many tall, white boys in the NYC hip-hop community at the time. And I just feel like it was a time when New York needed a new face. And I was there, in everyone’s face.”

It’s a fickle business, however, and he found himself losing out on work without explanation. He was put on hold for several jobs, including late-night TV appearances. He flew to Los Angeles to auditions for Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez, then back to New York for an audition with Madonna. Chasing opportunities on both coasts was expensive and time-consuming. Months went by and he still wasn’t working.

The edge of glory

So Sheehan hatched a plan. Knowing Lady Gaga’s Vegas show would be kicking into gear soon, he backtracked what the rehearsal process would look like. Sheehan was excited to learn that one of his favorite choreographers, Richard “Richy” Jackson, was teaching a three-day workshop in L.A. Another cross-country flight later, and Sheehan found himself standing among 75 other dancers.

“I marched right up to the front,” Sheehan said. “And it’s interesting because when you’re tall, you’re expected to dance in the back, a courtesy thing, but I was not in the mood to be courteous. And I have never felt like I was meant to be somewhere more than that moment. I’ve looked up to Richy Jackson for years and here he is, right in front of me. I couldn’t be closer to him, off his shoulder, just dancing my life away.”

Jackson approached Sheehan afterward, intrigued, asking him simply, “Who are you?”

“We met for coffee,” Sheehan said. “It was another Lindsay Guarino moment where you believe you can really do this. Something is working, you don’t really need to know what it is. I needed the inkling to keep me going.”

Despite his breakthrough connection with Jackson, nothing happened immediately so Sheehan returned home, grounding himself with a counseling job at the local YMCA for the summer, and fending off rumors that Gaga’s Vegas shows had already been cast.
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It’s not meant to be,” he recalled thinking. “And it
really hurt. My friends are, like, ‘you’re crazy.’ But I’m, like, you don’t understand. I have nothing except
for these little commitments and if I break those then
I have absolutely nothing.”
Not long after, Sheehan received news about a
second audition. A second chance.

Applause
After all his commitments in New York were
fulfilled, Sheehan flew back to L.A. and performed
in another audition. This time there was no question
what was on the line. In addition to Jackson, previous-
ly cast dancers for Lady Gaga were also looking on.
The stakes were as high as they could get and Sheehan
danced his heart out. He survived multiple
cuts and finally faced his moment of truth when
Jackson pulled him to the side. There wasn’t a perma-
nent spot for Sheehan on the Vegas show, Jackson
told him, but he needed a stand-in for the dance
captain during the rehearsal process.
“It’s a no-brainer,” Sheehan told Jackson. “When do
I start?”
Over the next three weeks Sheehan did his job,
standing in with the cast for rehearsals with Lady
Gaga and communicating every aspect of the chore-
ography with his over-study. “It was blood, sweat and
tears from everyone,” Sheehan said. As rehearsals
neared their conclusion, the unthinkable happened.

Sheehan was offered a spot with the cast, per-
forming live on stage alongside Lady Gaga for her
“Enigma” shows, which debuted Dec. 28, 2018, in
Las Vegas. Overcome with emotion when he got the
news, he dropped to the floor. “At that moment it
was like two planets just smashed,” he said. “It was
the biggest moment of my entire life.”
Stand-ins generally don’t make it to the live
performances and many of the “Enigma” dancers
approached Sheehan afterward to congratulate him,
inviting him out to celebrate. But he declined.
“I need to put my feet on the ground for a
minute,” he told them. “I don’t even know what day
it is. I don’t even know what time it is. I don’t know
where I am on the planet or if I’m still on the planet.
“No,” he told them. “I need to go home.”
– Matt Boxler ’04 (M)

Editor’s note: Sheehan performed with Lady
Gaga’s “Enigma” in Las Vegas from Dec. 28, 2018
through Feb. 2, 2019, and again from May 30 through
June 14. Follow Sheehan on Instagram @goatboykc.

Hear Sheehan talk about his dance career
by visiting youtube.com/salveregina.
A pair of flip-flops, a glass of iced tea and a comfortable chair on a shady porch or a sandy beach; modern-day summer reading doesn’t require much in the way of accoutrement other than a few glorious minutes to spare and an author with whom to share them. From venerable media giants such as The New York Times and The Washington Post to Oprah, Barack Obama and Vanity Fair, there’s no shortage of suggestions on what to read when the hammock beckons.

It was one such list in an airport bookstore that caught the eye of Dr. Donna Harrington-Lueker, professor of English, communications and media. It sparked an idea that became a dive into history, an exploration of where the concept of summer reading began, and ultimately, the publication of her first book by the University of Massachusetts Press, “Books for Idle Hours: Nineteenth-Century Publishing and the Rise of Summer Reading.”

“I spend a lot of time in the 19th century,” says Harrington-Lueker. “That’s where I like to hang out. I was coming home from a conference for book historians in Halifax, saw that list of summer reads, and started to wonder where it all began. Where’s the first reference to the beach read, the hammock read, summer reading in general?”

“Books for Idle Hours” takes the reader on a journey through a century transformed by the printing press, rail travel and the novelty of leisure time in an increasingly industrialized world.

Harrington-Lueker traces the discourse created by Charles Scribner’s The Book Buyer, Harper’s Magazine and the era’s other major taste-making publications, which transform the summer novel from sensational fiction to a genre embraced by a middle-class discovering the delights of a resort vacation.

As she began researching publishing records, advertisements, book reviews, diaries and popular novels of the period, Harrington-Lueker discovered that in its infancy, summer reading was a gentleman’s avocation.

“In the 1830s and 1840s, there are references to summer reading and it is something really quite elegant,” says Harrington-Lueker. “This is what the man of leisure does. He reads poetry and the belle lettres and this very high-brow sort of reading.

“All that changes mid-century when you have the rise of the paperback,” she continues. “This sense of summer reading as ‘trash’ develops at a time when people were especially concerned about what women would read. We had to protect women from sensational novels, from fiction especially, and people are afraid that the cheap paperback is going to corrupt everybody.”
Harrington-Lueker illustrates the fall from grace of the summer read with a scathing indictment from the Reverend T. De Witt Talmage, a Brooklyn preacher who, in the summer of 1876, warned his congregation of the “literary poison” that flourished amidst the vacationing masses.

“Do not let the frogs and the lice of a corrupt printing press jump and crawl into your Saratoga trunk or White Mountain valise,” cautioned Talmage. “I really believe there is more pestiferous trash read among the intelligent classes in July and August than in all the other ten months of the year.”

“What happens to raise the caliber of the ‘cheap read’ is that a number of the most important authors in the period start investigating the American summer novel,” says Harrington-Lueker, “the genre where a story is set at a summer resort and all that remains to be done is to fill it up with bits and pieces.”

Prominent authors such as Stephen Crane and William Dean Howells begin to recognize that the summer novel could be a lucrative, if perhaps formulaic, venture. At the same time, the publishing industry also recognizes a marketing opportunity to turn a slow season for book sales into something more profitable amidst the backdrop of the “highly social fishbowls” of resort towns such as Bar Harbor, Newport and Saratoga Springs.

“In order to invigorate sales, (publishers) have to get rid of the notion of salacious reading,” says Harrington-Lueker, “so they reframe summer reading as the woman in the white muslin dress, the girl in the hammock. You can see from illustrations, advertisements and cover artwork how romantic summer reading is.”

That metamorphosis from “literary poison” to the light leisure novel is telling in other ways as well. However light and readable, summer novels provide glimpses of a society trying to navigate profound changes.

“It’s important not to dismiss the elements of popular culture during this period or any period,” Harrington-Lueker continues. “The concerns of the times around women’s roles, race, class, nation, and more are woven into these narratives.”

Though muslin gowns have given way to shorts, T-shirts and sundresses, summer reading is a custom that has withstood the test of time. Whether bestsellers are delivered to the doorstep or carefully chosen through the local library, no two approaches are exactly alike. Hardcover, paperback or tablet? Romance, mystery or nonfiction? Classics or contemporary literature? The possibilities are endless and it can be argued that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

“Summer vacationers read on beaches and riverbanks, on steamboats and railroad cars, on crowded piazzas and in resort libraries,” writes Harrington-Lueker. “Sources...attest to a range of summer reading places and practices, some decidedly private, others unabashedly public, many commercially mediated, but all part of the complex web of ways in which books and reading became part of Victorian summer leisure.”

— Mary Edwards ’86, ’12 (M)

**Salve’s Recommended Beach Reads**

- Compiled by Emily Whelan ’20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship”</strong></td>
<td>Fr. Gregory Boyle</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“The Tale of Despereaux”</strong></td>
<td>Kate DiCamillo</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“How the Light Gets In”</strong></td>
<td>Brian Doyle</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Middlemarch”</strong></td>
<td>George Eliot</td>
<td>1871</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“The Prophet”</strong></td>
<td>Kahlil Gibran</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Exit West”</strong></td>
<td>Mohsin Hamid</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“I Served the King of England”</strong></td>
<td>Bohumil Hrabal</td>
<td>1931</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy”</strong></td>
<td>Anne Lamott</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Pachinko”</strong></td>
<td>Min Jin Lee</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle”</strong></td>
<td>Haruki Murakami</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Bel Canto”</strong></td>
<td>Ann Patchett</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Straight Man”</strong></td>
<td>Richard Russo</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Confessions”</strong></td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“The Maze at Windermere”</strong></td>
<td>Gregory Blake Smith</td>
<td>2018</td>
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Spring/Summer 2019
Forever Home
Alumni return to campus for Reunion Weekend.

With an ease that comes from shared laughter and cherished memories, alumni from across the decades returned to celebrate Reunion Weekend May 31-June 2, finding the campus changed in many ways but still, nevertheless, the home they fondly remember.

“Though my work takes me all over the world,” said Dr. Michele Fortin Griswold ’89 in her remarks after receiving a 2019 Alumni Achievement Award, “Salve is still my home.”

Her words were echoed throughout the many events and gatherings where dear friends reconnected and rehashed the good old days as though not a day had gone by since they were last together.

Inducted into the 50th Anniversary Society, members of the Class of 1969 were, according to Sister Therese Antone, chancellor, “the first real rabble-rousers on campus who were determined to make their own rules.” Fast-forward 50 years, and that determination has not waned. With steadfast purpose, vision and a record-breaking class gift of more than $137,000, alumni established the Sister Jane Gerety Fund for Experiential Learning in honor of “the students’ president,” and her work to ensure that all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, have access to enhanced educational opportunities such as conferences, competitive summer programs, field placements, fellowships, study abroad and more.

“Being here with the 50th reunion group, they truly are fulfilling the mercy mission,” said Helen Dorflinger Ryan ’69, a member of the 50th anniversary committee. “Their faith, their devotion to helping others—that’s what we’re all about.”

The Class of 1994 also raised the bar with the largest 25th anniversary class gift to date, totaling more than $46,000, in support of the Legacy Family Scholarship as well as new initiatives such as the Friends of Music, Theatre and Dance Fund. The two milestone class gifts are part of a year of extraordinary alumni giving to the University, with many inspired to pay tribute to Sister Jane’s decade of dedication through support of the Friends of Sister Jane Gerety Scholarship, the Arboretum at Salve Regina, “Sister Jane’s Tree” and more.

Having received an honorary degree at the 2019 Commencement, Sister Jane joins the ranks of thousands of alumni across the world who, she says, “carry a spirit of love, compassion and mercy, things that were nurtured at Salve.” Though, perhaps, the last president to be part of a religious order, Sister Jane believes that “the spirit of mercy is alive and it is spreading.”

“This is a place that will be in my heart forever,” she continued, capturing the essence of Reunion Weekend in just one simple sentence.
(Standing) Stephen Torbett, Meegan Bunch; (seated l-r) Jennifer Fallon Torbett ’99 and Jennifer Sullivan McDonough ’99

Donna Maguire ’81 and Maura O’Toole ’81

Audrey Smith ’09, Alaina Smalley ’09 and Shane Murray ’09

(l-r) Class of 1969 alumni Rena Patry Duff, Patsy Gallagher Snyder, Barbara Tracy Allega, Joanne Murray Dunphy and Helen Dorflinger Ryan present the 50th Anniversary class gift to Sister Jane.

(l-r) Alumni Achievement Award recipients Dr. Michele Fortin Griswold ’89, Wendy Tancheff ’94, Michael Abbott ’99 and Exceptional Volunteer Award recipient Patsy Gallagher Snyder ’69
The Way We Were

Photos courtesy of the 1969 and 1994 Regina Maris yearbooks.

In line with the times, the 1969 Newport Jazz Festival introduced a musical lineup that included, among others, rock artists Jeff Beck, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Jethro Tull and Led Zeppelin. The event attracted large, and sometimes unruly, crowds, prompting the cancellation of the Sunday evening performance, which was eventually allowed to move forward after the overflow of fans had left the city.

Class of 1969 Regina Maris yearbook editors Christine Beaulac Martini, Kathleen Riley Pappas, Mary McGann, Michele Marino Vincelette and Mary Johann.

Spanish Honor Society students gather in Ochre Court.

A senior class meeting includes music and singing.

Sister Christopher O’Rourke, president, chats with a student.

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Sigma Phi Sigma students stock shelves at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Ochre Court, in true Hollywood style, played the role of a Swiss chalet in the opening scene of 1994's hit, "True Lies," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis. According to the Regina Maris yearbook, the staged explosion in the movie's opening scenes was “…surprisingly…very quiet, with few Salve neighbors reporting that they had heard anything.”

Members of the Class of 1994 enjoy a sunny day in Newport.

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1960
Janet Brady Reardon ’60 divides her time between her home in South Yarmouth, Mass., and her winter residence in Delray Beach, Fla. She has five children, one of whom, Katherine Reardon Kurisko ’85, is a Salve Regina social work graduate. Janet has seven grandchildren and recently became a great grandmother for the second time. Reardon taught fourth grade in New York and first grade in Cape Cod for a combined total of 40 years before retiring.

Nancy Feraco Turco ’60 is living in Apollo Beach, Fla., and returns to her home in Westerly, R.I., for the summer months. She retired from teaching in 2004 and volunteers her time with the Registered Nurses Club of Westerly and the Apollo Beach Women’s Club scholarship program for high school seniors heading to college.

1965
Lifelong friends and former roommates Mary Walsh Ciunci ’65, Betsy Curran Goodwin ’65, Janet Faubert Gillette ’65, Betsy Flagg Gorman ’65 and Sally Conroy Young ’65 celebrated a mini-reunion in Newport in July 2018. “Each time we return to Newport we walk Salve Regina’s labyrinth in memory of our cherished friends and deceased classmates, Margi Swart Ryder ’65, Joan Winiarski ’65 and Rosemary Dahlke ’67,” Gorman writes.

Mary Walsh Ciunci ’65 lives in Barrington, R.I. She served as a sales manager for the New England Division of Pulte Homes for 15 years and has been an active volunteer at Amos House soup kitchen for 16 years.

Janet Faubert Gillette ’65 lives in Dayville, Conn. She retired in 2015 after teaching for many years and says, “Much of the enjoyment and gratification I received as a high school teacher is reflected in knowing I learned as much from my students as they learned from me.”

Margaret “Betsy” Curran Goodwin ’65 has lived in San Diego since 1967. Before retiring in 2000, she taught children in the early grades. Since then, she has been actively involved in volunteer work and finds the tutoring of adults particularly rewarding.

Elisabeth “Betsy” Flagg Gorman ’65 lives in Hamden, Conn. Her teaching career was interrupted when her first child was born, and she later began a 40-year career as a successful realtor, which continues today. Gorman is now a Graduate Realtor Institute agent with Press/Cuozzo realtors in Hamden, where she serves on the boards of the Hamden Historical Society, the Hamden Land Conservation Trust and the Hamden Rotary Club.

Sally Conroy Young ’65 earned two master’s degrees in education and family counseling. She spent her career working with children and families, helping to develop and coordinate three family resource centers in Connecticut. Before retiring in 2018, Young provided technical assistance to all of Connecticut’s Family Resource Centers as a consultant.

1979
Allison A. McNally ’79 is celebrating her fifth anniversary as a senior manager with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission in Newport.
“Blessed are you, pilgrim, if on the way you meet yourself and gift yourself with time, without rushing, so as not to disregard the image in your heart.”

- the Ninth Beatitude of the Pilgrim

1981
John Finegan ‘81 is a set dresser currently working on the set of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” an Amazon video production. As a contractor under Local 52/IATSE based out of New York, Finegan is responsible for decorating the set as well as ensuring continuity of prop placement from shot to shot or scene to scene.

1982
Michele Amaral Banks ‘82, day and community services administrator at Looking Upwards, Inc., is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Education. Banks manages Learning Unlimited, an educational program that promotes an inclusive learning community by creating opportunities for Salve student volunteers and people with developmental disabilities to learn from each other through education, recreation and socialization.

Andy Tuma ‘82, president of Berkley Surety in Morristown, N.J., returned to campus Feb. 25 to speak to students in several business classes. Tuma shared professional insights and an overview of Berkley Surety, along with advice on jobs and internships in the contract and commercial surety industry.

1983
Kristine Grev Springett ’83 is coordinator of the University of Rhode Island’s online RN-to-BS program.

1986
Christina M. Crowley-Stone ‘86, MSN, RN, PHMCNS-BC, is associate chief nurse for case management and community health at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she previously served as nurse director for Blake 11 Psychiatry, overseeing the management of a 24-bed acute inpatient psychiatric/medical unit. Her 22-year career at Mass General also includes serving as a clinical nurse specialist for 12 years and as an MGH Institute for Health Professions adjunct faculty member since 2000.

Tammi Dutra McCarrather ‘86, ’91 (M) has been named deputy department head of the comptroller department at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division in Newport. Formerly NUWC Newport’s budget officer, McCarrather will serve as an advisor to the commanding officer, technical director, comptroller and other management officials on policy matters pertaining to financial management plans, policies and procedures.

Robert Moran ‘86 was named to Forbes’ 2019 “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” list in February, for the second year in a row. A member of Salve Regina’s Board of Trustees, he recently retired after more than 28 years at Merrill Lynch, where he served as senior vice president, wealth management advisor and portfolio manager for The Moran Group.
in Exton, Pa. Plans for retirement include “spending more time with my family, sailing, traveling and running Moran Ventures, a family real estate and investment company,” writes Moran. “I will also be spending more time in Newport and Florida.”

1987
Anne Marie Pickering Papajiannis ’87 is celebrating 32 years at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she is currently a nurse case manager.

1991
Paul Picarazzi ’91 is co-founder and principal of Vision Ventures, a full-service real estate firm in Charlotte, N.C. He oversees company operations with a focus on identifying new opportunities and value creation. Picarazzi hosted Salve’s first North Carolina alumni event at the Nuvole Rooftop TwentyTwo, located atop Vision Ventures’ most recent project, the AC Hotel in downtown Charlotte. The March 26 event was one of several on-the-road gatherings honoring Sister Jane Gerety.

1994
Wendy Tancheff ’94 sells real estate for Vail Resorts/Intrawest Real Estate Development in Summit County, Colorado, working in the Keystone and Breckenridge mountain communities. A featured February alumni spotlight and 2019 Alumni Achievement Award recipient, she is also involved with a Christian-based charity with two orphanages in Kenya where, she says, “we give children the basics of food, clothes, education, faith and hope.” Tancheff invites anyone interested in sponsoring a child, donating or joining a “giving trip” to Kenya to visit Miracle-House.org for more information.

1995
Carrie Worthen Miranda ’95 (M) is executive director of Looking Upwards Inc., a private, nonprofit agency headquartered in Middletown, R.I., offering a wide array of services to adults with developmental disabilities and children with special health care needs.

1998
Chad Kritzas ’98 is a realtor with HomeSmart Professionals Real Estate in Middletown, R.I. An industry professional for more than 20 years, Kritzas made the move to HomeSmart Professionals, a nationwide company, because of its technology and reputation.

2000
Paula Russell Hopkins ’00 writes: “Our family is currently stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, with the United States Navy. This is our fourth tour in Japan. We love it here! My husband, Commander Jonathan Hopkins ’08 (M), recently assumed command of USS Milius, (DDG 69). Being in Japan brought many opportunities to us both. I have been enjoying teaching English lessons to Japanese children and adults and homeschooling our four wonderful children.” Commander Hopkins’ service awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and various unit and campaign decorations.

Brent Snider ’00 visited students in the Center for Business Outreach Feb. 14 to discuss career opportunities in the market research field. Snider is president, client development and strategy, Americas and Asia-Pac, for System1 Research in the greater New York City area. He joined the company in 2007 and currently oversees account teams in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.
The alumni husband and wife team of Michael Abbott '99 and Lucy Sage Abbott '13 (M) are making their mark at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Conn. The couple received the prestigious Notre Dame High School Knight of Honor Award during a ceremony Nov. 10, 2018. Induction as a Knight of Honor is the highest award given by Notre Dame, an all-boys Catholic college preparatory school sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross. The Abbotts were recognized for living by the ideals of the Notre Dame Code and for making a significant contribution to the school community.

Michael, director of mission effectiveness and former religious studies instructor, and Lucy, an English teacher and department chairperson, met during the school’s new teacher orientation in 1999 and were married in 2004. A 1995 Notre Dame High School graduate, Michael ensures that the mission and values of the Congregation of Holy Cross founders are wholly integrated into all aspects of the school community. He also guides the Appalachian Service Mission Trip to Jackson County, Ky., as well as eight campus-ministry activities, all of which promote service and cultivate compassion.

In addition to inspiring a passion for service work in Notre Dame students, Michael, a 2019 Alumni Award recipient, was assistant director of the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders for 11 years and an active member of the Holy Cross Institute Planning Development Committee for five years. He served as a member of the Religious Studies Department faculty, rising to department chair in 2008. He earned two bachelor’s degrees in religious studies and sociology from Salve Regina and a master’s degree in education from Albertus Magnus College.

Lucy, who earned her master’s degree in the humanities, has taught English for 20 years. During her tenure at Notre Dame, she created four new curriculums and served as a moderator of Notre Dame’s award-winning literary magazine, The Mind’s Eye. She also supervises the writing center and is moderator of the book club. A graduate of Arcadia University, she was twice honored with the Hartford Archdiocesan Summa Scholars Award for her “exceptional time, energy, care and love for her students in the pursuit of academic excellence.”

— Deborah Herz ’80, ’92 (M)
Coral Springs, Fla., Police Officer James MacLean ’04, ’05 (M) was conducting routine unmarked patrol with his partner on Feb. 14, 2018, when they received word that an active shooter was inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in nearby Parkland.

With that dispatch, the officers joined one of the largest law enforcement responses MacLean had ever witnessed. The Parkland shooting left 17 dead and many more injured. Its survivors refused to become silent victims and, instead, became vocal activists for stricter gun control measures in a nationwide debate.

In a job that requires running toward danger rather than away from it, MacLean began active shooter training in 2006 while working for the Middletown, R.I. Police Department and continued training after he transferred to Coral Springs in 2009.

“It is often said that, while under pressure you don’t rise to the occasion, you sink to the level of your training,” says MacLean. “My response to this incident was driven by the training that I have been fortunate enough to receive throughout the years.

“As I reflect back on the incident, I don’t necessarily remember a specific point when my adrenaline kicked in,” he continues. “As I approached the building I remember thinking about my son, and that got me thinking about all the parents who are relying on us to get their child out of this situation alive. There was no time to think about adrenaline. It’s hard to explain but your mind sort of goes on autopilot...this is why training is so important.”

An administration of justice major with a graduate concentration in international relations, MacLean recalls the breadth of diversified experience that Salve faculty bring into the classroom.

“Dr. Michael Brady drew on his experience as a patrol officer, chief of police, and a lawyer,” says MacLean. “Dan Knight spoke of his experiences as a special agent with the FBI and Dr. Robin Hoffmann brought years of legal experience to the classroom. Every one of my professors played some part in who I am today.”

MacLean shies away from describing his actions during the Parkland tragedy as heroic.

“The Parkland shooting was just a stark reminder of something you are taught very early on in the police academy regarding complacency,” says MacLean. “You never know when that ‘call’ will come. You may never get that ‘call.’ But if and when it comes you’d better be prepared at a moment’s notice to address it. I had been training for an incident like this for 12 years, hoping that I would never have to act on it. Unfortunately, I had to act on it that February day; no differently than I would act on it tomorrow.

“I don’t consider that heroism,“ he continues. “If you ever have the chance to talk to any of the students and teachers who bonded together to survive this incident, you’ll quickly learn who the true heroes were that day.”
Lisa M. Alvezi ’05 rang the NASDAQ opening bell on Wall Street for Giving Tuesday Nov. 27, 2018. Alvezi is the director of customer success at Gravyty, which makes artificial intelligence tools for frontline fundraisers at nonprofits and higher-education institutions.

Christopher J. Cwikla ’05 is a business analyst for Connecticut’s Division of Motor Vehicles, where he focuses on program coordinating, immigration, auditing and fraud.

Sarah Hetman ’05, JD, is the administrative coordinator for academic affairs for Harvard University’s Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology. Hetman, who previously served for 10 years with the Brockton, Mass., Public Schools, also runs a law practice and remains on the faculty at Filedheacht Music School in East Bridgewater, Mass.

John R. Kach ’05 is a zone manager at Ford Motor Company in the Melbourne, Fla., area.

Malcolm A. Punter ’05 (MBA), ’11 (Ph.D.), president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement Inc., was featured as the alumni spotlight in January. “Growing up in Harlem made me fully committed to assisting in revitalizing this area and making it affordable for our residents to be employed,” Punter says. “After attaining my MBA from Salve Regina, I gained a new skill set and was able to launch a new program that gave our constituents very low rates so they could afford to open their own businesses.”

2006
Bryan Belmore ’06 is the execution and production manager for Bold Catering & Design in Atlanta, Ga.

Bobby Gondola Jr. ’06 is the associate vice president for institutional advancement at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick. He is also secretary of the school board for Providence’s public schools.

2007
Ashley Miller Perlwitz ’07, ’10 (M), a featured alumni spotlight in January, is vice president for compliance strategy and operations at Wells Fargo in the greater New York City area.

2008
Lisette Gomes ’08 is a municipal court judge in East Providence, R.I., overseeing cases involving minimum housing violations, violation of city ordinances and R.I. traffic code infractions. Gomes also serves as Pawtucket’s assistant solicitor as well as Central Falls’ housing prosecutor and launched her own practice in 2012 to focus on personal injury, landlord-tenant and criminal defense matters.

2010
Ryan Hazinakis ’10, ’15 (MBA) is a real estate agent affiliated with Keller Williams, and ranks in the top 30 real estate agents in Rhode Island. He returned to campus March 21 to lead a Center for Business Outreach roundtable discussion with students, which addressed the questions “What do I want to do after graduation?” and “How do I connect the dots while in college?”

Andrea Michel ’10, ’11 (M), a former field hockey player, is a strategic marketing program manager for Schneider Electric in West Kingston, R.I. Michel returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk alumni connection event on Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Evan Rose ’10 was recently appointed as vice president, branch sales manager for BankNewport’s Washington Square office. His responsibilities include branch operations, business development and staff development. Rose is also a member of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Newport.

Raymond L. Zulauf ’10 is director of NBC Olympic Sales Marketing at NBC Universal Media, LLC, in the greater New York City area.

2011
David Guerriero ’11, ’14 (M) is a police officer and K9 handler with the Middletown, R.I., Police Department. Guerriero returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night on Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

BUSINESS ALUMNI NETWORKING NIGHT MARCH 29, 2019

From left: Ashley Alessandrini ’14, Emily Barkan ’15, Kyle Pheland ’15 and Dr. Nadia Abgrab Noormohamed, associate professor, attend the Business Alumni Night March 29, where more than 40 alumni and 100 students gathered with faculty in Ochre Court to connect and share career experiences.
Daniel Edwards ’13 is a senior consultant, public institutions, at Jones Lang Lasalle in Boston. He works on behalf of clients in state and local governments, higher education, and sustainable development throughout New England and New York, providing a full spectrum of commercial real estate services and strategic advising.

Michael Horn ’13 is a police officer with the City of Newport. Horn returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Jennifer Jones ’13, ’16 (M) is a senior associate consultant for Marsh & McLennan Agency-Northeast, a full-service insurance, retirement and risk management firm in Boston. Jones returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Daniel Kehew ’13, ’16 (M) is a digital security advisor and Northeast sales manager at OneSpan, a cybersecurity technology company in Marlborough, Mass. Kehew, who played both baseball and football, returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Amy Springett Larcom ’13 is a client services representative at UBS Financial Services - The Brown Group in Newport, where she has worked since graduating.

Kathryn J. Luvera ’13, a social studies teacher at Dumont High School in N.J., reports that she is completing her master’s degree in American history at Pace University’s Gilder Lehrman Institute in New York City. “I thought you’d like to know how much Salve prepared me for this program,” writes Luvera, who also received her master’s degree in education after graduating from Salve. “It’s because of history professors like Dr. John Quinn and Dr. Timothy Neary that I was able to do so well and feel comfortable in such a rigorous program.”

What can you do with a bachelor’s degree in marketing with a concentration in sports management?

Just ask Spencer Ambrosius ’12, vice president of ticket sales and service with the Detroit Red Wings, one of the National Hockey League’s original teams.

Ambrosius enjoyed playing football with the Seahawks in college, but professional basketball is what really jump-started his career. After graduating, he was hired by the Atlanta Hawks as a membership consultant for new sales. But the story doesn’t end there. Two years and five months later, the Cleveland Cavaliers of Lebron James fame made him manager of inside sales and organizational recruiting. Exactly a year later, in 2015, the Los Angeles Football Club hired him as their manager of sales, then promoted him to director of sales and service. Most recently, he served as general manager of the Los Angeles Chargers with Legends, an organization that specializes in new stadium development projects for professional sports teams.

Six years and five promotions later, Ambrosius has moved to Detroit and has added hockey to his marketing and sports management resume. In his new role, he will be responsible for all revenue streams related to ticketing and hospitality.

“I have been fortunate to learn from great mentors and surround myself with good people,” says Ambrosius. “The right opportunities have presented themselves when I wasn’t expecting them and I am thankful for the preparation that allowed me to grow quickly.

“I am excited to return to my home state of Michigan and work for the team I cheered for my whole life,” he continues. “In this way, I will be able to relate to the fans.”

Editor’s Note: As a way of saying thank you to his professors and mentors, Ambrosius invites any Salve student who’s serious about a career in sports marketing to send their resume to him at spencer.ambrosius@hockeytown.com.
Charles L. Stuppard ’13 (Ph.D.), a former Navy captain, is the new general manager of Canopy Defense. A 30-year veteran, Stuppard will oversee Canopy’s strategic direction, product innovation and business development activities to achieve its mission of supporting the military and safely bringing home U.S. troops.

2014
Dominic DiSano ’14 is a data center account executive for Massachusetts and Rhode Island at Dell EMC in Providence, R.I. DiSano returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Joshua Hohlfelder ’14 is a CPA/financial planner with Corrigan Financial, Inc., in Middletown, R.I. Hohlfelder returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Chris Jensen ’14 spoke via Skype with students in the Center for Business Outreach Feb. 7. Currently a group sales account executive for the San Jose Sharks, a professional ice hockey team in California, Jensen offered career tips and shared his thoughts on the retail side of sports entertainment.

Curtis McKeon ’14, a former men’s ice hockey and lacrosse player, is a marine account executive with the Hillb Group New England in East Greenwich, R.I. McKeon returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Amanda Sousa ’14 is operations coordinator for Rhode Island-based herbal skin care company Farmaesthetics. She visited the Center for Business Outreach Feb. 6 to share her thoughts with students on the challenges facing a small, but growing, business in the global marketplace.

Zachary M. Springett ’14 is a technical support technician for KVH Industries Inc., in Middletown, R.I.

Taylor Windser ’14 is teaching grades three and four at Cunningham Elementary School in Milton, Mass. Since graduating, she has received her Massachusetts Elementary Education Teaching Licensure and her master’s degree in special education from Curry College.

2015
Alec Butler ’15, a loan officer with Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., in the Greater Boston area, returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Lea Cure ’15, ’16 (M), a featured alumni spotlight in January, is a cyber threat intelligence analyst with Citizens Bank.

Peter J. Georges ’15, area coordinator for the University’s Office of Residence Life, was featured as an alumni spotlight in December 2018. “Coming here is an experience that truly affects your whole life,” Georges says. “Not only do you feel like Salve is your home, but it becomes your family’s and friends’ home as well, where even they are recognized and appreciated for being part of such a special community.”
Frank Musco ’15, ’16 (M) is a senior account executive for the Northeast territory team for Lookout post-perimeter security in the Greater Boston area. He returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Ciara Speller ’15 is the weekday evening news anchor for WWLP-22 News, an NBC affiliate in Western Massachusetts. She earned her master’s degree in broadcast journalism from Emerson College and interned at various New England stations, including WHDH Channel 7 News in Boston and ABC 6 in Providence, R.I., before joining WWLP in July 2017. She also serves on the board for I Found Light Against All Odds, a nonprofit organization that provides resources for at-risk youth and their families.

Ryan Kelly ’16, ’18 (M) is a regional account manager for North America’s west and Midwest for OneSpan, a cybersecurity technology company, in the Greater Boston area. Kelly returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Lydia Lyons ’16 earned her Bachelor in Nursing Science from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in May 2018. She is a registered nurse working in the oncology department at Rhode Island Hospital.

Making Waves

Seven recent graduates receive Wavemaker Fellowships.

Seven alumni who are working as young professionals at Rhode Island-based companies have been selected as 2018 Wavemaker Fellowship recipients. The program provides tax credits of up to $6,000 each year for up to four years to help graduates pay off their student-loan debt.

Among the 240 fellows honored this year are Kaitlin Bove ’16, ’18 (MBA), a tax preparer with DiSanto, Priest & Co.; Kathleen Gamez ’16, a molecular pathology lab intern at Lifespan; Kaylee Miller ’17, a research and development chemist at Bradford Soap Works; Alicia Morgan ’16 (M), a clinical manager with Applied Behavioral Interventions; Shane O’Connell ’17 (M), a system engineer with SEA CORP; Kenia Richards ’16 (M), an employment specialist at The Providence Center; and Sydney Robinson ’17, ’18 (MBA), a junior financial planner with Corrigan Financial Inc.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, the Wavemaker program is designed to keep talented professionals in the state, especially those working in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering or math. To qualify for the program, graduates with higher-education loan debt must be employed or have an offer for employment in a STEM or design field with a Rhode Island-based company, nonprofit or university.

Eligible fields include life, natural or environmental sciences; computer, information or software technology; advanced mathematics or finance; engineering; industrial or commercial design; and medicine or medical device technology.

“The Wavemaker Fellowship offers recent graduates a fantastic opportunity to defray college loan expenses, and it is heartening to see so many of our alumni launching successful careers in the state,” said Michael Wisnewski, director of career development. “Salve Regina seniors seeking to work in Rhode Island after graduation should absolutely consider applying to the Wavemaker program.”

— Deborah Herz ’80, ’92 (M)
Victoria Maxson ’16, a former cross country and track and field athlete, is a math teacher at St. Raphael Academy, a Catholic high school in Pawtucket, R.I. Maxson returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Daniel O. Parrillo Jr. ’16 (M), former deputy police chief for Johnston, R.I., and personnel director for Cranston, R.I., is the new director of administration for the city of Cranston.

Johnson Thomas ’16 is a prevention specialist at Day One, a Providence-based social services agency that deals with issues of sexual assault as a community concern. “There are many different avenues you can take in the criminal justice field,” says Thomas, an administration of justice graduate. “I found myself working toward the social justice and human resource fields. Being a training coordinator and a prevention education specialist is something that I couldn’t have dreamed of. It’s an opportunity to give back and instill some of the messages that my professors at Salve told me and now I have the opportunity to share those with young adults, young children and also teens within the state of Rhode Island.”

Visit youtube.com/salveregina to view Thomas’ SalveToday featured video and interview, “Justice, Purpose and Mission.”

2017

Chris Caron ’17, ’18 (M) is a nursing home administrator with Next Step Healthcare, a network of skilled nursing facilities based in Woburn, Mass. Caron returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Samantha Gisonni ’17, a former women’s basketball player and cross country runner, is a staff accountant at MDD Forensic Accountants in Boston, Mass. Gisonni returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Erica Manchester ’17 is a graduate student at University of Rhode Island studying for her Doctor of Physical Therapy. Manchester returned to campus for the Seahawk to Seahawk Athletics networking night Feb. 26 to discuss career opportunities with current student athletes.

Courtney P. McMorrow ’17, ’18 (MBA) is a marketing coordinator in the digital media department of Hearst Magazines in New York City. “I’m working across sites such as Harper’s Bazaar, Elle, Town & Country, Marie Claire, Cosmopolitan, Seventeen, Delish and many more,” McMorrow writes.

2018

Col. Rick Rathbun ’18 (M), a 48-year-old Warwick, R.I., police major with almost 25 years of experience on the force, is the new chief of the Warwick Police Department. Rathbun, who has served as the city’s emergency management director, replaces another Salve alumnus – Col. Stephen McCartney ’01 (M), who served as commander of the force for two decades until his retirement in December.

Darwin Salazar ’18, a product security analyst at Johnson & Johnson in Providence, R.I., was the keynote speaker at a STEM Talks Rhode Island presentation sponsored by New England Institute of Technology’s TIMES2 Institute April 9. The event, which was held for invited R.I. high school students, focused on increasing participation of underrepresented populations in STEM education and careers.

Amanda M. Smith ’17, RN, received the DAISY Award from Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut. She was nominated by the daughter of a hospice-care patient, who wrote: “On the darkest days of my life, Amanda was there to comfort my family and me. She went above and beyond and it was comforting to know my mom was cared for by her.”
Giuliana F. Sandonato ’18 (M) is working at the Naval Base in San Diego, Calif., onboard DDG1000, the Navy’s latest destroyer, providing software integration. “I used to fly out every now and then to do software installs and integration,” Sandonato writes. “The team waited for me to graduate and offered me a three-month assignment that has now turned into a one-year assignment, so I will be here until next summer. I miss the four seasons in New England!”

Neil Sheehan ’18 ran the Boston Marathon April 15, finishing with a time of 4:34:39, and raising $11,910 for the Military Friends Foundation. The former Seahawks runner said, “I was very proud to have the opportunity to run the marathon with a military charity like the Military Friends Foundation,” says Sheehan. “The charity provides aid to military families that face hardship following their family member’s service, including gold star families.”

The Seahawk Network
Former Seahawk athletes share experiences at annual networking event.

Alec Butler ’15; Chris Caron ’17, ’18 (M); Damian Dell’Anno ’18, ’19 (M); Dominic DiSano ’14; Sam Gisonni ’17; David Guerriero ’11, ’14 (M); Joshua Hohlfelder ’14; Mike Horn ’13; Jennifer Jones ’13, ’16 (M); Dan Kehew ’13, ’16 (M); Ryan Kelly ’16, ’18 (M); Erica Manchester ’17; Victoria Maxson ’16; Curtis McKeon ’14; Andrea Michel ’10, ’11 (M); Frank Musco ’15, ’16 (M); Maryelizabeth Pfund ’15; Gerald Willis ’86 ’88 (M); and Jillian Woodward ’17.

Both current and former Seahawks appreciated the opportunity to network as students moved throughout the Ochre Court dining room to meet alumni whose careers span a number of industries. “One of the greatest selling points of a smaller school like Salve is the alumni relationship with current students,” says Guerriero, a former football linebacker who is now a K9 handler with the Middletown, R.I., Police Department.

Current basketball forward Olivia Valerio ’20, a health care administration major, enjoyed networking with various alumni. Even if they didn’t play the same sport or share the same major, she still found it helpful getting to know them. “Meeting alumni who have gone through what we’ve gone through is really beneficial and something that I am grateful for,” she says.

Musco, a former football defensive back, has seen the rewards of such an event come to fruition. “By coming to this Seahawk to Seahawk event, seven friends and I were able to find internships or jobs for either ourselves or for our friends,” he recalls.

“Hosting an event like this is sort of a no-brainer when you have such successful alumni,” says Jody Mooradian, director of athletics. “There is no greater resource than people. It puts a face to a future, and people value that.”

— Emily Whelan ’20
A Family Tradition

Congratulations to the following Class of 2019 legacy graduates who are carrying on a family tradition as the newest members of Salve Regina’s alumni community:

2019 Legacy Graduates

ALISON L. CADIEUX
Daughter of William Cadieux Jr. ’07 (M)

PEYTON MARIE CIRULLI
Daughter of Lisa Correia Cirulli ’86

MADELINE CORDEIRO
Daughter of Mary Wrenn Cordeiro ’02 (M)

CATHERINE MARGARET CUNNINGHAM
Daughter of Tracey A. Prince ’89

RYAN L. FOX
Son of Leo H. Fox II ’85 and Kristen Kostyla Benedetti ’94

JULIA CLAIRE GAMBARDELLA
Daughter of Carrie Pilon Gambardella ’89

LEXINGTON R. GRETZKY
Daughter of Sarah Cinqmars Gretzky ’82

D A K O T A H D A G I J O N E S
Son of Lisa S. Antonelli-Jones ’90

KELLSEY ELIZABETH LARSON
Daughter of Kathleen E. Larson ’85

ERICA JUNE LITTLE
Daughter of Denise Cataldo Little ’86

GABRIELLE ANNE MARONE
Daughter of Marita R. Driscoll ’86

DANIEL FRANCIS MCKILLOP
Son of Paul D. McKillop ’89 (M) and Kim McGettigan McKillop ’89 (M)

NISHANTE S. PEARSON
Daughter of Teneka N. Spencer-Wiley ’01

SUSAN VICTORIA PHILLIPS
Daughter of Mary Minicucci Phillips ’92

CARMEL MATEO SAIA
Son of Richard A. Santilli ’89

BRODERICK THOMAS SANTILLI
Son of Richard A. Santilli ’89

LAUREN ELIZABETH SCINTO
Daughter of Cynthia Sanders Scinto ’83

PADRAIG O’RIORDAN WALSH
Son of Marian Emerson Walsh ’88

SHELBY ANNE WATSON
Daughter of Kathleen A. Sullivan ’87

The Minicucci alumni now includes Susan Phillips ’19 as well as her uncles Tray ’97 and Michael ’98, aunt Jennifer Mayer Minicucci ’99, and mother, Molly Minicucci Phillips ’92. Matthew ’02 was unable to attend Commencement but was undoubtedly there in spirit!

The McKillop family tradition, which began with Sister Lucille’s presidency, continues as Daniel McKillop ’19 (second from right) receives his bachelor’s degree in accounting. Joining him are (from left) his cousin Ashley Kiser, his sister Orla, and parents Paul and Kim.
In Loving Memory

The Most Reverend Robert Mulvee, former Salve Regina trustee and Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Providence, passed away Dec. 28, 2018. Born in Boston, Bishop Mulvee prepared for the priesthood at Saint Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, Conn.; Saint Paul Seminary at the University of Ottawa, Canada; and the American College at the University of Louvain in Belgium. He was ordained for the Diocese of Manchester, N.H., on June 30, 1957, at Louvain. Bishop Mulvee served at a number of parishes in New Hampshire before returning to Europe. He completed his doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome and also received a master’s degree in religious education from the University of Louvain. He was named assistant chancellor of the New Hampshire Diocese in 1964 and began a career in which he held numerous diocesan and parish positions. Upon his appointment as the seventh Bishop of Providence in 1997, Bishop Mulvee served on Salve Regina’s Board of Trustees from 1997 until his retirement in 2005. He was also active on a number of boards and committees including Catholic Relief Services, where he served as chairman of the Human Resources Committee, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Providence College and Saint John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Kathleen M. O’Connell, a much-loved regular at Newport’s Gooseberry Beach with a lifelong connection to Salve Regina, passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, having lived a life of adventure and service. Kathleen joined the Religious Sisters of Mercy when she was 17 and was chosen to study nursing at Salve Regina, where she graduated with honors. Following graduation, Kathleen taught at Salve as an assistant instructor in medical surgical nursing and went on to earn her master’s degree in education from Columbia University in 1968. Kathleen’s doctoral dissertation in nursing took her to England and Ireland to research the Sisters of Mercy archives for evidence of a connection to Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War.

Kathleen served as chair of Salve’s nursing department and then made the difficult decision to leave the Sisters of Mercy to pursue a career in community outreach. Her experience with war refugees, while working in Honduras for the National University’s nursing school, kindled her interest in women’s health and family planning. Upon her return to the U.S., Kathleen worked for the Sanger Research Bureau and became a nurse practitioner in family planning and joined the nursing faculty at Downstate Medical Center SUNY in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Kathleen integrated the mercy mission throughout her life, working tirelessly with community groups committed to social justice and health care issues. She was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field of nursing, along with her dedication to the University’s nursing alumni council and Vision of Mercy Scholarship committee, with the 2013 Nursing Alumni Achievement Award.

They may not have known his name, but Peter Rector’s Awful Awful, the legendary ice milk drink that he brought to the Newport Creamery, undoubtedly plays a role in many “remember whens” and memories of generations of Salve Regina students. A true friend of his beloved Aquidneck Island community, Peter passed away on Mar. 11, having lived his life always willing to lend a hand whenever needed.

Peter, a proud graduate of Rogers High School, earned his undergraduate degree from Kenyon College in Ohio and his MBA from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He then began working at his family’s business, the Newport Creamery, where he served for more than three decades as president.

With a boundless spirit of generosity that touched many, Peter’s legacy has left an indelible mark on the community. From 1992 to 2012, Peter’s leadership and expertise as a member of the Board of Trustees was instrumental in positioning Salve Regina as a vibrant and well-regarded institution of higher education. He was a dedicated steward of the Mason D. Rector Scholarship Fund, named after his father and established in 1966 to help students in need of financial aid pursue their dreams of a college degree. When Peter decided that a midnight ice cream bar was the perfect way to wrap up the Governor’s Ball, he started what has become a much-anticipated tradition at the annual gala.

Peter’s lifetime of dedication also includes serving on the boards of the Edgehill Foundation, the Preservation Society of Newport County, the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and as chairman of the board of Newport Federal Savings Bank. A devoted family man who loved fishing, the Yankees and his “posse” of friends, he will be dearly missed at Salve, in Newport and beyond.
A Salve Regina trustee and beloved member of the Rhode Island community, Dr. Kenneth R. Walker Sr. passed away on Jan. 30, leaving behind a legacy that reflects his dedication to education and his commitment to youth and public service.

A 1957 graduate of Providence College, Dr. Walker earned his Master of Education from Rhode Island College and his Ph.D. in education from Boston University. As a teacher and administrator, he worked diligently to improve urban educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged students.

Dr. Walker was a well-loved and active member of the Board of Trustees for nearly 19 years when he passed. Throughout his career and into retirement, he was an advocate for community members of all ages, especially the incarcerated, the physically and mentally challenged, and minorities. A Division I basketball referee whose love for the game lasted a lifetime, Walker also served on the R.I. Parole Board for more than 35 years, was president of Big Brothers of Rhode Island and was a member of the board of St. Mary Academy-Bay View.

A proud veteran, Dr. Walker served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He has been recognized and honored by many groups, including the Association of Paroling Authorities International, where he was awarded the Vincent O’Leary Award for his contributions to the field of parole and the Ben Bear Award for his efforts to defend the parole supervision process as a necessary link in providing successful transition and re-entry. Dr. Walker received the Neil J. Houston Junior Award from Justice Assistance for his dedicated service and contributions to the criminal justice profession and was also awarded the NAACP Freedom Fund Award in Education.

An avid advocate for education and health care, Jean Ives McLean Wallace passed away May 13, leaving a legacy of generosity that will impact Salve Regina for generations to come.

Jean was married to the love of her life, David, for 64 years before his passing in 2017. Together, they supported a number of philanthropic endeavors including Yale University and Yale School of Medicine, Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich Academy and New York Hospital.

Their thoughtful generosity to Salve Regina began more than 30 years ago and is reflected today throughout campus. Wallace Hall, a comfortable residence that was originally built as a gardener’s cottage for the nearby Fairholme manor house, welcomes sophomore students each academic year and is just one example of the visionary kindness extended by Jean and David throughout the decades.

The most recent Wallace family gift, received in December 2018, includes $650,000 directed to the Jean and David Wallace Endowed Scholarship Fund at Salve Regina and $350,000 for University investment in further advancing its strong and growing reputation. Such extraordinary generosity makes the Wallace family the single largest benefactor in University history.

Jean was devoted to her family, and volunteered in many areas of their lives, including teaching Sunday School at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, running the Clothing Nook and being a Class Mother at Greenwich Academy, and volunteering at Greenwich Hospital. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her friendship to the Salve Regina community will be forever remembered, cherished and dearly missed.

In Memoriam

Kathleen Arnold ’82
Anne Claire Walsh Clancy ’61
Barry Clark, former golf coach
Patricia Kirwin Folliard ’65
Eleanor Reyes Granger ’55
William J. Harrington ’79 (M)
Sheila McCooey Kelley ’81
Jennifer K. Lafond ’99
Sister Rosemary Laliberte ’63, former director of campus ministry
Ellen Frappier Lebeuf ’00 (M)
Mary Hennessey Lemay ’62
Maryann Letiecq ’85 (M)
Thomas P. Lewis ’00
Katherine C. Lisi ’58
Lillian Combra Lopes ’64, ’76 (M)
Leonora McCabe MacDonald ’61
Olivia Marquart ’13
Claire Martin, COS member
Joan Devlin McAuliffe ’52
Erin J. McSweeney ’02
Katharine H. Ostrander, former professor and founder, Department of Social Work
Peggy Phelan ’64
Donna Kaszyk Purdy ’71
Pamela E. Shakarian ’81
Marietta Stanton, Ph.D. ’99 (M)
Diane Taylor, RSM, former art faculty member
Edward P. Walsh Jr. ’96 (M)
Rebel with a Cause

Sometimes it takes courage to do what you love.

I want to do this.

These five little words are a frequently unacknowledged sentiment in a world where hating your job isn’t just acceptable, but expected. It’s a hallmark of maturity to find a profession you can tolerate so you can provide for your family, even if you have to spend five-sevenths of your life counting down the hours until the weekend.

When I was first accepted to Salve, my overly caffeinated, 15-year-old self hadn’t quite become cognizant of this absurdity. I’d known I was a writer since I scribbled out my first novel at the age of 11, and dreamed of a career as an author and illustrator. However, I also dreamed of being able to afford food and indoor plumbing.

Practicality won out and I succumbed to the greatest fallacy a creative person can commit: I chose a practical major. Specifically, biology. All this got me was an irrational fear of swamp guppies, after I was forced to spend hours in a lab measuring their positions at 30-second intervals.

In an unforeseen twist, my mother, Lee Cobb, who believed I was a medical prodigy since I took an interest in platelets at the age of 4, sensed my misery, and suggested an alternative: “I think you’d make a good professor.” Serendipitously, she made this observation in the spring of my sophomore year at Salve – the same semester I enrolled in my first creative writing class. Dr. Jen McClanaghan’s Introduction to Creative Writing was a veritable lifeboat after three semesters of floundering. It was my first writing community, an environment where we could plant ideas and watch them grow.

In that class it occurred to me how influential a professorial career can be. I could help inspire a new generation of creators, just by sharing the craft I love. That semester, I switched my major to studio art, which had been my minor. It was too late to become an English major, but the creative writing classes I enrolled in marked a definitive turning point in my academic career and life.

The guppy-infused clouds parted with a single thought: I want to do this.

If Intro to Creative Writing was a lifeboat, the Newport MFA is a luxury liner. It’s everything I didn’t even know I was looking for, miraculously emerging at exactly the same time I began my search for graduate courses.

Even my extremely practical father, Mark Fontaine, who graduated from Salve in 1987 with his degree in mathematics, encouraged my decision to apply. An accomplished architect and reclusive genius, he was most likely just grateful I was staying in the area.

Hearing the famous author Ann Hood, founding director of Salve’s MFA program, speak about her ridiculously interesting life with the confidence of a literary rock star only confirmed that I’d made the right decision.

On the first day of class, the sun-soaked evening of June 22, 2018, I inadvertently crashed a faculty meeting. Fortunately for me, they invited me to pull up a chair, and I was introduced to many of my wonderful, inordinately accomplished new professors.

The 12-hour days of my first residency were more intensive than anything I did as an undergrad, but they never weighed me down. I felt like I was flying. They began with several generative workshops and craft talks, and ended with public readings from faculty members and guest authors. In between, I would try out restaurants with my fellow students, all fabulous people about whom I could write entire essays.

A sailboat ride brought the semester to a close. The ocean was a sleeping giant beneath us, an endless, emerald flank fluctuating with each breath. I enjoyed a complimentary cranberry juice, and wondered what I could have possibly done to deserve such a life.

I am now a published author, featured in three literary journals. I’m three months into a mentorship with the lovely, award-winning Hester Kaplan, author of “The Edge of Marriage” and “Kinship.” On my current trajectory, I’ll have my MFA degree by the age of 22, after which I intend to pursue a Ph.D. and a career as a professor.

Suddenly, creative writing isn’t such an impractical field of study.

Looking back, I don’t berate myself for my semesters of senseless, guppy-abled torment, because there was a lesson in them I needed to learn.

Countless people live and die without the opportunity to do what they love. The ability to pursue my passion is a gift, and one I will not take for granted. I’m at the back of my favorite cafe, filled with chatter and the aroma of coffee. In front of me is a word document and an open notebook.

I want to do this.

– Brooks Cobb Fontaine ’18

Editor’s Note:
For more information, visit salve.edu/mfa-creative-writing.
2019

Upcoming Events

**JULY 14**
Salve Sunday at the Paw Sox
11 a.m., BBQ; 1 p.m., game
McCoy Stadium, Pawtucket, R.I.
Call (800) 821-2343.

**JULY 18**
Alumni/Parent Reception
6-8 p.m.
Central Wharf Company
160 Milk St., Boston
Call (800) 821-2343.

**JULY 22**
Salve Night at The Newport Gulls
6:30 p.m., Cardines Field
Call (800) 821-2343.

**JULY 27**
Newport International Polo
3 p.m., Tailgate; 5 p.m., Match
Glen Farm, Portsmouth, R.I.
Call (800) 821-2343.

**AUG. 13**
Cape Cod Summer Social
West Hyannisport, Mass.
Call (401) 341-2355.

**AUG. 16**
Dunes Club Summer Social
6-8 p.m., Dunes Club
Narragansett, R.I.
Call (800) 821-2343.

**SEPT. 3**
Convocation
3 p.m., Wakehurst Lawn

**SEPT. 12-OCT. 2**
BOSS Show 2019
Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery
Call (401) 341-2254.

**SEPT. 16**
30th annual Golf Tournament
Noon shotgun start
Newport Country Club
Call (877) SRU-GIFT.

**SEPT. 20**
Mass and President’s Inauguration
12:15 p.m.
Ocean-side Lawn, McAuley Hall

**SEPT. 24**
Mercy Day Celebrations

**SEPT. 26**
Atwood Lecture
Featuring Damian Costello
7 p.m., Bazarsky Lecture Hall

**OCT. 4 – 6**
Save the Date!
Fall Festival Homecoming and Family Weekend
Call (800) 821-2343.

**OCT. 10 – NOV. 20**
Purple Art Exhibition
Dorrance H. Hamilton Gallery
Call (401) 341-2254.

**DEC. 7**
Save the Date!
43rd annual Governor’s Ball
8 p.m., Ochre Court
Call (877) SRU-GIFT.

For more events, visit salve.edu, click on SALVEtoday, and for Pell lectures, visit salve.edu/pellcenter.

Your Success is our success.

Today’s students benefit from the success of our alumni and the legacy of giving that our community creates at Salve Regina.

Give now and help to foster the success of students like Sydnee.

Please use the envelope provided here, call (877) SRU-GIFT or visit giving.salve.edu and click on Give Now.

Office of Advancement
Salve Regina University. • 100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport, R.I. 02840-4192
The Salve Regina community is forever grateful for Sister Jane’s leadership and vision. Please consider joining the many alumni, parents and friends who have already paid tribute to her student-centered focus and legacy of mercy and service.

Be a part of the celebration and make your gift in honor of Sister Jane this summer by using the enclosed envelope, calling (877) SRU-GIFT, visiting salve.edu/sisterjanesdecade or texting “Decade” to 401-262-8724.