

conversation piece

the newsletter for alumni, parents, and friends of Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart

SUMMER 2016



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

*Whenever you go from a place
you go empty*

Because you leave something of yourself

*And you go full because you take
something of that place with you*

*And so for those who stay
and those who go*

*Let the leave-taking of Gifts fill us with
Glad-Hearted Gratefulness*

-Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt

Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart's faculty, staff, Board of Directors, friends and family celebrated the Class of 2016's commencement ceremony on June 4 at Saint Aloysius Church.

This year, our graduating class has been awarded nearly \$5 million in merit-based scholarship to prestigious colleges and universities, including Vassar College, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Seattle University, Loyola University, University of Illinois at Chicago and more.

For the first time in Josephinum history, this year's graduating class had two valedictorians, Alexandra Ionescu and Stefany Rendon-Pantaleon. They spoke about the power of an all-girls education and how Josephinum's faculty, staff and supporters empowered them to set ambitious goals and chase their dreams. Alexandra will attend Seattle University next fall, while Stefany will head to Vassar College.

JonBenet Gonzaga (this year's salutatorian), Alexandra Ionescu and Stefany Rendon-Pantaleon were named Illinois State Scholars. These incredible achievements are a testament to the Class of 2016's dedication to their education, and the continuous enhancements to Josephinum's academic program.

Commencement speaker Jason Polakowski, current History Department Head and future Josephinum Dean of Student Life, raved about the Class of 2016's continuous hard work and fun-loving spirit.

Graduation Class of 2016

Emily Aba	Cheyenne Martinez
Shaylene Alanis	Montserrat Mata
Emilsen Ayala	Jessika Medina
Anteria Bangs	Miriam Mendoza
Diamond Bey	Yessenia Miramontes
Danyell Buchanan	Natalie Navarro
Yazmin Cardenas	Cassandra Ortiz
Nia Curiel	Tatyana Peña
Jayleen Del Valle	Stefany Rendon-Pantaleon
Mel Dominguez	Destiny Rivera
Tamae Douglas	Diana Ruiz
Etsegenet Eshete	Roxanna Samano
Kyana Etienne	Jessica Santillan
Lesley Flores-Llapapasca	Jasmine Santos
Ashley Galvan Ramos	Asia Singleton
Yesenia Garcia	Miquel Smith
Na' Jia Gillespie	Julia Sosnivka
JonBenet Gonzaga	Thalia Tellez
Emily Gonzalez	Jasmine Urena
Briana Guajardo	Jackeline Valle
Julissa Guzman	Gina Vazquez
Elizabeth Hallett	Alexus Williams
Jocelyn Hanson	Casey Wright
Arielle Harvey	Maria Zarco
Alexandra Ionescu	Ashley Ziemann
Miaya Kelley	Chri Zine

Preparing Students For Life

The term “college prep” is used so often in education these days, it has become challenging to decipher what it truly means. Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart, like many other high schools in the Chicagoland area, is a college preparatory high school. But, what does this mean exactly?

As a college-preparatory high school, Josephinum aims to increase college readiness and access for all of its students. One of the main components of a college-prep program is a focus on the development of scholastic skills. While intellectual growth is an important part of our educational program, we don't stop there.

We believe that preparation for college, and for life, requires attention to social, emotional, and moral development as well. We have structured our curriculum to produce graduates who are courageous self-advocates, resilient and resourceful researchers, and confident, effective communicators. We emphasize the importance of community involvement and encourage our students to be responsible citizens who are committed to making a positive change to society.

This comprehensive program ensures that our graduates are not only ready for college, but have the tools they need to succeed outside of the classroom and in their future careers.

We wish the graduating Class of 2016 success with your future endeavors!



We Are So Grateful

I want to start off by thanking you for the four years of education that were possible because of you. It was because of your generous support that I was able to become the person that I am today. You opened the doors to many opportunities that allowed me to thrive as a student and a human being throughout my high school career.

Through these four years, I have grown spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. This gift of my education is truly a blessing that I will forever cherish. I hope that one day I have the potential to help other students achieve their dreams and goals just as your foundation helped me achieve mine. Because of the education I have received, I know that I have the skills necessary to succeed in life.

I'm happy to announce that I will be attending Vassar College in the fall. I'm confident I'll continue to thrive there.

Once again, thank you for your gift. I will forever be grateful.

Peace,
Stefany Rendon-Pantaleon
Class of 2016



I am writing you this short letter to thank you for all the amazing things you have done for me! I honestly do not know where I would have been right now if it was not for you and the support you gave me since the beginning of my freshman year!

All the hardwork and commitment I put into my education is for you and the Board of Directors. To demonstrate that you all have made a huge change in all of the HFS Scholars.

I'm super excited for this summer! I will be going to South Africa with the Peace Exchange. I became a Peace Builder in December and have been training every Saturday and Sunday. I leave June 15 and return July 3. I will definitely be sharing our documentary film of our trip to South Africa with you.

Once again, thank you Ms. Desiree! I am looking forward to my last year as an HFS scholar and Jo student.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Durán-Martínez
P.S. Future Class of 2017 Valedictorian



Josephinum Academy Announces the Bridge to the Future Campaign

Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart is excited to announce the Bridge to the Future Campaign, which will strengthen and extend its transformative program to even more inspiring young women.

With this campaign, Josephinum will establish itself as a premier independent high school committed to ensuring affordability and access to all girls in the heart of Chicago.

Over the next five years, Josephinum will implement key strategic investments that will dramatically enhance the future success of the school and its students. The investments made possible through the Bridge to the Future Campaign will support three strategic priorities, including increasing school enrollment by 20 percent (40 students), supporting enhancements to Josephinum's educational program, and implementing essential improvements to the facility that will ensure student safety and well-being.

Josephinum's Board of Directors is united in its support of the campaign, and invites the school's friends to join in investing in the future success of the mission and students of Josephinum. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$850,000 over the next two years in order to ensure the school's ability to proceed with implementation in a financially responsible manner.

Extending the Josephinum Opportunity to Deserving Young Women

This year, Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart has become Chicago's first all-girls independent high school to offer a wall-to-wall International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme and roll out one of the most generous scholarship programs in Chicago. As a result, our highly accessible, robust and world-class academic program is now attracting even more deserving and impressive young women.

Josephinum is confident that it can increase its enrollment by 20 percent over the next five years, while preserving its mission to offer a world-class approach to academic excellence combined with holistic, moral, and spiritual development in a college preparatory environment at an affordable price to all girls in the heart of Chicago. A total enrollment of 240 students will leverage the school's current staffing to optimize Josephinum's ability to deliver its educational mission in a manner that is most impactful in the lives of students and most financially responsible given the current staffing of the school.

Academic Excellence, Holistic Development and Postgraduate Success

According to the Independent School Management's 2015 parent survey, "student safety from harm or negative influences, quality academics leading to success at the next academic level, and character development" are the top three reasons parents choose a private school for their children.

With this in mind, there are several elements to enhancing and ensuring academic excellence, character development, and postgraduate success at Josephinum Academy. In collaboration with the Board, strategic investments have been identified that will strengthen student success in each of these areas.

1. Ensuring Academic Excellence by Retaining Great, Dedicated Teachers

A great teacher can mean the difference between a student who achieves at high levels and a student who slips through the cracks. Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart attracts exceptional teachers and offers the ideal environment for professional development and career advancement.

It is our responsibility to ensure the livelihood of those who make our program great.

2. Enhancing Sacred Heart Global Education

Josephinum's educational program is unique because of its ability to empower young women for success in a global future. Key investments will enhance Josephinum's participation in the international Network of Sacred Heart Schools, offering students powerful and life-changing experiences that deeply enrich classroom instruction and student learning.

3. Social and Emotional Health and Wellness Program

True wellness is more than just physical health. It is the integration of a student's emotional, intellectual, spiritual, social, and financial well-being.

This April, the National Center for Health Statistics reported a drastic increase in the suicide rate of women, with the highest percentage increase among those ages 10-14. As an all-girls school, it is critical for Josephinum to invest in developing a comprehensive Social and Emotional Health and Wellness Program that will directly address the most difficult social issues facing young women today.

4. Postgraduate Counseling and Support

Josephinum is committed to preparing students for success in college and beyond. Our investment in a post-graduate counselor will further support the long-term success of our graduates.

Student Safety and Wellbeing

"There are three teachers of children: adults, other children and their physical environment. Children are ready to learn only when they are safe and secure, so address those needs before any other aspects to a child's environment."
- Loris Malaguzzi, lifetime educator

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Josephinum's students, important capital investments have been identified to improve the school's security and heating system.

Annual Fund and/or Bridge to the Future Campaign?

Josephinum Academy's Annual Fund is the primary source of support for everything from scholarships and arts to salaries and utility bills. We count on support from every generous donor, every year.

The Bridge to the Future Campaign is a special fundraising initiative to support the priorities above and beyond annual operations. This initiative represents a significant opportunity to advance the future success of Josephinum Academy and its inspiring students.

For more information, please contact Shuchi Sharma, Director of Advancement, at (773) 292-3964 x232, or by email at shuchi.sharma@josephinum.org.



Dine Dance Give

Join us for our Annual Scholarship Gala

October 1 at 6:00 p.m.
Intercontinental Hotel

Celebrating 125 years of Girls Without Limits

Honorary Guest Archbishop Blase Cupich

Co-Chairs Celeste & Alan Denton, Maureen & Ron Sippel

Purchase your tickets today by visiting the Upcoming Events page on josephinum.org or by contacting Scholarship and Events Coordinator Lindsay Bartlett at (773) 292-3964 x233 or lindsay.bartlett@josephinum.org.

2016 Josephinum Academy Spring Events

Spring Luncheon

Nearly 250 guests joined us on April 27 for the annual Spring Luncheon at Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette. Keynote speaker Dr. Joanne Smith, President and CEO of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, gave an inspiring speech about the importance of faith and following your dreams. Senior Alexandra Ionescu also spoke, sharing memories of her time at Josephinum and how the Jo shaped her into a confident leader.

Thank you to our co-chairs, event committee, and all of the attendees for their continued support and generosity!



SCC Scholars Spring Celebration

The Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) Scholarship and Mentoring group gathered May 3 for a celebratory lunch. The group graduated its first class of seniors and announced all incoming members. The SCC mentors go above and beyond each year to ensure our students are prepared for college.

Thank you to the Sisters of Christian Charity and the SCC mentors for their support of Josephinum's students.



Josephinum Volunteer Thank You Party

Kathy Jackson, Josephinum Academy's volunteer coordinator, graciously hosted this year's Thank You Party for all of Josephinum's wonderful volunteers on May 10. We are blessed and honored to have such a diverse and dedicated group of volunteers who mentor, tutor and support our students.

We are so grateful for all that you do for the Jo!



Block Party

Students, families, alumnae and friends rocked the block on June 1 at Josephinum Academy. Guests enjoyed performances by the theatre class, the dance team, the acappella group and many talented Josephinum musicians, writers and singers. We all had a blast celebrating the end of Josephinum's 125th academic year!

Special thanks to Jay's Beef, FatPour Chicago and Piece Pizza for donating food, and to the Josephinum Junior Board for staffing the event!



You Know You're a Jo Girl If...

"you are not afraid to break barriers." - *Nana Harrison, Class of 2018* "you are confident in yourself!" - *Krystal Diaz, Class of 2019*
"you can truly be yourself and feel like nothing is impossible for you." - *Zoé Nellum, Class of 2019* "you know that the sky is NOT the limit and that you can go further to reach your purpose and destiny." - *Kezia Boohene, Class of 2019*



There's still time

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE INCLUDED IN JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY'S 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT BY MAKING A GIFT TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF OUR INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN.

MAKE YOUR GIFT BEFORE JUNE 30 online at www.josephinum.org.

For more information, contact Director of Advancement Shuchi Sharma at: (773) 292-3964 x232 or shuchi.sharma@josephinum.org.

conversation piece



1501 North Oakley Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60622
www.josephinum.org
(773) 292-3964

Josephinum Academy educates each student to reach her highest academic potential, empowers her to discover her unique place in the world, and inspires her to become a confident, faith-filled leader.



Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/josephinum



Follow us on Instagram!
[@the_jo_1890](https://instagram.com/the_jo_1890)



Follow us on Twitter!
[@the_jo_1890](https://twitter.com/the_jo_1890)

Create Your Legacy

Bequests and Planned Gifts are an easy and flexible way to meet your philanthropic goals while ensuring the future of Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart. Whatever your stage of life, your financial circumstances and your charitable goals, let us show you how to make a gift that benefits you and your loved ones, as well as Josephinum.

For more information on bequests and other planned giving options, please contact Director of Advancement Shuchi Sharma at (773) 292-3964 x232 or shuchi.sharma@josephinum.org.

