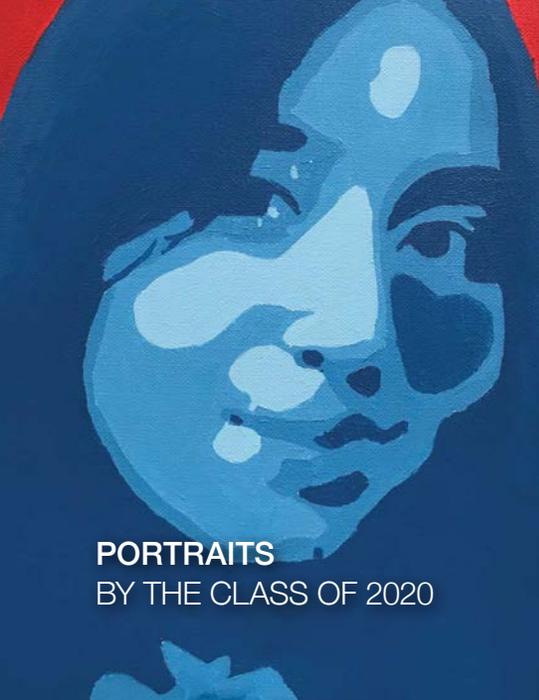


2020

CONVERSATION  
PIECE

IN THIS ISSUE  
DIGITAL LEARNING @ THE JO

# JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART



PORTRAITS  
BY THE CLASS OF 2020

# JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

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Portraits by the class of 2020; featuring work by (left to right, top to bottom):

- Lucy Sanchez, Lucia Martinez, Alexis Foldes
- Jazmin Montes, Trixie Ayettey, Jazmin Montes
- Stephanie Quintana, Lucia Martinez, Lucia Martinez

See more senior artwork at [josephinum.org/seniorexhibition20](http://josephinum.org/seniorexhibition20).

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

**PRESIDENT PATTI TUOMEY AND  
PRINCIPAL COLLEEN SCHRANTZ**

**DEAR JOSEPHINUM COMMUNITY,**

**WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE** our annual *Conversation Piece* magazine. We reflect on last year and the amazing stories of our Jo girls and their accomplishments, exciting school activities, dedicated faculty and staff, and the wonderful community that keeps Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart a vibrant educational force in Chicago.

The Jo faced several serious challenges in the past year. We must mention them and their impact, even as we look to tomorrow. We mourn the loss of Carla Aiello, our wonderful faculty colleague and student counselor, who passed away in a tragic accident. Our city and country were rocked by the events surrounding the murder of George Floyd and so many others—once again raising awareness of our country’s social injustices and racial inequality. And of course, we were impacted by the global pandemic of COVID-19, necessitating a rapid shift in our academic curriculum and learning processes.

As we faced these obstacles Josephinum again demonstrated our resilience. We have seen our students adapt to remote digital learning when forced to study at home. Our faculty and staff rose to the challenge by learning new ways to teach—and to do it well. Through it all we remain committed to preparing students for college and a successful, fulfilling life. Jo girls leave us ready for tomorrow, to build a future that “heals the world.”

We thank our board members, alumnae, donors, and volunteers who remained at our side with unwavering support; ensuring that Josephinum Academy continues to have a bright future. The spiritual, transformative, all-girls education of the Jo will always have an important place in our city. Through the efforts of our students, faculty, and community we are committed to keep Josephinum thriving for years to come.

Warmly,

President Patti Tuomey, EdD.

Principal Colleen Schrantz



# A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

**EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1890**

**Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart is the longest standing, all-girls high school in Chicago. We take pride in the many words we use to describe an education at Josephinum Academy. While we honor our legacy of 130 years, today's Josephinum sets itself apart by never being content with past achievements.**

At Josephinum our college-preparatory curriculum prepares young women to flourish. We keep our class sizes small and our exceptional faculty focused on understanding the unique educational needs of each student, fostering a passion for excellence in education, service, and faith. Our all-girls environment creates a culture that fosters achievement in academics, motivates critical thinking, and supports personal growth. We teach our young women to think, solve difficult problems, have opinions, and become champions to create a better world.

Josephinum remains committed to being an independent, faith-based school that welcomes young women from all backgrounds and cultures, providing an education that could be out of reach for some. We work together as a community so that all of our Jo girls leave us ready to be successful and build a bright future.

## **OUR MISSION**

Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart offers a world-class approach to academic excellence combined with a holistic, moral, and spiritual development in a college-preparatory environment at an affordable price to all girls in the heart of Chicago.

# ACADEMY



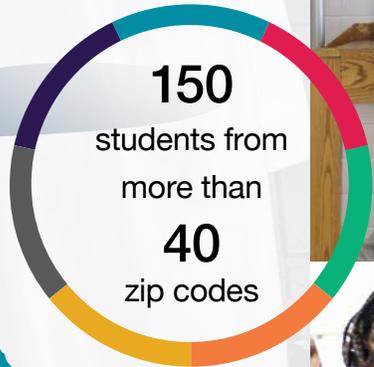
**1 & Only**  
All-girls,  
Sacred Heart  
High School  
in Chicago



**14:1**  
Student  
Teacher  
Ratio

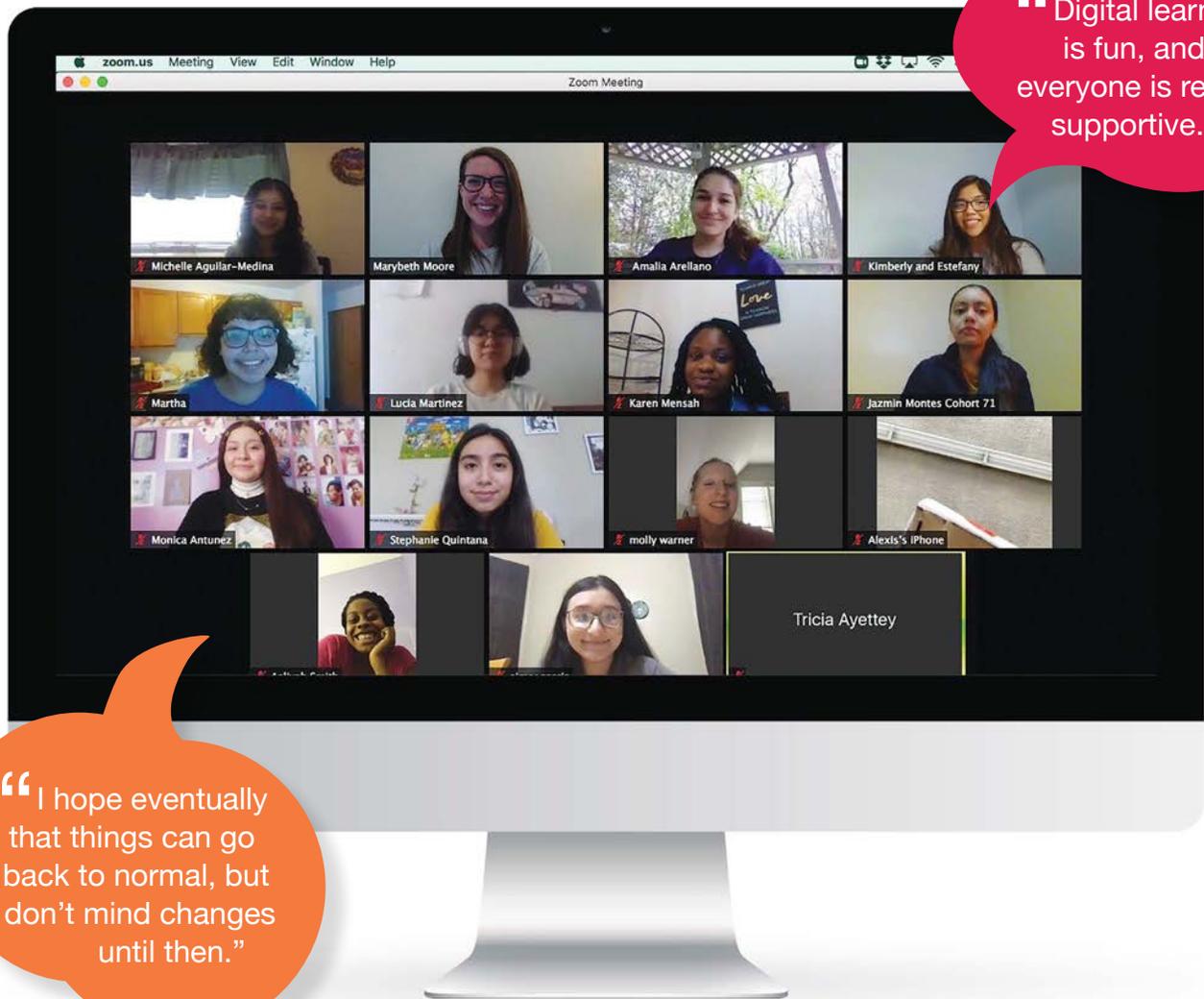


**\$2.2M+**  
Scholarships  
and  
Financial Aid



# DIGITAL LEARNING @ THE JO

PIVOT TO SHELTER IN PLACE? NO PROBLEM!



“Digital learning is fun, and everyone is really supportive.”

“I hope eventually that things can go back to normal, but I don't mind changes until then.”

LEARN MORE AT  
[JOSEPHINUM.ORG/DIGITALLEARNING](https://www.josephinum.org/digitallearning)

“... I feel the teachers went above and beyond! ... my daughter was getting the same if not a more extensive education!”

“Digital Learning helped me get my grades up.”

**AS A ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTING SCHOOL**, the Jo has been incorporating Digital Learning techniques and tools that support and enhance the classroom experience for almost a decade. Digital Learning allows us to promote and support the integration of technology across our curriculum.

With the quick onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and learning suddenly switched to a fully digital model, both teachers and students were ready and well prepared.

We now begin the 2020-2021 school year with similar challenges. Unfortunately, the COVID virus is still very prevalent in our state and country, and our Jo communities within Chicago. After careful evaluation of all the options, and consideration of internal and external factors, we have decided to start the new school year with a 100% digital learning curriculum. We view this as the safest option for our students, faculty, and families.

Starting the fall with a totally digital curriculum for all students gives us the greatest opportunity for continuity of learning. Our teachers will focus on this single “channel,” taking advantage of academic best practices and technology tools. The knowledge we gained last spring has been put to work to improve our program and provide an extraordinary, personalized Jo learning experience.

Although there is no scheduled end date for Digital Learning, we all understand that everyone is anxious to be together and back in the classroom. The leadership team will closely monitor all COVID-19 data, trends, and guidance to make changes as soon as it safe for our entire community. We remain grateful to our Jo community for their assistance and understanding.

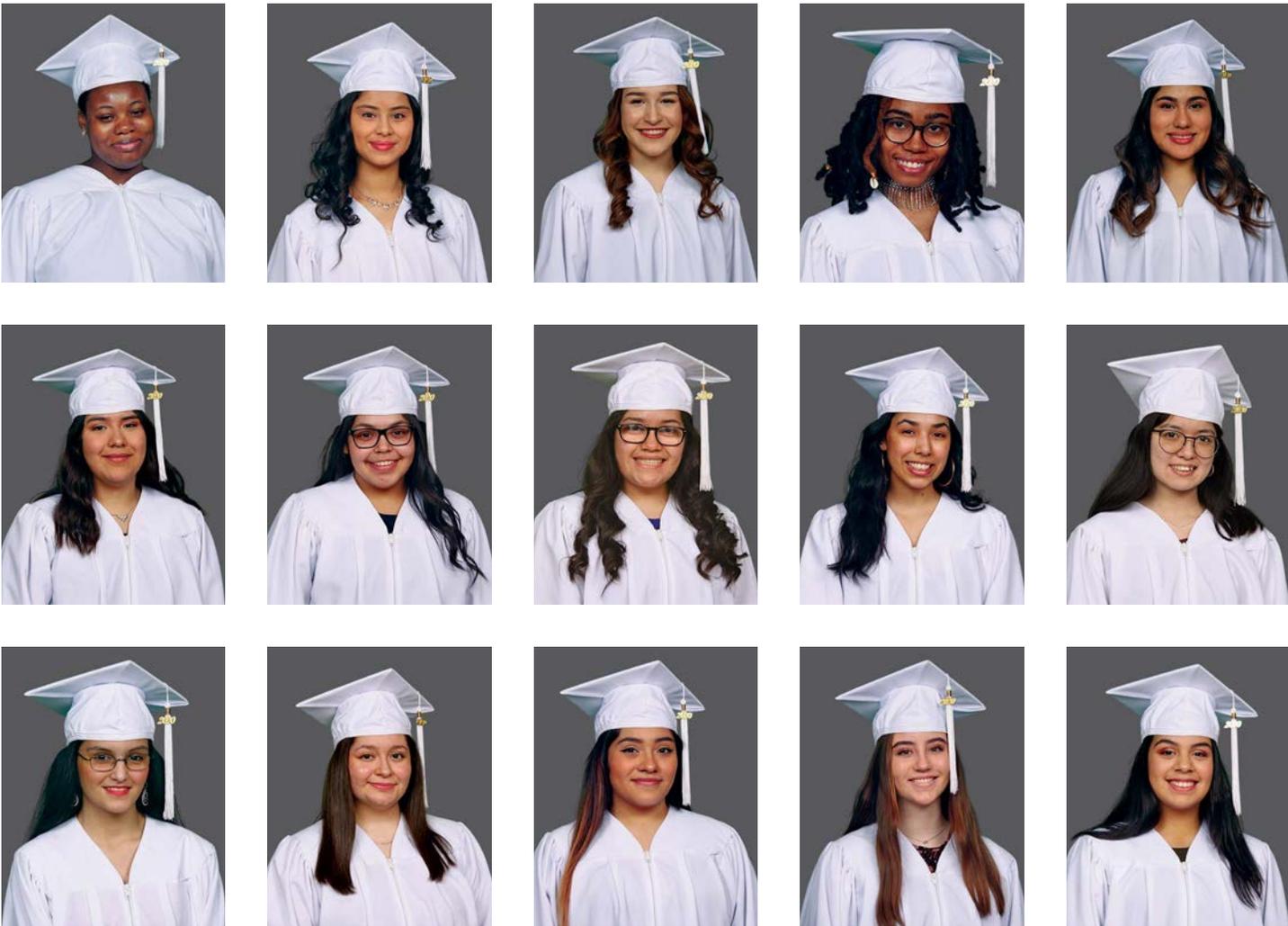
“I feel it would be best to stay at home and continue E-Learning. At this point that’s all we are used to ...”



# WE SALUTE THE CLASS OF 2020

YOU ARE GIRLS WITHOUT LIMITS!

# CONGRATUL



# LATIONS!



# LOOKING AHEAD

## TO OUR JO GIRLS' BRIGHT FUTURES

100%

Graduation  
Rate

College  
Acceptance Rate

nearly  
100%

Illinois State  
Scholars

4

\$4.4M+

Scholarships  
Offered

12

IB Diplomas  
Received

Scholarships  
Accepted

\$1.18M+





## ATTENDING THIS FALL

- Benedictine University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Concordia University Chicago
- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Illinois State University
- Jacksonville University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Roosevelt University
- Saint Xavier University
- St. Norbert College
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Southern California (USC)
- Wilbur Wright College

## MEET MORE JO GIRLS AT



# 2020 GRADUATE PROFILE

## ALEXIS FOLDES

ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)

**Senior Alexis Foldes talks about her Jo experience and how participating in the Peace Exchange expanded her world view.**

### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT GOING TO THE JO?

The community here at the Jo is what makes it really special. You have a constant support team here. I always felt the love and high energy during assemblies. The girls here really form a family that continues on far past high school.

### HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT ATTENDING AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL?

Being at an all-girls school gave me a lot of confidence, I often forgot that Jo was all girls because it just felt so natural! It really empowered me and gave me a unique perspective on the world. I grew A LOT at the Jo, and the all-girls environment made me feel safe and nurtured to do so. I wouldn't give it up for anything.

### WHAT WOULD YOU TELL AN 8TH GRADER WHO IS THINKING ABOUT COMING TO THE JO?

You should totally choose the Jo! It was one of the best choices I ever made. There are so many opportunities here for you, and the girls here are the funniest and most loving people I've ever met. It's a really close-knit community here at the Jo. The teachers are also amazing. They push you to excel and are always willing to help you if you need it. When you're at the Jo, the whole community is rooting for you.

### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS OR ACTIVITY?

My favorite classes were Art and History. I had the same art teacher for three years and he was the absolute best! Art class was very relaxing for me because the space really allowed me to express myself through art! I had so much freedom in that class, and it gave me the skills to not only make art but to analyze it and find deeper meaning too. I always really enjoyed history class for my teacher's abilities to make it such a fun and interesting subject. History class was really rigorous, and I found it to be the most rewarding class.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH DIGITAL LEARNING DURING YOUR SENIOR YEAR?

I believe that the Jo handled online learning very well! The teachers adapted very quickly and they gave us a lot of online resources to help us transition. A lot of my classes had discussion boards so that we could still get socialization and interactions between classmates. I learned pretty well online I would obviously rather be in person to see my teachers, but learning at home was far safer, and the quality of education was the same. The Jo support system will always be with you wherever you go!

*“Going to an all-girls school was one of the best decisions of my life.”*

## READ MORE ABOUT ALEXIS AT [JOSEPHINUM.ORG/ALEXISFOLDES](https://josephinum.org/alexisfoldes)

### WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

I am going to the University of Southern California (USC) to study Aerospace Engineering at their Viterbi School of Engineering.

### DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN RWANDA WITH THE PEACE EXCHANGE.

Josephinum sponsored me to go to Rwanda last summer, and I went there with the Peace Exchange, which is an organization that takes youth from Chicago abroad to learn about how other places across the world have reconciled after periods of mass violence. The goal is to bring our findings back to Chicago to solve and dismantle chronic issues like systemic oppression and violence. I learned that forgiveness is not a linear process and may take years. Rwanda taught me how to acknowledge history, not suppress it, as a means to learn from in order to make a brighter future. Now that I am back in the states, I am using everything that I learned from the amazing people I met in Rwanda to better Chicago.

### WILL YOUR JO EDUCATION IMPACT COLLEGE LIFE?

MOST DEFINITELY. The teachers at the Jo made sure that I only ever turned in high quality work, and this work ethic will definitely follow me into college. In terms of workload, the Jo has really built up my ability to write critical essays, draw conclusions from data, and conquer math problems. These skills that my teachers at the Jo have instilled in me have set me on a path of excellence at college.

### WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO IN YOUR FUTURE?

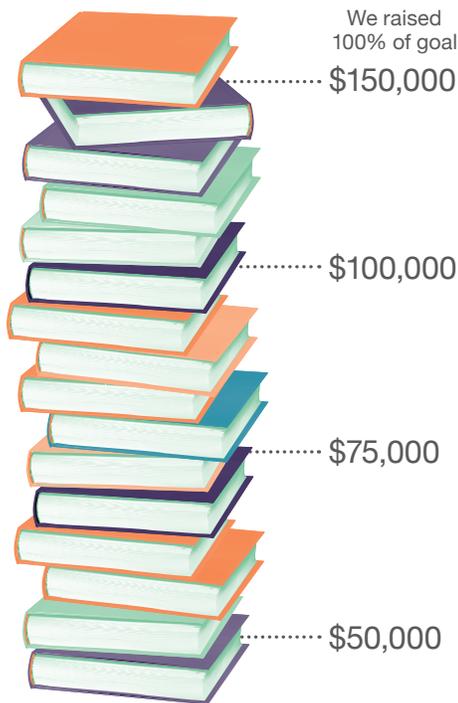
I look forward to going to college, traveling, pursuing my master's degree, developing new and innovative flight technologies at NASA, and making my mark on the world.



# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

## SPRING LUNCHEON AND SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

### Spring Storybook



### TELLING HERSTORY AT THE 2020 SPRING STORYBOOK

Our annual Josephinum Spring Luncheon is a wonderful time to update guests on news at the Jo and raise funds to continue the transformative education we provide young women in the Chicago area.

This year, a quick decision was made by our Luncheon Committee that this spring was different and not ideal for gathering in person. But we still must tell the Josephinum Academy story.

We shared HerStory—in the form of a virtual Spring Storybook!

We were so pleased with the enthusiasm around our virtual event and the support we received. We brought together pre-recorded comments from our school President,

Patti Tuomey; 2020 senior class graduate Michelle Aguilar Medina and our special guest speaker, NBC 5 Chicago political reporter Mary Ann Ahern. And to continue a fun luncheon tradition, we even had an online raffle with some exciting prizes.

The success of our event proved how the Josephinum family stays together, even when we are not together in person. We received overwhelming support from our community, raising 100 percent of our goal to continue the Josephinum mission. Heartfelt thanks go out to luncheon co-chairs Celeste Denton and Margie Hodur for the event’s success.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

#### TITLE SPONSORS

Bob & Mary DeCresce  
Cathy & Mike Brennan

#### PRESENTING SPONSORS

Maureen & Ron Sippel  
Sue & Tim Sullivan

#### GARDENER’S CIRCLE

Jean Spence  
Nancy & Dave O’Neill

#### BLOOM SPONSORS

Celeste & Alan Denton  
Jeanne & Kevin Poorman  
John & Diana Raitt  
Mulvihill Family Foundation  
RWBaird

#### NURTURE SPONSORS

Diane Tymick  
Jane Steinfelds

#### PARTNER SPONSORS

Christine Tierney  
Colette LeBrun  
Joanne Weschler  
Mary Fitzpatrick

#### TABLE HOSTS

Angela Alvarez  
Celeste Denton  
Helen Bruns Ryan

Jean Spence  
Margie Hodur  
Mary Baubonis  
Mary Sussman  
Mimi Brault  
Michaela D’Arrigo  
Renee Hall  
Terry Broccolo

JOIN US OCTOBER 2, 2020  
LET'S CELEBRATE VIRTUALLY!

130  
Innovators.  
Leaders.  
Josephinum.  
years

## CELEBRATE A SCHOOL UNLIKE ANY OTHER

**DINE OR DANCE WITH US—VIRTUALLY.** This year join us from the comfort of home as we celebrate 130 years of the Jo. A wonderful autumn tradition, the Josephinum Annual Scholarship Event benefits 90 percent of our students who depend on scholarships and other tuition assistance programs. Although we won't be together, the need is as great as ever.

We look forward to our joyous social gathering of Jo friends and supporters. Many thanks to event chair Katie Cherry and the entire event committee for bringing us together. The evening will feature:

- Short comments by our speakers
- Our Jo Girls Without Limits
- Live paddle raise, silent auction, and games
- And dance if you want to ...

## SHARE YOUR WISHES

It's a celebration! Share your wishes and dreams for the Jo with us. A special message marking 130 years of innovation and leadership and featuring your wishes for the future will debut at the event.

**SHARE AND LEARN MORE AT  
[JOSEPHINUM.ORG/130-CELEBRATION](https://josephinum.org/130-celebration)**





Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart  
1501 North Oakley Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60622  
(773) 276-1261  
[www.josephinum.org](http://www.josephinum.org)

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# CONNECT WITH THE JO

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

Friday, October 2, 2020

7:00 p.m.

[josephinum.org/130-celebration](http://josephinum.org/130-celebration)

## CAC OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO @ THE JO

Saturday, October 17 – Sunday, October 25, 2020

[openhousechicago.org](http://openhousechicago.org)

## ADMISSIONS

Schedule an introductory call today!

[josephinum.org/admissions](http://josephinum.org/admissions)

(773) 276-1261 ext.291

## SOCIAL MEDIA

