

Retirees Association Luncheon details inside!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 3
Mass of Remembrance
 St. Thomas More Church, Queens Campus

Tuesday, November 12
Veterans Day Ceremony
 D'Angelo Center Ballroom, Queens Campus

Wednesday, November 13
Retirees Association Mass
 St. Thomas More Church, Queens Campus

Wednesday, November 13
Veterans Day Ceremony
 Staten Island Campus

Thursday, November 14
The Tolton Play
 St. Thomas More Church, Queens Campus

Thursday, November 21
Lecture by author Austen Ivereigh and signing of his book, *Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church*
 St. Thomas More Church, Queens Campus

Sunday, December 1
Notre Dame College Alumnae Christmas Tea
 St. Vincent de Paul Chapel,
 Staten Island Campus

Wednesday, December 4
Vincentian Chair of Social Justice Lecture Series
 Kevin Ryan, President and CEO,
 Covenant House International
 The Little Theatre, Queens Campus

Friday, December 6
Christmas at St. John's: Winter Carnival
 Queens Campus

Saturday, December 7
Christmas at St. John's: Lessons and Carols
 Queens Campus



L to R: Richard Stalter, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences poses with Margaret M. '96SVC and Daniel M. '96SVC Mirro.

2020 Save the Date

Saturday, February 15
Blessing of the Couples
 Queens Campus

Saturday, March 14
St. Patrick's Day Weekend—Naples, FL

Tuesday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day Celebration
 New York City

Thursday, May 28—Sunday, May 31
Fifth Annual Grand Alumni
Homecoming Weekend

Join the St. John's
Retirees Association
Facebook page today!

facebook.com/stjohnsretireesassociation
 or
 @StJohnsRetireesAssociation



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

RETIREES Association
N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 16

October 2019

Join Us!
Retirees Association
Luncheon

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mass
12:15 p.m., St. Thomas More Church

Luncheon
1 p.m., D'Angelo Center Ballroom

Internationally Acclaimed Curator Heads University Art Gallery



There is a new face in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall on the Queens, NY, campus.

With the start of the 2019–20 academic year, St. John's University welcomed Owen Duffy as Director of the Dr. M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery. A gifted curator, art historian, and writer, Mr. Duffy's work appears

in a variety of national and international publications, including *ArtReview*, *Momus*, *Art & Education*, and *Artforum*. In addition, he has presented his research at such prestigious institutions as the National Gallery of Art, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Mr. Duffy said he felt immediately connected to the University. "The Vincentian mission of service is really special," he said. "It definitely sets St. John's apart from other institutions. That uniqueness offers an exceptional context in which to organize our exhibitions."

He was also drawn to Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, which he describes as "a one-of-a-kind building, so different from other, more traditional art galleries."

Not surprisingly, his first exhibition reflects both the history of the building and the reality of the University's commitment to making the world a better place. Entitled "Diplomacy," the show features the work of 11 international artists,

utilizing a variety of different media. The artists display works that relate to the history and architectural features of Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall.

The exhibition runs through Friday, November 22, and Mr. Duffy invites the public to visit and experience the art. "The gallery is open to everyone," he said. "I want the gallery to be a place for ideas, for debate, and for the exchange of information, both for members of our St. John's family as well as the external community."

The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. If anyone wishes to view the exhibition outside of regular hours, he can arrange a more convenient appointment.

Mr. Duffy's plans for the future reflect the enthusiasm and excitement that he brings to his new position. "My ultimate goal is to make this one of the best university art galleries," he said. "St. John's is an incredible place, and I am determined that is reflected at our gallery."

Mr. Duffy will be the featured speaker at the upcoming Retirees Association luncheon. Following the luncheon, he will escort retirees on a private tour of the newly refurbished art gallery.

Make plans to be with us on Wednesday, November 13, for Mass at 12:15 p.m. in St. Thomas More Church, immediately followed by the luncheon in the D'Angelo Center.

Office of the Provost

Enhancing the Teaching and Learning Environment and Engaging our Students

By Simon G. Møller, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



Higher education changes at an accelerated pace, and there is a steady stream of innovation in the science and technology of learning. Today, most college students access a range of different technologies, which they have utilized during their high school years and expect to use during their college career. At St. John's we continue to enhance our teaching and learning environment to ensure that our

students have access to advanced educational technology so that they are more engaged with their learning environment.

Most classrooms at St. John's have been upgraded with a range of advanced podium tools, allowing the use of web-based applications and lecture capture, to mention only a few. The University also continues to upgrade teaching and research laboratories so that students have access to the latest research infrastructure. A great example illustrating this is the new Media Arts and Design Lab, which supports academic programs in digital media, animation, art and design, advertising, and journalism.

Another great example is the new Technology Commons, a high-tech space that focuses on eSports, virtual reality technology, and 3D printing. Furthermore, students in the health sciences use Virtual Anatomy Dissection Tables that represent real human 3D anatomy systems where students can visualize anatomy exactly as they would on a human cadaver.

It is clear that the integration of cutting-edge technology in the classroom contributes to the success of our students. However, we also know that students who are fully engaged both inside and outside of the classroom have a better experience and are more likely to be retained and graduate on time. During the spring semester and summer, St. John's implemented a number of student engagement initiatives including the Summer Institute, a summer undergraduate research program, a student-to-student mentoring program, and small-group student teaching collaboratives in challenging courses.

As we enhance our teaching and learning environment and our engagement activities, St. John's continues to recognize our exceptional faculty's role in ensuring student success. Since the Fall of 2014, the University has hired 221 new faculty members, 31 of whom joined St. John's this semester.

Office of Human Resources

Open Enrollment for Retirees

By Mirian Cepeda, Senior Benefits Representative, Employee Benefits

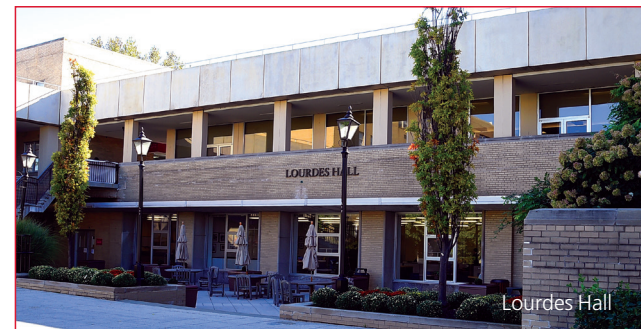


The Open Enrollment period for retirees will take place this year from Monday, November 4, through Wednesday, November 27. As long as you are currently enrolled in medical, dental, and/or life insurance, you can make changes to your existing coverage or elect to enroll in new coverage. Elections made during the Open Enrollment period will be effective January 1, 2020.

The medical plan offered to all retirees is the Oxford Freedom Premier Plan. This is a robust plan which offers in- and out-of-network coverage, as well as prescription drug coverage. There are two dental plans from which to choose: the Cigna Plan or the Aetna DMO Dental Plan. The cost will be provided to you in the Open Enrollment materials mailed to your home. Our retiree billing carrier adjusts your bill for any changes you make. For more information about Open Enrollment or any of the plans offered to retirees, please contact Mirian Cepeda at 718-990-2077; cepedam@stjohns.edu.

University Archives

By Alyse C. Hennig '11G, Interim University Archivist



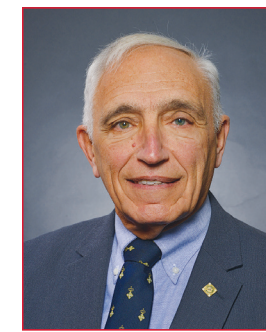
As we approach the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. John's University, it is time to look back at the memories of the wonderful people who make St. John's such a vibrant community. We invite the members of the Retirees Association to share those memories with the University Archives.

Memorabilia, photographs, old newspapers, or other items all contribute to our efforts to document the history of St. John's. You can also follow the Archives on Twitter and Instagram @SJUarchives or the blog at sjuarchives.tumblr.com to see our weekly #ThrowbackThursday posts. If you have any materials to donate, please contact the St. John's University Archives at 718-990-1465; archives@stjohns.edu.

Office of Community Relations

St. John's University in the Community

By Joseph Sciamé '71Ed, Vice President for Community Relations



During the past year, the Office of Community Relations participated in various outreach efforts to benefit our neighbors in Queens and Manhattan, and on Staten Island. Activities open to the community included free concerts, cultural celebrations, blood drives, and recycling events.

St. John's University was recognized for its tremendous support of the New York Blood Center and was the recipient of the 2018 Pacesetter Award at the New York Blood Center's annual Queens Chairpersons Recognition Dinner for its donation of more than 450 pints of blood. In the true Vincentian tradition of giving of

oneself, these donations represent 1,350 lives that were saved.

Additionally, St. John's was recognized by the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, NY, for being one of the largest blood donation centers among Catholic colleges within the Diocese of Brooklyn.

On July 23, the University hosted its 21st Annual Great Lawn Summer Concert—which was relocated to The Little Theatre due to inclement weather—featuring the Queens Symphony Orchestra, who performed "Dances that Move the World" conducted by Maestro Martin Majkut, the Queens Symphony Orchestra's Music Director. With nearly 500 people in attendance, it was a truly memorable evening.

Upcoming events this month include the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 20, in Flushing Meadows—Corona Park, and "The 2019 Italian-American Experience: A Salute to Matera 2019—European Capital of Culture" on Wednesday, October 30, in Marillac Hall Terrace. In November, we honor our nation's veterans with ceremonies on the Queens campus on Tuesday, November 12, and on the Staten Island campus on Wednesday, November 13.

For more information about the Office of Community Relations, please contact Paul Lazauskas, Associate Director for Community Relations, at 718-990-1941; lazauskp@stjohns.edu.

Establish Your Legacy through THE McCALLEN SOCIETY

Please consider supporting St. John's endowment by designating your donation for scholarships. Your gift is invested and the earnings allow financially burdened students to realize their dream of a St. John's University education.



Andrei I. Crapenco '19TCB
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
M.B.A. Candidate, Class of 2020

"Coming from Romania, I was concerned that leaving my family, friends, and usual routine would be the most challenging task; but the University, through its diversity and group of wonderful people, made me feel like I never left home. Furthermore, as a grateful recipient of an academic and athletic scholarship, there is no better way to tell you how significant your support is. I am living proof of how much someone's help can change a life. No gift is ever too small."



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Retirees at the 2018 Luncheon

