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Macbett

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THE

Conversation Piece

SPRING 2015



Congé!

n. • **1** - A French word for holiday

2 - A day when classes are canceled and Josephinum students channel all their energy into having F-U-N!



February 17, 2015, began just like any other day at Josephinum Academy, but as first period came to a close and Mr. Benke's voice echoed over the loudspeaker, something very important was included in the morning announcements: "Today is Congé!"

Congé happens on a different day every year, and it comes as a total surprise to students since it's planned in secret by faculty and staff. It is a day when regular academic courses are replaced with fun and creative team assignments surrounding a particular theme.

Since this year's Congé fell on Fat Tuesday, it was a Mardi Gras theme, and the students got to decorate their own Mardi Gras masks and film videos of their team's choreographed jazz/swing dance routines. The day concluded with an exciting Mardi Gras parade where each team displayed a hand-made parade float. All the floats were so unique and creative. What a great day to be a Josephinum Cougar!





Winter Lunch keynote speaker and President of Catholic Extension Fr. Jack Wall (left), Josephinum senior and winner of a Posse Scholarship to Cornell University Marlen Gonzalez (center), and Josephinum President Michael Dougherty (right)



Josephinum Academy's 2015 Winter Lunch

Nearly 300 guests and even more contributors to this year's Winter Lunch helped raise a total of nearly \$75,000 in support of Josephinum's inspiring young women.

The Keynote Speaker for the 2015 Winter Lunch was Fr. Jack Wall, the former pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church and the current President of Catholic Extension. Fr. Wall recognized women Religious and their contribution to education, both at Josephinum and around the country, to improve the lives of young women in their communities. His message of empowering young women through quality education resounded as a powerful reminder of Josephinum's 125-year legacy as the longest-standing Catholic high school for girls in Chicago.

This year's student speaker was Marlen Gonzalez, a Josephinum Senior who recently received a Posse Scholarship providing a full-ride to Cornell University. Marlen delivered a moving speech about her experience as a Josephinum student, thanking teachers Mr. Fehr, Ms. Vai, and Mrs. D'Amico for encouraging her to strive for excellence in her school work and beyond. She also spoke of how playing the lead role in the Josephinum theatre program's most recent play, *Macbeth*, has inspired her to continue studying drama in college. Marlen concluded her speech by thanking one more important teacher who she credits as the person who has made her the strong, confident woman that she is today: her mother.



Winter Lunch committee members Nancy Patek (left), Judith Piccione (center), and Mimi Brault (right)

Josephinum Hosts Taiwanese Exchange Students and Summer Service Trip Reunion



Sonya Everett and Marlen Gonzalez, Josephinum Seniors who traveled to Taiwan through a Sacred Heart Cultural Exchange Program last summer, built such strong bonds with their Taiwanese Sacred Heart sisters that they welcomed them into their Chicago homes this Winter! Irene Lia and Beryl Yeh shadowed Sonya and Marlen for three weeks, attending all their classes and making new friends at Josephinum.

On February 6, students from Duchesne Academy of Omaha who also attended the Cultural Exchange Program last summer came to Josephinum to be reunited with Sonya, Marlen, Irene, and Beryl. The group also brought Kelly Chin, an exchange student from Taiwan, to the reunion. Sacred Heart sisters forever!



Josephinum theatre students Na'Jia Giles pie as Lady Macbeth (left), Danielle McCullough as the Priest (center), and Alexandra Ionescu as King Duncan (right)

Josephinum Theatre Program Presents *Macbeth* by Eugene Ionesco

In January, Josephinum Academy's Theatre Program brought us *Macbeth*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* written by Eugene Ionesco. Somehow the show managed to be dramatic, tragic, and funny all at once!



"This *Macbeth* is twisted, warped, and mangled, highlighting the absurd humor and irony," said Josephinum Fine Arts Department Head David Fehr, who also directed the play. "Lines, moments, and entire sections are repeated. Things that are darkly tragic become silly, and the violence becomes incomprehensibly weird both in its execution and result. This play, like all absurd theatre, is meant to pose more questions than it answers."

Josephinum would like to thank Mr. Fehr, supporting faculty and staff members, and all of the students (both on-stage and behind the scenes) who came together to make *Macbeth* one of Josephinum's most successful shows to date!

Josephinum Junior Board "Prom for a Prom"

About 200 guests joined Josephinum Academy's Junior Board for a successful fundraiser on Saturday, February 28, that raised a total of over \$8,000 to go toward student activities including Senior Prom, service learning, athletics, and retreats. Guests embraced the 90's prom theme, sporting retro dresses, funky jewelry, and even Converse All-Star sneakers on the dance floor. Thank you to all of the Josephinum supporters who came, danced, and relived their glory days so current students can create their own at Josephinum's upcoming 2015 Senior Prom!



Members of the Josephinum Junior Board with Religion Teacher and honorary "Prom for a Prom" DJ Todd Paulson (center, front)



Left to Right: Beryl Yeh, Theresa Woods, Faith Walker, Kelly Chin, Margie Davey, and Irene Lia

SPORTS CORNER: VARSITY BASKETBALL

Josephinum's Varsity basketball team struggled early in the 2014-2015 season, but they really came together as a team and started winning in the second-half of the year. Despite the fact that they didn't win a single game in the GCAC conference tournament, they beat the number-one team in Regionals of the State Tournament to go on to play St. Benedict in the IHSA Regional Finals!

"Of all the teams I have coached at Josephinum, this team has shown the most courage in the face of adversity. The girls supported one another through the highs and lows and really demonstrated what it means to be a team."

GO COUGARS!

JASON POLAKOWSKI
Varsity Basketball Coach



Conversation Piece



1501 North Oakley Blvd. | Chicago, Illinois 60622
www.josephinum.org

Josephinum Academy empowers young women of Chicago to become confident, faith-filled leaders. Our graduates are committed to a personal and active faith in God, a deep respect for intellectual values, a social awareness which impels to action, building community as a Christian value, and personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.



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Make a Gift!

There is still time to make a donation to support the Josephinum Academy annual fund before the end of the school year. Your tax-deductible gift will transform the lives of our students, opening doors and showing them that educational opportunity is within their reach.

Donate online today at www.josephinum.org or send your check payable to Josephinum Academy to 1501 N. Oakley Blvd, Chicago, IL, 60622.

~ Save the Date ~

For Josephinum Academy 's Annual

SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 29 | Michigan Shores Club

Keynote Speaker: Susan St. James

Mark Your Calendars

March 18-20

March 21

March 25

March 26

March 27 - April 3

April 6

April 7

April 10

April 10

April 18

April 29

May 1

May 3

May 8

May 13

May 14-16

May 19

May 21

May 21-22

May 25

May 29

May 30

Quarter Exams

Re-Enrollment Day

HerStory

Parent Conferences

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday

Social Action Month Begins

Easter Mass

Talent Show

ACT

Spring Luncheon

Mass of Blessed Pauline

Open House

Prom

Academic Awards Ceremony

Spring Theatre Show

Junior Recognition Ceremony

Sports Banquet

Senior Exams

NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

Baccalaureate Mass

Graduation

To view the complete Josephinum school calendar, please visit www.josephinum.org.