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Josephinum



THE Conversation Piece

FALL 2015



Celebrating 125 Years

125th Anniversary Gala Raises Record-Breaking Amount for Scholarships

Josephinum Academy kicked off a year-long celebration of its 125th Anniversary with its most successful Gala to date, raising more than half a million dollars, more than 25 percent of this year's development need.

Josephinum alumna and Board member, Desiree Pepper-Venzant '85, emceed the event and shared how her experiences at Josephinum contributed to her success as a leader in the field of education. Helen Bruns Ryan, joined on stage by Bob Curley, spoke about the "Miracle of Josephinum" and the school's passionate commitment to educating, inspiring, and transforming the lives of young women of Chicago. Her moving speech honored all who have devoted themselves to the school's success.



Rakeeta Hampton '11, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Class of 2015, spoke about the impact of her Josephinum education and how the school prepared her for success in college and beyond. Rakeeta thanked her Josephinum teachers and counselors for showing her how to persevere in the face of adversity. Rakeeta is the first in her family to graduate from a four-year college and she spoke of her desire to find mission-based work that enables her to give back to the community, helping to pay forward the gift of a Josephinum education. Josephinum is humbled by the generosity of everyone who attended this exciting event and made it such a fantastic success.





Josephinum students chat with Junior Board member Elisa Hamilton about the college she attended and her profession at the first Junior Board Career Fair.



Jessica Thiel and Ariel Maldonado jot down notes as they speak with college representatives, many of whom commented that our students were extremely thoughtful and prepared with excellent questions.



Josephinum students enjoyed talking to college representatives and learning about different universities from across the country at the annual College Fair.

Josephinum Students Attend Annual College Fair and New Junior Board Career Fair

Students got a head start on their college searches at the annual College Fair, which welcomed representatives from more than 60 colleges and universities. Thirty public and private Illinois schools attended, and universities from Michigan, Indiana, Washington D.C., Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and New York were also represented. Of the schools in attendance, 42 were private universities and colleges.

College representatives were impressed by Josephinum students' enthusiasm and knowledgeable questions. The fair is an important part of Josephinum's annual College Week, which includes a college-themed door decorating competition and research on different universities.

The Junior Board also hosted a Career Fair last month. More than 70 students attended the event where they had the opportunity to talk to Junior Board members and members of the faculty and staff about their alma maters and professions.

Special thanks to Dr. Mary O'Reilly for organizing the College Fair, Jackie Steves for putting together the Career Fair, and everyone else who helped make both events such a huge success!

Josephinum Makes Exciting Updates for IB Authorization Visit



In anticipation of IB authorization this year, Josephinum faculty and staff have been working hard to update the building to support exciting enhancements to the academic program.

One of the major updates to the school is a new science lab, which is being built from scratch by Josephinum's amazing maintenance crew including Alex Pureco, Martha Pureco, and Tony Ruiz. They worked tirelessly over the summer on the lab, which officially opened for science classes this month. We would like to give a special thanks to Alain Weber and the Lycée Français de Chicago for donating the furniture and fixtures for the lab. In addition to the lab, new display cases were installed that will allow teachers to showcase student work for everyone to see. The entire Josephinum community thanks you for all of your hard work!



Alumna Anecdote: Nancy Ressler '61 Shares Photos, Yearbooks and Fond Memories of Her Time at the Jo

Editor's Note:

Beginning this year, Josephinum will feature alumnae updates in each issue of the Conversation Piece. If you are a Josephinum alumna and would like to be featured or share updates on life after the Jo, please email alumnae@josephinum.org.

Mothers always know best. This is frequently Nancy Ressler's first thought when she recalls choosing a high school. After attending Holy Innocents for grade school, Nancy hoped to attend high school with her friends, but her mother insisted that Josephinum was the best high school for her.

"Let me tell you, my mother was right about everything," Nancy said. "And I knew from the moment I stepped through the doors of the old convent that she was right about Josephinum. The building was just breathtaking and the sisters and the students were so welcoming, I knew it was right."

Nancy graduated from Josephinum in 1961 and has fond memories of the sisters, most of whom were her teachers, and attending classes in the old Josephinum building, which was filled with beautiful paintings and works of art created by the sisters.

After graduating from Josephinum, Nancy became a member of the Chicago Federation of Musicians and played music for many years for tourists and notable people including John Wayne, Cesar Romero and

former Mayor of Chicago Richard J. Daley.

A true believer in the importance of lifelong learning, after earning her associate's degree, she went on to attend the University of Illinois where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in teaching, and DePaul University, where she earned a Master of Arts. Nancy worked for schools and colleges across Chicago before taking a position at Oakton Community College where she remained for 30 years before retiring this summer. In addition to her roles as musician and teacher, Nancy has one daughter and a grandson.

Nancy credits much of her success to her mother, from whom she gained her strong work ethic, and the sisters at Josephinum, who taught her the importance of patience, humility and discipline.

"Every time I think of those years at the Jo I always have a big smile," she said. "The wonderful environment has stayed with me for my entire life. The whole community, past and current students, we are all a family and that is something I am forever grateful for."



Nancy graciously donated her yearbooks and other memorabilia to Josephinum this summer. Above are some of the photos of Nancy from her senior yearbook. Josephinum is so grateful for the opportunity to preserve and share these special memories.



The new science lab will include improved work stations, safety equipment, and a prep room for teachers to prepare lessons and chemicals.



New display cases will allow teachers to share students' work. Spanish classes created this beautiful display celebrating National Hispanic History Month and the importance of global learning.



Conversation Piece



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

Josephinum Academy educates each young woman 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.



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What are you thankful for?



"I'm thankful for all of the opportunities that Josephinum has given me and for all of the support and help that my teachers provide for me every day."

- Julia, Grade 12

Josephinum is incredibly thankful for the continuous support of our donors. Please remember Josephinum Academy when making your end-of-year philanthropic decisions. Your tax-deductible gift will transform the lives of our students, making a Josephinum education a reality for young women across Chicago.

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

Mark Your Calendars

November 10	Parent Conferences
November 11	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
November 14- 18	SHCOG Visit
November 18	Shadow Day
November 18	Mass for St. Phillipine
November 19	The IB at Josephinum: A Unique Learning Experience
November 24	Thanksgiving Prayer Service
November 25-29	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 9	Shadow Day
December 9	Open House
December 11	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Dec 21-Jan 4	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
January 8	Mass of Epiphany
January 9	Entrance Exam
January 20-22	Semester Exams
January 23	Rick Steves Event

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

~ Save the Date ~

RICK STEVES

Broadening Your Global Perspective Through Travel

January 23, 2016

5 to 9 p.m. at Josephinum Academy

\$20 for community members, \$10 for parents and faculty, and free for students