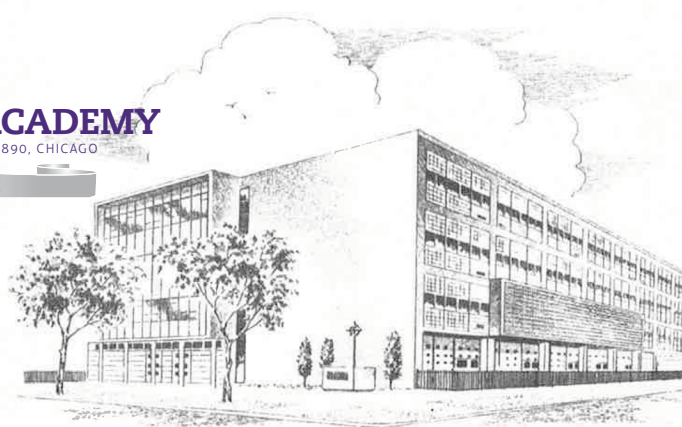


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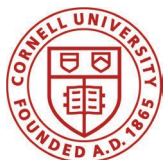
\$6.9 Million in Scholarships
Meet the Graduates
Class of 2015 Commencement
Spring Luncheon
Academic Awards Ceremony
Jo Girls Mean Business
AP Spanish Scholars
Spring Show: *Waiting for Lefty*
Birds of Prey Presentation
Saying "Au Revoir" to Mrs. Weber



THE

Conversation Piece

SUMMER 2015



OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY



DENISON
UNIVERSITY

Class of 2015 Awarded a Record-Breaking \$6.9 Million in College Scholarships

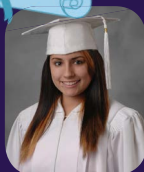
The future looks bright for Josephinum Academy's Class of 2015, who have been awarded a cumulative total of \$6.9 million in merit-based scholarships to prestigious colleges and universities, including: Cornell University, Denison University, Dominican University, Loyola University, Marquette University, Oberlin College, Roosevelt University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. This record-breaking total is a result of the hard work and dedication the Class of 2015 has shown throughout their four years at Josephinum. The scholarships are a testament to their outstanding GPA's, ACT scores, and school and community involvement.

This year, five Josephinum Seniors were chosen as finalists for the competitive Posse Foundation Scholarship, which awards full tuition coverage for high achieving students to attend some of the most selective universities in the country. Out of our five finalists, two were chosen to receive the Posse Foundation Scholarship: Marlen Gonzalez, who will attend Cornell University in New York, and Endia Lawrence, who will attend Oberlin College in Ohio.

We are also extremely proud to announce that Josephinum's Class of 2015 Salutatorian, Aylin Meraz, received a Presidential Scholarship to Dominican University, and Arianna Coyler received a Presidential Scholarship to the University of Illinois at Springfield. Lilliana Martinez is the proud recipient of a prestigious Chick Evans Scholarship covering both tuition and board, and she is looking forward to attending the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall.



MEET THE GRADUATES:



Annalisa
Acevedo



Lubna
Ahsan



Salma
Aldana



Mariah
Betz



Naomi
Bush



Alexia
Campbell



Aixa
Carrion



Jaylah
Carter



Michaela
Carter



Erika
Casillas



Brittany
Cedenio



Arianna
Coyer



Belen
Cortez



Sonya
Everett



Vanessa
Godoy



Marlen
Gonzalez



Jennifer
Gualpa



Juliana
Gueno



Samantha
Guerrero



Winter
Hardman



Zakiya
Harper-Brown



Dora
Hernandez



My'Kail
Jones



Endia
Lawrence



Ivy
Lugardo



Alondra
Martinez



Karina
Martinez



Liliana
Martinez



Danielle
McCullough



Hajra
Mian



Aylin
Meraz



Brittany
Murphy



Isley
Nery



Thy
Ngo



Angelika
Noel-Roman



Joana
Peralta



Reyna
Perez



Lexi
Perodin



Daisy
Pineda



Arlise
Press



Sonia
Raggs



Stefany
Rebollar



Lesley
Rendon



Sabrina
Rivera



Wendy
Rociles



Athena
Rodriguez



Erika
Rodriguez



Simone
Rubio-Mcdowell



Darelis
Salazar



Liliana
Trejo



Magaly
Trujillo



Tania
Trujillo



Janae
Willis



Melissa
Zaragoza



Josephinum Academy's Class of 2015 proudly upholds the Sacred Heart tradition of wearing white for the Baccalaureate Mass held on Friday, May 29, at St. Aloysius Church



Thy Ngo delivering the Valedictorian address at Josephinum's Commencement Ceremony

Class of 2015 Commencement

On May 30, Josephinum's faculty, staff, and Board of Directors joined family and friends to witness the commencement of the Class of 2015 at St. Aloysius Church. This is the largest class to graduate from Josephinum in 20 years!



Josephinum's 2015 Salutatorian, Aylin Meraz, with her father, mother, and brother at Josephinum's Commencement Ceremony

Thy Ngo, Josephinum's Class of 2015 Valedictorian, humbly spoke about her journey transferring to Josephinum as an exchange student from Vietnam. She said that at first she was afraid that she wouldn't make any friends in an American high school, but she was surprised and elated by the warm welcome of the Josephinum community. Thy explained what it was like to navigate a foreign country while learning to take care of herself without help from her parents. She spoke intermittently in Vietnamese directly to her family, thanking them for the sacrifices they made to give her the opportunity of a Josephinum education. Thy also expressed great gratitude to her teachers, especially her English teacher, Jackie Steves, who helped her learn to read and write in English. In her introduction of Thy as the 2015 Valedictorian, Ms. Steves raved about Thy's improvement in English over the past two years and noted that Thy recently turned in one of the best essays she has ever received from a student.



"It's hard for me to summarize how the class of 2015 has impacted me. I've always respected them, and I've always received respect from them in return. I've always been honest with them, even when they were not being honest with themselves. I've always tried to inspire and motivate them, and I was equally inspired and motivated on a daily basis. As I shaped their knowledge, they shaped my craft. We would not be the same people we are today, if it weren't for each other. If that's not a true definition of family, then I don't know what is."

RENEE VAI

Josephinum English Department Head and 2015 Commencement Speaker



Left to Right: Lisa Raterman, Josephinum Board Member Maureen Sippel, and Josephinum Board Member Celeste Denton



Susan Saint James (sixth from left) with her former teacher Adelyn Leander (seventh from left) and fellow alumnae of Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart



Left to Right: Sangeeta Wagh, Kim Rust, and Spring Luncheon floral donor Mary Baubonis



Student Speaker Wendy Rociles thanks Dick Ebersol for the generous scholarship he and wife Susan Saint James provided her for college



Left to Right: Spring Luncheon student speaker Wendy Rociles, keynote speaker Susan Saint James, Josephinum Senior Sonya Everett, and Susan Saint James' husband Dick Ebersol



Spring Luncheon 2015

The generosity of 260 guests at Josephinum Academy's annual Spring Luncheon, held at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette on April 29, helped raise a total of nearly \$68,000 in support of Josephinum's inspiring young women.

The keynote speaker, actress and activist Susan Saint James, spoke fondly of her years at a sister Sacred Heart school, Woodlands Academy in Lake Forest. She expressed her gratitude for attending a school that nurtured not only her mind, but also her spirit.

"I was honored to speak at Josephinum Academy's Spring Luncheon this year" said Saint James. "As a Sacred Heart alumna, I not only received a top-notch education, but also a rich opportunity to grow in my spirituality and look outside of myself. I developed a moral compass that served me throughout my career as an actress and led me to devote myself to a life of charity and service."

This year's student speaker was Wendy Rociles, a Josephinum Senior who will attend Marquette University this fall. Wendy shared her perspective on the difference Josephinum has made in transforming her into the young woman that she is today. After Wendy concluded her speech by thanking her parents for all their love and support, Mr. Dougherty unexpectedly announced that Susan Saint James and her husband Dick Ebersol pledged a scholarship for Wendy's college education ... plus an additional college scholarship for her best friend and fellow Josephinum Senior, Sonya Everett.

Josephinum sincerely thanks all those who helped make the 2015 Spring Luncheon a success! Your support ensures Josephinum's continued efforts to educate and inspire the young women of Chicago.



Academic Awards Ceremony 2015

On the evening of Wednesday, May 13, Josephinum Academy recognized students for their achievements throughout the school year at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony. This year, nearly 70 students were recognized as honor roll students with a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.49, and 55 students were recognized as high honor roll students who earned grade point averages of 3.5 to 4.0.

The Sisters of Christian Charity Mentoring and Scholarship group chose Junior Alexandra Ionescu to receive a full scholarship to cover the full cost of Alexandra's tuition to Josephinum during her Senior year. Junior Stefany Rendon is the recipient of this year's Helen Bruns Ryan Scholarship, which is named after the incredible woman who has served as a faithful lover and supporter of Josephinum Academy for well over 50 years.



Josephinum Senior Brittany Cedeno receives her honor roll pin from College Counselor Julie Garcia and Principal Lourdes Weber

As a Sacred Heart school, Josephinum educates to the five goals of the Sacred Heart. Each year at the awards assembly, the St. Philippine Duchesne Award is given to the one student in the entire school who best exemplifies the integration of all five of the Sacred Heart Goals. This is a student who practices a personal and active faith in God, deep respect for intellectual values, social awareness which impels to action, building of community as a Christian value, and personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom. This year, the Philippine Duchesne Award recipient was Aylin Meraz, the Class of 2015 Salutatorian who is a well-rounded example for us all.

During the awards assembly, Josephinum also recognized several students who are living examples of the Sacred Heart Goals. Faculty and staff nominated students, and one student from each grade received the award for each goal:

Goal 1: Personal and Active Faith in God

Hope Smith Taylor - Grade 9
Aduell Smith - Grade 10
Stefany Rendon - Grade 11
Sonia Raggs - Grade 12

Goal 2: Deep Respect for Intellectual Values

Jessica Thiel - Grade 9
Alisa Scott - Grade 10
Cheyenne Martinez - Grade 11
Elena Ngo - Grade 12



Goal 3: Social Awareness Which Impels to Action

Maddie Peace - Grade 9
Mariah DeLaFuente - Grade 10
Alex Ionescu - Grade 11
Brittany Cedeno - Grade 12

Goal 4: Building of Community as a Christian Value

Nia Blessing Armstrong - Grade 9
Shakia Burton - Grade 10
Tamae Douglas - Grade 11
My'Kail Jones - Grade 12

Goal 5: Personal Growth in an Atmosphere of Wise Freedom

Alexis Rios - Grade 9
Jocelyn Duran - Grade 10
Chri Zine - Grade 11
Winter Hardman - Grade 12
Liliana Trejo - Grade 12

DID YOU HEAR?

THE JO GIRLS MEAN BUSINESS!

Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship Competition:

Danielle McCullough and Vanessa Godoy, Seniors from Mrs. Vai's Ethical Entrepreneurship class, competed in NFTE's annual city business plan competition, beating out over 1600 students from local high schools to earn a spot as one of the top six finalists! Dani and Vanessa's business, *Adorlee Bras*, creates custom-fit bras at an affordable price, finding a valuable niche in the marketplace. Dani and Vanessa are planning to continue pursuing their business in college. They have also obtained the invaluable mentorship of Corielle Heath, Founder and CEO of liftUplift, a women-owned, online marketplace. Good luck ladies!

Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship Fellowship:

Senior Sonya Everett, another Ethical Entrepreneurship student, was the lone Chicago student chosen for this year's NFTE Fellowship Program. Sonya will spend the summer working with the non-profit organization as an intern. Additionally, NFTE will be flying Sonya to New York City to the Headquarters of NFTE, where she will be learning the ropes at the corporate office.

Grant Thornton, LLP Internship:

Junior Emily Gonzalez will spend the summer as an intern at the offices of Grant Thornton, LLP, a prestigious public accounting firm. Thanks to Big Shoulders and Grant Thornton, LLP for this incredible opportunity!

University of Minnesota Gopher Business Camp:

Sophomore Mariah De La Fuente has been chosen to attend the prestigious University of Minnesota Gopher Business Camp this summer. Mariah, along with other students selected from all over the nation, will travel to the Twin Cities to learn about entrepreneurship from companies like Target and 3M.

AP Spanish Scholars



Seniors Marlen Gonzalez and Erika Casillas

For the first time Josephinum Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish students participated in the National Spanish Examinations. This is a yearly national event where schools compete in multiple proficiency and grammar levels. The levels range from 1 to 6 in three different categories: regular, outside experience, and bilingual.

This year, 70 schools, 201 teachers, and more than 7,000 students registered for the exam in Illinois, and a total of 157,000 students registered from all over the US. From all of these, 329 students were recognized nationally at a ceremony at Niles North High School on May 16. Two Josephinum students were honored to be invited to this ceremony: Jocelyn Duran and Erika Casillas. Both of them placed nationally on their respective levels and were recognized that day at the ceremony.

Both Marlen Gonzalez and Analissa Acevedo also received Honorable Mention Diplomas. "Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States." The rigor of this competition emphasizes how well these four girls represented Josephinum Academy.

Josephinum's Theatre Program Presents *Waiting for Lefty*



Josephinum's talented theatre students produced a challenging spring show this year: *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets. When *Waiting for Lefty* was written, the United States was in crisis. The stock market crashed and ended the post-war economic boom of the 1920's. Whole families' savings were wiped out, and tension was high. Power was given to a chosen few. Others were forced into a life of indenture with no means of self determination. The play asks: How then were Americans to find what they were promised: "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"?

"*Waiting for Lefty* is Josephinum's 10th mainstage production! It's unbelievable how far we've come in a very short time, and I look forward to seeing the traditions we are creating today continue far into the future."

DAVID FEHR

Josephinum Fine Arts Department Head

Birds of Prey Presentation at Josephinum

Thank you to Josephinum alumna Carole Larson Jacobson (Class of '61) for introducing us to her neighbor, Mike Rizo, who works for the Forest Service. Through Mike's connections, Josephinum had the incredible opportunity to welcome wildlife biologist Jo Santiago for a presentation on March 23. Jo talked about pursuing her dream of working with birds of prey despite her harsh upbringing in Spanish Harlem, NY. Her story inspired us, and the girls loved meeting Jo's special guests, which included two hawks, a falcon, and an adorable little owl.



Saying “Au Revoir” to the Beloved

Lourdes Weber

**Principal of Josephinum Academy
2008-2015**

This June, the Josephinum community will bid a fond farewell to our beloved principal, Mrs. Lourdes Weber. Mrs. Weber has served the Josephinum community for the past eight years, leading our school through tremendous growth and progress. Since she first began, Josephinum’s high school enrollment has doubled and college scholarships offered to students have increased dramatically. Thanks to Mrs. Weber, Josephinum offers a stronger academic program to an increasing number of inspiring young women.

Mrs. Weber will be most remembered for her personal devotion to the success of each member of the Josephinum community. Her motto of “respect for all” was demonstrated through her profound care for every individual. Mrs. Weber will be retiring at the end of June with her husband, Alain, and moving to France. On behalf of the entire Josephinum community, thank you Mrs. Weber for your dedication to the mission and students of Josephinum Academy!



Dear Josephinum Academy Community,

What a joy it is to be offered the opportunity to join the community of Josephinum Academy as principal. While spending a full day at the school for interviews, I was struck by the gracious hospitality extended to me, and I am eager to contribute to the vibrant mission of the school.

The International Baccalaureate program posits that an individual’s character can be defined by the questions she asks. On the day of my visit to Josephinum, the community asked many thoughtful questions that gave me a strong sense of the values most important to the school: What inspires you to lead a diverse, “all-girls” academy? How will you lead us to excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, and community service? What dreams do you have for the success of the school and its students? These questions, and many others, showed me that Josephinum Academy is a place of hopes and dreams, resources and talents. By the end of the day, I knew that it was my dream to lead Josephinum Academy into the future.

In addition to the Sisters of Christian Charity and the Religious of the Sacred Heart, there are two women whom I admire that have taught me something about what is beautiful in life. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,” and Mother Teresa said, “Together we do something beautiful for God.” As the principal of Josephinum, I look forward to supporting each young woman as she discovers the beauty of her dreams and to working alongside faculty, staff, alumnae and parents to create a future that is, truly, “beautiful for God”.

Looking forward,

Julie Raino
Future Principal of Josephinum Academy



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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Save The Date

For Josephinum Academy's

125th Anniversary

Gala

September 26

Jean Marie Ryan Center
at Misericordia

Thank You to our Volunteers!



Volunteer Librarian Susan McGowan, who comes to Josephinum through the Ignation Volunteer Corps, has been an incredible help to students this year

Josephinum is so thankful to the volunteers who served our community in the 2014-2015 school year. We want to thank you for the countless hours you have spent enriching the lives of our young women. Your presence both inside and outside of the classroom has made a valuable impact on students and staff alike.

