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In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: Saint Joseph's University

Editorial Board

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Saint Joseph's University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

It was Rev. Joseph Grealon, S.J., who first voiced the need of early Philadelphians for a unique education, one that would demand personal excellence and promote the value of service to others. The year was 1791.

Although the next half-century saw the suppression of the Jesuits and dissension within the Catholic Church in Philadelphia, Grealon's vision was indeed realized. In September of 1851, thirty young men entered what was then Saint Joseph's College.

From its origins in a small alley only one block from Independence Hall to its current location atop Philadelphia's City Line, Saint Joseph's University continues to instill within young men and women a love for learning and a commitment to others. As it prepares to meet the challenges of the approaching millennium, Saint Joseph's gazes through the lens of its 144-year Jesuit tradition with a bold and focused vision.

Service Learning

"Ignatius saw that it was important to get involved with education in order to make a substantial contribution to society," says Rev. Charles L. Currie, S.J., Rector of the Jesuit Community at Saint Joseph's.

The University's Service Learning program has been an integral part of the curriculum since 1992.

Service Learning at SJU blends community service with a variety of philosophy, theology, and social science core courses.

Originally modeled after Boston College's "Pulse" program, SJU Service Learning has experienced tremendous growth. Student participation in the program's second year nearly tripled.

Broad faculty and administrative support has allowed the University to design a Service Learning program unique to Saint Joseph's own vision. The three-part design pushes students to new levels of intellect, awareness, and social action through personal involvement with the poor, handicapped, homeless, and elderly.

It is a true community partnership. With Philadelphia as a backdoor resource, Service Learning students have taken their education beyond the classroom to—among others—shelters, retirement homes, and home-bound AIDS patients.

Faculty-Student Research

The faculty-mentored student research program at Saint Joseph's has been a success for many years, particularly in the sciences.



A Service Learning student accepts the keys to a van, donated from the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities in Philadelphia. The van is used to transport students from the campus to various service sites throughout the city.

In addition to elevating the intellectual environment of the University, students and their faculty mentors have achieved breakthroughs both in the laboratory and in personal career development.

Last September, responding to a proposal from the SJU Department of Biology, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute recognized the success of these research programs with a \$500,000 grant. One of 47 awarded nationally and the only one of its kind in Philadelphia, the grant allowed the University to establish the Howard Hughes Summer Research Institute to provide year-round undergraduate research opportunities.

The Institute has targeted women and minority undergraduates for participation, groups generally under-represented in research fields. Students from both Saint Joseph's and other area colleges and universities are benefitting

from the grant. The Hughes grant also provided upgraded equipment and laboratory curriculum improvements in biochemistry, molecular genetics, and microbiology.

Gender Studies

Saint Joseph's did not become a full-time coeducational institution until 1970. Today, almost a quarter-century later, academic programs are embracing the role and contributions of women in all segments of society.

One of the newest features of the SJU curriculum, the Gender Studies Program, has already produced its first graduates. Courses draw upon the contributions of research being done in the humanities, natural and social sciences, and business.

The program examines how gender conditions and influences the experiences of both men and women in modern society.

As an interdisciplinary field, Gender Studies

allows students to integrate many aspects of their learning into a living education and consequently leads to the development of the whole person.

action—that has led to waiting lists for the six annual student-run retreats, as well as the many regional, national, and international service programs sponsored by

offering abundant space for service organizations, conference rooms, and retreat quarters.

Student Initiatives: J.U.S.T.I.C.E.

Although steeped in the Ignatian tradition for 144 years, Saint Joseph's is aware that the future of the University as a Jesuit institution does not rely solely upon members of the Society, but rather on the entire University community. SJU students have been committed to that Jesuit future as active members of J.U.S.T.I.C.E. (Jesuit University and College Students Concerned with Empowerment).

As one of the founding schools of this student-initiated alliance, Saint Joseph students participate and plan annual J.U.S.T.I.C.E. conventions. These meetings bring together student

representatives from the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities to exchange ideas, draft proposals, and build long-distance relationships. Two Saint Joseph's students currently hold national positions in the alliance and the efforts of the entire J.U.S.T.I.C.E. delegation have been well received by the SJU Jesuit Community.

A carriage house, adjacent to the Jesuit Residence, was recently renovated to give Jesuits and students a comfortable place for informal meetings, social gatherings, and spiritual direction. Saint Joseph's recognizes that these exchanges not only maintain the University's current identity as a Jesuit institution, but are crucial to maintaining that identity in the years to come.

Campus Spirituality

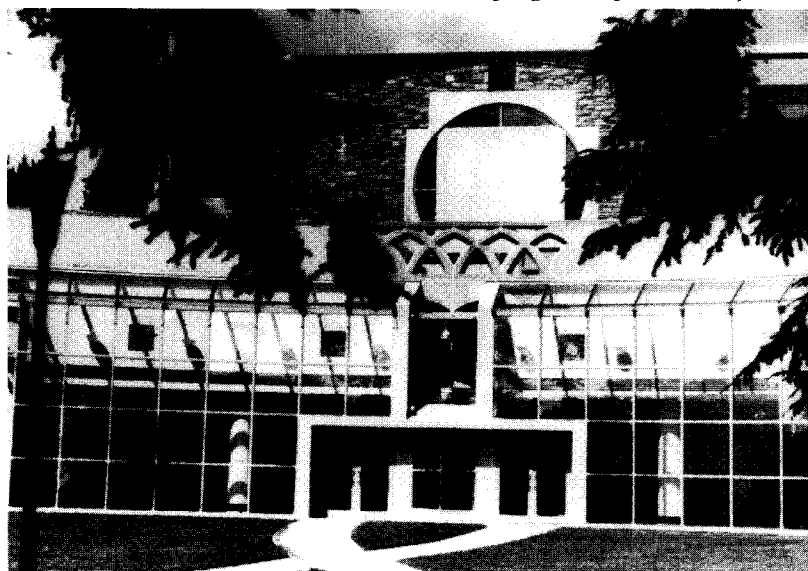
The vibrant Ignatian spirituality of Saint Joseph's University is easily identified at the Chapel of St. Joseph—Rev. Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial. Completed in October, 1992, through the financial assistance of thousands of University alumni, the Chapel is the newest on America's 28 Jesuit campuses. It is characterized by a blend of traditional and modern architectural elements.

The Chapel is already the heart of the campus community. It embodies the University's reliance on its Ignatian roots and cultivates its ever-blossoming faith.

It is that growth of faith—in prayer and in

Campus Ministry. Some students, for instance, immerse themselves in the Spiritual Exercises during Christmas break. Others spend their spring and/or summer vacation experiencing a different kind of immersion—volunteering in needy communities in South Dakota, Appalachia, Belize, and Mexico.

The growing student interest in weekly service activities—including reading to children, Habitat for Humanity, and liturgical planning—is also leading to the renovation of a former residential estate, adjacent to the Chapel. The new Campus Ministry Center will complement the Chapel and further enhance the University's sense of community by



The Chapel of St. Joseph—Rev. Michael J. Smith, S.J. Memorial, dedicated in October of 1992, is at the heart of the Saint Joseph's University community.



Four recipients of the President's Award from the White House Office of National Services and Rev. Nicholas S. Rashford, S.J., University president, in front of the recently renovated Carriage House.