

# Campus Update Monday, December 18, 2017



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
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## Community Forum for Faculty and Staff

Join President Free and colleagues for a Community Forum, providing updates on University initiatives for faculty and staff, will be held **Friday, January 12, from 9 – 10 a.m.** in the Hoffman Auditorium of the Bruyette Athenaeum.

**Contact:** Ruth Foxman, executive assistant to the President/secretary to the Board of Trustees at [rfoxman@usj.edu](mailto:rfoxman@usj.edu) or 860.231.5221

## Office Hours with President Rhona C. Free

President Rhona Free will be holding open office hours on **Wednesday, January 24, from 9 – 11 a.m.** in the President's Office, Room 1, Mercy Hall (at the far end of the hallway). Faculty, staff, and students are invited to sign up (recommended) or stop in for a 15-minute appointment with the President during this time.

**Contact:** Ruth Foxman, executive assistant to the President/secretary to the Board of Trustees at [rfoxman@usj.edu](mailto:rfoxman@usj.edu) or 860.231.5221



## First Night Hartford

You're invited to First Night Hartford on Sunday, **Dec. 31, from 2 p.m. to 12 a.m.** Tickets are half price for high schools and colleges in the Hartford Consortium. Enjoy an evening filled with:

- "Paris, 1937" jazz music of that era.
- Carousel rides in Bushnell Park
- "Americana" music at the Bushnell Pump House
- Games, comedy, face painting, ice skating, fortune tellers
- Classic Rock & Roll

Visit [firstnighthartford.org](http://firstnighthartford.org) for details.

Click [here](#) to download the event flyer.



## Upcoming Blackboard Changes

As we look ahead to the Spring semester, we wanted to share some information about upcoming changes to Blackboard over the next few months:

**Online Grading in Blackboard.** If you are using Blackboard's inline grading feature, which allows you to add annotations to student submissions, please note that **this feature will be discontinued by Blackboard on January 15, 2018.** You will no longer be able to electronically annotate assignments within Blackboard,

but will still be able to collect assignments and enter grades using the Blackboard Grade Center.

**Blackboard to be upgraded Summer 2018.** We are preparing for an upgrade to our Blackboard environment after the Spring semester. This upgrade is necessary to better align us with Blackboard version support, and will include a newer look and feel, as well as enhancements to communication (announcements, email), assignment tools, accessibility, grading and content management. With this upgrade, a new version of the inline grading tool will be introduced.

The Teaching and Learning Center and the Office of Information Technology will offer workshops to introduce faculty to the changes in Blackboard. Workshop schedules will be announced starting in January. If you would like a department- or school-specific training session, please [contact the TLC](#) to schedule a date and time.

If you have questions about upcoming changes to Blackboard, please [email the Teaching and Learning Center](#).

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## Tuition Waivers for Employees and Interns May Become Taxable in 2018

The tax reform bill being debated in Congress may result in the tuition and fee waivers USJ provides for employees and interns becoming taxable income, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

It is **possible** that the following waivers of tuition (or tuition and fees, where applicable) will become fully taxable as of January:

- Undergrad and graduate waivers for employees taking courses;
- Undergrad waivers for spouses and dependents of employees (grad waivers are already taxable); and
- Waivers for interns.

We won't know what changes, if any, will result from the new law until the tax bill is finalized, hopefully by the end of December. We'll pass this information along as soon as it becomes available to us.

### Note re Grad Waiver Tax Forms:

In past years we've encouraged employees to complete withholding-authorization forms as early as December so that withholding for the upcoming year can be spread as evenly as possible throughout the year. This year those forms won't be available until the tax law is settled; we'll make an announcement when the forms become available.

Contact: Les Meyer ([lmeyer@usj.edu](mailto:lmeyer@usj.edu), 860.231.5414)

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## USJ Staff Bootcamp

Join the USJ Staff Bootcamp beginning on Monday, Dec. 18 and resuming on on Jan. 8 after break. Bootcamp will take place on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12-1 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.

Click [here](#) to download the flyer.

## Interpretations Literary Magazine

Submissions Welcome! Submit your poems, short stories, and art work to [interpretations@usj.edu](mailto:interpretations@usj.edu)

Deadline: Jan. 17, 2018

Questions? Contact:

Senior Editor Sarah Keane: [skeane@usj.edu](mailto:skeane@usj.edu)

Faculty Advisor Catherine Hoyser:

[choyser@usj.edu](mailto:choyser@usj.edu)

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## O'Connell Center 2017 Holiday Hours

**Saturday, Dec. 23** – 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 24** - CLOSED

**Monday, Dec. 25** – CLOSED

**Tuesday, Dec. 26** – CLOSED

**Saturday, Dec. 30** – 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 31** - CLOSED

**Monday, Jan. 1** – CLOSED

**Tuesday, Jan. 2** – 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The center will open regular winter hours all other days.

## USJ Bookstore Holiday Hours

**Note:** The Bookstore will be closed Saturday, December 23 through Monday, January 1 for the Christmas break.

## New Employees and Promotions

The following is information for New Hires/Rehires as of 12/4/2017:

Charlotte Ward, M.S., Assistant Professor,  
Physician Assistant, HNS

The following is information for Promotions & Status Changes as of 12/4/2017: N/A

## Jays' Network Announcements

Current Scores: Kelleher has 238, McDonough 241, and O'Connor 375.

Lookout for more opportunities to earn points, get involved, and find out what the ultimate prize is in the new year! Happy Holidays and thank you for being involved in Jays' Network this semester.

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## Campus Ministry Announcements

**Dec. 12 Dec. 20:** "Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. The Hebrew word Chanukah means "dedication," and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple after the [triumph of the Maccabees](#) over the Syrian Greek army.

**Wednesday, Jan 17:** First Wednesday Mass of the spring semester at 12:05 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 21:** First Sunday Mass of the spring semester at 6 p.m.

Click [here](#) to download the Wellness Wednesday flyer.

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## December Live Well Work Well Newsletter

Click [here](#) to download the December edition of *Live Well Work Well*, which provides you with health and wellness tips for your work and life—presented by 360 Corporate Benefit Advisors.

## USJ Athletics: Discover the Latest News



Visit [www.usjbluejays.com/](http://www.usjbluejays.com/)

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