

# Offsite Insights

*A quarterly  
newsletter of the  
University of Saint  
Joseph Off-Campus  
Programs  
October 10, 2019*



A contribution to the Off-Campus Offices, 3rd Floor, Mercy Hall, from the USJ Gengras Students!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**USJ Off-Campus  
Grad  
CT Teacher of the  
Year!**

**Sheena Graham  
will present**

**October 24, 2019**

**6 PM  
The Crystal Room**

**Students, supervisors,  
instructors invited!  
Refreshments!**

# USJ Campus connections

**Raouf Boules, Dean,  
School of Arts, Science, Business and Administration**

Dean Boules joined USJ in August 2015. He was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt, and came to the U.S to complete his doctoral studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He assumed leadership of the newly created School of Arts, Science, Business and Education (SASBE) in fall of 2018. Dr. Boules is a strong supporter of educator preparation and professional development both on- and off-campus, and is especially interested in supporting first generation college students.



**Isaac Gottesman, Chair  
Department of Education**

Isaac Gottesman joined the USJ Department of Education (now located within the USJ School of Arts, Science, Business and Education) this July. Dr. Gottesman comes to USJ from Iowa State University. His scholarly interests focus on social foundations coursework in teacher preparation, including issues of race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, social class and (dis) ability. He would like to see increasing collaboration and integration of curriculum in on- and off-campus programs.



**Julie Cleary, Off-Campus Program Administrative Assistant**

Julie joined the Off-Campus Program in February 2019. A graduate of Fairfield University, Julie has become a terrific organizer and problem-solver for Off-Campus students, adjunct faculty, and administrators. In addition, Julie has enrolled in a USJ Master's degree program in Business Administration, and is currently taking a course in Project management. We look forward to incorporating her new skills in making our Off-Campus program management as smoothly effective as possible!



# Five Fast Facts for Fall 2019

1. **New Cohort (20) – the largest ever! 130 new students** began off-Campus Master's degree programs in Fall 2019!
2. **Total Enrollment – 327 Connecticut teachers** in 7 Off-Campus Master's degree programs in 11 different locations across Connecticut!
3. **Strong students – 3.58 incoming GPA** means Off-Campus students, all working teachers, are high performers!
4. **Outstanding Instructors** – Two-thirds of Adjunct Professors hold advanced degrees! Nearly 90% are actively involved in Connecticut schools!
5. **Leaders in learning** – Our Off-Campus Adjunct Professors participated in over 20 different professional learning development sessions during AY 2019!

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## *Hybrid is happening in OCM!*

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Fall 2019 marks the start of an exciting new venture in on-line and blended learning designed to make OCM even more user-friendly. Starting in March 2020, incoming cohorts in special education, curriculum and instruction, and instructional technology will have new opportunities for learning. Building on the strong positive feedback from students about the cohort model, hybrid programs will offer a blend of face-to-face, online synchronous and asynchronous learning.

In order to make sure that on-line class sessions are engaging and interactive, OCM has been fortunate to receive funding for a consultant who will work closely with USJ faculty to maintain integrity and rigor of OCM coursework. Wait, there's more – watch for information about preparation and support for adjuncts who want to learn techniques for on-line instruction. OCM is in the process of designing special professional development opportunities for our expert adjuncts to explore creative options for incorporating on-line instruction into courses!

*For a headstart on hybrid, see*

## **Get Interactive: Practical Teaching with Technology**

This [free on-line course](#) focuses on ( 1) using multimedia for teaching and learning; (2) encouraging student collaboration; (3) formative assessment and feedback.

Approximately 18 hours to complete.  
Can purchase certificate (\$49)

*(You will join peers from all over the world!)*

# 2020 USJ CAEPers

The Education Department of the School of Arts, Science, Business and Education (SASBE) has completed a rigorous two-year process that led to successful accreditation by the Council on Accreditation for Educator Preparation Providers (CAEP) and approval (now pending) from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

In order to continue a process of systematic and continuous review of data, databased decision-making and ongoing quality improvement, faculty and professional staff have formed subcommittees that address each of 6 standards. Committees include: **Standard 1: Content and Pedagogy; Standard 2: Partnerships and Clinical Practice; Standard 3: Recruitment and Support of High Quality Candidates; Standard 4: Program Impact; Standard 5: Assessment and Quality Assurance; and Standard 6: Crosscutting Themes (Diversity and Technology).** Each of these committees did productive and substantive work during the course of the academic year 2019, and will soon begin their AY 2020 work to improve our programs.

Committees would are seeking input from a broader group of educators and would welcome adjuncts or school representatives as members of any of these committees. Committees meet once a month for an hour and a half, followed by a full-day review of data and recommendations in December, a similar day for review of committee work by the entire faculty in May, with an additional half-day to plan and prioritize quality improvement initiatives for the following academic year. To explore participation as a committee member, please contact [Penny Spencer](#) or call 860-231-5336 for more details.

## *FYI*

Last day of Fall I Session- Thursday, October 17

Fall I final grades due in MyUSJ- Sunday, October 20

First day of Fall II Session- Tuesday, October 22

We'd like to hear from you. What questions, ideas, or information would you like included in this newsletter, available at the end of each eight-week course session?

# PS!

Don't forget to check out the exciting schedule at the USJ [Autorino Center!](#)