**ALUMNI GIVING**

**Their ‘Debt of Gratitude’**
Class of 1967 donates nearly $150,000 for SJC scholarships

By Samantha Cheyenne Miller

MY ELLEN DUBIEL FREELEY, Ed.D., REMEMBERS THE NIGHT she met her husband at the Open House social club’s school dance more than half a century ago. Her friend Joyce Marchetta Bisso, Ed.D., fondly recalls the snowy night when S. Rose Catherine agreed not to check men for Catholic ID, hoping St. Joseph’s College still means to someone today as it did then.

“Open House social club was a group of women who organized dances periodically,” Dr. Bisso said, adding that she later received an Open House dance: “I was selling tickets at the front door. I’m not sure how many people came, but we sold a lot of tickets.”

“The generosity of the Class of 1967 illustrates the bond some of the St. Joseph’s 35,000-plus alumni maintain with the College,” said SJC President Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.


By David Henne

FOR NEARLY A DECADE, THE PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE AT ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE HAS brought prominent guests to the College who have not only lived history, but helped shape it. Most recently, documentary filmmaker Rory Kennedy provided an inside look into her work, with the 2017 lecture “The Camera Doesn’t Lie: Social Change Through Documentary Filmmaking.”

Lending a Hand to the Students We Serve

MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORKFORCE AT St. Joseph’s College in the 2017 fiscal year contributed to the Faculty and Staff Giving Initiative, a significant jump in participation from the previous year. The 54 percent participation rate was up from 33 percent in 2016. The $71,255 raised this year during the 2017 Giving Initiative is important, said Amy Thompson, SJC’s director of financial aid and one of three Faculty and Staff Giving Initiative Champions this year. “I care about the students, staff and faculty at SJC.”

Associate Dean Gail Lamberta ’82, Ph.D., who is also an initiative champion, said it’s important to give back to organizations that support those less fortunate. “Here at SJC, we do just that, affording so many students an opportunity to pursue a quality education and realize their dreams,” she said. “This is why I feel it is so important to personally contribute to our annual campaign and pay it forward.”

A Lion’s Share of History

ARY ELLEN DUBIEL FREELEY, Ed.D., REMEMBERS THE NIGHT she met her husband at the Open House social club’s school dance more than half a century ago. Her friend Joyce Marchetta Bisso, Ed.D., fondly recalls the snowy night when S. Rose Catherine agreed not to check men for Catholic ID, hoping St. Joseph’s College still means to someone today as it did then.

“Open House social club was a group of women who organized dances periodically,” Dr. Bisso said, recalling one of her favorite memories from her time at SJC Brooklyn. “This one night there was a sudden snowstorm. We went to S. Rose Catherine and asked her to check for Catholic ID, hoping that some boys would come over. There was a frat house near her favorite memories from her time at SJC Brooklyn. “This one night there was a sudden snowstorm. We went to S. Rose Catherine and asked her to check for Catholic ID, hoping that some boys would come over. There was a frat house near

"It’s been important over these 50 years to recognize the impact that St. Joseph’s College had on my life and my future," she said. "Many of us were the first in our family to graduate from college. Or we were second, among older sisters, but mostly we were the first among daughters. I think it was really a sense of female destiny."

"I feel such a great debt of gratitude for the education I received at St. Joseph’s College," said Dr. Freeley, who wants to help give other students the chance she got at SJC. “I always say that any success I have had is because of St. Joseph’s.”

"My vision is to make this [foundation] a role model for local history grant giving on a national level," Ms. Curran told the Long Island Advance newspaper in 2015.

"Giving is a meaningful way for me to express what I consider to be important," said Amy Thompson, SJC’s director of financial aid and one of three Faculty and Staff Giving Initiative Champions this year. “I care about the students, staff and faculty at SJC.”

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"Through these gifts, the members, family and friends of the Class of ’67 are telling us something important — about themselves and about our College," Dr. Boomgaarden said. "First, they are telling us that they care and that they want St. Joseph’s to continue to be that special place they remember so well and hold in their hearts. And they are also bearing testament to the incredible legacy of their mentors, teachers and the remarkable charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph."

"Contributing to this scholarship allowed the Class of 1967 to come together again and honor the education they received," Dr. Bisso said. "It’s been important over these 50 years to recognize the impact that St. Joseph’s College had on my life and my future," she said. "Many of us were the first in our family to graduate from college. Or we were second, among older sisters, but mostly we were the first among daughters. I think it was really a sense of female destiny."

"Five decades later, this sense of female destiny still holds strong, and the education SJC provided these women remains as important as ever," the women said. "The College was a very warm, friendly and encouraging environment," Dr. Freeley said. "The nuns who taught us were women way ahead of their time."

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