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ST. JOHN'S
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RETIREES Association
NEWSLETTER

Volume 21

Fall 2023

KATHY MEEHAN, TRAILBLAZING ADMINISTRATOR AND ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT ICON, RETIRES AFTER 48 YEARS



The conclusion of the Spring 2023 semester brought to an end the pioneering career of Kathleen Meehan '75Ed, '79GEd, who retired as St. John's University's Senior Deputy Athletics Director.

Kathy Meehan will be the guest speaker at the Retirees Association Luncheon Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

More than 50 years after first setting foot on the Queens, NY, campus as a student, Ms. Meehan, a former Red Storm Women's Basketball player, Assistant Coach and

administrator, called time on a 48-year career at St. John's that exceeded even her own expectations. She and her husband, Lou '74C, '77L, plan to travel, tend to their newly purchased home in Massapequa, NY, and remain active in their lives of their family, which includes sons, Tymon '05CPS, '07MS and Brian '03C, '11G, and seven grandchildren.

"I'm incredibly lucky to have had this association," said Ms. Meehan, who arrived at St. John's as a student in 1971. "I've been lucky to have loved what I have done and to have done it in a place I love so much."

A member of the first women's basketball team at the University (1974-75), Ms. Meehan was also the first winner of the University's Outstanding Female Student-Athlete Award. Upon graduation, she was hired to the three-pronged position of Assistant Athletic Director for Women's Athletics, Women's Intramural Director, and Assistant Women's Basketball Coach, by Jack Kaiser, patriarch of the Red Storm athletic department.

Ms. Meehan was promoted in 1980 to Women's Athletic Director, and again to Associate Athletic Director in 1985. She was named Senior Associate Athletic Director in 1993 and in 2001 she became Associate Vice President for Athletics. In 2018 she was named Senior Deputy Athletic Director.

Regardless of position, Ms. Meehan never lost sight of the values enshrined in her as a St. John's undergraduate and reinforced by her mentor Mr. Kaiser, who died in May 2022.

"Jack Kaiser always thought of others and made sure that we all remembered to concentrate on others," Ms. Meehan recalled. "Hopefully, I have taken that into my workplace. I never thought about a legacy; I just think this is what I have done and the way I have done it."

During her time at the University, Ms. Meehan helped to mold the BIG EAST Conference into a power player in intercollegiate athletics. She served on a host of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) committees, including the influential Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee, which works to enhance the public perception of the sport.

JOIN US! RETIREES ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mass:
12:15 p.m., St. Thomas More Church

Luncheon:
1 p.m., D'Angelo Center Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Kathy Meehan

Ms. Meehan also served on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee from 2010 to 2015 and the Division I Women's Volleyball Committee from 2005 to 2009.

"Her caring is her legacy," Director of Athletics Mike Cragg said. "Kathy has a passion for people, a passion for athletes, and a passion for St. John's. She epitomizes everything St. John's is about and is irreplaceable. Her work on the NCAA level was second to none."

Ms. Meehan, originally from Massapequa, NY, was a celebrated basketball player at Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset, NY. She enrolled at St. John's, where, at the time, women's basketball was a club sport.

That changed in 1974-75, when women's basketball and three other women's sports were elevated to varsity status, creating the eventual need for a women's sports administrator. Mr. Kaiser quickly identified Ms. Meehan.

St. John's now boasts 10 women's varsity sports, 17 varsity sports in all. The women's basketball team Ms. Meehan was instrumental in developing is among the top programs in the BIG EAST and earned a bid into the NCAA Tournament in 2023, where it defeated Purdue University before losing a nail-biting game to the University of North Carolina.

"I never thought about where I would be in 20 years, certainly not when I was in college," Ms. Meehan recalled. "But I was fortunate in that I was involved in an industry, college athletics, that for women was beginning to take off. The timing was wonderful for me."

Elected to the St. John's Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991, news of Ms. Meehan's pending retirement drew reactions from many corners of collegiate athletics. BIG EAST Commissioner Val Ackerman called Ms. Meehan "a trailblazer of the highest order." Women's Head Basketball Coach Joe Tartamella described her as a "living legend," while legendary Men's Basketball Coach and 1992 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Lou Carnesecca '50C, '60GEd, '00HON called Ms. Meehan "a wonderful representative of the University and its mission to the student-athletes."

To St. John's President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., Ms. Meehan is "a true Vincentian leader." "Kathy embodies all that is good about the intersection of higher education, athletics, and service," he said.

RETIREES ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON DETAILS INSIDE.

JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S RETIREES ASSOCIATION
FACEBOOK PAGE TODAY!



Facebook.com/stjohnsretireesassociation or
@StJohnsRetireesAssociation

www.stjohns.edu/retirees

UPCOMING EVENTS

Power Hour Series
www.stjohns.edu/powerhour

Homecoming Fest
Sunday, October 29, from noon to 3 p.m.
Queens Campus

26th Annual President's Dinner
Monday, October 30, 6 p.m.
Cocktail Reception and 7 p.m. Dinner
New York Hilton Midtown

Retirees Association Luncheon
Wednesday, November 8, at 1 p.m.
Mass: 12:15
D'Angelo Center Ballroom, Queens Campus

Cabaret for Charity
November 16, 17, and 18, at 8 p.m.
The Little Theatre

The Gospel at Christmas featuring Voices of Victory
Saturday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.
The Little Theatre

Lessons and Carols featuring Mixed Chorus
and Friends
Saturday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m.
St. Thomas More Church

Queens Winter Carnival
December 4
Great Lawn, Queens Campus

2024 SAVE THE DATE

St. Patrick's Day Weekend in Naples, FL
March 15-17

St. Patrick's Day Celebration in NYC
Saturday, March 16

Celebrating the Women of St. John's Luncheon
Saturday, March 23, from noon to 3:30 p.m.
The Inn at New Hyde Park

Visit
www.stjohns.edu/alumnierevents
for more events.

For more information, and to RSVP, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 718-990-8423; giftplanning@stjohns.edu.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Looking Forward to Brighter Times

By Simon G. Møller, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University Distinguished Professor, and Provost Endowed Chair



The higher education landscape is becoming increasingly competitive, due in part to changing demographics, financial barriers, and other factors. As a result, institutions must adapt strategies to meet diverse needs and retain student interest. St. John's University is proactively planning to directly meet these challenges.

We recently completed the first year of the University's Strategic Plan, which was drafted to prioritize the activities and identify the resources

needed to support St. John's mission and vision. Under this plan, the Office of the Provost has started to strategically position our academic programs as they relate to the market, competitors, and their uniqueness.

We are also establishing a new and comprehensive faculty mentoring and development program and creating strategic partnerships with various business sectors; we have also created a Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship for startup companies. In Fall 2024, we will introduce a new University Honors Program, which will help us recruit and enroll the nation's best and brightest students.

St. John's continues to focus on graduate programs, and we will further capitalize on the growing online market. To support these efforts, we are launching a broad range of branding and marketing efforts in new demographics and regions.

On June 1, the University welcomed Maciek Nowak, Ph.D., as Dean of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business and the Joseph H. and Maria C. Schwartz Distinguished Chair. Prior to his arrival at St. John's, Dr. Nowak served as Senior Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning and Implementation at Loyola University Chicago.

In other personnel news, Michael A. Simons, J.D., Dean, and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics, recently announced that the 2023-24 academic year would be his last as dean. After a research leave, he plans to return to the faculty.

We have begun a comprehensive national search for the School of Law's next dean and have formed a search committee comprised of students, faculty, administrators, and alumni. I want to express my sincere and deep gratitude to Dean Simons for his visionary leadership and his steadfast dedication to the School and its students and faculty.

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Open Enrollment for Retirees

By Miriam Cepeda, Senior Benefits Representative, Employee Benefits



You will receive Open Enrollment information from the Benefits Department later this year. As long as you are currently enrolled in medical, dental, and/or life insurance, you can make changes to your existing coverage or elect to enroll in new coverage. Elections made during the Open Enrollment period will be effective January 1, 2024.

The medical plan offered to all retirees is the Aetna Premier Plan. This is a robust plan which offers in- and out-of-network coverage, as well as prescription drug coverage. There are two dental plans from which to choose: Cigna or Aetna DMO. The cost of each plan will be provided to you in the Open Enrollment materials mailed to your home. Our retiree billing carrier, P&A Group, will adjust your bill for any changes you make.

For more information about Open Enrollment or any of the plans offered to retirees, please contact me at 718-990-2077 or cepedam@stjohns.edu.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS | PERFORMING ARTS

St. John's University Performing Arts

By Nigel W. Gretton, Director of Performing Arts



Amazing things are happening in Performing Arts at St. John's University!

The Performing Arts unit within the Division of Student Life is home to four ensembles and more than 100 talented student performers. Performing Arts is comprised of the Chappell Players Theatre Group, Jazz Band, Mixed Chorus, and Voices of Victory Gospel Choir. These ensembles perform for major campus events, produce more than 30 on-campus

shows annually, and give many off-campus performances for community groups and special events.

Students participating in most Performing Arts ensembles are also eligible to receive course credit. Many Performing Arts alumni have gone on to stellar careers in all aspects of the professional performing arts industry throughout the world.

Please join us for our upcoming events in November and December. Details on the back cover.

For more information, please email performingarts@stjohns.edu.



ST. JOHN'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS: ENGAGING THE EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

By Joseph Sciamè '71Ed, Vice President for Community Relations



Being a good neighbor is deeply engrained in the history and mission of St. John's University. Since our founding in 1870, St. John's has nurtured a strong sense of partnership with the diverse communities of New York City. Early in our history, young men were encouraged to attend St. John's; there are many stories relating how families came to the Vincentian priests seeking financial assistance.

When the University became a 24/7 operation, University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M., instituted an Office of Community and Government Relations; the offices were eventually separated and Community Relations became its own area, serving as "the face of the University." This office represents the University in the local community, generally serving on boards of organizations and activities. You might be familiar with our collaboration with the Staten Island Richmond County Orchestra or the Queens Symphony Orchestra, as they provide the local community with much enjoyment at annual summer concerts.

Creating a forum for strong communication between St. John's and its neighbors, Community Relations established the Community Dialogue Groups in Queens and Staten Island in 1999 and 2000, respectively. Members of the Dialogue Groups include representation from community boards, civic associations, borough hall officials, state and assembly liaisons, merchant associations, local police precincts, student and resident life representatives, and various University officials in the areas of public safety, facilities, and student affairs.

Several years ago, local residents were concerned about how plans to build a baseball field on the Queens, NY, campus would affect their neighborhood. Representatives from the Office of Community Relations spoke at local community group meetings and addressed their issues. The building of student housing on campus was another issue the office reached out to the community to discuss.

Community Relations partners with various groups to support activities that benefit our neighbors in Queens and throughout New York City. Free concerts, special events, blood drives, food drives, and charitable efforts are among the community-oriented activities that enjoy the University's support.



ESTABLISH YOUR LEGACY THROUGH THE MCCALLEN SOCIETY

Please consider supporting St. John's endowment by designating your planned gift for scholarships. Your gift will be invested, and the earnings will allow financially burdened students to realize their dream of a St. John's University education.

"I am humbled and filled with gratitude for the invaluable privilege of being a St. John's University student. The unwavering support and generosity of the St. John's family through their academic scholarships have not only made my educational dreams a reality, but also instilled in me a profound sense of purpose. Having worked for the Office of Gift Planning since my first year at St. John's, I have been blessed to meet so many wonderful and selfless individuals who share with me in calling this University home."

Luke A. Nordstrom

Office of Gift Planning Student Associate

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, Class of 2026

THROUGH THE YEARS

