

*Jeremy Travis
President*

*Haaren Hall
524 West 59th Street, Room 625
New York City, NY 10019
T. 212.237.8600
F. 212.237.8607
jtravis@jjay.cuny.edu*

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To the John Jay College Community:

This year represents an important milestone in the history of John Jay College of Criminal Justice as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the College's founding. Over five decades ago, a small and dedicated group of academic visionaries came together to develop a plan for a new college representing a new idea. The new idea that has animated the spirit and trajectory of John Jay College of Criminal Justice is that a liberal arts education, with a focus on issues of justice, will advance our democracy's pursuit of the common good. By educating the next generation of leaders, public servants, scholars, activists, scientists, poets, social entrepreneurs and teachers – all committed to lives as fierce advocates for justice – this new college would change the world. And that vision has come true. John Jay College is a unique and powerful educational institution that has made a difference in our world. This year we honor those who had this vision, those who saved the College when it was almost closed, and those who built the remarkable institution that we love.

The purpose of this message is to provide a preview of some of the exciting events we have planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Throughout the year, you will receive more details on these and other events. The planning group has created a suite of offerings that will engage students, highlight faculty, celebrate our alumni, promote our history and raise the profile of the College in our external networks.

Convocation with Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The anniversary year will be formally launched with the Convocation featuring Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the U.S. Supreme Court on September 17. The Convocation will take place during community hour (1:40-2:50 p.m.). The Justice has also generously agreed to meet with a select group of John Jay students before and after the Convocation. Her presence, resonating with the service of John Jay as the first Chief Justice of the United States, provides an exciting historical linkage for our celebration.

Arrival of Li'l Jay. On August 19 our college will welcome a new member of our community – Li'l Jay! This whimsical bobble-head representation of John Jay will soon be everywhere. With the idea that Li'l Jay represents the John Jay spirit, we are inviting the College community to take pictures of Li'l Jay in a wide variety of settings and post these pictures on social media in order to share the excitement about our College. Hundreds of Li'l Jays will be distributed throughout the campus; people can also borrow Li'l Jay from the library. In a few months, the Li'l Jay café will open on 11th Avenue and 58th Street. And the Li'l Jay campaign will of course lead up to the arrival, in December, of Big Jay, the statue of John Jay. Everyone can have lots of fun with this!

“A History of Educating for Justice.” Throughout the year, you will be able to view a timeline of the history of John Jay. This timeline, and a complementary digital exhibition, will be on display in the Haaren Hall Lobby with an opening scheduled for September 2 during community hour.

“The Future of Justice” Expression Contest. This fall, students are invited to participate in a contest to submit their expressions — academic, artistic, and otherwise — on the Future of Justice. Winners will be announced in February and the best submissions will be exhibited in the President’s Gallery the week of March 30-April 3, 2015.

“Acts of Justice” Community Service Drives. This year the College will launch a new community service initiative, called “Acts of Justice.” During the 50th anniversary year, members of the John Jay community will be encouraged to participate in acts of service, both on campus and in their own communities. Each month there will be a different theme – ranging from a campaign against hunger to a drive to support our service members abroad.

Alexandre Dang Exhibit. No celebration of the modern John Jay would be complete without an art installation. Alexandre Dang is known for incorporating solar energy into his kinetic art works to raise awareness of the potential for eco-technologies and sustainable development. The cause of environmental justice will be advanced through his installation at John Jay, scheduled for exhibition on the 3rd floor of the New Building overlooking the Jay Walk, with an opening on October 15.

Alumni Event in Washington DC. The kickoff of the 50th Reunion will also take place in Washington, DC, where John Jay has an alumni chapter numbering near 300. A 2-day mini reunion will be hosted in Washington, with discussions at the FBI and other locations, and a reception at the home of our Trustee, LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, ’75.

State of the College Address. This year, my annual State of the College address will reflect on the history of the College and provide a sketch of the road ahead for the next chapter of our history. This will take place on November 13 in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater.

Homecoming. The Homecoming, to be held in November, will provide an opportunity for John Jay’s alumni and former student athletes to come back to the Doghouse. They will watch a spirited basketball game from the new Alumni Skybox and reminisce about their time at the College.

John Jay Statue. On December 8, during community hour, the new statue of John Jay will be unveiled. Commissioned by the College, and produced by StudioEIS, the nation’s foremost designer of historical statues, this life-size sculpture will take its place in the Atrium, welcoming everyone who comes to our campus. The statue will be unveiled around John Jay’s birthday, and descendants of Chief Justice Jay will be invited, along with members of our community.

50th Anniversary Film. Following the ceremony unveiling the John Jay statue, we will host a screening of a new film that has been made commemorating the 50 years of our College. Students, faculty, administrators, alumni and trustees of the College have been interviewed to talk about how John Jay has changed their lives and our communities.

Annual Day of Giving. On the same day, we will launch our first annual day of giving, using social media and personal calls to encourage gifts to the Annual Fund campaign. These gifts help support our students through their academic journey.

WESTY Award. In January, we will host a meeting of community organizations from the West Side. Our College strives to be a good neighbor, and in recognition of John Jay's contributions to the community and the larger society, we will receive the WESTY (West Side Thanks You) Award this year, as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration.

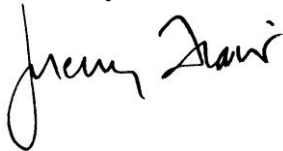
Alumni Reunion Weekend. For the first time in its history, the College will host a weekend-long Alumni Reunion, to be held April 24-25. Once again, we will host our Founding Generation Symposium, the highly successful gathering of individuals who helped create, then save, the College in the 1960s and 1970s. Events, many featuring our esteemed faculty, will be held on the campus throughout the weekend. Also included are a 5K run and of course, our highly successful Alumni Reunion Dinner with the exciting after-party featuring a DJ and great dancing. Attendees will also leave with a special edition of a book titled "50 at 50," which highlights the accomplishments of 50 alumni, 10 from each decade of the College's existence.

50th Anniversary Gala. The Educating for Justice Gala will take place in May as the grand finale of our 50th Anniversary celebration. We have just secured the participation of a very high profile honoree, whose identity will be revealed shortly. This event will raise money for scholarships for our students, and will feature the alumni who have made a difference in the world because of their John Jay education.

50th Anniversary Commencement. At the end of May, the College will hold its traditional Commencement, but this year will be different. There will be special regalia created for this particular Commencement. The College rings our graduates purchase will note that they were members of this special class. We will celebrate not just our students who are graduating but also this milestone in the history of the College where they have received their education.

This is an exciting menu of activities that will make this year memorable, engaging, and historic. Our College has a proud tradition and a very bright future. I encourage all of you to participate throughout the year. Mark these events on your calendar now. Stay tuned for future announcements. Take a selfie with Li'l Jay and post it on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram – #jjcliljay. Visit our 50th Anniversary website at <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/jjc50>. Share the excitement about the arrival of Justice Sotomayor, the unveiling of the statue of John Jay, and the installation of the Alexandre Dang Exhibit. Participate in the Acts of Justice. Learn about our history. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Travis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeremy" and last name "Travis" clearly distinguishable.

Jeremy Travis
President