



SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

CONNECTICUT

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***New York Times* Best-selling Author Luanne Rice to Speak at Saint Joseph College's 76th Commencement on May 15, 2011**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. - Saint Joseph College has announced that *New York Times* best-selling author **Luanne Rice** will speak at Commencement exercises on **Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. under the tent on the south lawn of the College's West Hartford campus** (adjacent to The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities). In addition, **Kerry Robinson**, executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, will also address the graduates and their families. Both speakers will receive honorary degrees from the College.

"We are honored to welcome these two exemplary women to our campus in celebration of the outstanding achievements of the class of 2011," said Saint Joseph College President Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D. "Luanne Rice's novels have captured the imaginations of readers worldwide and we are delighted to recognize her body of work. Kerry Robinson has tirelessly dedicated her career to promoting excellence within the Catholic Church in the United States."



Photo by Adrain Kinloch

A native of New Britain, Conn. where her father sold typewriters and her mother, a writer, artist and Saint Joseph College graduate taught English, **Luanne Rice** is the *New York Times* best-selling author who has inspired the devotion of readers with her moving novels of love and family. She has been hailed by critics for her unique gifts, which have been described as "a beautiful blend of love and humor, with a bit of magic thrown in," and "a rare combination of realism and romance."

Rice began her writing career in 1985 with her debut novel *Angels All Over Town*. Since then, she has written 28 novels, including such best-sellers as: *What Matters Most*, *The Edge of Winter*, *Sandcastles*, *Summer of Roses*, *Summer's Child*, *True Blue*, *Safe Harbor*, and *Light of the Moon*. A number of Rice's novels have been adapted for television, including: *Crazy in Love* for TNT; *Blue Moon* for CBS; *Follow the Stars Home* and *Silver Bells* for Hallmark Hall of Fame, and Lifetime's 2005 mini-series *Beach Girls*. Her latest novel, ***The Silver Boat*** will be released April 5, 2011 and her monologue "My Almost Family" is part of the upcoming play ***In Mother Words*** scheduled to open at Los Angeles' Geffen Playhouse on February 23, 2011 and New York's Primary Stages in fall of 2011.

Rice studied Art History at Connecticut College but left school when her father became ill. Before she made writing her career, she worked to support herself as a maid in Newport, R.I., a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., and a whale researcher and deckhand in Woods Hole, Mass. A passionate environmentalist, Rice has written essays on beaches, oceans, migratory birds, owls, and offshore drilling. She is also deeply committed to helping women who have been victims of domestic violence.

Rice currently divides her time between New York City and Old Lyme, Conn.



Kerry Robinson is the executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management which is dedicated to promoting excellence and best practices in the management, finances and human resource development of the Catholic Church in the United States. The Leadership Roundtable exists to strengthen the temporal affairs of the Church by harnessing the expertise and resources of Catholic senior-level executives from all sectors (financial, corporate, governmental, philanthropic, charitable, judicial, and educational) in service to the Church.

Robinson is a member of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities in Wilmington, Delaware and a member of the Board of Directors of FADICA (Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities).

She has served on numerous boards and as a trustee of the Education for Parish Service Foundation in Washington, D.C.; The Gregorian University Foundation in New York; the National Catholic AIDS network in San Francisco; and the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College – to name a few.

While working as Director of Development of Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University, Robinson led a successful multi-million dollar fundraising drive to expand and endow the Chapel's intellectual and spiritual ministry and to construct a Catholic student center on the Yale campus.

Robinson earned a Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) from Yale Divinity School in 1994 and a B.A. from Georgetown University in 1988. She and her husband, Dr. Michael Cappello, professor of Medicine and director of the World Fellows Program at Yale University, have two children, Christopher and Sophia.

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Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. Responsive to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies also offers both women and men graduate degree programs in many fields, a Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce, and other continuing education opportunities. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 78-year history, will open at Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford. View our Web site at www.sjc.edu.

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