



SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

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Summer 2010

Dear Entering Student:

Welcome to Saint Joseph College! On behalf of all the faculty, staff, and students here at SJC, I want to let you know that we are eager to get to know you and to assist you in becoming an integral member of our community. Although summer is not yet over, I know that you are already thinking about the upcoming academic year and the new experiences it will bring.

To help you prepare for both the excitement and the challenge of college-level classes, enable you to participate more fully in intellectual discussions, and to assist you in sharing an experience with your new college peers, Saint Joseph College has developed the Common Summer Reading Program. This program will require you to read and reflect on an engaging book, which will then be discussed in your First Year Seminar (FYS) class (see the FYS pages on the Saint Joseph College website [www.sjc.edu/commonreading] for further information).

This year's book is *Monique and the Mango Rains* by Kris Holloway. It is a moving story of the power of female friendship between a U.S. Peace Corps worker and a midwife in Mali (West Africa). This memoir connects in many meaningful ways with the SJC mission and provides much food for thought. On September 30, the author will visit campus, and you will have the opportunity to hear her speak and to ask her questions in person.

As you read this book, challenge yourself to rethink your ideas about how we view other people, especially those whose social, economic, religious, and cultural circumstances appear so different from our own. I hope you find this reading interesting and the assignment thought-provoking. Faculty and student mentors look forward to discussing this book with you throughout the semester in FYS and in other classes.

Welcome again to the academic life of Saint Joseph College! Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D.
President