

Fall 2018

# ST. JOHN'S JESUIT TITAN TOPICS

A Magazine for Alumni, Parents, Students, and Friends of St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy







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On the cover: Pictured are seniors volunteering at a school in Guatemala on one of four immersion trips of the year. These immersion trips are hallmarks of Jesuit high schools and universities worldwide and one of the many ways students at St. John's Jesuit are developed to be *Men for Others*.





Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of SJJ:

At St. John's Jesuit, we are blessed with outstanding students and top-notch faculty and staff who work collaboratively each day to do the will of Christ. Our students immerse themselves in excellent academic programs and classes that are available to them. They are challenged throughout the day to look at things through a different lens, to challenge those around them, and to make connections. As our students progress through the various grade levels, they realize how to work in teams, determine ways to present findings from project-based experiences, and learn *how* to think rather than *what* to think. The opportunities through our academic and extra-curricular programs are meant to drive our students to develop the knowledge base and skills to be leaders in our community and across the world. Leading the way in all we do is our Jesuit identity and commitment to being *Men for Others*.

As you have seen or will read about in an article within this publication, not only do our faculty spend their summers working to better themselves as classroom teachers, but many are also enhancing their backgrounds as educators immersed in Jesuit ideals. The opportunities for our entire staff to prepare themselves to share the Ignatian spirit occur year-round, as they do for our students. Our mission to develop *Men for Others* does not rest during the summer. This fact was evident during the summer of 2018 with the continuation of our Monday evening Labre efforts, the completion of our home renovation project in an old south-end neighborhood, mission trips to Colombia and Guatemala, as well as our work in Appalachia.

We are privileged every year to attend alumni receptions around the country. This past year, it was fascinating to speak with more than 200 alumni in these cities. Whether in Boston, Denver, Chicago, Washington D.C., New York, Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus, we constantly heard about the lifelong relationships formed during their high school years and how they have a continued focus on being *Men for Others*.

We hope that you enjoy reading this edition of *Titan Topics*. Thank you for all you do in your own way to continue to support SJJ. You are in our prayers, and please continue to keep us in your prayers as well.

Blessings,

Mike Savona '75, President

# SJJ SERVICE TRIPS CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

For a quarter of a century, St. John's Jesuit has offered a foreign service trip to students who want to experience the life-changing opportunity to help others in need. The first trip involved two SJJ students who served with a medical mission team from St. Luke's Hospital in the community of Barahona, Dominican Republic. Service in the Dominican Republic continued over the next five summers, when the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus invited four students from each of the Detroit Province schools to join them in a yearly six-week, truly immersive experience of service to the Community of Cutupu, La Vega.

***“The experience reshaped my perspective of what it means to be a citizen of the world.”***

Andrew Pawuk '96 served on one of the Dominican Republic trips. He said, “During my time in the DR, I remember telling Phil Skeldon (SJJ's current Administrator of Pastoral Ministries and Outreach) how such an experience could impact *all* students at SJJ, and I believed that the opportunity should go beyond the four selected students. The experience reshaped my perspective of what it means to be a citizen of the world. I questioned my very own existence and how my life would have been strikingly different if I were born in a developing country and living in a simply-built home with no running water, sporadic electricity, and no glass windows. From that moment, I was even more determined to fulfill a greater purpose to use my talents and gifts to benefit others.” After graduating from Miami University, Pawuk committed to two years of service with Jesuit Volunteers in Tacna, Peru, teaching English and a basketball program in a marginalized community.







Right around the same time, Fr. Donald Vettese, SJ, former President of SJJ, instituted a service trip to Guatemala. Students worked at a Jesuit orphanage called “Esperanza Juvenil,” or “Boys’ Hope,” and stayed with local families. Chris Lindsay ’95 was on that trip. He wanted to go to Guatemala, he said, because, “I had always enjoyed travel, and thought that it would be a great opportunity to see a new part of the world. I actively volunteered throughout the school year and had a number of jobs doing manual labor and construction work. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to share my skills.”

His time in Guatemala, Lindsay said, was “life altering.”

“I had spent my whole life to that point in a relatively comfortable environment and had never seen the various ways that people in other parts of the world live. The houses all had eight- to ten-foot walls built around them. The walls also extended around the courtyard, and the tops of all of them were covered with glass shards and barbed wire for protection. The family that I stayed with was incredibly gracious. They treated me like a king, despite having modest possessions.”

One day, while driving through the community, Lindsay and his fellow SJJ students took a wrong

turn and encountered the famous Guatemala City garbage dump, where thousands of people sift through trash daily to try to find items to sell to help them survive another day.

***“It was my first opportunity to put my passion for justice into action.”***

After seeing the dump, the students challenged Fr. Vettese: what are we going to do about this situation?

When the students returned to school, they were motivated to increase awareness of the situation in Guatemala. “Fr. Vettese had a huge part in that. We quickly took to the idea and used it as motivation for presentations that we gave around town (to gather support for the dump workers),” Lindsay said.

From that time on, SJJ students worked at both the orphanage and the dump, where they assisted



at the Santa Clara nursery and The Francisco Coll School for the children of the dump workers. A few years later, Fr. Vettese found donors to help in new ways: they funded “micro loans” to workers to enhance skills—such as sewing—to help them work in a different industry, they helped to finance the nursery, and they assisted in building small homes near the dump, which were named Colonia de San Juan (Colony of St. John) in honor of SJJ.

Over the years, as Fr. Vettese led these trips, more and more students experienced the profound mission of serving in Guatemala. Fr. Vettese also encouraged many adults in the SJJ community to lead the trips to Guatemala, including Skeldon.

Adam Dane '02, an English teacher at SJJ, traveled to Guatemala as a student.

“My experience with Phil Skeldon in Guatemala can be encompassed in one word: transformative. It was my first jaunt out of the country, so of course I was completely awestruck by exposure to a different culture. Furthermore, it was my first opportunity to put my passion for justice into action, and this aspect ignited a fire for helping my fellow man that still burns today. I remember building a cinderblock house for a family who lived in a shack that was barely more than a one-room hut made of random pieces of scrap metal and wood. I bonded very quickly with the children in the family; it was the first time in my life that I had formed such a profound relationship with someone so quickly, and it made me keenly aware that

ethnicity, language, and socioeconomic status are insignificant factors when forming genuine human relationships.”

***“Being a Man for Others involves helping those who need it, whether they’re down the street or across the globe.”***

In July 2018, Misael Beltran-Guzman '18 was part of the Guatemala service team. He noted, “The experience is impossible to describe in words. When you go to people in need and help them without knowing their name, story, or language, you develop a relationship based solely on generosity and love for the other. You become a superstar to the community in which you serve, and see the harsh reality of the world that can’t be fully comprehended through pictures or news articles.”

Beltran-Guzman added, “Being a *Man for Others* involves helping those who need it, whether they’re down the street or across the globe. Additionally, helping others gain the foundation to provide for themselves is a thousand times better than doing something that will only help them now or temporarily. Going on a trip like this is more than



***“The most impactful moments of the trip are not the change you gift to the community, but how the people you meet change you.”***

providing some physical task or feat. As volunteers, you become role models to the young people in the community. You reveal to community members a perspective of the world they would never know otherwise. Surprisingly, the most impactful moments of the trip are not the change you gift to the community, but how the people you meet change you.”

Because of his many experiences on service trips, Fr. Vettese founded Central American Ministries, now known as International Samaritan, a non-profit organization based in Ann Arbor, Mich., whose mission is to “change the lives of people in garbage dump communities worldwide [and] guide them from the horrors of despair to a life of dignity.”

Pawuk has worked with International Samaritan as vice president of operations since 2007. “The organization was founded in 1995 after four SJJ students were very concerned for the health, safety, well-being, and education of children whom they witnessed scavenging for food in the Guatemala City garbage dump next to black vultures, wild dogs, and pigs; the students knew they had to do something. It has grown into an organization serving more than 20,000 people living in garbage dump communities in Central America, South America, and Africa.”

Lindsay, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania who works in finance in New York City, is on the Board of Directors of International Samaritan. “The number of people we have been able to help continues to grow. (From my initial trip,) I have a much better vision in terms of the suffering of others and ways that I can personally help to make the world a better place in small ways. Seeing such conditions gives you a bit of perspective, and it helps to understand that my view of the world is not necessarily consistent with that of others.”

Dane has gone on to take SJJ students on service trips himself since 2014 through Courts for Kids, a non-profit organization that helps build multi-purpose concrete courts for communities in countries such as El Salvador, Panama, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Paraguay.

Beltran-Guzman, too, has felt the pull to continue to help others in marginalized situations. He volunteered for a week at International Samaritan and chaperoned a second service trip. “I can say with surety that these experiences are life-changing. They can open doors to new ideas or opportunities.”

The foundation of being a *Man for Others*, so strongly nourished at St. John’s Jesuit, has clearly helped form these graduates—and so many others—into the service-minded adults they are today. Without the opportunities for service trips, many might not have experienced the profound impact of seeing humans in need and learned that they were capable of making an impact on others.

***“I have a better vision in terms of the suffering of others and small ways that I can personally help to make the world a better place.”***

### **More About Immersion Trips at SJJ**

Immersion trips to serve marginalized populations around the world are a long-standing tradition of Jesuit education.

This opportunity is offered to students the summer between their junior and senior years at St. John’s Jesuit. The students are asked to fundraise to cover the cost of their travel expenses.



# A NEW LEADER IN COLLEGE COUNSELING

## Keri Struckholz, Director of College Counseling

Jesuit schools worldwide strive for *Cura Personalis*, Latin for “Care of the Individual.” College counseling plays a big part of *Cura Personalis* at St. John’s Jesuit. The work of our college counselor helps students achieve their greatest potential. This year, Keri Struckholz has stepped into the role of Director of College Counseling. She spent the 2017-2018 school year working closely with Dr. Margie Warrick, who retired in May.

Most recently, Struckholz served as assistant principal at St. Rose School in Perrysburg for three years. She has spent her career working in primary and secondary education. She brings skills in strategic planning and admissions to her new role as she helps guide students toward colleges and universities that match their talents and interests.

“It was a privilege to work closely with Dr. Warrick during the 2017-2018 school year. I am excited to use the tools she afforded me, while incorporating the knowledge of current college culture and trends, which I learned at the Harvard Institute of College Admissions. My goal is to work with every student and his family to ensure his individual prospective college list is robust and reflective of his academic, social, and cultural desires. My job is to keep the process exciting and to assist with the details of the



application and scholarship process, so the pressures are limited and the joys are remembered.”

Struckholz is a graduate of Sylvania Southview and the University of Toledo. She is married and the mother of two children, ages eight and two. Her older son attends St. Joseph Sylvania, where she is a parishioner.

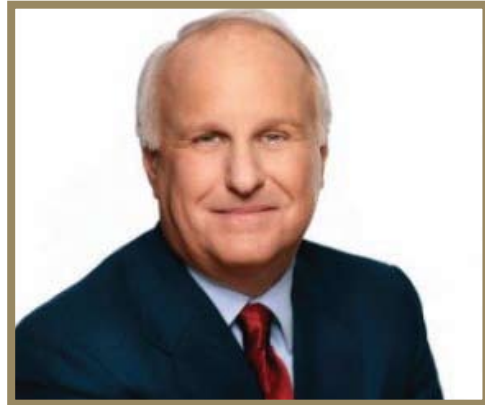


# HALL OF FAME 2018 INDUCTEES



**John Brennan**

Retired firefighter, co-founder of Team Sports,  
former Assistant Athletic Director  
at St. John's Jesuit



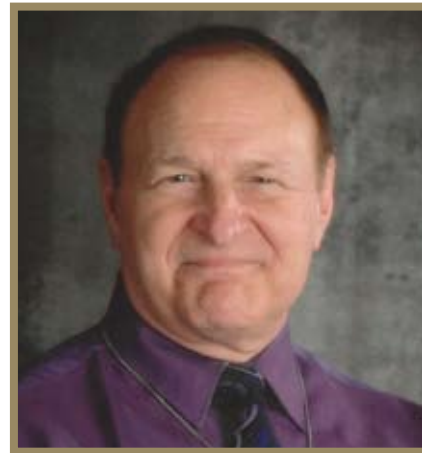
**Marc Lautenbach '79**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
of Pitney Bowes



**Jason Dzierwa '92**

Owner of Le Petit Gourmet, generous to  
St. John's Jesuit as a frequent sponsor and donor



**Ron Miller**

Member of the St. John's Jesuit  
faculty and staff for more than 50 years



**Dr. Abraham Jacob '86**

Chief Medical Officer at the  
University of Minnesota  
Masonic Children's Hospital



**Fr. Thomas Pipp, SJ**

Former Superior of the Jesuit community,  
Vice-president for Jesuit Identity, Director of  
Campus Ministry, and President at St. John's Jesuit





**James Schaefer '75**  
Shareholder and attorney at  
LaValley, LaValley, Todak, and Schaefer



**Edward Ziemke '96**  
Three-sport letter winner at St. John's Jesuit  
in football, basketball, and baseball



**Col. Mark Swentkofske '84**  
Member of the U.S. Air Force who served  
several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan,  
worked in the White House in drug enforcement,  
and was the Military Attaché in China



**1968-'69 Cross Country Team**  
The first city championship team in any sport  
for St. John's; won city, district, and regional  
championships and placed 11th in the state meet

## BASKETBALL FANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LEGACY CAMPAIGN

In honor of famed and current Titan basketball coach Ed Heintschel, the St. John's Jesuit community has come together to create the Ed Heintschel Legacy campaign fund.

To date, contributions have totaled more than \$362,000. These funds have allowed the athletic department to make many improvements to the Titan Dome and Ed Heintschel Court, including refurbishing and

painting the gym floor, purchasing a gym floor covering, displaying league banners, installing a scoreboard pulley system, installing a door for the locker room, and adding WiFi in the gym.

The next phase of the program will focus on the Locker Legacy, where alumni, family members, and fans can sponsor a locker in the Titan basketball locker room in honor of a former student-athlete or family member.

# A VISIT WITH CHRIS KNIGHT

St. John's Jesuit's Chief Operating Officer, Chris Knight '78, rejoined the SJJ family in spring 2018 after an eight-year absence, during which he worked for the Diocese of Toledo and the Diocese of Cleveland. *Titan Topics* sat down with Knight to hear what he had to say about his first six months in his new role.



**Q:** Now that you have been back for six months, what areas have you identified for your short-term focus?

**A:** We have had many leadership changes in a short time, so one issue expressed is the need for stability. I can certainly understand that. Of course, stability takes time, but it is definitely a short-term focus. At the same time, though, we need to move forward. It's kind of a balance.

I'm trying not to come in and be the guy who has all these brilliant ideas; instead, I'm trying to bring a sense of security and comfort to those who are here. It is important to engage our faculty and staff in conversations about how we move forward. I think that could be very exciting.

So, one of the first things I tried to do when I came back was to make myself available to our faculty and staff—to really listen to what they had to say. We have had helpful conversations from which

forward-thinking ideas have come. I am also starting to call parents to introduce myself and open a dialogue with them, as well.

Probably the most important thing I learned from my time at the Diocese of Toledo was the need to build relationships. We always talk here about *Cura Personalis*, Care of the Individual. Education is really moving toward a personalized learning path, but you can only develop that path if you know the student well. That's a key to the success of the Academy. The teachers have a group of students they meet with every day, and they get to know them so well. The teachers are constantly collaborating and communicating about the students.

**Q:** What are some of the strategic long-term projects you are working on?

**A:** We want to reestablish ourselves as the "innovative educators." For a long time, people would look to see what St. John's was doing. We set the pace. The Academy is a great example of that. In 2004, when we began the Academy, it was controversial; we were under a lot of scrutiny. Fast forward 14 years, and four other high schools now have an Academy.

Last year was kind of a time to regroup after the leadership changes. Mike Savona and I have been talking to people about various ideas, and we have some great initiatives to roll out next year, which we will announce fairly soon.

In general, we are looking at everything we do. I have fresh eyes to look at things, and I have the perspective of someone who has been at a lot of schools over the last eight years. At the same time, I have my roots at St. John's. So, it's a nice combination. We are looking at everything and asking if there's a better way to do it. We've frequently been saying, "If we keep doing what we are doing, things remain status quo." Part of what the Jesuits have always done is look ahead. Five hundred years after the Jesuits were founded, we are still here. So we look ahead with excitement, but maintain our principles in everything we do.



We are strengthening our Jesuit culture in the classroom. We know it can take root and spread outside of our school. We all have the same job: to help young men in a diverse, Christ-centered environment achieve their greatest potential and be *Men for Others*. We all unite behind that mission so that great things can happen.



**Q:** *What impresses you about SJJ students?*

**A:** I continue to be impressed at how students step forward to serve and volunteer in our many activities. They continue to do good and to help others. They're really getting our mission; they're buying into it.

Two or three days a week, I try to greet students in the morning. Every single guy responds when I say, "Good morning! How are you?" They look me in the eye. They thank me for talking to them. That's part of creating our culture of caring.

I'm amazed, too, at how many of our students continue to go on foreign mission trips over the summer and continue to do service all year long. I am impressed at their generosity and the way they give of their time and of themselves. One example of their service is the Labre ministry, which is so powerful. It sends a strong message to the students about commitment. The need for food and conversation is always there; it doesn't stop if it's snowing or it's Christmas Eve or the Fourth of July. We don't just serve when it's convenient.

**Q:** *How can parents and other members of the SJJ community help you meet your mission?*

**A:** I hope to develop partnerships with organizations and individuals. We will see more collaboration with community resources, and we have some great opportunities for our students to partner with them.

Toledo Grows is a great example of a community partner. We have a greenhouse here, so we would like to possibly grow food that we would deliver to Toledo Grows for distribution to those in need.

We have a history at St. John's of going out to engage with people—our guys are responsible and handle themselves well in those situations.



**Q:** *How does it feel to be home again?*

**A:** It's great to see some of the faculty who were here when I left in 2010, and even some who were here when I graduated in 1978! It's also great to have some younger faculty. So many of them have told me how much they enjoy being here and how they have bought into our mission and developed a love for the school in such a short time. It's exciting to see that we have engendered those kinds of relationships with young teachers. They have come from a lot of different pathways and have brought a lot to this school. That's definitely a strength for us.

I am very hopeful and excited about the future of St. John's. I think we are a great gift in our community, one that has always been embraced. Together, with the team we have here and in partnership with our parents and students, I know there are some tremendous goals we can accomplish. I'm so excited to be back and be a part of that.

# THE HOUSE THAT LABRE BUILT



Several months ago, while delivering meals during a weekly stop in central city Toledo, the SJJ Labre team saw the living conditions of a family of 11, one of whom is disabled. The students brought back an idea to the SJJ Christian Service leaders—they wanted to begin fundraising at school to help restore the house. Unfortunately, after an inspection, the team found the house could not be repaired.





## That's when SJJ alums stepped in.

Bob Welly '69 and the Historic South Initiative found a home in the same neighborhood that could be rehabbed. With funds from SJJ and University of Toledo (UT) Community Cares, founded by Dr. Richard Paat '78, Welly and his team negotiated the home purchase and began restoration. Paat's UT Community Cares team provides medical assistance to the people whom SJJ serves at stops during each Labre trip.

The restoration team, led by Matt DeWood '95 of Home Pro Northwest Ohio, replaced the roof, windows, and porch; rebuilt the foundation; brought the gas, water, electric, and plumbing up to code; installed new appliances; painted the interior and exterior; and added a deck for a wheelchair lift. Donations of goods and services from many companies helped defray the cost. The project took more than 18 months to complete.

After living in temporary housing for more than a year, the family moved into the home—that they now own—in September. The house was dedicated and celebrated by all community partners on September 28.



SJJ Student Fund Drive:	\$15,000
UT Community Cares (Dr. Richard Paat '78):	\$15,000
Historic South Initiative:	\$15,000
Matching Grant:	\$45,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>



*Dr. Richard Paat '78, Bob Welly '69, and med student Ahmed Daboul '12—three proud SJJ alums who have provided care to Toledo's south end residents.*

# CLASS OF 2018 PROFILE

**163**  
graduates

**96**  
percent enrolled  
in four-year colleges  
or universities

**795**  
College applications sent

**\$17.6**  
million earned  
in college scholarships

**84**  
percent received  
college  
scholarships

**25.1**  
composite ACT  
(national average: 20.9;  
state average: 19.4)

**1180**  
mean total SAT  
(national average: 1060;  
state average: 1149)

Grads were accepted  
at the following  
prestigious  
institutions, along  
with many others:

CASE WESTERN  
RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

THE CITADEL

GEORGETOWN  
UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY

SAVANNAH  
SCHOOL OF ART  
AND DESIGN

UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA AT  
LOS ANGELES

UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY  
OF TOLEDO



# DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS PROGRAM INTRODUCES CAPSTONE PROJECT

In the fall of 2016, when the Class of 2020 arrived at St. John's Jesuit as freshmen, approximately 30 students—selected because of their outstanding performance on the High School Placement Test—entered the new Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP). Led by English department faculty member Adam Dane '02, the DSP supports the Ignatian tenet of *Cura Personalis*, Care of the Individual, as these outstanding students would experience rigorous academic programming and extracurricular enrichment opportunities as part of their education at SJJ.

Now, as these DSP students begin their junior year—and after working in the classroom and experiencing enrichment activities together for two years—they are laying the foundation for their culminating experience as seniors: the DSP Capstone.

The Capstone will complete more than a year's worth of research and experiential learning. According to Dane, "it will simulate a university-level academic environment and will cultivate each scholar's curiosity and intelligence by integrating research, presentation, and composition skills into a holistic experience." The Capstone will require several components:

- **Thesis**—a 15-20-page paper based on meaningful research
- **Experience**—an extensive period of study on a chosen topic, plus several weeks working with professionals in that field
- **Defense**—a time for the scholar to answer questions about his research and experience before a panel of SJJ community members
- **Presentation**—a 10-minute explanation of his project to SJJ community members and other DSP students

Peter Cooper '20 has already determined the type of project he will pursue for his Capstone. "I wanted to build a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) in eighth grade—I had seen an article in *Popular Science* about ROVs that were available to the general public, but was turned off by the high price, until I realized that I didn't have to buy one. My dad and I built our own heavily-modified ROV based off of an existing design. For my Capstone project, I plan to design, build and use an ROV specifically for the Great Lakes watershed. People have always had a special connection to the water, and we live in a time where it's possible to explore the bottoms of our rivers and lakes, which is amazing and something to make the most of. Fulfilling my Capstone could make that a reality for this area."

As juniors, the DSP cohort will take a Scholars Seminar, which will teach them ways to research, as well as methods to communicate their research clearly through writing and presentations. In the spring of 2019, they will begin the prestigious full-year Capstone Program; they will present their findings in January 2020.



# SJJ SCIENTISTS MAKE GLOBAL IMPACT

The St. John's Jesuit science department has always had a creative and hands-on approach to working with students. Now, it has added another way for young scientists to contribute to real-world experiments and work with members of the scientific community around the world.

The GLOBE Program is, according to its mission, a "worldwide, hands-on, primary- and secondary-school-based science and education program focusing on the environment, and is now active in 112 countries." It emphasizes not only learning about science, but also enhancing environmental literacy and stewardship, and promoting scientific discovery.

Headed by science teacher Scott Zura, the GLOBE Program at SJJ will entail students collecting data from the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, or pedosphere (soil). Data will be collected from SJJ's own backyard and will include temperature and cloud formations taken at a specific time every day school is in session. Students in the program will then upload data to a database; other young scientists from around the world will be doing the same. The students can also email scientists—local professors at the University of Toledo (UT) or national professionals at institutions such as NASA, for example—to ask questions or suggest ideas.



Zura spent 60 hours in training at UT to learn the details of GLOBE. He is looking forward to seeing SJJ students become "citizens of science" as they participate in data collection and analysis this year.

"Kids of all ages around the world are working with GLOBE," he said. "They are learning how to accurately collect and analyze meaningful data. When they wrap up the program at the end of the year, they will have to present their findings. They will create posters and give an oral presentation about the project. These presentation skills are just as important as the scientific skills."

John Henry Diehl '20 is part of the GLOBE Program. He said, "Being an actual scientist in the program means that I need to be able to solve complex problems with a number of different skills that I have developed from experience. It helps me to think outside the box and experiment with different concepts to find out what works and what doesn't. It

will definitely feed directly into my future career, as I will be pursuing a degree in commercial aviation and possibly aeronautical engineering. It is a great way for me to build my skills."

As Diehl and his fellow GLOBE participants work as scientists this year, they become even more prepared for college and for the world beyond—wherever their scientific interests take them.

*Students in grades 9-12 may participate in the GLOBE extracurricular program. See Mr. Zura to check it out!*





# WELCOME FR. BRIAN LEHANE, SJ, AND FR. BERNIE OWENS, SJ



**Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ**

The St. John's Jesuit community is very happy to welcome back Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ, as rector and 6th and 7th grade Theology teacher.

Fr. Lehane grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from St. Ignatius High School. He attended Cleveland State University and Loyola University-New Orleans. He attended seminary at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., now part of Santa Clara University. After his ordination, Fr. Lehane spent additional years studying Catholic moral theology.

Fr. Lehane has an extensive teaching background. He taught for three years at Walsh Jesuit High School, for two years at St. John's (1997- '99), and for 12 years at University of Detroit Jesuit High School & Academy. In addition, he served for five years as the assistant Novice Director of SJJ's Jesuit province.

Since returning to the SJJ community in July, Fr. Lehane has been very busy! "I enjoy the Academy very much, especially its mentor program. The



**Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ**

students compete in games during 8th period, which I haven't played in a number of years! I hope to contribute a Jesuit presence to our school this year and share the blessings of Jesuit spirituality. I especially appreciate our school's friendliness and commitment to its Jesuit identity, which is very obvious when you walk these halls."

Another addition to the SJJ family came in July with the arrival of Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ. Fr. Owens was ordained in 1972. Although not working directly with SJJ students, he is currently writing a book while living at the Jesuit residence with Fr. Lehane. This book, his second, is titled, *Realizing your Deepest Desires: Experiencing God as Never Before*. Prior to this assignment, Fr. Owens served as Assistant Pastor at Gesu in Detroit, taught religious studies for 13 years at the University of Detroit Mercy, led a ministry training program for lay people at Manresa Retreat Center, and served for five years at a Jesuit mission in Nairobi, Kenya. Fr. Owens is looking forward to getting to know Toledo and the Titan community!

# ANNUAL IGNATIAN TEACH-IN IMPACTS DIVERSITY AT SJJ

Every year, St. John's Jesuit sends students to Washington, D.C., to participate in the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the United States. The "Ignatian Family Teach-In" is an annual conference of Jesuit schools from the U.S. and Canada. Every November, students ranging in age from 16 to 22 gather to prove that young people who are passionate about justice and peace in the world can indeed make a difference. It is a time to network, share ideas, and set hearts on fire. Central to the gathering is the Jesuit approach to developing a faith that acts.

In 2016, SJJ students participated in sessions about immigration reform, which was the theme for the conference. Moved and inspired by what they learned, they came back ready to reflect and advocate on behalf of the populations discussed. Phil Skeldon, Administrator of Pastoral Ministries and Outreach, said, "When the students returned from the Teach-In that year, they challenged themselves to live out the Gospel message of welcoming refugees and immigrants. They contacted Eugenio Mollo, an immigration attorney with ABLE, who suggested that they connect with the Syrian refugee population in Toledo."

What resulted was a plan, crafted by students with the help of faculty advisors, to make Catholic education more accessible. SJJ implemented the Kolvenbach Scholarship as part of the international World as One program. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, was the former Father General of The Society of Jesus who lived in Lebanon and had a unique compassion for refugees and immigrants. Faculty advisors contacted Water for Ishmael, a non-profit organization whose mission is to work closely with Toledo-area internationals, to assist them in adjusting successfully. Water for Ishmael has been instrumental in identifying immigrant refugee families with sons who would fit in well at SJJ.

In 2017, the SJJ Academy welcomed a 6th grader, Amro, as the first recipient of the Kolvenbach Scholarship. Amro's transition went very smoothly—students were welcoming, and teachers were accommodating in so many

ways. To assist with the language barrier, Amro was able to take English as a Second Language (ESL), a class already in place for international students. World as One Director Mallory Cabrera said, "Amro has exceeded expectations. Not only has he proven himself capable of the academic rigor, but he has also been a positive presence inside and outside of the classroom."

The response from the Syrian refugee community has been so positive that another 7th grader, Osama, has been sponsored through the Kolvenbach Scholarship. According to Osama's parents, "The teachers are helpful, and we want to thank them for how they teach our son." They also said Osama is happy for the opportunity to join the robotics class.

Creating the Kolvenbach Scholarship has accomplished much since students returned from the 2016 Ignatian Teach-In. More than anything, it has proven to students that they can make a difference. In fact, they *are* the difference.



*Osama and Amro are the first students to be sponsored by the Kolvenbach Scholarship.*



# MAKERS' SPACE BRINGS CREATIVITY TO THE ACADEMY

The Academy Makers' Space is a lab in which students are able to learn, collaborate, work in teams, and create objects or projects using software and tools geared toward a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

The Makers' Space can be used for working on Lego Robotics, building R/C airplanes, coding with drones and Sphero Sprk+ robots, and using 3-D printers to create and print models. Academy leaders already plan to bring additional technologies to the Makers' Space.

New to the lab are zSpace VR/AR computer stations. Students will be able to learn more about many content areas while also being able to view and manipulate models in virtual/augmented reality. The zSpace stations make learning come to life.



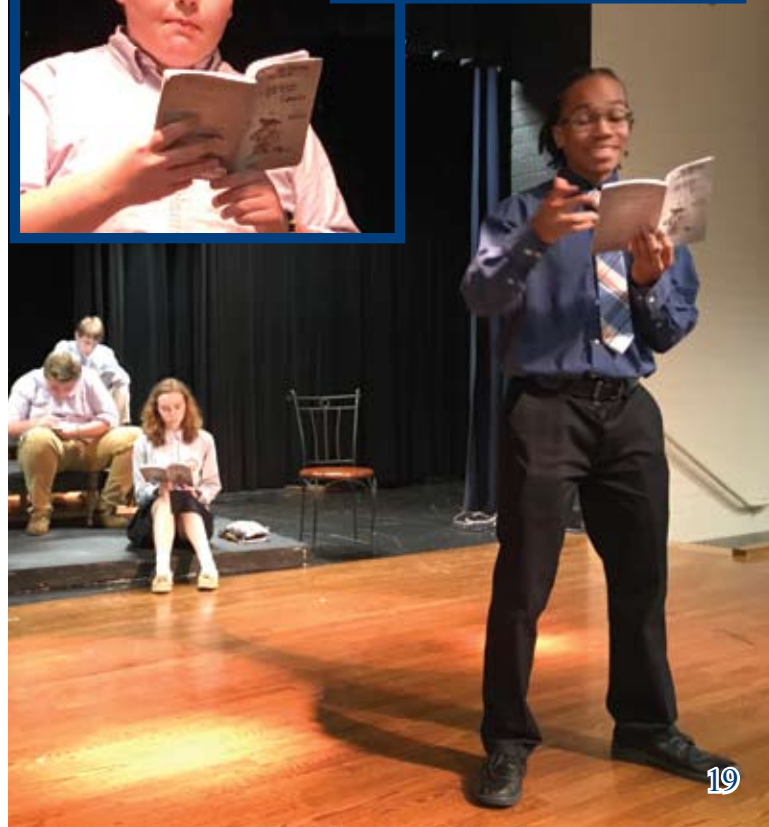
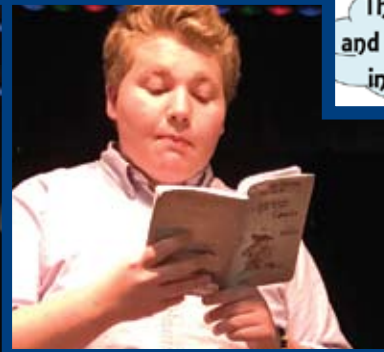
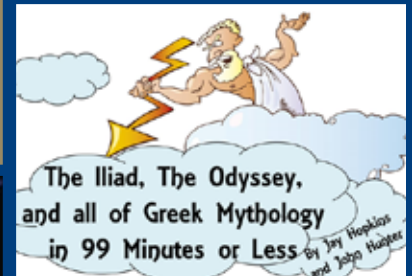
*Pictured are students demonstrating zSpace technology to parents during 8th grade visitation days.*

## FALL PLAY DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

St. John's Jesuit High School's theater production club, The Champion Hall Players, performed "The Iliad, the Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less" on November 2, 3, and 4 by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

This light-hearted performance portrayed the Greek classics in a whole new way! The Greek gods appeared on "The Love Connection" and pulled out all the stops in hopes of becoming the next *Greek Idol*. These and other hilarious moments all happened in the SJJ McQuade Theater. An added dimension was that all the silly decisions, the absurd destinies, and the goofy characters were presented to the audience in a lightning-bolt fast manner with hysterical results as the clock counted down from 99 minutes!

Many talented students brought the production to life. Each member of the cast portrayed anywhere from nine to 19 roles! Beginning in late August, students dedicated themselves to long hours of rehearsal and memorization. Under the direction of Barb Trimble and Frank Carnicom '95, the students worked hard to create a lively experience for all to enjoy.



# FACULTY MEMBERS TAKE SUMMER TO RECHARGE AND REIGNITE

The strength of St. John's Jesuit lies with the devoted faculty and staff—dedicated individuals who teach and help form students every school day. Jesuit educators are not just teachers; continuously trained, shaped, and molded as advocates of the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, they are immersed in the mission of developing *Men for Others*. Teaching at a Jesuit school is more than a job; it's a ministry.

During the summer break, SJJ faculty and staff spent time growing steadily in their identities as Ignatian educators and in their passion for their profession.



**Francis Carnicom '95, English Department Chair; Adam Dane '02, Distinguished Scholars Program/English Department; and Brendan Malone '01, Social Studies Department**

Frank Carnicom, Adam Dane, and Brendan Malone attended the AP Annual Conference. Carnicom said, "The AP conference is unlike going to any other smaller, state conference for the College Board. It is a one-of-a-kind experience because, instead of receiving instructional tips from a third party, I learned what the person in charge of all the readers for my test instructs the readers to grade. This is the most prime advice a teacher of an AP class can gain because it is like hearing it 'from the horse's mouth.' All three faculty members were able to network with the top AP teachers in their subject areas and learn best practices. Most importantly, being surrounded by members of the Chief College Board Conference allowed us to acquire a deeper knowledge of the most prominent college preparatory program in the country."



**Phil Skeldon, Administrator, Pastoral Ministries and Outreach; Mallory Cabrera, Director, World as One Program; Claudio Cabrera, World Language Department**

Phil Skeldon, along with Mallory and Claudio Cabrera, accompanied 16 SJJ students to Colombia to build a cement multi-purpose court for the village of Tierra Firme, located south of Cartagena. While working with Courts for Kids since 2012, SJJ faculty members have guided students through the process of an international mission trip and built seven courts in six countries. Skeldon said, "Connecting our students in service to those living in developing-world poverty is always life-changing and continues to rejuvenate my spiritual and social commitment to those in need."

Mallory and Claudio Cabrera also chaperoned SJJ students on a trip to Guatemala to tutor young students and get much-needed work accomplished on the grounds of a school near the Guatemala City dump. Claudio Cabrera said, "We tutored at an all-boys school for the first time. Our SJJ boys spent time teaching English and playing with the students there. In fact, we were the first group of volunteers to ever visit. The children were so excited to interact with our students. It was a special experience."







### **Dana Romaker, Mathematics Department**

Dana Romaker spent two weeks in Ecuador working with small family cocoa farmers. Not only a faculty member at SJJ, she owns a chocolate company known as Mindo Chocolate Makers; in this capacity, she received a grant to help propagate national cocoa beans instead of hybrids. Romaker said, "I made this trip to help small farmers sustain their farms and create better lives for themselves. I am able to bring stories of my experience into the classroom to relate my content to business and social justice." After the trip to Ecuador, Romaker attended a faculty summer retreat, reflecting on experiences of the past school year and on ways to become a better SJJ teacher. After the faculty retreat, she was off to Maine to partake in the AP Summer Institute, gaining a more in-depth knowledge of preparing students to take the AP test. Wearing her coaching hat, Romaker attended three hockey coaching symposiums to become a more informed hockey coach for the SJJ JV team.



### **Kyle Zwyer, Mathematics Department Chair; Kari Black, Mathematics Department**

Kyle Zwyer and Kari Black attended a four-day workshop on using the TI-84 graphing calculator for success on the ACT. The conference, hosted by Texas Instruments,

was held in Youngstown, Ohio. These faculty members will be able to better assist students by teaching the most current test-taking skills and strategies with the TI-84 graphing calculators. Zwyer said, "Our goal is to help students be more prepared for the ACT."



### **Luke Rosen, Director of Choral and Liturgical Music; Jake Hall, Mathematics Department**

Luke Rosen and Jake Hall traveled to Spain and Rome on an Ignatian Pilgrimage. This trip was Hall's first international travel (and only his second trip on an airplane). Both teachers described the experience as transformative and life-changing. Their trip centered around visiting where Ignatius of Loyola grew up—his birthplace, the house he lived in, and the church in which he was baptized. Hall noted, "I was struck by how life is somewhat unchanged in terms of the cities and structures." The trip provided invaluable networking opportunities with other teachers from Jesuit high schools across the country. Without a doubt, Rosen's highlight was leading the music during a Mass in a crypt in Barcelona.

Rosen also participated in the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention in Baltimore. Thousands of liturgical musicians gather each year to learn more about their craft, and Rosen had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops. As Chair of the Music Education Interest Section for the Association, Rosen is spearheading an initiative to get Catholic school music teachers more involved in liturgical formation. He said, "I had the honor of performing with ValLimar Jansen and other composers from Oregon Catholic Press."





### **Julie Zaborowski, RN, School Nurse**

Julie Zaborowski participated in a mission trip with Youth Works for seven days in Lincoln County, W.Va., and chaperoned 10 youth from Church of the Cross. "We painted the high school interior hallways, helped make 36 cases of apple butter, cleaned up the community, read books to kids in a literacy program, and volunteered in a nursing home. We were Jesus' hands and feet for the week."

### **Dr. Dustin Winkler, Head Strength Coach, Health/PE**

Dustin Winkler traveled to St. Ignatius College Preparatory in Chicago for the Veteran Teachers Ignatian Retreat. The philosophy of the retreat is to reinvigorate veteran educators (those with more than 10 years of teaching experience) with a renewed passion for Jesuit Schools. Winkler said, "The trip truly did invigorate me and gave me time to reflect on the bigger mission at SJJ." Winkler enjoyed getting to know teachers from other Jesuit schools and intends to stay in touch with them. "It was comforting to talk to teachers from all over the country who taught in different cities with different demographics, but still had all the same connections to the Jesuit traditions."

### **Kristen Wright, Science Department**

Kristen Wright attended a four-day Pre-AP Chemistry workshop at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. "I attended this workshop to modify the curriculum of my Honors Chemistry classes with the goal to better prepare students who may choose to take AP Chemistry," Wright said.



### **Zach Dehm '09, Theology Department**

Zach Dehm accompanied a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic with an organization called Solid Rock International. Dehm said, "My goal was to provide a clear, but broad, profile of Roman Catholicism in that region of the DR. The trip helped me as a theology teacher at SJJ by broadening my knowledge of the Church outside the U.S." Dehm also attended an Ignatian Educator Workshop and met with other recent hires at Jesuit high schools in the region to learn what it means to educate in the Ignatian tradition through prayer, curriculum development, and networking. In July, Dehm attended the final of four colloquia as a 2017-2018 Adam Smith Doctoral Fellow.

### **Gabriel Jakubisin, Theology Department**

Gabriel Jakubisin is earning an M.A. in Educational Leadership as a member of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, a division of the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame. This 25-month program involves 10 weeks on campus over three summers and online course work during the school year. Upon graduation, Jakubisin will attain a Principal's License in addition to the MA degree. He said, "I'm incredibly excited about the potential this program gives me to better serve SJJ. It has already changed me in a number of concrete ways as a classroom teacher, but the administrative focus of the degree really opens me up to serve SJJ in new and exciting ways in the future. Through the internship dimension of the program, I am already working closely with SJJ's Chief Operating Officer Chris Knight on a number of projects this year."





# ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

*Thank you for furthering our mission!*

7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018 italics - 5+ consecutive years of giving \* deceased



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# IGGY, THE ACADEMY DOG!



The Academy Staff has a unique addition this year! The newest Academy Titan is Iggy (named for St. Ignatius of Loyola). Cared for by Academy teacher Matt Johnson and his family, Iggy is a golden Labradoodle therapy dog who arrived in August. He brings a joyful, playful presence, and smiles to students' faces, and he lifts even the most downtrodden spirits!

Iggy has appeared in SJJ social media posts, cheered on the sidelines of varsity football games, run bases during eighth period whiffle ball, attentively listened to Theology presentations (well, sort of), and quickly learned to find his way to the high school's main office, where he has made many friends!

Students have been enthusiastic! Especially fond of Iggy is seventh grader Kobe Moreland, who said, "Iggy means a lot to me. Iggy is cute, fluffy, happy, and golden! Iggy belongs in the school because he makes everyone smile, and if you are having a bad day, Iggy is there for you. I'm motivated to do what I need to do every day so I can spend extra free time with Iggy."



# NEW ADDITIONS TO SJJ COACHING

*The Athletic Department is pleased to welcome new coaches to St. John's Jesuit. Committed to the mission of developing Christian leaders in the context of athletic competition, each new coach brings breadth and depth to the SJJ coaching staff.*



## **Varsity Head Football Coach Larry McDaniel**

is in his second season at St. John's Jesuit High School. In his first year at the helm, Coach McDaniel led the Titans to the OHSAA Div. II playoffs and a regular season record of 6-4.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., he brings 20 years of collegiate coaching experience to SJJ. Prior to SJJ, he served as an Assistant Coach with the University of Toledo in 2016.

A four-year starter at nose guard and 1993 graduate of Indiana University, McDaniel began his coaching career with his alma mater. He then spent one season as the tight ends coach at Southwest Missouri State University in 1998 before becoming the defensive line and defensive tackles coach at Ball State University from 1999-2002.

Over the course of the next eight seasons (2003-2010), McDaniel coached the defensive line, outside linebackers, and defensive tackles at Kent State University.

In 2013, Coach McDaniel became the defensive line coach at Bowling Green State University. During

the 2012 and 2013 seasons, three of his defensive linemen were drafted or signed as undrafted free agents in the NFL. In 2012, BGSU finished tenth in the country in sacks. He helped lead the Falcons to a 2013 MAC Championship and an overall record of 10-4.

Coach McDaniel then returned to Indiana University in 2014 as the defensive line coach. While at Indiana, he also served as a liaison for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He has also worked in summer programs for the NCAA Men's Coaching Academy and the NFL Pittsburgh Steelers Minority Coaching Internships.

Athletic Director Bob Ronai stated, "Larry has all the leadership qualities and knowledge of the game to continue and further the success of our SJJ football program."



## **Varsity Head Baseball Coach Craig Meinzer**

will begin his second season at the helm in 2019. In his first year at SJJ, he led the Titans to a district championship and an overall record of 18-8.

With more than 20 years of coaching experience, he was most recently the fall assistant coach at Lourdes University. Meinzer's return to SJJ was a homecoming of sorts, as he was a varsity assistant coach with the Titans from 1999-2004.

In 2016, Meinzer was the assistant head coach at Central Catholic High School; prior to that position, he served as the head coach and athletic director



at Cardinal Stritch High School. While at Cardinal Stritch from 2012-2016, he led the Cardinals to two Toledo Area Athletic Conference championships and advanced to one district finals.

Meinzer currently holds an OIAAA Registered Athletic Administrator Certification. For eight years, he also coached the Toledo Legion baseball team and was a former football and basketball official in both Ohio and Michigan.

A 1977 graduate of Whitmer High School, he is currently employed at Dynamic Dies in Holland.

"Craig is one of the most highly respected baseball coaches in Northwest Ohio. SJJ is very fortunate to have him as our head coach," Ronai said.



### **Varsity Head Wrestling Coach Shawn Contos '93**

is entering his first year. After most recently holding the position of wrestling strength and conditioning coach at Penn State University, the 1993 graduate of SJJ is excited to return to his alma mater and lead the wrestling program. "I cannot tell you how honored I am to be back at my alma mater. It is truly a dream come true to come home," Contos said.

While at St. John's, Contos was the first four-time City League Champion. He also was a three-time state qualifier and Catholic Invitational Tournament (CIT) champion.

In recent years, Contos qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials in 2012 and was ranked in the Top 10 in the country. He was also a four-time USA All-American wrestler, Freestyle Junior National Champion, and Greco-Roman Junior National Champion.

Prior to coaching at Penn State, he was the

assistant wrestling coach at Iowa State University, leading the team to a Big 12 Championship and third place in the NCAA.

Ronai said, "Coach Contos brings an incredible amount to the table for SJJ with his knowledge, experience, and work ethic."

Coach Contos also serves as the assistant strength coach, working with not only wrestlers, but also all St. John's Jesuit student-athletes.



### **Varsity Head Hockey Coach Matt Bollinger**

is set to begin his first year. His vast coaching experience spans from the ECHL to Junior hockey levels.

For three years (2014-2017), Bollinger was an assistant coach with the Toledo Walleye. Prior to joining the Walleye, Bollinger led the University of Toledo hockey team from 2011-2014. The Rockets qualified for national postseason play in back-to-back seasons.

One of Bollinger's first official accomplishments as head coach was hiring assistant coach Scott Paluch. Paluch is the former head men's hockey coach for Bowling Green State University. He joined USA Hockey as a regional manager of the American Development Model in June 2009. The 2008 Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame inductee and BGSU graduate spent seven seasons as a head coach for his alma mater, leading the Falcons to their most wins in 13 years in 2007-08.

Ronai said, "We are incredibly excited about the additions of coaches Bollinger and Paluch. They bring a wealth of experience from the professional, collegiate, and high school ranks."

# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Late Spring College Signees

### Baseball

**Tyler Perino '18** – Siena Heights University



### Baseball

Earned district Championship with a 2-0 win over St. Francis de Sales High School.

SJJ Baseball will compete in the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in March.

### Basketball

SJJ Basketball will compete in the Go Southern Beach Blowout in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., in December.

### Crew

SJJ Crew competed in the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass., in October.

### Basketball

**Houston King '18** - Eastern Kentucky University



### Tennis

TRAC Champions

Competed in 14th consecutive State Final Four.



**Ryan Christie '18** - Capital University



## Event Hosts

**SJJ Soccer hosted the Jesuit Cup in August.**

**SJJ will host the 2019 Catholic Invitational Wrestling Tournament January 19 - 20. Nearly 30 Catholic high schools from Ohio and Michigan will compete.**



# TITANS PAST AND PRESENT CONNECT

In 2018, several accomplished alumni have participated in the Alumni Speaker Series and generously taken the time to share their professional experiences and personal insights with students. A wide range of professions has been represented, including careers in the military, politics, technology, business, and visual effects in cinematography. Across all career paths have been the common messages of leadership, faith, giving back, world travel, and learning another language.

Our thanks to the alumni for coming back to campus. We are grateful for the Titan ties that bind students—past and present.



**Jon Alexander '72**  
*Composite and Stereo Supervisor for  
Films, Rides and Venues for  
LucasFilms Ltd. at Industrial Light & Magic*



**Doug Ducey '82**  
*Governor of Arizona*



**Marc Lautenbach '79**  
*President and CEO of Pitney Bowes*



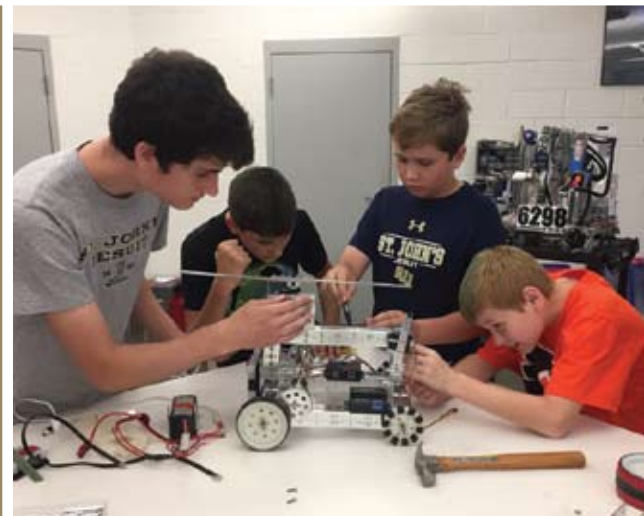
**Col. Mark Swentkofske '84**  
*United States Air Force*



# SUMMER CAMPS



*Future Titans (and some from the Academy!) spent their summer in sports and enrichment camps on campus.*





# NEW ALUMNI INITIATIVE TAKES SHAPE



*Left to right: Eric Croak '10, Rick Rattay '08, Zach Reiner '07, Ryan Ball '08, Andrew Schaetzke '08 (President), Paul Kwapich '09 (President-Elect), Mickey Cassidy '04, Jack Miller '11, Taylor McNeil '09*

Earlier this year, St. John's Jesuit instituted a new alumni initiative, known as the Young Alumni Council (YAC). All YAC members are younger than 40 and have come together to share their great passion for SJJ and its mission to develop *Men for Others* in Northwest Ohio. YAC members are asked to pledge a gift at the President's Council level, which is \$1,500 per year for four years. The group meets quarterly, but also will be assisting at Open House and Alumni Reunion Weekends, as well as speaking to SJJ students. Members of YAC receive the benefits of being members of the President's Council. These men want to be stakeholders in the school now and for years to come.

Doug Pearson, "Coach P.," has spearheaded the organizing and recruiting efforts for YAC and has been instrumental in giving the group a place and a purpose: "This group has many talents; they are very enthusiastic about their line of work and they all

share a love for SJJ. They want to be *Men for Others* in their giving—both financially and with their time."

Initial YAC members range in age from Matt Bunda and Tony Bialorucki from the Class of 1999 to Jack Miller '11. Out-of-state members have joined from New York City, Chicago, and Indianapolis. Officers include president Andrew Schaetzke '08, president-elect Paul Kwapich '09, and faculty liaison Garrett Malone '04. Schaetzke believes the enthusiasm for developing this group is growing: "Our goal for the YAC is to help keep alumni connected and involved with SJJ. During our first year, we hope to increase awareness and engagement with younger alumni—both locally and nationally—through social events, volunteering opportunities, and regular SJJ events."

*To learn more about the Young Alumni Council, contact Doug Pearson '82, Advancement Officer, at [dpearson@sjjtitans.org](mailto:dpearson@sjjtitans.org).*

# RON MILLER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT SJJ



*Ron Miller is an institution at SJJ. He has taught math to thousands of students and worked with others in several capacities. After his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the school, Mr. Miller reflects on his journey.*

What a privilege it has been to work at St. John's Jesuit for the past 50 years. I've seen it all—from the first senior class graduation to the 50th. We have had so many great families in these halls and so many young men that I have had the privilege to influence. Over time, I have even taught different generations of the same family. I learned not to simply teach, but to teach the people in front of me. A former student, Joe McCormick '78, caught me after this summer's golf outing; he told me how lucky I was to mentor so many young men and how he would never forget me. Indeed, I have been blessed to achieve success in a profession I love at a school I love even more. Another example came when I visited the office of Marc Lautenbach '79. I was in the office of a

successful CEO of a Fortune 500 company, and the first thing he did was compliment me as a teacher who made a difference to him. Imagine that.

Like the first 25 years, the second 25 years have been just as exciting. SJJ had a fine principal in Carl Wagner '73; he believed in me. He empowered me to be creative and innovative and try to improve math education. St. John's has always been on the cutting edge of new programs. The math department implemented integrated math, which combines Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Trigonometry. It started with the fundamental concepts of the four subjects and built on it each year. Scores went up on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT immediately. Another change was the manner in which we taught. We called it "cooperative learning." Both integrated math and cooperative learning were so successful that several of us from SJJ went around the country, even to national conventions, showing other teachers how to do it.

One offspring of finding practical applications of math and being innovative was a course called Physics/Analysis. Administrators always talk about interdisciplinary teaching, and Physics/Analysis demonstrated how successful that can be. It was such a good course that the top students wrote their college essays about it. I was very fortunate to team-teach the course with two of our finest science teachers, Dave Simmons and Scott Zura. The three of us developed the course, learned from each other, and became better teachers and good friends. Subsequently, we taught the Ohio State Engineering class, the first of many special courses SJJ would offer. St. John's is usually first to innovate, and other area schools follow, which is quite a compliment.

My life at SJJ is not limited to academics. One of the most rewarding experiences for me in the last 25 years has been directing Kairos retreats. Two more outstanding men got me involved, Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ, and Greg Richard. The retreat is so special that two Jesuits from Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, came to SJJ, went on Kairos, and brought the retreat back to their country. Now every Kairos manual in the entire continent of Australia references St. John's Jesuit in Toledo, Ohio.



Another important part of my life is hockey. I have been a Detroit Red Wings fan since my dad took me to games in grade school. I have had season tickets for 35 years. I also painted my class room red and white with a picture of the arena, a Wings logo, and the word "Hockeytown." Also, I was one of the people who started the SJJ hockey team, and I still enjoy working with the team.

For the first 48 years, I taught full time at SJJ. For the last two years, I have worked with alumni. This experience has been rewarding, as well. Last year I was in 10 cities, from the West Coast to the East Coast, helping at alumni receptions and visiting former students. I have always traveled the world, so for me, this is just fine. I really enjoy my new role in Advancement and working with a great group of people. Now that Chris Knight and Mike Savona are running the place, we couldn't be in better hands.

Without a doubt, SJJ makes Toledo a better place to live, but now I realize, through my travels to visit alumni near and far, that SJJ makes *the world* a better place. So many of our graduates worldwide take our motto to heart—that's how they live their lives.

I am so proud to be a part of the SJJ family and the lives of the approximately 6000 young men I taught. Thanks to those of you who have helped me have a wonderful life, and thanks to so many who have been a part of my wonderful life.

*Since 1969, Ron Miller has positively influenced multiple generations of SJJ students. In that regard, the Alumni Sons' Award has been named the Ron Miller Alumni Sons' Scholarship, by which sons of a St. John's Jesuit graduate are awarded a \$3,000 per year/per son scholarship.*

**This issue of *Titan Topics* contains several articles about special school initiatives. If you wish to make a general or specific donation to advance the mission of St. John's Jesuit, please visit [www.sjtitans.org/support](http://www.sjtitans.org/support).**

**You may direct your contribution to a particular program, scholarship, or award.**

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*Southwest Style*  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2019**

# ANNUAL MOTHER/SON MASS & BREAKFAST

## SEPTEMBER 16, 2018





# CLASS NOTES

**Kevin Sheehy '78** was married on March 17, 2018, to Richard Radocchia in Shelton, Conn. Both are Columbia University School of Social Work graduates.

**Brian Byrd '84** was appointed as chief of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department on August 3, 2018. He began his career in February 1988; in 1992, he was promoted to lieutenant. He became a captain in 1997 and a battalion chief in 2000.

**Sean Savage '88** was eleventh overall out of 1253 total runners in the Master's Division in the Glass City Marathon 5K race on April 22, 2018.

**Brandon Fields '02** retired as a member of the Miami Dolphins on April 19, 2018. He spent eight seasons of his nine-year NFL career on the team. He and his wife, Katie, along with business partner Chris Morris, opened "Inside the Five Brewing Co." in Sylvania, Ohio, in May 2018.

**DeAndre Ware '06** is a professional boxer and a firefighter at Station 4 on Hill Avenue in Toledo. He's undefeated at 12-0-2, with eight knockouts in his career after upsetting previously unbeaten Enrique Collazo on June 9 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Chris Lemon '07** finished sixth overall out of 3517 total runners in the Glass City Half Marathon race on April 22, 2018, with a time of 1:07:46.

**Matt Lemon '07** placed third overall out of 1087 total runners in the Glass City Marathon on April 22, 2018, with a time of 2:25:49. His wife, Maura, won the women's race with a record-setting performance of 2:45:37.

**Alex Gorski '10** graduated from Johnson & Wales University, a culinary school in Denver, Colo., on May 18, 2018. Alex previously received an Associate in Science degree in Culinary Arts (Magna Cum Laude); his new degree is a Bachelor of Science in Food Service Management (Magna Cum Laude).

**Austin Gardner '13** wrote *Change Lives by Changing Yours With Faith, Love, and Motivation*, a book inspired from his experiences as a student and athlete at the University of Findlay. The book was released on April 25, 2018, at UF's Center for Student Life and College of Business.

**Jamil Giles '13** graduated from Eastern Michigan University on April 21, 2018, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Human Biology.

**Bailey O'Brien '14** co-founded a company, D150 Fueling, and received funding by winning a startup competition from the University of Delaware.

*As many alumni fondly remember, graduating seniors conclude their educational experience at St. John's Jesuit by shadowing two adults in occupations that interest the student. The students then present a paper and project detailing the information they learned through the experience.*

*SJJ is always looking for alumni who would be willing to host a senior for one week each spring. If you are willing to invite a graduating senior into your place of business to give him an insight into your profession, please contact Nick Vargas '06 at [nvargas@sjjtitans.org](mailto:nvargas@sjjtitans.org).*



**Kari Black**, a member of the SJJ Mathematics Department, competed in her third Escape to the Cape Bike Ride to benefit the American Lung Association. Black has a rare genetic lung disease called Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. The funds raised will help to find a cure for Alpha 1. She rode 160 miles in three days from Plymouth, Mass., throughout Cape Cod. "This is an amazing ride. I meet fellow Alphas who are riding with oxygen tanks, those who have had liver/lung transplants, doctors, pharmaceutical industry reps, and researchers. I feel truly blessed to be here at SJJ where everyone supports me in my fight with Alpha 1!"

# TINY TITANS

## Please welcome the newest members of the Titan family!

**Benjamin Eisel '00** and Erica,  
son, May 22, 2018

**Patrick Kennedy '06** and Erica,  
Owen Michael, June 21, 2018

**Jeffrey D. Schak '05** and Andrea,  
son, June 4, 2018

**Raymond P. Morris '09** and Carrie,  
daughter, June 27, 2018

**Zachary Johnston '06** and Randi,  
Parker Rose, June 7, 2018

**Bryan Breininger '04** and Laura,  
son, June 30, 2018

**Nicholas Goetz '95** and Stacey,  
daughter, June 16, 2018

**John Unger '06** and Megan,  
Greyson, July 26, 2018

**Andon Duran '06** and Maura,  
Teagan Marie, June 19, 2018

**Andrew Decker '04** and Francesca,  
Brady Francis, August 4, 2018

## IN MEMORIAL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Deceased</u>
Kinsey, Phillip S.....	1969.....	April 2, 2018
Melvin, Thomas J. ....	1972.....	August 2, 2018
Toerne, David Lee .....	1976.....	April 30, 2018
Flowers, William J. ....	1976.....	June 8, 2018
Nawrocki, James J. ....	1982.....	May 31, 2018
Marino, Nicholas .....	2001.....	July 9, 2018
Auxter, Steven Edward .....	2001.....	August 20, 2018
McCarthy, Andrew John.....	2003.....	May 18, 2018
Bronner, Kevin Jeffrey .....	2009.....	May 27, 2018
Steinmiller, Jackson Keegan.....	2015.....	April 19, 2018



# A TRIBUTE TO ALUM JEFF GREMS '90

Jeff Grems '90 died in April 2018 from Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), a rare brain disease that affects language, movement, and behavior. Family, friends, and classmates have come together since his passing, motivated by his legacy of living the motto *Men for Others*. What has transpired is a tangible reminder that Titan ties last a lifetime. Grems was a true athlete. He loved rowing as a Titan. Remarkably, more than \$10,000 was raised in his memory in a short time to gift to SJJ a new racing boat.

On September 8, head Crew Coach Pete Fox and family members and teammates of the 2018-19 crew team hosted a ceremony to officially name the boat after Jeff, affectionately referred to as "Grems." Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ, gave a blessing, and "Grems" was christened in downtown Toledo at the boathouse. Immediately following, eight varsity rowers paid tribute to Jeff with a silent row. Short one rower on the return, the boys raised oars and slapped the water once in his memory.

Several of Grems' classmates returned to Toledo for this special occasion, and several made remarks at the ceremony, including Mike Porter '90, Mike Mabry '90, and Efrain Montesinos '90. Other tributes, such as the following, arrived via email:

"It is with great sadness, but also joy, that we celebrate the life of our friend, Jeffrey Michael Grems. While we grieve that our friend, brother, uncle, and son left us much too soon, we feel fortunate to have known him and to have had the opportunity to share our lives with him.

Jeff was a quiet, reserved person who had a quick wit and never spoke ill of people he knew or met. He was the kind of person who was willing to give you his last dollar or the shirt off his back. His joy was taking care of his friends and family.

His life exemplified the St. John's motto *Men for Others*. He truly cared about others and would go out of his way to ensure people felt comfortable and at ease around him. He was a friend to all and unconcerned with money, status, or the "cool" thing to do. His true north was wanting everyone with him or around him to be content.



He was an athlete, artist, and philosopher.

His ability to pick up a sport was truly remarkable. He wrestled, played basketball, and enjoyed being on the water with the crew team. He was a teammate who gave 110 percent, yet knew when the competition was over to let it go, shake hands with the other team, even befriend them...win or lose.

As an artist, he was phenomenal. He could look at a picture for hours, then reproduce it, adding his own creative touch. He shared his work with his friends and family, and many of us have a piece of his art in our homes that will forever remind us of the artist we knew.

Jeff always had an opinion on life, current events, or experiences that he enjoyed sharing. His special skill was making complex issues easy to understand. Rather than argue with others who thought differently, he would often say, "If it makes you happy, it can't be wrong, can it?" In these more divisive times, that noble spirit is a great example for us to follow.

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to Jeff. We will never forget his quiet nature, competitive spirit, love for Ohio State Buckeye football, and the many lives he touched during his time at St. John's, the Ohio State University, and his years in Phoenix, Arizona. He will be missed by family and friends, who will continue his legacy of spreading joy and happiness to those we encounter while still on this earth." — **Jamie Glonek '90**

***Marian Grems, Jeff's mom, has generously sponsored future Titan rowers in his honor by establishing the Jeff Grems '90 Rowing Award.***



ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY

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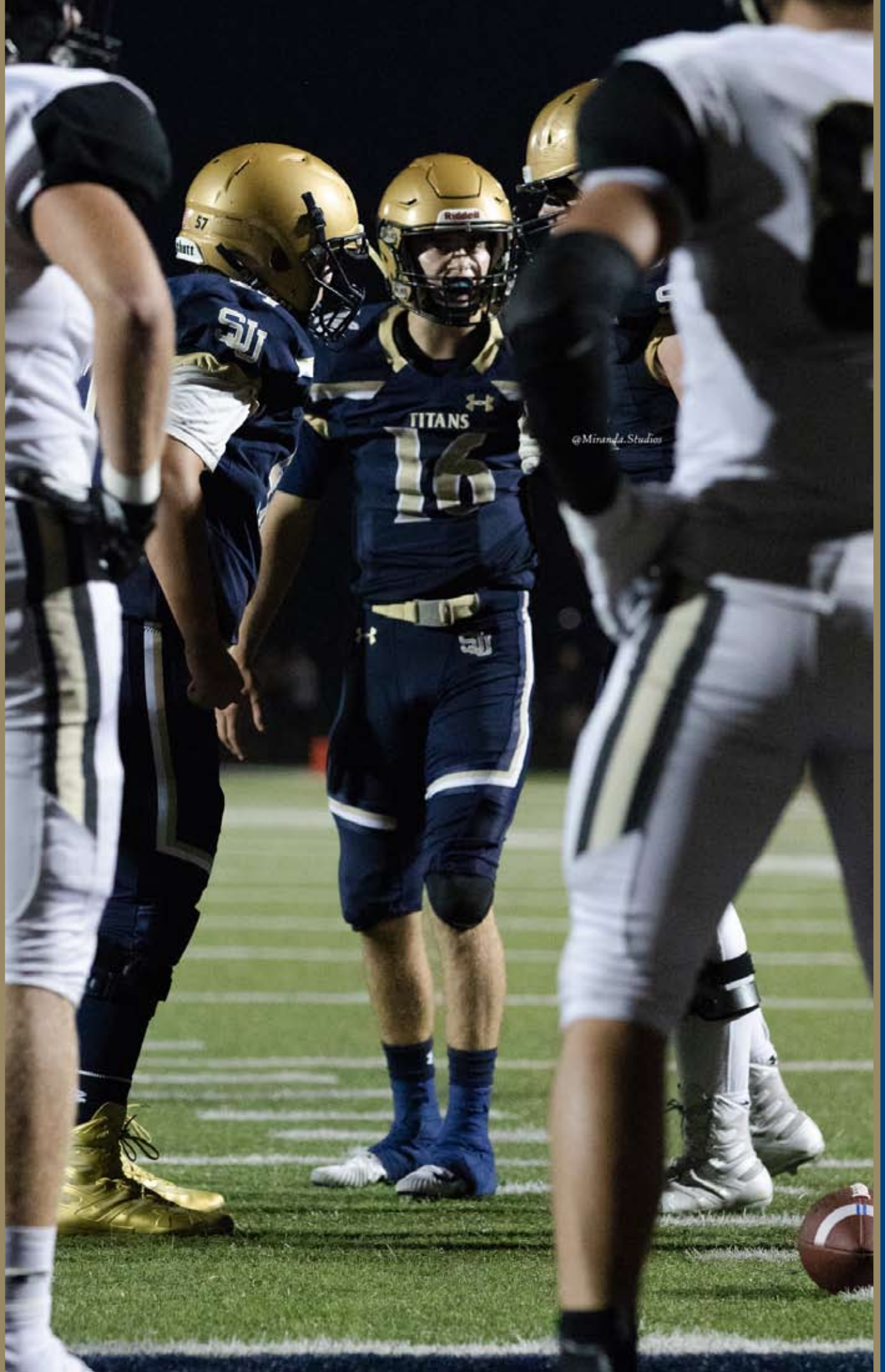
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### 2018 St. John's Jesuit Hall of Fame Inductees

From left: Jason Dzierwa '92; Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ; Abe Jacob '86, Mark Swentkofske '84; Ron Miller; Eddie Ziemke '96; Pat Irmen '69; Chris Ewald '70; Tom Norris; Marc Lautenbach '79; Mike Irmen '72

Missing: John Brennan, James Schaefer '75, several members of the 1968-'69 cross country team

