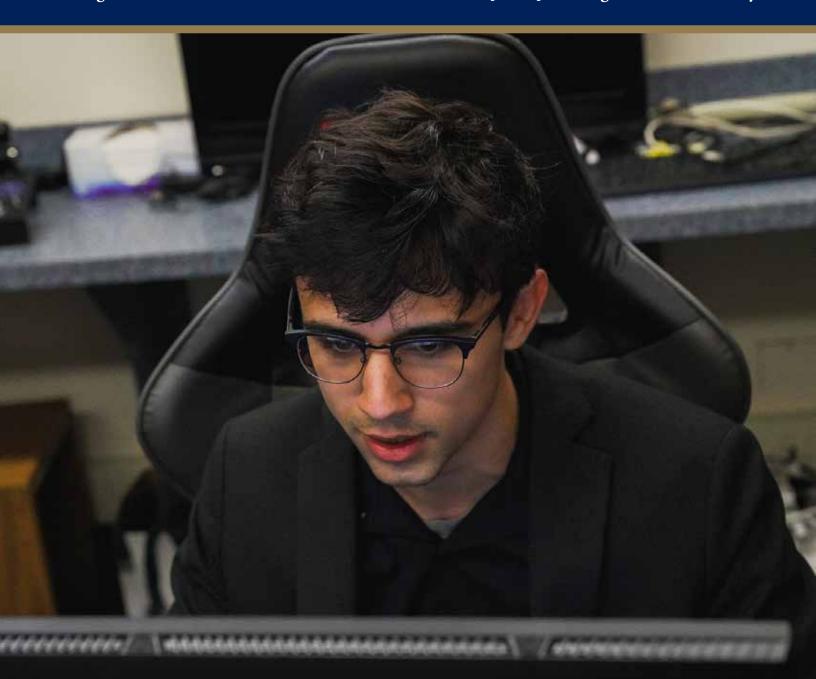
ST. JOHN'S JESUIT TITAN TOPICS

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



TITANS OF TECHNOLOGY

OUR MISSION

St. John's Jesuit develops Christian leaders. As a Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition, we inspire each student to achieve his greatest potential in a diverse, Christ-centered atmosphere distinguished by academic success and service as a *Man for Others*.

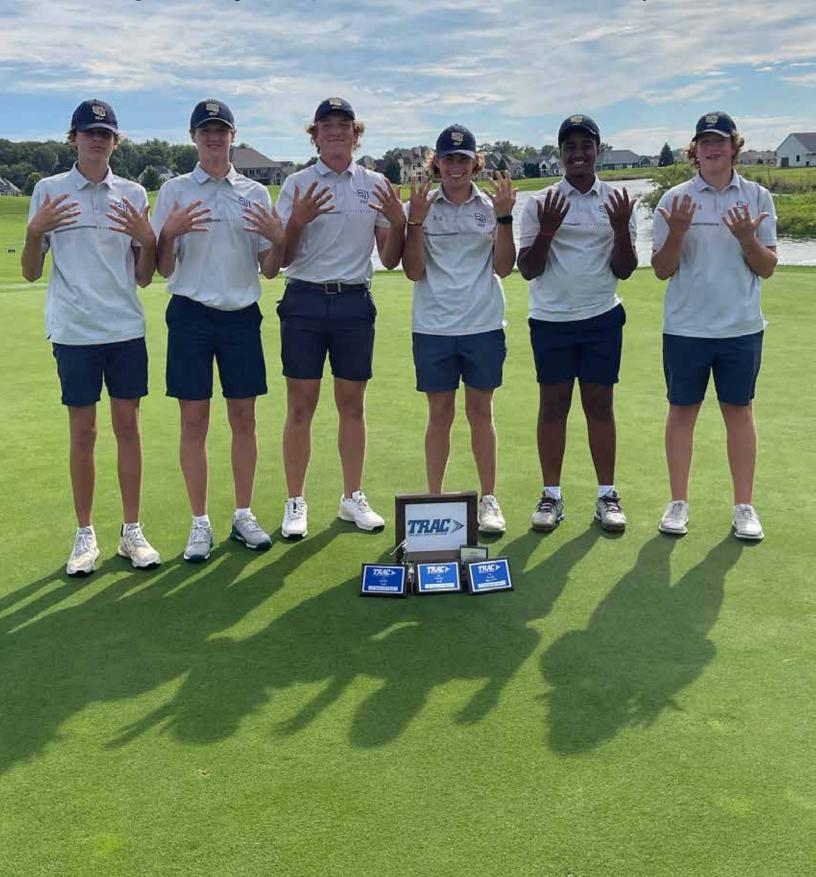


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Mark Swentkofske '84 President

Fr. James Sand, SJ VP of Ignatian Identity

Brendan Malone '01 Interim High School Principal

Steve Spenthoff '95 Academy Principal

Robert Ronai Director of Athletics

Juli Snyder Director of External Relations

Submit alumni news to Doug Pearson '82 Alumni Director dpearson@sjjtitans.org

On the cover: Orion Gonzalez '23 plays for Titan eSports. St. John's Jesuit is one of the only schools in Ohio to offer eSports as a varsity team sport.

MEET THE NEW ST. JOHN'S JESUIT PRESIDENT

by Daniel Schuman '23



Upon meeting St. John's Jesuit's new president, Mark Swentkofske '84, one would undoubtedly notice two things. First, and most apparent, is his smile—a warm welcome from a new face. Second, he is engaging. He loves connecting to people through conversation. Tied together, these traits make Swentkofske extremely personable.

Swentkofske originally attended SJJ not by his choice, but by his parents'. He was reluctant to move from Milwaukee to a new school his junior year; however, he adjusted well and played a plethora of sports. Throughout high school, he ran track and played basketball, baseball, and football. Swentkofske's involvement in these sports helped him develop teamwork and leadership skills at an early age. After graduation, he attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Swentkofske said his priorities as a freshman at the Air Force Academy were to play Division 1 football, become a fighter pilot, obtain a good education, and serve his country. By his junior year, he simplified his priorities to service and a good education.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy, he began his 30-year career in the Air Force. The Air Force gave him a "world education," something only experience can teach. He learned about many cultures and religions around the world. He served in numerous positions, including as a member of the White House staff and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, as well as a squadron commander. He retired from the Air Force to focus more on his health and allow enough time to recover from a double knee replacement.

Swentkofske sees every hardship and misfortune as an opportunity for growth, whether the change is moving to a new school, accepting a tough defeat in sports, or rearranging priorities. In his words, "discomfort gives the best opportunity for growth."

As a student at Marquette High School and St. John's Jesuit, Mr. Swentkofske developed a love for Jesuit education, something he has carried with him throughout his life. He is excited to bring his military and diplomatic background, as well as his strong leadership experience, to SJJ in his new role. While his position as "Chief of Work" does not directly entail working with students, Swentkofske returned with the intent of not only service to the school, but also to its students. He hopes to lead students along the path to a strong Jesuit education and faith.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am supremely honored to be the 12th President of St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy. I give my sincere thanks and best

wishes to Mike '75 and Patti Savona for all they did for our Titan family.

What an absolutely exciting time for SJJ! As the world moves faster, fueled by rapid technological changes and innovative advances, it is the perfect time to dedicate an issue of *Titan Topics* to technology. When you read this issue, we will have transferred the *Campaign for Innovation* to a public phase. The campaign will provide flexible classroom space for our young men to experience innovation, entrepreneurship, and the technologies that

drive both. As the impressive alumni stories included in this issue reveal, entrepreneural skills transcend nearly every trade. When equipped well with these, our graduates set the world on fire in ways that might surprise you.

The campaign will also provide needed upgrades to our stadium facilities, as well as an on-campus new Jesuit residence, and scholarship funding. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about it!

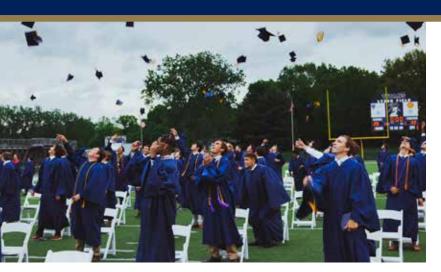
I hope you visit SJJ in the near future. Our young men are incredibly smart, creative, and open to growth and learning. They enjoy talking about their school and the positive experiences they have at SJJ.

I pray every day for our wonderful Titan family. God bless all of you.

AMDG,

Mark Swentkofske '84

THE CLASS OF 2022

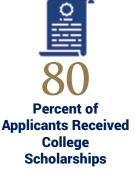




Graduates









THE CAMPAIGN FOR INNOVATION IS A GAME-CHANGER

On October 7, 2022, St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy and its Board of Trustees publicly announced the *Campaign for Innovation*, a \$15.8-million campaign focused on strengthening academics with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. The campaign will fund a "Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship" in a state-of-theart facility that will also serve to complete necessary stadium enhancements. In addition, SJJ will build a Jesuit living residence and a community center on the grounds of the campus. Scholarship and endowment funding will be significantly increased.

Board Chair Jeff Savage '80 stated, "As an educational leader in northwest Ohio, SJJ understands that what is in high demand in a post-graduate world and most critical to the growth and success of our community are graduates with intellectual skills and the confidence to navigate small, start-up, or corporate entities, with an educational foundation that has developed critical thinking, business planning, and execution. The bonus to studying business and entrepreneurship at St. John's Jesuit is a network of successful Titan alumni in professions of almost every kind who are ready and willing to help along the way."

As a Jesuit school, SJJ prepares young men to become innovators of tomorrow, as well as young men who desire to give back to their communities. President Mark Swentkofske '84 said, "The focus of the *Campaign for Innovation* is to create an academic center featuring flexible classroom and laboratory space that empowers our students to collectively experience practical problem-solving in real-world environments that incorporate real risk, real consequences, and real outcomes."

Upon completion, the stadium will be named to honor the memory of longtime Board member and business entrepreneur Geoff Lyden who passed away in 2018. Lyden was the CEO of True North Energy. Accordingly, the football field now named after Lyden, will be renamed to honor the memory of Fred Beier, a legendary coach and teacher who made an impact on thousands of lives during his 39 years at St. John's Jesuit.

The future Jesuit Community Center will serve as a residence for the priests and religious of the Society of Jesus and as a center for spiritual development, such as student-led retreats, adult spiritual guidance, and other small gatherings.



Last, through increasing the school's endowment fund, the campaign will ensure long-term sustainability by providing significant scholarship assistance to families who desire a Jesuit Catholic education, but may not be able to afford the cost of tuition.

Dan Anderson '74 is the *Campaign for Innovation* Chair. "We are proud to announce that we have secured \$11 million toward our \$15.8 million goal. We realize that this campaign is bold and ambitious, yet we are confident that we will be successful. It is critical that our community support education so that we can grow and retain talent for our local industries."



"We realize that this campaign is bold and ambitious, yet we are confident that we will be successful. It is critical that our community support education so that we can grow and retain talent for our local industries."

—Dan Anderson '74, Campaign for Innovation Chair





TITANS OF TECHNOLOGY

Information technology impacts lives, communities, and economies worldwide. It can empower, teach, raise awareness, create accessibility, and draw people together. Meet a few impressive graduates who have set the world on fire through extraordinary professional accomplishments in the field of IT.

Creativity, A "Techy" Brain, and a Call to Service:

The Perfect Synergy for Career Success

service, in particular,
has shaped my
worldview. I learned
the concept of servant
leadership at SJJ, and
I have consciously
tried my best to be
this kind of leader
ever since. \$9

-Nick Hodulik '96

When it comes to success in the information technology world, Nick Hodulik '96 sets the bar pretty high.

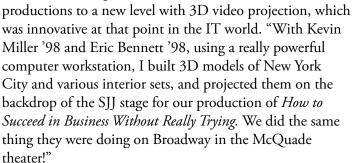
He came upon his love of IT at an early age. For his seventh birthday, Hodulik's family members pooled their resources to buy him a Commodore 64, the gold standard of home computers at the time. "My parents also found a weekend computer

class for kids at the University of Toledo, and I started to learn to program. I loved video games, calculators, robots, machines—anything technological," he said. By sixth grade, he had moved on to desktop publishing on a Mac. "I heard a teacher say that she had never seen anyone naturally figure out how to make everything work as quickly as I did, almost like I knew what I was doing before I learned how to do it. That comment has described my relationship with technology ever since. I just have a natural ability for all of it, in the way that some people have a natural ability for sports or music," he said. His natural proclivity led to his first business adventure at age 12: "I would set up computers and modems for small businesses around town."

As a sophomore at St. John's Jesuit, Hodulik created the Wired Club to fill the gap in the school's IT curriculum—or lack thereof. "The school was supportive of this club, and a bunch of my fellow nerds and I got together to discuss programming, the nascent Internet, and computers in general." The following year, SJJ added a Pascal computer programming class and revamped the library to turn it

into the Information Resource Center, adding many computers and offering internet access for the first time.

Hodulik was also interested in theater, and, in a perfect confluence of disciplines and interests, he brought SJJ's theater



"While at SJJ, I also co-founded my first formal company, Freshwater, Inc., a digital consulting company, with Kevin and Eric, the same classmates with whom I worked on the theater project."

In his academic career at SJJ, Hodulik said his English class was most impactful, an unexpected answer for an IT whiz. "My SJJ English teachers were just spectacular, and they imparted on me the crucial idea that good writing means good thinking. Being able to clearly and concisely translate your thoughts into words is probably the single most important skill in virtually every field. It is certainly the most important skill for managers, executives, entrepreneurs, and leaders of any type."

Once Hodulik graduated from SJJ, he double-majored in computer science and psychology, with an intent to get into artificial intelligence, at Fordham University. "I started college at the beginning of the explosive worldwide growth of the internet and the beginning of the modern start-up era. I desperately wanted to be a part of the start-up universe; I saw it as a far bigger opportunity than college."



"I started working for start-ups immediately when I moved to NYC for college. The start-up ecosystem moves insanely fast. I was first hired by a tech consulting company; one thing led to another, and I was suddenly 20 years old and the Director of Technology at RSUB, a Razorfish Subnetwork."

Shortly thereafter, in 2001, the tech boom became the tech bust. Hodulik left Razorfish to start a video technology bar in NYC, but shortly after moved to San Francisco. There, he started General Things (GT), another digital consulting company.

GT quickly grew to nearly 60 employees and served many interesting clients—Nike, CBS, Showtime, National Geographic, Cisco, SETI, TED, Steelcase, Apple—and, most importantly, GoPro.

"GoPro was a rocket ship, growing insanely fast, with plans for an IPO on the horizon. We grew alongside GoPro as it grew, and at a certain point it became clear to both companies that we would be better together as a single company. GoPro acquired GT in 2013 to become the Software and Services division, and I became VP of Software and Services," Hodulik said. "We took GoPro public shortly thereafter, and I grew my team to nearly 200."

"I left GoPro in 2015 to return to my roots as an entrepreneur. I'm currently the founder and CEO of a bunch of companies and on the board of several others. One of my companies, Polymath, does a little angel investing, as well as a coaching and consulting for startups. In July, we opened ALTER, a new tech-forward gym concept in Los Angeles whose mission is to awaken and empower the athlete in everyone. We also opened RATION, a protein-oriented food startup whose first iteration is as a cafe inside the gym, and we're in the process of developing packaged goods to buy in stores. We'll raise money next spring for both businesses and ideally expand them both all over the country."

IT CAPSTONE PROJECT FOR THE GREATER GOOD



The Magis Capstone Project, an undertaking for seniors who pitch a unique idea and complete a service/academic project in connection with personal passions as part of their specialized curriculum, continues to produce unexpected and aweinspiring results. One of the latest projects involves information technology and comes from the mind of Nathan Allen '22.

Allen has always been an entrepreneur with an eye toward IT and environmentalism. He has recycled aluminum cans, collected copper and electronics to resell, and repaired old technology for both profit and a dedication to sustainability. Last year he heard about a nonprofit organization that shipped books to Vietnamese students; he thought computers would be even better for the kids. So, with help from his contacts in the recycling world, he began to form an idea for not only his Magis project, but also to serve kids halfway around the world. He partnered with an online school that donated old computers to him. As a bonus, he saved these computers from being sent to a landfill.

The donated computers needed a variety of repairs; some were decent, and some could only serve as parts for others. In the end though, Allen sent 250 computers to Vietnamese schools. It took a month of arduous work in his family garage—but clearly a large group of students across the planet will benefit from his time and talent.

"He knocked it out of the park with this one," Adam Dane '02, director of SJJ's Magis Society program, said. "I'm really impressed that he can combine those facets of himself and use his passion to help others to create something that's very real."

Allen's creativity and dedication to bringing IT to others for their benefit—especially in the world of education—make him a true *Man for Others*.

TITANS OF TECHNOLOGY

Creativity, A "Techy" Brain, and a Call to Service: The Perfect Synergy for Career Success (continued)

Looking at his long, interesting, and creative career, Hodulik sees so many positives. "I am blessed to have an incredible circle of employees, partners, and colleagues around me. I have long viewed it as my responsibility to care for them each as individuals and do what I can to support them on our collective journey, as well as on their individual ones. If you genuinely take care of the people around you—actually treat them with love—they will do almost anything for you, your business, and your customers. This mindset is *Cura Personalis*—care for the whole person—in action."

"SJJ really helped shape me into the man I am today. In both of my capacities as a leader of my own organizations and as a leadership coach to others, I spend a lot of time reading, writing, thinking, and talking about leading with values and creating values-driven organizations. The Jesuit values are a huge part of that. Individually and collectively, they really are remarkable, and they continue to have an enormous impact on me. I strive to implement and impart those values on the people and organizations I lead. I also am deeply influenced by *the Magis*, the challenge to strive for growth and excellence."



The SJJ State of Ohio specialty license plate is now available for purchase!

Two ways to order:

- Go to www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx under Organizational Plates.
- Order at a deputy registrar's office and plates will be mailed to the address on file with the state.

Even if current plates are not expired, SJJ's alumni, families, and friends can replace them at any time.

"SJJ's focus on service, in particular, has shaped my worldview. I learned the concept of servant leadership at SJJ, and I have consciously tried my best to be this kind of leader ever since. *Men for Others* is not just a saying at SJJ; it is a way of *being*, woven throughout the entire educational and extracurricular experience."

With his Jesuit values at the forefront, Hodulik's drive to not only succeed in the IT world, but also to help others do the same, makes him a true example of an SJJ leader and role model.



Building • Exploring • Learning Playing Sports • Making New Friends

Visit **sjjtoledo.org** to register! Participants will receive giveaways and invitations to future programs & fun activities for young boys in age groups ranging from preschool to middle school! No prior affilation with St. John's Jesuit is necessary.

Go Titans!

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR KEVIN MILLER, VICE PRESIDENT, AMAZON WEB SERVICES

At the 1998 graduation ceremony, 202 Titans earned diplomas, including one who received an honorary diploma. Ironically, the technology had yet to be developed that would have allowed Kevin Miller '98 to remotely take one missing credit—a mandatory senior theology class. A year prior, Miller had already exhausted most academic avenues at St. John's. His need for advanced rigor propelled his ambitious decision to apply and accept a spot in an internationally selective computer science program at Carnegie Mellon University—one that would put him on a path to help revolutionize on-demand cloud computing. Fast-forward, and today Miller is VP of Amazon Web Services.

Despite his abbreviated time as a Titan, Miller's work ethic and passion for the greater good was nurtured by teachers, counselors, and classmates. In the mid-1990s, SJJ did not offer an abundance of computer science classes. According to Miller, AP Computer Science was the only option. Even so, he found opportunities to develop his interest in networks and software. As a freshman and sophomore, he could be found hanging out in the computer lab, getting involved in all he could to help Joan Trempe, the school's IT specialist at the time. In an unconventional twist, classmate Nick Hodulik '96 got him involved in technology for the musicals. "I had seen How to Succeed Business Without Really Trying on Broadway and was particularly inspired by the elevator imagery, so when the show was announced as the spring musical in 1996, I got involved with special effects." The following year Miller continued to create scenes and 3D imagery for Damn Yankees and remembered the pride he took in animating a ball hit to left field. "I started to get a taste for mixing computing with purpose," he said.

Miller attended Carnegie Mellon University from 1997–2001 and graduated with a degree in computer science, software, and technology. He worked at CMU for three years, establishing the network for a new satellite campus in Qatar. "Several U.S. universities had been invited to Qatar to set up satellite campuses in the early 2000s. As a result, the university teams shared a bunch of innovative ideas to help educate a population that could no longer depend solely on the natural gas industry," Miller said. This experience proved to

be another that reinforced Miller's desire to develop technology that served an outcome for the greater good.



In 2004, Kevin left CMU and continued his work with complicated networks and software at Duke University. There, he was responsible for running the campuswide network infrastructure. During his time at Duke, in 2006, Amazon Web Services (AWS) launched the first cloud computing services, which made computing power available to thousands of users at the same time. Miller recalled how fascinated he was with the technology: "I heard about what AWS was doing in early 2008—at the time, it was very small, with just a small number of leading-edge folks using it. But I could immediately see the potential for the technology."

On a whim, Miller sent his resume to Amazon in 2008. He remembers receiving a quick call back for the interview. "I was hired to lead AWS with only about 200 employees in the U.S. and Ireland at the time. Fourteen years later, we have 1,200 employees in 28 different locations around the world." Under his direction, AWS now generates billions of dollars in revenue per year.

When asked about his greatest accomplishment in a career filled with success, Miller doesn't hesitate to say that it has been overseeing a growing team of incredible people at AWS who are meeting unprecedented customer demand. "It's rewarding to me to see folks on my team grow and achieve more than they expected in their careers."

Miller's career at AWS has challenged him to grow as a leader. Influenced by his Jesuit roots, he is a firm believer in "tech for a better result," not just for the sake of tech. "I think a lot of my leadership principals can be traced back to St. John's," he said. "I learned in high school that hard work is good, and that it takes grit in the last push to 100 percent effort." In this takeaway from SJJ, Miller is a true testament to the fact that the foundation of a Jesuit education transcends time and industry.

TITANS OF TECHNOLOGY

SHANE HEGDE '09 IS WALKING ON AIR



Shane Hegde's list of accomplishments during his seven years at St. John's Jesuit is impressive, to say the least. His involvement in everything from academics to extracurriculars and from athletics to service is extensive. He admits he may have been involved in too much, but he wouldn't change a thing. He also admits he was suspended in the 8th

grade for his first attempt at running his own business. "I would comb the campus for boxes of partial pizzas that had been left over from teacher meetings, and then sell the uneaten pizza by the slice to classmates who were waiting around for the bus after school," he said. The writing was on the wall even at age 13: Hegde had the instinct of an entrepreneur. He went on to take leadership roles in nearly every aspect of the school. Looking back, Hegde wholeheartedly remembers SJJ as "the best years of my life," a formative time of growth and brotherhood.

After graduating in 2009, Hegde went to Stanford University without an iPhone or a clear idea of what to declare as a major. "Technology was entirely foreign to me as a freshman in college," he said, "I cycled through majors with the certainty that I wanted to be an entrepreneur, but I just didn't know how to make it happen." Eventually Hegde declared computer technology and finance as his majors because of the well-roundness of the programs. His framework for success was finally set.

In his sophomore year, Hegde caught the start-up bug and dropped out of Stanford. "It's such a crazy stage of life to be a college student trying to become an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley...people tell you that you can do anything. It was liberating, but terrifying," he said. Eighteen months later, he had raised nearly \$300,000 for his first start-up company, ThinTech Co. Ultimately, the regulatory concerns were too much, and the company failed.

Hegde returned to Stanford knowing he was not fully prepared for the business world and understanding that there was much he still needed to learn. "I loved my time at Stanford," he said, "I love the people and trying new

things." Through a campus connection, he was introduced to an investor who specialized in tech companies, Scott Kapnick, who was willing to take a chance on Hegde right out of college. Hegde had no intention of failing with another business, so he declined the money for the opportunity to instead work with Kapnick's firm, HPS Partners, in New York City. "I was a failed entrepreneur from Stanford, and I knew I had to figure out how to build my skills so as to not fail again," he said.

Through this invaluable opportunity, Hegde made it "in the room," although he was by far the youngest one there. He began working with mentors who would put him on a path to success. His work for HPS led to a position as a Chief Digital Strategist at Revolt TV, where he enhanced his entrepreneurial skills and became more digital savvy. "I learned how to operate and lead—how to be an executive," he said. Amid these experiences, Hegde's entrepreneurial instinct identified a universal problem in the business of managing media. The same lightbulb that identified opportunity in partial pizza boxes went off in his mind. The time was right, so Hegde left Revolt TV with confidence, joined by a business partner, to start his own company.

Four and a half years later, "Air" has truly taken off. He describes his new endeavor as a "creative operations system" that organizes images and video. Through this tech platform, companies of all levels and scales can more efficiently optimize their media. As Hegde said, "Every company is a media company. Content is so pervasive and hard to wrangle." His client list is growing by the week and includes names such as Google, NBC Universal, and the University of Notre Dame.

Success has been hard-earned, but Hegde is enjoying life as co-founder and CEO of Air, leading in a style reminiscent of his time at St. John's. In fact, one of Air's company values is *Cura Personalis*—his biggest takeaway from his time as a Titan. "As a leader, I think it's important to be self-aware as much as intuitive to problems others are having," he said. "I left St. John's with a solid foundation of who I was and who I was to become. Looking back, I know SJJ prepared me to navigate struggles with perspective."

STEVE SPENTHOFF '95 NAMED NEW ACADEMY PRINCIPAL

by Daniel Schuman '23



Steve Spenthoff '95 has long been a member of the SJJ community. As a graduate

of St. John's Jesuit and John Carroll University, he has a deep understanding and love for Catholic education in the Jesuit tradition. He has taught high school social studies classes and coached track for the past 20 years. Students who describe Spenthoff's classroom style will undoubtedly say he brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to the school, both in and out of the classroom. Spenthoff now finds himself in a new role: the Academy Principal.

While his big move was only to the other side of the building, Spenthoff now finds himself leading the youngest Titans and the faculty/ staff of the Academy. This shift was

motivated by Spenthoff's call to the *Magis*, the more. While teaching high school students has been deeply gratifying, he said, "It was time for something new." Spenthoff has been looking for more ways to get involved at St. John's, and when the position opened for the Academy Principal, he jumped right on board.

As a Jesuit middle school, the SJJA has a strong focus on developing the five tenets of a Titan graduate, otherwise known as the Grad at Grad. This development entails being open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice. The Academy sets a solid foundation and prepares students for a successful high school career. Spenthoff is looking forward to being a part of process, as well as of the Academy's long-term growth.

Many other aspects of Spenthoff's life have prepared him well for his new role in the Academy. He and his wife, Katie, have three sons. Spenthoff says having 12 years of parenting experience was the best way to prepare himself for the new role. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, biking with his kids, and spending time outdoors.

Spenthoff's Jesuit education, both in high school and college, has greatly developed his faith. He looks to find God in all things, especially adversity. The Ignatius expression, "Go Forth and Set the World on Fire," greets everyone outside the Carty Fox Commons at SJJ and hangs in the Spenthoff household. Spenthoff feels called to do something truly meaningful with his life. His new position provides the perfect opportunity, as he will be impacting countless students for years to come.

WELCOME NEW TITAN FACULTY AND STAFF



Valerie Adamski High School Theology



Matthew Eckel
High School Theology



Nathan Jean-Louis
Academy Science



Laural Seewar
Executive Assistant
to the President



Mary Ziemke
Admissions
Associate



Jamey Burson
High School English



Derek HelmkeHigh School
Social Studies



Storm Lutz
High School Business
and Economics



Jeffrey Small
High School
Physical Education

Tutor
Dennis Jarrett
Debra Schaefer

A+ Learning Center

Food Court Services Amber Antoszewski Selena Christopher

MYLES COPELAND '15: PLAYING WITH FIRE



"I left
St. John's
knowing I
wanted to be
a source of
happiness."

---Myles Copeland

Life was busy for Myles Copeland '15 on June 11, 2022, balancing the work he loves as a firefighter for the Toledo Fire Department with his passion for playing semi-professional basketball for Toledo Glass City. During an away playoff game in New York, Copeland jumped into a different kind of action on the court when one of the referees, John Sculli, collapsed from a massive heart attack known as a "widow maker." Copeland acted quickly and performed CPR until additional first responders arrived. Sculli was immediately taken for heart surgery and is on his way to a full recovery. Without question, Copeland saved his life.

In the weeks and months that followed, Copeland has received national attention for his heroic efforts. The story immediately went viral on social media and, even though Copeland did not have one social media account to his name, he knew even before the game ended that the word of what happened had quickly spread. "My teammates helped me establish Instagram and Twitter accounts shortly after the game so that I could see what people were saying," Copeland recalled. "It has been crazy. It's also been great to reconnect with friends."

Copeland attended the Academy at SJJ before high school, so he spent a significant part of his life on Airport Highway. "I loved my time at St. John's. I loved the camaraderie and the sense of brotherhood. I was a shy seventh grader, but I quickly felt at home."

In high school, Copeland was an excellent student in the classroom and athlete on the court. He developed a love for biology, inspired by his own condition of Type I Diabetes. His discipline and talent as a basketball player was developed by Coach Ed Heintschel. Through the SJJ Christian Service program, Copeland immediately took to the mantra of being a *Man for Others*. "I left St. John's knowing I wanted to be a source of happiness," he said.

Copeland pursued a major in biochemistry in college and continued to play basketball, first at Sienna Heights University, then for three years at Trine University. Upon graduating, he intended to find a job in research and development, still committed to his desire to make a difference in the treatment for diabetes. "I had a hard time finding a research job and started looking for other avenues," Copeland said. "The Toledo Fire Department was hiring, so I completed the application and never looked back." Copeland instantly embraced the brotherhood of the TFD as he had done at SJJ. The job was a natural fit.

Recently, classmate and Titan teammate Kaleb Vaughn '15 convinced Copeland to try out for Toledo Glass City BC, a semi-professional club basketball team. In only his first year on the team, Copeland has had his share of attention since that fateful playoff game in New York. The "big moment," according to Copeland, was being reunited with a recovering Sculli and his wife while being interviewed by another Titan alum, Steve Hartman '81, for his national news segment, "On the Road," for CBS News.

Despite the notoriety, Copeland has not let the attention go to his head. He remains as humble as he has always been and is still looking for ways to help those with diabetes. In January, he plans to start paramedic school. Next summer, he will speak at a camp for kids with diabetes. Undoubtedly, the opportunities are just beginning and, although he fights fires by trade, Copeland is setting the world on fire with his heart.

Frankie Lizcano '19 Moving Forward and Still Giving <u>Back</u>



Since graduating from St. John's Jesuit in 2019, Frankie Lizcano has been earning his bachelor's degree in computer science at the University of Michigan, with the intention to land a job as a software engineer upon graduating this spring. Lizcano was a 20/20 Jesuit Scholar, and attributes much

of his success in high school and college to the support of the program. "20/20 gave me a community I could lean on. I knew I was supported by an amazing group of people with similar experiences as me. It made SJJ feel like a home away from home, which was partly why I thrived in my academics. Whenever I needed help, I knew where to go and who to talk to," he said.

One of the most impactful experiences in his time at SJJ was going to Guatemala and serving the garbage dump communities there. Through this St. John's experience, Lizcano was introduced to the work of International Samaritan, the Ann Arbor-based nonprofit founded by former SJJ President Fr. Don Vetesse, SJ, to connect students across the United States to the work of helping



the people of garbage dump communities break out of poverty. "My experiences in Guatemala really shaped my worldview," Lizcano said, "and now I am working with IntSam as a fellow to help strengthen the student volunteer experience and the relationships between volunteer schools and those communities we serve."

In his role with IntSam, Lizcano is currently collaborating with fellow alum Bobby Adusumilli '12 to promote a freshwater initiative for the garbage dump community in Honduras. "The need is critical and the strong ties between SJJ and IntSam mean everything to the success of our objective to help bring clean water to Honduras," he said.





The Titan community can learn more about the urgency of the clean water initiative in Honduras and other thirdworld countries at www.intsam.org/medical-missions/. To get involved visit https://runsignup.com/sjjalumniandfriends.

NEW INDUCTEES TO THE HALL OF FAME

On September 23, 2022, the St. John's Jesuit Hall of Fame welcomed a new class of inductees, selected by the criteria of academic excellence, altruistic spirit, and athletic achievement.



DENNY AMRHEIN '94



Denny Amrhein led the varsity basketball team in the 1993-94 season, one of the most exciting in St. John's Jesuit history, to a city and district championship. That same season, he was named City League and District Player of the Year, and First Team All-Ohio. Amrhein is the eighth all-time career scoring leader at SJJ with 1,162 points; tenth all-time in three-point field goal

percentage with 46 percent; fifth all-time in three-point shots made at 115; eighth all-time in free throw percentage with 86 percent; and fourth all-time in assists at 293.

ANDY BABULA, FORMER FACULTY

Andy Babula obtained a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Toledo. Inspired by his high school math teacher, he accepted his first teaching position at Bedford Junior High. In the fall of 1968, a young St. John's Jesuit High School hired Babula to teach mathematics. He served as an assistant track coach in his first year and worked with Titan legends Joe Czernicki,

John Braucher, and Fred Beier. His legacy at SJJ is an impressive 42-year career and the influence he had on thousands of young men as a no-nonsense teacher and coach.



TONY BRAIDA '79



St. John's Jesuit has a long tradition of excellence in cross country. No individual had more success in the sport than Tony Braida. He helped lead the 1976, 1977, and 1978 teams to winning three consecutive Toledo City League championships. Braida is an anesthesiologist at the University of Toledo College of Medicine, where he is also an associate professor.

TOM COMES '75

Tom Comes balanced many aspects of student life in his time at St. John's Jesuit. Voted Outstanding Sophomore in 1973 and the recipient of the John A. Mescher Outstanding Senior in 1975, Comes was active in student government,



served as the yearbook photographer, was a cheerleader, served as student representative for the SJJ Board of Directors, and played three years of Titan baseball, as well as four years of Titan wrestling. Comes attended Miami University and earned a degree in marketing. He has since established a successful career in account management and strategic planning for several advertising agencies in and out of Ohio.

JACK MEWHORT '09

Jack Mewhort was one of the best high school linemen to ever play at St. John's Jesuit and in Toledo City League history. His combination of power and tremendous agility made him a true force on the gridiron. Mewhort helped lead Titan teams that amassed a 22-10 record, including two games in the

state play-offs in his three years starting on the varsity team. He was a two-time First Team All-League, two-time First Team All-District, and two-time First Team All-Ohio player while competing for the Titans. Mewhort went on to play starting left tackle for the Ohio State University Buckeyes. In this capacity, he was named First Team All-Big Ten and First Team All-American. He was named a team captain as a senior. Mewhort continued his football career as the Indianapolis Colts' first pick in the 2014 NFL draft. He started in all 58 games in which he played before an injury forced his retirement from the NFL.



1994 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TEAM

The 1994 golf season was "like a roller coaster, up and down," according to former head coach Larry DuVall. But the team came around at just the right time during the last four weeks of the season, capturing the second state title in St. John's Jesuit history. Coach DuVall's postseason lineup consisted of Chris Boyd '95, James Brandon '95, Shane Tripp '95, Rick Halker '96, Kevin Kornowa '98, and Ben Schoen '96.

The Titans won the Toledo City League Championship by an unprecedented 46 strokes. In district play, the Titans defeated Perrysburg by five strokes. The season culminated with a win at the state tournament at Ohio State University. The Titans shot a two-day total of 636, which was nine shots better than runner-up Cincinnati Turpin.







Scan to learn more about this year's Hall of Fame inductees.

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

MAGIS CAPSTONE PROJECT LEADS TO INAUGURAL BROTHER'S CUP—AND A MAJOR VICTORY

Zach Zitkovic '23 set the stage last spring for the Titan lacrosse team to get its first victory over St. Francis de Sales since 2013. Zitkovic, who plays midfield, happens to be in the Magis Society, an academic enrichment program, which created the perfect outlet to take his passion for the SJJ lacrosse program to the next level.

Zitkovic started playing lacrosse his freshman year. As a junior, he wanted to enhance the program and give back to SJJ through his Capstone project. Zitkovic noticed players would spend too much time each season trying to recover a ball gone out of bounds during lacrosse and soccer games. The end line netting would serve as a backstop for stray shots, but only in a small part of the field.

"My objective was to get end-line netting for our lacrosse program," Zitkovic said. "It saves so much time. We spend about 20 minutes each practice trying to retrieve balls; over the course of the season, that adds up to about 20 hours," Zitkovic said.

The Titan midfielder got to work during the summer going into the 2021-22 season, raising the thousands of dollars needed for the equipment, collecting donations, and selling t-shirts promoting a new event—the Brother's Cup.

The concept is simple: the Brother's Cup is the trophy awarded to the winner of the lacrosse match between longtime rivals St. John's Jesuit and St. Francis de Sales, the only two all-boys Catholic schools in Toledo.

Knights head coach Jack Loy was immediately in favor of the idea. "It's been an excellent game over the years, and I think it's nice to have a trophy for it," Loy said.

SJJ head varsity coach Andy Smith '99 was happy to support his player's initiative. "Zach is such an amazing young guy. To see him take the lead in this project and run with it himself has been really impressive," Smith said. "I've had to do very little for him; he's done almost all of this project himself."

The anticipation for the inaugural Brother's Cup was everything Zitkovic had hoped for; not only did it result in the first win over the Knights in nine years, but it also reinforced the respect between the schools.

Smith said the team is hoping the new netting will be set up by the start of next season in March 2023.



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ERA IN ATHLETIC PROGRAM ON THE HORIZON



"We're glad to give St. John's and the four other Toledo schools a new athletic home and grow our community of schools committed to Christ-centered athletics."

—Vic Michaels, Director of the CHSL

When the whistles blow in August 2023, the St. John's Jesuit Titans will be competing in a new athletic conference.

It's new to St. John's that is, because the Catholic High School League (CHSL) was founded in 1926. In fact, the CHSL is the largest sports league in the U.S. In March, SJJ and four additional Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Toledo—including Notre Dame Academy, St. Ursula Academy, Central Catholic High School, and St. Francis de Sales School—were formally accepted as full members of the Detroit-based CHSL, commencing with the fall sports season of the 2023-24 school year. The announcement last spring followed months of discussion between CHSL and St. John's Jesuit Athletic Director Bob Ronai. Ronai coordinated the efforts of St. John's with the four other Catholic high schools. The CHSL accepted all five schools, which brings its total membership to 32 school communities located throughout southeast Michigan and now northwest Ohio.

"On behalf of the CHSL and the Archdiocese of Detroit, I am thrilled to welcome St. John's Jesuit into our league. The decision of our board was unanimous," Vic Michaels, director of the CHSL, said. "We expect this change will benefit our existing members, some of which have had to travel very long distances, farther than Toledo, to fill their sporting schedules. We're glad to give St. John's and the four other Toledo schools a new athletic home and grow our community of schools committed to Christ-centered athletics."

The CHSL marks the third athletic conference that SJJ has belonged to in Titan history. From 1965–2002, the Titans competed in the Toledo City League, winning its All Sports Trophy for best overall sports program 28 out of 37 years, more than double any other school. During the past 10 years of the Three Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC), the Titans have won 42 championships in seven different sports. The Titans have claimed seven state championships in four different sports, along with countless other league, district, and regional titles. St. John's has won the Three Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC) All Sports Trophy nine consecutive years and counting, 2012-13 through 2020-21.

Acceptance into the CHSL begins a new era in the athletic program at St. John's Jesuit, providing even more opportunity for high-level competition. Ronai is



looking forward to new challenges from the league and believes the athletic program at St. John's has much to offer CHSL. "We are excited for the opportunity to join the CHSL, along with the four other local schools, and expand the footprint of the largest Catholic league in the U.S. We've had an opportunity to compete against various CHSL teams during the years in a variety of sports, and we are excited to continue to do so now as members of the same conference. Joining the CHSL will give SJJ student-athletes the opportunity to compete for conference championships, as well as numerous postseason awards."

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

CLASS OF 2022 COLLEGE SIGNINGS





Congratulations to the following Titans who are continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level:

Daylen Glaze '22 – Football, John Carroll University James Henry '22 – Football, Adrian College Julius Jackson '22 – Football, Washburn University

Andre Williams '22 – Football, Adrian College Eyan Wilson '22 – Track and Field, University of Findlay Jacob Ziegler '22 – Swimming, Calvin University

TITANS NAME NEW HEAD ROWING COACH

Aaron Parsons '15 has been named varsity rowing coach. Parsons rowed four years in high school and one season at the University of Michigan. He coached at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor for four years, where he took the team to a silver medal at Canadian nationals with fellow alumni and assistant coach Jared Schwallie '15.

Parsons is looking forward to coaching "back home" at SJJ. He says his goals include more than just a winning record. "I want to build a program that can compete across the Midwest and attend Nationals in three or four years. But most importantly, I love teaching the guys life lessons through crew—how to be a good communicator, how to give your best effort, and how doing small things right can impact an outcome of success!"



Spring 2022 Honors



BASEBALL First Team All-TRAC

Reece Magers '22 JP Wagner '23

Second Team All-TRAC

Caleb Click '23 Grant Dzierwa '23 Trey Lake '22

Honorable Mention All-TRAC

Carter Binkowski '22 Braden deGroff '22 Nathan Friesner '22

First Team All-District

Reece Magers '22 JP Wagner '23

Second Team All-District

Grant Dzierwa '23 Trey Lake '22

Honorable Mention All-District

Carter Binkowski '22 Caleb Click '23 Braden deGroff '22

LACROSSE

Region 5 Player of the Year

Quinn Wiklendt '24

First Team Region 5

Charlie Anderson '22 Will Bohne '23 Cooper Hoyt '23 Tyler Meader '23 Quinn Wiklendt '24 Zach Zitkovic '23

Second Team Region 5

Kaden King '23 Nate Miller '23

Honorable Mention Region 5

Quinn Staten '23 Abe Townley '23

First Team DII All-State

Will Bohne '23 Quinn Wiklendt '24

Second Team DII All-State

Tyler Meader '23

Honorable Mention DII All-State

Charlie Anderson '22 Cooper Hoyt '23 Zach Zitkovic '23

TENNIS

First Team All-TRAC

Nathan Allen '22 Jonathon To '22 Tyler Wood '23 Raphael Yazji '22

Second Team All-TRAC

Jack Oswald '24

Honorable Mention All-TRAC

Justin Bailey '22 Nathan Tam '25

First Team All-District

Nathan Allen '22 Jack Oswald '24 Tyler Wood '23 Raphael Yazji '22



TRACK AND FIELD State Results

Third Place 4x400m Relay Team

Tre Green '23 Caleb Kelly '25 Rocco Marra '22 Joseph Taylor '24

Fifth Place 4x200m Relay Team

Tre Green '23 Caleb Kelly '25 Alejandro Olvera '22 Joseph Taylor '24

Fourth Place 400m Dash

Joseph Taylor '24

Fifth Place Shot Put

Eyan Wilson '22

Ninth Place Shot Put

Tyler Babb '22

Sixth Place as a Team!

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Titans named as TRAC All Academic are student-athletes who meet each of the following three criteria: 1. Athlete must earn a varsity letter; 2. Athlete must be either a sophomore, junior, or senior; 3. Athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

SJJ takes great pride in the number of student-athletes who were recognized for the 2022 spring season.

Nathan Allen '22 Omar Asad '23 Tyler Babb '22 Justin Bailey '22 Mason Black '24 John Carroll '23 Caleb Click '23 Braden deGroff '22 Nick Dreyer '22 Jake Dukate '23 Grant Dzierwa '23

Nathan Friesner '22 Luis Fuentes '22 Daylen Glaze '22 Tyler Glaze '24 Orion Gonzalez '23 Tre Green '23 Danny Hazard '23 Julius Jackson '22 Seamus Leonard '23 Declan Loisel '24 Reece Magers '22 Max McCanna '23
Trey Miller '23
JB Minnear '24
Jakob Moon '22
Aidan Mott '22
Will Nieckarz '23
Trevor Obeto '23
Alejandro Olvera '22
Michael Operacz '23
Trent Pollard '22
Henry Robie '24

Stanley Root '22 AJ Schuller '23 Noah Schumacher '22 Joseph Taylor '24 Jonathon To '22 JP Wagner '23 Eyan Wilson '22 Tyler Wood '23 Raphael Yazji '22 Zane Ziemke '23



ST. JOHN'S JESUIT BEGINS SCHOOL YEAR WITH TRADITION AND NEW LEADERSHIP

The St. John's Jesuit community celebrated its annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on Friday, August 26, marking the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit is a longstanding tradition among Jesuit high schools and universities, dating back to 1584. It provides students, faculty, and staff a moment to pause, pray, and seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in living out the mission to be women and men for others in the upcoming school year. This year's Mass was especially notable as it marked the formal missioning of Mark Swentkofske '84 as St. John's Jesuit's twelfth president.

Students, faculty, and staff members began the celebration by welcoming Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ, provincial of the USA Midwest Province and principal celebrant for the occasion; he was joined by Rev. Brian Lehane, SJ; Rev. James Sand, SJ; Rev. Geoffrey Rose, O.S.F.S.; and Deacon Brendan Gillen. Fr. Kiser joined the community to lead a blessing of Swentkofske and to renew the school's sponsorship with the province. Members of the Class of 2026 were formally welcomed during the Mass.

Following the installation, there was a studentled blessing. The community extended hands over Swentkofske and asked for God's grace to guide him as he began his leadership of St. John's Jesuit.











2022 ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

















SAVE THE DATE:

2023 Alumni Golf Outing

July 21

Doug Pearson '82 Named Alumni Director



Doug Pearson '82 has recently been named St. John's Jesuit Alumni Director. Since 2018, Pearson has been working as an Advancement Officer and is credited with starting the Young Alumni Council. Prior to his role

in Advancement, he has worked for St. John's Jesuit in many capacities, including assistant football coach to the legendary Fred Beier, head football coach for 15 years, the Director of the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program, a teacher of physical education and health classes, and school counselor. In his new position as Alumni Director, he will connect with the thousands of alumni across the country. His primary goal will be to increase alumni engagement.

A parishioner at Christ the King Catholic Church, Pearson resides in west Toledo with his wife, Nikkie. He has two children, Nate '12 and Cara, and a granddaughter, Leah. Pearson is thrilled for the new opportunity. "I look forward to interacting with alumni of all ages and creating additional opportunities for them to stay in touch with the school and their classmates," he said.

MOTHER/SON MASS AND BREAKFAST























CLASS NOTES

Melbourne Boynton '79, Chief Medical Director and orthopedic surgeon at Rutland Regional Medical Center, has retired from being a U.S. Ski and Snowboard physician, but maintains a busy ortho-sports medicine/ surgical practice, as well as manages the physician enterprise of the health system near Killington, Vt. In June, Boynton joined Allen Mossing '79 and Orison (Kip) Chaffee '79 and their spouses in Hawaii for a mini-reunion.

From left to right Kip Chaffee, Al Mossing, and Mel Boynton, all graduates of the class of 1979, recently reunited for a vacation in Kauai.

John Muenzer '79 achieved the Triple Crown of open water swimming: a saltwater challenge that included crossing the English Channel (21 miles), circling Manhattan Island (28.5 miles), and swimming from Catalina Island to Los Angeles. He made the 20 1/2-mile odyssey swim from Catalina Island to Los Angeles at age 60 and as the grandfather of 11. Muenzer weathered an early storm (not the figurative kind) but, fortunately, no sharks, to complete the swim in 10 hours, 15 minutes. He also became the 27th—and oldest—person to complete the Grand Slam of marathon swimming, an accomplishment that includes the Triple Crown conquests and a 24-miler in Tampa Bay.

John Bamman '85, OFM Conv., received his first assignment in August as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua parish in Clarksville, Ind.

Ryan Boeding '93 spent two weeks cycling 800 miles from southern Spain to northern Spain. Boeding followed one of the many El Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage routes that lead to Santiago de Compostela, visiting historical and religious sites while following a Roman trading "road" that dates back 2000 years. Boeding enjoyed meeting great people, attending Mass in the la Cathedral de Santiago, and seeing the tomb of St. James.

In the summer of 2021, **Ben Pfeifer '14** walked for 37 days on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela from Irun to Finisterra, Spain.

Following a skiing injury in Vermont, **Nathan Schneider '98** had successful left knee ACL reconstruction surgery in April 2022 by Chief Medical Director and orthopedic surgeon **Dr. Melbourne Boynton '79.** Schneider has recovered and is contemplating climbing Mt. Everest again.

Bill Case '06 was sworn in to the bench as a Magistrate for the Juvenile and Probate Court in Licking County (Ohio) on March 21, 2022.

Luke Brahier '14 is a 1st Lieutenant serving the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan, for a three year tour. Brahier is currently at Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 (VMGR-152), the C-130 squadron, performing transport of cargo and personnel across the Indo-Pacific region.



Myles Copeland '15 was honored with the key to the City by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz in July for saving the life of the basketball referee while playing in New York for Toledo Glass City.



Keith Nelson Jr. '18 was named the 2022 University of Toledo Homecoming King.

MARK DUBIELAK '76 CELEBRATES TOLEDO LABRE PROGRAM MILESTONE

In September, the Toledo Labre Program marked its 10th anniversary, and co-founder Mark Dubielak '76 celebrated in the parking lot of Helping Hands of St. Louis with the community, St. John's Jesuit and St. Ursula Academy students, and fellow volunteers, including Phil Skeldon who partnered with him from 2012 – 2020. Dubielak recalled visiting Walsh Jesuit a decade ago to experience the program there and bringing students to share in the experience as well. "The students who came with us to Walsh thought there was no way we should not be doing this in Toledo," he said. Ten years later, the framework of the program is still the same: students prepare and deliver meals to some of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in Toledo every Monday, beginning and ending the evening with prayer. Dubielak has worked hard to instill in hundreds of students the importance of relationships. Through his actions almost every Monday, he has shown that being present "in the moment" is truly what being a Man for Others is all about.





Happy tenth anniversary to the Toledo Labre Program!

Pictured are many who gathered to celebrate in September, including students, parents, alumni, and past and present administrators from St. John's Jesuit and St. Ursula Academy, as well as University of Toledo medical school students and staff.

FALL OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOHN'S JESUIT

November 13, 1:00-4:00 pm

TINY TITANS

Please welcome the newest members of the Titan family!

Brian Scott '10 and Masa, son Luka, Nov. 23, 2021
Christopher Poturalski '99 and Lisa, son Kellan Brooks, Dec. 21, 2021
Ryan Adams '10 and Laura, son Luke, April 5, 2022
Andrew Schaetzke '08 and Rochelle, daughter Mary Cecilia, September 6, 2022

IN MEMORIAM

Name	Class	Deceased Date
Benjamin R. Spilman	91	4/10/2022
James P. Bremer		6/24/2022
Robert J. Anspach		7/5/2022
Charles R. Chambers	95	8/1/2022
Bruce D. Ruedisueli		8/2/2022
Thomas M. Redding		8/9/2022
William N. Herr		8/29/2022
Melvern A. Ayers		9/8/2022

A TRIBUTE TO BILL HERR '79

By Tom Cole '69



Bill Herr '79, after waging an incredibly heroic fight with cancer, passed away on August 29, 2022. He was surrounded by his loving wife, Ellie; his children Elece and Liam; and his siblings Mike, Chris, and Mary.

Bill was a remarkable math teacher and

football coach for many years at St. John's Jesuit. In the classroom, Bill was always fair, honest, and straightforward; he was always willing to help any student with his academic needs. As a football defensive coordinator, he was brilliant. Bill was so intellectual in his approach to coaching football defense. He helped bring to

SJJ many Blue Division championships, many wins over St. Francis de Sales, and many state play-off runs.

After great success at SJJ, Bill became an actuary and continued his new career successfully for many years. Bill did everything well. He was strong, determined, consistent, and fearless. If Bill Herr taught or coached you, you never

forgot him. He made an indelible mark on everyone he encountered. He was the perpetual *Man for Others*. Bill was like an Old Western marshal who rode into town and stood for all that was right and just—and he was tough enough to enforce it.



ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jack Miller '11

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