

Summer 2023

ST. JOHN'S JESUIT TITAN TOPICS

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

A TABLE SET FOR SUCCESS

Meet several alumni who have demonstrated that when the right ingredients come together, the possibilities have no limits.

See page 6.



SJJ TRACK AND FIELD
**STATE
CHAMPS!**

See page 13.

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*.

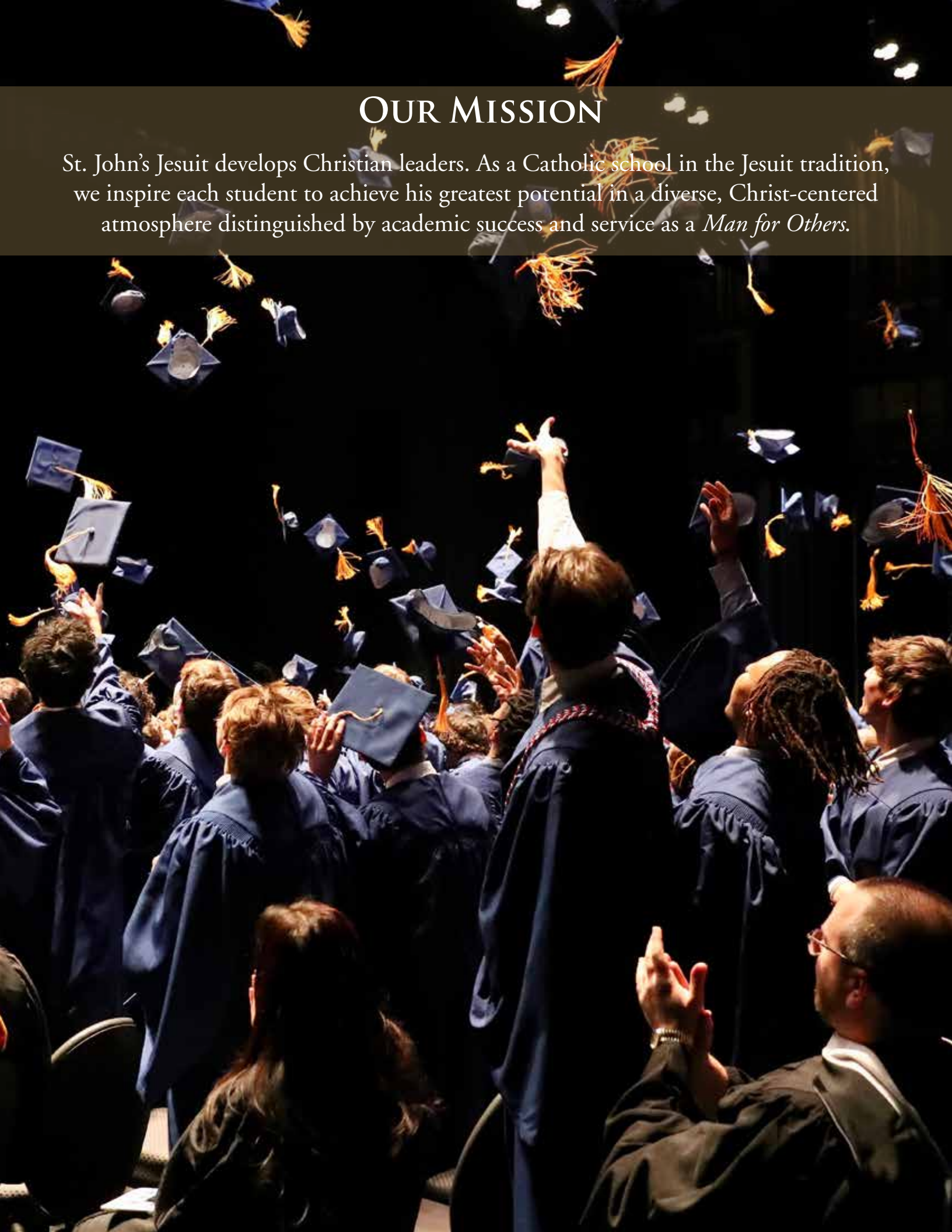


TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Letter from the President	4
A Year in Review	5
A Table Set for Success	6-12
Champs Thrilled to Make History	13
SJJ Scholarship Granting Organization	14
New Administrators Join the Advancement Team.....	15
Gratitude for the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program.....	16
The <i>Campaign for Innovation</i> Update	18
Annual Giving Report 2022.....	19-22
The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.....	23
Faculty Members Take an Ignatian Pilgrimage.....	23
Students Study Abroad Through the Jesuit Exchange Program	24
2023 Spring Musical <i>Big Fish</i>	25
The Class of 2023	26
Dinner Under the Dome 2023 <i>At the Chalet</i>	28
New Tiered Giving Levels of the Young Alumni Council	29
Athletic Highlights.....	30-33
Welcome Freshman Class of 2027	34
Upcoming Advancement Events and Important Dates	35
Class Notes.....	36
Tiny Titans.....	38
In Memoriam.....	38
Board Members.....	39

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



In this issue of *Titan Topics*, you will read about many interesting developments. I would like to highlight three:

- 1) **The Campaign for Innovation.** This campaign will not only provide outstanding new facilities, but it will also provide necessary resources, allowing us to continue to offer the unique SJJ educational experience to young men from every part of northwest Ohio. I encourage you to consider partnering with us and gifting our future Titans with the best SJJ experience possible.
- 2) St. John's Jesuit is now certified as a **Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)** by the State of Ohio. All Ohio taxpayers can gift up to \$750 as an individual or up to \$1,500 as a couple and receive a tax credit. Being an SGO is a **GAME CHANGER!** Many more potential donors can now give with more financial freedom. Please consider a gift to the SJJ SGO.
- 3) In this issue you will read about **SJJ alumni** who have established unique, successful, and tasty restaurants and eateries. You will not only enjoy these stories, but you may also be inspired to make a reservation.

I wish you all peace and happiness and look forward to seeing you back at 5901 Airport Highway soon! God bless.

AMDG,

Mark F. Swentkofske '84

Dear Titan Family,

We have much to be excited about at St. John's Jesuit. As my first year as President ends, I would summarize our progress in five succinct words: Tremendous Growth... Reaching for Excellence.

Looking back on the year, having Fr. James Sand, SJ, step into the role of Vice President of Ignatian Mission and Identity was a pivotal start. He has provided a renewed focus on our Jesuit foundation. Fr. Sand is proof that as the number of Jesuit priests has decreased, their significance and impact have greatly increased.

I am immensely proud of our teachers, administrators, staff members, coaches, parents, family members, and wonderful Board of Trustees. The entire SJJ family welcomed me and has adjusted to a new leader.

Every year we see the departure and retirement of SJJ staff. Dan Zawojski, Sue Matuszak, and Sandy Maxon all ended their careers in June after long, impactful tenures. They each served many years with passion, dedication, and commitment.

Athletics had an incredible year with tremendous growth and success in every season, topped off with a first-ever State Championship for Track and Field. The entire Track and Field program made a concerted effort to represent St. John's Jesuit in an Ignatian manner—to represent our school and our Titan Family with class and dignity.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

\$18M+

In college scholarships
earned by Class of 2023

\$3M

Allocated in Financial Aid



1

D1 Track & Field State
Championship



14

Students who participated in the
career internship program



8

Students who participated in
Jesuit Exchange Program



1

Alumni ordained into the
Society of Jesus



3

Years in a row that the SJJ band
program competed at a state level

13

Students who earned a varsity
letter for eSports

10X

Winner of the
All-Sports TRAC trophy

14

Student-led retreats

60+

Students who received daily
drop-in or after-school tutoring



187

Weekday Masses



123

Students who served in the
Toledo Labre Program



6

20/20 Jesuit Scholars who
graduated with full tuition
college scholarships

24

Faculty/staff members with
a Master's Degree

\$11.3M

Raised for the
Campaign for Innovation

A TABLE SET FOR SUCCESS

Take a driven attitude and add a dash of courage. Fold in the ability to think out of the box and a work ethic that never stops. Season with the will to persevere.

Meet several alumni who have demonstrated that when these ingredients come together, the possibilities have no limits. Each has uniquely applied these staples to thriving establishments in the Toledo area. So, what's the secret in the sauce? Their stories show that it takes living and working as a Man for Others to successfully navigate the risks of being a restaurant entrepreneur.

Jason Dzierwa '92—Le Petit Gourmet

Jason Dzierwa '92 is rarely caught without his signature SJJ sun visor. This staple to his wardrobe is a lot like his personality—laid-back, yet designed for the sweat from a long day of work. After graduating from SJJ, Jason attended the University of Toledo for both his undergraduate and Master of Business Administration degrees. He is the first to admit, “I wasn’t the strongest student at SJJ, but I was well prepared for college. I made the Dean’s list and went on to get my MBA. College was easy for me.”

While earning his MBA and living at home, Dzierwa took a job at Le Petit Gourmet, which was located inside Southwyck Mall in South Toledo. There, he began working with his future wife, Sarah Kozak, whose family owned the business. Soon after the couple married and, just days before Dzierwa was set to accept a high-level marketing position with a national toy company, his father-in-law became ill. The plan to work in the corporate world took a left turn and, 18 years later, he now enjoys and appreciates the advantages of being his own boss. “Answering to only yourself is scary, but worthwhile. I saw the opportunity for relationships and flexibility when I first worked for my in-laws. That lifestyle still has a lot of appeal to me.”

In 2004, Dzierwa faced one of his biggest business challenges when Southwyck Mall closed. The decision to build a free-standing building better suited for catering and located a little off the beaten path was a risk, but one that paid off. Today, approximately 75 percent of his business is catering, which is often fueled by patrons of the restaurant. Additionally, the versatility of owning the building has allowed Dzierwa to rent it out for special occasions.

With a family of six kids—five of whom have become or will be Titan graduates—owning Le Petit Gourmet has provided Dzierwa the perfect professional and personal outlet for his outgoing personality and desire to be present in his kids’ lives. “The almighty dollar was never really the point of my career choice. It was the flexibility to enjoy the kids and their friends, and, at the same time, make a



good living by being able to interact with all kinds of personalities.”

Ingredients for Success

Location: 6546 Weatherfield Ct., Maumee, OH 43537

Meaning Behind the Name: The name means “the small gourmet” in French!

Menu: Le Petit Gourmet is a deli and caterer serving specialty salads, soups, and sandwiches.

Business Challenges: Labor retention

Ways Adapted: The size of the Dzierwa family provides a natural pool of employees. Many friends and acquaintances of the Dzierwa kids have been a big resource for labor. All employees are part-time.

Takeaways from St. John’s: “My dad and brothers paved the way for me at SJJ to know a lot of teachers and coaches before I even started as a freshman. I was never afraid to interact with all kinds of people in high school. I knew all my classmates. Fred Beier, Joe Nye, Tom Cole, Tim Malone, and Phil Skeldon were all major influences and gave me confidence.”





Andrew Mancy '15—The Stubborn Brother Pizza Bar

Andrew Mancy '15, one of Toledo's youngest successful restaurant entrepreneurs, claims that the Class of 2015 is the greatest to ever graduate from St. John's Jesuit. He is adamant on this point, revealing a trait he likely inherited from his dad, the stubborn brother in the Mancy family for whom his pizzeria was affectionately named.

Mancy earned a finance degree from Xavier University and returned to Toledo to assume leadership of the pizzeria in 2019—just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. His career has just started, yet his experience since 2019 has been so extraordinary that he categorizes what he has learned into chapters labeled, “Pre-COVID, COVID, Post-COVID, and ‘the Dave Portnoy Chapter.’” Undoubtedly, the original concept for Stubborn Brother has evolved quickly in four years. “When we first opened, we had no servers, we took all orders through QR codes, and runners would bring the food out to customers,” he said. Coincidentally, that model was ideal for the worldwide pandemic that was about to be unleashed. In the months leading up to the shutdown, Mancy spent most of his time figuring out what was—and was not—working. “The first year was a struggle. I quickly learned that relying on our proximity to the University of Toledo was not enough. The late-night college business is very cyclical and inconsistent. We pivoted to address the more family-oriented needs of the surrounding neighborhoods in Old Orchard and Ottawa Hills,” he said.

As it was for almost every restaurant in the country, the year 2020 for The Stubborn Brother was devastating. Profits were wiped out, and Mancy had to lay off much of his staff. “As scary as it was, COVID was a blessing in disguise,” he admits. With nothing else to do, Mancy and his closest colleagues would come into the restaurant every day. “We knew there was room for improvement, so we worked on recipes and learned ways to be more efficient in the kitchen.” The Stubborn Brother emerged from the pandemic a much better restaurant—wasting less product and creating a much stronger carryout.

The most recent chapter in Mancy's career has been defined by David Portnoy's Barstool

Pizza Review. Portnoy, Barstool's founder, has a national following that is a little obsessed with his pizza reviews. The Stubborn Brother's 8.1 score was one of the highest ever given. Business soared after the review, to say the least, and Mancy's team learned new lessons in adjusting to extreme, sudden increases in demand. “We had people who drove from Wisconsin, Idaho, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Kentucky, and New York just to try our pizza,” he said. In the blink of an eye, his product had to be quadrupled, and Mancy had to figure it all out.

A new chapter is just beginning at The Stubborn Brother with added renovated space for private parties. “We always knew we wanted to offer private space, but, for many reasons, we needed to hold off,” he said. The time is now right. Mancy, true to the namesake of his restaurant, is stubbornly adhering to his plan to expand and is poised to succeed again.

Ingredients for Success

Location: 3115 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43606

Meaning Behind the Name: Named for Andrew's father, John Mancy, who is one of the three sons of Gus Mancy, founder of the original Mancy's Steakhouse. John Mancy opened the pizzeria in 2018 independent of The Mancy Restaurant Group.

Menu: American pub food specializing in pizza.

Business Challenges: Catering to college students because of its proximity to University of Toledo was not profitable.

Ways Adapted: Wait staff was added to eliminate QR code ordering and to appeal to a more family-friendly crowd. More personal experience led to an increase in regular customers and business outside of the college campus.

Takeaways from St. John's: “My time at SJJ has given me many opportunities for networking. I still have contact with alums like Joey Sofo '14, Anthony Bruno '15, and Myles Copeland '15. These are guys with integrity that I am proud to know.”



A TABLE SET FOR SUCCESS *(continued)*



Jonn Appold '79—Maumee Bay Brewing Company

The purchase was made around the time the resurgence of craft brew pubs was gaining momentum, and the concept of how to repurpose the Oliver House was born. Today, the Oliver House is the oldest commercial building in Toledo in use, and Appold, along with his brother and brother-in-law, runs the family business, overseeing the operations for both Rockwell's and Maumee Bay Brewing Company. He takes great pride in upholding his parents' work ethic and love for the history of Toledo amid the challenge of adapting to changing trends in downtown dining.

Ingredients for Success

Location: 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Meaning Behind the Name: Maumee Bay Brewing Co. was named for attributes of Toledo and the surrounding area; its logo has evolved from a heron to the High-Level Bridge.

Menu: Maumee Bay Brewing Co. is Toledo's original craft brewery, known for its craft beers and ciders, as well as American pub fare, including burgers. Rockwell's, located on the second floor of The Oliver House, offers fine dining and is best known for steak.

Business Challenges: Downtown lunch business has decreased as many employers now have cafeterias/in-house options, and remote work environments have eliminated the need for business lunches. The Oliver House is often regarded as a destination for special events versus a spot for frequent dining.

Ways Adapted: Through SJJ connections with Treu House of Munch and MacQueen's Orchards, alumni have formed partnerships and created new products that are now distributed to many outside locations.

Takeaways from SJJ: "During my sophomore year, something changed in me through the SJJ experience: 'get busy being the solution or get to the sidelines.' I was inspired by teachers and coaches like Carl Demarkowski, Ron Miller, Andy Babula, Tim Smith, Carl Wagner, Ed Heintschel, John Braucher, Fred Beier, and others to make my own way, always keeping in mind there is more to the world than one's self."

Jonn Appold graduated from St. John's in 1979, earned his undergraduate degree from Miami University, and started working in the family business, Consolidated Biscuit, a commercial bakery for cookies and crackers in McComb, Ohio. "Working at the family business provided me with the best opportunity for advancement. I graduated from college and was ready to immerse myself in hard work. Working with my dad was engaging and worthwhile."

In 1990, Appold's dad bought the Oliver House as a gift for his mom, a historical preservationist. The Oliver House was Toledo's first grand hotel, built in 1859. It had since become a condemned building, despite its significance on the National Register of Historic Places.



Bill Anderson '78—Dale's Bar and Grill

With the last name Anderson and being the son of a family that owns a *Fortune* 500 company based in Maumee, Bill “Grax” Anderson ’78 was likely to pursue a fulfilling career that had something to do with agriculture. Not so in this case, as Anderson bought Dale’s Bar and Grill in 1987. “I worked for the family business right after graduating from Ohio State University and quickly realized I wasn’t doing it for me. I really felt the drive to be an entrepreneur, to be my own boss and see the immediate results of my work.”

Excited by the example of Charlie’s Edibles in Sylvania, Anderson’s original plan was to open a similar ice cream and sandwich shop in Maumee. He had done his research and purchased ice cream equipment while looking for the right location. His realtor convinced him to look at something a little different that had just gone up for sale on Conant Street—and the rest is history. “Owning Dale’s has been fulfilling for me and my family. I’ve met incredible people over the years,” he said and then added, “Dale’s is a destination place—a historic location with a small-town feel for diners of all ages.”



In 2011, Dale’s was in a groove, and Bill and his wife Liz wanted to expand to include a breakfast offering—so they built Dale’s Diner in Waterville. For 10 years, both restaurants were open every day. The couple has now sold Dale’s Diner, which Anderson admits has simplified their lives. In looking back at his initial restaurant, he said, “With great risk comes great reward, and Dale’s and Dale’s Diner have afforded us a great life.”

Ingredients for Success

Location: 322 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537

Meaning Behind the Name: Dale’s originally opened in 1920, and the establishment, under this name, is one of the oldest bar/restaurants in northwest Ohio.

Menu: Dale’s Bar & Grill serves traditional pub food and is known for the Humpty Dumpty burger, loaded tots, wings, and the Friday Fish Sandwich Special.

Business Challenges: Labor retention and current inflation

Ways Adapted: Lean operations help to offset inflation. Management staff is incentivized through profit-sharing. Dale’s has a strong sense of family, coupled with the understanding that it takes a team to run a successful restaurant business.

Takeaways from St. John’s: “Teachers like Fr. “Doc” Sweeney, Andy Babula, Tim Smith, and Ed Heintschel taught me to treat people with respect. They instilled in me a drive and a work ethic to push myself and to not be content until I reach my potential.”



A TABLE SET FOR SUCCESS *(continued)*



Brandon Fields '02 —Inside the Five

The ideal place for a football to land after being kicked by an NFL punter would be inside the five yard line. Every time. That feeling of finding a favorite spot is exactly what inspired Brandon Fields '02 to open a brewpub in 2018.

After graduating from SJJ,

Fields went on the play for Michigan State University and was drafted by the Miami Dolphins as a punter in 2007. He made Florida his home for nine years. During that time, his wife Katie gave him a home brewing kit for his birthday. "I fell in love with home brewing," Fields said. "I really enjoyed combining ingredients to make a drink to share with others."

Fields learned a lot from brewers Ryan and KC Sentz who were mentors to him in Florida. Upon retiring from football, he and Katie returned to the Toledo area to be close to family and to open their own brewpub. Former MSU teammate and roommate Chris Morris became a partner in the venture. Initially, Fields almost purchased a plot of land from the City of Sylvania for a location on Monroe Street. Taking a step back, he realigned himself with the initial objective to start small and connect with the community. "I didn't want to put all our eggs in one basket. I didn't want to be in a strip mall...finding a location that was part of the community was important."

Three years later, Fields found the location he was looking for. It was an old building with personality formerly owned by the restaurant Treo, in the heart of Sylvania. Fields and Morris rolled up their sleeves and put a lot of hard work into repairing and renovating the space. Both talented woodworkers, they even created handmade benches and the bar. Katie played and continues to play an integral part of the business as well, managing the kitchen and the staff. Open since 2018, Inside the Five has become that favorite spot Fields was striving for, and one that is always giving back to the community.

His success didn't stop there, though. In November 2020, Inside the Five expanded to a Perrysburg location on Third Street. "We opened our Perrysburg location sooner than we expected to," Fields admits, "but the location was too good to pass up." The Sylvania footprint for Perrysburg has worked well. Despite opening during the COVID-19 shutdown, Fields feels that the second location quickly caught up because of his fantastic management team.

Fields and Morris have recently moved all beer production to a new location at the southeast corner of campus at the University of Toledo. "Our production has increased eight-fold, and we plan to open a taproom for customers by the end of the summer," he said. It is a bold move, but familiar territory, and the odds are in Fields' favor to successfully position Inside the Five once again.

Ingredients for Success

Location: 5703 N. Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560
127 W. Third St., Perrysburg, OH 43551

Meaning Behind the Name: Brandon Fields was a punter for the Miami Dolphins and the Michigan State Spartans. From the perspective of a punter, "inside the five" yard line is the most advantageous location to place the football.

Menu: Unique beers, burgers, salads, American brewpub fare

Business Challenges: Establishing a brewpub as a favorite of locals in the community

Ways Adapted: Patiently waited for the best locations in the heart of the desired neighborhoods and then generously supported local events and causes

Takeaways from St. John's: "SJJ instilled in me the ability to see the bigger picture. In doing so, I learned to not settle for average results and always work hard to reach my fullest potential."



Phil Barone '74—Rosaria's on Third Street

The latest pop culture trends were key to Phil Barone '74, along with his brothers John '70 and Mike '72, in enticing customers to their new restaurant in 1981. There were only six tables when it opened, but Pac Man and something called MTV proved to be effective bait. The original restaurant, named for his mother, was a deli in a building that had no parking. "My mom was very involved early on," Barone recalled. "She was a character and excellent cook; all of our recipes came from her kitchen."

Barone's dad was a lawyer and had connections to a 7-Eleven building up for sale. "My dad helped us to quickly relocate to resolve the parking problem," he said. Word of Rosie's authentic Italian recipes spread, and Phil and his brothers soon had people lined up out the door. "People in line looked so hungry, and I knew we had to offer them something while they waited," Barone recalled—and that's how Rosie's Hot Mama Bread started. Barone identified the business problem and his brother Mike perfected the recipe—right down to the way he cut it in diamond-shaped pieces. "Customers liked it so much they wanted to order it off the menu, but it wasn't there. We had to add it, and, to this day, Hot Mama Bread is our most popular item."

As the Barone brothers worked to create consistency in and pay honor to their mom's recipes, Rosie's Deli evolved into five Rosie's pizzerias. In 2004, the last of the pizzerias closed to put all the focus on the current location at Nebraska and McCord. As the format of Rosie's changed to fine dining, the objective stayed the same. Barone's mom became less involved in the daily business, but her influence has always been the driving force. "After my dad died, Mom and I would have a weekly date night. She always chose Rosie's, and we sat in the same booth every Friday night. She was like a rock star with our patrons."

Barone's dream for many years was to open another restaurant. Adding a Perrysburg location has been a new challenge with a familiar feel. "When the location on Third Street became available, I jumped on it," he said.



Sharing the news with his mom was a proud moment, and one that remains a comfort since her passing in 2018. Her spirit, though, is alive in the smallest details of Barone's work—from the heirloom tomatoes he selects at the Farmer's Market to the stunning watercolor portrait of his mom that hangs at Rosaria's in Perrysburg as a loving reminder of family roots.

Ingredients for Success

Location: 135 W. Third St., Perrysburg, OH 43551

Meaning Behind the Name: Named for the late Rosaria Barone, the matriarch of the Barone family, whose recipes have been on the menu since the first deli-restaurant opened in 1981

Menu: Authentic Italian cuisine

Business Challenges: Creating consistency in Rosie's original recipes, which were often "a pinch of this and a pinch of that." Also, retaining wait staff poses a challenge.

Ways Adapted: Barone has added a Head Chef position at Rosaria's, and he is also his business partner. With Barone's support, Chef Eric has built consistency, as well as respect and pride in the staff.

Takeaways from St. John's: "My teammates, coaches, and teachers taught me how to be a winner by doing the right things. My family instilled a work ethic in me, and it was reinforced at St. John's. I carry it with me to this day."

A TABLE SET FOR SUCCESS *(continued)*

Chris Nixon '04—Element 112

This article was written in June, prior to the announcement that Element 112 was converting into a bakery and cafe as of August 5, 2023.

A wall in the back of Element 112 is covered with framed menus from former jobs that mark important milestones in the young culinary career of Chris Nixon '04. It is a humble account of his impressive journey from The French Culinary Institute to working under the direction of world-renowned chefs in New York like Tom Colicchio at Craft and Thomas Keller at Per Se. The wall tells the tale of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at Noma in Denmark, where he continued to develop professionally at a restaurant voted best in the world six times. “My career path has never been work to me,” Nixon said. “In the beginning, I would show up really early, eager to be mentored and to problem-solve.” Fast-forward to 2023, and Nixon applies these important concepts both in and outside of the kitchen as owner of Element 112 in downtown Sylvania.

Being trained so well has been a blessing and a challenge for Nixon. His objective to create the best version of every item on the menu at his restaurant is driven by his passion for cooking and his skill. But he can't do it alone. The challenge has been finding the talent in Toledo to work with him in the kitchen. Nixon said, “When I started to teach instead of demand, we got better.” He learned from his time at SJJ that “excellence breeds excellence” and has applied this concept to the way he works with his staff. For those who want to make a career as a chef, Nixon will dedicate time to coach and mentor. It is a win-win situation.

After Nixon had more appropriately aligned his hiring criteria for the kitchen, he turned his focus to building recipes and fine-tuning the bar and dining experience. “Two professional bartenders have produced a wine list with personality,” he said, “and we are constantly working on what it means to provide genuine table service.”

The most recent challenge for Element 112 is the booming bakery business. In an unexpected turn of events, the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Mich., started placing large orders for a croissant Nixon created for his wife, Madeline, after a trip to Paris. Commercial orders in high volumes have been coming ever since.



Fortunately, Nixon is still a problem-solver at heart, so he is comfortable with uncharted territory and poised to lead his business and the local culinary talent he is cultivating into a very promising future.

Ingredients for Success

Location: 5735 N. Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560

Meaning Behind the Name: Named for Nixon's initials CN, which translate to Element 112 on the periodic table. Chemistry is the foundation of cooking.

Menu: French, American, and contemporary cuisine

Business Challenges: Identifying local talent eager to learn from Nixon's background

Ways Adapted: Nixon has established a model for mentorship that has created all-around better and clearer expectations in his hiring practices. This change has allowed him to mold local talent and turn to building on his recipes.

Takeaways from St. John's: “I was surrounded by great people in my time at St. John's—from coaches to teachers and counselors. I learned that excellence breeds excellence.”



CHAMPS THRILLED TO MAKE HISTORY

by Michael Burwell, *Blade* Sports Writer • Excerpts reprinted with permission by *The Blade*



The pure joy that poured out of St. John's Jesuit's track and field athletes moments after the Titans won the 1,600-meter relay late Saturday night in the OHSAA Division I state track and field meet reverberated throughout Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

A couple of days later, the St. John's community is still ecstatic after bringing home team titles.

"It's been crazy. The excitement's just overwhelming," [said] St. John's Jesuit athletic director Bob Ronai. "We're just so thrilled and more importantly, so happy for our kids."

The Titans' performances highlighted a huge weekend in Columbus for area track and field teams. The school came through in the clutch by leapfrogging multiple squads in the team standings in the final event, the 1,600 relay, to win a state title.

For St. John's, taking home a trophy that is challenging to win in any sport certainly means a lot.

St. John's, which has had plenty of success recently and historically across numerous sports, earned its fifth state team title, according to the OHSAA website. The Titans' golf teams from 1931, 1987, and 1994, as well as the 2007 hockey team, were state champions, as well.

St. John's has posted state runner-up finishes in basketball (1993, 1996, 2004), cross country (2006), golf (1985, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1996), and hockey (2009), and has also been state semifinalists in baseball, football, lacrosse, and soccer, but never had a performance in track and field like they did last weekend.

"We really pride ourselves at St. John's. We want to be good in everything," said Ronai, who has been St. John's athletic director for the past 12 years. "A lot of schools put all of their apples into football or basketball, and we look at all our sports the same.

"We want them to be as competitive as they possibly can be and be the best that they can be in everything."

When it comes to winning a state title, a team needs a lot to go its way and maybe have a little bit of luck. It needs big-time performances from its top athletes, as well.

The Titans had their fair share of instances where everything worked out in their favor, and their stars saved their best for last.

In Friday's semifinals, St. John's 1,600 relay team finished seventh out of nine teams in their heat in 3:20.40. The top two teams in each of the two heats, then the next five fastest times, advanced to finals.

The Titans' relay, which included sophomore Caleb Kelly, sophomore Caleb Root, senior Tre Green, and junior Joseph Taylor, snatched the final qualifying spot by just 55-hundredths of a second, then ran a remarkable 3:13.94 to win the state title.

"What they did, talk about making use of it, holy cow," Ronai said. "That's just unbelievable."

Kelly, who ended the meet with four top-five finishes, was the ninth and final qualifier in the 100 by just two-hundredths of a second before darting to a third-place finish in the event. He ran four events (100, 800 relay, 200, 1,600 relay) in a short amount of time on Friday, then ran the same four on Saturday.

He was noticeably faster leading off the 1,600 relay in finals than he was the previous day.

"That four-by-four, we learned a lesson because it was a quick turnaround from the 200, and he put out a helluva time in the 200," St. John's coach Steve Spenthoff said on Saturday. "So we talked about that and we knew he'd have more rest tonight.

"We had him jogging off the podium in the 200, and [we] checked on him, he told me, he goes I feel regular. That feels pretty good in our book."

(Editor's note: SJJ Tennis earned three additional state titles through Ohio Tennis Coaches Association.)

INTRODUCING A NEW WAY OHIO TAXPAYERS CAN SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S JESUIT

Alumni and friends of St. John's Jesuit who reside in Ohio have a new way to support current and future Titans that doesn't have to cost a penny. In 2021, Ohio passed legislation that allows for establishing a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). St. John's Jesuit SGO was established in March and certified in May by the State of Ohio. This change is great news for Titan supporters who pay Ohio taxes, as a donation to an SGO is a dollar-for-dollar State of Ohio tax credit.

SGOs are designed to provide an opportunity for donors to use their tax dollars to give tuition assistance to eligible families and their students. That means the gift amount is deducted from the State of Ohio tax liability. The only stipulation is the cap for an SGO contribution is \$750 if filing as an individual and \$1,500 if filing jointly.


More specifically, SGOs are separate, tax exempt, 501(c)3 organizations established to collect donations on behalf of participating schools that want to provide scholarships to their eligible students. Each SGO and its participating school determines the scholarship application and subsequent award process, according to Ohio laws and guidelines.

In addition to a new source of tuition assistance, the St. John's Jesuit SGO provides an alternative way to assist families and students, as donations to an SGO must be designated to scholarships, freeing up donations outside of the SGO for other projects and school-related needs.

Support for the St. John's Jesuit SGO may be accomplished in three simple steps:

1. Estimate State of Ohio tax liability. [Note: If the State of Ohio tax payment is greater than or equal to the contribution (with a limit of \$750 per individual), the contribution ultimately costs nothing.]
2. Give online to the St. John's Jesuit SGO at www.sjjtoledo.org/give/sgo or mail a check made payable to St. John's Jesuit Scholarship Granting Organization to 5901 Airport Highway, Toledo, OH 43615.
3. Save the receipt and claim the tax credit on the State of Ohio tax return. SJJ will mail a receipt within two weeks of the gift.

The St. John's Jesuit SGO allows donors to use State of Ohio tax dollars to directly impact tuition assistance for those who need it most. For more information including frequently asked questions and online giving, visit sjjtoledo.org/give/sgo/. Inquiries may also be directed to Nick Butler, Director of Advancement, at (419) 720-0770 or nbutler@sjjtians.org.



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NEW ADMINISTRATORS JOIN THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM

Nick Butler '01, Director of Advancement



Nick Butler graduated from St. John's Jesuit in 2001 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo. He spent 10 years at SJJ teaching and working as an administrator in the Academy and the Advancement Department. In 2017, Butler left SJJ to serve as a Director of Development at The University of Toledo Foundation supporting the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He oversaw a \$2 million accepted grant proposal to increase water quality research at the university. Over the course of his tenure at UT, both colleges increased donor retention, alumni giving, and annual revenue.

Butler has found a home again at SJJ in Advancement. In his new role, he oversees all aspects of donor relations, including major giving, annual giving, planned giving, and corporate giving. "The stories and memories our alumni have about their time at SJJ are what I enjoy most about the work here," Butler said. "It doesn't matter if you are talking to someone from the class of 1969 or 2009, many of the stories come back to the foundation that was set for them during their years on Airport Highway."

Butler and his wife Janet are parishioners at St. John XXIII and reside in Waterville with their three children: Owen '30, Ella (10), and Drew (8).

Stacy Poca, Director of the Annual Fund



Stacy Poca joined SJJ as Director of the Annual Fund with more than 20 years working in non-profit and higher education Advancement and communications roles. Before joining the SJJ family, Poca was Director of Corporate Engagement and Planned Giving Officer at the University of Findlay, where she secured six- and seven-figure gifts for the university's comprehensive campaign. She has also spent time at the University of Indianapolis, University of Tennessee, and Bowling Green State University, as well as at national non-profit headquarters offices in Toledo and Indianapolis. Poca specializes in building relationships that connect alumni and donors to school-funding priorities.

Poca obtained her undergraduate degree from Manchester College and a master's degree from Bowling Green State University. She lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Josh, and two children, Eleanore (14) and Julian (11), and enjoys reading, gardening, attending Broadway musicals, watching movies with her family, and being involved in her kids' school activities. She is looking forward to learning and growing as part of the Titan tradition.

GRATITUDE FOR THE 20/20 JESUIT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Q&A

ANTHONY BROWN '05

More than 20 years ago, Fr. Don Vetesse, SJ, founded the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program on the firm belief that educational opportunity is “a human right and not a privilege.” Two decades later, hundreds of Titan graduates who participated in the program have forever impacted school history. Their stories of what it meant to attend St. John's Jesuit are a tribute to why the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program was created. Success stories, such as the one Anthony Brown '05 shares, bring to fruition what it means to be Jesuit educated.



What do you remember most about your time at SJJ?

I have great appreciation for my time at St. John's for so many reasons. I wouldn't be a Johnnie if not for the 20/20 Program. The program provided me with community and a support system so that, having come from a public school system, I wouldn't feel or be alone. Supporting and being part of the athletics program will always stay with me. Going to basketball, football, soccer, or hockey games to chant “We are SJ” never got old. It never will. What I remember the most, though, are the people. The grit and genius of classmates like J.W. Terry and Tico Thepsourinthone '05, Mr. Jensen's daily overview of the previous day's supper he prepared, Senior Retreat, Mr. Welling's prayers, hanging with Mike Schoen and Jim Kanney to pass the time...great people at St. John's make the school what it is.

Who were important influencers in your high school years and why?

High school wasn't always easy for me. Actually, going to SJ was the first time I felt challenged academically. That's not it, though. In my freshman year, my parents divorced, and my dad got sick. I was angry about what happened to my family and had long days in a new space. My mom dropped me off early before school, and I stayed late into the evening to be picked up. After school, if I wasn't studying or doing homework, Mr. Beier let me walk around the building with him. I don't remember us talking much. We were just together. Later, he started taking me home from school. By my sophomore year, Mr. Beier found me a job and dropped me off there. He extended himself to and for me. I felt his care. We became friends, and St. John's started to feel like a home because of my relationship with Mr. Beier.

What has been your career path?

My career path has been quite the journey. After graduating from Xavier University, I spent five years working contractually with medical facilities to bottom out their Accounts Receivables. Our work assisted un(der)-insured patients in obtaining free state programs to cover their medical expenses. Feeling incomplete in that work, I quit my job and enrolled into Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. After seminary, I served in church leadership and worked with non-profits like the Homeless Families Foundation. Part of my work



"The decisions I've made in my professional and personal life have been guided, in large part, by service. How can my life and work help me, and others, find dignity, be and feel human?"

at HFF was to work with at-risk youth. I worked with middle school-aged students in after-school programs, leading its STEM activities. The late evening hours became a challenge after my wife and I had children, so I transitioned to the classroom. For the last few years, I have been teaching middle school math at Friendship Public Charter Schools. I have been chosen to teach in a pilot program called CapX, where we expose scholars to learning opportunities outside the traditional school model by making D.C. our classroom.

How has a St. John's education impacted your professional and personal life?

Going to St. John's introduced me to the Ignatian Way, being people for others. Since then, I have been grounded in this idea. My experience at St. John's led me to apply and attend Xavier University to continue a Jesuit education. The decisions I've made in my professional and personal life have been guided, in large part, by service. How can my life and work help me, and others, find dignity, be and feel human? I've come to understand we are part of a creation much bigger than ourselves. This understanding behooves me to be open to what I can both give and receive when in community and look to every day as a growing opportunity.

What are your biggest takeaways from your time as a student at SJJ?

Get comfortable being in the uncomfortable. St. John's was the biggest and most uncomfortable change I had

experienced. The spiritual traditions there are different from what I had known. The socioeconomic status of the other students was vastly different from my own, which was made evident by many of the cars my classmates drove to school. I was and felt exposed to the unfamiliar for the first time. In many ways, I learned I was a minority. This truth was obvious in and throughout SJJ for classmates like me. I learned that exposure is a risk. We can be uncertain where the unfamiliar will take us. Fortunately, exposure has been kind to me. I have learned that I am quite adaptable, I have great power within, and great things come from the minority.

What are your reflections about participating in the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars program?

I was the only student from McTigue Junior High to walk through St. John's doors in Fall 2001. The 20/20 scholars sat together at lunch, we played chess and basketball, we grew to lean on one another academically. The program was my number one resource. More than the tuition and book scholarship, the 20/20 Program had a system, a blueprint to help us navigate our new unfamiliar. We participated in orientation and afterschool study hours, and the program director was always available to advise us in any extracurricular the school offered. By the time I became an upperclassman, I offered mentorship to the younger classes and served as an SJJ Ambassador.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR INNOVATION UPDATE

In October 2022, St. John's Jesuit announced The Campaign for Innovation, a \$15.8 million fundraising effort focused on strengthening academics with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. The campaign will fund a "Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship" in a state-of-the-art facility that will also serve to complete necessary stadium enhancements. In addition, a Jesuit living residence and a community center will be built on the grounds of the campus. Scholarship and endowment funding will be significantly increased.

The generosity of many alumni and friends has propelled the campaign within \$3.5 million of the goal. The Office of Advancement is confident in the dedication of the Titan community as the work continues in the final phase of fundraising. To support the Campaign for Innovation at any level, please return the enclosed envelope or contact Nick Butler, Director of Advancement, at (419) 720-0770 or nbutler@sjjtians.org.

Summer 2023 Campaign Update

- The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneur will break ground in spring 2024 and will take approximately 16 months to complete.
- The Jesuit residence and community center will break ground in spring 2026 and will take approximately 14 months to complete.
- Advancement efforts continue to raise the capital required to build.
- The Academic team is developing curriculum to prepare students for the evolving world of business.
- SJJ continues to need loyalty and generosity.

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 Dr. and Mrs. David J. Buehrer '81
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Burkett '92
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Burkett '78
 Mr. and Mrs. Rinold W. Burkhart '85
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Burns
 Mr. Nicholas A. Burtscher '01
 Mr. Jacob T. Businger '15
 Mr. Nick I. Butler '01
Mr. and Mrs. Brent D. Byerly '91
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Calabrese
 Drs. Donald and Mary Cameron
 Mr. John C. Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Cappelletty '87
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Carr '70
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Carroll '82
 Ms. Christie Casati
 Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Case /
 Frame's Pest Control Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Cedoz
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Chan
 Mr. Fritz Cherrington '73
 Children's Discovery Centers, Inc.
Mr. James J. Christy '09
Ms. Mary Cianci
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen E. Clark
 Class of 1971
 Class of 1972
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Clifford '80
 Mr. Andrew Coatley
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis P. Coleman
 Mr. Scott Collins '80 and
 Mrs. Denise Simmons-Collins
 Mrs. and Mr. Charity Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Conklin '77
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Connors '69
 Mr. Timothy F. Connors '72
 Mr. John D. Cook '77
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Corbett
 Mr. Benjamin J. Cornell '12
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry E. Crandell
 Mr. Todd Crandell
Dr. James and Patricia Croak*
 Mrs. Susan Croci
 Mr. and Mrs. Cris A. Crosser
 Mr. and Mrs. Troy F. Dailey '01
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Davis
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Davis and Family
Mr. Nick Deardurff '69
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Deaton
 Mr. and Mrs. Cormac B. Delaney
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Denker
 Mr. Tony Desch / Desch Financial, LLC
 Mr. Timothy J. Desmond '79
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Dewey
 Mr. and Ms. Thomas E. Dibling '71
 Ms. Maria Diment
 Mr. Daniel J. Dooley '78
 Mr. W. Thomas Dowling
 Mrs. Joseph Dubielak
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Duczynski
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Duggan III '88

Mr. Michael M. Effler '03
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis A. Ehrmin '00
 Mr. and Mrs. Ramy Eidi /
 Eidi Family Properties, LLC
 Ms. Kathleen L. Elwell
 Mr. and Mrs. David R. Errington
 Mr. Andrew T. Feehan '05
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Fehlen '71
 Ms. Pamela Ferdon
 Dr. Kathryn Lewis /
 Findlay Dental Group
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Fischer '71
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Fleitz '89
Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Foos '90
 Mrs. Patricia Frechette
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fritz '74
 Mrs. Mary E. Galvin
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Garn
 GBQ Holdings, LLC
 Ms. Amanda Geletka
 Mr. and Mrs. Rob R. Gernerchak '82
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Gerhardinger '86
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Giacci '74
 Dr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Giordano
 Drs. Jamie Lynne and Merrill Gladden
 Glass City Federal Credit Union
 Mr. and Mrs. David W. Glaza
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Glowacki '73
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Gonia
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Gouvert Esq. '85
 Mr. and Mrs. Ted F. Gradel '83
 Mr. Neal E. Gregory II '02
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Grzeda '87
 Mr. Edward J. Guerra '70
 Mr. Paul A. Gydosh Jr.
 Mr. John P. Habib '95
 Mr. Rick W. Halker Jr. '96
 Mr. Richard W. Halker III '21
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Hanna '78
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Hartman '74
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin F. Hartsfield '70
 Mr. and Mrs. James Haudan
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Hausch II '89
 Mr. Alexander R. Heaney '05
 Mr. Edward D. Heintschel
 Mr. Nicholas Henderson '17
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Hennekes
 Mr. Andrew M. Henry '03
 Mr. John F. Herlihy '71
 Mr. and Mrs. James G. Hermiller '74
 Dr. and Mrs. Donald K. Hickey '72
Mr. and Mrs. Brian P. Higgins '82
 Mr. David J. Hileman and
 Mrs. Angela B. Bartley
 Mr. Samuel L. Hillard '99
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Q. Hills '84
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Hills '74
 Mr. Kevin T. Hinds '09
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Hire
Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Hobbs USN
 (Ret.) '81
 Mr. Joe Holmes
 Ms. Wendy Holub
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Holzemer '81

Mr. James M. Holzemer
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Hoppenjans
 Ms. Sharon Horigan
 Mr. and Mrs. Nick Huber '78
 Mr. William Huber and Ms. Penelope Clarke
 Mr. Jacob R. Huebner '11
Mrs. Renee L. Huebner
 Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hurford
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Ibele
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Iott '74
 Mr. and Mrs. Doug B. Irving '78
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Jacoby '78
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Jacoby '06
 Mr. Alex J. Jendrzek '11
 Dr. Michael R. Jeng '85
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Jerge
 Mr. Andrew R. Jewell '15
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Johnson '81
 Mr. and Mrs. William L. Jones Jr. '71
 Mr. Christopher L. Jones '99
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey W. Joyce '80
 Mr. and Mrs. William S. Joyce '77
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan D. Judy '91
 Mr. and Mrs. Edmund P. Jurski
 Dr. Nathan R. Kalies '11
 Mr. David K. Kalosis '89
 Mr. and Mrs. William Kanary
 Karban Financial, LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. David R. Kaser
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel T. Keeler '71
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin J. Kehres '77
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan J. Kelley '78
 Mr. Dillon M. Kelly '14
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory J. Kelly '77
 Mr. Michael Kelly
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Kerscher '72
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O. Kettman '72
Mr. and Mrs. Tony N. Khoury
Mr. Michael L. Killen '71
 Mr. and Mrs. James D. King '76
 Ms. Kolleen Kirk
 Dr. Martha Kleinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Klever '76
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Kline '86
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Knight
 Ms. Sarah Knutzen
Dr. Kevin K. Koffel
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Kolebuck '86
Mr. and Mrs. Ron A. Kolodzaiki '72
 Dr. Jon L. Konzen
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin R. Kornowa '98
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Kosanka
 Mr. and Mrs. James Kramer
 Mr. and Mrs. David A. Kubacki '72
 Mr. Donald Kurek
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Landry '70
 Mr. Jeff A. Landry '03
 Mr. and Mrs. Cliff W. Latta Jr. '77
 Mr. and Mrs. Lucas K. Laurel '99
 Mr. Maxwell W. Layman '09
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Leahy '82
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Leahy '77
 Mr. Scott P. Lederman
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Lehman

ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2022 *(continued)*

New cash gifts and new pledges between 1/1/22 – 12/31/22
 *denotes deceased • *Names in italics have given five or more consecutive years*

Mr. Thomas H. Leite
Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Leonard Jr. '77
 Mr. David Lepow and Dr. Carrie Lepow
 Mr. Gary LeSage
 Mr. and Mrs. Micah Lestock
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry G. Leyland '70
 Mrs. Janet Ligman
 Mr. and Mrs. James Lindhuber
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Lindsay Jr. '98
 Mr. and Mrs. Jay T. Lingnell
 Mrs. Marlene Lippens
Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas M. Lopez
 Mr. and Mrs. John Luber
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher E. Macino '78
 Ms. Rosemary Mainous
 Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Maley
 Mr. Nick R. Marciniak '11
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Marciniak
 Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Marion
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Marra
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Mascuch
 Mr. and Mrs. John I. Mattimoe
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. McCann '77
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. McGrady '82
 McLaren St. Luke's Anesthesia Group
 Mr. Sean M. McManus '11
 Mr. and Mrs. Colin J. McQuade '73
 Mr. and Mrs. John B. McQuillen '79
 Mr. Scott McVicker /
 Savage-McVicker Insurance, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jevne Meader '75
 Mr. Richard F. Michalak '71
 Mr. Gregory M. Mick '70
Mr. and Mrs. John Y. Mikhail '87
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Miller '99
 Mr. Christopher R. Miller '02
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Miller
 Mr. Ronald Moening
Mr. and Mrs. Jay K. Molter
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew V. Morgillo '96
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Morr
 Mrs. Ken Mossing
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mouch '80
 Mr. and Mrs. Brendan J. Moynihan '77
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim R. Mueller '84
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Muenzer '79
 Ms. Jennifer L. Mullen
 Mr. and Mrs. David M. Muller
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Nachtrab
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Nawrocki '77
 Ms. Barbara J. Nelson
 Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Nigro
 Ms. Rochelle Nix
Ms. Michele Nixon
 North Branch Boys Fly Fishing Club, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Nunes
Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Nusbaum '70
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Oberhaus
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Oedy
 Ms. Susan B. Oliver
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher B. Orosz '72
 Mr. John S. Oswald

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Packo III '72
 Mr. Evan Parr
 Mr. and Mrs. Dallas H. Paul
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick S. Paule
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew T. Pawuk '96
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas B. Pearson '82
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher A. Peatee '84
 Mr. and Mrs. James J. Peters '72
 Mr. and Mrs. Lester A. Pierson
 Dr. and Mrs. Dennis P. Pinciotti Ph.D. '72
 Mrs. Sylvia Piper
Mr. Jay P. Plucienkowski '94
 Mr. Luke Pollock
 Mr. and Mrs. David C. Poulos '69
 Mr. Robert J. D. Pownell '11
 Mr. John J. Pugh '72
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Quinn
 Mr. and Mrs. John P. Ragan '87
 Mr. and Mrs. Luis E. Ramirez '91
 Mrs. Mary P. Rattay
Mr. and Mrs. Greg P. Reece '91
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reece
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason R. Reed
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy S. Reid
 Mr. and Mrs. Nate T. Reiter '02
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Reiter '74
Mr. and Mrs. William Riddle
Joe '69 and Bev Rideout
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd R. Rinehart '86
 Mr. and Mrs. John Robey
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Robison
 Mr. and Mrs. Damian M. P. Rodgers '86
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Rominski
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Roszczipka '70
 Mr. and Mrs. Fritz J. Rudolph
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Rudolph Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Rudy
Mr. Andrew R. Rush '77
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Ryder
 Dr. Joseph J. Ryno
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Santry
 Mr. and Mrs. Venkatesh Satish '94
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Savona '75
 Mr. and Mrs. David A. Schaefer '77
 Mr. Matthew D. Schaefer '12
 Mr. Patrick J. Schaefer '03
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley K. Schlaegeter '97
 Dr. Timothy R. Schminkel '79
 Mr. Peter J. Schoen '15
 Mr. Collin J. Schoepf '15
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Schueren '80
 Mr. Brendon C. Schultz '15
 Mr. Andrew Schuman
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Schwanzl '77
Mr. Daniel M. Scott '77
 Mr. Peter Scott
 Servpro of Western Lucas County
 Shadow Valley Tennis & Fitness, INC
Dr. and Mrs. William P. Sheehan '74
 Mr. Timothy S. Sherman '14
 Mrs. Linda Sibley
 Mrs. Cathy Simonds
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Slivka

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Small '82
 Mr. Mac Smith '01
 Mr. Mark Smith
 Mr. Paul R. Smith Jr. '16
 Mr. Brandon D. Smith '12
Mr. and Mrs. Mark P. Sobczak '74
 Mr. Nicholas M. Soncrant '10
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Spenthoff '69
 St. John's Jesuit Fathers Club
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Stebbins
 Mr. Robert C. Stierwalt '11
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Stoll
 Mr. Earl J. Streacker
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Streacker
 Mr. and Mrs. David W. Sturgeon
 Mr. and Mrs. Rick Sullivan
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Sutter '75
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Swiergosz
 Mr. Steve Switzer '02
 Mr. and Mrs. Robbin R. Syrek
John and Yolanda Szuch
 Mr. Dean A. Talip '88
 Mr. Michael Tanner /
 Tanner Supply Company
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Tate '75
Mr. William E. Thees
 Mr. and Mrs. John R. Thornton '78
 Mr. Marcus D. Thornton '13
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Thornton '77
 Dr. and Mrs. Brian S. Thurow '95
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron J. Tice
 Dr. and Mrs. James A. Tita
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Tittl
 Mr. Ralph E. Toland III
 Mr. and Mrs. Joni Trempe
 Mr. Shane Tripp '95
Mr. James C. Troknya
 Dr. and Mrs. John P. Trudeau '75
 Mr. Joel D. Tschantz
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin G. Uhl '75
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Van Koughnet
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Vasquez
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Vetter A.I.A. '72
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wagner
Drs. Thomas '72 and Mary Wakefield
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott T. Walsh
Mr. and Dr. Joseph M. Walsh '74
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ware
 Mr. and Mrs. David M. Weaver
 Michael Webber Jr. LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Wheelock
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan N. Williams '82
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight D. Wittenberg
 Mr. and Mrs. Ken K. Wolfe Jr. '78
Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Wood
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Wright
 Mr. Nicholas D. Xanthakos '92
 Dr. Mathew M. Yanik '92
 Mr. Philip M. Young '77
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Zaleski
 Mr. and Dr. Brian T. Zdrada '03

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS



St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), recognized the need for exercise to maintain spiritual health.

His desire was to “help souls,” and he engaged in spiritual conversation with almost anyone he met. The experience of his own conversion led Ignatius to share what he learned with others and, eventually, he refined his personal prayer journal into a retreat journal titled *The Spiritual Exercises*. The *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius Loyola are the backbone of Ignatian Spirituality. As a Jesuit school, SJJ’s faculty and staff strive to connect all aspects of student development—academic, spiritual, social, artistic, athletic—in some way to the Exercises.

Critical to the experience of doing the Exercises is working with a trained Spiritual Director, and SJJ has three trained

Spiritual Directors on staff. One of the three is Kim Hall, a former sophomore theology teacher. She is currently the only trained lay person on staff. “Those who do the *Spiritual Exercises* typically gain a depth in their relationship with God that they didn’t previously have. Often when someone chooses to begin the *Spiritual Exercises*, he or she is looking at making a major life decision and desires God’s guidance. Others are searching for a deeper relationship with God,” she said.

If someone decides to do the *Spiritual Exercises*, the first step is to meet with a Spiritual Director. The next step is to decide on a time period and/or a context that is most fitting. Finally, the retreatant should be prepared to begin the process by following a workbook, journaling, and meeting with the Spiritual Director on a routine basis. For those who want to experience the Exercises in a more concentrated manner at a retreat house, northwest Ohio is uniquely positioned to Manresa Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. At both locations, there are a multitude of spiritual directors dedicated to leading the Exercises.

For more information on the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius or to inquire about getting started, contact Fr. James Sand, SJ, VP of Ignatian Mission and Identity at jsand@sjjtitans.org.

FACULTY MEMBERS TAKE AN IGNATIAN PILGRIMAGE

Faculty members Janet Miller and Scott Zura recently joined peers from across the USA Midwest Province of Jesuits in a guided pilgrimage to Spain and Rome to experience the footsteps of St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits. Led by Fr. Ray Guiao, SJ, President of St. Ignatius High School Cleveland, and the Associate Provincial Assistant for Secondary Education (PASE) Jen LeMaster, Miller and Zura were part of a larger group that followed the journey of Ignatius, tracing his conversion, experiencing holy sites, and reflecting on the origins of Jesuit education.

Miller had been preparing for the pilgrimage since before the pandemic and said, “The Ignatian Pilgrimage was a long time coming for me—two previous pilgrimages cancelled because of COVID-19 travel restrictions—so I had a lot of time to think about what I hoped to gain from the experience and to anticipate what we would experience as pilgrims. My initial motivation was to deepen my understanding of St. Ignatius and his life’s work, which led to the Society of Jesus and Jesuit schools as we know them today.

The pilgrimage certainly met that objective, but was much more for me. I feel personally connected to the mission of

St. Ignatius by walking in his footsteps alongside fellow Jesuit educators, administrators, and priests from all over the Midwest. I see myself as an instrument of St. Ignatius and know that this experience will reinvigorate *Cura Personalis* in all my interactions with our students, parents, and my colleagues. I will be eternally grateful for this incredible opportunity!”

Zura has been teaching science at SJJ for nearly 30 years. He was thrilled for the opportunity and said, “As a Jesuit educator for many years, I have learned about the places that were a part of the life of St. Ignatius. To see them firsthand was a very powerful experience. Seeing where his journey began in Loyola where he was baptized, all the way to Rome where he and his companions made formal vows, brought life to a name.

I will use this pilgrimage as a teachable moment in the classroom and in conversations with parents, faculty, and staff at SJJ.”



STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD THROUGH THE JESUIT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



St. John's Jesuit's World as One Program made great strides in the 2022-23 school year, strengthening connections to Jesuit School Network (JSN) schools around the globe through the Jesuit Exchange Program. Eight seniors studied abroad for two weeks at a fellow Jesuit school. Not only did these students go to Jesuit high schools in Italy, Spain, and Columbia, but their international host brothers came to SJJ to experience the culture in the United States. In many ways, Titans were taken out of their comfort zone and challenged to develop a more global perspective. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and the popularity of the program has taken off.

Mallory Cabrera is director of the World as One Program and had a central role in connecting with schools overseas to ensure the success of the Jesuit Exchange Program. "The benefit of the program is that immersion is the most authentic way to visit another country," Cabrera said. "Students stay with a host family, and they get social and academic experiences alongside their international brother." Lucas Dake '23 hosted, as well as traveled to visit, a student enrolled at Istituto Massimiliano Massimo, a Jesuit high school in Rome. "Being able to live there and experience the Italian culture has made me want to seek out other cultures...there are so many places and so many different cultures to experience," he said. Joseph Steigauf '23, who visited Colegio Berchmans in Colombia, added, "Something felt like home when I visited, like I was at St. John's." Daniel Schuman '23 also studied in Rome and said, "When you travel for vacation, you get to see the tourist aspects of a city, but when you travel with Jesuit Exchange, you get to see what life is really like."

The program will continue to evolve. In 2023-24, students can study in Italy, Colombia, Spain, and France. Each year, the list of Jesuit schools is intended to grow.

To be considered for the Jesuit Exchange Program, students or parents of juniors and seniors should contact Mallory Cabrera at mcabrera@sjtitans.org.

Support for study abroad opportunities may be directed to Nick Butler '01, Director of Advancement, at nbutler@sjtitans.org.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

St. John's Jesuit has a long-standing tradition of international students attending the school for an academic quarter, semester, or entire academic year. These students provide Titans with new perspectives and ideas about the world. Any member or friend of the SJJ community can be a host family. The need for the 2023-24 school year will vary in terms of time commitment and culture.

To get more information or to apply to be a host family, contact Mallory Cabrera at mcabrera@sjtitans.org or (419) 720- 0713.

CAMPION HALL PLAYERS MAKE A SPLASH IN *BIG FISH*

Campion Hall Players, the St. John's Jesuit theater production group, performed the 2023 Spring Musical *Big Fish*, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by John August, March 9-12 at the Valentine Theater in downtown Toledo. The show is a lively and amusing fantasy set in the American South, centering on the charismatic Edward Bloom, played by Ben Tittl '23, whose impossible stories of his life's epic adventures frustrate his son Will, played by Owen Wilson '23. The twisting storyline comes to life through the talent of many students,

with special recognition for this year's class of graduating seniors that include Tittl, Wilson, Lucas Dake, Orion Gonzalez, Mac McDaniel, Isaiah Gladden, E.J. Zetocho, and Daniel Schuman. Approximately 40 students were cast from SJJ and other local public and parochial schools.

Damian Rodgers '86 directed the musical; in fact, he has been directing the SJJ musical theatre program for nearly 30 years. "St. John's Jesuit has a long, proud tradition in theatre," Rodgers said.



THE CLASS OF 2023



152

Graduates



18+

Million in Scholarships
Awarded



80

Percent of
Applicants Received
College Scholarships



80

Percent Accepted
a College
Scholarship



9

Students
Attending a Jesuit
College



7

Students
Applied to an Ivy
League School



Class of 2023 Legacies

Anthony Brady/Michael Brady '82
 Aiden Carroll/Joseph Carroll '93
 John Carroll/Brian Carroll '84
 Grant Dzierwa/Joseph Dzierwa '95
 Gavin Errington/David Errington '90
 Thomas W. Gallagher/Thomas J. Gallagher '96
 Daniel Hazard/Daniel Hazard '91
 Cooper Hoyt/Scott Hoyt '95
 Kyle Jordan/Jason Jordan '02
 William Malkoski/John Malkoski '93
 Brendan McManus/Martin McManus '79
 Tyler Meader/Jevne Meader '75
 Michael Operacz/Joseph Operacz '81
 Maxwell Perino/Randy Perino '86
 Connor Pharis/Chris Pharis '89
 Calvin Siefke/Nicholas Siefke '87
 John Paul Wagner/David Wagner '87
 Tyler Wisniewski/Jeffrey Wisniewski '92

Senior Awards

The Valedictorian Awards

Omar Asad and Daniel Wright Schuman

The Salutatorian Award

Tre'Quan O'Shea Green

The Outstanding Athlete Award

Clarence Robert Hornbeak III

The Jesuit School Network (JSN) Award

Zachary Joseph Zitkovic

The Spirit of St. Ignatius Award

Tyler William Wisniewski

The Bishop's Cross

Aiden Patrick Carroll

The St. Johns Berchmans Award

Jacob Mafee Rashid

The Fred Beier Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Paul French

The Harold K. Mossing Scholarship

Cooper Fredrick Hoyt

National Merit Scholars

Seamus George Leonard

Benjamin Patrick Tittl

National Merit Commended Students

Arman Singh Grewal

Connor Jameson Mick



15

Entering the
Workforce or
Attending a Trade
School

1

Attending a
Military
Academy

13

Career
Internships

2

National Merit
Finalists

2

Commended
Scholars



1

Published
Author in the
Field of Epilepsy
Research

DINNER UNDER THE DOME 2023

AT THE CHALET

The biggest fundraiser of the year for scholarships and tuition assistance was held on February 4, 2023. The annual Dinner Under the Dome raised more than \$220,000 and nearly 400 people attended. Event chairs Mrs. Brooke Schmitz and Mrs. Lela Rashid and their volunteer team transformed the Dome gymnasium to reflect this year's "At the Chalet" theme. Guests enjoyed a strolling buffet featuring the delicious food from Shelly Moore's Thymely Creations. Attendees bid on many silent and live auction items throughout the evening, including a Florida vacation home stay, a golf package in Hawaii, a day on the lake with former head basketball coach Ed Heintschel, and much more.



Guests enjoyed a special tribute to 2023 Magis Award recipient Dan Anderson '74 for his years of service to the Board of Trustees, including his leadership of the current fundraising campaign that is striving to raise \$16.3 million for the future Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and other projects. The Magis Award is presented to individuals who consistently demonstrate extraordinary service. They go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the school and its students.

Damian Rodgers '86 was named the 2023 recipient of the *Man for Others* Award for his extraordinary work with students in the musical theater program since the early 1990s. Recipients of this award embody the spirit of Christian service, to which everyone should strive; they also exhibit Christian leadership, are Christ-like in their actions, serve the community, and are a light for others.



Scan to view 2023 tribute videos for
Dan Anderson '74 and Damian Rodgers '86



NEW TIERED GIVING LEVELS OF THE YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

Established in 2018, the Young Alumni Council (YAC) is an inclusive group of graduates who are younger than 40 and have come together to share their great passion for St. John's Jesuit and its mission to develop *Men for Others* in northwest Ohio.

Until recently, the YAC required members to pledge a \$1,500 gift for four consecutive years. Now, the group has added lower giving levels with modified perks to be more inclusive and expand membership. Alumni Director Doug Pearson '82 founded YAC and is excited about new program development. "I can honestly say that YAC is the most selfless group that I have been

associated with—a group that has taken what was instilled in them during their time at SJJ and is now paying it forward. Putting the opportunity within the reach of many more graduates feels right. I can't wait to see how membership grows," he said.

Members of YAC are asked to pledge a gift for four consecutive years at one of three levels. The group meets quarterly, but may assist with student initiatives, scholarship fundraising, admissions, and alumni relations at other times. Participants of YAC receive the benefits corresponding to their level of membership.



Submit online gifts/pledges for YAC enrollment at sjjtoledo.org/alumni or by scanning the QR code. For more information, contact "Coach P" at dpearson@sjjtians.org or (419) 720-0779.

YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL GIVING LEVELS

New Giving Levels (annual):

- Presidential- \$1,500
- Ignatian- \$1,000
- Berchmans- \$500

Membership in the SJJ Young Alumni Council for all levels includes the following:

- YAC Fall Tailgate Party
- Night Before Thanksgiving Social
- March Madness Social
- Spring Social

Ignatian Level also includes:

- President's Fall Tailgate Party
- Embroidered YAC Polo Shirt

Presidential Level also includes:

- President's Fall Tailgate Party
- Embroidered YAC Polo Shirt
- Select events with the President/Board of Trustees

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

FIFTY YEARS OF MEMORIES ON ICE

by Joe Snyder '73

“ In the fall semester of 1971, we heard an announcement over the school PA system to the entire St. John’s student body that anyone who was interested in forming an SJ hockey club team should meet after class in the Commons. About 15 to 20 young men met that afternoon to discuss with our faculty advisor, Ron Miller—the consummate hockey fan who had never played any organized hockey himself—the idea for forming the first hockey team. The interested parties signed up and the SJ Hockey Club was born!



The club initially purchased some goalie equipment and a set of large, un-numbered, navy blue football jerseys that had “St. John’s Hockey” printed on the front. We rented ice at Ottawa Park outdoor rink a few times for practices. Without

much funding, we needed a more economical way to get the needed daily practice and ice time. As he did in many cases, Dick Anderson—owner of The Anderson’s and father of our teammate Chris—stepped up and began working on a drawing and a material list to build a modest outdoor rink on the practice football field next to Holland-Sylvania Road. Everyone chipped in to help build the rink. We used the fire hydrant at the street to flood the rink. Mr. Anderson even had the specs to build a couple of official size hockey nets. As I suspected (because I don’t remember ever seeing a bill), all the materials were acquired by Mr. Anderson.

That first year, we played a few games at Ottawa Park and a game at the Toledo Sports Arena. We played St. Francis de Sales, Lake, and Waite, with Mr. Miller and a few dads as our coaches. We didn’t fare very well that first season, but we gave it our best effort.

In our second season, SJJ purchased some real hockey jerseys with numbers on the back. We got better and played more games against multiple opponents. Around season three, with the addition of some younger and more skilled underclassmen, Cosimo Figliomeni took the coaching helm. He coached for the next 18 years.

In 1974, SJJ became an official member of the City Hockey League thanks to the efforts of that first group of young men that met in the Commons on that fall afternoon in 1971. ”

“We wanted to make sure we had a culture of brotherhood and a selflessness that the players shared with each other. I was fortunate that I had assistant coaches like Markus Rasmus ’96 and Jason Szykowski, who shared the same values as the program.”

—Mike Hayes,

Varsity head coach 2003-2015

Titans Join Greater Ohio Hockey League

Borne from a desire among a group of Ohio high schools to create a strong competitive league to foster growth, St. John’s Jesuit hockey joins eight Ohio high schools in the newly formed Greater Ohio Hockey League (GOHL). League members for the 2023-2024 school year include:

- Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio
- Liberty High School, Powell, Ohio
- Saint Ignatius High School, Cleveland, Ohio
- St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio
- St. Francis de Sales School, Toledo, Ohio
- St. John’s Jesuit High School, Toledo, Ohio
- University School, Hunting Valley, Ohio
- Upper Arlington High School, Upper Arlington, Ohio

All schools in the league will play one another once during the season. At the conclusion of league play, teams will be seeded, and a league championship tournament will be held to determine a champion. The championship tournament will rotate among the three areas of the state where teams play. This year’s tournament will be held in Cleveland.

Titan Hockey Coaches

1972-1973	Frank Landry
1973-1990	Cosimo Figliomeni
1990-1991	Bob Zion
1991-2001	Mike Mankowski
2001-2002	Gary Stern
2002-2003	Gary Stern/Rob Kuhr
2003-2015	Mike Hayes
2015-2018	Brett Molnar
2018-2020	Matt Bollinger
2020-present	Derek Stumm

Titans at the Collegiate Level

Many players went on to successful seasons on college teams, including the following:

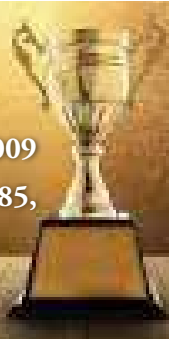
- Concordia University Wisconsin
- University of Wisconsin River Falls
- University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
- University of Alaska-Anchorage
- University of St. Thomas
- State University of New York at Potsdam
- competitive club college hockey teams and junior leagues

State Championship: 2007

State Runner-up: 2009

District Champions: 2007, 2009

League Champions: 1977, 1985,
1988, 1989, 2007, 2009,
2013, 2014, 2019



“One of my main focuses is to keep our hockey alumni involved in the program as much as possible. Some alumni bring their little sons to our conditioning skates, several alumni are volunteer assistant coaches for both the JV and Varsity teams, and many others assist with our summer camps.”

—Derrick Stumm, Varsity head coach 2020-present

Founding Members of SJJ Hockey

Class of 1972: Chris Anderson, Erwin Effler, Greg Wack, Kurt Pontasch, Rick Wallerstein, and Rick Lanciano

Class of 1973: Dan Lang, George Blome, Jim Herlihy, Rick McFarland, Dave Sheehan, and Joe Snyder

Class of 1974: Jim Landry, Terry Fleitz, Mike Figliomeni, and Scott Wenzeler

TRAC ALL ACADEMIC LISTS (WINTER AND SPRING)

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 a sophomore, junior, or senior;
3. Athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.

SJJ takes great pride in the number of student-athletes who were recognized for the 2022-23 winter and spring seasons.

BASKETBALL

Marquez Frazier '23
Eddie Heywood '24
Mitchell Michalak '23
Joseph Taylor '24
Jalen Teamer '25

TENNIS

Drew Eckel '25
JB Minniear '24
Garrett Ody '23
Nathan Tam '25
Tyler Wood '23

BASEBALL

Carson Bruning '25
Braden Byram '24
Tony Caracciolo '25
Caleb Click '23
Jake Dukate '23
Grant Dzierwa '23
Declan Loisel '24
Kenyon Miller '25
Will Nieckarz '23
Michael Operacz '23
Jon Tober '25
JP Wagner '23
Ben Zetocha '24

Jonathan Doenecke '24

Sam Errington '25
K'Juan Fitzgerald '24
Cole Fullen '23
Orion Gonzalez '23
Tre Green '23
Keith Hunter '25
Connor King '25
Seamus Leonard '23
Trey Miller '23
Trevor Obeto '23
Caleb Root '25
AJ Schuller '23
Daniel Schuman '23
Joseph Taylor '24
Justyn Toler '23
Gus Tubbs '23
Tyler Wisniewski '23

SWIMMING & DIVING

Alex Britt '23
Aiden Carroll '23
Jackson Hallett '23
Edward Nyman '25
Beckham Schmitz '23

WRESTLING

Caleb Bowman '25
Alex Camacho '23
Darrell Cross '23
Kayden Grzymkowski '25
Connor King '25
Jack Mathias '24
Logan Morehouse '25
Jackson Turner '24
Gage Yackee '24

TRACK & FIELD

Alec Alvarez '23
Omar Asad '23
Jaden Collins '24

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS | WINTER AND SPRING 2022-2023

NEW HEAD SOCCER COACH



On February 1, St. John's Jesuit named Claudio Cabrera the new Head Soccer Coach. Previously, Cabrera was a varsity assistant and Junior Varsity head coach with the Titans, joining the staff in 2019.

Prior to joining the St. John's staff, Cabrera coached at Metro FC from 2013 - 2018.

Cabrera shared his excitement: "Being appointed head coach of one of northwest Ohio's prestigious programs is a dream come true. I assume this role with the greatest dedication, commitment, and joy to lead a group of talented athletes eager to represent SJJ and our mission."

Coach Cabrera played at Catholic University in Uruguay, in addition to playing professionally and semi-professionally with the Rampla Juniors Futbol Club and Liverpool FC Universitario.

Director of Athletics Bob Ronai said, "We are excited to have Coach Cabrera lead SJJ's soccer program. During the interview process, we were impressed with his coaching acumen, energy, and passion—not only for the sport, but also for SJJ. We are thrilled to usher in a new era of Titan Soccer and are confident that he is the right person to take us to new heights."

Coach Cabrera is also the Department Chair of the World Languages department and has been a member of the SJJ faculty since 2013.

HOCKEY

The team improved from eight wins in 2021-22 to 18 wins in 2022-23.

Finished season tied for second in the NHC Red Division

CREW

The Junior 8 finished fifth against the top teams from nine states in the Midwest Championship.



BASKETBALL



Reached the DI Final Four (the first time since 2009) and finished seventh overall

Finished season as District and Regional champions

BASEBALL



Finished season as TRAC and District champions

SWIMMING & DIVING

Eight Titans qualified for the District Championship.

Divers Cory Shade '23 and Edward Nyman '25 qualified for the DI State Diving Championship. Shade finished 10th, earning All Ohio honors, while Nyman finished 24th.



ESPORTS

Regional qualifier

LACROSSE

The team reached regional finals before falling to the eventual state champion in overtime





WRESTLING

The team won the Catholic Cup for the eighth consecutive year

Gage Yackee '24 qualified for the DI State Championship for the second consecutive year, placing seventh at 190 lbs.



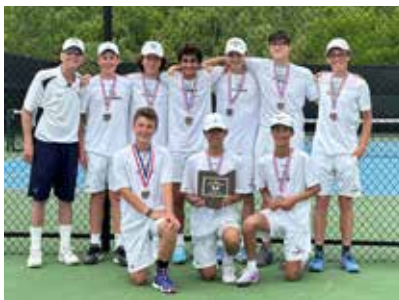
TRACK & FIELD

OHSAA DI State Champions!

TENNIS

The team finished fourth place in the OTCA State Team Championship

Tyler Wood '23 qualified for the DI Singles State Tournament.



TITAN ALUMNI PLAYING AT THE NEXT LEVEL:

Joey Akpunonu '20 was selected 22nd by FC Cincinnati in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft on December 21.

WINTER AND SPRING ATHLETIC SIGNEES FROM THE CLASS OF 2023



Jaiden Butler (Football) – University of Mount Union
 Caleb Click (Baseball) – Ohio Northern University
 Jake Dukate (Baseball) – Eastern Michigan University
 Orion Gonzalez (Track & Field) – Ohio Northern University
 Tre Green (Football) – Grand Valley State University
 C.J. Hornbeak (Basketball) – Lake Erie College
 A.J. Schuller (Football) – University of Dayton
 Cory Shade (Diving) – Grand Valley State University
 Quinn Staten (Football) – University of Cincinnati
 Matty Swift (Football) – Carnegie Mellon University
 Justyn Toler (Football) – Colgate University
 J.P. Wagner (Baseball) – University of Toledo
 Tyler Wood (Tennis) – Ohio Northern University
 Ralph Worthy (Football) – Siena Heights University
 Zach Zitkovic (Football) – Hillsdale College

WELCOME CLASS OF 2027!



This fall, the new freshmen class at St. John's Jesuit will converge on campus from a wide span of backgrounds and school districts. They will soon have one shared experience, the experience of Titan brotherhood.

About the Class of 2027

- 21 public school districts
- 27 public schools
- 59 grade schools
- 18 Catholic schools
- 3 other religious schools
- 7 charter schools
- 4 homeschool backgrounds

The Junior Titans Club at St. John's Jesuit!



Jr. TITANS

**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 affiliation with St. John's Jesuit is necessary.

Go Titans!

THE ACADEMY AT ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HAS A RECORD YEAR



The 2022-23 admissions season in the Academy has been one for the record books! Not only have grades 6, 7, and 8 filled, but also the interest in enrollment has been so strong that the Office of Admissions is reinstating an "Early Bird" deadline at all grade levels for the 2023-24 recruiting season. Those who completed all parts of the Admissions process by the December 31 deadline will have a guaranteed financial aid package ready if admitted in the first wave of applicants at the end of January. The goal is to motivate interested families to start the process as early as September instead of waiting until later in the school year.

Academy Principal Steve Spenthoff '95 spent time with many prospective families last year and recognized a

trend in the factors that attract new families to the Academy. "Families have given me similar reasons for applying to the Academy; they are drawn to us because of student body diversity, academic resources, opportunity for growth, appropriate challenges, and the all-boys learning environment," he said.

Titan for a Day visits resume in September, and now that Spenthoff has a year behind him as principal, he is ready to build on this experience and poise the Academy for another great year of growth and success.

FALL OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOHN'S JESUIT

November 12, 1:00-4:00 pm

UPCOMING ADVANCEMENT EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Hall of Fame Reception and Football Game

September 22, 2023

Marching Titans Alumni Night

September 22, 2023

Class of 1973 50th Reunion Weekend

September 29-October 1, 2023

YAC Thanksgiving Social

November 22, 2023

Alumni/Son Basketball Game

January 5, 2024

Dinner Under the Dome

February 3, 2024



Members of the Class of 1972 during their 50th Reunion Weekend

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS

President Mark Swentkofske '84 and other SJJ representatives are making plans to visit alumni in cities across the country in the coming months! Go to sjjtoledo.org/alumni or scan the QR code for details and the most current list of upcoming alumni gatherings.



September/October-
Chicago

November- Los Angeles/
San Diego/
San Francisco

January- Florida

March- Charlotte

April- Denver

ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY WE'RE EVERYWHERE...



Represented Countries



CLASS NOTES

Joseph Mitchell '78 and his brother **Bill Mitchell '79** teamed up for the 2023 Sandusky Half Ironman. Bill began with a 1.2-mile swim, Joseph cycled 56 miles, and Bill completed the impressive effort with a half marathon.



Brian Byrd '84 has announced his retirement as Director of Public Safety for the City of Toledo. Byrd has a long record of service in the city since first joining Toledo Fire and Rescue in 1988. In February 2022, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz named him safety director.

Damian Rodgers '86 was recognized by his former theater student Katie Holmes in a Broadway.com interview. Her recount of getting a first big break as Lola in the SJJ production of *Damn Yankees* spurred a "Who was your Damian Rodgers?" dialogue on Instagram.



Andrew Kruse '98 has been promoted by United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland (UCP) to the position of Chief Operations Officer. Kruse joined UCP in 2014 as a Job Placement Specialist and has since held leadership positions in both program services and administration.

He has played a critical role in business and program continuity throughout the pandemic, ensuring effective oversight of UCP's group homes and helping to lead the re-opening and re-establishment of facility- and community-based services. As part of Executive Leadership, Kruse will oversee administrative operations, as well as special projects and initiatives; he will also collaborate with the Board of Directors, community volunteers, and team members.

Brendan '01 and Garrett '04 Malone hosted the second annual Tim Malone '69 Scholarship Golf Outing on June 3, 2023.



Dan Kennedy, SJ '08 was ordained to the priesthood and into the Society of Jesus on June 11. Fr. Kennedy presided at his first Mass on Sunday, June 18, at St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Amir Scott '13 has completed nearly five years in the military as a sergeant. He received a Bachelor of Applied Science in Intelligence and Information Operations with an emphasis on Information Warfare from the University of Arizona. He also received certifications in Security Plus (SEC+), as a Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and as a Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP). Scott has worked in Portugal, South Korea, Germany, Czech Republic, and Poland. He is currently a Senior Intelligence Analyst with CrowdStrike and located in the Washington, D.C., area.

Ivan Dye '16 is working as an architect. He assisted Magis Society students with their 2023-24 capstone project to design a grotto for the SJJ campus.

Brian Rutkowski '19 graduated cum laude from the University of Toledo in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science.

Brody Gill '20 is finishing his final year at Miami University while also following in his dad's, John Gill '90, footsteps by serving in the Ohio Air National Guard. He is a Senior Airman and works in Aerospace Propulsion.



Roman Marra '20 traveled to Ghana with Miami University's Department of Architecture and Interior Design to serve a small village on the Cape Coast in Africa by designing and building a sustainable cottage for Ghanaian teachers.

Shane Garcia '21 presented the second annual Toledo Top 64 on September 25, 2022. This invitation-only recruiting basketball showcase brought together 64 players in the Toledo area. The Toledo Top 64 event, held at Lourdes University in Sylvania, was free to participants. Schools represented included University of Indianapolis, Tiffin University, Owens Community College, and Cleary University (Michigan). The 2023 event is scheduled for October 1st.



Seth Parsons '21 continues his journey as a rower, competing for Team USA at the World University Games in China.

After graduating in May, **Ben Tittl '23** directed, produced, and performed in a show called 35MM at the Valentine Studio A.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO LONGTIME FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

June marked the beginning of retirement for three beloved faculty and staff members who have left their mark in the St. John's Jesuit history book.

Dan Zawjoski will end his tenure after more than 40 years of teaching art at St. John's Jesuit! Mr. Z said, "It's been a privilege to serve the students, faculty, and administration for 42 years. I wish the SJJ Titans God's very best in the future."

Sue Matuszak has served as the Main Office Administrative Assistant and the SJJ unofficial cheerleading captain for 24 years. Her notorious Carpool Karaoke, faculty and staff skits, spirit videos, and pep rallies have added so much to the SJJ community. SJJ will truly miss her spunk!

Sandy Maxon has been overseeing the Titan Spirit Store since 2002. Her love for SJJ has been evident in the way she has developed the small SJJ Book Store with limited merchandise to the spacious SJJ Spirit Store of today—including an online store! Sandy has worked with hundreds of parent volunteers during the years, always with her genuine warmth and a smile.



THE SJ69 ZOOM GROUP IS STILL BONDED AFTER 54+ YEARS



For those dispersed across the country, bonding is partly possible because of COVID-19 and Zoom.

Shortly into the pandemic, Ron Nicholas, who lives in Minnesota, began coordinating bimonthly Zoom meetings for a number of his classmates. Meetings generated a measure of reminisces, but also political and human issues discussions. Highlights of the discussions included the following:

- Dave Brigode, who lives in California, shared his memoir of his high school years.
- Ron and Hal Simons told of their excursions to Civil War battlefields.
- Classmates had a mini-reunion at the Breeders' Cup Del Mar.

- Several classmates collaborated on publication of *Ulysses Abridged: A Shorter Journey through James Joyce's Masterpiece* (© 2022 SchulerBooks). The classmates credit the Jesuits for their excellent education in literature that inspired this accomplishment. After Michael Fallon of California created an abridgement of James Joyce's epic in Google Docs, the book needed a publisher, a manuscript conversion, formatting, a front and back cover, and marketing. Classmates Gary Eberle of Michigan and Ron and Mark Hornung of California fulfilled those roles. And Jim Darr of Ohio, Mark Desmong of Florida, and Rick Ray of Ohio purchased the first few books.

TINY TITANS

Welcome to the newest members of the Titan community!

- Michael Eble '00** and Margaret, son Oliver,
born October 13, 2022
- Chris Hepler '09** and Nicole, daughter Harper,
born November 22, 2022
- Storm Lutz (faculty)** and Sara, son Hail Robert,
born December 20, 2022
- Mike Schoen '05** and Christina, son Thomas,
born January 2, 2023
- Kristen Wright (faculty)** and Wesley,
daughter Kaylee, born March 11, 2023
- Jamey Burson (faculty)** and Callie,
daughter Heidi, born March 26, 2023
- Adam '02 and Aimee Dane (faculty),**
daughter Sibyl Rita, born April 19, 2023



IN MEMORIAM

Name	Class	Deceased Date
Kyle A. Mason.....	'90	September 8, 2022
Kevin L. Tucholski	'69	November 1, 2022
Nathan R. Bigelow	'12	November 8, 2022
Robert J. Donovan	'72	November 16, 2022
Gary L. Evans	'70	November 23, 2022
Donald B. Marshall	'80	December 3, 2022
Mark A. Ohlman.....	'74	December 30, 2022
Joseph R. Kramer	'76	January 12, 2023
Lucas B. Stump	'95	April 29, 2023
James A. Adams.....	'72	May 10, 2023
John W. Randolph.....	'69	June 10, 2023
Anthony C. Gagnet.....	'82	June 26, 2023
David J. Senecal	'81	June 27, 2023

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Benjamin Z. Heywood '93, Secretary

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