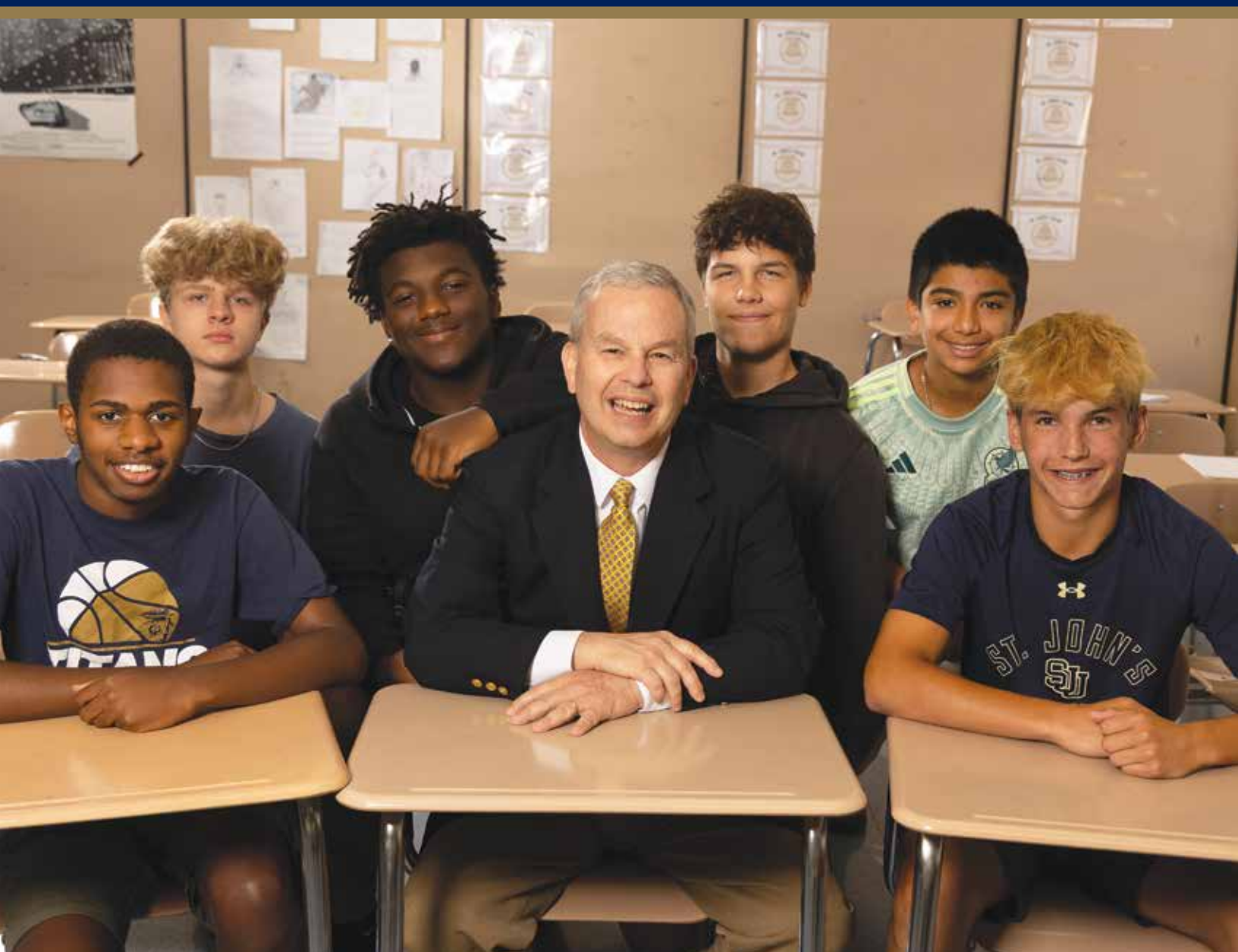


Fall 2024

ST. JOHN'S JESUIT TITAN TOPICS

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



Moving Boldly Forward

President Karl Ertle Leads the Way



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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On the cover:

President Karl Ertle, who began his tenure at St. John's Jesuit in July, enjoyed meeting students during a summer orientation program.

MEET PRESIDENT KARL ERTLE



On July 1, Karl Ertle assumed the role of president at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy. Ertle has a depth and breadth of experience in Catholic school leadership that will serve the Titan community well. And servant leadership is what Ertle is all about. A graduate of Cleveland St. Ignatius and John Carroll University, Ertle is Jesuit-educated through and through. He and Carol, his wife of nearly 40 years, raised six children in the Cleveland area and are now dividing their time between Toledo and Brecksville.

Ertle has extensive experience and has been recognized for excellence in nearly every aspect of Catholic education. He has served in capacities that range from coach to admissions, from classroom teacher to president, and several others in-between. His approach is the same in every context—"how can I serve?" His clear compass is the Jesuit Mission—educating young men to be loving, religious, intellectually competent, open to growth, and committed to doing justice.

Ertle's leadership has already had a positive impact on the Titan community. He recently welcomed the opportunity to share his thoughts on the work that lies ahead.

Q What do you see as the greatest strengths of the St. John's Jesuit community?

A SJJ has such great faith, pride, and energy! I am so impressed by the special spirit and am so grateful for the way that Carol and I have been welcomed. From the first call with the Province and the Board, to the May 2 meeting with all the faculty and staff, I have felt a consistent common vision of "How can we serve, and how can we be better?" In reviewing feedback from the recent faculty and staff retreat, I saw that the people who commit each day to be here desire nothing but the best for the students. In June, I met more than 100 alumni at the

Tim Malone Golf Outing, and their commitment to serving our mission was so manifest! In May, I hosted a gathering of SJJ alums in the Dallas area as I was finishing my service in Texas, and the six of us prayed, laughed, remembered names and stories, and shared the love of the brotherhood. It was a powerful night and made me very excited to begin serving the Titans!

Q What are your short-term goals for the first several months on the job?

A I want to gather information from our interim president Brendan Malone '01, who served so well

“I’ve been blessed to work with many strong teams and partners in my 40+ years in Jesuit education and will strive to bring best practices to all the areas of the school. At the same time, I want to learn from the SJJ community about the great things that have happened for 60 years here on Airport Highway!”

since February, and plan with him and his staff for a great start to the new school year. I will be listening to the SJJ family and meeting as many members as I can. The onboarding team has developed a strong plan to guide me. Certainly, the Mission comes first, and I have met with the Jesuits to ensure we keep it first. We have several projects underway, including the track renovation and installation. I am meeting so many stakeholders and will continue to elicit their dreams for what SJJ might be. We are planning the theme for the year and I am meeting with all the departments, from Finance to Advancement. I’ve been in touch with the Bishop and the other schools and have met our local partners in Catholic education. Carol and I have been to Tony Packo’s and the Glass City Metropark already, but still have so much to explore!

Q How will your experience benefit the Titan community?

A I’ve been blessed to work with many strong teams and partners in my 40+ years in Jesuit education and will strive to bring best practices to all the areas of the school. At the same time, I want to learn from the SJJ community about the great things that have happened for 60 years here on Airport Highway! Working with so many good people through the years has taught me to plan well and then let the talents emerge as the team brings its talents to the forefront. The Ignatian Paradigm always calls us to reflection and to re-evaluate the best direction as part of the Magis.

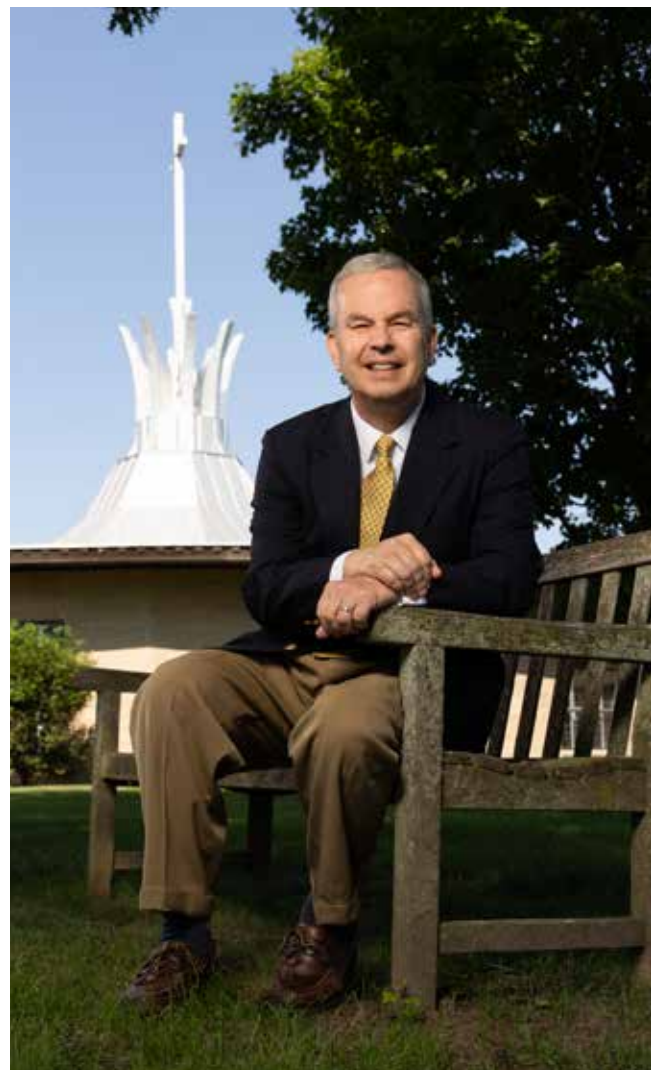
Q In what areas do you believe there should be immediate focus?

A I always try to put people first and to focus on those in the building each day. We will review the financial model and work on the necessary fundraising to move us forward as a community. I am excited to introduce the new hires who will collaborate in Jesuit Mission. Building Superintendent Bill Harrison and his team have done a great job of maintaining and enhancing the campus, and we will continue that forward

movement. We need to celebrate the many successes of our alumni and that we are a young 60-year-old school!

Q What message do you wish to immediately convey to students, families, alumni, supporters, faculty, and staff?

A How can I serve you and how can we all work to make SJJ the best Jesuit high school and academy that it can be? I deeply appreciate the warm welcome that I have received and want to be present and walk with you as we all work for the Greater Glory of God.



ALUMNI SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

St. Ignatius of Loyola challenges us to “set the world on fire.” In the face of a rapidly changing world, the timeless pillars of the St. John’s Jesuit *Graduate at Graduation*—religious, loving, intellectually competent, open to growth, committed to doing justice—are evident in alumni across the county and world who are leaders in their churches and communities.

The SJJ community is honored to share stories of our alumni who have left the halls of the school, but who carry with them what it means to be Jesuit-educated. As *Men for Others*, graduates of St. John’s Jesuit change the world in many ways. We are deeply grateful for the legacy and tradition left behind, which continues to push us all boldly forward for the Greater Glory of God.

Keith Abankwah ’11

Keith Abankwah ’11 is an alumnus who has lived his life boldly facing forward—forward in a sense of quiet confidence that comes from a strong faith and strong family bonds, and nurtured by Jesuit ideals and education made possible because of the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program. His story is a testament to the positive impact every donor who has supported the 20/20 program has ever made.

Abankwah is collaborating with new Program Director Gerri Peters to establish a 20/20 Jesuit Scholars mentorship program for current and recently graduated students. He hopes to provide valuable insights and connect with other alumni who wish to engage in the mentoring initiative.



Describe your background and what led you to St. John’s.

I was born and raised in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, until the age of 13, when I emigrated from Africa with my mother to live in the United States. We initially lived with family in New York City, then in El Paso, Texas, before finally settling in Toledo.

Growing up in Ghana, I was raised with strong values emphasizing respect for elders, courtesy towards others, importance of education, family ties, and a deep reverence for God. My mother was a fashion designer in Ghana, and our family background centered around farming and agriculture. The dream for most Ghanaians is to have an opportunity to go to “abrokyire”—a term meaning to go overseas. Through perseverance and sacrifices, my mother paved the way for both of us to move to the United States.

Discovering SJJ was a true blessing. Following my first semester in El Paso, we relocated to Toledo. I am deeply grateful to former Principal Brad Bonham and former 20/20 Director Mary Ann Barabino for their support and the opportunity to attend such a prestigious and academically rigorous institution. SJJ played a pivotal role in shaping my life, instilling invaluable traits that continue to guide me today.

How would you explain your high school experience?

From the very beginning, the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program welcomed me into a supportive environment tailored to academically motivated students facing economic and social challenges. This program provided rigorous college preparatory academics that prepared me not only for higher education, but also instilled in me the values of leadership, service, and community engagement.

Beyond academics, SJJ emphasized the importance of giving back through Christian service, both locally and globally, which deepened my understanding of social responsibility and compassion. The school’s strong parental support programs and community-oriented events not only involved families, but also strengthened the bonds within the school community.

How did the 20/20 program impact your time as a student?

The 20/20 program provided me with invaluable academic support. The summer studies program, in particular, equipped me with essential study skills necessary for success in advanced coursework.

Moreover, the program offered crucial financial assistance for books, supplies, and other school necessities. This support ensured that I had access to all the resources I needed to thrive academically and personally.

Where did you continue to study after graduation?

After graduating from SJJ, I continued my education at the University of Dayton. Initially enrolled in the Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology program, I shifted my focus to Industrial Engineering following a pivotal internship at an electrical engineering design firm in Fort Thomas, Ky., during my sophomore year.

What you are doing today?

I began at Magna International as a Project/Facilities Engineer. From there, I transitioned to Stellantis, where I held several roles. As an Industrial Engineer for both the Jeep Wrangler and Gladiator manufacturing plants, I optimized assembly line processes, implemented lean manufacturing principles, and spearheaded productivity initiatives aimed at improving operational efficiency and reducing non-value-added activities. Recently, I earned a Security+ certification and continued honing my skills in this rapidly evolving field.

Outside of my professional pursuits, I spend quality time with my fiancé, Dani, and our beloved border collie, Nyla. Toledo holds a special place in my heart as a place of personal growth and fulfillment, where I

continue to explore my passions as a licensed aerial drone pilot, creative DIY-er, avid reader, photographer, and adventurous hiker. Overall, my career has been defined by seizing opportunities, navigating challenges with resilience, and continually striving to be open to personal and professional growth.

What are your biggest takeaways from SJJ?

One of my biggest takeaways is the importance of character development and ethical leadership. The emphasis on becoming a *Man for Others* has resonated deeply with me, influencing my commitment to integrity, empathy, and responsibility in all aspects of my life and work.

Moreover, the strong sense of community and support at SJJ taught me the importance of collaboration and teamwork. These skills have been instrumental to me in interacting with individuals from all walks of life.



ALUMNI SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

Suril Shah '01

Bold moves are second nature to Suril Shah. As a student, he took every advantage of the St. John's Jesuit academic reputation, knowing it would set his course in a direction filled with options. And that it did.

Shah considers his time at SJJ as a launch pad. He said, "From the minute I came through the door, it was clear there was a mindset of looking forward to college and to the future." Formative experiences for Shah included participating in the first speech and debate team, student government, the Ambassador Society, crew, tennis, and the Christian Core Team. Mentors such as Carl Demarkowski, Mona McGhee, Robert Larcher, Margie Warrick, and Fred and Sharon Beier made a lasting impact.

Shah went on to attend Stanford University and earned a degree in management science and industrial engineering. He recalled, "The math and physics classes I took at SJJ prepared me for Stanford."

Following college graduation, Shah moved to Paris and started his career in real estate and private equity with Starwood Capital Group. In Paris, he gained experience and confidence as a member of the management team of Groupe du Louvre, which owned, managed, and franchised more than 1,000 hotels throughout Europe, in addition to more than a dozen luxury hotels.

In 2018, Shah made another bold move forward and started his own company based in Los Angeles, Calif. Riller Capital is a real estate private equity firm that focuses on hotel investments across the United States. As part of the transition to founding partner and CEO of Riller Capital, Shah was bound by a noncompete agreement and took a year off. During this time, his professional and personal life would come full-circle when the opportunity arose to join his dad, Rash Shah, a newly retired 40-year rail group executive with the Anderson's, and his brother, Rishi Shah '00, in the startup of a new railcar lease company.



The new family business, Boundary Rail, has navigated growing pains, but dramatically expanded since 2019. Fellow classmate and good friend Jeff Gill '01 now serves as Vice President of Sales. Shah immediately appreciated the connectivity that he felt in working with family and friends in Toledo and said, "We have a common outlook to create a *Men for Others* culture."

Shah's impressive career proves a strong foundation matters to moving ahead in a positive direction. After graduating from SJJ more than 20 years ago, Shah is still grateful and said, "My mentors at St. John's were tough, but fair and caring. That is how I hope I am described by my employees and co-workers." For this graduate, his Jesuit roots have propelled his success and been a source of confidence in the face of new challenges.

 boundaryrail

 RILLERCAPITAL

THE 20/20 JESUIT SCHOLARS PROGRAM BOLDLY BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

On June 30, 2024, Mary Ann Barabino retired from her role as Director of the 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program. For 20 years, she led the program with firm compassion, a commitment to enriching the student body with diversity, and a deep appreciation for donor support. On May 8, many members of the Titan community gathered to show great love for “Ms. B” and for the 20/20 Program under her leadership.

The 20/20 Jesuit Scholars Program has historically placed the highest priority on student achievement, setting the course for success so that every graduate is equipped to move boldly forward. In the spirit of facing forward, the program name has been appropriately renamed the Jesuit Scholars Program (JSP). The important 2020 milestone year is in the rear-view mirror, and a bright future is ahead!



Effective July 1, Gerri Peters has assumed the role of Director. Peters has extensive administrative experience from several Toledo agencies, most recently with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo. Ready to embrace the new opportunity at St. John’s, she said, “As I embark on this new chapter, I am filled with excitement

and determination. I am eager to leverage my faith, wealth of experience, and expertise to continue making a positive difference in the lives of students and families, and I look forward to the journey ahead.”



ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2024

Nick Hodulik '96

Hodulik was the catalyst to launching technology-focused curriculum at St. John's Jesuit when he created The Wire Club in 1994. A hugely successful entrepreneur and business executive for small startups, his company, General Things, was acquired by GoPro Inc.



James Vander Hooven '89

Vander Hooven was involved in many aspects of student life and was active in campus ministry and Christian service. He has focused his career on providing educational access to the underserved. He is currently the President at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Mass.



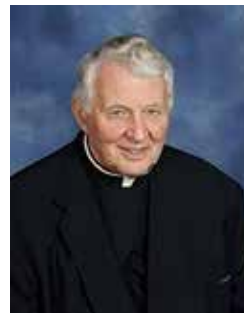
Mark Mossing '75

Mossing founded the intramural program at St. John's Jesuit in 1974. He continues to be a strong community leader in Kalamazoo, Mich., as Board Chair of United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Fredrick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Mossing is now VP of Finance and Controller at Steelcase Inc.



Rev. Dan Zak (posthumous)

Zak was a trusted spiritual advisor and friend to many at St. John's Jesuit. Zak, who obtained post graduate degrees from Saint Louis University and Xavier University, had a strong interest in the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In 2018, he was named an honorary Jesuit in appreciation for his service to SJJ.



Luke Ragan '90



Ragan was a standout basketball player for the Titans, leading them to a Blue Division title his senior year. He also led them to a victory over nationally ranked Athens, Ga., in a game played at Savage Arena at the University of Toledo. Ragan, who went on

to play basketball at Wittenberg University, is now an orthopedic physician in Toledo.

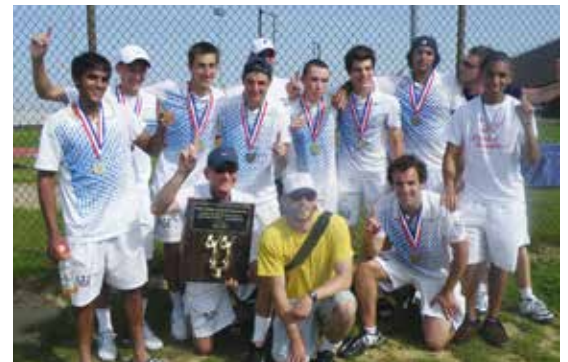
Rick Sullivan

Sullivan served as principal from 1989-1994. He left SJJ to continue serving other Jesuit schools around the country, including Creighton Prep in Omaha, Neb., and Regis in Denver, Colo. Sullivan continues to be connected to education by teaching English as a Second Language to the Hispanic community.



2011 State Championship Tennis Team

In 2011, St. John's Jesuit's Tennis Team won its third state championship title under Coach Jim Davis '71, defeating Cincinnati St. Xavier. The team was rock solid all season with Evan Bechtel '11 at first singles, Ryan Jorgensen '11 at second singles, Bobby Adusumilli '12 at third singles, Madhav Mehta '12 and Connor Majdalani '11 at first doubles, and Ryan Brown '14 and Spencer Crawford '12 at second doubles. Max Rectenwald '12 and Caleb Mickler '13 played in and out of the lineup all season as well.



CLASS OF 2024 SENIOR PROJECTS

Senior Project is alive and well!

A long-standing requirement for graduation, the Class of 2024 embraced the tradition and shadowed a variety of alumni and other professionals in the community to complete the Senior Project. The objective of the project has remained steadfast since its inception nearly 50 years ago—to provide the opportunity for a Titan to demonstrate the skills developed during his time at St. John's, as well as the chance to reflect on personal growth and the importance of his role in the community.



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE ACADEMY



In 2004, the Academy at St. John's Jesuit was the first of its kind to open in northwest Ohio. A vision of forward-thinking former SJJ president Don Vettese, SJ, St. John's Jesuit Academy (SJJA) had a clear mission to educate middle-school-aged boys in the Catholic Jesuit tradition through gender-based classroom techniques. The use of frequent movement and hands-on learning shed light on how differently boys learn from girls—particularly in grades six, seven, and eight.



Opening the first all-boys middle school was indeed a bold step forward in advancing the mission at St. John's Jesuit. Chris Knight '78 was the Academy's first principal and played a pivotal role in laying the groundwork. Knight recalled, "From the time SJJ first proposed opening the Academy, many emotions stirred in the community, but, ultimately, the most important were the excitement and hope felt by the families of all those who came to our first information night. More than 325 people attended, and, from that day forward, interest in the Academy has never wavered. Time has shown that countless families were and are looking for an educational setting where the unique developmental experience of their emerging adolescent son is understood and appreciated."

The Toledo community responded with immediate interest in strategies specific to educating middle school boys. The exceptional reputation of Jesuit education in northwest Ohio made the concept even better. This formula

resonated with many families, and the Academy opened its doors to 7th and 8th graders in 2004. Grade six was added in the 2011-2012 school year. Several of the teachers who began teaching at SJJA in 2004 became certified by the Gurian Institute, which specialized in effective learning practices for boys. Garrett Malone '04, a certified Gurian educator, has taught eighth grade social studies in the Academy since 2011. Malone said, "I believe that the secret to the success of the Academy is the approach of embracing the energy of boys, as opposed to trying to temper or control it, and redirecting their natural curiosity to fuel the learning process."

In addition to the active energy of the classroom, there is a firm expectation that students admitted as Academy Titans are committed to formation as a *Man for Others*. Sean Wheelock graduated from the Academy Class of 2009 and went on to become senior class valedictorian. He said, "I credit the Academy with making me who





I am today. I was encouraged to explore things outside my comfort zone, take risks, and shoot for the stars, all in the service of trying to change the world and be a *Man for Others*. My teachers at the Academy were some of the most impactful mentors of my educational career. Making the transition to high school, a big change for many students, was easy because I attended the Academy. And the best part is that I had so much fun doing all of it.”

Twenty years later, academic rigor is still balanced with the challenge of St. Ignatius to find God in all things. Experimental learning is appropriately messy in the re-purposed Jesuit living quarters, which has been home to the Academy for 20 years. Faculty enjoy nothing more than to see SJJA graduates who are now incredibly accomplished leaders in high school, college, communities, and beyond.

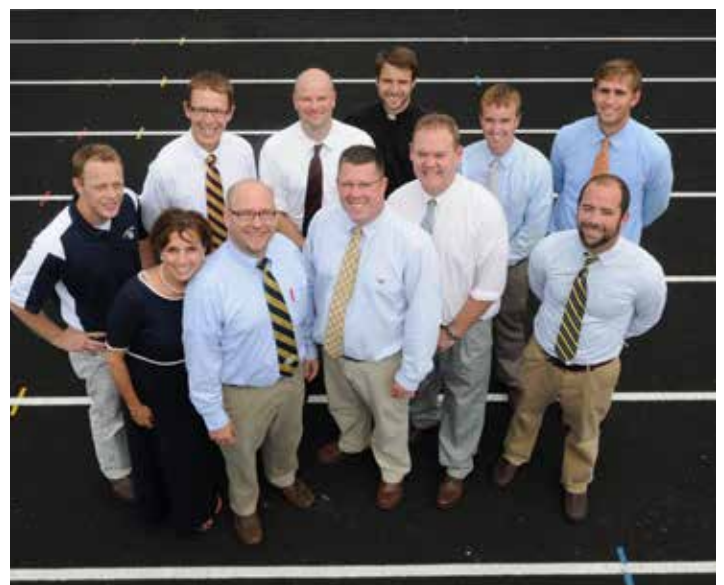
Current SJJA principal Steve Spenthoff '95 is committed to moving the Academy boldly forward with a reverence for Titan tradition. Spenthoff said, “The Academy will continue to use forward-thinking educational practices to further academic growth. Capitalizing on the



PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP IN THE ACADEMY

- Chris Knight '782004-2010
- Bryon Borgelt.....2010-2014
- Mike Savona '75.....2014-2019
- Joe Carroll '93.....2019-2022
- Steve Spenthoff '95.....2022-present

all-boy environment, the faculty is constantly working together to create curriculum through a gender lens that challenges students to reach their greatest potential with active, hands-on learning in a Christ-centered environment.”



THE SJJ ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ADAPTS TO A NEW ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

By Francis Carnicom '95, SJJ English Department Chair



Francis Carnicom is ready to embrace the challenge of AI as he leads Titan faculty forward in using this new technology while preserving the highest standard of academic rigor.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been a growing force in classrooms and everyday life for several years.

With the advent of large language models, however, English educators, in particular, have truly begun to take notice.

A large language model (LLM) is a type of AI program that can recognize and generate text, among other tasks. LLMs have a tremendous ability to reproduce, with accuracy, a wide array of writing styles tailored to whatever prompt it is given, using a near infinite array of language patterns it has been “trained” on.

What this means to a language educator and student is that before, if I were to ask a student to adopt Hemingway’s style of avoiding adverbs at all costs by way of using precise verbs, the student would need to read Hemingway, understand the word choice involved, and apply it to his own writing. This process involves comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and writing revision—all skills we strive to develop in our future graduates. With an LLM, a student can take the given assignment and skip the process, thus foiling the grand plans of the educator to develop the writing process.

The “knee jerk” response would be to ban the use of certain apps (such as ChatGPT) while forcing students to write, manually, in front of the teacher. In understanding how this new technology will affect not only our mission at SJJ, but society at large, we also need to realize that Pandora’s mythological box has been opened, and we must adapt as an institution that doesn’t hide from new tools. After all, today there are calculators in every classroom. Math teachers were likely to be as equally wary of this drastic change in the mid to late 20th century.

Introducing this new tool into an age-old process designed to enhance thought and communication skill is a

challenge we have tightly grasped thanks to our highly gifted and flexible array of English faculty.

Mrs. Barbara Trimble, a 30+-year faculty member, tested the use of an LLM with her Honors English sophomores. “I wanted to show my sophomore English students the benefits and limitations of using AI as an aid in writing a research paper. After we asked ChatGPT to create three-pronged thesis statements, we determined that the results were helpful, but the language was somewhat stiff and sometimes incomprehensible. The students needed to revise for clarity and style,” she said. The creation of the thesis statement, in this instance, is the repetition of a formula. What the students were asked to do before was to plug data into that formula. With Mrs. Trimble’s method, the tool applies the formula while the students provide the data and are required to edit. No analysis is lost in the process, just the tedium of “plugging in” missing terms. It is not that different from using Excel to organize and calculate.

While it has yet to be decided how AI technology will impact society, the SJJ English department is determined to follow its growth and implement it where appropriate—giving our students the professional edge for college and beyond, while also staying true to the traditional Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm of context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation.



SPRING MUSICAL DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

St. John's Jesuit High School performed *The Drowsy Chaperone*, with music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, and book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, at the Valentine Theater on March 14 – 17, 2024. A tribute to the Jazz-age shows of the 1920s and the power those shows held to uplift in times of sadness, *The Drowsy Chaperone* was performed by approximately 40 students! Aside from Titans, cast members included students from other public and parochial schools, such as Notre Dame Academy, St. Ursula Academy, and Toledo School for the Arts.



A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

SJJ has a new way to support fine and performing arts through the Champion Society for the Arts. This new giving opportunity allows donors to direct their gifts to specific or general initiatives, such as classroom supplies, upgrades to equipment, and theater expenses. Named for St. Edmund Campion, a beloved Jesuit and strong advocate for the arts, the Champion Society for the Arts will strive to advance the rich history and standard of excellence in theatrical productions, music, and visual art at SJJ. Click the QR code to make a gift or visit <https://supportsjj.org/campion-society>.



**ST. JOHN'S JESUIT
CAMPION HALL
PLAYERS
ANNOUNCE THE
2024-25
THEATER SEASON**


AUDITIONS OPEN TO AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
TICKET INFORMATION COMING TO SJJTOLEDO.ORG

**ACADEMY
PERFORMANCES- SEPT. 28**


HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMANCES- NOV. 7-9



**AUDITIONS - NOV. 18-23
HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMANCES- MAR. 13-16**


THE BROADWAY MUSICAL


FOLLOW [SJJPERFORMINGARTS](https://www.instagram.com/SJJPERFORMINGARTS)
OR VISIT SJJTOLEDO.ORG

CLASS OF 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Valedictorians

Andrew Balcerzak
Edwin Heywood
Sean Pollex
Andrew Zhou

Salutatorian and St. John Berchmans Award

Wesley Seppala

Bishop's Cross

Morgan Markho

Spirit of St. Ignatius Award

Suleiman Ali

Outstanding Athlete Award

Joseph Taylor

The Jesuit School Network Award

Gage Yackee



131

Graduates



\$12M

Earned in College
Scholarships



\$123,328

Average
Student Award

“Go forth and set the world on fire.”

—St. Ignatius of Loyola

A CHARITABLE BEQUEST IS THE ULTIMATE LOOK AHEAD



A charitable bequest is one of the easiest and most flexible ways to leave a gift to St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy that will make a lasting impact.

Benefits of a bequest

- Receive an estate tax charitable deduction
- Reduce the burden of taxes on your family
- Leave a lasting legacy to charity

How a bequest works

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an attorney, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends, or St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy as part of your estate plan, or you can make a bequest using a beneficiary designation form.

Leave a bequest to St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy

- Include a bequest to St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in your will or revocable trust
- Designate St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of your retirement account (IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or pension)
- Name St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy

The Legacy Society recognizes financial support for St. John's Jesuit through planned giving techniques, including charitable bequests.

For more information, please contact Doug Pearson '82, Planned Giving Officer, at dpearson@sjjtittans.org or (419) 720-0779, or visit sjjlegacy.org.



“I was compelled to include St. John's Jesuit in my estate plan because the education I received is part of my story. I went from being a boy to the beginning stages of manhood while at SJJ. This gift of gratitude is not just for those four years, but also for the continuing influence this institution has on me and the lifelong friendships I've been blessed to enjoy decades later.”

-Joseph Mitchell '78

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

MATT BUTLER '09 NAMED HEAD HOCKEY COACH



In November 2023, St. John's Jesuit graduate Matt Butler '09 was named Head Hockey Coach. Butler is the eleventh head coach since the inception of the hockey program in 1972. The 2023-24 season marked his sixth season as a coach for the Titans and his first as head coach. Butler started off as a JV assistant coach in 2014 and returned to the team as a varsity assistant coach in 2019, a position he held until becoming head coach. He was a member of the 2007 State Championship team and captain of the 2009 state runner-up team.

"It's truly a great honor to take over such a historical program. This program gave me so much, and now I can return the favor and give back to these student athletes. I'm excited for what the future holds and look forward to taking the program to the next level," Butler said.

Butler has strong roots in the local hockey community. He grew up playing in the Sylvania travel hockey program before joining the Titans. After graduating from SJJ, he went on to Bowling Green State University, where he was a member of the club hockey program, leading the Falcons to two national championship appearances. Director of Athletics Bob Ronai said, "We are looking forward to Coach Butler's leadership of the SJJ hockey program. I am excited about Matt's enthusiasm for SJJ and his excitement and passion for what this challenge holds for him."

Butler is a true example of giving back, not only to his alma mater, but to the community. A resident of Toledo where he lives with his wife Colleen and his son Liam, he works as a firefighter paramedic for the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department and as a member of the Region One water rescue and dive team.

Eleven Titans set to continue their athletics at the collegiate level!

Signees from the Class of 2024 include the following:

- **Eric Brooks** (Football) – *University of Mount Union*
- **Rowan Croak** (Rowing) – *Purdue University*
- **Owen Madden** (Football) – *Hillsdale College*
- **Patrick McWhite** (Football) – *University of Mount Union*
- **Jaylen Murphy** (Basketball) – *University of Toledo*
- **Henry Robie** (Football) – *Hillsdale College*
- **Ty Sadowy** (Lacrosse) – *Heidelberg University*
- **Wesley Seppala** (Football) – *College of Wooster*
- **Joseph Taylor** (Track & Field) – *Duke University*
- **Owen Winkler** (Lacrosse) – *Muskingum University*
- **Gage Yackee** (Wrestling) – *United States Naval Academy*

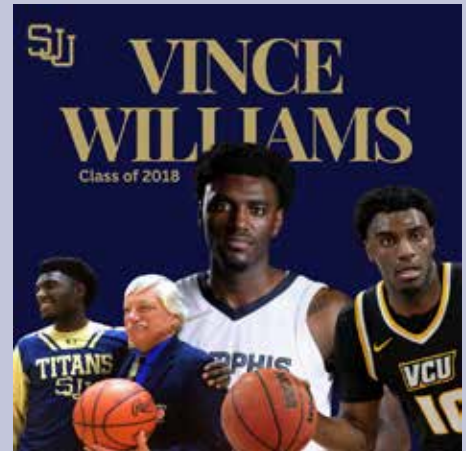


BIG LEAGUE UPDATES

Vince Williams '18

Memphis Grizzlies (NBA)

After graduating from SJJ in 2018, Vince Williams Jr. moved to the NCAA, playing for Virginia Commonwealth University. In his junior year for VCU, Williams obtained his spot in the starting lineup and, as a senior, he led his team in points and rebounds. He was the 47th overall pick in the 2022 NBA draft, and Titan fans around the country couldn't wait to see him in action. Despite a few injuries, Williams has been averaging 10 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 3.4 assists for the Grizzlies. Williams was named to the 2024 NBA All-Star Rising Stars game. In January, Williams extended his contract and will continue at least four more years with Memphis.



Joey Akpunonu '20

FC Cincinnati (MLS)

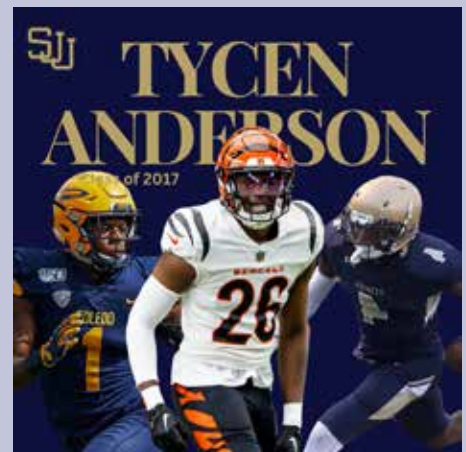


Joey Akpunonu was drafted to FC Cincinnati in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft. Before being drafted, Akpunonu continued his academic and athletic career at Bowling Green State University, where he played as a center back. Akpunonu became the first MLS SuperDraft first-round pick in BGSU history. After being drafted, he made three first-team appearances in 2023 for FC Cincinnati and went the full 90 minutes in his debut in FCC's 1-0 clean sheet win over Louisville City FC. Akpunonu also appeared 23 times for FC Cincinnati 2, all starts, in MLS NEXT Pro last season. He has now joined USL Hartford Athletic on a season-long loan.

Tycen Anderson '17

Cincinnati Bengals (NFL)

Tycen Anderson attended the University of Toledo as a three-star recruit to continue his athletic and academic career. As a senior, he received first-team all-conference, first-team all-district and first-team all-state honors. At the UT, Anderson was recognized with honors such as 2021 pre-season All-MAC, 2020 second team All-MAC, Academic All-MAC, 2019 Academic All-MAC, and 2018 Academic All-MAC. Anderson was a fifth-round pick of the Bengals in the NFL Draft in 2022 and led the Bengals with eight special teams tackles in seven games played in 2023. He suffered a season-ending knee injury in the eighth week. Anderson signed a four-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals and will continue his NFL career in his home state of Ohio!



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

LACROSSE

Congratulations to the Titan lacrosse team, which reached the 2024 OHSAA State Championship game!

To reach the finals, the Titans defeated University School 8-5. The win marked the Titans second Final Four appearance in three years.

Head Coach Andy Smith '99 said, "This was a really, really special group. Our guys made that decision to be great. Something clicked, and they gelled. And it was great to watch."



TITAN FOOTBALL HAS A GUARDIAN IN JACK MEWHORT '09



This year, Titan football players will be wearing added protection around their helmets thanks to the generosity of Jack Mewhort '09, who went on to play for the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Indianapolis Colts. Mewhort wanted to give back in a way that would make a difference to the safety of the players, and his generosity was put towards the purchase of new technology that is validated and mandated by the NFL, known as Guardian Caps. A Guardian Cap is a soft-shell helmet cover designed to protect athletes from daily blows, as well as soundwaves and vibrations. It reduces the heat from sunlight by as much as 20 percent.

Head football coach Larry McDaniel is grateful for the added protection and said, "As a football program, we are extremely grateful for Jack's generosity by providing our program with Guardian Caps. The gift will provide our players with a piece of cutting-edge equipment to enhance SJJ's commitment to the safety of our student-athletes."

ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPDATES

- Updates to the weight room
- Jumbotron scoreboards on the baseball field, Fred Beier Field, and Dome Gym
- Polyurethane Olympic track
- New turf
- Groundbreaking for concessions and restrooms scheduled for October 2024



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BOB RONAI

The Athletic Department has been under the leadership of Bob Ronai for nearly 14 years. Ronai has navigated challenges he could have never imagined when he assumed the job in 2010. Facility upgrades, a worldwide pandemic, and the transition to two new athletic conferences are just a few areas in which his problem-solving leadership style has been tested. Undoubtedly, the mission of the Jesuits and his respect for Titan tradition continue to drive his success as Athletic Director.



Sustaining and growing successful athletic programs are Ronai's superpowers. When asked about his greatest challenge he was quick to respond with striking a balance between competitive success at the highest levels and a culture of family friendliness. Ronai said, "It has always been important to me that

St. John's is viewed in the public eye as a place where a family would want to send their son to learn and grow as much as a place to play for championship teams." Ronai further identified seeking a new athletic conference as a huge challenge. "When it was apparent the TRAC would disband, the priority was to provide our student-athletes with a well-rounded experience and ensure that these young men had full opportunities in whatever sport they played. While the Catholic High School League may not have initially seemed ideal, it has been worthwhile to unify our local Catholic school counterparts and be a part of a larger Catholic league—a league in which all of us have excelled. Most important, we have been able to keep providing experiences for student-athletes, such as post-season honors and championship games," he said.

In an athletic environment that prides itself on excellence in the smallest detail, Ronai strives to treat all sports equally in the eyes of the student-athlete. He works hard to ensure that every sport matters and every student-athlete has the opportunity for a positive experience in high school athletics. His decision-making is motivated by the benefit to St. John's Jesuit as a whole.

Ronai has spearheaded several improvements to SJJ athletic facilities starting with the transformation of the Lyden weight room to a state-of-the-art facility that has been in national magazines as one of the best high school weight rooms in the country. Other impactful initiatives under his leadership have been upgrading lacrosse and crew to varsity level sports, adding eSports as a new varsity offering, and creating the opportunity for St. John's Jesuit to host the Drew Brees Football -N- America league. He has historically identified athletic opportunities such as these with broader benefits to the school.

No doubt, Ronai has exciting goals for the future. Bringing men's volleyball to SJJ and upgrading the baseball facilities are at the top of his list. He knows a winner when he sees it, and continues to look boldly forward to the next era of Titan athletics.

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS:



CREW

The Titan Varsity 8 was awarded its first bid since 2018 to attend the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass., in the fall of 2023.

Head Crew Coach Aaron Parsons said, “This regatta is the world’s largest, hosting more than 11,000 rowers and 400,000 spectators that line and cheer the 3.1-mile course. It’s the Super Bowl of fall rowing.”

The Youth Varsity 8 race pitted 90 of the best teams from the United States, Canada, and Europe against the Titans. Coxswain Rowan Croak '24 steered an impressively tight course to navigate six bridges and avoid collision, while stroke seat Carter Horen '25 powered through challenging headwinds to finish respectably by gaining 10 positions within the last 1500 meters of the race. Will Wertz '24, Erik Bradley '24, Alex Stechschulte '24, Mick Giordano '24, Ali Heif '24, Mason Brewer '25, Sutton Row '25, Ryan Gray '26, and Isaac Positano '26 made up the rest of this impressive contingent.

The Head of the Charles marked the end of a successful 2023 fall season!

SOCCER

In the first year as a member of the Catholic High School League (CHSL), the Titan soccer team won the Bishop League Championship in 2023! The team defeated Orchard Lake St. Mary’s in the sixth round of penalty kicks.

The team then continued its success in the postseason, reaching the State Regional Final before falling in overtime to Cleveland St. Ignatius.



BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the 2024 District Champions! This team has earned the district championship title for the third time in four years.



SWIMMING & DIVING



Congratulations to Titan diver Edward Nyman III '25, who placed seventh with a score 490.35 at the 2024 OHSAA D1 State Championship! He also earned First Team All Ohio honors.

Nyman '25 then went on to win the 18-19 Men's Platform Diving at the AAU

RWB Nationals in Midland, Texas, in May. He finished in the top three and advanced to the World Cup in Rome in July, placing ninth on platform and 10th on 1m springboard!

WRESTLING

For the first time in 30 years, the SJJ wrestling program sent three wrestlers to the State Tournament! Logan Morehouse '25, Kaden Soto '25, and Gage Yackee '24 traveled to Columbus to represent the Titans.



Yackee '24 competed in the 190-pound bracket, winning his first two matches before falling in the semifinals to the eventual state champion. He went on to earn All Ohio honors and place sixth overall! In addition, Yackee '24 is the first Titan to place three times in the OHSAA State Tournament.

TRACK & FIELD

Congratulations to Caleb Root '25, who placed second in the 300m Hurdles and sixth in the 110m Hurdles, and Joseph Taylor '24, who placed eighth in the 400m Dash, at the OHSAA DI State Championship! Additionally, Caleb Kelly '25 won the 2024 OATCCC Indoor State Championship in the 200m.



ADDITIONAL ACCOLADES

Congratulations to Joseph Taylor '24, Outstanding Athlete for the Class of 2024 and recognized by BCSN with honors as the Toledo area's Male Three-Sport Athlete of the Year!

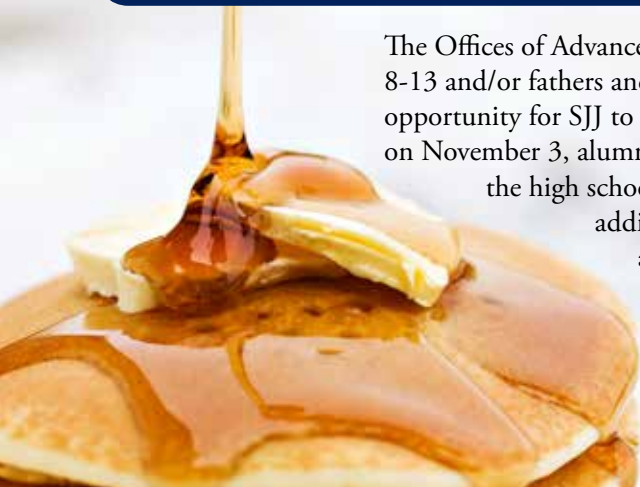


Congratulations to Quinn Wiklendt '24, who was named as an Academic All-American by USA Lacrosse and set the OHSAA record for most career assists!



ALUMNI EVENTS

LEGACY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The Offices of Advancement and Admissions will host a pancake breakfast for alumni with sons ages 8-13 and/or fathers and sons who have both graduated from St. John's! This inaugural event is an opportunity for SJJ to celebrate current and future legacies. Just prior to the annual Open House on November 3, alumni with an interest in enrollment can get a sneak preview of the Academy and the high school and hear about scholarships and tuition assistance specific to alumni. In addition, alumni faculty members will speak briefly about the "state of the school" and provide tours. There will be an open gym and activities for the boys, and most important, pancakes served by SJJ administrators!

Don't miss this new activity! Scan the QR code to register, visit sjjtoledo.org, or contact Nick Butler '01, Director of Advancement, at nbutler@sjjtians.org.



UPCOMING ALUMNI RECEPTIONS



- October** Chicago
- November** Houston and Austin
- January** Cleveland
- February** Sarasota and Naples
- March** Cincinnati
- April** Washington D.C. and NYC
- May** Denver

Details coming soon to sjjtoledo.org/alumni/ or contact Kassie McCabe at kmccabe@sjjtians.org.

THE ST. JOHN'S JESUIT SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION

The St. John's Jesuit Scholarship Granting Organization (St. John's Jesuit SGO) is a new opportunity for donors who wish to support tuition assistance for St. John's Jesuit students and take advantage of the Ohio Tax Credit Program.

A Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that receives contributions from donors and grants educational scholarships to eligible students in the State of Ohio. It is a dollar-for-dollar credit,

but is limited to \$750 for an individual or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Funds given to the St. John's Jesuit SGO will be awarded as scholarships to eligible St. John's Jesuit students.

Scan the QR code to make a gift or to learn more. Questions may be directed to Nick Butler '01, Director of Advancement at nbutler@sjjtians.org.



Hundreds of alumni returned to campus to celebrate the dedication of the Fred Beier Field on August 30.



Scan the QR code above to view Coach Beier's tribute video.



Scan the QR code above to support the Fred Beier Field Fund.

CLASS NOTES



Doug Pearson '82 has been named as a 2024 Inductee to the Toledo City Athletic League Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is on November 4, 2024.

Mike Scott '08, CEO of Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps, a marching ensemble made up of 165 young brass and percussion musicians, as well as colorguard performers, has led the corps in a historic undefeated competitive season and to victory in the 2024 Drum Corps International World Championships.

Zach Dehm '09 finished his Ph.D. in theology from Duquesne University in May and will begin work as an Assistant Teaching Professor of Theology at Loyola University Maryland in the Fall 2024 semester.

Riley Savage '12 was featured in a front-page story of the *Detroit Free Press* on August 20 for his growing success as founder and co-host of Hivemind, a YouTube music/trivia/comedy show with 500,000 followers and more than 92 million views.



Anthony Glover '14 has assumed the position of Assistant Admissions Director at St. John's Jesuit.

Tevin Brown '15 ran his first marathon in Toledo in April and took second place! Former teammates

Nick Jarrell '15, Jake Barnes '16, Drew Savage '13, and Ryan Savage '15, as well as Cross Country head coach Todd Black, were there to cheer him on!



Mario Markho '16, Matthew Orchard '16, Mazzin Elsamaloty '14, Alan Fahoury '18, Pat Gorman '17, and Ben Klein '16 participated in a panel discussion in the



spring for current SJJ juniors and seniors interested in field of medicine.

Sean McManus '17 has graduated with honors from the University of Toledo College of law.



Joey Thaman '19 received the prestigious Frederick Emmons Terman Engineering Scholastic Award at Stanford University. As part of that award, he was able to nominate the secondary school or other pre-college teacher who was most influential in guiding him during the formative stages of his academic career. That honor was given to Andy Smith '99, currently the varsity Titan lacrosse coach, but who served as the Robotics faculty team advisor during Thaman's time at SJJ.



CLASS OF 2020 ALERT!

The Titan alumni database is missing many email and mailing addresses of alums who graduated in 2020. Please connect and update our records to receive important information and Titan news! Send information to sjjtoledo.org/alumni-updates/

- Submit news of alumni births to sjjtoledo.org/tiny-titans/
- Deceased alumni to sjjtoledo.org/alumni-who-have-passed/
- Career/personal alumni updates to sjjtoledo.org/alumni-updates/

THE CLASS OF 1973
CELEBRATED 50 YEARS!



TINY TITANS

Welcome to the newest members of the Titan community!

- Paul Kwapich '09** and Jordan, son Gavin born January 8, 2021, and son Miles born October 8, 2023
- Jamey Burson** and Callie, faculty, daughter Heidi born March 24, 2023
- Josh Unice '07** and Theresa, son Briggs born June 14, 2023
- Jack Kelly '06** and Grace, son Theodore born July 7, 2023
- Nick Cherry '07** and Mari-Jo, son James born January 10, 2024
- Kacy Dwornik '07** and Tylor, son John born January 11, 2024
- Joe Stibley** and Katy, faculty, son born March 16, 2024
- Cole Myers '14** and Chloe, daughter Camille born March 22, 2024
- Matthew Butler '09** and Colleen, staff/coach, son Ripp born April 23, 2024
- Andrew Schaetzke '08** and Rochelle, son Leo born May 5, 2024



IN MEMORIAM

Name	Graduation Year	Date of Death
Donald Smi.....	1971	5/5/2022
W. Scott Johnson.....	1975	6/20/2022
Matthew J. Gross	1977	7/24/2023
Mark C. Cray.....	1978	8/7/2023
Mark Thees	1979	8/19/2023
Terrence R. Wagener	1978	8/31/2023
Gregory DeBrock.....	1971	10/18/2023
Joseph Patrick Boyle Jr.....	1993	11/21/2023
Michael Hoecherl.....	1977	12/15/2023
Patrick Leckler.....	1972	12/21/2023
Mark Borden.....	1983	1/31/2024
Daniel Dessner.....	1980	2/3/2024
Bradley Ansberg	1994	3/26/2024
Matthew B. Kelly	1982	4/14/2024
Kenneth Derlatka.....	1973	5/5/2024



Fr. Terrence Baum, SJ..... 7/29/2024
Board of Members
Board of Trustees



John Libens, SJ.....2/28/2024
Teacher/Assistant Principal (1970-1971)
Principal (1971-1978)
President (1980-1982)

ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY

THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

Karl Ertle
President

Nick Butler '01
Director of Advancement

Phillip Anthony
Director of Admissions

Jill Greene
Advancement Support Services

Ron Miller
Alumni Stewardship

Doug Pearson '82
Planned Giving/Young Alumni Officer

Stacy Poca
Director of Annual Fund

Jo Ann Savage
Director of Advancement Events

Juli Snyder
Director of External Relations

New Alumni Relations and Community Outreach Coordinator



Kassie McCabe has recently joined the SJJ Advancement team as Alumni Relations and Community Outreach Coordinator. McCabe is a Toledo native and 2011 Notre Dame Academy graduate. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Capital University. McCabe has a strong background in development and donor relations with experience at Ohio Dominican University and the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio.

Excited to be back in her hometown after 12 years, McCabe is looking forward to getting to know alumni and hearing their impactful stories. "I have always been drawn to the Ignatian value of *Men and Women for Others*, and I am looking forward to finding ways to help grow the mission of St. John's," she said.

McCabe and her husband, Jake, live in Sylvania. In her free time, McCabe loves watching football with her family, attending musicals and plays, and tackling new DIY projects.



**JESUIT FRIENDS
& ALUMNI NETWORK
TOLEDO**

**The Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network invites you to
*Colleagues in Conversation: The Jesuit Mission Realized
over Time with Karl Ertle and Fr. Martin Connell, SJ.***

Karl Ertle is the president of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy, and Fr. Martin Connell, SJ, '81 is the dean of Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago.

Gather with other alumni and friends of the Jesuits for an evening of networking and conversation!

Thursday, November 14, 2024

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Maumee Bay Brewing Company

27 Broadway Street

Toledo, Ohio

More information and RSVP at jfanusa.org/toledo.

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'60s

