

COMMUNIQUE

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Fall 2023





Brady Tommasi '24 learns to fly a drone in the Drone Tech & Operation Class - one of many new technology-focused courses.



St. Joseph High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory community that educates and motivates young women and men to live purposeful lives as ethical leaders committed to the common good of all.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“
*Together, we continue
to nurture not just what
our students need to
know but also the kind
of people they need
to become to make a
meaningful impact on
the world.*
”

Greetings from St. Joseph High School. I hope this Fall '23 Communiqué message finds you well and filled with the same sense of pride and optimism that pervades our campus. I am excited to share the many developments that engaged us during the summer and simultaneously renewed our commitment to nurturing excellence at our school in this new academic year.

Our students remain at the heart of everything we do, and this summer was no exception. Seven faculty members provided a unique blend of academic courses that allowed our students to earn valuable credits. The summer programs were designed not only to challenge our students intellectually but also to help them explore their passions and interests by affording scheduling flexibility for the fall semester. Our steadfast commitment to enhancing the overall student experience also extended to our physical facilities. I am delighted to announce the successful completion of our second floor bathroom renovations, which now offer modern, comfortable amenities. Our goal is to renovate the first and third floor restrooms next summer. We also made important changes to the main hallway and center stairwell designed to significantly improve daily pedestrian traffic flow and aesthetic appeal. These improvements not only reflect our dedication to our students' well-being but also contribute to a more conducive learning environment.

The St. Joseph High School family continues to grow with the addition of several exceptional team members. Their diverse expertise and fresh perspectives are invaluable assets as we work to elevate the student learning experience. Together, we are united by a shared passion for nurturing young minds and fostering a community that empowers our students to excel. Though their introductions are enclosed in this edition of the Fall Communiqué, it is our hope that you are afforded the opportunity to meet them in person soon.

As St. Joes proceeds *Onward with Purpose*, we are preparing to unveil our new strategic plan, which will guide our intentional progress for the next two years. This plan of strategic renewal will elevate our school further and positively impact our growth while providing unwavering support for our students' academic journeys. Our commitment to excellence, grounded in our strong Catholic identity, remains the cornerstone of our mission. The recent all-school Mass, where our students celebrated with reverence and unity, serve as poignant reminders of the values, faith, and community that have long defined St. Joseph High School. Together, we continue to nurture not just what our students need to know but also the kind of people they need to become to make a meaningful impact on the world.

Our school's continued forward progress is a testament to the power of faith, friendship, and family within our community. Together, we shape the future and inspire the next generation of leaders. We are so grateful to count on you as partners in this noble work.

In Faith & Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK', which is the signature of David J. Klein.

David J. Klein
President

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and pride that I have joined St. Joseph High School as its Chief Advancement Officer. I am honored to assume this pivotal role which oversees fundraising endeavors, develops alumni programs, forges meaningful community connections, and contributes to a visionary blueprint for the future of SJ.

First and foremost, I have heartfelt appreciation for each of you and your unwavering support for St. Joseph High School. Your steadfast dedication and care for this school is the bedrock upon which our institution's 60-year legacy of academic excellence has been built. The fervor and aspirations that have characterized the SJ community are truly inspiring, and I am genuinely excited to become an integral part of this maroon and gold tradition.

I have been fortunate during my 25-year career to be a part of several exceptional academic institutions whose mission is to form young people and shape lives. Having a role that directly contributes to an organization's vision brings purpose and passion to every day. My most recent appointment was at Sacred Heart University, where I orchestrated transformative initiatives that reshaped the university's engagement with its alumni and benefactors. During my tenure, I was proud to have helped cultivate a global alumni presence, fostered invaluable opportunities for students, and raised significant funds for scholarships, financial assistance, capital projects, and University priorities. I am excited to help St. Joes pursue similar success.

I join SJ with a keen sense of responsibility and timing. St. Joseph High School has been meticulously nurtured, and it now stands poised to embark on an ambitious journey that seeks to elevate both its physical infrastructure and academic programs, while ensuring accessibility to quality education for all students. My mandate is both clear and profound: to weave the compelling narrative of SJ, aligning it with our visionary aspirations. Such goals cannot be accomplished without first establishing essential connections between our stakeholders and the transformative projects that will redefine our educational landscape for future Cadets.

I am profoundly grateful for your warm reception and the privilege to serve in this important role. I am committed to embarking on this transformative journey and eager to collaborate with each of you to sculpt a brilliant future for St. Joseph High School.

With warm regards,



Todd Gibbs
Chief Advancement Officer



A SALUBRIOUS DAY

Just one word from St. Joseph High School's new Director of College & School Counseling challenges students, staff, and parents to think differently about our emotions, relationships, and their vocabulary.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The next time you see Terence “Terry” Houlihan walking around the academic wing, be sure to ask him how he’s doing today. His answer will always be the same, just one word: “Salubrious!” Most students – and even some staff – have no idea what the word means. Already, they’re forced to do some homework.

“I learned it from one of my mentors,” Terry says. “He used to say it all the time. So one day, I finally worked up the nerve to ask him about it, and he said he learned it from his butcher. And I just found that so fascinating that I began to use it every day. Now, take a moment to think about the quintessential teenager’s response to ‘how are you doing?’ Typically, it’s also just one word: ‘fine’. But when I respond with ‘salubrious’, I give them a moment to pause and reflect on what that word means - it gets them thinking differently. Not just about the word but about the emotion behind it; about the words that they are able to use to express their own response.”

Thinking differently is exactly how we’d describe Terry’s holistic approach to College & School Counseling – creating an environment where not only the students, but his fellow Counselors, parents, and staff can flourish and succeed.

Terry holds a double-major degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies with a minor in Psychology. He began as a classroom teacher at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, working as a Theology teacher with freshman and sophomore students. But Terry soon found himself becoming more interested in the content of his students’ lives rather than the content of his lessons plans.

“I began to think more about how



students process information – why are some students more interested? More excited? More irritable? That’s what drew me into the social-emotional aspect of education and led me to pursue my Masters in School Counseling.”

As a School Counselor at Iona Prep in New Rochelle, NY, Terry realized that his passion wasn’t contained to simply working with the students.

“I loved working with adults as well and I found that I could have more of a global impact by working with the entire parent community, as well as the teachers, staff, and administration.”

Terry began working as an Adjunct Professor at Lehman College in New York, teaching Counselor Education and Educational Leadership. He currently teaches as an Adjunct at Fairfield University, teaching and training soon-to-be school counselors who will enter the field.

“While I love my work with future counselors,” Terry adds, “there is no other stage of human life that fascinates me more than adolescence. I have the great privilege of being able to create an environment where each

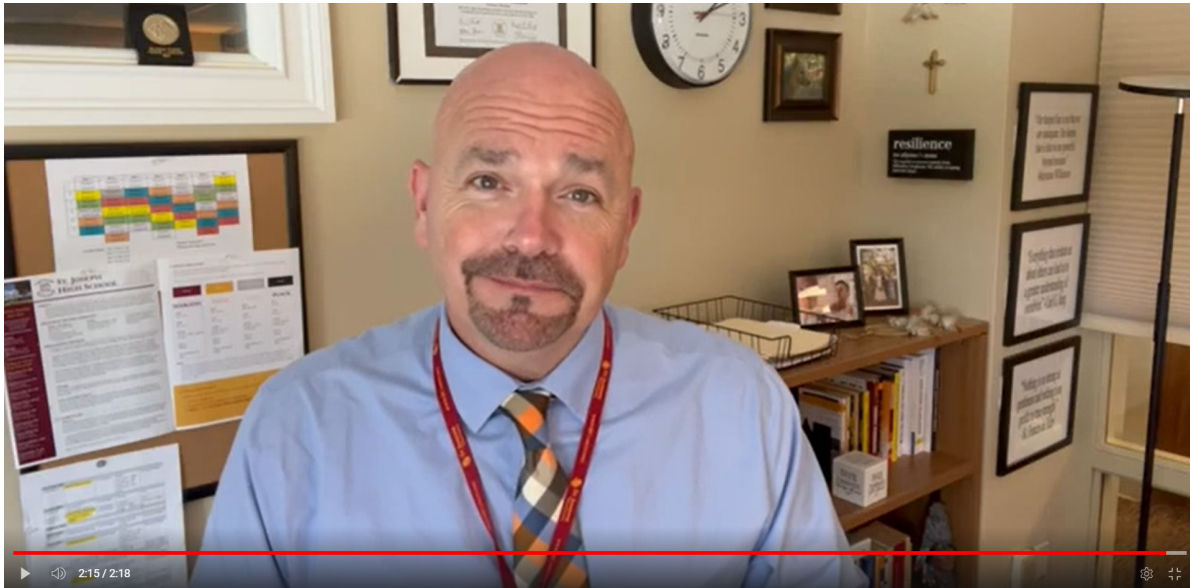
“That’s my responsibility at SJ – to create an environment where our students will grow into the person they want to be.”

students’ individual self can flourish. They’re only here for four years – this is where they figure it out.

It’s kind of like sleeping. You cannot force sleep. But what you can do is change the temperature in the room, flip your pillow, sleep on your side. It’s all about the environment. That’s my responsibility at SJ – to create an environment where our students will grow into the person they want to be.”

Terry also views his role as going beyond the students; working with their parents is equally as important.

“Sometimes, we as parents, fear that we’re not doing a good enough job. Or that we did something wrong. And that might result in fear-based behaviors, such as overprotectiveness. Or it might lead to the complete opposite – where you’re not curious enough.”



Terry's YouTube videos provide additional information in an accessible format.

Terry has already begun working on a plan to make adolescent development a part of his team's work; inviting our SJ parents to discuss not just their child's development, but the relationship between them and their child. This is particularly important when it comes to finding the right college for their student.

"Parents can sometimes have expectations that are based on their own experiences. But the college landscape has changed. Who a college might have accepted twenty or ten years ago is not who they are accepting now. The essay, the SAT or ACT, a student's GPA, they are all valued differently now than they were before."

Terry's plan is to use more tech-savvy techniques to help both parents and students find the right college fit for them. Software such as Scoir helps students narrow their search; YouTube videos from the Counselors provide additional information in an accessible way; and utilizing SJ's website to post scholarship opportunities and the latest educational research are all ways Terry plans to help SJ students find their right path after graduation.

But he also remains clear on one thing, "a Counselor's role is not to inform students on where they *ought* to apply. Our role is to arm families with as much information as possible so that their students can make the best decision — academically, financially, psychologically, geographically — for their family. The goal is to, again, create an environment that is safe and

"Parents can sometimes have expectations that are based on their own experiences. But the college landscape has changed."

allows for exploration. We do not do it for them. We do it with them."

Since College Counselors are seen as mentors, we asked Terry who he views as a mentor. His answer: author and motivational speaker, Brené Brown.

"Brené certainly wasn't the first person to speak about shame, empathy, and leadership," he said, "but she has helped me and so many others shape the importance of authenticity in all of our relationships. And the thing — to connect it back to SJ teenagers — is that they have an uncanny ability to smell someone's lack of authenticity."

SJ students certainly won't have to worry about that with Terry as he will continue to inspire them, guide them, and ensure that they have a salubrious day.

EXPANDING SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOES

As though the hustle and bustle of a typical St. Joes summer isn't enough to keep our Cadets busy, in 2023, SJ launched a new initiative: full-year and half-year credits offered in just a few weeks. These courses allow students additional flexibility in their schedule; they may choose to pursue electives, APs, or ECEs that will enhance their transcripts.

During the summer most schools sit barren, with empty lockers, abandoned hallways, and vacant classrooms. St. Joes is not like most schools.

Pay a visit to St. Joes during the summer, and you will find the campus buzzing with activity. Outside, the fields have a constant rotation of student-athletes. Inside, Cadets can be found participating in summer service projects and building remote control cars in the freshman IDEA course. Even with all of this non-stop action, there was room for more. The Summer of 2023 piloted our first elective summer courses.

For the first time, students had the option to enroll in courses during their summer vacation. In order to meet the high demand from students for additional college prep, the SJ Curricular Planning Team developed a new academic initiative: half-credit and full-credit courses in Mathematics, World Language, Social Studies, and Theology.

"This initiative provides a unique opportunity for our students to complete a required course during the summer and, thereby, engage with their SJ peers in areas of advanced or elective study during the upcoming school year," said President Klein. By expanding learning opportunities,

students are given the schedule flexibility needed to pursue academic areas of interest, rather than just the required classes needed to graduate. "Taking Spanish 4 over the summer allowed me to take two science electives I might not have been able to fit into my schedule during the regular academic year," said Sebastian Martinez '25.

Rather than spending their last few remaining days of summer relaxing and hanging out with friends, students in Señora Sullivan's course filled the O'Keefe Media Center. The sound of students speaking Spanish was all that could be heard as they interviewed one another and hosted lively discussions. The same could be said of all our classrooms, which hosted students taking Civics, New Testament, Catholic Social Teaching, and Geometry.

While these courses are time-condensed, they are no less rigorous than our standard curriculum. Students are expected to attend every class without exception, participate daily, and devote additional time at home to their study and homework. But our Cadets have never shied away from a challenge. 53 students in grades 10-12 opted to enroll in a summer course: 24 in a full-credit course and 29 in a half-credit course.

"We covered the material a lot more quickly than the regular year," said **Madelyn Paige '24**, "but since I did not have a full course load, I found the course to be manageable and it kept me engaged with the material."



"The summer courses proved to be a time of intellectual enrichment and curricular innovation," President Klein added. "We employed a new forward-thinking approach to summer learning and academic resume elevation with great success."

All who participated shared supportive feedback. Students were grateful to have the opportunity to take a required course during the summer (not having to follow dress code was an added bonus), and faculty enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. In fact, they have already asked about an expansion of offerings for upcoming years!

Beyond the High School Walls: *From Student Leadership Awards to changing lives in Kenya: Gabriella “Gabby” Wayman’s inspiring journey of civic engagement.*

Each May, at the end of the academic year, St. Joseph High School hosts underclassmen awards, honoring students who have not only achieved high academic standing, but who have dedicated their time to community service, and have made a difference within our school. One such honor is the “Students Who Make a Difference Award.” This award is bestowed upon a group of students who have exhibited gestures of kindness and altruism without expecting any recognition in return. They are selected by the faculty and staff and handed their certificates by our beloved faculty member, Betsy Sorrentino ’76.

In May 2023, freshman Cadet, Gabriella “Gabby” Wayman, was presented with this award. As a first-year student, Gabby stood out from her peers with her cheerful disposition, positive attitude, work ethic, and dedication to her school and her community. She joined multiple clubs and successfully ran for a position on the Sophomore

Class Student Council. During her campaign speech, Gabby highlighted the many activities and non-profits she supports throughout the school year.

“It all started when my mom, my siblings, and I moved from Delaware to Bridgeport,” Gabby said. “I was about nine years old and to me, everything was different – my neighborhood, my friends, my school – and I became very shy and introverted. That was when my mother ‘voluntold’ me to join an organization called C.L.T.I, which stands for Children’s Leadership Training Institution.”

The C.L.T.I. is an organization that seeks to educate and excite children about their participation in civic life and as school and community leaders. Since Gabby had nearly aged out of the program and was older than most of the other children, she found herself serving as an Assistant Teacher, helping the other students and spending her days learning to find her voice once again. After a year, when



the students were set to graduate from the program, Gabby was invited to be the keynote speaker, which prompted her journey toward community service.

Using her newfound public speaking talent and harnessing her ambition, Gabby chose to run for Vice President of the NAACP Youth Chapter in Bridgeport. “I tried to run for secretary first,” she said, “but I didn’t get elected. So the next year, I thought, why not? Let’s go for something bigger. And I actually got elected as V.P.!”

As part of the NAACP Youth Chapter, Gabby and her peers go out into the community, volunteering, advocating, and striving to create a society in which all individuals have equal rights. As their V.P., Gabby was honored when she was asked to give a speech for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She took the time to work closely with her aunt to create a poem titled, “I Still Believe,” which incorporates many of Dr. King’s quotes on equality and justice. Little did Gabby know when her Mom recorded the speech and posted it to YouTube, it would jumpstart an even greater leap forward.

Gabby’s speech caught the attention of the organization, Blessed Girls, which promotes learning, entrepreneurship, and a courageous lifestyle that produces strong, motivated young women. After watching her speech, Blessed Girls wanted to recognize Gabby with the 4C Youth Civility Award, inviting her to Philadelphia to give a speech. This then led Gabby to become a 4C Youth Civility Ambassador (the 4C’s stand for Civility, Community, Climate Change, and Creativity).

“One of the greatest aspects of being a 4C Youth Ambassador is that I get to travel the world as part of the organization’s Pads & Panties Project, which distributes an assortment of hygienic items to young women and girls in poverty.”

This past summer 2023, Gabby was fortunate enough to join Blessed Girls on their 4C Youth Civility Tour to Kenya! The Blessed Girls visited the Sekenani Girls School and distributed sanitary pads and hygiene items to almost 800 young women.

“Being in Kenya was such an eye-opening experience. Just seeing the different lifestyles and how no one ever complained about what they didn’t have; they were just grateful to be with their family and share their culture with others. Serving as part of the Pads & Panties Project



Gabby earns the 4C Youth Civility Award

felt amazing. I was able to help young girls who didn’t have hygiene products and make them feel confident in themselves.”

We are in awe of how much Gabby has already accomplished before her sophomore year had even begun! In addition to all of her extracurricular activities at SJ, Gabby is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Jr., which meets twice a week to discuss new ways that the group can serve their community. As part of the NSBE, she also gets to travel annually across the country to attend STEM Youth Summits. Gabby is also the Secretary for Jack and Jill, an organization for both parents and children, which focuses on nurturing African-American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving, and civic duty.

We are so proud to count Gabby among our SJ Cadets. She’s truly a young leader on the rise!

Gabby spends time with the students at the Sekenani Girls School



Chosen From One Hundred: *James Murano, Senior Cadet, shares his experience as one of two Connecticut students chosen to attend American Legion Boys Nation.*

When you walk around the halls of St. Joes, you'll be hard-pressed to find a student who doesn't know the name "James Murano." James is a Student Ambassador, Co-Captain of the Debate Team, President of Model Congress, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and winner of 8 academic awards during last May's underclassmen awards ceremony. On top of that, James also plays on the Varsity Golf Team. With his ambition to succeed, dedication to our school community, and ability to command a room, it was no surprise that James was selected to participate as one of one hundred Connecticut young men in the American Legion Boys State Program.

American Legion Boys State is among the most selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S.

high school students. In order to apply, a student must be nominated by their school's College Counseling Office and submit a copy of their resumé to demonstrate an interest in government. James was chosen to participate in the 6-day, hands-on experience hosted by the University of New Haven. From the first day, the boys were tasked with the creation and "operation" of city, county, and state governments. By day two, with their political parties solidified, they were expected to run for office.

"I was going to run for comptroller, at first," James remarked. "I love throwing out numbers and everyone knew me as the numbers guy." But at the last minute, James was unexpectedly nominated by his peers for Lieutenant Governor. After completely ad-libbing his speech, he won.



James (2nd from the right) at Boys State.

Little did he know that while this experience was already impacting his life, there was an even greater surprise coming. Throughout the week, all of the young men were being observed and judged on their participation and political performances by moderators. The organizers of the Boys Legion were specifically looking for just two students who stood out from the rest – two students who would go beyond Boys State and be invited to join Boys Nation. James was one of the two chosen.

“When I heard my name announced, I was in shock,” James said. “My parents couldn’t believe it either. We didn’t even know this was a possibility.”

While it was an honor and a privilege to be invited, it was also a daunting task to be a participant. James was given just one day to draft an actual congressional bill for Boys Nation. Three weeks later, he was off to Washington, D.C. to participate in the event. Acting as a Connecticut Senator, James and the other participants held caucus sessions, organized into committees, and then conducted hearings on the very bills they had submitted three weeks prior.

“My bill was focused on revoking 501c3 status for private colleges and universities with endowments of \$750 million or more that overcharge tuition,” James said. “As I mentioned, I like playing with numbers. With my bill, we could lower college tuition – which has outpaced inflation by 170% - and help with student loan issues in the future.”

“Debating the bills took a lot of time,” he continued, “of the 100 bills we all submitted, we only made it through about 20 of them.”

But the Boys Nation event wasn’t only politics and hard-work. James and his fellow participants were given a private tour of the Capital by Dusty Johnson – U.S. Representative for South Dakota – and were allowed to sit on the house floor. “It was pretty awesome. Most people will only ever see it on television,” said James.

In addition, they were granted passes by Senator Blumenthal to watch the Senate in action and fortunate enough to speak with Blumenthal’s staff. They were even able to meet General Mark Milley, the highest-ranked military official in the country. General Milley spent 45



James participates in Boys Nation.

minutes speaking to the young men and another half an hour taking photos with them.

“One of the greatest pieces of the entire experience,” James said, “was not just the special inside access, but it was being able to meet so many students from all over the country. Right across from my hotel room were kids from Alaska and California. It was incredible to hear what concerns their state is facing right now and how Connecticut is similar and different. It really makes you grow an appreciation for your home state.”

This year, as a senior, James wants to make it his mission to try and get more SJ students to apply to both American Legion Boys and Girls. “Before my College Counselors told me about this opportunity, I didn’t even know it existed. There are so many more opportunities like this one that are out there, and I want to spread the word and make sure everyone at St. Joes knows how they can become involved.”

James takes a photo with General Mark Milley



Jessica Mazo '19, Captain of the University of Connecticut's Girls Soccer Team, shares her post-graduate plans and how her time at St. Joes has shaped who she is today.

At St. Joes, Jessica Mazo was a part of three CLAC Class L State Championships, was named GameTimeCT State Player, and was a four-time All-FCIAC pick, a three-time All-State pick, and was named All-New England and All-American. She is currently a fifth-year senior and plays as Captain on the UConn Soccer Team.

1) How are you feeling as you prepare to graduate from UConn and enter the next phase of your career? What are your plans after graduation?

The reality of this being my last semester at UConn has not fully set in yet. I am trying to stay as present as possible and enjoy every moment with my team, while also taking advantage of everything the school has to offer. After graduation, I plan to continue my soccer career and play professionally. Although I am very excited to begin this next part of my life, my goal is to remain present and make the best of my last semester.

2) How would you describe your leadership style?

I lead through action. I am not the most vocal leader, so I try my best to lead by setting an example for others and doing my part to the best of my ability. I think St. Joes has helped me grow as a leader by challenging me early on. I was able to step into a leadership role during my junior year when I became Captain at SJ. This position pushed me to step up and assume a bigger role. This also helped me become a better teammate as it challenged me to look outside of myself.

3) What is your fondest memory at St. Joes?

Definitely winning States and FCIACs my junior year. I'll never forget that feeling.

4) As a mentor to the younger students on your team, can you talk about your own personal mentor(s) and what skills have learned from them?

I would say that Jack Nogueira [SJ College Counselor and Girls Soccer Coach] is one of my biggest mentors. His intensity and desire to win is something that has been deeply ingrained in me. This intensity is something that I apply to both the way that I play and lead.

5) What advice would you give an SJ senior-athlete?

Make the best of the time that you have. Finding a balance between academics, athletics, and personal life is extremely important as it will help you remain grounded. Also, take the time to put energy into things that will help you grow, both on and off the field.



Photo Credit: UConn



Photo Credit: UConn



Jessica during her time at SJ

As a student-athlete at UConn, Jessica has earned not only the title of Team Captain, but was chosen for the All-BIG EAST Second Team (2022), United Coaches East Region Second Team (2021), First Team All-BIG EAST (2021), and the American Athletic Conference All-Rookie Team (2019). We look forward to watching her play this year!

Michael DeCesare '21, a current Junior at Sacred Heart University shares his experience as an intern for the New York Yankees.

After working as a photographer for the Hartford Yard Goats, Michael DeCesare was recommended for an internship with the New York Yankees. More than 900 applicants applied for this position; Michael's great game-day etiquette on the field and with the players, as well as his eye for sports photography, made him the perfect choice for the position.

1) How does it feel to be working for the New York Yankees?

It is a dream come true. I am a die-hard Yankees fan and being able to attend nearly every home game and do what I love means everything to me. I always had a dream like most kids do - to *play* for the Yankees - but this is a very close second!

2) What does being a Content Creator Intern entail?

From a young age, I've always loved making videos and taking pictures of anything I could find. During my Junior year at SJ, my passion was reignited when I began to work on SJTV. That's when I realized I could make this my future. Then, throughout the pandemic, I started to narrow down my niche and discovered an interest in sports photography. As a Senior, I took photos for SJ, which helped build my portfolio. I was then offered an opportunity to shoot for the Hartford Yard Goats, a Double-A baseball team for the Colorado Rockies. For nearly two years, I used that opportunity as a chance to network with others in the sports industry. When I got the call that an internship opened up for the Yankees, I knew I had to jump on that; my dream was basically standing right in front of me.

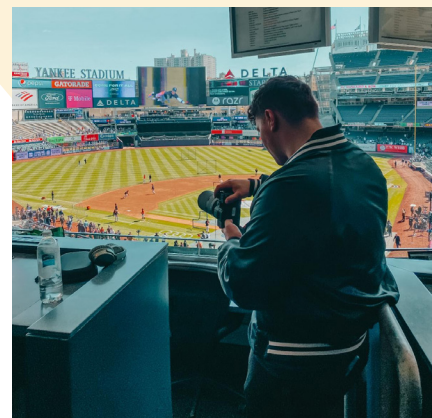
3) How do you feel St. Joes helped you get to where you are today?

Working with Mr. Forde on SJTV really taught me how to meet deadlines with little time. The episodes had to be shot, edited, and posted all in under one hour, and it had to be done with no mistakes. This experience helped me professionally because on days I'm not in the stadium, I am still live editing - taking photos during a game, sorting them, editing them, adding metadata, and sending them to Getty Images to be posted. While this task seemed daunting at first, I knew I could rely on my experience of working under a strict time limit.

SJ also helped me with creative thinking. Every morning, Mr. Forde gave us a brand-new script that we had to memorize and we were constantly challenged with coming up with new ideas to make each edition entertaining. This practice helps me think of new ideas now for videos for athletes, teams, and much more.

4) What advice do you have for our underclassmen who may be looking into sports photography?

The best piece of advice that I can give is to talk to absolutely everyone. Networking will be your biggest asset; 50% of the job is talking to people and making connections. Another piece of advice I would offer is to make the most of what you have. If you have an old camera, a cheap camera, maybe just your iPhone, use it. It doesn't always matter what you shoot with, the key is consistency.



*Above: Michael working during his internship.
Below: Michael working on SJTV*



Athletic Highlights

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT ATHLETES

▶ **Taylor Jenkins '24** received the Elite Club National League Northeast Conference Player of the Year Award, along with First Team selection. ECNL is the highest level soccer league in the country and being selected is an incredible achievement. Taylor also made the 2023 High School All-American watch-list.



▶ **Sean Curley '23**, was named one of only 79 members of the the 2023 National Football Foundation Team of Distinction. Recognizing the Team of Distinction allows the NFF to honor the top high school scholar-athletes from around the country as the best and the brightest at the local level.



▶ Running for unity, strength, and inclusion. On June 6, our Cadets - many members of our **Cross Country Teams** - participated in the Law Enforcement and Special Olympics Torch Run. Together, they carried the torch of hope and solidarity for three miles in the scorching heat, in support of the incredible athletes of Special Olympics.



◀ Class of 2013 alum, **Sabrina Toole Quigley**, was the keynote speaker at the Fall 2023 Pep Rally. Sabrina played Girls Varsity Soccer at St. Joes from 2010-2013 and was named a three-time All-State player and a two-time National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American. In 2012, she was named MSG Varsity State Player of the Year. Her senior year, Sabrina was selected as Coca-Cola State Player of the Year and was one of 44 girls chosen to play in the High School Girls' All-American Game.

Sabrina spoke to our Cadets about the value of determination and hard-work (both on and off the field) and how her time at SJ has shaped the woman she is today.



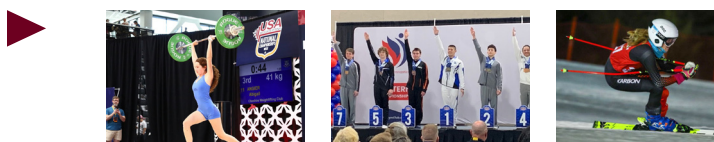
▲ **Alexa Pino '25** was named the 2022-2023 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Alexa is the 6th player to be chosen from St. Joes! In addition, Alexa's goal against Fairfield Ludlowe in the Semifinals of the FCIAC Championship was selected as the Gatorade National Soccer Play of the Year. Alexa received her award in Los Angeles where she was also able to attend the ESPYs at the Dolby Theatre!

Meet Our Inaugural SJ-FCIAC Student Sports Reporters!



We are thrilled to announce that after a thorough application and interview process, **Kathryn Murano '26**, **Camryn Tomey '25**, and **Kate Neary '24** have been selected as our inaugural Student Sports Reporters - an internship position hosted by St. Joes in partnership with the FCIAC. They will be tasked with attending SJ games, matches, and meets, and then writing an article about the results. Their articles will be hosted on the FCIAC website as well as St. Joe's website. You can view the first articles now at sjcadets.org/sportsreports.

Athletic Highlights Beyond the Fields of SJ



▶ **Abigail Angier '26** (left) qualified and competed in her 4th youth Olympic Weightlifting nationals meet in June 25.

Jack Avedikian '26 (center) competed at the Men's Eastern Gymnastics Championship. Jack competed in 6 events, winning medals in 5, including Gold Medals.

Sydney Lombard '25 (right) competed in the Connecticut Interscholastic Ski Racing League as an independent high school athlete. Sydney was named Honorable Mention All-State within the Class L Division.

Spring FCIAC Award Recipients



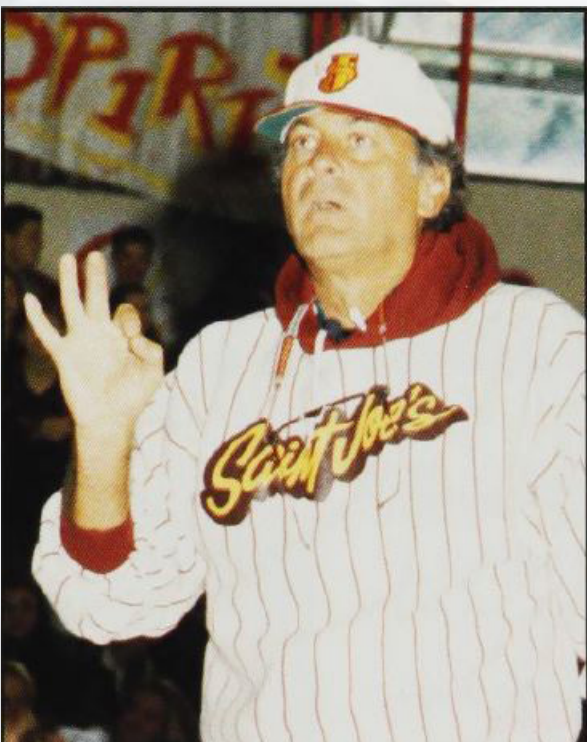
JIM CHAVES, BASEBALL COACH OF THE YEAR

- » Coco Bartone, 2nd Team, Softball
- » Addy Chapman, Honorable Mention, Tennis
- » Nicolas Coppola, All East, Baseball
- » James Corry, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Mickey Covino, All East, Baseball
- » Lauren Davis, Honorable Mention, Softball
- » Niamh Dougherty, 1st Team, Softball
- » Michael Fiatarone, All East, Baseball
- » Kelsea Flanagan, 2nd Team, Softball
- » Jill Guilfoyle, 1st Team, Softball
- » Hannah Haywood, 2nd Team, Singles Tennis
- » Riley Jordan, Honorable Mention, Baseball
- » Johnny Karafa, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Raffie Katts, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Andrew Keeler, 1st Team, Baseball
- » Casey Maygothling, 1st Team, Girls Lacrosse
- » Riley McDermott, 2nd Team, Softball
- » Jason Pagano, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Ryan Rooney, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Sam Rosa, 1st Team, Boys Lacrosse
- » Brandon Rovinelli, Honorable Mention, Baseball
- » Sebastian Sampieri, 1st Team, Baseball
- » Hannah Siljamaki, 1st Team, Girls Lacrosse
- » William Singewald, Honorable Mention, Baseball
- » Matt Tabet, 1st Team, Baseball
- » Camryn Tomey, 1st Team, Girls Lacrosse

The Lost Letters: A Journey Back in Time with Mr. DeTullio



"I really enjoy teaching. Every time I watch one of my students receive their diploma on graduation day I cannot help but think of how my teachings affected them. And I know that in most cases this school will leave a profound affect on them."



It is often said that the impact of a great teacher lasts a lifetime. For the St. Joseph High School community, Mr. Norman DeTullio is one such legendary figure, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to have learned in his classroom. As we journey back to 1999, a time when senior year was filled with anticipation and excitement, we find ourselves in Room 206, waiting for Mr. DeTullio to begin another English class. Little did anyone know that an assignment he'd introduce that day would create a lasting connection through the years. The assignment: to write a letter to our future selves to be returned after college graduation.

Picture it: the bell rings, and Mr. DeTullio's contagious enthusiasm fills the room as he unveils the task at hand. "Write a letter to your future self," he declares, setting imaginations in motion. As pens hit paper, thoughts flow freely, capturing dreams, fears, and aspirations in words. Mr. DeTullio, with his characteristic care for each student, ensured to include a self-addressed envelope. The plan? He would hold onto these letters, meant to be returned four years later.

However, the plan was not a perfect one... The years between 1999 and 2003 were bustling, new classes of students came and went throughout the 12th grade English course. There were clubs to moderate, papers to grade, and presentations to behold. In all the action, the letters written by the seniors in Room 206, back in 1999, had been misplaced.

A NOTE FROM LISA DETULLIO RUSSELL '82:

Back in 1979, my 8th grade class at St. Catherines had a tradition of writing letters to ourselves that we would receive after graduating high school. My Dad fell in love with this idea - so much so that he decided to make it a part of his Creative Writing Classes and ask his students to write letters that they would then receive after graduating from college.

My father retired in 1999 after 32 years of teaching, hosting Driver's Ed, serving as the Head of the English Department, and running Prom. He most certainly left Room 206 in June of 1999 with his red clown nose on his face (true story) and those letters in his briefcase, before stashing them in a safe place in his library desk. In 2019, my folks decided to sell their home - the house they bought in 1977 to be closer to St. Joes! For 42 years, several times a day former students would honk their horns as they passed. Upon cleaning out the home...and reading every note and letter stashed between pages of yearbooks, books, and files...he found the lost letters from the Class of 1999!

Fast-forward more than 23 years later – the Alumni Office received a box of handwritten envelopes banded together. The once-lost letters had been discovered, reuniting Cadets with a piece of their past. Among those who received their long-forgotten letters was Debra Spodnick Podolsky. The connection is immediate as Debra recalls the class and the assignment vividly. She shares, "Mr. DeTullio was my favorite teacher at St. Joes!" Opening the letter, she's flooded with memories, a mix of curiosity, and hesitation to share it with her now 9 and 11-year-old children.

The contents of the letter mirror her authentic teenage thoughts, penned with honesty and candor for Mr. D. It's a time capsule of emotions, dreams, and worries – a snapshot of her younger self. Reading it after nearly 25 years, Debra realizes the constancy of her core identity, despite the many twists and turns life has taken. The letter is a gift, a moment of reflection amidst the whirlwind of life's journey.

When asked about her favorite memory of Mr. DeTullio, Debra's words echo the sentiment of countless students: "Mr. DeTullio was warm, charismatic, and down to earth." He wasn't just a teacher – he was a motivator who pushed her to excel, to strive for more than just easy achievements. Debra's career in healthcare marketing, leveraging skills honed in Journalism/Mass Communications and Creative Writing, stands as a tribute to the spark Mr. DeTullio ignited within her.

Reflecting on her time at St. Joseph High School, Debra speaks fondly of the foundation it provided for her journey into the real world. She acknowledges the friendships forged, the lessons learned, and the guidance of exceptional educators like Mr. DeTullio. These experiences have sculpted her path, allowing her to merge her passions into a fulfilling career.

As we celebrate the rediscovery of these "lost letters," we're reminded of the enduring influence of teachers like Mr. DeTullio. Their dedication shapes lives, inspires pursuits, and forms lasting connections. To Mr. DeTullio and all the educators who leave imprints on young hearts, we extend our gratitude. And to Debra Spodnick Podolsky, thank you for sharing your journey through time with us – your story is a testament to the power of education and the treasures it holds.

INTRODUCING FATHER FÉRRY GALBERT

In 2023, Father Eric Silva was reassigned to St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, CT. As we wished him well on his next adventure, we were introduced to Father Férry Galbert. Our community is now blessed to benefit from his spiritual leadership.



In May 2023, Father Férry Galbert was one of six priests ordained by the Diocese of Bridgeport. “It was back in March when Bishop Frank Caggiano first mentioned his thoughts on assigning me to St. Joseph High School,” remarked Fr. Férry. “At that time, he was simply reflecting on the idea, but I thank God that he followed through on it. I am so excited to accompany our students on their journey.”

Fr. Férry was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and moved to the United States at eleven years old. He studied at Norwalk Community College before becoming a Registered Nurse and working in Stamford Hospital. It was during his time as a nurse that Fr. Férry’s call to the priesthood became more prominent. “I started wondering about the fundamental questions of life,” Galbert said. At the hospital, he saw people at their most vulnerable. “We are always yearning for more. Our hearts are restless. We are constantly seeking new things and experiences, and the message of the Gospel is contrary to that.” Galbert explained that the reason people struggle so much is because our hearts are made for the infinite, and designed to find a sense of peace being oriented to Our Lord.

In 2017, he entered Saint John Fisher Seminary Residence and earned his Bachelors in Philosophy at Sacred Heart University. In 2019, he then entered Major Seminary at Saint Joseph in Yonkers, N.Y. and received his theological education.

Fr. Férry will be present at St. Joes every Wednesday and Thursday and will spend the other portion of his week at St. Lawrence Church in Shelton. His goal is to be as available to the entire SJ community.

“Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family. God bless.”



Coach Vito Montelli *1932-2023*

In July 2023, we bid farewell to a true legend, not only within the St. Joseph High School community but throughout the entire state of Connecticut. Coach Montelli's remarkable journey began in 1962 when he assumed the role of SJ's first Athletic Director. His visionary leadership and unwavering dedication played an instrumental role in shaping the success of our student-athletes. Throughout his fifty-year tenure, Coach Montelli served as a revered faculty member, Athletic Director, Director of Development and Alumni, and, of course, an extraordinary basketball coach.

Under Coach Montelli's guidance, the Cadets achieved astounding triumphs, securing 11 state titles and an impressive 878 victories—a feat that solidified his position as the record holder for the most wins in New England for any basketball coach. His achievements include the prestigious title of the 2011 National High School Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, the inaugural "Fran Bacon Award", bestowed upon him by the University of Bridgeport, the esteemed Swaffield Sportsmanship Award, and the ESPNHS National High School Boys Basketball "Coach of the Year" Award. His impact led to his induction into the FCIAC League Hall of Fame, as well as the esteemed Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, where he received the Morgan Wooten Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching High School Basketball. And just recently, in 2023, Coach Montelli was honored with the esteemed Tom Konchalski Lifetime Achievement Award, further solidifying his enduring legacy.

The impact of Coach Montelli's influence transcends the confines of the basketball court. He touched countless lives, leaving an indelible mark that has forever changed the trajectories of those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him. For our Cadets, his legacy will forever be etched in the maroon and gold fabric of our school, serving as a constant reminder of his extraordinary achievements every time they step foot onto the court that proudly bears his name.

During this time of remembrance, let us join together in prayer to honor the memory of Coach Vito Montelli—a man who exemplified the virtues of passion, perseverance, and unwavering dedication. Our hearts go out to his family, friends, and the St. Joseph High School community as we collectively honor a true icon. May Coach Montelli's soul rest in eternal peace, knowing that his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

1960s

July 1 marked the twenty-year milestone of dedicated service for **Kenneth A. Graham, Esq. '66**. The retired Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut is currently serving in the Connecticut Superior Court as State Referee, Arbitrator, and Fact Finder. Kenneth is a direct appointee of the Chief Justice.



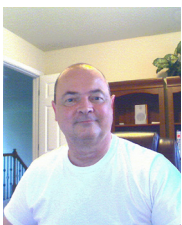
California resident **Theresa Bombardier Maitetto '67**, has called the state home for the past 47 years alongside her husband, Joseph. Currently reveling in retirement, Theresa takes pride in being a mother to two sons and a proud grandmother to eight grandchildren.

Cassandra Reid Teachman '67 is savoring her retirement after a successful career as a Bank Officer.



After graduating from SJ, **Mary Ellen Brusseau Lloyd '67** relocated to Chicago with her family. Currently, she finds joy in retirement in

North Carolina, living in proximity to her children and grandchildren.



Stephen Galya '68 concluded his 30-year career in Family Practice Medicine upon retiring in May 2020. While relishing

retirement, he contemplates a return to university to delve into the study of cell biology.

Joseph P. Bablonka '69 serves as a Clinical Psychologist at AA Spine and Pain Management Clinic in Anchorage, Alaska. His expertise extends to working with individuals coping with trauma, PTSD, and pain management.



Patricia Vitka Hendrix '69 enjoyed a successful 40-year career as a Physical Therapist, primarily focused on Home Care and working with Senior Citizens. Overcoming personal health challenges, she discovered the benefits of Tai Chi for health. Recognizing the value, she pursued Instructor Certification in "Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention." Patricia now serves as a part-time Tai Chi instructor, offering classes both online and in person.

John Kosko '69 reluctantly transitioned to retirement after 35 years in education, only to embark on a second career. He had the privilege of leading accreditation teams of international educators, conducting extensive visits to schools worldwide in Europe, Scandinavia, Mexico, Asia, and the Middle East over the past 20 years. Post-retirement, John pursued training as a mediator. Today, he and his wife Karen delight in spending time with their three grandchildren.

1970s

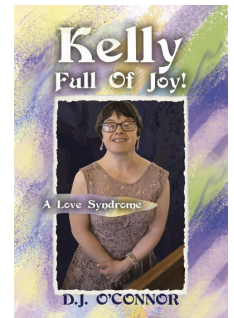
Celebrating her retirement from the Milford Board of Education, **Carol Bruno Hyatt '70** is eagerly anticipating her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband, Jack, on October 20, 2023.

Aging with grace and relishing life's offerings, **Linda Szymanski Nugent '70** serves as a Registered Nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital.

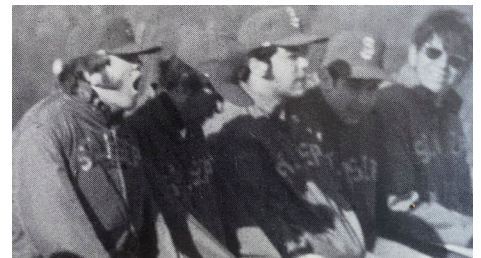


Cathy Plumer '71 pursued studies at Yale Divinity School and achieved ordination as a Minister in the United Church of Christ. During her time at SJ, she made history by becoming the first girl to join the Sportsman's Club. Currently residing in the northwest corner of CT, Cathy is enjoying retirement.

Dennis O'Connor '71 has recently authored a book titled "Kelly Full of Joy." Drawing from 44 years of journaling about his sister-in-law Kelly, who has Down Syndrome and is now 50, Dennis has shared her story with the intention of inspiring and providing a resource for future generations of parents.



After retiring from Xerox, **Edward Fenton '72** now resides in Louisville, KY, alongside his wife Noreen. They take pride in being the grandparents of nine grandchildren.



Celebrating his 50th reunion, proud alum **Mike Kalweit '73** left his mark at SJ playing Varsity Football and Baseball for three years. In his adult years, he contributed to the community by coaching the All-Star Team in Ansonia and serving as the Director for Ansonia Babe Ruth for three years. Mike was also actively involved in civic duties, serving on the Ansonia Tax Board and running for office as Alderman.

Following his graduation from SJ, **Steven Casey '79** attended Columbia University. Continuing the family tradition, both of his daughters have followed in his footsteps, with one having already graduated from Columbia and the other currently entering her senior year.

1980s



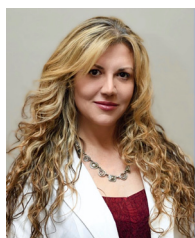
After a prosperous business career, culminating as President of a global software company, **Butch Reh '80** has retired. In May 2023, Butch, along with several members of the Class of 1980, gathered in New Jersey for a reunion hosted by **John '80 and Lisa '80 Doulong**.

Having relocated to Yarmouth, ME, **Therese Liptak '80** now serves as a Physical Education Teacher at North Yarmouth Academy, bringing her expertise to the educational community.



Jim Banville '81 concluded his impressive 35-year career in Information Technology by retiring from UPS in March 2021 after dedicating more than 30 years to the company.

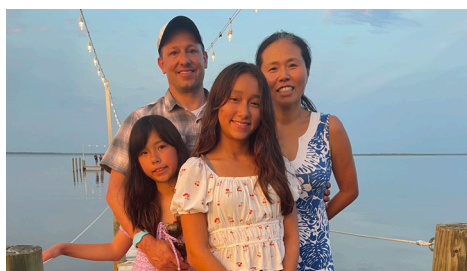
Currently employed as an Account Analyst at Curtis Packaging, **Stefanie Olivares '88** takes pride in her youngest daughter, who embarked on her freshman year at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.



Christine Limauro Rowland '88 achieved her status as a Physician Assistant in 1998. Building on her accomplishments, she earned her Master's Degree in 2015 and is currently pursuing a

Doctor of Medical Science Degree at the University of Lynchburg. Simultaneously, Christine serves as an Associate Professor in the University of Bridgeport's PA program.

1990s



Living in Arlington, Virginia, **Jason Marino '92** shares his life with his wife and two daughters. Professionally, he contributes to the Congressional Affairs Team at the American Medical Association in Washington, D.C., where he actively engages in lobbying for physician issues.



Currently residing in Florida with her husband, Christopher, **Natale Meglio Carswell '93** expanded her family by adopting two boys from foster care in March 2023.



Kristen Jelormine, '93 and her long-time boyfriend, William Bray, took a significant step in their relationship by getting engaged in the picturesque setting of the Cayman Islands in April 2023.



Assuming command of the U.S. Navy's Submarine School in Groton, CT, in July, **Captain Matthew D. Fanning '94** now oversees nearly 500 military and civilian staff members. His role involves training the next generation of Sailors for service in the U.S. Submarine Force, with a focus on preparing waterfront Submariners for combat. **Fr. Joseph Marcello '94**, had the honor of being invited by Captain Fanning to attend the Change of Command Ceremony.

Currently residing in Rhode Island with her husband, Nate, **Keri Kofoed Edmunds '95**, holds the position of Director of Partnerships for White Hawk Sales Partners.



Faith Bailey '96 achieved a significant milestone by earning her Doctorate of Social Work from Capella University in 2022. With 14 years of experience at Yale New Haven

Hospital, she serves as the Lead Supervisor for social work on the second shift. Additionally, Faith manages her private practice.



Jamie Grace Cook '97 takes pride in her son, Brice, who has embarked on his freshman year at St. Joe's, making them a Legacy Family. Adding to the family legacy, Jamie's sister, **Jacee Grace Rhodes**, also graduated from St. Joe's in 1997.



Tasha Meisenheimer '97 recently published her debut children's book, *Pia Pullet Comes To Chicken Little Farm!* As the owner of Chicken Little Farm in Orange, CT, Tasha draws inspiration from her surroundings, aiming to transport children to a world where animals roam freely, the grass is freshly cut, flowerbeds are watered, and the white picket fence is an invitation, not a barrier.

2000s

Christina Kesnick '01 currently serves as a Finance Leadership Program Manager at GE Aerospace. Recently engaged, she is in the process of planning a wedding scheduled for March 2024 in Cincinnati, OH, where three of her best friends from St. Joes will stand by her side.

Arthur Poje '02 presently

holds the position of Vertical Director of Sales at Indeed.com. Recently, he relocated with his wife and two children to Massachusetts. Arthur fondly recalls his senior year Walkathon at St. Joes, where the student committee, of which he was a part, raised funds for NYC in the aftermath of 9/11. Their efforts led to a memorable meeting with the Bishop and Cardinal, where they presented a check to support the cause.



Jennifer Kalasardo '02 has recently become a homeowner in Vernon, CT, with the assistance of her fellow alumni. **Jessica Hurta '00**, served as her Realtor, while **Joseph Furnari '02** took on the role of her Lawyer in this significant venture.



Amy Warren Casey '03 currently serves as the Veteran Coordinator for Honor Flight CT, a non-profit dedicated to honoring veterans of foreign wars by organizing trips to Washington, D.C., allowing them to visit their memorials. Presently, their focus is on honoring heroes from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

Colleen Morey Gerbino '04 is currently employed at Yale University, where she manages the Staff Accommodations Program. Alongside her husband, Jason, Colleen resides in Milford with their two sons, Conor and Ronan.



Alyssa Tiberio Altorelli '06 is the Owner and plays a pivotal role in marketing and business development at Altorelli Chiropractic & Med Spa.



Alyssa Lesko Zavadsky '08 has recently commenced her role as a clinical pharmacist at Yale New Haven Health, specializing in cardiology and anticoagulation. Alyssa is married to her high school sweetheart, **Eric Zavadsky '08**.

Nick Kapoor '08 was appointed Chairman of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities by Governor Lamont in August 2023. Nick has been a dedicated member of the Commission since 2017. In addition to his work at CHRO, he serves as a Math Professor and the Assistant Director of the Center for Academic Excellence at Fairfield University.



Michael Heshemi '09 and **Carolyn Clyons Heshemi '09** joyfully tied the knot on May 21, 2022, with the celebration attended by several SJ alumni. Their happiness expanded with the arrival of their first child, Gabriel Peter Heshemi, born on April 20, 2023.



Gabrielle '09 and **Jeffrey '09 LaBella** are delighted to announce that their daughter, Gianna, recently celebrated her 1st birthday.

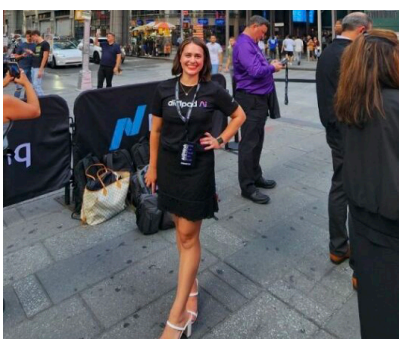
2010s



Lauren Fernandez Curtin '10 along with her husband Tim, currently resides in Massachusetts with their son. Lauren has recently embarked on a new professional journey as a Dental Hygienist.



Jessica Mazal Lapadula '10 and her husband, Andres, joyfully welcomed their son, Sebastian Pio, in June 2021. Now two years old, Sebastian is an avid fan of Woody from *Toy Story*.



Danielle Kosturko '11 is presently engaged in marketing for an AI Communications Company, Dialpad. Additionally, she has recently become a homeowner on Long Island.

Margo Foley Rooney '11 and **Kevin Rooney '11** are looking forward to celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary soon. Margo currently serves as an Occupational Therapist at Wellesley Pediatric Occupational Therapy.

Marisa Boras '12 graduated from Belmont University with a major in Public Relations/Music Business. She commenced her career at Mick Management as Head of Creative, collaborating with artists like Leon Bridges, Maggie Rogers, and Ray Lamontagne. Last year, she embraced a new role with Live Nation as their Art Director for touring artists, specializing in merchandise, collaborations, and e-commerce.

Katy Luchansky '12 is currently serving as an Associate Attorney at Stern & Cohen, P.C. Her exceptional potential and dedication in the legal field have been recently acknowledged by Best Lawyers' "Ones To Watch," a recognition that reflects Katy's remarkable talent, promising future, and the bright path she is blazing within the firm.



Kayla Chuba '12 has recently accepted a teaching position with the Diocese of Bridgeport. She is enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the Catholic School Community and give back through her role in education.



Sylvia Yanez '13, former Girls Varsity Soccer Player, has recently announced the opening of The Building Complex, a new indoor sports facility. Embarking on this entrepreneurial venture with her sister and father, Sylvia is thrilled to bring their vision to life. Situated in West Haven, The Building Complex features a futsal field that offers a challenging and engaging experience for players of all skill levels and various sports.



Brian Reilly '13 and his film production team at Karen Twins Productions recently launched a web series titled *Play It By Ear* on their YouTube channel. This project, from pre-production to post-production, spanned four years. The series has garnered positive feedback from both their audience and film critics, marking a significant achievement for Brian and his team.



Gianna Iannotti Healy '13 and her husband, Jonathan, joyfully welcomed their first child, Eleanor Lynn Healy, into the family. Gianna looks forward to sharing all her SJHS memories with Eleanor as she grows older.

Erica Bush Morrissey '13 and **Colin Morrissey '10** exchanged vows in 2023 and have recently welcomed a baby boy.

Lauren Baker '14, who studied Media Arts at Sacred Heart University, has taken on a new role at CBS Sports as a Broadcast Associate, assigned to NFL games.

Sean Duda '17 has returned to the area and is currently serving as a Social Studies teacher at Trumbull High School.

Snezana Johnson '17 is in the process of applying for her Masters and proudly holds the title of Homecoming Queen from 2016!

CLASS NOTES

Shannon Grabowski '18 serves as a Sales Development Manager at Inbox Health. Fondly recalling her time at SJ, her favorite memory involves running for Class President.



Bridget Fatse '18 graduated from Connecticut College and began working in Development for the United States Tennis Association Foundation, furthering the mission

of changing lives through tennis and education for youth in under-resourced areas nationwide.



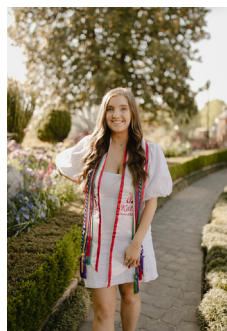
Jake Murphy '19 recently graduated from Marist College with his Biomedicine degree and plans on attending medical school in 2024-25.



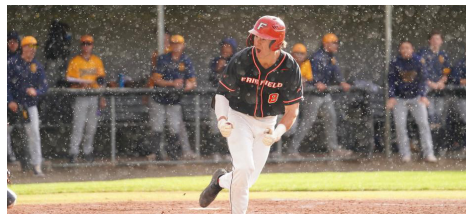
Adrianna Izzo '19 is excited to venture into Real Estate and maintains a strong friendship with fellow SJ alum, **Elena Ball '19**.



Ben Talbot '19 earned the distinction of being the 2022-23 winner of the Daniel Allen Sportsmanship Award, recognizing his dedication, integrity, and exceptional teamwork as a student-athlete.



Katie McKeon '19 graduated from High Point University in May 2023 and accepted a position as an Admissions Counselor at the same university.

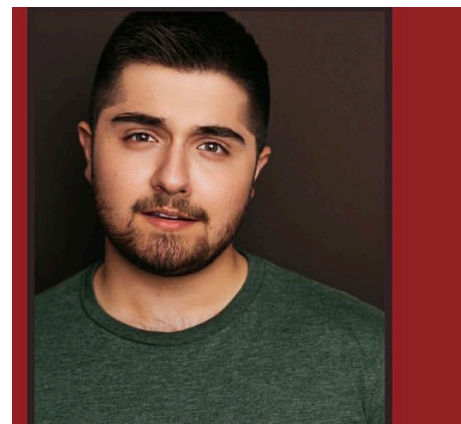


Charlie Pagliarini '19 achieved historic success in baseball at Fairfield University, recording the best offensive season in the program's history. Following graduation, he realized a lifelong dream by being selected by the Seattle Mariners in the 19th round of the 2023 MLB First-Year Player Draft.

Chris Pirro '19 is currently in his Senior year at UConn, majoring in Healthcare Management. While pursuing his studies, he works in Sales at Milford Photo and has also contributed photography work for St. Joes in the Admissions and Advancement Offices.

Kayla Esteves '19 graduated from Sacred Heart University in May 2023 and relocated to Boston, MA, where she currently works for Insight Global.

2020s



Niko Charney '21 showcased his talent in the summer performances of *Something Rotten* at Sharon Playhouse, where he played Ensemble, and *Beauty & The Beast* at Legacy Theatre, portraying Lumiere. Currently enrolled in the Class of 2025 at the Manhattan School of Music, Niko continues to contribute to the world of performing arts.



Megan Frattaroli '21 is currently attending Bentley University and is enriching her academic experience by studying abroad in Florence, Italy, this semester.



Vincent Pavese '22 is currently in his Sophomore year at the University of Dallas. He's actively involved in broadcasting for various UD sports teams and participating in a range of activities offered by the university. Vincent emphasizes that the atmosphere at SJ is truly unique and incomparable.

IN MEMORIAM

The following alumni passed away
between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.
We ask that you keep their families in
your thoughts and prayers.

*"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray
for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."
(2 Maccabees 12:46)*

Paulette Ganssle Drobnak '66

Janet Carlin '70

Carmen Corica '71

Cathryn Kleitz Santo '74

Cathleen Cohen '75

Andrew Palo '85

Mark King '89

Ted Sylvia '94

Daniel Sara '04

Alyssa Collier '06

To schedule a Memorial Mass in our
Alumni Chapel, contact the Alumni
Office at alumni@sjcadets.org.





ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL
2320 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

2023-2024 Upcoming Events

November 9-11

Fall Play
The Play That Goes Wrong

December 6

Winter Open House

February 14

I Love SJ
Giving Day

February 24

Stuff-a-Bus Food Drive

March 3

Ladies Luncheon

March 19

Feast Day of Saint
Joseph

April 20

Maroon & Gold Gala

April 25-27

Spring Musical

June 1

Class of 2024
Commencement

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