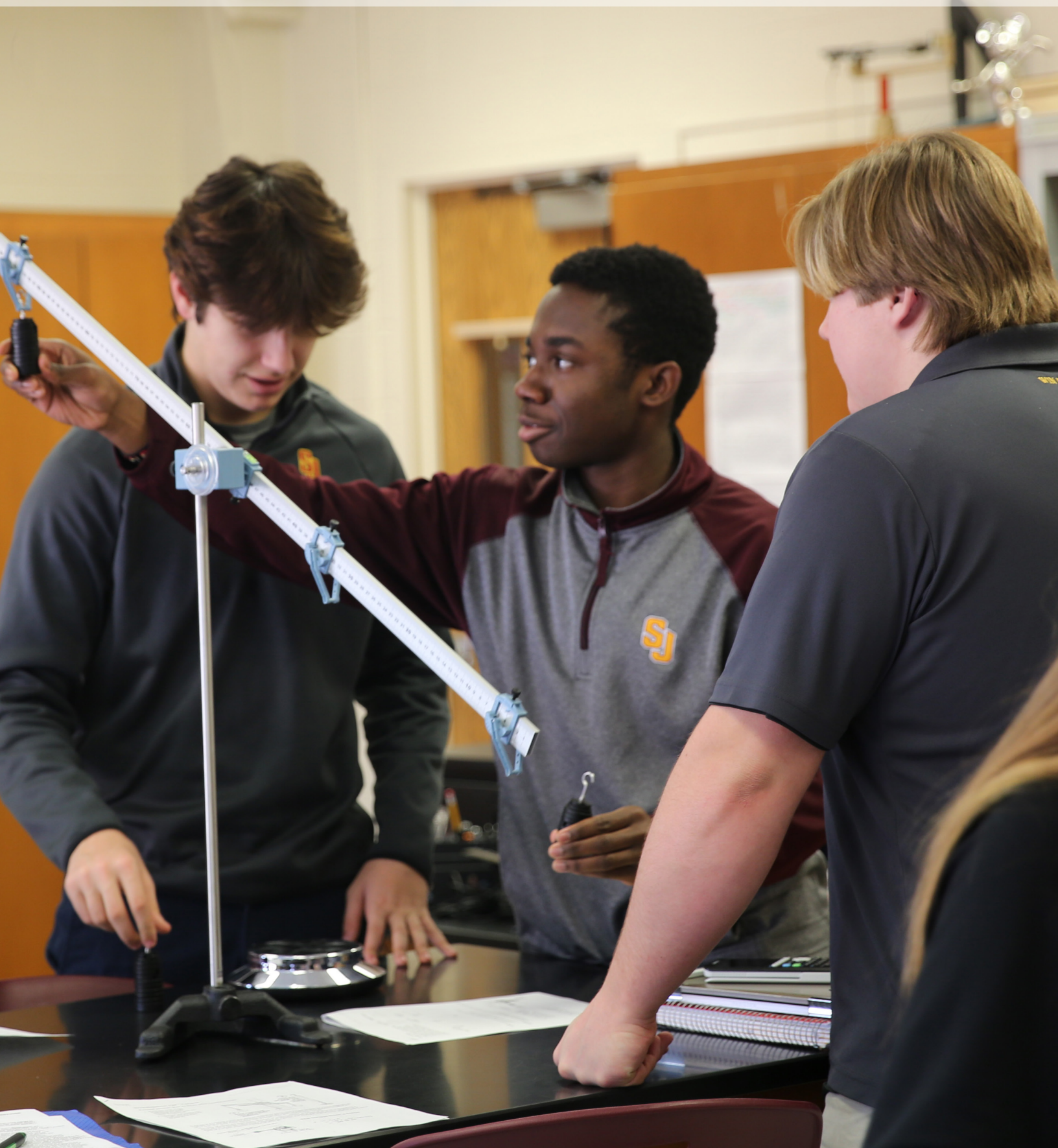


COMMUNIQUÉ

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2024





In February 2024, Cadets enthusiastically joined the second annual "Still Hungry" Stuff-a-Bus food drive. Together, the St. Joes community gathered and generously donated six busloads of food to support six local pantries.



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



Dear Friends,

Greetings from St. Joe's. It is with great enthusiasm that I extend a heartfelt hello to each of you. I hope this message finds you happy and in good health. From my inspiring vantage point along the main corridor of SJ, I have the privilege of witnessing the daily cadence of growth and achievement that defines St. Joseph High School. Our halls bustle with pride, purpose, and energy. During this Spring season of college acceptances and selection, a new and joyous tradition has begun that precedes opening prayer – the triumphant toll of our newly installed “Tell Bell” in the College and School Counseling Office. The large bell reverberates a bold and celebratory proclamation of our students’ admission to top colleges and universities across the country and throughout the world.

With each ring, we reflect upon the accomplishments of our students, past and present. It also affirms the goodness of our Catholic Mission and the strength of the SJHS value proposition. From the spirited engagement of our Cadets in academic pursuits, community service, athletic competitions, and extracurricular activities to the steadfast commitment of our faculty, staff, and parents in fostering a nurturing learning environment, each facet of our community contributes to the distinctive Cadet experience. Within these pages, we provide updates, initiatives, and alumni news that underscore our strategic endeavors to continually cultivate well-rounded individuals equipped to make meaningful contributions to society.

Through the passionate expertise of our dedicated faculty leveraging over \$30,000 in grant resources awarded by Foundations in Education, Cadets will explore new UCONN Dual-Enrollment Science Courses this Fall. Additionally, eight new elective course offerings including Law & Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Biotechnology I, and AI & Ethics elevate career-focused academic offerings while nine summer credit-bearing classes will provide enhanced scheduling flexibility for students in all grades. An SAT Prep Course on-site combined with a Summer Senior College Bootcamp experience ensures that our college counseling initiatives are continuous, personalized, and diversified.

SJ Peer Ministers continue to exemplify dedication and enthusiasm as they gracefully navigate a demanding leadership schedule; their commitment to fostering spiritual growth within our community is truly commendable. Meanwhile, anticipation mounts for the upcoming production of *Sister Act*, as the Drama Club’s exceptional teamwork promises an unforgettable performance. Additionally, Cadets have showcased impressive athleticism and determination during the Fall and Winter seasons, and we are poised for continued success this Spring. Our teams and student-athletes have achieved state and national recognition, established new state records, and secured coveted collegiate scholarships across Divisions I, II, and III.

Finally, the Board of Directors and Leadership Team remain intently focused upon two exceptionally important areas of identified institutional need – enhancing our school facilities to better support current and future programmatic needs (academic and extracurricular) and increasing financial aid to make the transformative SJ experience attainable to more families. We will continue to provide updates and invite you to participate in our forward progress. As we look to the future with optimism and anticipation, I extend my deepest gratitude to our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends – for your unwavering support and dedication.

Together, we stand poised to embark upon the next chapter of our journey, guided by a shared commitment to excellence.

In Faith & Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Klein".

David J. Klein
President

“

Together, we stand poised to embark upon the next chapter of our journey, guided by a shared commitment to excellence.

”

BECOMING BOLD & CONFIDENT

Jillian Guilfoyle '24's Transformation, Personal Growth, and Journey at St. Joes

If you were to look at my freshman year photo, I doubt you would be able to tell me it was me! In just four years at St. Joes, I have grown into a bold, confident, and intelligent woman, but that didn't happen by chance.

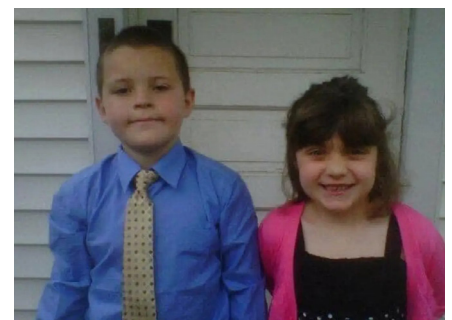
I remember coming into school for freshman orientation and being terrified. My hands were shaking and my head was down as I walked into a gym full of complete strangers, realizing I needed to find a place to take a seat. I looked around and everyone else seemed to know at least one other person, while I didn't know anyone. As I had an internal battle with myself, a girl I had never met introduced herself to me and invited me to sit with her group of friends. I was gobsmacked. Coming from a middle school where this type of genuine, unprompted friendliness was rare, I could not fathom that someone would befriend me so easily.

The St. Joes community has welcomed me and supported in ways I could have never imagined. In classes, it feels as though I can talk to anyone. Even more than that, I was encouraged by my classmates and teachers to take risks with new activities. It began with volleyball and softball, where my teammates inspired me to perform at my best. Then I took a chance and joined new clubs—Debate, Amaranth, Yearbook, Film Studies, Women Studies—you name it, I was a part of it! I've joined so many clubs because I've been uplifted by the support and encouragement found during our meetings.

My life changed most drastically when I joined the Drama Club. I have always had a love for the arts, especially musical performance, but never had a place to kindle my passion. During my junior year, however, I decided to audition for the musical while also in the midst of softball season. I didn't expect a big role and was content with being in the ensemble, but to my surprise, I was selected as a supporting character with my own solo! I was overjoyed, but also overwhelmed with anxiety. Would I be able to balance both? Would I be able to keep my grades up? Would I have time to do it all?

As I questioned myself, I decided to reach out to Mrs. Cardillo with my doubts. She replied, "If I did not believe you could do it, I would not have cast you." With her reassuring words, I committed myself to following through with both of my passions. I am so thankful I did! I had an amazing softball season, earning the title of All-State as well as First Team All-FCIAC. I also thrived in the musical, feeling at home on the stage and nailing my solo. I proved to myself that I could do both, which I now plan to continue in college.

St. Joes helped me find my passions and provided me the opportunity to partake in them. I know that if my anxious, recluse freshman self were to see me now, she would be incredibly proud of the bold and confident person I am today.

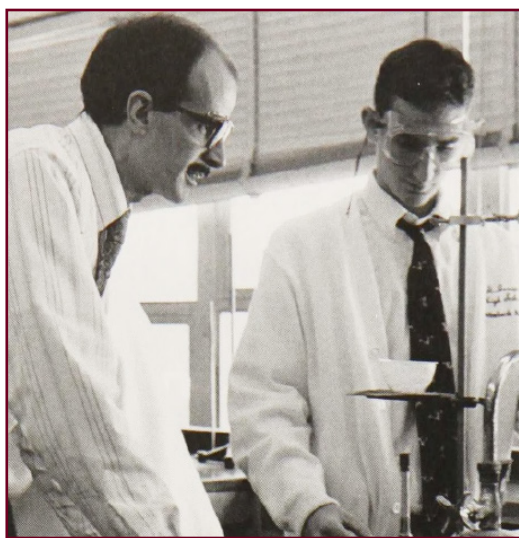


A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING AND INSPIRATION

Dr. Daniel Walsh Retires from St. Joes After 38 Years of Generational Impact

“I am the lucky one,” says Dr. Walsh with a reminiscent smile. “I have taught so many extraordinary students.”

In 2023, Dr. Dan Walsh, former Science Department Chair, retired after 38 years of service to the school. His impact and dedication is sure to leave a lasting impact on those who have been lucky enough to learn in his classroom or work alongside him. So much so that St. Joseph High School will dedicate and rename the Wetlands and Nature Boardwalk in his honor in May 2024.



he happened upon an open position at St. Joes.

“Monsignor Shea was the Principal at the time, but my interview was with Dick Bishop and Sister Catherine. I knew immediately that I would enjoy working with Dick and Sister Catherine, even though she scared me a bit at first! The first thing she asked me was whether I’d be up to the task of teaching high school students after working with college students for the past three years. While I assured her I could, she actually made me quite nervous about my ability.”

Dr. Walsh began his journey in education as a temporary high school teacher while simultaneously earning his Masters in Biology at Southern Connecticut State University. “As is often the case, life events trigger what we need to do. I was about to get married,” he says, “and I needed a full-time job.” Dr. Walsh spent a few years teaching at the high school level, but knew his heart yearned to be a college professor. This passion pushed him to earn his Doctorate.

“I actually went out to Utah and graduated from Brigham Young University. We loved it out there – my wife and I – and we planned on teaching in Utah. But as a new college professor, you have to go wherever the positions are available.”

However, life events intervened yet again when Dr. Walsh and his wife, Ann, opted to begin a family, necessitating him to secure a full-time job while completing his dissertation. This brought the pair back to Connecticut. Having worked in the state before, Dr. Walsh knew he would likely be able to find another teaching position and sure enough, in the Fall of 1985,

While at St. Joes, Dr. Walsh completed both his teaching certification and his Doctorate in Zoology from Brigham Young University in 1989. Though becoming a college professor had always been his goal, he never applied for any of those positions in Connecticut – he had discovered a new passion.

“I truly fell in love with St. Joes,” he says. “As a young teacher, my first few years, it was shaky at times. I had the knowledge, I knew the material, but in high school, you also have to manage students that are going through some very changeable times in their lives. Some students would rather talk to their friends, send notes and fool around than listen to my lesson. Now it’s cell phones, but back then it was passing notes, and being disruptive. Still, I fell in love with their enthusiasm!”

Even as time passed, Dr. Walsh never faltered in his position at SJ. “What kept me here? First and foremost, it’s the students. They are so wonderful and it’s such a privilege to watch them grow up. You get to teach them as freshmen and then hope you have them again as seniors. There are so many that you wish you could keep





forever – they make you so proud. And then, just as one set of students graduate, a new batch come in and you never know who it's going to be or what they're going to be like. There's so many different personalities, and in a way, it keeps you young."

Beyond the students, Dr. Walsh also found that St. Joes allowed him freedom in teaching. He was able to design lesson plans the way he chose, tailoring his lessons to his students' needs. "Teaching is not one-size fits all," he says, "and I loved having the freedom to teach things the way I wanted to and go into detail where I was more passionate."

It can be said that every SJ faculty member has a true passion for their field, and Dr. Walsh was no exception. He expresses gratitude for the support and encouragement he received from his colleagues, administration, and board members. This backing has empowered him to innovate, crafting interactive lectures, pioneering new lab investigations, creating diverse learning experiences, and customizing his curriculum to align with students' interests and college aspirations.

As Chair of the Science Department, Dr. Walsh shared that same leadership style with his colleagues – encouraging them to create an environment of

scientific learning unlike any other. He respected their values and opinions. "Before every observation, I would always say to myself, it's okay if they're not teaching the way I would teach it. As long as they are getting the material across and the students are engaged, then they are successful."

Dr. Walsh fondly recalls his road to Department Chair, and in particular, his mentor, Mr. Pat Pardee, who continues to work at St. Joes and is completing his 50th year at the school! "Pat is an incredible teacher. He took the time to work with me and provide me more of a background in Chemistry labs – which I needed to learn – and I saw his expertise immediately. When Pat decided to step back from being Department Chair to focus on teaching, he was the one who recommended me for the position. To be honest, I would've rather he'd stay on in the position forever because he was that good."

During his tenure as Chair, Dr. Walsh made a significant impact to the department – adding additional science and engineering courses, as well as Advanced Placement opportunities. He created a new pathway that allowed students who began at the college prep level to take AP-level courses as seniors. In addition, he worked closely with the college counseling office to assist students with specific course selection that focused on which branch of science they wanted to study in college.

Dr. Walsh's passion for science and education has been evident since his childhood. "I just love living things. When I was four



years old, I would catch insects in jars to observe them. I would catch spiders and watch them spin their webs. I'd collect wasp nests and watch the pupae hatch. I was always fascinated by living things and observing them in nature. I even thought that one day, I'd be the curator of a museum in my own yard, and I would charge admission."

Even in his retirement, Dr. Walsh stays connected to this love. "Well, my health comes first," he says. "I'm focusing on taking care of myself and my family. But I've learned to squeeze the things I want to do into my lifestyle. I go on walks, I garden, and I raise a lot of tropical plants and orchids as well as unusual types of animals."

In addition to Dr. Walsh's dedication to St. Joseph High School's students, he has been instrumental in the establishment and preservation of our school's Nature Boardwalk and Wetland Trail (see page 12 to learn more). On Saturday, May 11 at 11:00am, the school will dedicate and rename the boardwalk in honor of Dr. Walsh's unceasing dedication to visionary leadership. His commitment to environmental education has paved the way for countless students to engage in immersive, hands-on learning experiences within such a unique ecosystem. His passion for biology and steadfast belief in the power of experiential education will enrich the lives of generations of Cadets for decades to come.

An Educator's Impact

With the announcement of Dan Walsh's retirement, a number of alumni, former SJ faculty, and parents have reached out to share their praise for an educator who has truly shaped their lives. Within the next few articles, you will learn not only about the lives of some of our incredible alumni —

Dr. Adia Kumba Hinds '02,

Professor Anthony Krafnick '04, and Victoria Alves '21 — but about the ways in which Dr. Walsh has impacted their memories at St. Joes, their passion for science, and their love of giving back to others.



Dr. Walsh has the greatest sense of patience, wisdom, and humor.

~ Kristie Alianiello '23

From the first day of Dr. Walsh's Anatomy class, his passion and excitement for the subject was obvious in the way he taught and spoke. I developed a similar love for the subject and it was the reason I began looking into a career in medicine. ~ Sara Martino '14

I took the summer environmental biology class and we took several field trips to the... inspired me so much that now I'm taking the UCONN Gardner program. Thanks, Dr. Walsh, you come alive. This was my most favorite science class throughout my years at St. Jo

Dr. Walsh's classes were more fun than any other class I've ever taken! I'll never forget Monday night AP Bio Labs, anatomy dissections, or visits with his reptiles. I didn't need to take a science course my senior year, but I took Anatomy just to take another class with Dr. Walsh. His joy in the classroom always reminded me that learning can and should be enjoyable, and that lesson has stayed with me all the way through grad school. Thank you for all that you've done for every student you've had over the last 38 years, Dr. Walsh! It was a blessing to have you as a teacher. ~ Grace Scully '17



When Dan had the... walked through the... the time was littered... To me it looked unsa... enthusias... ~ C

Dr Walsh was the most enthusiastic lecturer I've ever had! My favorite memory was when he showed us what was referred to as "the cicada video." I was expecting an educational video, but instead we were shown the funniest video of Dr. Walsh pretending that the 17-year cicadas were attacking him and the camera. Everyone in the class talked about it for years after! ~ Julia Bryant '18

I remember everything about Freshmen Year Bio -- even after 35 years (good grief!). When I sat, who was next to me, behind me...

I remember these details because it was a... engaging and defining experience that helped launch my four years at SJ. A research project where we were encouraged to explore a topic that interested us, the dissection of a fetal pig, a worm, a crayfish - and my now husband (John) joking around with his best friend (Kevin) with the poor crayfish's eye. Dr. Walsh, you have a special gift to be able to inspire (and tolerate!) the teens who came before you all those years. Thank you for all you have done.

~ Gina lassogna Luczaj '92

Dr. Walsh had a huge impact on my decision to study biology and to be curious about the world. One of my favorite moments in AP Bio is when he brought in his dog in and we got a class picture. ~ Alyssa Mancini '21



One day, during Wildlife Club, Dr. Walsh would do that if they nervous. Two hours later bit when he saw that it was determined to

Dr. Walsh was one of my favorite teachers. His Anatomy class is one of the reasons I chose nursing as my major. His way of teaching made me fall in love with Anatomy and I really enjoyed learning in his class. ~ Abigail Lawrie '23



the nature reserves. This Dr. Walsh, for making science fun! ~ Faith Bailey '96

The idea for a wetlands boardwalk, he and I went to a swamp at the back of the school - which at the time was covered with junk and overgrown invasive species. It was salvageable, but Dan's eyes were bright with hope for the potential. He was right! ~ Chris Wilson P '08, '10, '14

Biology with Dr. Walsh was easily my favorite class that year. His passion for science, especially his reptiles, was palpable and contagious. Highlights were definitely the evening field trip to search for owls and the many meetings of the Wild Life club. ~ Scott Wade '93



It's hard to overstate the influence Dr. Walsh had on my education and career. He instilled in me a love for biology and science, and a deep respect for all living creatures. He showed me that learning about our world could be fun and interesting, and that knowledge comes from far beyond notebooks and textbooks. Our detailed dissections in Anatomy weren't gross, but were an opportunity to explore science in ways we never had before - using our own hands. I loved when Dr. Walsh brought his pet tortoise into class to crawl around the floor, and when he held a quiet and respectful funeral for our dissected cats. I look back with so much fondness and appreciation, and know that he has had a similar impact on so many students before and after me. Today I have my dream job working with science and data at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and I know that it couldn't have happened without Dr. Walsh. ~ Katie O'Neill '10



I knew him as Mr. Walsh! I believe I was in his first ever Biology class! I remember he shared a story about his honeymoon which included him embalming an armadillo he found back at the hotel. This left us thinking he might be a very different teacher than we had encountered. Years later, I was in the audience as he delivered a very humorous, thoughtful, caring, and heartfelt message to the Class of 2019. What a great teacher and an SJ legend! ~ Michael McKeon '88 P '19, '20, '23

He brought in a gecko and I volunteered to hold it. It immediately bit onto my thumb and refused to let go. Dr. Walsh said that geckos are like that, my mom pulled into the parking lot and that gecko was still firmly attached! Dr. Walsh thought it had long let go and chuckled a bit. Eventually, he convinced the gecko to let go and thankfully, the only effects were an indentation, a bit of numbness, and a funny memory. ~ Paul Reilly '93

IN HONOR OF DR. DAN WALSH

Exploring the Wetlands Nature Trail & Boardwalk in Our Backyard



Nestled beyond the football field, concealed amidst native trees and brush, lies St. Joe's own Wetlands and Nature Boardwalk. Those acquainted with it relish their visits, basking in the tranquil serenity of nature. Meanwhile, newcomers stumble upon this "hidden gem" for the first time, pleasantly surprised and captivated by its presence in our school's backyard.

Prior to its completion, the field beyond St. Joe's was completely inaccessible swampland. Dr. Dan Walsh played a critical role in the Boardwalk's creation and establishment. On May 11, 2024, we will honor his retirement by officially naming the area the Walsh Wetlands and Nature Boardwalk.

"I've always loved taking kids out for hikes on the woodland trail," says Dr. Walsh. "I would take my Biology classes out there and we'd collect twigs and identify the trees and plants. We'd turn over rocks and observe the insects underneath."

It was important to Dr. Walsh that the students fall in love with the SJ trails and swampland. "If you want to protect and conserve anything in life, you need to love it," he says. "And if you want to love it, you need to experience it first-hand. You need to be there and you need to learn about it."

Dr. Walsh would take his students to the wetlands throughout the year in order to demonstrate the natural changes that come with each season. The group may spot a snapping turtle in the swamp, but they might not catch it again until their next few trips.

Before the construction of the Boardwalk, when Dr. Walsh and his students would take a walk to the wetlands, they'd get just to the edge of the swamp. "We could get our feet wet at the edges, but that's as far as we could go. Which was a shame because there aren't a lot of campuses where you have both Oak Hickory Woodland and Red Maple Swamp, which are the two dominant inland habitats in Connecticut. In particular, while Red Maple Swamps are common throughout the state, they are rarely present on high school and college campuses."

It was in 2016 when President Bill Fitzgerald and Principal Ken Mayo began to seriously discuss the wetlands behind the school. They started viewing its potential as an outdoor classroom and approached Dr. Walsh as to whether it would be useful to the school. "They were debating between placing a pavilion beside the swamp or constructing an actual boardwalk. I threw in my support for a boardwalk because it would allow us to actually get into the swamp."

Dr. Walsh was thrilled when members of the Board,

particularly Chris Wilson and Patrick O'Keefe, were supportive of the idea and encouraged the project's approval. Dr. Walsh was consulted with regard to boardwalk design, layout, and construction.

"As a young man, I often wondered – when we'd visit a national park or go on a hiking trail – what it was like for the first people who trailed that path. How did they decide where to go and what to do? I thought it was so neat that I had the opportunity to go in and pick where I wanted to lay the boardwalk down. So I went in, boots stuck in the mud, and determined where the boardwalk should be built. My focus was to bring the boardwalk through deeper areas of the water because much of the swamp dries up during the summer months."

Facilities Director, Joe Dzurenda, was key in the planning process, careful to meet safety and ADA requirements. After securing approval from the school, the town, and conservation experts, construction was finally completed in October 2017. Ever the conservationist, one of the first things Dr. Walsh did with students was remediate some of the land that had been disturbed by the construction. "There was a wonderful company that donated all kinds of beautiful plants. Myself, Pat Pardee, Patty Hayes, and a group of students helped plant things like winterberry, witch hazel, and ferns. It was an amazing project."

One summer, Dr. Walsh also took it upon himself to plant Atlantic White Cedars. "I had to take a trip to New Jersey to find a place that was even selling them! The school paid for them, but I brought them up in my van. There are very few places in Connecticut where you can find them now and I wanted to enhance the wetland. I think of the dozen I planted, four or five are still growing well."

All are invited to join us as we dedicate the Wetlands and Boardwalk in honor of Dr. Walsh on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00am. Learn more and RSVP at www.sjcadets.org/boardwalk.





IN PURSUIT OF PASSION

Dr. Adia Kumba Hinds '02's Path to Becoming a Family Physician – Her True Calling

It's no surprise that during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the world as a whole realized the incredible value of our first responders: those who were willing to put their lives on the line in order to keep others safe. From EMTs to Nurses to Doctors, and so many more, those in the healthcare profession became literal lifelines as the world navigated the unknown. Dr. Kumba Adia Hinds '02 was one of those lifelines.

"It was my family that truly kept me going during COVID," she remarks. "I would not have been able to finish my residency if it weren't for them. There were definitely low points where I questioned whether or not medicine was for me; whether this profession was worth my own life. Because in the beginning, we knew nothing. All we knew, especially those of us in the medical field, was that our people were dying — they were dying quickly and we were seeing it first-hand."

In 2020, Dr. Hinds, a graduate of Quinnipiac University's Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine delivered the keynote address at the medical school's White Coat Ceremony. "We were still dealing with the pandemic, and I was literally in awe of the fact that these people were signing up to go into this work during a time of great crisis. I was truly amazed."

Thankfully, Dr. Hinds chose to remain in her profession and

is now a primary care physician, for a practice in Brookline, MA, employed through Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians. But while she's known since she was three years old that becoming a doctor was her goal, her route was not a direct one.

Dr. Hinds graduated second in her class from St. Joes in 2002 before embarking on her academic journey at Yale University. There, she pursued a double major in History of Science & Medicine and International Studies. It was during her transformative experience studying abroad in Ghana in 2005 that she discovered her passion for public health. Motivated by this newfound interest, she dedicated a year to conducting research while pursuing her Master's degree in Public Health.

Her research focused on orthostatic hypotension — a form of low blood pressure that happens when standing up after laying down — and whether there were different cardiovascular outcomes for African-Americans. "At first, our colleagues believed that our findings would be insignificant because we were looking at college-age students who were relatively young and healthy. But what we discovered was that there are clinically statistically significant differences." This research led to one of her first publications, in the midst of earning her Masters.

Following her graduation, Dr. Hinds secured an internship with Medco Health Solutions, a pharmacy benefit manager acting as an intermediary between health insurance companies and major employers. Initially joining through a leadership development

program she anticipated lasting two years, she ended up extending her tenure for four.

“It was such a great experience. It exposed me to the business side of healthcare. I gained perspective on the different players in the healthcare system as well as a strong foundation and understanding of how healthcare functions in the U.S. and how bottom-line driven it is.”

But after four years, Dr. Hinds remembered that medical school had, and always would be, the goal. She enrolled as a student of the inaugural class at Quinnipiac’s Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine.

“I found that family medicine was a natural fit. It was the perfect way for me to blend my interests in providing direct care to individuals while also keeping that public health perspective in mind. I liked the idea of caring for patients throughout every stage of their lives.”

After medical school, Dr. Hinds completed her residency at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. While there for three years, she became engaged, got married, and had her first child, Vic Sulay. Shortly after, they relocated to Boston to be closer to family. She’s since had another baby – a little girl named Fatou. “It’s been a non-stop explosion of activity since I left St. Joes and I’m ready to slow it down a little bit.”

Dr. Hinds came to St. Joes as a ninth grader from Rochester, NY, back in 1998. Needless to say, the population demographic in Trumbull was vastly different



than anything she had been used to. Oftentimes, Dr. Hinds was the only person of color in her classes. But faculty members made her feel welcome – especially Mrs. Peggy Marino and Dr. Dan Walsh.

“It makes me a little emotional to think about him,” she says. “Dr. Walsh is just a good human being. From the very beginning, he saw me and he encouraged me. He spoke in class about the fact that the cradle of humanity began in Africa. He set this standard in his classroom that we are all human beings, we are all the same. I get chills just thinking about it.”

Dr. Walsh cultivated and encouraged Dr. Hinds’ love for science – acknowledging her in front of her peers when she received a very rare 100% on one of his lab exams. “He even wrote my letters of recommendation for college,” she goes on to say, “and I remember later on someone referencing those letters and speaking of how unique they were. He took the time to share observations about me that I didn’t know anyone had noticed. That’s how much he cared.”

We asked Dr. Hinds about her advice for SJ seniors going into the healthcare field. “My advice would be to stay open. If you’ve decided that you’re interested in medicine, there are a lot of different roles you can take on. It’s important to learn about healthcare through exposure. Volunteer at a hospital, shadow professionals, really explore what it means to be a physician and why or why not that’s appealing to you.”

For Dr. Hinds, becoming a family physician is exactly where she’s always known she wanted to be. She loves developing meaningful relationships with her patients and helping them live the lives they want to live – supporting them in their physical, mental, and emotional health goals. Her commitment to life-long care is evident, and we are deeply appreciative to have her in the medical profession, enriching others’ lives with her passion for medicine and science.





UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Anthony “TJ” Krafnick ’04’s Journey from Cadet to Professor

TJ Krafnick ’04 takes only a moment to sum up his journey from St. Joes to Dominican University in Illinois: “It’s a long, long story with lots and lots of stops.”

When TJ visited St. Joes as a prospective student, he immediately knew the school was the perfect fit for him. “I toured other Catholic and Jesuit schools but it was just one of those things where I could see myself at St. Joes. It was a gut feeling for sure.”

Once enrolled, it didn’t take long for TJ to embrace the community. “I always loved school,” he remarks. “And I was competitive with myself to do well.” Throughout his four years, TJ dedicated his time to the Drama Club for the entirety of his high school journey; played Baseball for three years, achieving a Varsity letter; assumed the role of Captain of the Bowling Team during his senior year; and contributed to the Yearbook Club as the editor of the sports and clubs section. Additionally, he showcased his talents in events like Battle of the Bands. “St. Joes was great because you had this ability to do all of these things and never once feel over-committed.”

Somehow, TJ balanced his long list of extracurriculars with his love of academia and science – and in particular, Dr. Dan Walsh’s classes: Biology, Anatomy, and AP Biology. “It was the pure joy that Dr. Walsh came into the classroom with every day. I’ve thought about this a lot recently and it’s hard to even describe. Dr. Walsh loved what he was doing – the teaching, the students, the science – you wanted to share in his excitement.”

TJ tells an amusing story of a classmate who once said something inappropriate during science class and was asked by Dr. Walsh to remain afterward. “I saw my friend again later that day and he had detention, of course, but what was strange was the way he seemed saddened in himself. Dr. Walsh was so special to us and we were actually disappointed when we messed up because he so clearly cared about us. He always spoke from a place of love and care for everyone.”

Taking Dr. Walsh’s classes, along with other college level courses like Genetics, enabled TJ to clearly see where his own passions lie. “Science just started to click for me.” TJ graduated from St. Joes and moved right onto St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia to study Biology. “I knew from studying under Dr. Walsh that I wanted to go into education at the university level.”

At St. Joseph’s University, TJ focused on learning about the brain, human behavior, and neuroscience. “I did a lot of plant biology as well, because that was a faculty focus at the time. I got to do so many amazing things in research,” he says. “I was even fortunate enough to spend a week in the West Texas desert, swimming in underground rivers and collecting root samples.”

TJ then attended Georgetown to earn his PhD in Neuroscience, with a dissertation that focused on dyslexia and reading development in the brain. The goal was to understand how reading interventions can change the brain, especially in developing children. “I became really interested in human behavior and I started to work with

amazing individuals like Guinevere Eden at Georgetown, whose work centered around MRI as a tool to understand complex human behavior such as languages. I studied reading development and the effects of how learning such a complicated skill can affect the brain. Georgetown is also where I met my wife, Amber Leaver.”

Following their time at Georgetown, both TJ and his wife pursued post-doctoral studies in Los Angeles. However, TJ’s passion for education persisted. “I found myself drawn to teaching again,” he recalls. He began applying for faculty positions and briefly taught Behavioral Neuroscience and Human Motivation at California State University, Channel Islands before receiving an offer from Dominican University to join the Psychology Department and Neuroscience Program, where he is now an Associate Professor of Psychology.

“I absolutely love teaching,” he enthuses. “Neuroscience is so interdisciplinary, so I often get to teach a variety of things like statistics, cognitive neuroscience, and psychology.” Leveraging his experience with MRI, TJ can tap into data from the Human Connectome Project and integrate it into his teaching. “Not every school has access to the same resources, but, as a teacher, it’s about finding the opportunities to give students those exciting experiences in the classroom. When you do, it’s awesome.”

Teaching at Dominican University for the past six years has also enabled TJ to tailor his work to the passions and interests of the student body. “Dominican University has a population that is sixty percent Hispanic, so when I came here, I actually shifted my language research to focus more on bilingualism and multilingualism, because that’s what the students here are interested in.”

When asked about his future, TJ reflected on his past. “I look back on the educators I had that really shaped the way that I try and approach things. The passion and dedication that Dr. Walsh and my other SJ teachers had. The college professors and their dedication to building something larger than themselves. And so for me, I’m hoping to surpass that bar and build something here at Dominican that I can contribute to for a long time.”

TJ’s ADVICE FOR FUTURE SCIENCE MAJORS

“Go and find those research experiences. Don’t wait to start looking for outside-the-classroom exposure or involvement. Do this as early as possible and try things that might seem weird or outside of your interest, because you never know what you might discover.”



EXPLORING THE WORLD

Victoria “Tori” Alves ’21 Harnesses her Future in Environmental Science During Her Recent Trip to Tanzania

As SJ graduates take the stage each June, we tell them to go out and take the world by storm. Tori Alves, graduate of the class of 2021, took that advice to heart and has been on the road ever since. Her love of science, adventure, and exploration have taken her all over the world harnessing her passion to improve it.

“I have a deep passion for traveling, and Tanzania, where I recently returned from, holds a special place in my heart. During a semester spent in northern Tanzania, I was astounded by the diverse climates and environments within the region. From scorching heat to bone-chilling cold, each site offered a unique experience. There were some areas that were so hot I questioned our survival, juxtaposed with nights so cold I had to borrow a friend’s hat to stay warm through the night.”

Whether camping in tents or lodging in small cabins, the experience was unforgettable. “Despite the occasional presence of hyenas just outside our tents, the members of our group were in great spirits and excited to learn more about our surroundings – we knew this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Prior to Tanzania, Tori traveled to Costa Rica and to Spain as part of the University of Delaware’s World Scholars Program. This comprehensive four-year program provides opportunities for students to study abroad for a full semester as a freshman and another semester as a junior.

“I find traveling to be so humbling. There’s something fun and exciting about exploring a place for the first time, learning language and culture. Meeting people somewhere that is so unlike home and still finding common ground and similarities in our human experience. One of my tour guides once said ‘the beauty of this world is in its differences’ and I couldn’t say it better myself.”



Akin to Tori’s prior travels, in order to journey to Tanzania, she had to undergo an intense interview and selection process.

Initially, Tori applied somewhat spontaneously. Spurred on by friends who were also applying, she decided to give it a shot. Selection criteria included personality, GPA, and past experiences, with only 18 students chosen out of a pool of 100 applicants. Given the rarity and significance of the opportunity, Tori couldn’t resist seizing it.



The trip to Tanzania encompassed two of Tori’s curricular interests: Conservation of African Biodiversity and Community-Based Conservation. Tori was tasked to identify and track population data of different species to understand their roles in maintaining the ecosystem. This assignment involved the study of small insects, ferocious predators, gigantic elephants, and everything in between. Her work with Community Based Conservation provided the opportunity to collaborate with three native populations: the Massai, the Hadzabe, and the Iraqw.

“The complexities of each tribe’s conservation needs in conjunction with government policy is fascinating and far reaching,” she remarked.

While Tori's passion for conservation and environmental science is evident from the moment she begins sharing her experiences, she didn't foresee this route as the ultimate direction of her journey.

"I really struggled during sophomore year of high school. I loved so many of my SJ teachers and I aspired to emulate all of them. I considered going into English like Mrs. Broderick, then History like Dr. Valois, then Biology like Dr. Walsh. By the time I became a Senior, I had narrowed it down to Environmental Science, but even then, the field is so broad."

"Dr. Walsh taught both my freshman Biology course and AP Biology course. I think he is a fantastic educator. He is so excited to share knowledge that it makes you want to do well just so you can impress him. The experiential learning component to his courses made all the difference, like when he took us out to the Wetlands – which was fascinating. Dr. Walsh knew every species of plant, animal and insect inhabitants and the role each played in the ecosystem– he is a walking encyclopedia! He will forever be one of the best teachers I've ever had."

"Mr. Pardee was also an inspiration. He took time to help us prepare for collegiate science courses and explore careers in the field. The two teachers together made science seem like not only something important, but something understandable and accessible that I could see myself majoring in."

Tori is currently a junior at the University of Delaware, majoring in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation. In the future, she plans on going into research and communication.

"I think one of the things that science is lacking right now is effective communication. There is a big barrier between science-related information and the way it's presented to the general population. I would like to go



into research and change this. I want to inspire others to be passionate about my research. Once they share that passion, it'll be easier to pass legislation reform – protecting species and populations."

Tori's Advice to Graduating Cadets

"Do your research. Talk to your professor, your advisors, watch YouTube videos. Don't be afraid to change your major. At the end of the day, you want a degree that you're proud of."



THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

Introducing Lucas Fatsy, Chair of the Science Department, and his Vision for Progress at St. Joes

“The students are often amazed at how much I accomplish in a day,” shares Lucas Fatsy, Science Department Chair, “but the secret is simply eliminating distractions. I avoid television and cell phones, prioritizing tasks of the greatest interest.”

Lucas’ commitment to excelling at diverse pursuits is evident. He is an experienced high altitude climber and ice climber, a skilled woodworker, accomplished gardener, and even crafts his own stationery cards using homemade soy ink. “I strive to pursue my passions relentlessly until they become second nature to me,” he affirms.

Lucas attended the University of Vermont (UVM) with a desire to be a veterinarian. But as is the case with many of our faculty members, his journey took him down a different path. While at UVM, Lucas’ path led him instead to study under one of the world’s most renowned bird biologists, Dr. Bernd Heinrich. “I am constantly fascinated by the circuitous path that science can take,” he says.

For the next five years, Lucas worked with Dr. Heinrich while continuing his climbing expeditions. One day, while hiking through a cloud forest on the mountain Nanda Devi in India, he paused for a drink of water when a bird called an Indian Trogon sat on a limb and stared at him. “It just peered at me, unafraid, sort of asking what I was doing there. And it hit me, at that moment, that I



Working with former students on an experiment for the International Space Station

wanted to be a wildlife biologist.”

Lucas earned his graduate degree from Southern Connecticut State University in 2007 working under New England Ornithologist, Dr. Noble Proctor. This ultimately earned him a position with the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) as a Wildlife Biologist primarily researching bird interactions in Fairfield County. After four years, an economic downturn forced Lucas and 47 of his colleagues to be laid off.

“I then taught Ornithology and Field Biology for six years at Southern Connecticut State University until

state funding was cut and my colleagues and I were let go.” This second unexpected turn of events led Lucas on his path toward becoming a high school educator. In 2011, he began his high school career first at Fairchild Wheeler in Bridgeport, followed by Naugatuck High School. After years of teaching, Lucas noticed a position at St. Joes and thought it would be a great opportunity for growth.

“Science education has been shifting and will continue to do so over the coming years, and I was so excited to see that St. Joes already had a staff of science teachers who were eager and experienced.” Lucas was also excited about the prospect of working with Cadets and inspiring them every day. “A good science curriculum keeps students curious and it keeps them engaged.”



Climbing Moose Tooth Mountain in Alaska

As Department Chair, Lucas follows in the footsteps of Dr. Dan Walsh and Mr. Harvey Mamrus. “I know these are hard shoes to fill,” he says, “but I wouldn’t have taken the position if I didn’t think I was the up to the task and ready for the challenge.”

Lucas looks forward to his work as Chair. “My goal is to employ a suite of courses that will become part of our biomedical pathway – focusing on microbiology and molecular biology and their respective lab techniques. Ultimately, my goal is to ensure students become scientific thinkers and design their own experiments. A Capstone science

course will see students present their experimental proposals, carry out original research, compose the results, and compete in national science competitions.”

In addition to the biomedical pathway, Lucas wants to revisit the many ways in which core courses (such as Chemistry and Biology) have changed over the past thirty years. His goal is to have the Science Department adopt the most contemporary approach to science education.

Lucas also plans to increase the course offerings that favor students interested in environmental science

and ecology. “We will use the Nature Boardwalk as a field biology lab where nature becomes the classroom.”

When asked if there was anything else he would like our community to know, it was fairly simple: “Thank you. Thank you for putting your trust in me as the next Department Chair in a long line of impressive chairs before me. The pressure is on, but I look forward to taking SJ’s Science Department to a whole new level and seeing our students truly thrive.”

NEW SCIENCE COURSES IN 2024-2025

- UCONN ECE Biology*
- UCONN ECE Physics*
- Forensics
- Biotechnology
- Topics in Computing, Applications, AI, and Ethics

* Early College Experience credits, offered through the University of Connecticut, are accepted in 87% of colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada. ECE Teachers are also hired as adjunct professors at UConn. These courses are rigorous, hands-on, and taught exactly as they would be on a college campus.



Reading with his daughter, Madeline

ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Recognizing Our Student Champions

NCAA Bound. In November 2023, we were proud to honor 11 student athletes during the NCAA Signing Day / Commitment Ceremony. The full list of students, divisions, and the colleges they will be attending can be found online at sjcadets.org/news. We will host an additional Signing Day in May 2024.

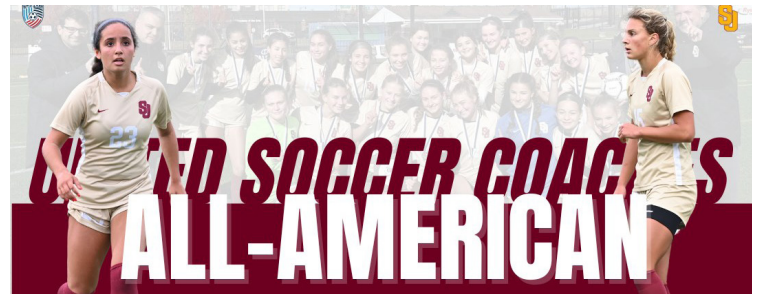


Nadia Millott '26 and Molly Mercier '27, members of the **Girls Swim Team**, took 10th in the 200-meter free relay. Congratulations to Emmy Beach '26 and Maegan Grisanti '27 who both earned top 6 podium spots!



6th in the Nation. After earning accolades as the FCIAC Champions for the second year in a row, SJ's Varsity Girls Soccer Team completed an undefeated season and took home their third straight State Title. Congratulations, Cadets!

Taylor Jenkins '24 and Alexa Pino '25 were named to the **United Soccer Coaches All-American Team**. They are just 2 of 55 girls from across the nation to receive this honor. In addition, Alexa was selected to play for the Philippines Women's National Football Team in the Spring 2024.



The **Boys and Girls Track Team** performed incredibly well at the FCIACs. Christopher Recupero '24 placed 1st in the high jump; Jason Lambert, Jr. '24 placed 1st in the 300m and 600m races, and Walter Withrow '24 placed 3rd in the 600m. Many other Cadets placed in the top 10.



This Winter, the Athletics Department launched the **Athletics Speaker Series** with a focus on Student Wellness. The first guest speaker was Kylie Ohlmiller, who is currently on USA Women's Lacrosse Team and Athletes Unlimited. She is a graduate of Stony Brook University where she was a 3-Time All American and in 2023, was inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame. Kylie's presentation focused on student wellness, mindset building, goal-setting, injury setbacks, leadership, and accountability.



In February, the **Girls Varsity Basketball Team** won the 2024 FCIAC Championship over a spirited New Canaan team. Congratulations to Coach Chris Lindwall, his dedicated staff, and our amazing Lady Cadets. The victory marked SJ's 2nd FCIAC Girls Varsity Basketball Championship in the past three years. Gigi Garcia '25 was selected as the Most Valuable Player.



Boys Varsity Wrestling competed in the CIAC Class S State Tournament in February. Congratulations to Lucas Kellogg '25 (2nd Place); Michael Maroney '25 (3rd Place), and John Maroney '25 (6th Place) for placing in their respective weight classes.

Athletic Highlights Beyond the Fields of SJ



We so proud to highlight our Student-Athletes who also find the time to give back to others!

Left: Connor Fahey '25 and Jason Pagano '25 serve as volunteer coaches at a youth passing clinic in Trumbull.

Center: Sophia Rodriguez '25 volunteers with the Connecticut Timberwolves travel softball program, helping players by leading drills, working on specific skills, and giving motivational talks.

Right: Athletes from Field Hockey and Cross Country Teams volunteer at Adam's House to help assemble blankets for kids in their "Helping Hearts Heal" program.

FCIAC Scholar-Athletes

Margaret Wetmore '24, member of the Girls Volleyball and Girls Basketball program all four years, was a team Captain for Volleyball and earned All-FCIAC Honorable Mention.

Maggie has earned placement on the President's Honor Roll, is the Senior Class President of Student Council, a Student Ambassador, Peer Minister, and a Writing Center Tutor. She is also a member of the National Honor Society Executive Board.



Matthew Krekoska '24 is a member of the National Honor Society and has earned placement on the President's Honor Roll. Matt has been a distance runner for Boys Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field, and Outdoor Track and Field. He is a Captain for both the Cross Country and Indoor Track Teams. Matt received the University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Science Award last year.



Sofia Couture '24 is a member of National Honor Society and has earned placement on the President's Honor Roll. She is a tutor, Student Ambassador, and Peer Minister. Last year, Sofia led the Trumbull/St. Joes Co-Op Ice Hockey program in points and was the recipient of the "Eagle Award for Sportsmanship." Sofia has been on the Outdoor Track and Field Team the past three seasons.



Jason Lambert, Jr. '24 is Captain of Varsity Soccer, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track Teams. Jason was selected to the FCIAC All-East Boys Soccer Team. He holds four school records for track and was the only athlete to win two individual track events at the 2023-24 FCIAC Championships. Jason is a member of National Honor Society, Peer Ministry, and Student Ambassadors. Jason received the UVM and Brandeis Book Awards and the Thomas Merton Center Youth Volunteer Award.



HONORING GENEROSITY

Debut Celebration of Donors at St. Joseph High School

In the spirit of gratitude and appreciation, St. Joseph High School recently hosted its first-ever "Celebration of Donors" event, a heartwarming occasion that brought together the pillars of our community whose generosity sustains enrollment opportunities for many Cadets.

On December 3, we welcomed more than 100 esteemed guests who have graciously contributed to various initiatives such as the SJ Annual Fund, Athletics, Tuition Assistance, and Endowed Scholarships. Their support forms the bedrock of our institution, empowering us to continue our St. Joseph High School mission. At the heart of the event was an enthusiastic address by Zoë McLean '25, who eloquently articulated the profound impact of donor funds on her journey. Her heartfelt testimonial shed light on how these contributions have enabled her outstanding peers to access an SJ education unbounded by financial constraints, further elevating her learning experience.

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere was the performance by our talented jazz band, whose melodious tunes resonated with the spirit of gratitude. The "Celebration of Donors" lunch was more than just an event; it was a manifestation of the profound sense of community that defines St. Joseph High School. It provided a platform for donors and students to connect, share stories, and strengthen bonds that transcend mere philanthropy, encapsulating the essence of what it means to be a part of the SJ family.

As we reflect on this inaugural celebration, we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for their selfless contributions and dedication to the St. Joseph High School mission. Your generosity is not only a testament to our values, but an investment in our legacy of excellence.

To learn more about how you can impact the mission of SJHS through philanthropy, please visit sjcadets.org/give or contact Mr. Todd Gibbs, Chief Advancement Officer, at tgibbs@sjcadets.org.





Homecoming Weekend!

October 4-6, 2024



Friday, October 4, 2024

Athletics Hall of Fame

Recognizing individuals and teams who performed with distinction while at St. Joes or who have been instrumental in the overall development and success of athletics at the school.

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Homecoming Football Game, SJ vs. Stamford

Watch the game in the exclusive tented alumni end zone experience with complimentary tailgate fare and a special SJ swag giveaway!

Class Reunions (2019, 2014, 1999)

Reconnect with classmates and join St. Joes as we host a celebration for our 5, 10, and 25 year class reunions!

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Homecoming Alumni Mass

Conclude Reunion Weekend by celebrating Mass with fellow alumni and a special blessing for reunion classes. Enjoy a light breakfast hosted by the Alumni Office and walk the halls of your old high school reminiscing about good times.



KIMBERLY MCDONALD SILVERIO '66



**THERESA BOMBARDIER
MAIETTO '67**



MARY BETH FESSLER '77



JOHN COOPER '69



DAVID HOHA '71



JIM BANVILLE '81



CARA FALANGO BROOK '88 & ALLAN YORK '88

CLASS NOTES

Cadet Stories, Achievements, and Updates

1960s

Mike Charland '66 is a retired Executive Vice President of Canberra Industries after 35 years in nuclear technologies. He now consults on projects like the Hanford, WA waste removal project and a South Korean government project to inspect domestic power industry nuclear waste. Last year, he achieved Senior Life Member Status from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Kimberly McDonald Silverio '66 is proud to share news of her four grandchildren - one attends Georgia Tech (on her way to medical school); another is studying Speech Therapy at Clemson University; another studies Business at the University of Georgia; and the fourth is on his way to Military School in Annapolis.

Theresa Bombardier Maietto '67 serves on the Board of Directors for her local Senior Center. She is the proud mother of two sons, Steve and Anthony, and a proud grandmother to nine grandchildren.

Mark Krom '69, Master Electrician, owned Harborview Electric, Inc. for 42 years. In 2022, he sold the business and is now semi-retired. As the Scoutmaster of Troop One in Milford for 40+ years, he's had the privilege of guiding over 120 Eagle Scouts through the program. He is proud of his Cadet granddaughters, **Olivia Jenkins '23** and **Taylor Jenkins '24**.

John Cooper '69 currently resides in Trumbull with his wife, Barbara. This year, they celebrate their 45th Anniversary. Since retirement, they have spent time in the greater Port Charlotte, FL area enjoying the beaches, friends, and family.

1970s

David Hoha '71 retired from Sikorsky after 47 years. He currently serves as the Alabama State Representative for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. He is a 30-year member of the Patriot Guard Riders, a lifetime Harley Owners Group member, and a board member of the Antique Club of America - North Alabama Chapter.

Mary Beth (O'Brien) Fessler '77, and her husband, Dr. William Fessler, established a state-of-the-art dental center outside the capital of Honduras, caring for thousands of patients, most of them children. Twice a year they return to the One World Surgery Holy Family Dental Center to provide care for the surrounding community and more than 400 children at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, a home for orphaned and abandoned children.



CHRISTOPHER SILHAVEY '93



MICHAEL TABAK '06



EMMETT MEAD '12



BOB DUNFORD '98



SARAH DUPREY VEREB '10



BRITTNEY HOLROYD LEWIS '04



KELLY BRENNAN '09 & CONNOR BRAWLEY '10

Donna Rago Quinzi '79 recently spent time with **Kathy Tierny Gallagher '79** and **Ray Gallagher '79** in D.C. to celebrate their longtime friendship. Donna and her husband relocated to Manlius, NY to be closer to their eldest son David, his wife Margaux, and their two granddaughters. Donna works with the University of Rochester Pediatrics Department as a Registered Dietitian.

1980s

Jim Banville '81 is enjoying his retirement. In January, he took a trip to Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe.

Chris Weiler '82 started a new position with Guilford Insurance helping Medicare clients choose the plan that best fits their needs.

Chris Scully '85 was named "Indie Power Player" by Billboard Magazine for the 6th consecutive year. Scully is co-founder, GM, and CFO of Glassnote Records in NYC. Glassnote has been hailed as the "Best Indie Label" by Rolling Stone, "Label of the Year" at the A2IM Libera Awards, and the "#1 Independent Label" by Billboard.

Cara Falango Brook '88 and **Allan York '88** were married on October 22, 2023 on the beach in Dunedin, FL.

1990s

Christopher Silhavey '93 was elected to the Stratford Zoning Board of Appeals in November 2023, and now serves as Board Chairman. At the December swearing in ceremony, he used the Bible given to him as a freshman in 1989 to take the oath of office.

Carlos Moutinho Reinoso '95 accepted a faculty position in Fall 2022, with the Social & Behavioral Sciences Department for the Connecticut State College and University system after working in the field of Health and Human Services for 22 years. In addition to teaching, he advises a club on campus, serves on two campus committees, and a statewide committee.

Bob Dunford '98 recently founded Fairwind Financial Corporation, headquartered in Shelton, CT. The company specializes in financing boat and yacht loans, as well as select private aircraft and large motorhomes. For more than 20 years, Bob managed a similar company co-founded by his father, **Robert J. Dunford '74**. Bob currently has two children attending SJ: **Ella '25** and **Jack '27**.

2000s

Brittney Holroyd Lewis '04's fifth child, Johnny, was diagnosed with cancer in 2020 at the age of two. His treatment lasted over two years, but he has completed his chemotherapy and remains cancer free! The situation was extremely difficult, but the Lewis family felt blessed to have an abundance of support, including the SJ Community.

Michael Tabak '06 married Angela LaBella on October 23, 2021 in Milford. SJ alums, **John Cottell '06** and **Travers Blossom '06** were both groomsmen. Michael and Angela reside in Fairfield and are expecting their first child in Spring 2024.

Kelly Brennan '09 and **Connor Brawley '10** will be welcoming a baby girl to their family in Spring 2024 - a little sister to their first daughter, Pippa!

Sarah Duprey Vereb '10 and her husband, Steven, welcomed a baby girl, Ellie Anna, on November 3, 2023.

Emmett Mead '12 graduated from the Waterbury Fire Academy on January 25, 2024. Emmett was also a volunteer firefighter with the Storm Engine Company in Derby.



Bobby Brennan '13 graduated with Honors from Fordham University with a Master of Science in Finance. He is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu National Honor Society.

Jillian Flint '13 graduated with distinction from Kingston University (UK) with a MS in User Experience Design. She's obtained a tier two skilled worker visa to continue to reside in the UK on a path to citizenship and currently works at a tech company as a User Experience Designer.

Brian Reilly '13, founder of Karen Twins Productions, is working on an upcoming film entitled *A Leading Man*, set to begin filming in June in Guilford. Brian shares that they are excited to have recruited acclaimed actor and comedian, Richard Kind, as the film's lead! Brian encourages fellow Cadets who are interested in learning more about the film or leaping into the independent film-making industry to find him at karentwins.com.

Emily Derbyshire '14 holds a BS in Health Promotion from American University. After graduating, Emily was a Wellness Program Assistant at AU. In May 2019, she took a position as a Wellness Program Coordinator at the Navy Federal Credit Union and was promoted to Wellness Coordinator II in May 2023. She currently resides in Falls Church, VA.

After earning a BS in Business Administration from Bryant University, **Michael Derbyshire '14** has been employed with Fidelity Investments, first as an Associate Financial Analyst, and most recently as Senior Manager. He currently resides in Woonsocket, RI.

Allie Quatrella '15 graduated from Villanova in 2019 and was awarded a medical school scholarship by the U.S. Army. She is currently a medical student at Rutgers where she has served as student chair for the Promise Clinic; founded a student-run vaccine clinic during the pandemic; worked as Community Outreach Coordinator for the American Medical Women's Association; and was President of the Substance Use Interest Group. Allie will earn her Medical Degree in May, at which time she will be promoted to Captain. She will then start her 4-year OB/GYN Residency at Walter Reed followed by four years as a doctor in the Army.

Jake Zimmer '15 graduated from Bryant University in 2019 and joined Schneider Electric, climbing the ranks in various sales and product management roles. Jake is the Public Address Announcer for the Boston Bruins as well as the PA announcer and Play-by-Play Broadcaster for various professional sports including the Premier Lacrosse League, Major League Soccer, and the Professional Women's Hockey League.

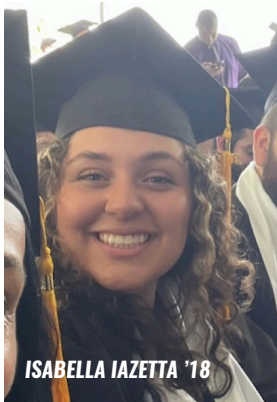
Tony Leonardi '16 graduated from Northwestern University in 2020. He is working for Eviden as a Senior Google Cloud Consultant while pursuing his love for music. After helping write, produce, and record three artists' albums, Tony released his first solo single on February 1, 2024: *Don't Go Alone*. Follow Tony on Instagram @tonyleonardimusic.

William Mercier '16 graduated from Boston College with a BA in Political Science in 2020. He also graduated Magna Cum Laude from Villanova Charles Widger School of Law in 2023 and is currently an Associate at Cozen O'Connor in Philadelphia.

Emma Mussatto '16 graduated Magna Cum Laude from the College of the Holy Cross in May 2020, with a double major in English and Economics. She currently works in NYC at Blackstone, in a financial planning and analysis role, reporting to the C Suite.

Samantha Rudini '16 graduated from the University of Michigan and is currently working at Deloitte as a Consultant.

Adam Derbyshire '17 graduated from Assumption University in 2021 with a BA in Accounting and a minor in Finance. After graduation, Adam worked at Fidelity Investments and was recently promoted to Senior Accountant. He currently resides in North Providence, RI.



ISABELLA IAZETTA '18



JULIA BRYANT '18



SOPHIE KIRN '19



PETER SANDRI '19



CAROLINE MCNABOLA '20



NOAH GAGE '20

Julia Bryant '18 earned a BS in Chemical Engineering and an MS in Management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in May 2022. For the last two years, she's been the Lead Regulatory Professional for two medical devices at Hologic, Inc., where she is responsible for device registration and approval globally.

After a year in Costa Rica obtaining her Master's in International Peace Studies at the Universidad Para la Paz, **Isabella Iazetta '18** returned to the U.S. and is living in NYC. While in Costa Rica she completed her Capstone: An Ethical Toolkit to Transform Short-Term International Learning and Volunteer Programs.

Sophie Kirn '19 recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Providence College with a BS in Biology. She will attend Optometry School in fall 2024.

Mark Leonardi '19 earned a BS in Engineering from Northwestern University in June 2023. He majored in Computer Science and minored in Data Science. He currently lives in Chicago and works for Credera as a Technology Solutions Consultant.

Peter Sandri '19 graduated from Norwich University and was commissioned into the United States Army in April 2023. He is currently an Air Defense Artillery Officer (14A). After attending Basic Officer Leader Course, part of the 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion out of Fort Bliss, TX, Peter was deployed to Qatar. He was also recently certified as Test Control Officer.

Christian Scinto '19 graduated from the University of Maine in 2023 and is working as a Project Engineer for Wright-Ryan Construction in Portland, ME.

2020s

Noah Gage '20 is a senior at Howard University. During school breaks, he works as a substitute teacher in New Haven. Last summer, he interned for the Utah Jazz for three months.

Christopher Kiley '20 and sister, **Shannon Kiley '23** both attend Xavier University. Christopher graduates in May 2024 with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing. Shannon is currently earning a double degree in Public Relations and Advertising, with a minor in Spanish.

Hannah Mussatto '20 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bentley University in Fall 2023 with a BS in Business Economics. She intends to pursue a Masters in Economics at Vienna University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria this fall.

Caroline McNabola '20 graduates in May from Quinnipiac with a degree in Advertising and Marketing. She is a co-founder of an advertising agency, Pulse Point Media, which will help small businesses get brand recognition. Last summer, she was an Assistant Producer and Director, even having a small acting role in the horror film *Rerouting*, which will be released this year.

James McLaughlin '20 studies at Roger Williams University as a double major in Graphic Design and Visual Arts. After two years, he decided to apply to dedicated art schools, taking classes at Paier College, and was thrilled to display his work at a gallery and sell a few pieces. Ultimately, James was accepted into his dream school, The New School - Parsons School of Design. James is passionate about designing products using materials that are environmentally friendly and lessen our footprint on the earth.



KAITLYN PAIGE '20



JADEN SHIRDEN '20



SAL OROSZ '20



SCHUYLER TOMEY '20



ALYSSA MOHER '21



TREVOR KELLOGG '22

Sal Orosz '20 currently attends St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in his 4th year of study to become a priest. Sal recently traveled with the Diocese of Bridgeport's Worth Youth Group to Spain and Portugal, where he met Pope Francis. Sal was recently accepted into the Institute of Priestly Formation summer seminarian program at Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

Jaden Shirden '20, Monmouth University running back (RB), has been selected as Walter Camp's 2023 Football Championship Subdivision Player of the Year. This is the first year the Walter Camp Foundation has given this award.

Schuyler Tomey '20 is in her final season as a Division I Quinipiac Acrobatics and Tumbling team. As a Junior, Schuyler won a National Championship in the Inversion Pyramid event. Schuyler graduates in May 2024 as a Health Sciences/pre-DPT major and will begin her Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Quinipiac.

Alyssa Moher '21 is a junior at Fordham University, majoring in Finance. She is also the Executive Director of the Small Business Development Collaborative and an Equity Research Analyst for the Fordham Smart Woman Securities Group. She is currently studying abroad in London and will begin an internship at investment bank, BNP Paribas, in NYC this summer.

Kaitlyn Paige '21 attends Syracuse University, majoring in Public Relations and minoring in Business. She currently holds the elected position of VP of Diversity and Inclusion for the Syracuse Student Association and sits on the Board of Directors for the University Union. She is also a columnist for the Daily Orange, an independent student newspaper and was recently highlighted in a USA Today article.

Trevor Kellogg '22 made the Dean's List at Virginia Tech, where he is studying Business Information Technology. He was selected to represent VT Men's Hockey in Europe as part of the AACHL Premier All Star Team.

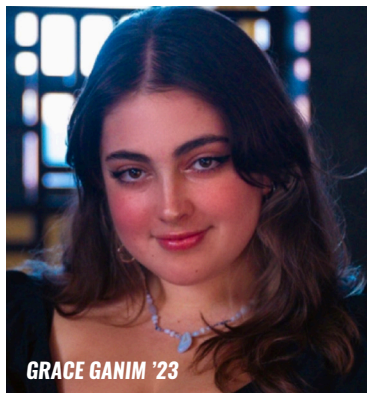
John McNabola '22 is majoring in Finance with a minor in Spanish at the University of South Carolina. He was the only Freshman to make the D1 Club Baseball team as a catcher. He was also selected to the position of Director of Marketing for the Investment Club at USC.

Isabella Pereira '22 is a Sophomore at Providence College, where she plays an active role in the Women in Business Group and the Entrepreneurship Society. Additionally, she lends her passion for healthcare to the Health Care Club and explores her interest in law with the Pre Law-Society. Isabella is eagerly anticipating her upcoming study abroad experience in Barcelona, Spain in Fall of 2024.

Max Spies '22 attends Furman University, majoring in Chemistry. His academic excellence helped him receive scholarships through the Furman Chemistry Department. He also tutors and works in the chemistry lab. Max plays on the Furman Men's Rugby team - both fall 15's regular season and spring 7's leagues.



KATE RUDINI '22



GRACE GANIM '23



MARIA CLARA OLIVIERA '23



MAX SPIES '22



ISABELLA DAWES '23



ALESSANDRA LOMBARDO '23



JOHN MCNABOLA '23

Kate Rudini '22 attends Purdue University, where she is a Dean's List student, and was a player on the 2022-23 Women's Basketball Team.

Isabella Dawes '23 was accepted into Fairfield University's Glee Club and women's acapella group, Sweet Harmony. She had a solo in the Christmas Concert and was recently invited to sing the National Anthem and Lift Every Voice for Black History Month at a women's basketball game on February 10.

Grace Ganim '23 attends Merrimack College where she has earned a place on the President's List. She is a member of the Merrimack Select Choir and more recently was chosen to play the part of Trix in the upcoming spring musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Olivia Jenkins '23 attends Virginia Tech where she has earned Dean's List status studying Financial Technology and Big Data Analytics. She even got to be a part of the iconic "Enter Sandman" opening for every VT home football game.

Thomas Lucas '23 is finishing up his Freshman year at Fordham University and was just accepted into the Gabelli School of Business.

Alessandra Lombardo '23 currently attends Villanova University, majoring in Biology. In her first semester, she made the Dean's List. She is on the Dance Team and is a tour guide for the school.

Maria Clara Magrani Oliveira '23 is double majoring in International Business and Real Estate, with a concentration in Construction Project Management at the University of Denver. In her first quarter, she made the Hornbeck Scholars List. She also works as the Employer Relations Assistant in the Daniel's College of Business. Maria Clara is the elected Chairwoman of Alumni Relations in Delta Zeta, Hall Council Treasurer, and participates in Brazilian Student Association.

STAY CONNECTED!

Want to see your updates in our next Communique? Whether it's a new job, new baby, or something new and exciting in your life, share it with St. Joes!

Email Danielle Ferranti '11 in our Advancement Office at dferranti@sjcadets.org with updates to share with your fellow alumni - or simply scan the code below!





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

2024 Upcoming Events

April 17
Spring Open House

April 20
Maroon & Gold
Gala

April 25-27
Spring Musical
Sister Act

May 19
Legacy Mass

May 21
Fine Arts Night

May 30
Class Day &
Baccalaureate Mass

June 1
Commencement for
the Class of 2024

June 17
SJAA Golf
Tournament

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
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Maroon & Gold Gala

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SATURDAY, THE TWENTIETH OF APRIL
six thirty in the evening

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Cocktails | Dinner | Auction

Tickets & Sponsorship Opportunities
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For more information, please contact Danielle Ferranti '11 at
advancement@sjcadets.org or 203-378-9378.