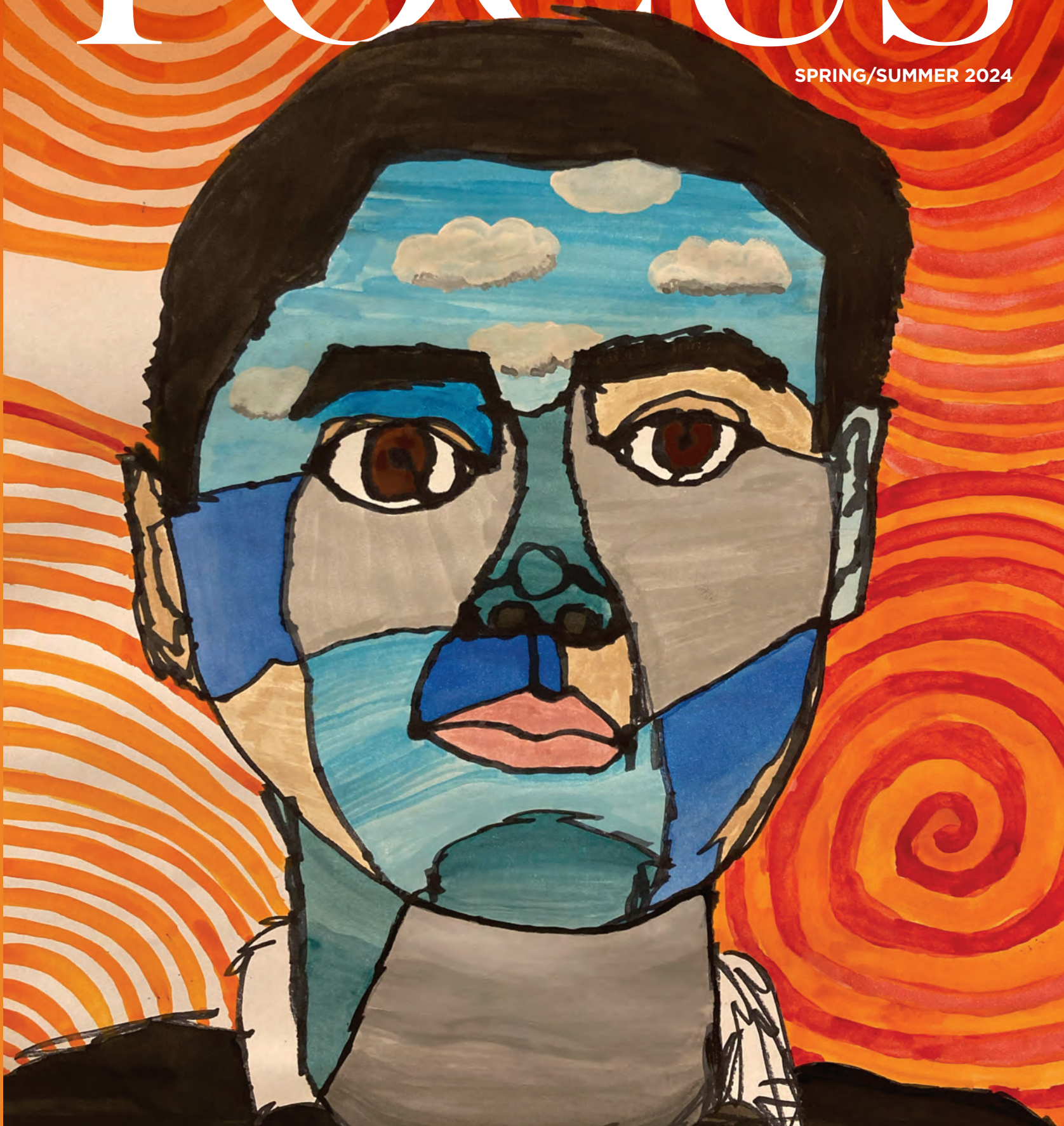


THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

FOCUS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



Dear Parents, Alumni, and Friends,

Another incredible school year at Saint Joseph High School is in the books!

This year, we produced 32 Saint Joe Scholars, three National Merit Scholarship Finalists, two National Merit Commended Scholars, three National Hispanic Recognition Awardees, a Lilly Scholarship winner, an Indiana Academic All-Star, and 86 Scholastic Art & Writing awards. Additionally, our Fed Challenge Team won the 7th District; our Euro Challenge team went to nationals; and our Mock Trial and FBLA teams competed at the state level. Our athletics teams also had tremendous success. Highlights include a new school record in the Pole Vault and High Hurdles, our boys basketball team going to the State Championship, and our girls tennis team winning a State Championship.

Our students consistently demonstrate the ability to be a positive force for good. This was evident at the start of the school year, when our community grieved the loss of a classmate, Beverly Ditsch, to a tragic car accident. Amid the sadness, students rallied to support Beverly's family and created the Unapologetically Beverly club to serve with joy at St. John's Grade School throughout the year. In May, our students interacted with people with intellectual disabilities at Together for the Long Run, an event organized by alumna Cat Edmonds '16. The energy our student volunteers brought made the event a huge success.

I saw our students' positive impact throughout the school mascot process. The 11 students on the Mascot Adoption Committee considered all mascot options, offered thoughtful insights, and shared feedback from their peers. They inspired the whole committee to think deeply about the purpose and characteristics of a school mascot and how each fit with our core values. Our students were collaborative, insightful, understanding, and bold - showing a willingness to consider others' opinions while expressing their own. The conscientious effort of our student committee members drove the selection of Huskies as our new mascot - a decision enthusiastically embraced by the student body. I will always remember the students breaking into the first-ever "Let's Go Huskies" chant during the boys basketball sectional semi-final versus Marian. I wonder if the energy around the new mascot helped propel the team to Indianapolis.

Rest easy, Saint Joe Community, for our students have what it takes to be the leaders and stewards of the future.

We are in good hands. Please keep all of our graduates, as well as our returning and new students, in your prayers this summer. I will do the same for you.

God Bless and Go Huskies!



John Kennedy
Principal



MISSION

Saint Joseph High School is a Catholic secondary school dedicated to transforming students in heart and mind, preparing them to serve God, the Church, and the world.

ADMINISTRATION

John Kennedy
Principal

Stephen Anthony
Director of Athletics

Christine Baglow
Director of Pastoral Ministry

Bethany Burgun
Director of Mission Advancement

Corey Luczynski
Assistant Principal of Student Life

Emma Shakour
Assistant Principal for Academic Administration

Kevin Mackey
Director of Facilities

Dana Strabavy
Director of Counseling

SPECIAL THANKS

Cover Art
Abraham Najera '24 (*front*)
Rory Hurley (*back*)

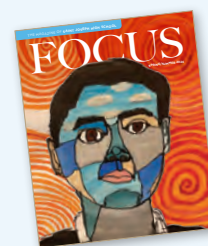
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Austin Hough/South Bend Tribune
John Smolinski '07
Murphy Wiginton '24



ON THE COVER

"Self Portrait" by Abraham Najera '24,
watercolor and sharpie, from Intro to 2D class.

FOCUS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



A MASCOT FOR THE FUTURE

New mascot revives school spirit

HUSKIES FIND SUCCESS PLAYING FOR GOD, ONE ANOTHER

Boys basketball caps off amazing season at state



EURO & FED CHALLENGE

Economic programs fuel student success

ART & WRITING SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Saint Joe Students Bring Home 86 Accolades



I6 CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!

Jazmin Guterrez-Herrera '24, Mireya Guerro-Bravo '24, and Lizbeth Ruiz '24 are all smiles at graduation.

Also INSIDE

- 4 Community Awards
- 5 Academic Awards
- 8 Bishop Visit and Andrew Barnes' Ordination
- 9 Our Core Values
- 12 Spring Musical
- 14 Baccalaureate Mass
- 20 Fall Sports Recap
- 22 Alumni News
- 23 In Memoriam

Community Award Winners

January



Eliana Lang



Joe Wittig



Social Studies Teacher
Mr. Joe Waltz

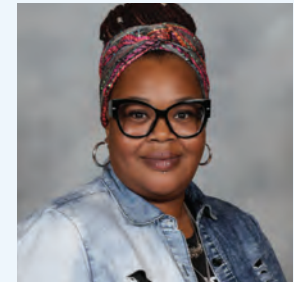
February



Elle Guyton

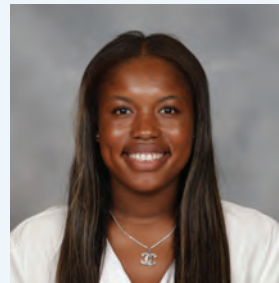


Gabe Polaniecki



Building Safety & Security Officer,
Ms. Marion Marsh

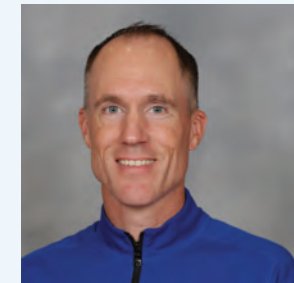
March



Dani Graham



Elliot Mark

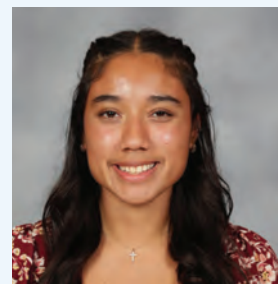


Social Studies Teacher, Department
Chair, Cross Country and Track &
Field Coach, Mr. Mike McCarthy

April



Jerry Barca



Yury Pimentel



Mathematics Teacher
Mrs. Tricia DePauw

May



Keely Bonin



Sam Norwood



Counselor
Dr. Lukas Mendoza

Each month Saint Joseph High School honors members of the senior class and one faculty or staff member with a Community Award. The individuals recognized during the 2024 spring semester for their notable contributions to the school community are listed here.

Academic Award Honorees



SAINT JOE SCHOLARS

The 2024 Saint Joe scholars pictured with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades include: **Marley Annis, Arianna Bailey, Jerry Barca** (Salutatorian), **Thomas Belcher, Molly Bellia** (Valedictorian), **Joseph Borsodi, Dora Cervera, Margaret Couture, Madeline Crowley, Daniel Cyr, Lana Daugherty, Elaine Eder, Lee Erdman, Jack Helm, Anna Hill, Gerald Jones, Logan Kanouse, Luke Kaufhold, Elizabeth Kloska, Terezur Leonard, Gabriel Machiela, Lucas Miller, Samuel Norwood, Hetvi Patel, Gabriel Polaniecki, Sara Prokop, Jenna Shelley, Ian Szpisjak, William Thain, Mia Veldman, Charles Weber, and Riley Zache.**

ELI LILLY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP & MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD



Jerry Barca received the Eli Lilly Endowment Scholarship. The Lilly Endowment believes that education at all levels is important to the personal, civic and economic well-being of Indiana's residents and communities. This program aims to encourage many of Indiana's most talented students to attend one of the state's higher education institutions and, ultimately, pursue careers in Indiana through providing full tuition, required fees, and book stipend for four years. Across the state, only 143 seniors receive this award.

Jerry Barca also received the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award for Class 3A Boys Basketball.

INDIANA ACADEMIC ALL-STAR & MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD



Molly Bellia was named an Indiana Academic All-Star. The Academic All-Star distinction recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom first and foremost, but who also are actively involved in their schools and communities, and take on leadership roles in those activities. 40 seniors in Indiana receive this honor.

Molly Bellia also received the Mental Attitude Award for Girls Tennis.

In addition, **Molly Bellia** received the Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship from the IHSAA. Molly is one of only 13 senior student-athletes across the state to receive this award. She has demonstrated excellence in academics, school and community involvement, character, sportsmanship, and citizenship.

Molly Bellia and Jerry Barca were also named the **NELLIE AND JOHN WOODEN GRAND KIWANIS AWARD WINNERS.**

APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Mr. Kennedy and Lieutenant Commander Dan Walsh presented **Molly Bellia** and **Charles Weber** their appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.



Show your school spirit! Use this decal on your car, laptop or water bottle... just peel and stick.

Go Huskies!



S A I N T J O S E P H
HUSKIES™

A Mascot for the Future

MARY KINNEY, '11

When Jerry Barca '24 was a freshman at Saint Joseph High School in 2020, school pride wasn't at a particular high.

The South Bend high school had put in place COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and there was no identifiable mascot to rally behind.

"It didn't really feel like we had a mascot at all, because we were moving away from [Indian imagery and chants]," Barca said. "You mumble it under your breath whenever you say it, you couldn't cheer or chant at football or basketball games without feeling like you're saying something offensive. There was definitely a lack of school spirit."

In 2021, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi encouraged all non-native institutions to eliminate the use of Native American/Indian mascots as it had a detrimental effect.

As a result, the Saint Joe School Board formed the School Nickname Evaluation Committee to research and provide a recommendation on whether the school should change its nickname. After extensive consideration, the committee unanimously decided in June 2023 to retire the Indian mascot.

Deciding what would replace it came next.

In September, the school hired J2 Marketing to research

and conduct surveys to ensure all perspectives were considered throughout the mascot adoption process. In total, there were eight opportunities for stakeholders, students, parents, alumni, faculty/staff, and 8th-graders to offer insight on what should embody the Saint Joe spirit.

Options like cardinals, dragons, fire, joeys, river otters, saints and terror of demons were proposed.

Ultimately, a Mascot Adoption Committee comprised of 22 Saint Joe community members considered each option against the following criteria: the mascot honors the tradition and history of the school and community; represents the student body and community; is something everyone can rally around, increases school spirit/pride; represents Catholic and faith-based values; provides an opportunity for spirit wear, jerseys, merch, a physical mascot; is unique among schools in our area and conference, and is not offensive, racist, stereotypical, or controversial.

"The most important thing for me was that everyone — every single person on the student body — felt comfortable with having this mascot represent them," said Dani Graham '24, who served on both the evaluation and adoption committees.

By early 2024, options were whittled down to a final

HUSKIES were a strong favorite among current and 8th-grade students as they embody **loyalty, service, community, love, and family.** They are also **strong, determined, and fierce.**

three — buffalo, huskies, and rams.

“Rams were certainly a popular choice among alumni,” said Henry Chandler ’67, Alumni Coordinator and longtime history teacher. “And I completely understand why with the connection to Father Bly.”

Fr. Walter Bly taught at Saint Joe for over 40 years and was a well-respected figure. He had a particular closeness with the football team and was associated with the ram figure as a Fordham University alum and Old Testament teacher.

Chandler admitted when rams were proposed, he initially favored the option, but it wasn’t until a current female student pointed out they were a male-gendered animal, and girls didn’t want to be known as the “lady rams.”

“They said ‘we want to be the same mascot and nickname as everyone,’” Chandler said. “And that changed my mind right there.”

Current students were also disconnected from Fr. Bly, as he had stepped away from school life years prior to his passing in January 2023. The committee also wanted something that represented all school programs — not just athletics.

“It is a mascot for the future so I think looking toward the future instead of focusing exclusively on the past, that’s a better way to go,” said Barca. “And then you have something that the students picked instead of their parents picking it.”

Huskies were a strong favorite among current and 8th-grade students as the domesticated dog embodies loyalty, service, community, love, and family. The committee also believed the huskies align well with Saint Joe’s core values of Reach Higher, Build Family, Serve with Joy, and Discover our Gifts.

Because of these factors, they officially

recommended the adoption of huskies as the new mascot to the school board, who unanimously approved. Huskies was introduced to the general public in February.

The new option was immediately welcomed by current students and, at the boys’ basketball sectional game against Marian, the crowd rallied together.

“It was the loudest that I had heard the student section before, just chanting ‘let’s go huskies,’” said Barca. “When you saw that, it’s like ‘oh wow.’”

Chandler acknowledges it may take some time for alumni to get used to the new mascot, but that Saint Joe is just as it’s always been.

“I hope they realize that a nickname is just a nickname, and that what’s happening here in this building now is what they experienced 15, 20, 30, 50 years ago,” he said. “Our students are getting a premier Catholic-based education, they’re going to the best colleges, our graduation rate hasn’t changed a bit. The mascot may have changed, but what’s really going on in this building hasn’t.”

Though both Barca and Graham have recently graduated, they said they’re proud to be a part of the process of deciding their high school’s future, and are excited about the community that will be built around the huskies mascot.

“Having a whole wave of incoming freshmen that are the first year with the official mascot and the first year with all the new gear is exciting,” Barca said. “Hopefully, when their kids come to Saint Joe, it’s the same thing that happened with the previous mascot — that there will be a rallying behind it and it can touch on every group. It really is a well-

rounded mascot that can reach everybody, and I’m looking forward to seeing that happen.”

Students on the Mascot Adoption Committee provide feedback on the Huskies logo.



Pastoral Visit

by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Bishop Rhoades made a special visit to Saint Joseph High School on Wednesday, May 1, to confer the sacraments of initiation on six members of the school community. Four students were baptized, and one student and one teacher entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. The all-school Mass was held on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. *(Photos by Derby Photography.)*

Andrew Barnes '17

Ordained to the Order of the Diaconate



On Saturday, May 18, at St. Matthew Cathedral, Deacon Barnes was joined by friends, family, classmates, his now-fellow deacons, and dozens of priests to celebrate his diaconal ordination. *(Photos by Scott Worden/Today's Catholic.)*

How our New Huskies Mascot Logo Reflects our *Core Values*

The new Saint Joe Huskies mascot is so much more than a cool graphic. Read below to learn how this symbol represents our shared identity and will serve Saint Joe students, alumni and fans, today and in the future. (Also see the article on page 6 to learn more about our mascot selection process.)

Reach Higher

Huskies lead us into new territories with boundless energy and **unshaken confidence**, turning obstacles into stepping stones. They embody our pursuit of knowledge, bravery in adversity, and the desire to **push beyond limits**.

Build Family

Huskies are **loyal companions** who support without hesitation and **love unconditionally**. Our mascot's loyalty, tireless work ethic, and sharp intelligence guide us through life's highs and lows.

Serve with Joy

The invigorating energy of huskies inspires us to serve joyfully and approach challenges with optimism. It teaches us to **find joy in helping others**, even when facing adversity.

Discover Our Gifts

Huskies encourage us to be **adventurous in learning** and **steadfast in our goals**. Together, we work hard, stand united, and commit to discovering and nurturing our unique talents.

Don't miss out! Scan this QR Code to watch the logo reveal.



The outline in red draws on Saint Joe's history. Red, as a sacrificial color, represents our Catholic faith.

The stylized letter "A" evokes hands folded in prayer and pointing to heaven.



Huskies eyes represent determination, facing challenges head on which are portrayed using Saint Joe's Colombia blue.

S A I N T J O S E P H
HUSKIES™

The "Huskies" font is a customized font, unique only to Saint Joe and hints at the movement of fur.

This is Saint Joe's "north star," representing our four core values (shown above) and is also reminiscent of the Star of Bethlehem.

Jayce Lee throws down monster dunk over John Glenn in IHSAA Regional Championship

Huskies Find Success

Playing for God, One Another

BY ERIC PEAT (TODAY'S CATHOLIC)
Reprinted with permission.

When Saint Joseph High School boys basketball Head Coach Eric Gaff first met with his team last fall, he tabbed 1 Peter 4:10 as the team Bible verse for the season: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” “We told the guys, ‘You’ve got to memorize this,’” recalled

Gaff. “We would ask guys to say it during practice, and if they didn’t remember it, we would run. ... It was cool to see them embody that and share their gifts with each other.”

Once this unselfish approach took hold, it transformed Gaff’s squad into a contender and led to

the program's 67-57 loss to Scottsburg in the Class 3A State Championship on Saturday, March 30. The Saint Joe players walked away from Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis with lasting memories and brothers for a lifetime.

However, the commitment to playing for one another didn't happen overnight. After an early January loss to Penn, Saint Joe was just 6-7 and in danger of squandering its talented roster. "Against Penn, we had a 15-point lead at halftime and then threw the game away," Junior Chase Konieczny said. "The day after the Penn game, we had a meeting with all the team captains and coaches to talk about what went wrong. After that, we were a whole different team." "We were playing really selfish to start the year," senior Jerry Barca explained. "When people realized the path to winning is to play selflessly, we saw how good we could be. There's a general willingness to play for one another after losing a tough game that we should have won."

Saint Joe finished the regular season on a 9-2 tear, winning six of those contests by at least 30 points. The week before facing rival Marian to open sectional play, Saint Joe players received extra motivation to play for one another, as the school announced its new nickname — the Huskies — on February 27. "It galvanized the guys," said Gaff, noting how quickly the entire school and community embraced its new nickname.

Underneath a new mascot, Saint Joe cruised to sectional and regional titles before a pair of contrasting victories at semistate: 88-80 against Peru and 44-41 vs. Delta in triple overtime. That set up a meeting with the fourth-ranked Scottsburg Warriors for the state title and prompted Gaff to once again pull inspiration from Scripture — this time, Proverbs 17:17, which reads, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." "Once they became brothers, they went through adversity, and a lot of guys sacrificed minutes or shots to make us as good as we could be," said Gaff, recalling his pregame talk with his team. "They were more than brothers, and it's special when guys can do that."

But even brothers are not immune to jitters when playing on the biggest stage, and the Huskies (20-10) yielded the game's first seven points to the Warriors (25-5) after several turnovers. That's when Barca — a senior averaging just 2.3 points per game — stepped up in

a big way, connecting on a pair of early three-pointers to settle his team down. "That's kind of been my role all season," Barca said of setting the tone. "I knew he would bring his best effort, because he always does — that's the kind of guy he is," Gaff said of Barca. "It's not about the stats on paper, because he puts as much time in as anyone else; he just plays second fiddle at times. He really got us back in the game."

Behind a 17-5 run, the Huskies claimed a one-point advantage just before halftime. In a game with eight lead changes and five ties, it was Saint Joe leading 50-49 entering the fourth quarter. However, Scottsburg's zone defense, which forced Saint Joe into 16 turnovers, wore down the Huskies and prevented them from getting their transition game going. Senior Jayce Lee's jumper with 2:46 to go pulled the Huskies within a point at 58-57, but the Warriors would score the final nine points of the game to pull away.

Moments after the final buzzer, Barca was announced as the winner of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award, an annual honor bestowed on a senior in each class who has "demonstrated excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability." Barca, who plans to study neuroscience at Notre Dame, is the Class of 2024 salutatorian and Saint Joe Student Body President, among other numerous distinctions. "It was incredible," Barca said of receiving the award. "It was a little harder to look back on five minutes after the loss, but I am extremely grateful. It just shows that all the little things I do behind the scenes were paying off."

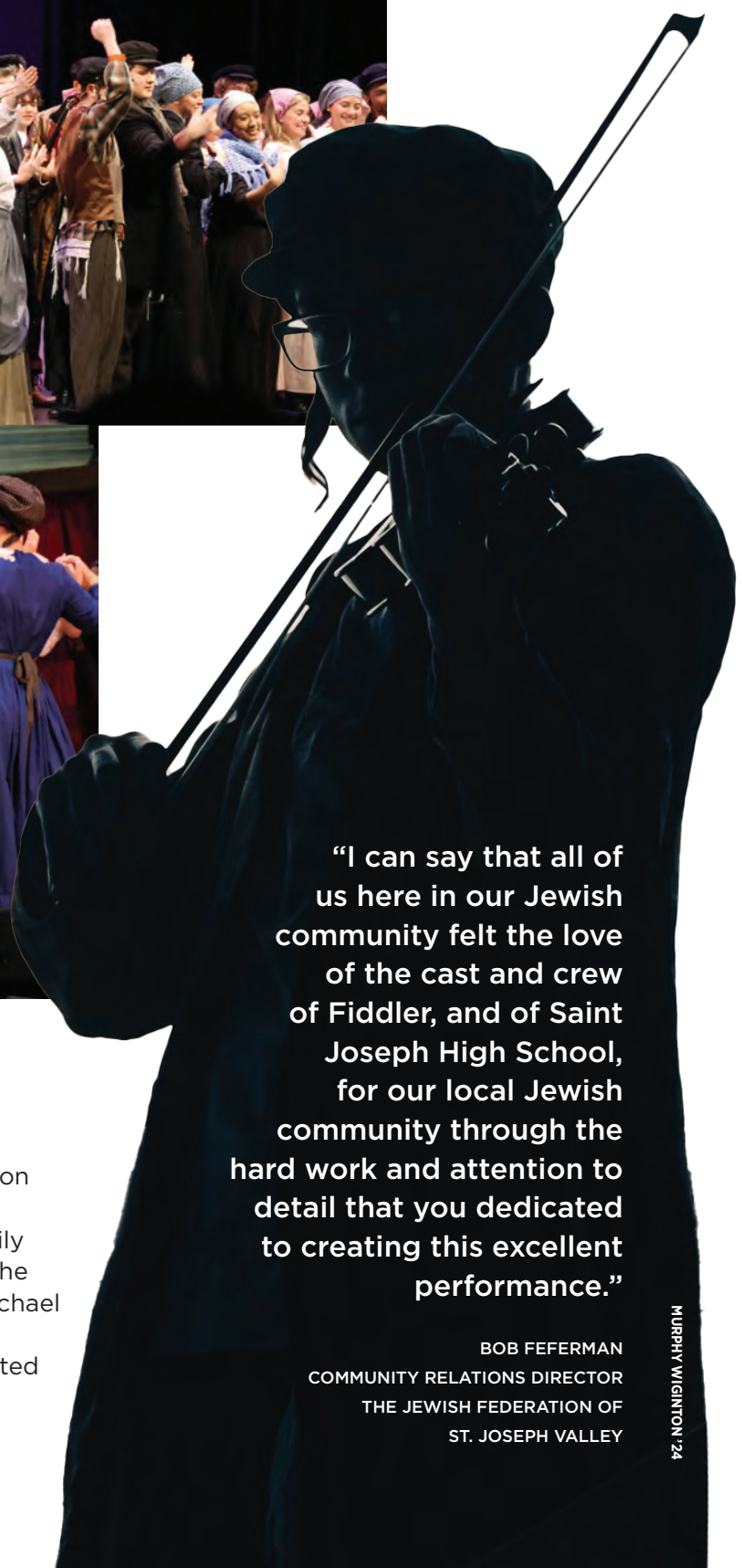
Indeed, the little things paid off all season long for the Huskies, especially when it came to growing together in their faith. While every practice began and ended in prayer, Gaff admitted that sometimes he got so caught up in basketball that his players had to remind him. "They were making sure our Catholic identity didn't slip out of focus," said Gaff. "That's one of the special things about Saint Joe and our diocese as a whole: We're here to build ... great leaders, to build for the future, and to drive people toward Christ."

As each has
received a gift,
use it to serve
one another,
as good
stewards
of God's
varied grace.

- 1 PETER 4:10

Fiddler on the Roof

MARY KINNEY, '11



Musical cast praised for rendition of 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Saint Joe High School showcased the musical production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' for the 2024 spring musical. To prepare for the story about a 20th-century Jewish family living in Russia and eventually exiled, students visited the Sinai Synagogue in South Bend and met with Rabbi Michael Friedland. The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley praised the production, saying the cast "totally captivated us with the heartwarming story you retold through song, storytelling, and dance."

"I can say that all of us here in our Jewish community felt the love of the cast and crew of Fiddler, and of Saint Joseph High School, for our local Jewish community through the hard work and attention to detail that you dedicated to creating this excellent performance."

BOB FEFERMAN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR
THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF
ST. JOSEPH VALLEY

MURPHY WIGINTON '24

Fed and Euro Challenge teams see success

MARY KINNEY, '11

Fed and Euro Challenge programs allow students to engage in economic policy, with Fed Challenge focusing on domestic issues and Euro Challenge on international topics.

Mrs. Julia Chismar and Mr. Phil DePauw guide each team through challenges such as U.S. Bank Central policy and various economic conditions.

“Fed Challenge and Euro Challenge are important because students apply the knowledge gained in macroeconomics,” said Chismar, longtime co-coach.

While these competitions are simulations, they prepare students for real-life success.

Many alumni have gone on to successful careers, including U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, '00 and Mayor James Mueller, '00.

Fed Challenge team wins Chicago Yellen Division

Junior Sean Spoonhower felt inspired to participate in Fed Challenge after taking a macroeconomics course.

“I just found the class interesting and thought the Fed Challenge would be a good way to expand my knowledge,” he said.

Along with classmates Cormac Kennedy and Reyaan Ansari, Spoonhower prepared for the competition for several months. In April, they created a 15-minute presentation on the current state of the U.S. economy, followed by a 10-minute question and answer session.

Together, the three-person team won the Yellen (or experienced) Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago’s Midwest Fed Challenge 2024.

“It felt really great to win this year, especially because I really didn’t expect to, due to only having three team members instead of the maximum of five, which other teams had,” Spoonhower said. “I would definitely recommend the Fed Challenge to anyone interested in economics or wishing to gain more knowledge on the subject.”



Fed Challenge team: Sean Spoonhower, Cormac Kennedy, and Reyaan Ansari.

Saint Joe represented with two Euro Challenge teams

For the first time, Saint Joe sent two Euro Challenge teams to compete this year — one representing Germany and the other Estonia.

Each team gave a 10-minute presentation discussing the European economy, a specific country’s economy, a current problem, and solutions. Afterwards, students proceeded with a question and answer portion.

This was the second year sophomore Declan Gallagher participated. He was on the Estonia team, which competed at nationals in New York City.

“My Euro Challenge experience was amazing. I learned a great deal about Europe and Estonia, and became much better at researching and writing,” he said. “I also formed some really good friendships.”

Mrs. Chismar said it was a “privilege” to watch the 12 students grow and persevere.

“When you step back and realize these are sophomores proposing and defending solutions to economic problems that adults cannot always solve, it really is a ‘wow,’” she said.



Euro Challenge team: Sarah Anatolios, Joey Harshman, Lila Mayfield, Anna Pruitt, and Declan Gallagher.

Saint Joe Seniors *Shine*



Bishop Rhoades celebrated Baccalaureate Mass with the senior class at Saint Pius X Catholic Church on May 31, marking a spiritual milestone and blessing their future endeavors with faith and hope.



at Baccalaureate Mass



Congratulations

Photography by Derby Photography and GreatNews.Life.

On Sunday, June 2, the 71st class to graduate from Saint Joseph High School gathered at Purcell Pavilion at the University of Notre Dame for Commencement. This year's faculty speaker was government teacher Mr. A.J. Reynolds. The following quotes are from Valedictorian, Molly Bellia's speech.



PRINCIPAL
JOHN KENNEDY

“As we step onto that stage, let’s cherish the past, but also find peace in the present, despite all of its uncertainties and all of its challenges.”

Class of 2024!



**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
A.J. REYNOLDS**



"The first lesson to recount is that things I did not plan or expect will hold some of the greatest blessings in life."



**VALEDICTORIAN
MOLLY BELLIA**



**SALUTARIAN
JERRY BARCA**





Art & Writing Scholastic



Scholastic Art Awards

69 total Art Awards

- 14 Gold Keys
- 23 Silver Keys
- 32 Honorable Mentions

Arianna Bailey (*Silver Key, Honorable Mention x2*)
 Bryant Barca (*Gold Key, Silver Key x4*)
 Gennaro Barca (*Silver Key x2*)
 Molly Borger (*Honorable Mention*)
 Olivia Borsodi (*Gold Key, Silver Key*)
 Nicole Byrne (*Honorable Mention*)
 Alex Choinacky (*Gold Key x4, Silver Key x4, Honorable Mention x2*)
 Jeanne Cressy (*Gold Key*)
 Annie Cummings (*Honorable Mention*)
 Lainey Eder (*Honorable Mention x2*)
 Thomas Farrell (*Honorable Mention*)
 Avia Firestone (*Honorable Mention*)
 Nadia Firestone (*Silver Key x2, Honorable Mention*)
 Claire Forchetti (*Honorable Mention*)
 Mary Glenn (*Honorable Mention*)
 Paige Goben (*Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention*)
 Jazmin Gutierrez (*Gold Key x2*)
 Sophia Helfrich (*Honorable Mention*)
 Charles Helm (*Honorable Mention*)
 Ainsley Hennel (*Silver Key, Honorable Mention*)
 Isabella Jordan (*Honorable Mention x3*)
 Caroline Kacovski (*Silver Key*)
 Logan Kanouse (*Silver Key x2, Honorable Mention*)
 Eliana Lang (*Honorable Mention*)
 Eileen Marra (*Honorable Mention*)
 Brennan Moser (*Honorable Mention*)
 Lucy Noem (*Gold Key x2, Silver Key x2*)
 Anastasia Nolan (*Honorable Mention*)
 Zachary Pendergrass (*Gold Key, Silver Key*)
 Jack Tobolski (*Honorable Mention x2*)
 Maya Waltz (*Honorable Mention*)
 Murphy Wiginton (*Silver Key, Honorable Mention x3*)
 Zach Zalas (*Gold Key*)



Scholastic Writing Awards

14 total Writing Awards

- 3 Gold Keys
- 3 Silver Keys
- 8 Honorable Mentions

Greta Chadwell (*Honorable Mention*)
 Pidge Dimino (*Silver Key, Honorable Mention*)
 Izzy Frabutt (*Honorable Mention*)
 Margaux Hannewyck (*Gold Key*)
 Charlie Helm (*Silver Key*)
 Natalee Hutchinson (*Honorable Mention*)
 Logan Kanouse (*Honorable Mention*)
 Mary Maher (*Honorable Mention*)
 Tulsi Patel (*Silver Key*)
 Grace Shaul (*Honorable Mention*)
 Jenna Shelley (*Gold Key*)
 Thomas Slott (*Gold Key*)
 Andrew Sorg (*Honorable Mention*)

 = National Scholastic Award Winners



Pictured from left to right: Mary Maher '26, Pidge Dimino '26, Natalee Hutchinson '26, Margaux Hannewyck '24, Jenna Shelley '24, Logan Kanouse '24, Grace Shaul '26, Izzy Frabutt '26, Tulsi Patel '26, Andrew Sorg '26, and Charlie Helm '26.

Awards



"Supposedly Sealed"
Zach Zalas, '24
(Gold Key)

"Childhood in Christmas"
Jazmin Gutierrez '24
(Gold Key x 2 and National Gold Metal)



Above:
"A moment in Summer"
Paige Goblen, '25
(Gold Key)

Left:
"Union"
Alex Choinacky, '26
(Gold Key and
National Silver Metal)



Spring Sports Summary

Baseball

Record: 21-7 (6-4 Conference)
All-NIC 1st Team: Jayce Lee, Joe Washburn
All-NIC 2nd Team: Ben Van Fleit
All-NIC Honorable Mention: Owen Balint,
Brady Langager
Academic All-NIC: Tommy Eck, Jayce Lee,
Ben Van Fleit
Academic All-State: Jayce Lee
2024 Indiana North All-Star Team: Jayce Lee
District C Player of the Year: Jayce Lee
2024 South Bend Tribune Co-Male Athlete of
the Year: Jayce Lee
1st Team All-State: Jayce Lee

Girls Tennis

Record: 22-1
NIC Champions, Sectional Champions,
Regional Champions, Semi-State Champions,
and **State Champions**
All-NIC 1st Team: Molly Bellia, Ashi Amalnathan,
Anni Amalnathan, Dani Graham, Libby Yergler,
Anna Walsh, Ella Michaels
NIC MVP: Molly Bellia
Academic All-NIC: Ashi Amalnathan, Molly Bellia,
Dani Graham, Grace Scicchitano
Academic All-State Individual: Molly Bellia
Academic All-State Team: Molly Bellia, Ashi
Amalnathan, Anni Amalnathan, Dani Graham,
Libby Yergler, Anna Walsh, Ella Michaels
All-District: Molly Bellia, Ashi Amalanathan, Anni
Amalnathan, Dani Graham, Libby Yergler
All-State Individual: Molly Bellia, Anni
Amalnathan, Ashi Amalnathan
All-State Doubles: Dani Graham and
Libby Yergler
IHSAA C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship:
Molly Bellia
2024 IHSAA Mental Attitude Award: Molly Bellia

Softball

Record: 22-6 (8-3 Conference)
All-NIC 1st Team: Riley Zache and Berkley Zache
2024 NIC MVP: Berkley Zache
Academic All-NIC: Riley Zache
Academic All-State: Riley Zache
2024 Indiana North All-Star Team: Riley Zache
All-State 1st Team: Riley Zache and
Berkley Zache
Indiana Miss Softball Finalist: Riley Zache
Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year Candidate:
Berkley Zache (2024)
National Gatorade Player of the Year Candidate:
Berkley Zache (2024)
2024 Johnny Bench Award Winner: Riley Zache
MaxPreps All-American Team: Riley Zache



Boys Golf

Record: 19-2 (10-1 Conference)
NIC Runner-Up
Sectional Runner-Up
Regional Qualifier
NIC MVP: Thomas Raster
All-NIC 1st Team: Tate Guyton, Thomas Raster
All-NIC 2nd team: Beau Basney, Jake Hirschler
All-NIC Honorable Mention: Joey Borsodi

Boys Lacrosse

Record: 3-15
All-NILC 2nd Team: Freddy Helmen
All-NILC Honorable Mention: Jack Helm,
Jack Keegan, Mason Kazmierzak, Matt Hall
Academic All-State: Jack Helm, Gabe
Machiela, Jack Haigh, Jack Halfpenny,
Alessandra Romo, Nolan Young
IHSLA North All-Star Team: Freddy Helmen,
Mason Kazmierzak

Girls Lacrosse

Record: 12-4 (Sectional 8-0)
Sectional Champions
All-State: Mary Maher, Kate O'Shaughnessy
All-State Honorable Mention: Grace Kidder,
Peyton Hopkins
All-Sectional: Grace Kidder, Mary Maher, Shea
Anderson, Maya Matthews, Peyton Hopkins
All-Academic: Chloe Alumbaugh, Shea
Anderson, Alex Choinacky, Annie Cummings,
Eileen Farrell, Ta'Nya Ford, Maura Green, Grace
Kidder, Eliana Lang, Ahsley Mereness, Kate
O'Shaughnessy, Sydney Schmeltz, Erin Walsh,
Mary Maher, Maya Matthews, Peyton Hopkins,
Emma Dirrol

Track & Field

Girls

South Bend City Champions
4th at NIC
3rd at Sectional
9 Regional Qualifying Events
All-NIC 1st Team:
800M Run: Lauren Frick
All-NIC 2nd Team:
3200M Run: Izzy Frabutt
All-NIC Honorable Mention:
3200M Relay: Ella Trenerry, Cathy Lutz,
Cam Ritschard, Lauren Frick
400M Run: Michelle Carter
All-NIC Honorable Mention
Academic All-NIC: Maddi Crowley, Lainey
Eder, Anna Hill, Lizzy Kloska, Brennan Moser,
Yuryanna Pimentel, Sara Prokop
Academic All-State First Team: Lizzy Kloska,
Sara Prokop
Academic All-State Honorable Mention:
Lainey Eder, Lauren Frick, Anna Hill,
Brennan Moser, Alex Zanker

Boys

Little 5 Relays Champions
South Bend City Champions
3rd at NIC
3rd at Sectional
5th in Regional (out of 48 schools-only beaten
by 6A/5A schools)
8 Regional Qualifying Events
3 Outdoor State Finalist Events- 110 M High
Hurdles, 400 M Relay, 300 M Hurdles
2 Indoor State Finalists: Brady Farrell Pole Vault,
Luke Kaufhold 60 M High Hurdles
**2 School Records: Brady Farrell - Pole Vault
14' 3, Luke Kaufhold- 110 M High Hurdles 14.46**
All-NIC 1st Team: 110M High Hurdles: Luke
Kaufhold
300M Hurdles: Luke Kaufhold
Pole Vault: Brady Farrell
All-NIC Honorable Mention:
400M Relay: Sam Harshman, Bill Imanene, Ziare
Tshimanga, Richard Haliburton
1600M Relay: Lucas Miller, Le'Bralyn Booker,
Luke Kaufhold, Jack Moran
Long Jump: Bill Imanene
All-State 1st Team: Luke Kaufhold - 110 M High
Hurdles and 300 M Hurdles
Academic All-NIC: Jerry Barca, Bill Imanene,
Luke Kaufhold, Elliot Mark, Hayden Miller,
Lucas Miller, Alex Ortiz, Gabe Polaniecki,
Ethan Vu, Charlie Weber
Academic All-State First Team: Sam Harshman,
Luke Kaufhold, Elliot Mark, Alex Ortiz,
Gabe Polaniecki, Charlie Weber
Academic All-State Honorable Mention:
Hayden Miller, Daniel Weber

Congratulations
to the Girls
Tennis team
STATE CHAMPIONS
Way to go!





A

MURPHY WIGINTON '24



B

DOUBLE EDGE MEDIA



C

MURPHY WIGINTON '24



D

MATTELLICK



E

AUSTIN HOUGH/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE



F

GLENN KILLOREN



AUSTIN HOUGH/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

G

A. Jayce Lee '24 looks to square up the baseball. **B.** Girls tennis hoists the State Championship trophy after defeating Fishers, 3-2. **C.** Thomas Raster '25 crushes his tee shot into the fairway. **D.** Luke Kaufhold '24 dominates the hurdles at the NIC Conference Championship meet. **E.** Libby Yergler '27 and Dani Graham '24 hug each other after winning their No. 1 doubles match. **F.** Girls lacrosse celebrates after winning the Sectional Championship game. **G.** Berkley Zache '25 reacts after working out of a bases loaded jam.

Leading the pack to VICTORY!

ALUMNI *Highlights*

Juan Constantino '12 leads La Casa de Amistad through enormous success

This spring, La Casa de Amistad was awarded a \$2 million grant from Amazon co-founder MacKenzie Scott's Yield Giving fund. The nonprofit, led by Juan Constantino '12, empowers the South Bend-area Latino community by offering 20 programs that strengthen bilingual education, cultural enrichment, and advocacy.

Over 6,300 organizations nationwide applied for the \$1 million grant, and La Casa was identified as one of the elite applicants whose award was doubled.

"This \$2 million unrestricted grant is the highest award in our organization's history," Constantino said in a press release. "It will be transformational in the way we are able to plan for the future and adapt to the needs of our growing Latino and immigrant populations in South Bend."

La Casa de Amistad was also recognized by the South Bend Regional Chamber as the inaugural Lifting Voices Award winner at the annual Salute to Business Luncheon in March. The award recognizes a local business that has excelled in empowering and educating the South Bend community's future leaders.

Carmen Stephanie Nuñez '20 selected as Holy Cross College valedictorian



Carmen Stephanie Nuñez '20 was named the Holy Cross College Class of 2024 valedictorian. Nuñez majored in visual arts and minored in elementary education and, in an interview with *The Observer*, shared that

she plans on applying to teaching positions or working with community organizations, with eventual goals of obtaining an MFA to teach on a collegiate level. While at Holy Cross, Nuñez was active in the First-Generation Organization, Visual Arts Club, and the Right to Life Club. She was also a recipient of the Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Scholarship. In her valedictory speech, Nuñez emphasized the importance of fostering relationships, and how counselors and professors continuously reached out throughout her academic career.

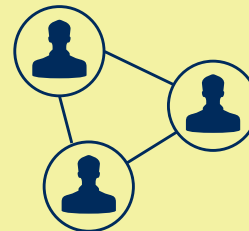
"The importance of friendship and relationship

cannot be neglected, it is what makes a place a home," she said. "... This is what I see as the most valuable part of the Holy Cross identity, and I hope we can take it with us wherever we go."

Nuñez is one of six children, and her family are members of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parishes.



Want to stay connected with fellow Saint Joe grads?



Email Alumni Coordinator Henry Chandler at hchandler@saintjoehigh.com to sign up for the monthly Alumni Soundings newsletter, bi-annual Focus Magazine and other communications from Saint Joe.

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy, we say goodbye to fellow alumni who have passed.

Class of 1940

Joan Markowski Jaworski

Class of 1942

Elizabeth Wozniak Harrison

Class of 1946

Betty Linehan Krizmanich
Nancy Nyikos Meers

Class of 1947

Charles Neary
Ernest Strychalski
Elaine Soleta Taelman

Class of 1948

Mary Therese O'Keefe Clark
Robert Meiszberg

Class of 1949

Mary Wittling Carusillo

Class of 1950

Eugene Budzinski

Class of 1951

Barbara Van Vynckt Jurek

Class of 1952

Geraldine Bukowski
Ronald Hosinski
Anthony Mersits

Class of 1954

Helen Radich Mersits

Class of 1955

Lois Wendel Haynes
John Horth
Antoinette Majewski Jozwiak

Class of 1956

Frances Dunfee

Class of 1957

Timothy Celmer
Janice Rydinski Houk
Joan Widawski Ivanof
Eleanore Cwiklinski Lovett

Class of 1958

Francis Hirl

Class of 1959

Juddith Nicholas Andrews
Judith Armstrong
William Braunsdorf
Ronald Budzinski
John Burton
Madonna Finnigan Carlisle
Rebecca Paczesny Delahanty
Terrance Dolan
Marsha Glon Dujardin
Lacy Joseph Finnan
Rose Ganser
Rosemarie Erp Grams
Daniel Kaczorowski
Victoria Szarwark Kowalski
James Lichatowich
Gerald Nusbaum
Patrick Reardon
Philip Riley
Michael Sabbe
James Sharpe
Michael Simon
Patricia Rudynski Smith
Sharon Kelley Winans
Richard Woodka

Class of 1960

Dr. Lloyd Culp
Rita Gamble Fricano
Judith Kaczorowski Phillips
Maureen Suth

Class of 1961

Paul Bergan
William Eslinger
Michael Flanigan

Class of 1962

Francis Bogaert
Kenneth Kirsits
Joseph Orban
Elizabeth Renaldi
Kathleen Szalay Scheu

Class of 1963

Fr. Edward Custer, MM

Class of 1964

John Brassell
Nicholas Piacsek

Class of 1966

Victoria Derda Quinlan
Daniel Saracino

Class of 1967

Robert Battles
Susan Carr Curtis
Charles Hums
Christopher Maternowski
Cynthia Kush Sult

Class of 1968

Carol Brunt Vogel

Class of 1969

Robert Szerencse, Jr. M.D.

Class of 1970

Susan Stachowicz Fredlake
Michael McGinnity
Ann Marie Pajakowski Rotge

Class of 1972

Lucile Hudak La Vine

Class of 1973

Lawrence Carmola
Daniel Pedtke

Class of 1974

Arthur Luczkowski
Leo Pauwels

Class of 1975

Paul Eitler III
Timothy Robinson

Class of 1977

Stephen DeMercurio

Class of 1988

Toshua Williams

Class of 2001

Kristopher Robinson

Class of 2006

Kevin Hunt

Former Faculty/Staff/ Administration

Margaret Woods Barz
Walter Bowman
Brother Robert Dierker, C.S.C.
Cynthia Felch
Kathleen Ratliff
Mary Worthman

If you know of a classmate's passing, please share the information with Alumni Coordinator Henry Chandler at hchandler@saintjoehigh.com.



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A 49-Year-Old RECORD BROKEN

Brady Farrell's record vault highlights Saint Joseph's team titles at South Bend city track meet

On Thursday, April 25, Saint Joseph senior, Brady Farrell made history, successfully reaching 14-03 feet to break a 49-year school record. The previous best was 14-02 by Bruce Umbaugh '76 in 1975.

Farrell's historical vault was one of several highlights for Saint Joe, who won both the boys' and girls' team titles at the South Bend city track and field meet. It was the first city titles since 2021 for both programs.

"It feels great," Farrell said. "I've had a lot of people talking about this forever, so it feels good to finally get it over with."

