

FALL 2021

FREEING MINDS

Campaign Impact Report

St. John's campaign website has a new look—and new voices.

Read what students have to say about the power of your gifts at

[FREEINGMINDS.SJC.EDU](https://freeingminds.sjc.edu).

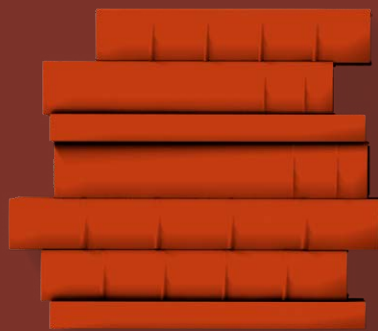
WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE WINIARSKI FAMILY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE, WE NOW HAVE **\$245 MILLION** IN CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS TOWARDS OUR \$300 MILLION GOAL.



BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, ST. JOHN'S IS STRONG—
AND GETTING STRONGER. SEE WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED
FOR THE COLLEGE, OUR STUDENTS, AND THE FUTURE.

Three years ago, alumni Warren (Class of 1952) and Barbara (Class of 1955) Winiarski put forth a challenge: if alumni and friends could raise \$50 million toward *Freeing Minds*, the Winiarski Family Foundation would match those gifts, dollar for dollar, with a \$50 million contribution to the St. John's Endowment.

You came through for the college and secured a combined total of \$100 million to meet the needs of Johnnies today and tomorrow.



\$50M

GIVEN

by alumni and friends to support priorities that benefit every student and tutor.



\$50M

MATCHED

by the Winiarski Family Foundation to benefit the St. John's Endowment.

How you met the Winiarski Family Foundation Challenge, Who stood by you, and What your gifts mean for St. John's.



67% CURRENT USE GIFTS

Of the \$50 million raised, approximately \$34 million has already gone to work, addressing priorities that require immediate support. Scholarships, student success initiatives, and campus improvements have all benefited from these gifts.

33% ENDOWMENT

The remaining \$16 million will be invested through the St. John's Endowment, the cornerstone of our new philanthropy-centered financial model. Endowed gifts produce a steady stream of investment income that helps meet tomorrow's needs so tuition won't have to fill that role.

Additionally, the full \$50 million match by the Winiarski Family Foundation will be added to the St. John's Endowment.

OUR ALUMNI LED THE WAY,
CONTRIBUTING 64% OF ALL GIFTS.



IF YOU WERE INSPIRED TO MAKE YOUR
FIRST-EVER GIFT TO THE COLLEGE,
YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY.

1,233 alumni and friends made first-time
gifts to help meet the challenge.

YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT WAS INSTRUMENTAL
IN MEETING THE CHALLENGE.



84%
of all gifts were given through
the Annual Fund, which
immediately supports the most
urgent needs of the college.

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE WITH
EVERY SINGLE GIFT.



Of the 17,246 individual gifts that met the Winiarski Family Foundation Challenge, **96 percent were gifts of less than \$5,000.**

Another 600 gifts ranged from \$5,000 to \$249,999, and 29 gifts exceeded \$250,000.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR EVERY
PRIORITY IN THE *FREEING MINDS* CAMPAIGN.



\$25M is committed to the *scholarships and student support initiatives* that keep the St. John's experience attainable and transformative.

\$10M in gifts of *academic support* address the needs of our faculty and ensure the future vibrancy of the college and the Program.

\$10M helped St. John's achieve a balanced budget and will support the continued *financial stability* of the college.

\$5M is reinvigorating the residential experience through *campus improvements* that build community—without adding new buildings.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Because of your support, the college is on its best financial footing in decades and a St. John's education is more attainable than ever. Now we must ensure that our momentum, which has brought us to this point, does not wane.

We have more to do as we aim for our next milestone: reaching our \$300 million campaign goal and ensuring a strong future for St. John's College.

In particular, we must focus our efforts on capital improvements, which enhance the student experience, and on the continued growth of our endowment, which supports the Program without the need for higher tuition.

Let's stay the course and continue freeing minds. Visit freeingminds.sjc.edu for more information on the progress of the campaign and the impact of your gifts.



📍 ANNAPOLIS, MD

Olivia Braley (AGI21), pictured left, loved her work as editor-in-chief of the Graduate Institute’s literary journal, *Colloquy*; but until a fellow Johnnie made a gift, it was a love she was close to letting go.

An aspiring writer and editor, Braley volunteered her services; but after accepting a job with an education nonprofit, she became overwhelmed. Despite her interest in publishing, *Colloquy* was the work she cut back on—largely because it was unpaid. Then a gift from Bryan Samuel (AGI04) led to the Emma Bryan Samuel Graduate Institute Internship, and Braley became the first award recipient. The stipend allowed her to continue her work, developing a handbook for future editors.

Jaime Dunn, director of career services in Annapolis, says those future editors will also be eligible for the internship. “Many graduate students are career changers, and this is an opportunity to see if publishing is something they want to pursue.”

In addition to Samuel’s gift, Annapolis also received a campaign pledge that will further boost career services by creating a liaison between employers, the campus, and students. ❖

THE CLASS OF 2025 IS THE LARGEST IN MORE THAN A DECADE.

Annapolis

153 Freshmen

13-YEAR HIGH

18-YEAR HIGH

Santa Fe

135 Freshmen

The word is getting out that St. John’s offers the most rigorous education in America, with alumni and friends who are committed to making it attainable.

📍 ANNAPOLIS, MD

Rediet Worku (A21) is seeking to foster peace using the most reliable medium she knows: the seminar.

During her junior year, Worku, pictured right, won a Project for Peace grant to conduct St. John’s-style seminars for educators in her home country of Ethiopia, which has been mired in civil war. The project was initially postponed due to the pandemic but came to fruition in the summer of 2021.

In collaboration with fellow alumna Nani Detti (SF20), Worku conducted nine weeks of seminars using selections from Ptolemy, Herodotus, and Homer, among others. Her hope is that participants will return to their classrooms to share the insights they gained about the causes of violence. “The goal is to move towards peace through education.”

Worku expected only a few applications but received more than 50. She says the seminars have been well attended, and participants frequently insist on more time, claiming “two hours isn’t enough.” One attendee logs into the virtual seminars from an ancient monastery in the mountainous community of Wolo, and despite an abysmal internet connection, Worku says “he shows up every week.” ❖



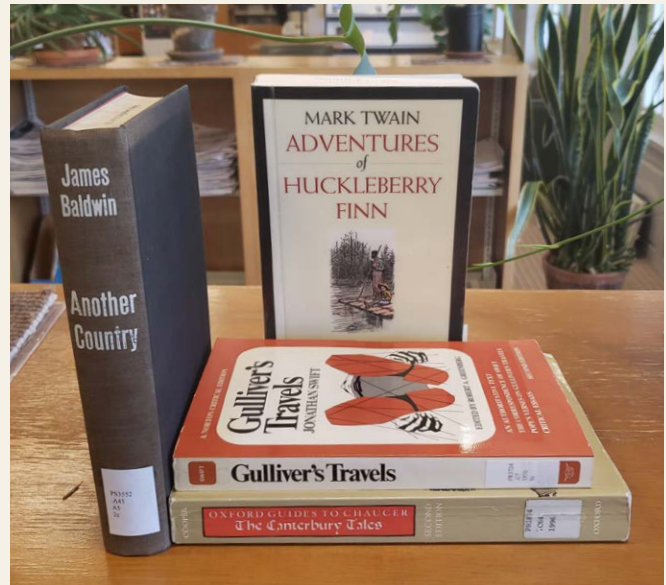
📍 SANTA FE, NM

This summer, Santa Fe held the first Harrison Faculty Summer Study Groups, aimed at giving tutors a means to explore themes of diversity and inclusion. One group, led by tutor David Carl, studied James Baldwin's *Another Country*. The second, led by tutor Marsaura Shukla, paired contemporary scholarship with Program texts, including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

Both groups were established in memory of Keith Harrison (SF77) and funded through a campaign gift. They are also part of a collegewide effort to better understand the experiences of students who raise questions about race, class, or gender in the classroom.

Karen Anderson, Keith's wife, says these were exactly the kinds of questions that interested her husband, who was one of only a few students of color at St. John's. She says Harrison appreciated that tutors didn't spoon-feed answers but helped students reach their own conclusions.

Study groups are an integral part of faculty development and can yield what Dean Walter Sterling calls an "outsized impact" relative to investment. "Still, we have a very limited budget," notes Sterling. "The Harrison gift is helping to expand what we can offer." ❖



📍 SANTA FE, NM

From the beginning, Keith Harrison (SF77) and Marlene "Molly" Benjamin (SF77) had an uncommon friendship. He was a Black student; she came from a lower middle-class background. Both were studying on a Santa Fe campus that was visibly affluent and predominantly white.

They remained close for nearly 45 years, and when Harrison, pictured left, passed away in 2018, Benjamin sought to honor the memory of her friend, who built a distinguished career in education and law. With help from classmates and family, Benjamin raised \$12,000 to establish the Harrison Faculty Summer Study Groups in support of Santa Fe tutors who wish to deepen their understanding of diversity and inclusion.

Harrison's wife, Karen Anderson, says her husband always remained sensitive to the needs of marginalized students and would be greatly honored by the gift. She recalls that when Harrison was young, he wasn't certain that he would even go to college.

"He was a bit of a maverick, so a traditional mold is not what he wanted," she says. "And then he found St. John's." ❖

📍 ANNAPOLIS, MD

Bryan Samuel (AGI04) didn't set out to be a game changer for St. John's students, but the memory of those he loves has twice inspired him to do exactly that.

A regular donor since graduation, Samuel amplified his giving three years ago when he memorialized his cousin's daughter, Jodie Lee Adams, by funding internships for three undergraduate students. After meeting two of the recipients, both of whom found jobs in their chosen fields, he felt called to do something similar for the Annapolis Graduate Institute, this time in his mother's memory. Samuel says his mother, pictured right, never went to college but valued education so deeply that she insisted on paying for his St. John's degree.

In collaboration with the Annapolis Career Services Office, Samuel established the Emma Bryan Samuel Graduate Institute Internship to help students further their career goals. Stipends funded through the gift will enable two students per year to pursue what would otherwise be unpaid—and potentially unaffordable—internships.

The program is the first of its kind for the Graduate Institute. ❖



📍 ANNAPOLIS, MD

It took a closed campus for Scott Walters (A90), pictured right, to fully appreciate that the St. John's residential experience is irreplaceable—and securing its future, paramount.

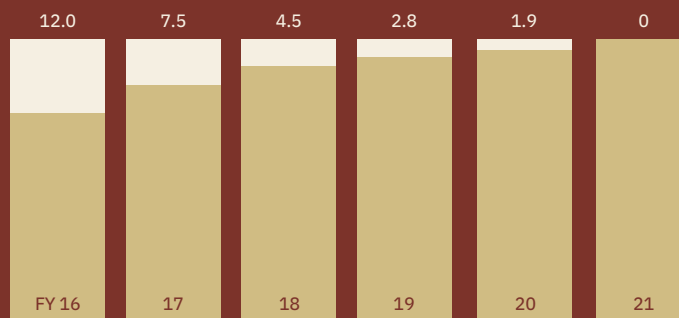
“I’m almost certainly more than halfway through my life. The pandemic clarified that reality,” explains Walters, a successful healthcare consultant who says the global crisis spurred him to notify St. John's that the college is in his will. A portion of his future gift will benefit the Annapolis campus endowment, while the remainder will permanently benefit the sailing program, an important part of Walters' own college experience.

Walters says *Freeing Minds* helped put St. John's “top of mind” during the pandemic—and he isn't alone. Planned gifts, including bequests, account for nearly a third of the \$245 million raised to date.

“I believe in St. John's mission, I love the tuition cut, and now seemed like a good time to make my commitment formal,” says Walters, who notes that he trusts the college to use his legacy wisely. “If you really want to make a meaningful difference, St. John's is the way to do so.” ❖



ST. JOHN'S HAS EMERGED FROM THE PANDEMIC WITH A BALANCED BUDGET.



Our deficit reduction from 2016 peak

(in millions of dollars)

The college expected to end FY21 with a modest covid-related deficit. Instead, you helped us beat those expectations and meet the goal we set five years ago: to end FY21 with a balanced budget.

📍 SANTA FE, NM

For high school junior Elijah Hoch, pictured right, Summer Academy in Santa Fe was a week spent exploring firsts. The experience, he says, gave him his first seminar, his first attempt at yoga, and his first time pondering a question so strange and wonderful that it sent him diving back into the text. “We read a passage from Herodotus and were asked: Why does Xerxes get so mad about the Spartans combing their hair before battle? I didn't even remember that line, so I had to go through it again.”

Summer Academy and its online counterpart are among the most reliable pipelines for future Johnnies, with one in six new freshmen having attended one or both. By the time Elijah completed his session on “Courage and the Soul,” he had already arranged a call with St. John's admissions counselors.

His favorite part of Summer Academy, he says, was feeling strongly about a point—and having someone disagree. “Maybe they'll change my mind, maybe I will change theirs, or maybe we'll just agree to disagree.”

Wherever he goes to college, this lesson in courage will follow. ❖





ST JOHN'S College

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