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Eidos

St John's College Alumni Association Newsletter
Volume 1 • Issue 3 • Summer 2026

Welcome to Eidos, the St. John's College Alumni Association's quarterly e-newsletter.

In this issue, you will find:

- Activities and Events - What have we been doing, and what is coming up?
- Chapter News - News about chapters.
- Class Notes - Find out what your fellow Johnnies have been up to.

In Memoriam - Noting members of our community who we have recently lost.

Alumni Association Activities and Events

We will use this space to provide updates concerning the Alumni Association, including its Board of Directors, and working groups and committees.

2026 Homecoming

The College has asked us to pass along that Homecoming registration is open! Whether you're returning to Annapolis or Santa Fe, we look forward to welcoming you back for another Homecoming weekend of seminars, lectures, conversations, and time with fellow Johnnies.

Details are as follows:

Annapolis Homecoming

- September 25–27
- Registration closes September 11
- Register: <https://engagement.sjc.edu/e/annapolis-homecoming-2026/>
- Reunion Giving: www.givecampus.com/schools/StJohnsCollege/annapolis-homecoming-reunion-giving

Santa Fe Homecoming

- October 9–11
- Registration closes September 25
- Register: <https://engagement.sjc.edu/e/santa-fe-homecoming-2026/>
- Reunion Giving: www.givecampus.com/schools/StJohnsCollege/santa-fe-homecoming-reunion-giving

Learn more about Homecoming, including schedules, lodging, and FAQs: <https://www.sjc.edu/alumni/events/homecoming>

All-Alumni Meeting & Elections

The Alumni Association will be having its annual All-Alumni Meeting & Elections in the Mellon Hall Conversation Room at 9:15 AM on Sunday, September 27, 2026, in conjunction with the Annapolis Homecoming. All alumni are invited to attend.

Student Break Food Support

The Alumni Association's program to help alleviate food insecurity among students staying on campus over the breaks was launched in 2025, and continues in 2026. This is a problem that colleges and universities face throughout the U.S., and St. John's is no different.



Thanks to donations and volunteer efforts, in 2025 the Association was able to support 50+ students on both campuses over the breaks with groceries and meals. A huge THANK YOU to all donated to our efforts or who brought food to students!



To support the 2026 Student Break Support Program, you can Zelle your donation directly to the Association with [this link](#). If you prefer to donate by check, please email sjcaa@sjc.edu and we will provide a mailing address.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at sjcaa@sjc.edu if you have any questions about our work or how you can help support it.

Virtual Watch Party

The Virtual Alumni Chapter will gather on Zoom to watch a summer GI Lecture series on this talk examining the relationship between Havel and Patočka, with an emphasis on central themes in their views on moral responsibility, sacrifice and living in truth. Learn more at: <https://sjc-gi.com/event/watch-party-havel/>

- "Václav Havel and Jan Patočka: to Live (and Die) in Truth" – David Satran
- August 23, 5 PM mountain time

Alumni Association Working Groups

The **Communications Working Group** is dedicated to informing alumni about alumni news and activities, and to receiving alumni feedback on Association initiatives. We are on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram (our handle is @sjcalumniassociation1827). If you have any feedback about our social media posts, news to share with us, or questions about the Association, please [let us know](#).

The **Events Working Group** is proud to have contributed to two signature alumni events so far this year. At the **Alumni Awards Ceremony** during inauguration weekend in Santa Fe, a dedicated team of alumni, staff, and student volunteers came together to coordinate food, space, and logistics, with six students gaining the inspiring opportunity to meet and network with distinguished honorees. For the annual **Croquet Match in Annapolis**, committee members and volunteers collaborated to organize setup, provisions, and decorations for the alumni tent — which was double the size of last year's, reflecting a shared ambition to create a more expansive and welcoming experience. The enlarged open-sided tent proved to be a resounding success, with attendees lingering and enjoying what many called the best seats on the field.

We are deeply grateful to all the volunteers, committee members, and supporters whose hard work made both events such a success. We look forward to continued collaboration at upcoming events, including both campuses' Homecoming and 2027 events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the college's alumni association, started by Francis Scott Key! Stay tuned!

The **Students and Recent Alumni (SARA)** working group welcomes new alumni. And for those recently graduated, SARA would like to share “What We Wish We Knew about the St. John’s Alumni Association When We Graduated”:

After you walk across the stage at graduation, a representative from the alumni community congratulates you and formally welcomes you to the St. John’s Alumni Association. It’s a bit of a late welcome – you have actually officially been a part of the Alumni Association since your freshman year. And though you wouldn’t want to be a part of any club that would have you, you are now a part of the wide, deeply interconnected Johnnie network of alumni in the outside world. Welcome!

Beyond the naturally occurring sense of profound mutual understanding you might feel when running across other Johnnies in the wild, the St. John’s College Alumni Association offers several more official opportunities for post-grad connection:

1. Join your local alumni chapter for reading groups, happy hours, and other events. Active chapters are listed on the college’s website, and are always looking for Johnnies to host or lead alumni get togethers.
2. Volunteer for croquet on the Annapolis campus (and receive free entry!) or volunteer to be part of alumni panels and networking events with the Career Services Working Group.

3. Network with other alums through the Career Services Working Group. Be the Virgil to current students and alums’ Dante in the great, wide, scary world of seeking gainful employment.

For more information or resources from the Students and Recent Alumni Working Group, or just to connect, reach out to Shannon Lynch Albritton (sjlalbritton@gmail.com) or Camy Hines (camyhines@mac.com). We look forward to seeing you out in the world!

Chapter News

The Alumni Association has chapters across the United States. If you are a chapter leader, please send us any news about your group we can share with the alumni community. Or let us know if you would like to be connected with a chapter, or start a new one.

The **Annapolis chapter** (leader Beth Martin) meets every second Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to noon in the Hodson Conference Room in Mellon Hall. The group met on July 11 to discuss *The Federalist Papers*, #9, 10, 51, 80, 81. We have a great group of regular participants and always welcome any alumni in the area to join us.

The new **Eastern Michigan** chapter (leader Charlie Bieneman) will have had three meetings in Ann Arbor by the time this newsletter is published. On June 6, 2026, we discussed Tolstoy’s short story “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”, and in July we will read James Joyce’s “The Dead”. If you are interested in joining us for an upcoming meeting, e-mail charles.bieneman@gmail.com.

The **Twin Cities Chapter** has St. Paul & Minneapolis attendees, mostly, with some folks occasionally coming from hours away. (Leader is Nick Colten, A '05). The Chapter typically meets 2:30-4:30 on the first Sunday of each month, at the University of St. Thomas's O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library, St. Paul, in Room 303. Once per season (generally as a way of scheduling around holidays) we have an evening meeting on a Wednesday, at the Como Ave location of Nico's Tacos. The evening meetings run 6:00-9:00, with the first hour devoted to conversation and dinner. Earlier this year we read the Iliad, followed by Chaucer's "Troilus & Criseyde." In July we will be discussing essays on the Iliad by Simone Weil and Rachel Betspaloff. It is possible that the Twin Cities Chapter has the longest record of continuous operation of any alumni chapter not on the East Coast! To learn more about the Twin Cities Chapter, e-mail njcolten@gmail.com.

The **Washington, DC Chapter** (co-leaders George Dolan and Richard Schmechel) meets in person for monthly seminars and other social events at various libraries, theaters, and pubs in the area. Occasionally, we host online or hybrid seminars. We recently met up at the Shakespeare Theater's Othello performance, and have a happy hour and seminar on Mann's The Magic Mountain coming up soon. Johnnies are welcome to bring a friend or significant other to Chapter events. To get added to our email list announcing upcoming events, send your info to the Chapter at sjcalumnidc@gmail.com. Or follow us on social media: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SJCDMV>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sjcd.alumni/>).

Class Notes

Here are what some of your fellow Johnnies have been up to. We'd love to include you in our next newsletter. Please follow [this link](#) to send us your class note.

1962

James Broschart (BA, A) lives in Roanoke, Virginia. After St. John's he received an M.A. from Johns Hopkins, where he studied poetry with Elliott Coleman in the Writing Seminars. In July, Finishing Line Press (<https://finishinglinepress.com>) will release his latest collection of poems, having published an earlier collection in 2018. He is retired from careers in college teaching, public television production, technical writing, and bookstore management. He has written about lifelong learning, safe high schools, and marine science for various federal agencies. He taught English composition to sailors at sea and developed emergency management manuals for U.S. nuclear sites. Residing in southwest Virginia in the midst of the Blue Ridge mountains, retirement has given him the opportunity to turn back to poetry. You can e-mail James at brolink1@hotmail.com.

Michael Elias (BA, A) writes from Los Angeles. He just published his third novel, Bender's L.A. (see stickingplacebooks.com) about Hollywood in 70s and 80s. You can find Michael at michaieleliawriter.com or michaielelias08@gmail.com.

1968

Julie von Erffa (MA, SF) lives in Santa Fe. She writes that she attended "Acupuncture School and ... studied Hypnotherapy under Dolores Cannon."

She has four daughters and three grandchildren, and writes “I am very happy. I did not graduate college but I did graduate from acupuncture school. I have a certificate in Hypnotherapy. I am 80 years old. I appreciate my education, both formal and real life experiences.” You can e-mail Julie at julievonerffa@gmail.com.

1974

Janet Christhlf O'Flynn (BA, A) lives in Montana and works in Haiti. After St. John's she received a master's in early childhood special education and regular education at Syracuse University, a doctorate in Occupational Therapy at St. Catherine's University, St. Paul MN, and then a post-bacc certificate in Occupational Therapy at University of Pennsylvania. Janet has been married for 50 years to a fellow Johnnie, the Rev. Donnel O'Flynn, and one of her two children (Aidan O'Flynn) is also a Johnnie. Since 2015 she has been dean of the FSRL-UNEPH (Faculté des Sciences de Réhabilitation de Leogane-Université Épiscopale d'Haiti). Janet writes that “A St. John's education is priceless at this time in our history. Dialectic is the antidote to overwhelming loss of integrity and identity for human beings.” Janet's e-mail is janetoflynn@hotmail.com.

1974

Gkay Bishop (BA, A) lives in North Carolina, and has had two works of fantasy fiction published by Huginn's Gambit Press, available on Amazon: *The Purple Orb*, and *Mirror of Fears*. Gkay's third book (forthcoming) is an anthology of published short stories, post-industrial science fiction. Gkay's e-mail is gkay.bishop@gmail.com.

1977

James Gillam (BA, SF) is retired in Klamath Falls, Oregon. In 2023 he published “Up from the Ashes: The Revival of the American Chimney Sweep Trade and the People Who Built It” (available on Amazon). He writes that he is “enjoying a ‘third career’ as a harmonica player. Check us out at Spinning-GoldBand.com.” You can e-mail him at chimneyjim@aol.com.

1978

Leah Daskalakis Casner (BA, A) is a retired freelance columnist living in Equinunk, Pennsylvania, where she reports that “My husband (not our classmate with a similar name but Mark Casner) of 45 years ... and I have rusticated.” Leah's move to Pennsylvania comes after raising three children in New York City, and seeing them off to their own lives in Alaska, Brooklyn and New Jersey. Leah adds that “we both write little pieces for the tiny local paper and enjoy looking at and avoiding contact with our tick-laden woods out back. Stop by if you're in the area!” Her e-mail is leah.casner@gmail.com.

1982

Liz Colmant Estes (BA, A) lives in Kingston, New York, where she works at the Old Dutch Church of Kingston. After St. John's she received an MA in Philosophy (Catholic University), and MDIV, Scriptural Interpretation (Union Theological Seminary in New York City); and took Intensive Greek (CUNY). Liz comments that “In seminary, I met other alums, some decades younger, sometimes our professors and tutors would connect us because we all experienced a similar stumbling block when asked to connect texts to historical research and accounts. Interesting!” And she writes: “Since undergrad at [St. John's], where I also served as tutor, I've become obsessed with history as a secret

key to exploring communications ruptures. I published a book, *Global Grace Cafe*, a kind of primer about US immigration that seeks to explain: how did we fall into today's horrific precipice? In the Mid-Hudson Valley, I serve as VP for a 400-volunteer immigrant support team connected to a thousand families, majority Mayan-Kekchi, fleeing the kind of destruction that American settlers wreaked upon indigenous nations four hundred years earlier, which I learn about as I lead a 1659 Dutch Reformed church. I'd love to connect with alumnae/i with similar interests." You can contact Liz at lizestes@mac.com.

Steven Sayre (BA, SF) got an MBA after St. John's from New York University (1995), and then an MA in Art History from University of London (2002). He retired in 2020 and now lives in Aguascalientes, México, where his partner Victor is from, and where he is "loving life." His e-mail is steve_syr@msn.com.

1983

Peter McClard (BA, SF) lives in New Jersey, where he reports that, after St. John's he "formed several successful software companies related to music, the arts and publishing in the NYC area", and "worked on Medical Education apps for 6 years as my last official job." Now he is "finally loose of 'the man' which frees me up for writing, art and musical pursuits." You can find information about his art installation at <http://mcclard.tv/dna>, and e-mail him at peter.mcclard@gmail.com.

1984

John Bush (BA, SF) lives in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he was an elected official for the Town of Blacksburg for 14 years.

John works at Virginia Tech, from which he also has a Masters in Architecture. John shares that he rides bikes, reads books, gardens, and hikes. His e-mail is bushj@vt.edu.

1987

Charlotte Glover (BA, SF) writes from Ketchikan, Alaska, where she works at Parnassus Books and Gifts. Charlotte writes that "I'm working my last year at our bookstore in Alaska and looking forward to retiring in Rio Rancho, NM with my husband in 2027 where I inherited a home from my father. A move to Santa Fe is in the future!" She adds that "I've been surprised by how enthusiastic the twenty-somethings are for the stoics in recent years! We sell lots of 'Epictetus' and other classics at our coastal Alaskan bookstore." You can e-mail Charlotte at kiffglo@gmail.com.

1995

Kira Zielinski (BA, SF) writes from Cornville, Arizona, "Thank you to everyone for your prayers for me and my little one! I was incarcerated for fleeing with my son to protect him from the worst thing you can imagine. The district court said domestic violence doesn't include against my child, and prohibited my witnesses and evidence. My Federal Appeal was GRANTED by the US Supreme Court on Jan. 12, 2026. My case is now back in the original district court, where they are doubling down on their original errors. So much for those constitutionally-protected rights that I put my life on the line to support and defend! Please keep praying for us, and keep in touch!" Kira adds that "I finally made it into graduate work in Classics at the University of Iowa in 2020! What a wonderful department there!" Kira's e-mail is kirazelinski@proton.me.

1997

Kira Chaney (formerly Kira Barclay) (BA, SF) attended Dartmouth Medical School after St. John's, from which she received a Masters in Public Health in 2003. Kira recently moved to San Luis Obispo, California, where she works as Director of Product Management for Blue Circle Health, a telehealth company. Her e-mail is kirachaney@icloud.com.

2011

Bonnie Scott (BA, A) is living in Cincinnati, and reports that "Miriam Jean Keegin was born March 16, 2026." Her e-mail address is bnscott60@gmail.com.

2015

Amritpal Singh (BA, A) has a PhD in Psychology with a minor in Cognitive Science. He writes that he "just started a new job at Carnegie Mellon and moved to Pittsburgh!" His e-mail address is amritpal.mp.singh@gmail.com.

2017

Tex Piasley (BA, A) is living in Chicago, where he works for LexMedAI. Tex writes that he and "his wife, Rachel, welcomed their second son, Ira Simon-Pasley, into the world on April 8, 2026. He joins his older brother, Ezra (four in August) at their house in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood. In addition, after teaching himself how to program computers, Tex was hired as a software engineer at a small legal tech startup in late 2025, leaving the practice of law after eight years." His e-mail address is claypas@gmail.com.

2020

Sadie Macdonald (BA, SF) writes from Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she

works as an Email Marketing Manager. Sadie writes "I'm happy to announce that my partner and I bought a condo downtown here in Colorado Springs. It's a lovely 2 bed, 2 bath with a giant balcony on the 10th floor. (Facing east, but we still get some lowkey mountain views.) We spent the summer renovating and painting, and are now enjoying a very urban car-free life with our cat Leto. We're seconds from a trailhead and love riding our bikes everywhere!" Sadie adds that "I'd love to come visit Santa Fe soon now that I'm not too far away!" Her e-mail is sadiehope10@gmail.com.

2021

Nobonita Chowdhury (BA, A) lives in Antwerp, Belgium, where she works as a manager for Amazon having completed a Master's in global management in Belgium. She writes that "I live with my legos and books in a one bedroom apartment; late 20s have never looked better." Her e-mail is nobonitachowdhury11@gmail.com.

2022

Margaret Wilson Merritt (BA, SF) is a Digital Content Manager at Which Side Digital in Maine, a firm that focuses on messaging, brands, and fundraising for Democratic and progressive political candidates. Before that, Margaret worked for a climate-focused nonprofit and did freelance editing for Cider Mill Press. Last fall, she had an article published in Greenhorn's New Farmer's Almanac, Vol. 7 on what we can learn about community from the Quakers. Margaret writes that "I've been looking into how I can make my life-long dream of a community-focused idea lab happen and that has led me to interesting places, such as Smithreen Farm to make miso. I have also been independently studying the nature of community and

collaboration through art, anthropology, and political science. I am also currently considering applying to graduate programs again, with a focus on anthropology, writing, and psychology, and have returned to writing fiction.” She adds that “if you have a connection, an idea, or anything else you think would be good for my project, I'd love to hear from you! Same if you have any questions about my work, past or present.” Her e-mail is mwmerritt112@proton.me.

2025

Sophie Frankel (BA, SF) writes from Boulder, Colorado, where she works at Studio Tectonic. Sophie writes that “I’ve been both taking classes in and now instructing blacksmithing at an arts organization here in Boulder. It fell into my lap after I told my friend that I’d like to take up forging again, and it’s been incredibly rewarding to teach, and learn from teaching. I try to channel the ease and confidence my tutors had, as well as the openness to being wrong. I always learn more through failures than I do successes, and I try to encourage my students to take up the challenge.” Her e-mail is sophie@frankelfamily.us.

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent passing of members of the St. John’s Community. If you are aware of a classmate or friend who passed in the last year and is not listed below, we would be grateful if you could let the College and the Alumni Association know so we can mention them next time, and so they can be honored during the Homecoming In Memoriam event.

Alums are listed by class, even if no degree was awarded. Honorary alumni are designated with an “H.”

- **Matthew Davis** (SF Faculty, A82)
- **Carl Finley** (SF93)
- **Paula Fulks** (SF76)
- **Samuel Kutler** (A Faculty and Dean, A54)
- **James Preston** (A81)

The St. John’s College Alumni Association is a non-profit organization that is run by volunteers. The vision of the St. John’s College Alumni Association is a fully engaged alumni community that supports the College and contributes to the intellectual, professional, and personal development of its members. The mission of the St. John’s College Alumni Association is to support alumni and the College by fostering fellowship and mutually beneficial connections among alumni, current students, faculty, and other members of the college community. Therefore, the Alumni Association encourages participation in all alumni activities from the entire alumni community, with its wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. You can e-mail the Association at sjcaa@sjc.edu.