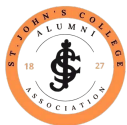




2023 Croquet Team



Eidos

St John's College Alumni Association Newsletter
Volume 1 · Issue 2 · Spring 2026

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

In this issue, you will find:

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

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.

We are very pleased with two recent events, both described more fully in Brett Heavener's President's Letter: the Alumni Awards Reception hosted for the first time in Santa Fe on March 1, 2026, and the annual Annapolis Cup Croquet Match, held in Annapolis on April 18, 2026.

In addition to the Alumni Awards Reception, the Awards Committee is busy considering nominations for the Awards of Merit, Volunteer Service Awards, and Honorary Alumni Awards. You can find more information about these awards, and a form for nominating members of the St. John's community, [at this link](#).

The Alumni Giving Council supports the College's major fundraising initiatives by encouraging alumni giving. On March 31, 2026, we participated in the annual Johnnie Day of Giving, a 24-hour fundraising event that supports the Fund for St. John's College, as well as the Johnnie Scholarship Fund, the Student Life and Athletics Fund, the Graduate Institute Fund, and the Caritas Endowment Fund. This year alumni accounted for 52% of the donors to Johnnie Day of Giving. The Class of 1990 had the largest monetary amount of donations, and the Class of 1992 had the largest number of donors. And both the Young Alumni Donation Challenge and the Alumni Challenge Donation Match were met.

It was a great day of support for the College!

The **Careers Services Working Group** recently co-sponsored a networking event with the College's Office of Career Services in Annapolis. The event, held April 11 in the FSK Lobby, gave current students the opportunity to speak with alumni about career and graduate school options. Notwithstanding the perfect spring weather, more students than signed up for the event attended and spoke with alumni in various professions – connections that will be a continuing resource throughout the students' graduate school and professional lives. The event ran past its scheduled end time, and initial feedback from students, alumni, and staff were very positive.

The **Chapters Working Group** hosts virtual quarterly check-ins for chapter leaders, where we share updates from the College, updates from the Alumni Association, and best practices and tips with each other. Typically we meet on the last Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Our last virtual check-in was on January 27, 2026. We discussed the Touchstones training opportunity for alumni, as well as strategies on how to engage older alum who are aging in place. In addition, longstanding chapter leaders are curious about ways to effectively pass on the role of chapter leader to new/er alum. Our next virtual check-in will be on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET/6:00 PM MT.

The Chapters WG is also excited to be working with two recent St. John's alumni with roots in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to present St. John's-style seminars for high school students in the United States. The Svet

Peace Project (named after the Slavic root for "light"), which started out hosting seminars for young people in their war-ridden home, is now organizing St. John's style seminars for high school age students in the US. Seminars may feature short stories (Chekhov, Flannery O'Connor, among others), or classical paintings (Rembrandt, Vermeer, etc.). The Svet Peace Project would like to connect with Alumni Chapters around the country. If you or your chapter would be interested in hosting an in-person event for high school students from alumni families (and beyond), please e-mail info@svetpeace.org.

The **Communications Working Group** is dedicated to informing alumni about alumni news and activities, and to receiving alumni feedback on Association initiatives. We have long been active on Facebook and LinkedIn, and are excited to announce that we are now active on Instagram! Our Instagram handle is @sjcalumniassociation1827 (1827 represents the year the association was founded by Francis Scott Key). We post on all three platforms about many happenings, including the efforts of our working groups, events like croquet and homecoming, achievements of our fellow alumni, and more. If you have any feedback about our social media posts, news to share with us, or questions about the Association, please [let us know](#).

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.

A new **Eastern Michigan** chapter met for the first time on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at the Ann Arbor public library. We had a great discussion of Plato's *Ion*, and are looking forward to our next meeting on June 6, 2026. [Let us know](#) if you live in Michigan and would like to be connected with this new chapter.

Class Notes

Here is 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 tell us what you have been up to.

1961

Rev. Dr. R. Douglas Bendall, Ph.D. (BA, A) chose a career in ministry after graduating from St. John's and serving in the United States Army for three years. He was ordained a priest in January 1969 after attending the Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. After a year of parish ministry, he returned to graduate study at The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley California. He completed his Ph.D. in Process Philosophy in 1977. Dr. Bendall says "St. John's College grounded all my studies, ministries, the founding of The Newark School of Theology in Newark, NJ, and decades of inner city ministry in Newark. St. John's College is still the ground of the research I've been doing for the past ten years in Newark and now in the UK on the Idea of God in relation to Modern Cosmology." He considers his four years at St. John's College to be the

most important years of his life. "I cherish the time I spent at St. John's and venerate its tutors," Dr. Bendall says. His e-mail address is rdbendall@AOL.com.

1967

Larry and Hazel Scllueter, Ph.D. (BA, A) write from New Orleans, where they are working in the Hazel and the Delta Ramblers band. They are very happy after 61 years of marriage, and can be e-mailed at hazeldelt@yahoo.com.

1975

Gary (Gershon) Ekman (BA, A) is living in Santa Monica, California, where he is retired. Gary reports that he has four grandsons in San Diego, Oakland, and Colorado. You can reach Gary at ekmngrlz@gmail.com.

1977

Rick Plaut (BA, A) is living in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, where he reports being "mostly retired." Rick notes that "Carol Katrina (A'79) and I will be in Santa Fe for the Summer Classics July 4-11. Let us know if you'll be around too." You can e-mail Rick at rickplaut@gmail.com.

1978

Leah Daskalakis Casner (BA, A) writes from the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, where she is a retired columnist at a "local teeny tiny paper." Leah reports that "After thirty years rearing kids in New York City, I retired to the country - the 'so-called mountains' of the Poconos eight miles west of the Delaware river, where I was surprised to find Cynthia Nash A'77, who lived down the hall from me in Humphries, in occasional residence. Going on 45 years of marriage and finally own my own

house, a rolltop desk, and have the newspaper column I've wanted since I was 12, in our local independent newspaper." Leah can be e-mailed at ldcasner@gmail.com.

1979

Caroline (Mandy) Sharkey (BA, A) reports that she is retired and living in Baltimore.

1980

Jim Sorrentino (BA, A) writes from Silver Spring, Maryland, that "[a]t the end of 2025, I retired from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, where I worked for 39 years. I began as an attorney in HUD's Baltimore field office. In 1987, I became a policy analyst in HUD Headquarters. It was a reasonably engaging job, and it enabled me to pursue my passions." Jim has been a motorcycle rider since 1981; his current bike "is a 2018 Indian Springfield, which I purchased in Annapolis." Jim adds that "I continue to practice aikido, a Japanese martial discipline I've been studying since 1984." Jim's e-mail address is JimSorrentino@gmail.com.

1989

Wendy Louise McDonald Florence (BA, SF) is living in Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand. She writes: "contact me if you come to New Zealand!" Wendy can be reached at wendyflorence5@gmail.com, whatsapp, or her NZ cell: 64 27 577 9812.

Ron Kaplan (BA, SF) after St. John's went on to receive an MBA with an emphasis on Marketing. Ron writes from San Diego, where he is working at PenChecks, Inc., and recently down-sized, now that his children are grown.

Ron can be e-mailed at Kaplan.Ron@me.com.

2003

Sally F. Benson (BA, SF) is living in Santa Fe, where she works at the Penitentiary of New Mexico, the highest security-level men's facility in the state. After St. John's she went on to obtain an M.A. and then, in 2022, a PhD in Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English from University of Arizona. Sally's doctoral research was on the development of historical education programs at the Penitentiary of New Mexico between 1956-1980, where she currently teaches. Sally can be e-mailed at fisherbenson@gmail.com.

2014

Andrew Schulman (BA, A) is living in Florence, Massachusetts, where he works at St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's Parish School and High School. Andrew's post-St. John's education includes a Basic Latin Certificate, Latin & Greek Institute, CUNY Graduate Center, NY; and an MA in Theology, Dominican House of Studies. Andrew is married to Emma De Lisle (a group leader for the Catherine Project core curriculum), and has a new job teaching high school Latin, and moreover sings Gregorian chant for a Latin Mass parish in Easthampton. Andrew can be reached at amschulman8@gmail.com or 860-810-2544.

Anne Zolkower (MA, A) has retired in Shady Side, Maryland, and can be e-mailed at zolkowerfamily@gmail.com.

2018

Matthew Manotti (BA, A) is living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and working at the

Yellow Breeches Educational Center. Matthew writes that "I have been working . . . in democratic politics over the summers." His e-mail address is Mpmanotti@gmail.com.

2023

Francis Proctor (BA, A) reports from Florida, where he works at Imagine Schools Trinity. Francis was married this past November. He can be reached at francisramseyproctor@gmail.com or 410-919-6230.

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 alums are designated with an "H."

Judith F. Abrams, A65

Russ W. Anderson, A90

Janie B. Bingham, SF94

Sallie Bingham, SF95

Claiborne B. Booker, A84, former BVG member

John T. Broomhall, A59

Thomas E. Conroy, SF77

Carmel F. Davis, SF85

Lynn M. Farnsworth, SF69

Wendy L. Feintech, A83

Herbert "Herb" Furniss Kinsey, Jr., H90

Brian S. Lee, A13

David M. Longinotti, A97

Adrian C. Mayer, A43

Adrian E. Pols, A70

Mark J. Rochon, SF21

Julie C. Romero, H24, former staff

Christ Sagos, A59

Mary H. Sagos, A61

Patience G. Schenck, A59

Peter B. Schenck, A59

James W. Sharp, A46

Elliott T. Skinner, H05, former tutor

Richard D. Smith, A77

Susan A. Smolin, A65

Alexander B. Struminger, A85

Edith M. Timken-Wilkins, SF92

M. L. Trujillo, former Staff

Jonathan S. Tuck, H14, former tutor

Hans von Briesen, H03, former tutor

Peter J. Walsh, SF72

Peter Weiss, A49, former BVG member

Michael Williams, former staff

Mary L. Williams, SF80

Lyman P. Wood, A67

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.