



# Eidos

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
St. John's College Alumni Association

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*Croquet in Annapolis, September 26, 2026.*

In this issue, you will find:

- **News and Events:** What have we been doing, and what is coming up?
- **Working Groups:** A description of some of the Alumni Association's working groups and their activities.
- **Chapter News:** News about chapters.
- **Alumni Reminiscence:** Read about the early years of the Santa Fe campus.
- **Class Notes:** Find out what your fellow Johnnies have been up to.
- **In Memoriam:** Noting members of our community who we have recently lost.

## News and Events

**The Alumni Association Bicentennial Digital Archives** is collecting media of all kinds as part of our celebration of the Association's 200th birthday in 2027. We invite alumni and friends to contribute scans of materials related to the College, the Association, and alumni. These could range from old photos to College promotional pamphlets to past editions of the *Moon to King William's* Players playbills. The possibilities are endless! The submission form is [here](#).

**The Admissions Office** has asked us to share with all alumni the value of ratings and comments (as positive as possible!) on college review web sites. Perhaps the most-used site is Niche; go to Niche's "[Review your college](#)" page, and then search for and select "St. John's College - Annapolis" or "St. John's College - Santa Fe."

The Association honored recipients of **Volunteer Service Awards**, and recognized new **Honorary Alumni**, at this year's homecomings.

The **Volunteer Service Award** recipients, about whom you can [read more here](#), are:

- *Josephine Escalante* (A '92), has given years of service to the Alumni Association and the college, serving on the Association Board from 2016-2025, including as president.
- *Tyler Mazur* (A '20), who is continuing a career of community service, is a U.S. Army veteran and a prosecutor in the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office.
- *Jake Ifshin* (SF '08 and GIEC '09) works at Impact Investors, a sustainable investment firm, co-teaches a financial literacy course and mentoring students pursuing careers in finance and entrepreneurship.
- *Stafford Wood* (SFGI '25) has been a generous supporter of the Alumni Association and the

college, including service as a student representative to the Association Board.

New **Honorary Alumni** are:

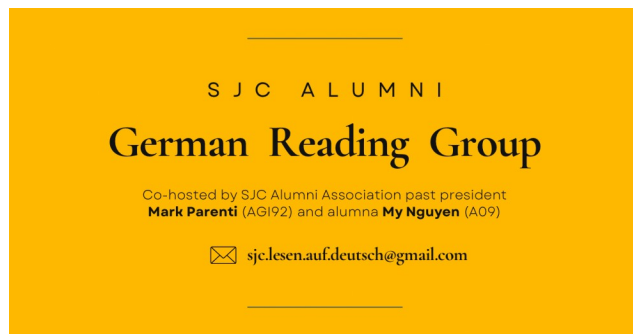
- *Pamela Kraus* served as a tutor in Annapolis for 40 years, from 1985 to her retirement in 2025. From 1994 to 2010, she served as the editor of the *St. John's Review* before serving as Dean from 2010 to 2016.
- *Chief Michael Boston* has served as a member of the Public Safety team in Annapolis for 34 years. After joining the Public Safety team in 1992, he steadily progressed through the ranks, from public safety officer to "L-T" to Captain to Chief.
- *Julie Reahard* served as a tutor in Santa Fe for 32 years, from 1993 to her retirement in 2025. During her tenure, she played on the improvised SJC ice hockey team, directed countless choruses, and learned and tutored Chinese in the early days of the Eastern Classics program.
- *Rick Salazar* has served as a member of the Buildings and Grounds staff on the Santa Fe campus for over 40 years, starting in 1985. Over his decades of service, Rick has left a profound impact on generations of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
- *Reyes Sandoval* has served as a member of the Buildings and Grounds staff on the Santa Fe campus for over 45 years, starting in 1980. Over his lengthy tenure, Reyes' dedication to the College has left a lasting physical impression on the campus.

**The St. John's Review** is back, after a five year hiatus. The Fall issue of Volume 63 is now available [online](#), with printable pieces on mathematics, on Homer, on the mysteries of conversation and lifelong learning, and on animal life. This issue, like the College herself, contains many ways of speaking and thinking. The editors are grateful for the support of the wider community. Thank you for your submissions



and suggestions and we urge you to continue to submit pieces. Please do alert us to instances of good thinking and writing of all kinds, as the Review continues, like Homer's Xanthus, to speak beyond our limits, with support from lovers of logos, and no matter the obstacles. You can contact The St. John's Review at [editor@stjohnsreview.org](mailto:editor@stjohnsreview.org).

**The St. John's Alumni German Reading Group** invites you to join them in reading Kant, Rilke, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche *auf Deutsch!*



This group aims to provide a low-pressure yet structured opportunity to practice our German reading comprehension and vocabulary. They will meet virtually on the fourth Sunday of each month from November 22, 2026, through April 25, 2027, from 10:00 AM ET-11:15 AM ET to discuss select texts and *vielleicht auf Deutsch reden*. The group is open to individuals who are at the advanced beginner to intermediate level of German. To learn more, please email [sjc.lesen.auf.deutsch@gmail.com](mailto:sjc.lesen.auf.deutsch@gmail.com). *Komm mit!*

## Working Groups

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 July 28, 2026. At this meeting, chapter leaders discussed reviving the practice of local chapters hosting off-campus career panel discussions and networking cocktail parties for recent alumni. In addition, we were delighted to learn that the Philadelphia chapter celebrated its one-year anniversary under the leadership of alums Tamblyn Mitchell (SF24) and Allyson Brink (A24). Our next virtual check-in will be on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET/6:00 PM MT.

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 (@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**, in conjunction with the **Awards Committee**, asks you to save the date for our upcoming annual Alumni Awards ceremony, which will be held in Santa Fe on February 28, 2027, again at The Scottish Rite Temple. Make your travel and hotel plans now!

The **Students and Recent Alumni (SARA)** working group has been active on a number of fronts:

- Participation in panel discussions on Admitted Students' day.
- Freshman orientation — the Association had speakers and presented gifts to incoming students.
- Winter and Spring Break food security — we continue to support food purchases for students on campus over breaks.

- Senior dinners — the Association is reviving the tradition of taking graduating seniors to dinner. Stay tuned!
- Graduation — Association officers welcomed graduating seniors to the Association during commencements in Santa Fe and Annapolis. Santa Fe seniors were given diploma tubes, and in Annapolis we gave bookmarks.

## Chapter News

The Association has [chapters](#) across the United States. If you are a chapter leader, please send us any news about your group. Or [let us know](#) if you would like to be connected with a chapter, or start a new one.

The **Annapolis, Maryland** 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. Upcoming seminars include *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (October 10, 2026 10:00-noon) and *Mule Boy* by Andrew Krivak (November 14, 2026 10:00-noon). Email [bethmartinsjc@gmail.com](mailto:bethmartinsjc@gmail.com) with questions, or to be added to our email list to receive monthly updates.

The **Ann Arbor, Michigan** chapter (leader Charlie Bieneman) read *James Joyce's The Dead* in July, and will read *Black Skin, White Masks* by Frantz Fanon in October. We meet at an Ann Arbor public library branch. To get on our mailing list, e-mail [charles.bieneman@gmail.com](mailto:charles.bieneman@gmail.com).

The **Asheville, North Carolina** chapter (leader Ryan W. Bell) meets on Sunday afternoons each month at member Joan Heller's home. The next chapter reading is Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality*, following Vico's *New Science*. We have been meeting monthly since 2016, and select its readings using ranked choice voting. To get in touch with us email [RyanWayneBell@gmail.com](mailto:RyanWayneBell@gmail.com) or via SJC Connect.

The **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** chapter (leaders Tamblyn Mitchell and Allyson Brink) meets monthly at the south Philadelphia library. In September we

met for a seminar on Julio Cortazar's *Axolotl*, and we are very excited to be welcoming recent alumni Grace Calk and Elias Christian to discuss the first publication from their new endeavor, Sun Thief Press: *Sappho a Translating* by Grace Calk. For more specific information on meetings or to connect please email us at [tamblyncmitchell@icloud.com](mailto:tamblyncmitchell@icloud.com) and/or [Allysonmbrink@gmail.com](mailto:Allysonmbrink@gmail.com).

The **Portland, Oregon** chapter (leader Andrew Ackerman) holds a virtual seminar monthly via Zoom (use [this link](#) to join) at 2:00 PM Pacific on the first Saturday of the month, and also hosts a quarterly in-person meetup. Or [find us on Facebook](#), and email [aeackman@gmail.com](mailto:aeackman@gmail.com) to be added to the group's mailing list. Upcoming readings are Thich Nhat Hanh's "Understanding Our Mind," followed by George Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia." We have been meeting monthly for over ten years, and generally at least half of our seminar attendees are from outside of the Portland area. (Since our seminars are Zoom based, anyone can join.)

## Alumni Reminiscence

*Vida Kazemi graduated from the Santa Fe campus in 1968, and was witness to the early years of the College in Santa Fe. She has graciously allowed us to share the following reminiscence. If you have memories or College history you would like to share, please [email us](#).*

I am a retired psychologist and a novice poet, living in Cambridge, Mass. I was a member of the first class in Santa Fe, graduating in 1968.

Here is an excerpt of my poem about that time:

*The curriculum  
foundations of Western civilization—  
doesn't interest me.  
All I know about the Classics  
or the Greeks  
is Alexander's burning of Persepolis.*

*Once again, I am the only foreign student.  
My classmates, a group of truth seekers  
not drawn to conventional colleges.*

*The Vietnam War rages on while I read  
The Decline and Fall of The Roman Empire,  
War and Peace, Kepler and Kant.*

*Only one television on campus;  
The war is hardly mentioned  
until a classmate is drafted.*

*The draft looms over our senior year,  
and Jewish students appear in yarmulkes,  
one war added to another.*

I had not been in Santa Fe since our fiftieth reunion when there was sparse attendance from our class. Fortunately, I had the occasion to go to Santa Fe in the beginning of March. The college is much larger than during my days, and few buildings were familiar to me. The music room where I had spent many hours was gone. I was able to see Caer Rider whom I had not seen since graduation. I was twenty at the time, and now I am seventy-eight. My husband and I had dinner with Allison Karslake, and her husband, Don. When Don encouraged me to attend reunions, I told him that this huge place had more unknown than known spaces for me. Seeing a few people individually was more appealing.

Close friends, Sam and Claudia Larcomb died. Ken Kronberg committed suicide. Antigone died of Alzheimer's a few years ago. Wendy Watson who had been my roommate during our Freshman year, before she dropped out, died a year or two ago. Alexandra Dane Dorner, one class behind me, like Wendy, dropped out twice. I had kept in contact with her, but she died when I was forty.

I could not contact Sansi Girard.

Other friends dropped out as well. John Schaefer, a cellist, among them. Of a class of 75 or 80, only 32 graduated; three were transfers from Annapolis.

The memories of "Here's to you Mrs. Robinson" emanating from loud speakers while we lay around the pond, epicycle races, Bruce Baldwin's composition of the *Meno* to music, the rebellion against students not being allowed to enter the dorms of the opposite sex, are vivid.

One Halloween, Kieran Manjarrez and I rode on horseback to our tutor, Mr. Darkey's house as Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Monte Sol, boys dormitories, the Administration building with a mural designed by Alexander Girard, Sansi's father, and a few other buildings were all that existed. There was a set curriculum, and our lives were completely structured by tutorials, labs, seminars, and meals in the dining room. Most of the faculty were people who had taught in Annapolis.

I befriended a student by the name of Bill who convinced me that I was not understanding the readings. I suggested to Mr. Kramer, the dean at the time, that I should take a leave, go to Iran, and reread the books. He talked me out of it by telling me the story of Pierre in *War and Peace* who found meaning to his life in an unexpected way.

The following year, both Bill and his girlfriend dropped out.

Why so many drop-outs? I think students who had come thinking they were finding an "alternative" college, because the status quo didn't appeal to them, realized how demanding it was, and were not prepared to be in tutorials at 9 AM. In those days, if you didn't show up in class, a tutor would call you. Others dropped out to pursue specialties, eg. music or medical school.

Some students were proud to tell us about how many sunrises they had seen.

We were not an obedient class. We often made fun of Mr. Weigel who would ask us to behave when

potential donors visited the college: “By that I mean seven figures.” He would say.

In retrospect, I think the college encouraged us to take a vow of poverty, and now needs donations. Many classmates became teachers. A few drop-outs became wealthy.

Although I was very glad to visit, my attachment to the college has become diluted like my memory.

## 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.

### 1964

**Julie Winslett (née Wiggenghorn)** (BA, A) writes from Dahlgonega, Georgia, where she is an online English Instructor for the University System of Georgia. She writes that “I recently published a novel entitled *Murder off the Grid*, a mystery set in Taos, New Mexico. My author name is J. V. Winslett. I also began a blog about aging in this society at this time in history. It’s called *Aging in the Digital Age* ([aginginthedigitalage.com](http://aginginthedigitalage.com)). I hope you will check it out and take part in the blog.” She adds that she would love to hear from anyone who was on the Annapolis campus from 1960-1962. Her email address is [jvwinslett@windstream.net](mailto:jvwinslett@windstream.net).

### 1966

**William N. McKeachie** (BA, A) is retired in Charleston, South Carolina, after 47 years in Ordained Anglican and Ecumenical Ministry in England, Canada, Europe, and the United States (including Baltimore). He is Dean Emeritus of (the Episcopal Diocese of) South Carolina. In 1964 he transferred to The University of the South (Sewanee) and in 1966 received a BA (Philosophy and English), and then, in 1970, an MDiv from Trinity College, Toronto STB. Since 1982 he has been married to harpist Elisabeth

Gray; they have four adult children, and two granddaughters, aged 7 and 5. William adds that he was an intern assistant to John Knego in setting up the first library for the Santa Fe campus in the summer of 1964, and is the author (1975) of the official Anglican Response to ‘*Dei verbum*’ (Vatican II) on Divine Revelation, co-author of The Baltimore Declaration (1991) in defense of Reformed Catholic orthodoxy, and was the longtime President of the Charleston (SC) Council of Christians and Jews. His email address is [wmckeachie@gmail.com](mailto:wmckeachie@gmail.com).

### 1968

**Vida Kazemi** (BA, SF), a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Boston College, is retired in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her e-mail address is [vida.kazemi@gmail.com](mailto:vida.kazemi@gmail.com).

### 1974

**Charles Brown** (BA, A) is working as a church musician in Vinalhaven, Maine. He writes that “[c]lassmates and friends are welcome to visit. The ferry leaves from Rockland Maine.” You can e-mail him at [cbrownjr51@gmail.com](mailto:cbrownjr51@gmail.com).

### 1977

**Ellen Hamilton O'Donnell** (BA, A) is living in Castro Valley, California. She reports that she restarted her art practice in 2021 after a 20-year pause. She was accepted into her first juried show in 2023, and in 2024 had her first solo show of drawings at the Castro Valley Library, followed by another solo show of drawings in 2025 at The Performing Arts Center in Castro Valley. The opening for that show would not have happened without the help of Rob Godfrey and Cathy Craig (A77). She is now part of a newly formed art collective called Hyphaeden. Ellen writes “I turned 70 in December 2025 and will be celebrating 31 years of marriage in November 2026 to my husband, Matt O'Donnell. We met because we were next door neighbors in Los Angeles where Matt was working as a touring lighting designer for jazz

artists and I was between jobs in entertainment communications and doing my artwork. We moved to the Bay Area in 2008 when Matt was hired to head up the Entertainment Design & Technology Program at Ohlone College in Fremont, CA.” Ellen and Matt “are proud parents to our daughter Fiona, who is 28 and runs her own positive reinforcement dog training business.” Ellen adds that “last year, I sought and found a gardenless gardener to take over our huge backyard. They have an amazing green thumb and have taken over the space. I provide seeds, bulbs, and soil and they do the rest. I am not a skilled gardener, so the results have been a revelation, and it's a daily joy to visit. I am looking forward to seeing my classmates at our 50th reunion in 2027 and catching up on all the news!” Her email address is [ellenodonnello3@gmail.com](mailto:ellenodonnello3@gmail.com).

## 1978

**Leah Daskalakis Casner** (BA, A) is retired in Equinlink, Pennsylvania. Leah has provided the following supplement to her note from our last issue: “I recently received an honorable mention from the national society of newspaper columnists for my monthly humor column in The River Reporter.” You can email Leah at [leah.casner@gmail.com](mailto:leah.casner@gmail.com).

## 1979

**Joan Haratani** (BA, SF) lives in Menlo Park, California, and is with the Morgan Lewis law firm. You can email her at [joanmharatani@gmail.com](mailto:joanmharatani@gmail.com).

## 1991

**J. Christoph Amberger** (MA, A) lives in Towson, Maryland, where, after earning a J.D. in 2015 from the University of Baltimore School of Law, he works for the Office of Inspector General for Baltimore City. Chris writes that he “is quite literally a Johnnie-come-lately to the practice of law, becoming a lawyer at age 51. After a 5-year stint at the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office in the Police Integrity Unit, he has

served as the Baltimore City Ethics Board’s Director since 2022. In this position, he has supported the City’s Inspector General’s high-profile litigation for full access to agency records against the Mayor and City Council in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City -- a case that may well have state-wide implications for inspectors general throughout Maryland. In his spare time, he reconstructed the early 17th-century dispersion of the Italian rapier school of Salvator Fabris throughout Germany and Denmark, debunking many long-held assumptions. (Also, he’ll be a grandfather come March 2027.)” You can e-mail Chris at [jcamberger@gmail.com](mailto:jcamberger@gmail.com).

## 1994

**Lori O'Dea** (BA, SF) lives in Chicago and Northern Minnesota. After St. John’s she received a masters in English literature and creative writing from City College of New York. She writes that “I recently made my fiction debut with Little Cavendish, a literary novella published by Rebel Satori Press,” and adds that “[s]everal scenes in Little Cavendish take place in Santa Fe and on campus.” Lori’s email is [loriodea@mac.com](mailto:loriodea@mac.com).

## 2006

**Susan Swier** (MA, A) lives in South Carolina. She says “One year ago I moved back to the US with my 4 dogs and 3 cats after 9 years in Malaysia. I serve on the board of Filbert’s Foundation for Furry Friends, a US501(c)3 nonprofit that helps Malaysian street dogs.” You can email Susan at [susanmswier@gmail.com](mailto:susanmswier@gmail.com).

## In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent passing of members of the St. John’s Community. Alums are listed by class, even if no degree was awarded. (Or “H” if honorary.) If you are aware of a classmate or friend who passed in the last year and has not been listed, please [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.

James R. Broschart (A62)

Lynne Corneli (SF74)

Matthew F. Gaffney (A91)

Samuel S. Kutler (A54, Tutor)

Julia M. Lohr (A58)

Jules Malarcher (GI92)

Richard H. Rogers (GI90)

Walter Schatzberg (A54)

Michael St. James (A77)

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