



Eidos

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

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *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 notes from some of our 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.

The **Alumni Awards Reception Committee**, which is a subgroup of the **Awards Committee**, is excited to announce that the annual Alumni Awards Reception will be held in Santa Fe for the first time. This year it will be held at the Scottish Rite Temple on March 1 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, as part of SF President J. Walter Sterling's Inauguration Weekend. The event will be free to all in the SJC community (alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends), with a suggested donation of \$45 for the college. [Click here](#) for more information. Please plan on joining us at this and other Inauguration Weekend events!

The **Alumni Giving Council** supports the College's major fundraising initiatives by encouraging alumni giving. It is very heartwarming to see alumni support the College in any way that is meaningful to them. We had a lot of fundraising success in 2025, and hope to do even better in 2026.



The **Career Services Working Group** works in partnership with the College's Office of Personal and Professional Development on both campuses to provide the support and resources students need as they explore different career pathways. In 2026, this working group will focus on connecting students with alumni through in-person networking events in both Santa Fe and Annapolis in the Spring of 2026. We will also be hosting a webinar with tips on networking and how students can leverage social media platforms like LinkedIn to build their network and connect with professionals in different industries. We will be sharing more details about upcoming events in the new year. If anyone is interested in participating in these events, please get in touch with Joseph Larson (JDLarson@wlrk.com) and Nani Detti (nanidetti@gmail.com).

The **Chapters Working Group** hosts virtual quarterly check-ins for chapter leaders. We meet on the last Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. During these one-hour check-ins, the Working Group offers support in three areas: Updates from the College, updates from the Alumni Association, and the opportunity for chapter leaders across the country (and increasingly the world) to connect and share best practices and tips with each other. Following the virtual check-in scheduled for January 27, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET/6:00 PM MT, our next virtual check-in will be on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

The Communications Working Group is dedicated to informing alumni about alumni news and activities, and to receiving alumni feedback on Association initiatives. The Communications WG manages the Association's social media posts and preparation of this newsletter. We also monitor the Association's e-mail inbox, so if you have any news to share with us, or questions about the Association, please drop us a line at sjcaa@sjc.edu.

Chapter News

The Alumni Association has chapters across the United States. If you would like to find or start a chapter, please e-mail us at sjcaa@sjc.edu. Here is what is going on in some of our chapters.

Annapolis, MD

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month on the SJC campus in Annapolis

Lead(s): Beth Martin (A '94)

Contact: bethmartinsjc@gmail.com

Recent readings

- In 2025 two of our seminars were held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of two great books: *The Great Gatsby* and *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Upcoming reading

- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Chapter facts

- We have a great mix of alumni from both the undergrad and GI programs as our regular members, and are lucky to be able to meet in the Conversation Room in Mellon Hall each month. We welcome anyone in the Annapolis area to join us!

Asheville, NC

Meetings: First Sunday of the month at member Joan Heller's home

Lead(s): Ryan W Bell (SFGI '06)

Contact: RyanWayneBell@gmail.com or SJC Connect

Recent reading

- Thomas Aquinas, *Ends of Man*

Upcoming reading

- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Chapter facts

- We've been meeting monthly since 2016, and we select our texts using ranked choice voting.

Northern California

Meetings: Held mostly in or around the Bay Area.

Lead(s): Nathan Stalnaker

Contact: nathan.stalnaker@gmail.com

Recent meeting

- Held in Sonoma; may become an annual tradition call the Sonoma Cup.

Upcoming meeting

- Meeting tentatively planned for Saturday, April 25 in Marin County.

Chapter facts

- Chapter reaches into Mendocino and Humboldt Counties.

Minneapolis, MN

Meetings: Typically our seminars are held in a private room we've reserved in the main library of the University of St. Thomas.

Lead(s): Nick Colten (A '05)

Contact: njcolten@gmail.com or SJC Connect

Recent reading

- Recently the chapter discussed two novels by Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady* and *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, and Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*.

Upcoming reading

- In January we will be meeting at the Minneapolis Institute of Art for a discussion of some selected prints (one of the chapter members works at MIA) and an essay by Max Weber. After that we will be spending three months on *The Iliad*.

Chapter facts

- With the exception of the beginning of the Covid pandemic the chapter has had regular monthly seminars for over thirty years.

New York, NY

Meetings: We meet monthly for seminars, usually on Tuesday nights, at the home of a John Hetland (A '65). Socializing at 6:30 PM, seminar from 7-9 PM, then more socializing. We hold three parties every year, at other locations: an annual meeting and party in May or June, a Recent Graduate Reception in September, and a Holiday Party in December.

Lead(s): Daniel Van Doren (A '81)

Contact: dvandoren@sjc.edu

Upcoming reading

- Our next five seminars are related to the Iliad (click on any of the titles to read the description).
 - 1/13/2026 Seminar - Iphigenia in Aulis (Euripides)
 - 2/10/2026 Seminar - Philoctetes (Sophocles)
 - 3/10/2026 Seminar - The Iliad (Homer) - Selections still to be determined
 - 4/14/2026 Seminar - Agamemnon (Aeschylus)
 - 5/12/2026 Seminar - The Iliad or The Poem of Force (Simone Weil)

Chapter facts

- We held our Holiday Party on December 9th. President Paalman was our guest, and she gave a talk about the state of the College. We had 75 people show up, our biggest turnout in memory.

Philadelphia, PA

Meetings: Monthly at the South Philadelphia Library.

Lead(s): Allyson Brink and Tamblyn Mitchell

Contact: To be added to our email list please reach out to allysonmbrink@gmail.com or tamblyncmitchell@icloud.com.

Recent reading

- In December we read Book 10 of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Upcoming reading

- In January we will be reading the "Theseus," "Romulus," and "The Comparison of Romulus with Theseus" sections from *Plutarch's Lives*.

Chapter facts

- We only missed one seminar during COVID and have been meeting monthly for over ten years.
- Since our seminars are Zoom based, anyone can join. Generally at least half of our seminar attendees are from outside of the Portland area.
- In December we read Book 10 of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Fun fact: we often grab drinks after our seminars.

Portland, OR

Meetings: We have a virtual seminar monthly via Zoom at 2:00 PM Pacific on the first Saturday of the month and host a quarterly in-person meetup.

Lead(s): Andrew Ackman (SF '98)

Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/portlandjohnnies>; there is also a mailing list; to be added, e-mail aeackman@gmail.com.

Upcoming reading

- Hannah Arendt's essay "Personal Responsibility Under Dictatorship."

Chapter facts

- We only missed one seminar during COVID and have been meeting monthly for over ten years.

- Since our seminars are Zoom based, anyone can join. Generally at least half of our seminar attendees are from outside of the Portland area.

Seattle/Puget Sound, WA

Meetings: First Monday of the month on University of Washington campus

Lead(s): Kathleen Bennett and Lance Kirmeyer

Contact: seattlesjcalum@gmail.com

Recent readings

- We're in the middle of a year focused on the Faust legend.

Upcoming reading

- In January and February we are reading Goethe's *Faust, Part II*.

Chapter facts

- Phil Chandler took over leadership of the chapter in 2006 and ran our group until 2023. He established our process of selecting annual seminar themes, where our seminar members go through a multi-round voting and sequence refinement process to select our readings for the next year. Recent annual themes have ranged from topics like "The Figure of Odysseus in World Literature" to "Literature, Art, and Music in the Decades Preceding World War One". We have a great group of regulars and newcomers (and return visitors) are always welcome!

Washington, DC (including Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs)

Meetings: Monthly+ (seminars and social events)

Lead(s): Richard Schmechel and George Dolan

Contact:

- Email: sjcalumnidc@gmail.com (send us an email to join our regular email list)

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SJCDMV>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sjc.dc.alumni/>

Recent readings

- Fall 2025 seminars: Shakespeare, *Sonnets*; Y. Mishima, *Sea of Fertility*; H. Ibsen, *The Wild Duck*; M. Heidegger, *A Question Concerning Technology*; U. Eco, *On Some Functions of Literature*.

Chapter facts

- An annual highlight is the Chapter's combination of seminars with theater viewings of area Shakespeare productions!



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 tell us what you have been up to, or e-mail us at sjcaa@sjc.edu.

1968

Tom Keens (BA, SF) Professor Emeritus in Pediatrics, Physiology and Neuroscience, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, is living in La Canada, California. From 1977-2023 Tom was Pediatric Pulmonologist at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and since 2008 has been the Chair of the California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council, 2008-present. Tom's career included providing clinical care, education, and research on respiratory disorders in infants, children, and adolescents; he is known most for Pediatric Pulmonary Physiology, SIDS, Children on home mechanical ventilation, and disorders of neurologic control of breathing. Tom has been married since 1972 to Susan E. (Keffala) Keens, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, and has two children, Jenny Franz (a fifth grade teacher for 21 years), and Peter Keens, a computer programmer. Tom can be e-mailed at tkeens@gmail.com.

Lester Strong (BA, SF) after St. Johns received a Masters Degree from the New School for Social Research in New York City. Now retired, Lester lives in New York City, and reports being "happily married for 11.5 years to my husband." For Johnnies wanting to get in touch, Lester can be found at 536 West 111 Street, #4, New York, NY 10025.

1970

John Dean (BA, A) lives in Paris, France,

where he holds posts at The Catholic University of Paris (l'Institut Catholique de Paris); and the Academy for Teacher Training and Personal Development (under the aegis of the German Ministry of Education) in Dillingen, Germany. After St. John's, he received two post-doctoral degrees in Cross-cultural Communications at Reed College, and taught for many years in summer programs at the Graduate School of Mass Communications, CU, Boulder, Colorado. John travels to Rome, Sicily & the European south whenever possible. He covered the last U.S. Presidential election Stateside for two online European journals (GIRES & Die Augsburger Zeitung), and recently wrote "The Culture-Technology Dynamic: Creator-Destroyer", for the Polish Journal for American Studies, vol. 17 (2023), pp. 9-26", <https://paas.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/dean>". And John has published a book, "Education In Crisis: Lessons From Today" (2024, GIRES Press). John reports the good fortune to be in touch with a great group of vintage SJC people with whom we do the occasional online seminar -- most recently on the scintillating & timely novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley. John reflects that "work is personal. It's crucial for keeping head and heart in order. I teach; love it when it works well. Why retire? Or as the great Satchel Page once said: 'I ain't ever had a job, I just always played baseball.' Family is fine. Health is fine. It all takes work, attention to detail, a dollop of good fortune, and constantly keeping Ithaca in sight."

1971

Michael Victoroff (BA, A) is living in Denver, Colorado, where of his "many jobs;" the "easiest to explain is Clinical Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine." Michael's post-St. John's experience and training includes "medical school, residency in family medicine and OB, fellowship in

bioethics, training in clinical informatics, forensic toxicology, forensic psychiatry, legal medicine, AI." His career included "30 years as a liability risk manager for a malpractice insurance company; analyzing ethics and liability for electronic information systems," as well as "private practice, academic practice, [serving] in the US Public Health Service," working as "a private investigator doing litigation support for legal toxicology," and building one of the early electronic health record systems." Michael adds that "[l]aw, ethics and policy around social media and artificial intelligence keep me busy lately." A competitive shooter and firearms instructor, Michael is active in firearms safety education and research. He has been married for 46 years to a nurse practitioner who works in a prison, and has two children and four grandchildren. Michael shares with his alums that "My daughter and son-in-law are schoolteachers and have dropped out of their awful jobs to home school their daughters. We spend a lot of time talking about education. My son (epidemiologist) was fired from the CDC this year. We talk about science and government." Michael shares the following contact information: 5195 E Weaver Dr, Centennial, CO 80121, michael@victoroff.net, 303-779-6084.

1981

James Brunner (BA, MA, A) is retired in Bangalore, India, from which he reports "I enjoyed the online one week seminar on the Bhagavad Gita this summer, and am very happy to be in contact with a current junior from Bangalore attending Santa Fe. Nice ways for me to keep in touch with St John's." James can be e-mailed at james@brostwain.com.

1987

Joyce Turner (BA, A) lives in Rock Hill, South

Carolina, where she is occupied with Joyce Turner Fine Arts and "caregiving for my dear mother, Elsa." After St. John's, Joyce received an MFA in English, Fiction Concentration, from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. She says "I miss SJC, deep learning, coffeeshop parties, waltz parties, and my freshman-year friends. Some of us are still in touch. How fun it was to walk to the docks together, peeking at the storefront goods like used books, window-crystals, and sweatshirts with sailboats on them, and then to leisurely eat baguettes from the French bakery! I now create fine art, and I write fiction, nonfiction and poetry. I am finishing a memoir about being a longhaul trucker from 1990-2000. And I bought an 18-foot sailboat. Wish me luck as I restore it. So much to learn." Joyce can be e-mailed at joyce_e_turner@hotmail.com.

1989

Valerie Pawlewicz (BA, A) reports: "After a bunch of years working in Washington, DC, Baltimore and Annapolis, husband Leo Pickens (A78) and I moved to the heart of the Adirondacks: Saranac Lake, NY. We bought a 100 year-old "cure cottage" (part of the TB history of the region) and lovingly restored it. Then I opened a boutique called "Bloom", which offers colorful and fresh-styled clothing for women in the North Country. So, for the past two years, I have assisted women to be warm and beautiful in one of the coldest places in the continental US. Leo--now retired a couple of years after having served the SJC community for over 30 years--is an avid and competitive pickleball player, a devoted local volunteer, as well as an excellent house-husband: cooking most of our dinners and having evening fires lit in the wood stove during long winter evenings." Valerie adds "we are happy," and she can be e-mailed at info@bloomadk.com.

1992

A. Elizabeth Parton (BA, A) has retired and is living in Ireland. She writes "Upon my youngest child's high school graduation this spring and subsequent acceptance into University College Cork, I decided to embark on a life change and move to Ireland myself. I can't deny the current political scene did not provide additional motivation. Moving overseas with dogs, including one very sensitive Great Dane, is not for the faint of heart. I can now be found at the southwest tip, among the fishing boats, with cows and sheep as my most visible neighbors. I am taking up the Irish language and trad violin lessons with enthusiasm. If any Johnnies find themselves near Skibbereen please do let me know!" Elizabeth can be e-mailed at Elizparton@yahoo.com.

1998

Whit Frazier (BA, A) a PhD. in American studies, is living in Stuttgart, Germany and working at the University of Stuttgart. Whit can be e-mailed at whit.frazier@gmail.com.

1999

Gabriella D'Italia (A, UG) is living in New Jersey. After St. John's, Gabrielle received an MFA in Intermedia from the University of Maine, Orono. Her artist's memoir, *Getting Dressed In The Dark: An Artist's Way Home* (Unsolicited Press) is now available. You can find Gabriella at www.gabrielladitalia.com.

2012

Laurence Willborn (MA, SF) is retired and living in Chicago, where his interests include Yang Style Tai Chi Ch'uan. Laurence shares that "Artwork (painting) [has been] completed and shipped to a fellow Johnnie." Laurence can

be e-mailed at daisyNoree09@gmail.com and Willbornl@yahoo.com.

2014

Thomas Patier (BA, SF) received an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in 2018, and is now living in New York City, where he works as Associate Editor at Artforum International Magazine. Thomas can be e-mailed at tompazier@gmail.com.

2018

Kevin Lam (BA, A) is living in Virginia and working as a student associate at the Finnegan law firm while going to law school in the evening program at American University Washington College of Law (graduation expected in May 2026). Kevin reports that "Richa Bhattarai (A18) and I welcomed our baby girl Meghna in February 2025!"

2025

Amanda Barnett (MA, SF) is living in Bastrop, Texas, where in June 2025 she was promoted to Headmaster at the Founders Classical Academy of Bastrop. Amanda provides the following contact information: 512-825-6131, acbarnett@sjc.edu, amandacbarnett@gmail.com.

Hassan Boulares (MA, SF) is living and working in Rockville, Maryland. Hassan reports an ongoing interest in preceptorials, and can be e-mailed at hassan@boulares.net.

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.