

St. John's College Alumni Association Board Annual Report

2024-25



A message from the St. John's College Alumni Association President

Dear St. John's Alumni Community,

As my tenure of (current) President comes to an end and I assume the role of the Past President, I am proud to present the second Annual Report of the St. John's College Alumni Association Board (AAB). This report is intended **to provide greater transparency around the AAB's work** (including our Strategic Plan found in the Addendum) **and provide opportunities for connection, engagement, and contribution**, including launching an important new initiative to help alleviate food insecurity for students over the winter and spring breaks.

My hope is that our work will inspire you to join us. We welcome alumni from all SJC programs—undergraduate, Graduate Institute Liberal Art and Eastern Classics programs—more recent graduates to those further out, national and international alumni, and our honorary alumni—and there are many opportunities to contribute your expertise and experience by volunteering on our Working Groups (short-term or longer). If you'd like to volunteer for any of our programs or simply find out more about how you can contribute, please reach out to us at sjcaa@sjc.edu.

Thank you, my fellow alumni, for your generosity and support, which directly helps to ensure the longevity of our alma mater.

St. John's Forever!

Katarina Wong A88
President, St. John's College Alumni Association

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A Brief History of the Alumni Association

- **1827:** Alumni Association founded (Francis Scott Key was one of the founders)
- **1934:** Alumni Association (AA) incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization supporting alumni and the College
- **1937:** Introduction of the New Program, which splits alumni into Old and New Program segments
- **1951:** SJC President Richard Weigle increases fundraising pressure on alumni
- **1967:** Founding of the Graduate Institute
- **1980:** SJC President Edward Delattre inaugurated. Expansion of Chapters network beyond the East Coast. Decision to limit fundraising efforts to alumni. By-Laws rewritten, SF alumni formally recognized as part of the AA
- **2010:** By-Laws updated
 - Board Restructure:
 - AAB president position divided into 3 consecutive 2-year positions: president-elect, president, and past-president
 - Decreased board size from 30+ members to current size (max 20)
 - Chapter leads no longer de facto board members
 - Incorporated separate fundraising group Philanthropia into the AA
 - Established the following Working Groups: Alumni Giving Council (formerly Philanthropia), Chapters, Career Services, Strategic Communications, Events, Student and Recent Alumni, & the Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF), which brought ~100 alumni together (alternating campus yearly) to learn about AA initiatives and foster volunteerism
 - Cessation of AA member dues; funding of association now provided by the College
- **2017:** ALF reimagined as a series of AA-organized events throughout the year at different locations & eventually online, in collaboration with SJC and alumni Chapters
- **2019:** A philanthropy-based, financial model adopted by the college to make SJC accessible to more students; closer partnership between SJC and the AA to support the new model
- **2027:** 200th Anniversary of the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association Now

Vision: A fully engaged alumni community that supports the College and contributes to the intellectual, professional, and personal development of its members.

Mission: 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.

Who is a member of the Alumni Association?

The association includes all SJC alumni as defined in the association's by-laws:

Completion of one semester as an undergrad, one segment of GI, or those designated as honorary alumni

The Alumni Association Board: What We Do

Duties

- **Maintain** the by-laws, policies, financial, and strategic plan
- **Lead** Working Groups and Committees to success
- **Communicate** with SJC staff, BVG, and alumni
- **Invest** in the future of SJC and encourage others to do so
- **Cultivate** alumni as advocates and volunteers
- **Collaborate** with the college & BVG on SJC-focused initiatives

Governing Documents

- **By-Laws**
- **Code of Operating Resolutions (COR)**
- **Articles of Incorporation**

Structure

- **5 officers:** president (who also sits as ex officio on the Board of Visitors & Governors during their term), president-elect, past-president, secretary and treasurer
- **12 directors-at-large** (non-officers)
- **1 college staff member** (ex officio)
- **4-6 student reps** split between both campuses
- **Up to 3 directors emeriti**

The Alumni Association Board: 2024-25



Katarina Wong A88
President



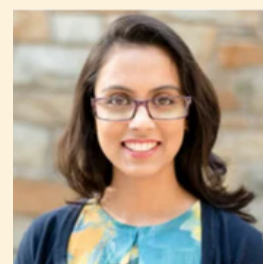
Brett Heavner A89
President-Elect



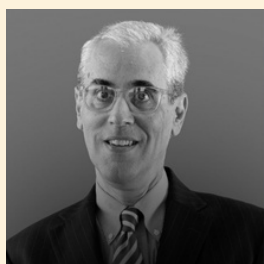
Josephine Escalante A92
Past President



Beth Martin A94
Secretary



Richa Bhattarai A18
Treasurer



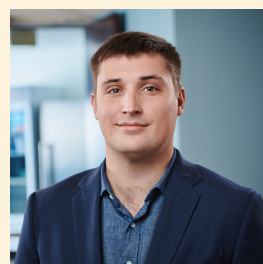
Charles Bieneman SF89
Director-At-Large



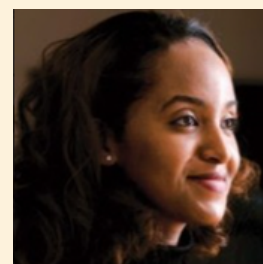
Su Bradford SF89
Director Emerita



Christopher Budd
Director-At-Large



Sam Collins A10
Director-At-Large



Nani Detti SF20
Director-At-Large



Jacob Greenstine A10
Director-At-Large



Allan Hoffman A49
Director Emeritus



Joseph Larson A90
Director-At-Large



Shannon Lynch Albritton
SF20, Director-At-Large



My Nguyen A09
Director-At-Large



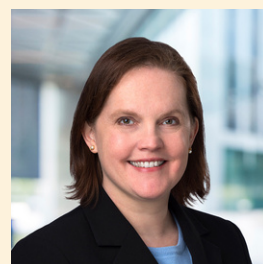
Hayden Pendergrass A14
Director-At-Large



Aishwarya Sharma A20
Director-At-Large



Amritpal Singh A15
Director-At-Large



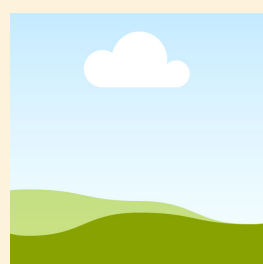
Hannah Stires Ard A92
Director-At-Large



Kira Howard, Sr Dir.
Alumni & Constituent
Engagement (Ex Officio)



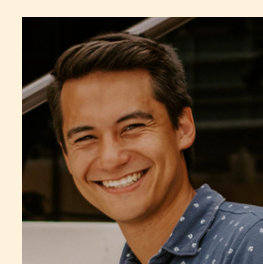
Delaney Costello A27
Student Representative



Marie Claire Fagan SF26
Student Representative



Helen Felbek A25
Student Representative



Daniel Levy AGI25
Student Representative



Stafford Wood SFGI25
Student Representative

Incoming Board: 2025-26



Brett Heavner A89
President-Elect



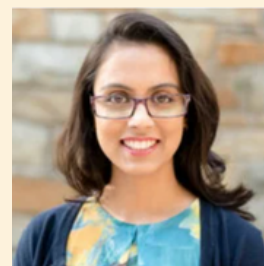
Hayden Pendergrass A14
President-Elect



Katarina Wong A88
President



Beth Martin A94
Secretary



Richa Bhattarai A18
Treasurer



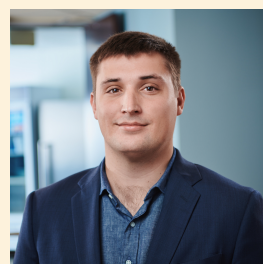
Michelle Baker
Director-At-Large



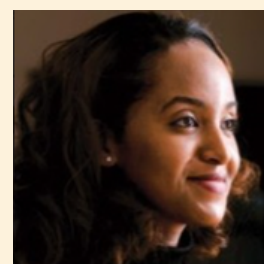
Charles Bieneman SF89
Director-At-Large



Su Bradford SF89
Director Emerita



Sam Collins A10
Director-At-Large



Nani Detti SF20
Director-At-Large



Jacob Greenstine A10
Director-At-Large



Joseph Larson A90
Director-At-Large



Will Loder (A13)
Director-At-Large



Shannon Lynch Albritton
SF20, Director-At-Large



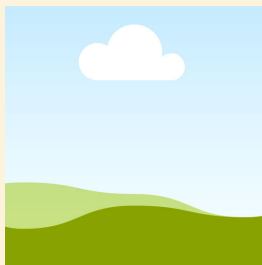
My Nguyen A09
Director-At-Large



Melissa Sherman
Director-At-Large



Hannah Stires Ard A92
Director-At-Large



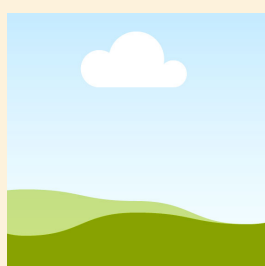
TBA
Interim Director-At-Large



Kira Howard, Sr Dir.
Alumni & Constituent
Engagement (Ex Officio)



Delaney Costello A27
Student Representative



Marie Claire Fagan SF26
Student Representative



Paul Bischoff AGI26
Student Representative



Stafford Wood SFGI27
Student Representative

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

The work of the Alumni Association Board is accomplished primarily through our Working Groups and Committees.

Working Groups work closely with college staff. Committees focus more on internal operations of the association and function with less coordination needed from college staff.

Working Groups

- Alumni Giving Council
- Career Services Working Group
- Chapters Working Group
- Communications Working Group
- Events Working Group
- Student & Recent Alumni Working Group

Committees

- Nominations Committee
- Awards Committee
- Governance Committee

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Alumni Giving Council:

Sam Collins and Hannah Stires Ard, co-leads

The Alumni Giving Council (AGC) **cultivates a culture of philanthropy among alumni by encouraging financial support for the Fund for St. John's College.**

In 2022, the college reduced tuition by 33% (from \$52K to \$35K/year), and since then, the SJC community has joined together to increase philanthropy to help underwrite tuition costs. Together, we have invested in the longevity of the Program by making a St. John's education more affordable and more accessible to a wider-range of students than ever before.

- Since 2022, tuition at St. John's has risen less than the rate of inflation and was almost 25 percent lower last year than a decade ago
- In 2023 the St. John's Endowment generated the equivalent of \$11,000 in annual support for every student.
- 2025 marks the fourth consecutive fiscal year in which gifts, grants, and the income from the St. John's Endowment played a greater role in sustaining the college than tuition.
- Starting this fall, SJC covers tuition for families earning \$75K/year or less

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Alumni Giving Council

In 2024-25, the AGC helped the college exceed goals on two major fundraising activities and supported additional fundraising opportunities to bolster the Annual Fund for St. John’s College.

**FY25: 398 first-time donors to the College,
149 (40%) from AGC-supported activities**

Giving Tuesday 2024

704 Gifts (goal was 500)
\$151,974 Total raised

St. John’s Day of Giving 2025

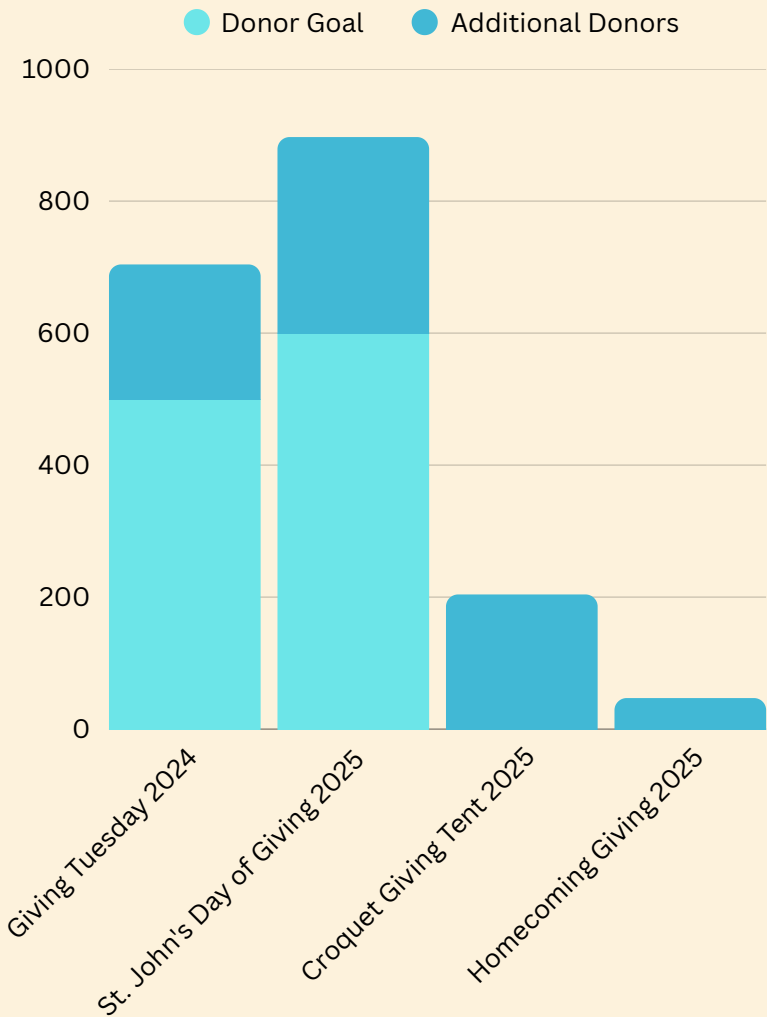
897 Gifts (goal was 600)
\$244,062 Total raised

Croquet Giving Tent 2025

204 Gifts
\$5,224 Total raised

Homecoming Giving 2025

240 Gifts (58% of attendees)
\$245,352 Total raised



Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Career Services Working Group

Nani Detti and Joseph Larson, co-leads

The Odyssey Program originated during the pandemic as the “Jobs for Johnnies” BVG initiative. It has evolved into a mentorship program that **provides opportunities for students to learn about potential careers and gain valuable interview and networking skills**. The Office of Career Services in Annapolis and the Office of Personal and Professional Development in Santa Fe identify advisees on their respective campuses, while the AAB’s Career Services Working Group recruits alumni advisors who met with these students over several months.

2024-25 Mentorship Model included sophomores, juniors, seniors, and GI students. Alumni advisors worked in teams, meeting with groups of students in 8 professional pathways:

- Business, Entrepreneurship & Leadership
- International Relations, Public Policy & Service
- Law & Government
- Philosophy, Academics & Education
- Psychology & The Mind
- Public Health & Medicine
- STEM, Data Science and Sustainability
- Writing, Arts & Media
- **Total number of students supported: 81**
- **Total number of alumni advisors: 35**

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Career Services Working Group

What's ahead:

Due to the high amount of coordination and limited staff bandwidth, the Career Services Working group is collaborating with the Office of Career Services in Annapolis and the Office of Personal and Professional Development in Santa Fe to create more targeted opportunities in the above pathways for students in 2025-26, including:

- Virtual Graduate School Panels, in Partnership with the Student and Recent Alumni Working Group (SARA)
- Virtual Networking Panel
- 1:1 Mentorship opportunities
- In-Person Networking Event in Both SF and AN

The Career Services Working Group is also developing an Alumni Advisor database, so if you're interested in being included, please reach out to us at sjcaa@sjc.edu.

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Chapters Working Group

Jacob Greenstine and My Nguyen, co-leads

Alumni from undergraduate and Graduate Institute programs have the opportunity to engage with each other through the alumni Chapter network. The Chapters Working Group helps support and connect Chapters across the U.S. and increasingly across the world.

- Contact info for 45 chapters, 19 known active, including the newly-launched Virtual GI Chapter, can be found on the SJC website: <https://www.sjc.edu/alumni/connect>
- Quarterly calls with Chapter leaders to share best practices
- Coming up:
 - Touchstones training for Chapter leads

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Communications Working Group

Charles Bieneman and Christopher Budd, co-leads; Madelyn Minor, Social Media Manager

This working group has **become the hub of how we hear directly from alumni, foster engagement among them, and share our work with the greater SJC community.**

To that end, we increased our communications capacity this past year with by:

- Sending three newsletters from the President of the AA after each AA board meeting
- Bringing on Madelyn Minor (A24), as Social Media Manager to increase our updates on the Alumni Association Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.
- Utilizing internal communications procedures for greater efficiency among the working groups (e-mail addresses, events calendar
- Monitoring AA email (sjcaa@sjc.edu) with 24-hour response for general alumni queries, chapters questions, nominations suggestions, etc.

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Events Working Group

Hayden Pendergrass and Aishwarya Sharma, co-leads;
Josephine Escalante, advisor

The Events Working Group **hosts events for alumni and the greater SJC community** throughout the year, often collaborating with other working groups, and **provides important support for college-wide events.**

- Croquet
- Homecoming
- Graduate Institute Convening Weekend

In addition, we launched our committee to plan a year-long celebration of the Alumni Association's 200th Anniversary.

Coming up:

- “L3: On Seminar” - second installment of Alumni Association's LifeLong Learning Program, examining the dynamics of seminar and good conversation
- The Fourth Annual Alumni Association Awards Celebration (2026 will be held in Santa Fe)

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Students and Recent Alumni Working Group

Shannon Lynch Albritton and Amritpal Singh co-leads

The Student & Recent Alumni Working Group (SARA) **provides support to undergraduate and graduate students** as they begin their time at St. John's and also as they transition to their post-college experience. Our student representatives play a vital part in informing SARA:

- Participated in Freshman Orientation on both campuses with “The Johnnie Way” presentation
- Launched student support over breaks:
 - Winter break: Provided rides to town, food, and a dinner in SF
 - Spring Break: Provided dinners for students on both campuses
 - After learning about the AAB's work, The William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation made a \$5K gift to the Santa Fe campus's Emergency Fund to further support students
- Provided diploma tubes to graduating students in May for Santa Fe students
- Welcomed graduates to the Alumni Association at Commencement ceremonies on both campuses

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Committees

From the Alumni Association By-Laws:

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES: SECTION 1. NOMINATING

COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President-Elect, who shall act as chair, the President, the Past President, the Director of Alumni Relations, and five appointed members of the Association in good standing, who may not be current members of the Board. The five appointed members of the Association shall be appointed annually by the President-Elect. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall include submitting nominations to the Board for officers of the Association, At-Large Directors, Alumni-elected BVG members, Directors Emeriti, and such other positions and honors as the Board shall direct. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for nomination or election to any position nominated by the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 2. OTHER COMMITTEES. Other committees and working or advisory groups as required from time to time to carry out the business of the Association may be established as provided by the Board.

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

The 2024-25 Nominating Committee

Brett Heavner, lead

- Led by President-Elect Brett Heavner, the 2024-25 Nominating Committee was: Charmaine DeSouza AGI23, Josephine Escalante A92, Leland Giovanelli A78, Lael Gold SF89, Kira Howard (Ex Officio), Obed Lira SF10, Katarina Wong A88, and Stella Zhu A16,
- Nominated Honorary membership in the Alumni Association to the following members of the SJC community:
 - Annapolis: **Nina Haigney, retired Tutor** and **David Townsend, Long serving Tutor**
 - Santa Fe: **Bruce Perry, retired Tutor** and **Bryan Valentine, former Treasurer**
- Received nominations and vetted this year's slate of incoming board members, **Will Loder** and **Melissa Sherman**.

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

The 2024-25 Awards Committee

Josephine Escalante, lead

- Led by Past President Josephine Escalante, the 20225-26 Award Committee members were: Kira Howard (Ex Officio), Chris Liu A22, Lisa Padilla SF92, Steve Steinbach AGI13, and Stef Takas A89.
- The committee nominated the following alumni for the Award of Merit. These alumni will be honored at the Alumni Association Awards Reception in Santa Fe in early 2026 (date TBA).
 - **Anne Ferro A80**
 - **Denise Fort SF72**
 - **Yonghwa Lee AGI01**
 - **Taeko Onishi SF92**
 - **Didi Schanche A80**
 - **Cary Stickney A75**

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

The 2024-25 Awards Committee

Volunteer Service Award

The SJC History Task Force receives the 2025 Volunteer Service Award for their outstanding and dedicated work, especially in producing a historical report focused on the men for whom buildings on the college's Annapolis campus are named and their association with the institution of slavery.

Adrian Trevisan A84 (Chair)

Salomon Cordova SF21*

Steve Crockett – tutor

Leslie Jump A84

Howard Fisher – tutor

Stephanie Harris A24*

Claudia Hauer – tutor

Ella Hutchinson A25*

Jordan Klein GI24 – staff

Emily Murphy A95 – historian and author

El'ad Nichols-Kaufman A25*

Zion Peart A21*

George Russell – tutor

Jennifer Sprague GI04, EC09 – staff

Sarah Stickney A04 – tutor

**served as a student*

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Governance Committee

Beth Martin, lead

- Led by Beth Martin (A94), the 2024-25 Governance Committee members were Lee Katherine Goldstein SF90; Sabina Sulat A92; Su Bradford SF89.
- The Committee ensures changes are aligned with the Alumni Association's Bylaws and Code of Operating Resolutions (COR)
- Major Initiatives this year: Review the By-Laws and propose the amendments. The two most important are to:
 - Remove the requirement of mailed elections notifications. *This was a time-consuming, wasteful, and ultimately unnecessary requirement that is filled by digital communications.*
 - Alignment of the Alumni Association By-Laws with The SJC Polity, specifically in reducing the number of alumni-elected BVG Trustees from three to two and changing their election cycle accordingly.

Addendum: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

Introduction

As is customary, the SJC Alumni Association Board creates and implements a Strategic Plan to guide its work on behalf of the Alumni Association. The following plan is informed by conversations the three Alumni Association Presidents and Project Manager conducted with AAB Working Groups and Directors Emeriti in May 2024, as well as feedback from past AA Presidents, the College-wide President, and the SJC Senior Director of Alumni & Constituent Engagement.

This current Strategic Plan is effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026, though as a living document, programs may be tweaked based on data and input from our stakeholders (i.e., AAB directors, our partners at St. John's College, the Alumni Association, students, and faculty).

The plan's main objective is to build on the successes of the previous strategic plan by **identifying five major, interconnected initiative areas**, deepening current programs and introducing new ones within them, and eliminating projects that were not effective or did not deliver an appropriate return on time and monetary investment.

Addendum: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

A more connected model: 5 Initiatives



OBJECTIVE: Support alumni at all stages of their post-SJC lives, including immediately upon graduation to ensure they become engaged members of the AA.

OBJECTIVE: Support students of the undergraduate and GI programs before they transition out of SJC and after graduation.

OBJECTIVE: Support the wider SJC community, including faculty and staff. Where appropriate, support closer ties between the college and their towns.

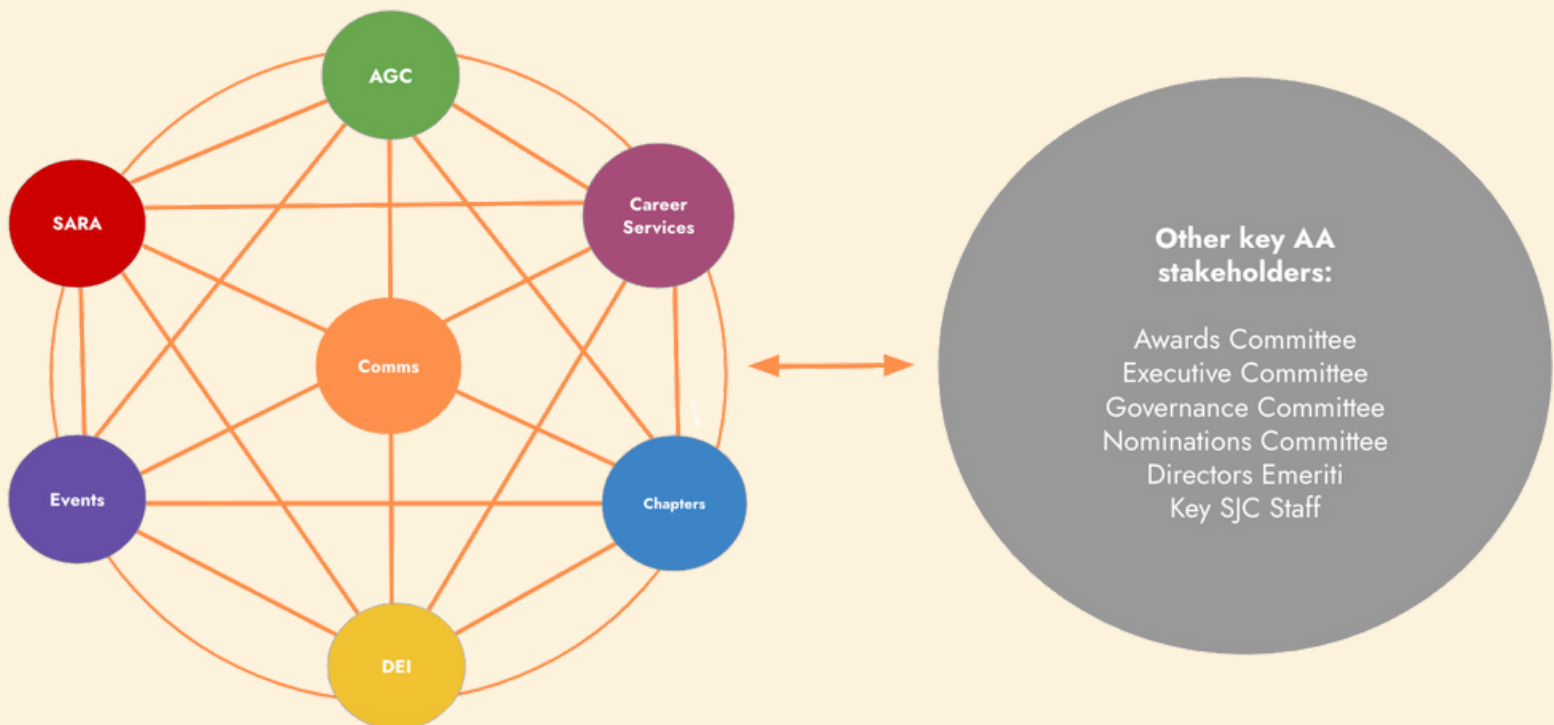
OBJECTIVE: Successful fundraising in support of the college's philanthropy-centered financial model.

OBJECTIVE: Improve AA governance, procedures, & systems for efficiency among the working groups, seamless member transition, & stronger comms with the AA.

Addendum: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

A more connected model: Working Groups

The Strategic Plan endeavors to create **a more integrated, less siloed model for the AAB Working Groups, with the Communications Working group taking a central role** in spreading the AAB's work further among SJC alumni in order to better share opportunities for engagement with each other, with the Alumni Association, and with the college.



Addendum: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

AT A GLANCE: Ongoing Programs by Initiative Area

1) Alumni Support

- All Alumni Meeting
- Alumni Merit Award & Annual Reception
- Chapter Leader Connection
- Diverse Communications Avenues, including email blasts, AAB email monitoring, social media
- Homecoming, including the In Memoriam ceremony and the Alumni Homecoming Breakfast/Brunch
- LifeLongLearning Series (L3)
- Regional “Johnnies in [Profession]” Panels
- Volunteer Service Awards

2) Student Support

- Graduating Senior support
- Graduation Day representation
- Odyssey Program
- Orientation
- Student Leadership (AAB Student Reps)
- Convocation representation

3) Community Support

- Community Conversations Series
- Croquet
- Earth Day
- Honorary Alumni Recognition
- Community Seminars

4) Fundraising Support

- Giving Tuesday
- St. John’s Day of Giving
- Croquet Giving Tent

5) Systems & Governance

- AAB mailbox monitoring
- Asana project management system
- Communications Content Submissions Form
- Governance Documents Update
- AA New Program Proposal System
- AAB Director on- & off-boarding
- President on- & off-boarding

Addendum: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

AT A GLANCE: **New Programs** by Initiative Area

1) Alumni Support

- Alumni Association 200th Anniversary
- Annual Meet & Greet Cross-Chapter Event
- Annual Report
- Chapter Leader Education
- New Chapter Leader Support
- Regular President Comms to Alumni Association

2) Student Support

- International student and alumni support
- Student Support over breaks

3) Fundraising Support

- Homecoming Giving Tent
- Training for AAB members on how to become fundraising advocates

5) Systems & Governance

- AAB Training: How to be fundraising advocates
- Communications Calendar
- Communications WG Capacity Building
- Events WG Capacity Building

Join us!

Please reach out to us with your questions, comments, or to learn more about how you can get involved with the work of the Alumni Association Board.

sjcaa@sjc.edu

St. John's Forever!

