

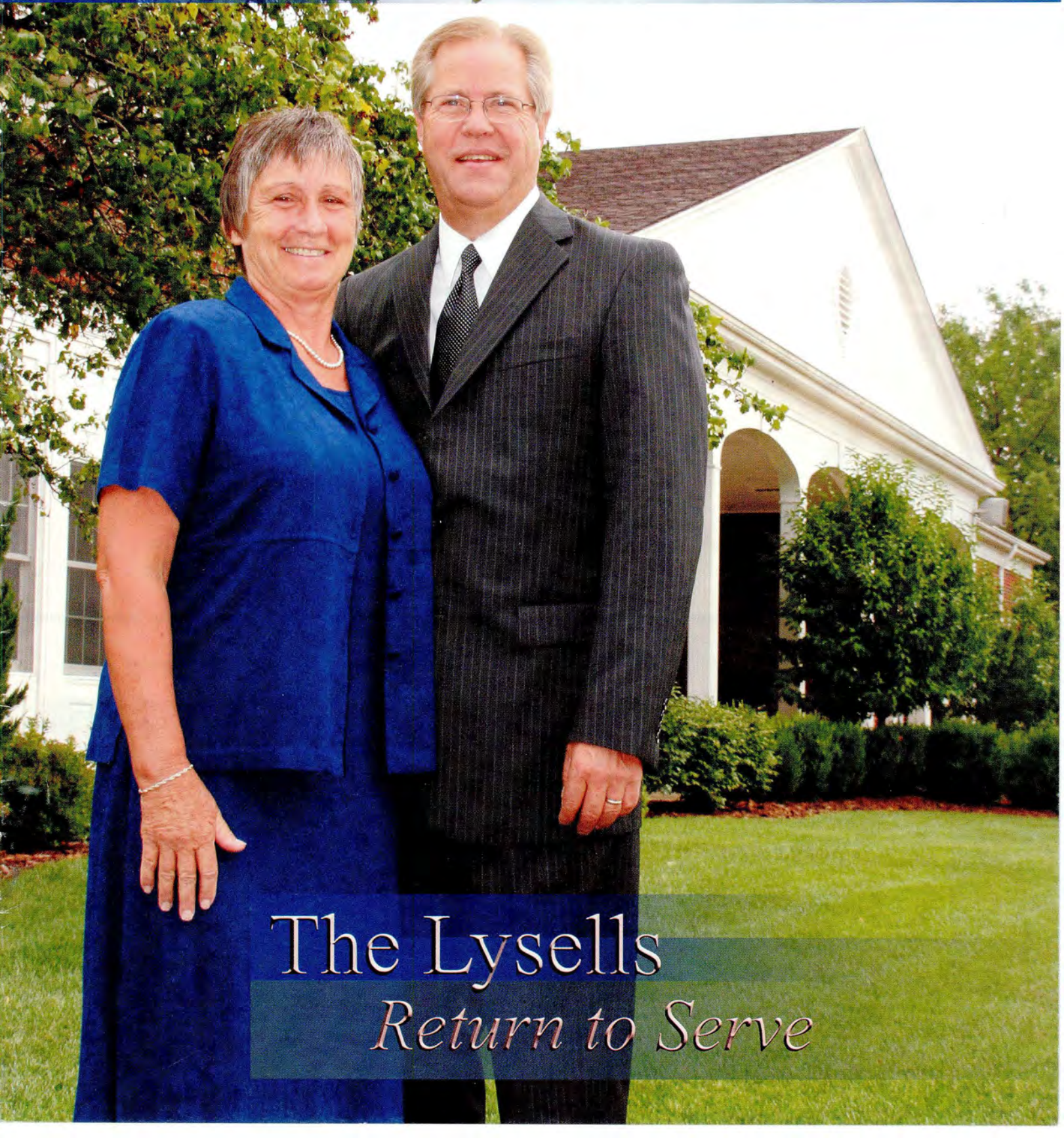
The

Fall 2008

Skirmisher

Volume LXXX No. 1

St. John's Military School



The Lysells
Return to Serve

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and friends of

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COVER PHOTO
BY JUSTIN SPERRY

D. Dale Browning treated the cadets and staff to a tailgate party to be remembered. Billy Fekas, a Salina chef, prepared the steaks for the event.



D. Dale Browning "eyes" the steaks as Billy Fekas grills the steaks to perfection.



"New Boy" Eric Solar, Battalion S5 Justin Pennington, and "New Boys" Eduardo Velasco, Patrick Harden and Justin Small enjoy the feast prepared for the tailgate party!

Preston Pitterman

Earns a Coin!

St. John's cadet, Preston Pitterman, attended a summer leadership Camp at Rock Springs, Kansas during July of 2008. Pitterman volunteered to attend the camp, traveled at his own expense from Colorado and represented St. John's with dignity and pride. The coed camp provides cadets the chance to learn leadership skills and work together to hone those skills. Each participant must assume a command role during each day of the week. After impressing the adults with his leadership potential, Pitterman was promoted to a platoon leader the very first day of the camp. Pitterman was again assigned a leadership role on the fourth day accomplishing an unheard of feat of twice in one week.

The Command Sergeant Major of Cadet Command visited the camp and upon hearing of cadet Pitterman's accomplishments, awarded him the coin of excellence. The coin is coveted by all the cadets with few ever earning one. Pitterman received this award because of he performed in an outstanding manner every day under extremely difficult conditions. In addition to receiving the coin, he also earned the Adventure Medal, the Leadership Medal, Summer Camp Ribbon and orienteering Ribbon. A job well done!



As a member of the 121st Corps of Cadets Pitterman serves Alpha Company a First Sergeant, is a member of the Mule-Skinner football team and is carrying a 3.0 grade point average. When asked about his experience, Pitterman explained "I felt honored to receive the coin and carry it in my pocket at all times."

In only his second year at St. John's, Pitterman has accomplished a great deal. He stands to join the many outstanding former cadets who found themselves at St. John's and used every opportunity to grow and find their hidden potential. Congratulations Cadet Pitterman!

Amon Tidmore

"I think Preston Pitterman is an extremely fine young man. He puts his whole heart into everything he does. He has no ego. He shows compassion to others. He never complains. He is always pleasant and respectful. He is happy and helpful. He will be a very fine and honorable man. I'm very proud that he is a member of St. John's Cadet Corps."

D. Dale Browning, Headmaster

Jimmy Burton and Lani Smith, members of the maintenance staff, assisted with the preparation and serving of the meal.



"New Boy" Sergio Cois receives his steak from Jimmie Burton.



"New Boys" Hao Huang, Eduardo Velasco, Cody Tupper, Patrick Harden and Jesse Chisholm go through the buffet line while Eric Soler makes his way to the tables.



The "Old Boy" Association honors Terry Plumberg, Alumni Coordinator

Just a few short years ago, the "Old Boy Association" OBA, was formed as an SJMS Alumni Association. Many felt it important to bring more "Old Boys" back to St. John's and keep "Old Boys" involved after they graduated and left the SJMS to embark on their own personal life journeys. Someone made the statement to me during the beginning of this effort; "after all, what's a school without it's Alumni?" I think they were right! As "Old Boys," we don't forget what it means to be a part of such a unique school experience. SJMS has changed so many lives. I'm sure other schools have good track records, but SJMS builds a solid foundation for every boy enrolled and as each boy graduates, he leaves SJMS a man, with St. John's core values firmly implanted to help guide him through life.

Terry Plumberg accepted the challenge of becoming the SJMS Alumni Coordinator. Plumberg's first major task was to find "Old Boys" who were willing to help form an Alumni Association. Plumberg met that challenge with vigor and a blazing dedication. That dedication and her love for St. John's and it's "Old Boys" is her

driving force and she has shown no signs of slowing down. Plumberg's enthusiasm keeps the Board motivated to move ahead with projects aimed at Reaching, Recruiting and Representing SJMS "Old Boys." There are a great many wonderful people at St. John's and there have always been during the entire history of the school. Many of these have been recognized in one way or another and all were loved. Plumberg's role with the OBA has been such an inspiration to it's Board Members, that just last year, we unanimously voted her in as a voting member of the board. This year, we unanimously voted to present Terry with the distinction of "Honorary Old Boy" during the Fall Parent's Week-End. Three members of the OBA; Dick Retrum - '66, Bill Meidell - '54 and Bill Salmon - '53 invited Terry to face the crowd, made their own comments regarding the OBA, it's mission and Terry, then presented Terry with the Shields, a plaque and flowers. "Old Boy," D. Dale Browning - '55 - SJMS Headmaster, who graciously approved honoring Terry, added to our presentation and, in my unavoidable absence, read the words I had planned to



read to Terry during the presentation.

Terry may well be the first recipient of Honorary

"Old Boy" Status and definitely, the first woman to wear the Shields as an Honorary "Old Boy," the shields we hold so dear. She bears a self inflicted duty to protect and to serve SJMS, it's Cadets and "Old Boys" and, as we've heard on numerous occasions, "nobody better mess with Terry's "Old Boys". Terry is tenacious in her goals to bring recognition to deserving "Old Boys," Staff and Friends of St. John's, to bring programs to life helping to further the OBA Mission, Vision and Purpose and she exemplifies the OBA Pledge.

SJMS FOREVER! Lou Barnett, 1973
OBA Board Member

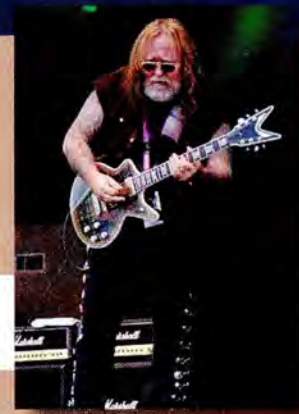


Editor's Note: Several men and women such as Hazel Fonck have also been named Honorary "Old Boys" and were authorized to wear the "Old Boy" Shields.



Jeff Broome

**"It's a long road that carries us home
You can push aside all your fears
And wipe away all your tears
It's a long road to walk on your own
But step by step the journey will take you home."
(Long Road, written by Bobby Barth, "Old Boy," Class of 1966)**



Bobby Barth

Instilled by SJMS are some of the most important life developing values a young man has the opportunity to obtain. Many "Old Boys" are aware of this as cadets, while others realize this later in their adult life.

It's a long road as each "Old Boy" knows the feelings of facing their fears, but courageously taking each step forward. The long road from "New Boy" to becoming "Old Boy;" the long road to graduation and the long road of succeeding in life can lead all of us to march to a beat of a different drum.

Bobby Barth, attended St. John's from 1964 - 1966 and Jeff

Broome, from 1967 -1971 developed a love of music early in their life while at SJMS. Barth would sneak into where the Mule-Skinner Band practiced and watch with the hopes of someday joining in. Broome played harmonica his senior year and once played taps on the P.A. Neither realizing at the time that music would be a central part of their lives.

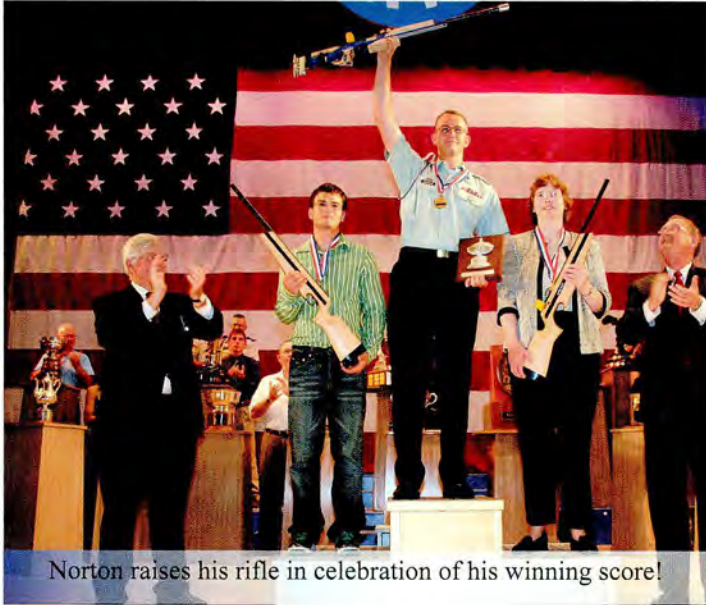
Barth is singer, lead guitarist, composer and founding member of MCA/Atlantic recording artists Axe. His southern rock band, Blackfoot, has toured the world with the likes of The Who, Deep Purple, AC/DC, ZZ Top and Ted Nugent. Blackfoot brought Def

story cont. on page 20 see Broome and Barth

“Old Boy” George Norton

Wins Rifle Competition

George Norton, class of 2002, earned the title of National Champion at the Small Bore Rifle Championships at



Norton raises his rifle in celebration of his winning score!

Camp Perry, Ohio during the week of July 17-24, 2008. He competed in both the three position and prone position competitions. In three position, he shot a total score of 2374 with 151 center shots (a center shot is a perfect ten) to beat 316 other competitors. His name and score is now engraved on the Frank Parsons Memorial Trophy along with every National Champion's name since 1959 when it was first introduced. Norton received the Frank Parson's Trophy Plaque, a gold National Champion medallion, a \$500.00 Visa gift card and a Walther KK Match rifle valued at over \$3,500.00.

While a cadet at St. John's, Norton served as a member of the Battalion Staff, was an integral part of the yearbook and photography staff and a member of the St. John's Rifle Team. Norton served as Presidential liaison to Capt. Skip and Mrs. Mc Alexander during his senior year. In all of these areas Norton was exemplary in both his demeanor and attention to detail. Members of the St. John's staff collectively remember Norton as being "extremely dedicated and focused."

Norton joined the United States Army in 2005 after completing two

years of college study at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. His first assignment following his graduation from

boot camp was to be with the infantry as a member of the airborne unit. During his time in training camp, his drill sergeant noticed that he was a highly skilled shooter. The drill sergeant made some calls and arranged for Norton to try out for the Army Marksmanship Unit. Following two months of training, Norton qualified as one of the top 15 shooters in the

nation. The coach of the marksmanship team offered Norton a spot on the team at the conclusion of his two months of training. Norton has been shooting for the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning since May of 2005. The Marksmanship Unit trains members of the Army National Guard and active army reservists. There are seven different teams in the marksmanship unit; shotgun, active shooting, international pistol team, service pistol, service rifle and the

international rifle unit that Norton shoots with and trains for. The unit also contains a custom firearms shop which keeps all the equipment in good working order.

Norton re-enlisted in November of 2007 for another six years and intends to make the Army his career. Following the completion of his current leadership school Norton will be going before a promotion board. Norton states "if I continue to shoot well and continue to be a good soldier I will be able to remain in the marksmanship unit until I retire."

Norton shoots 400-500 rounds a day using an international .22 long rifle. His shooting uniform consists of a custom fit jacket, boots, gloves and visor.

Hearing Norton describe his life as an Army shooter, it becomes clear that he remains dedicated and focused and the marksmanship unit at Fort Benning is lucky to count Norton as one of its finest!

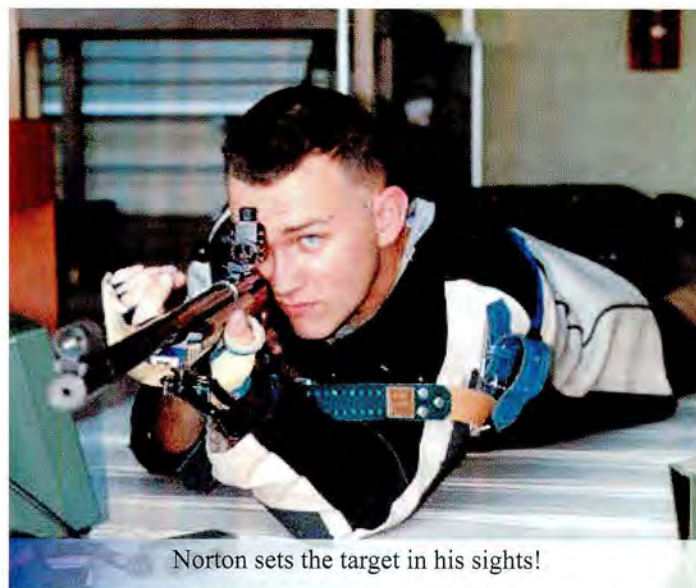
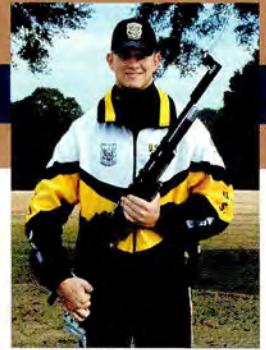
Norton would like to return to St. John's in March of 2009 to offer a shooting clinic for the 2008-2009 SJMS Rifle Team. Norton's tremendous shooting experience together with his love of St. John's should serve to make his return to campus memorable for both the school and the members of the rifle

team. Congratulations George!

Tony Blair /Wendy Stein

"George Norton is a young man who takes any adversity, and with God's help, finds the positive in it."

*MSG Paula Lambert,
Administrative
Assistant to the
Commandant*



Norton sets the target in his sights!

The Lysell's Return *TO SERVE!*

Welcoming Larry Lysell back to the St. John's campus was an easy job for all of us that have made St. John's our home. Lysell's first tenure at St. John's laid the foundation for his return. Lysell spent four years as a teacher, seven years as admissions officer and the three years as administrative assistant to legendary President Emeritus, Keith G. Duckers.

When asked why he left St. John's, Lysell responded that he "wanted to do more concentrated work in school administration." Lysell's career path took him throughout the state of Kansas serving in a variety of administrative positions as Superintendent of Schools in Wheatland, Quinter, Jefferson County North and Wallace County.

Larry and his wife Kathy consider coming back to St. John's to be a "full circle" move. Kathy is from Salina, her parents live on their farmstead just south of town, and she has a brother living in Salina. The Lysells have one daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in Salina and another daughter and son-in-law and three more grandchildren living

just an hour away from Salina in Lyons, Kansas.

Lysell, under contract as a superintendent, when the opening occurred for the president position at St. John's in May of 2006, was hired to



Eryn, Mija, and Shawn Stockman, Mauri and Paul Courter, Brynne Stockman, Larry, Lauren Courter, Kathy, Taylor Stockman and Kieran Courter.

join the staff when his then current contract was satisfied. Chairman of the board, Andy England together with the St. John's administrative staff worked together to run the day to day operations of the school. "Old Boy" and trustee D. Dale Browning stepped in as president from November of 2007 until August of 2008. Lysell states that he was "so thankful that Browning was able to take valuable time from his busy schedule to give to the school in such a powerful, human way. Few others could have made the impact on SJMS as did Mr. Browning."

Lysell's vision for St. John's is simple but focused. He believes "a consistent number of Cadets needs to be maintained to meet the challenging and ever changing needs of a private school." He intends to work diligently to build

both the endowment and scholarship money available for deserving students to attend St. John's.

The Lysells, happy to be living back on campus, appreciate the work the Board has done on the President's home. They often think of how much they enjoyed living on campus the first two years Lysell worked at St. John's. "The Cadets would always give Kathy an "Eyes Right!" if she was standing on the porch of the duplex where we lived (right next door to where we are now) as they marched the teardrop on the way to supper in Nichols Hall!"

Mrs. Lysell, 'Kathy,' has already entrenched herself in the lives of the Cadets. She and the Commandant's wife, Janice Stelljes organized a school dance that has been proclaimed the best event ever. Her energy and contagious smile will mean many happy times for those fortunate enough to work with her on school projects. She can be seen eating in the mess hall, gardening around the president's house and chasing her energetic grandchildren around the SJMS Tear Drop.

Lysell was officially instituted as President of St. John's on October 4, 2008 at the Christ Episcopal Cathedral, Salina. A reception followed at The Salina Country Club, bringing together the Lysell extended family, family friends, members of the St. John's Board of Trustees, current and former St. John's staff members and members of the Salina community. The Corps of Cadets joined in the inauguration ceremony as spectators, ushers and as part of the chapel party.

Both Kathy and President Lysell eagerly join the Corps of Cadets in daily activities, support the sports teams, sponsor cadet birthday parties, attend morning chapel, walk the campus visiting with cadets and have the best interest of the corps at the forefront of their minds.

It is clear that St. John's is in good hands! President Lysell and First Lady Kathy Lysell are committed to the future of St. John's. They have the support of the staff and faculty and their many friends in the Salina area.



"First Family" - daughter Mija Stockman, President Lysell, Kathy Lysell and daughter Mauri Courter.



Larry and Kathy Lysell are pictured here on the back porch of the President's residence on the St. John's campus. The Lysells host members of the staff and faculty for informal gatherings on their back porch, reveling in the beautiful fall Kansas evenings visiting about the cadets and the state of the school.

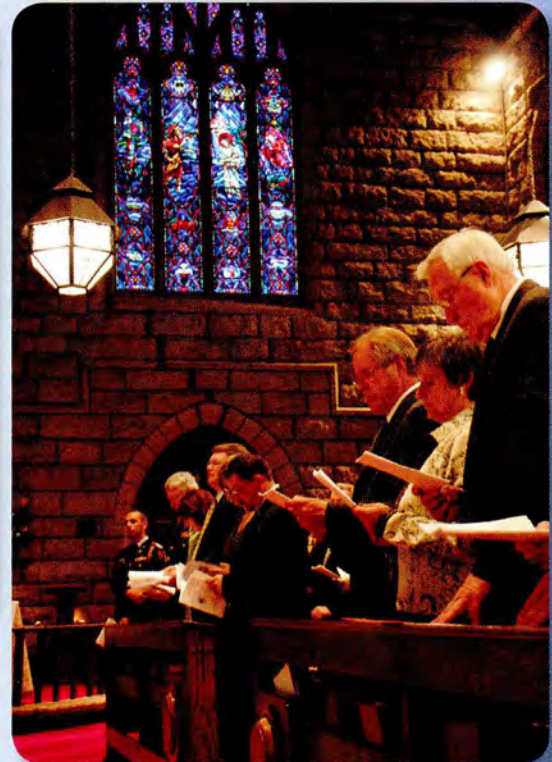


INAUGURATION

Lysell was inaugurated as President of St. John's Military School in a service of solemn even song at the Christ Episcopal Cathedral in Salina, Kansas on October 4, 2008. The Corps of Cadets, members of the Salina community and both former and present members of the SJMS staff and faculty were in attendance.



The Rev'd James R. Cox, St. John's Interim Chaplain and The Rt. Rev James M. Adams, Jr. officiated.



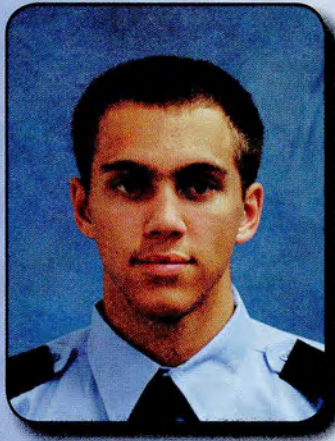
D.Dale Browning stands with the Lysells as Academic Dean Devon Walter and Chairman of the Board Andy England follow along in the program.



Cadet Luis Garcia offered congratulations to the Lysells after the ceremony.

Blue Beret

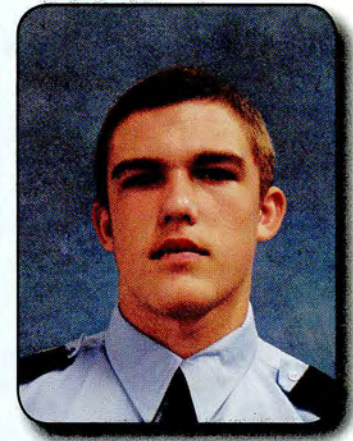
The Blue Beret is awarded to the top three grade point earners each grading period. Cadets earning Blue Beret honors wear the coveted Blue Beret and receive a movie pass. Cadets earning Blue Beret status are members of the Dean's Honor Roll.



Timothy Crawford



Enoch Lau



Gregory Saville

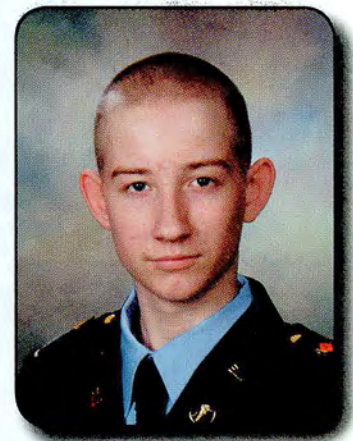
Dean's Honor Roll



Gary Stone



Jason Nguyen



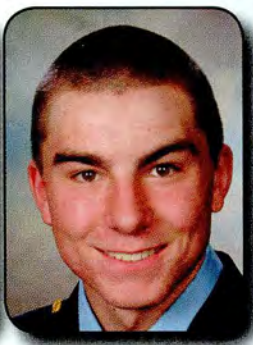
Ian Brands

“None of us will ever accomplish anything excellent or commanding except when he listens to this whisper which is heard by him alone.”

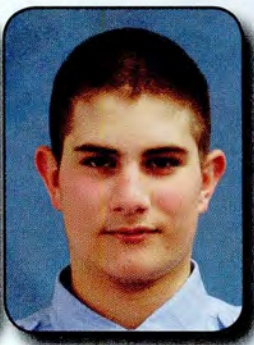
Ralph Waldo Emerson



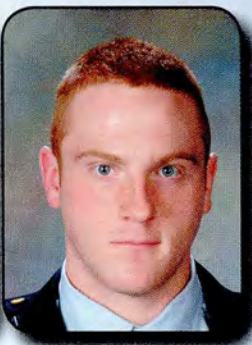
Ryan Quintana



Tyler Wunderlich



Sergio Cois



William Mauck



David M. Sorenson



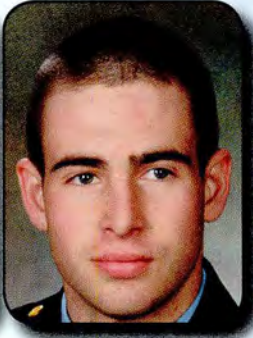
Joseph Casey



Guy Chadwick



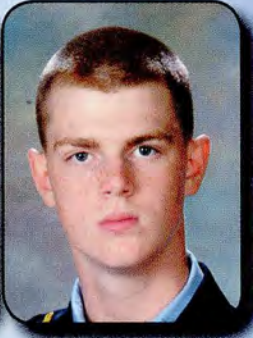
Ryan David



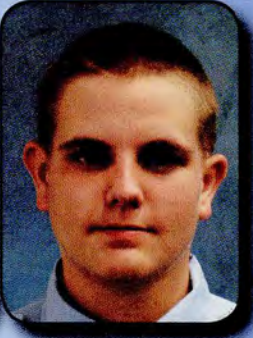
Spencer Gunn



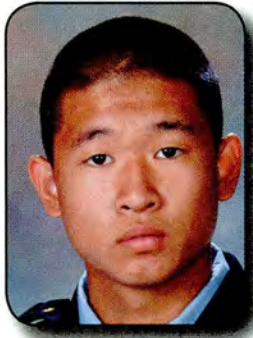
Patrick Harden



Joshua Batchelor



Jonathan Gray



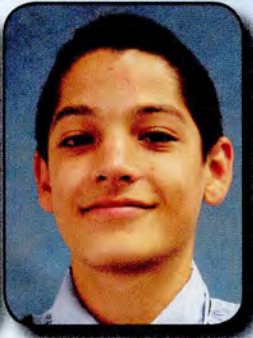
Kang Woo Lee



Richard Martin



Eduardo Velasco-Santoscoy



Eric Aquilar-Soler



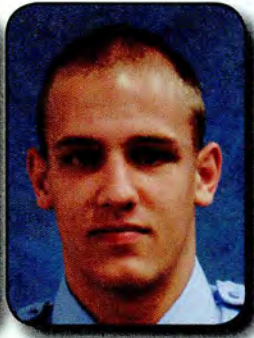
Brandon Santana



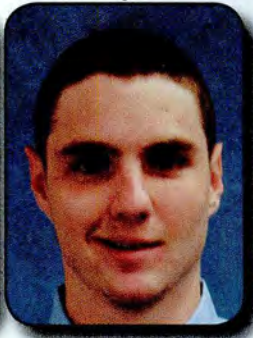
Ian Sitarik



Elliot Wood



Mark Dubaniewicz



Nicholas Foster



Ian Vaughn



Jesse Chisholm



Gavin Laupa

Honor Roll

Congratulations to all!

The first quarter Blue Beret, Dean's Honor Roll and Honor Roll cadets are listed in order by GPA!



Tyler Schneider 9

Music Music Music

"The hills are (campus is) alive with the sound of music," a familiar phrase from the famous musical **The Sound of Music** can be used to express what is occurring on the St. John's campus this school year. Mrs. Wendy Stein, SJMS music instructor for the past 25 years

Joining the band as members of the inaugural class of the Browning Drum and Bugle Corps are Patrick Harden, Greg Saville, Eduardo Velasco Justin Ferraro and Ben Stump. Returning members of the band Gary Stone, Joshua Batchelor and James Pena round out what promises to be the best sounding group of horn players in recent memory.

Patrick Harden brings a measure of leadership with his highly developed musical skills. Harden is section leader of the bugles, offering sage advice for both playing techniques and carrying positions. Harden and Saville are currently preparing



to audition for the North Central District honor band.

New percussionists Mitchell Lamb, Tim Crawford, Luis Garcia, Sam Gile and Collin Cooper join veteran percussionists Zak Anderson, Kyle Taylor, Ricky Gesino, Luke Saunders and Justin Pennington.

Violinist, Jesse Chisholm, brings new meaning to the phrase "musically gifted." Chisholm combines amazing technical skills with an almost spiritual artistic expression when he performs on the violin. Watch him play and you sense that he is lost in his art and finds great enjoyment in both practicing and performing a wide variety of musical literature. Chisholm joined the first violin section of the Salina Symphony for a concert on October 12, 2008. His parents, Joan and

Patrick Harden is shown in silhouette holding one of the new tenor bugles.

is experiencing her best group of musicians since the beginning of her career at St. John's. Guitarists, violinists, pianists, percussionists, instrumentalists, buglers and vocalists have arrived from all parts of the globe to join the 121st Corps of Cadets.

Jim Chisholm were in Salina attending St. John's Parent's Weekend and were able to attend the concert.

Violinist, Enoch Lau, adds his own musical gifts to the beautiful sounds emanating from the round room in the Vanier Academic Center. Lau spends 7th hour each day further developing his already masterful musical skills. Lau will be auditioning for District Orchestra and Chisholm is studying privately with Professor of Violin, Matthew Means at Fort Hays University in Hays, Kansas.

Timothy Crawford and Hao Huang can be seen fervently running their fingers across the piano keyboard each day during 7th hour music class. Both young men possess a deep love of music and thoroughly enjoy perfecting their craft. Both



Jesse Chisholm and Joseph Casey have an impromptu jam session.

pianists will undoubtedly share their musical gifts with the St. John's family at some point during the school year.

Joseph Casey, Jonathon Frank and Gary Stone spend free time in the barracks rockin' out on guitar. Mrs. Stein plans to pair these guitar players with drummer extraordinaire, Zak Anderson to put together an rock Mule-Skinner rock band.

Campus The "JVH" REC CENTER

MINDS AND BODIES AT PLAY!

Sometime during the transition between Col. Jack Fox and President Larry Lysell a paradigm shift occurred. The St. John's campus became much more 'kid' friendly. Through the efforts of D. Dale Browning and Tim Soule, the basement of Jack Vanier Hall commonly referred to as 'JVH' has been transformed into a place the cadets choose to utilize to the fullest. The pass bus has fewer riders and the cadets have a comfortable place to read, watch movies, relax, exercise, enjoy snacks and play video games.

The state of the art gym/weight room houses both free weights and nautilus machines providing the cadets with a place to build strength and burn off energy. The cadets received training on each machine and advice on the proper techniques for free weight training. The Corps of Cadets have access to the weight room during their free time and anytime the JVH recreation center is open.

Another area of cadet life was resurrected when the first dance of the 2008 school year took place on September 27. Kathy Lysell, first lady of St. John's and Janice Stelljes wife of George



Cody Tupper shows off his glow lights!

Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets, were tasked with organizing the dance.

With the help of cadets, faculty and staff the dance was orchestrated with great care. Ian Sitarik created posters to be distributed at area high schools. Complete Music, Manhattan, Kansas, was hired to provide the DJ for the evening. Faculty, staff and cadets invited girls to visit St. John's for the evening dance. D. Dale

Browning purchased 16 round tables and 120 folding chairs complete with an array of colorful table cloths to be used

for special occasions on campus. The cement pad in front of JVH provided a spectacular dance floor and Mother Nature provided a beautiful fall Kansas evening for the cadets and the visiting girls to enjoy dancing under the moonlit sky. The dance was by all measure, the best dance in everyone's memory.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

History

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 to promote high school academic standards, the continuation of democracy, and the betterment of the individual and the school.

Our chapter at St. John's Military School, which was chartered in 1944, continues to recognize cadets in the areas of academic performance, leadership, service, and character. Being inducted into the National Honor Society represents the highest honor awarded to high school students.

The Pledge

I pledge myself to uphold

The high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected;

I will be true to the principles for which it stands;

I will be loyal to my school;

And will maintain and encourage

High standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The National Honor Society 2008 Inductees were inducted during Parent's Weekend. The following faculty and staff members

themselves members of the National Honor Society; D. Dale Browning, Ruth Cox, Pam Kraus, Terry Plumberg, Mark

Polzella, Megan Rackley, Hector Serna, Devon Walter and Chris Zenger assisted in the ceremony.



Ryan Quintana is congratulated by Academic Dean Devon Walter while Terry Plumberg offers her congratulations.



Pam Kraus places the NHS sash over the shoulders of Andre Cardoso.



Gary Stone, Ian Sitarik, Ryan Quintana, Jonathon Frank and Andre Cardoso recite the pledge.



The 121st Corps of Cadets enjoys the music and the girls under the stars on the cement pad in front of JVH.



First Lady Kathy Lysell partakes in the evening activities with cadets and guests.

Parents' Weekend



"Old Boys" once "New Boys" sing the Alma Mater



Drill Team Performs!



Joshua Batchelor plays retreat!



Battalion Staff steps in time!



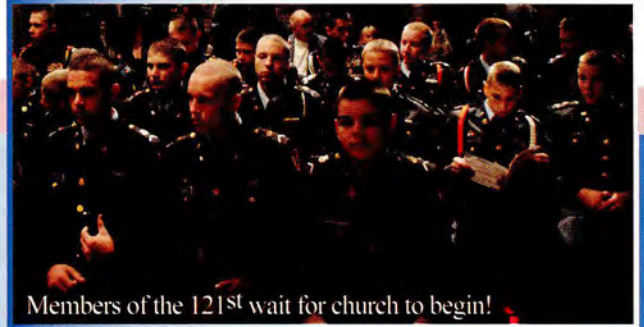
Patrick Harden- Battlion Bugler

Parents' Weekend

The SJMS Fall Parent's Weekend was a flurry of activity, ceremony and a genuine celebration of the 121st Corps of Cadets. "New Boys" already promoted to "Old Boys" sang a rousing rendition of the SJMS Alma Mater, the 121st corps paraded around the tear drop, the football and soccer teams played their hearts out in front of the home town crowd, the band played musical cheers to inspire the teams, the drill team performed their famous silent drill on the grinder in front of the Stevens Center, the Parents' Association recruited new members, the Battalion Staff gave a briefing to the parents, the AmeriServe

staff served meal after meal to the hungry crowds, the administration of the school offered the parents a chance to learn more about St. John's followed by a question and answer session and the Corps of Cadets spent quality time off campus with their loved ones.

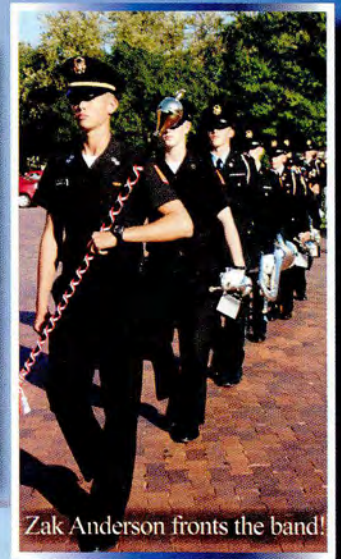
Thanks to all who made the journey to Salina.



Members of the 121st wait for church to begin!



Edgar McBee commands his company!



Zak Anderson fronts the band!



Jesse Chisholm plays like an angel!



Flag detail captures the flag.

Chapel Council



St. John's Chapel Council is sponsored by the Rev'd James R. Cox, SJMS interim chaplain. Cox returned to St. John's following his retirement after serving as chaplain for 14 1/2 years. Father Cox stays very busy serving both the Church of the Transfiguration in Bennington, Kansas and the chapel at St. John's. Cox directs the council at each chapel service, authorizes the cadets to wear the Chapel Council cord and ribbon and provides each member of the Corps of Cadets with spiritual

counseling and guidance. Cox also teaches one religion class during the first hour of the academic day. Mrs. Ruth Cox, SJMS Librarian and wife of Father Cox, serves as the alter guild, carrying for the linens and maintaining the vestments. Ruth Cox faithfully attends Sunday services at St. John's, supports her husband in every facet of his job and prepares the annual Chapel Council dinner.

The cadets who serve as members of the Chapel Council spend a good portion of their time assisting the SJMS Chaplain with weekly services. Several of the 2008 Chapel Council members have served under two chaplains. Brandon Santana, Devon Conway and Edgar McBee each in their fourth year as members of Chapel Council have a wealth of experience under their belts. Edgar Mc Bee serves as Chapel Council President and says he chooses to be involved in the council because "he wants to lead

by example in the house of the Lord" and he attributes his long association with serving in the church as a sign of dedication. Santana, an acolyte helps prepare the altar and carries the holy book to the middle of the sanctuary for the reading of the gospel and acts as a reader. When asked why he serves on Chapel Council Santana relates "serving as a member of the SJMS Chapel Council is a once in a lifetime chance to serve at an altar." Devon Conway joins Mc Bee each service as a reader and acolyte. Conway hopes that his "service will motivate other people to go in the way of God and be inspired to treat each other as God's teachings encourage us to do."

While the Father Cox prepares for weekly services, his able young staff makes the commitment to serve during chapel services throughout the school year. Members of the 2008-2009 Chapel Council are; Zak Anderson, Timothy Crawford, Devon Conway, Collin Cooper, Ricky Gesino, Jacob Wilcox-Haskett, Joshua Kidd, Chase McNamara, Edgar McBee, Jacob Nash, Zachary Risenhoover, Brandon Santana and Gary Stone.

Mr. Merrell Nelson joined the SJMS staff as Chapel Organist and will direct the Chapel Choir. In addition to his duties in the Chapel, Nelson will be providing piano music for special ceremonies on campus.



Devon Conway, Brandon Santan and Edgar Mc Bee lead the processional.

Commencement SPEAKER *Named*

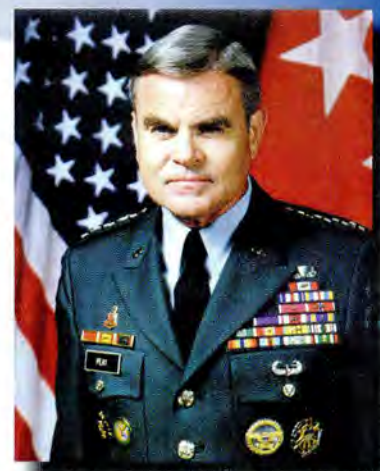
General J. H. Binford Peay III, Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, is scheduled to be the commencement speaker for the 121st Corps of Cadets.

General Peay, was born in Richmond, Virginia on May 10, 1940. Upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute in 1962, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He holds a Masters of Arts degree from George Washington University and is also a graduate of the United States Army War College.

He assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division on August 3, 1989 and led the Division throughout Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in the Persian Gulf. Promoted to Lieutenant General, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of the Army and Senior Army Member, United States Military Committee, United Nations and on March 26, 1993, he was promoted to the rank of General and appointed the 24th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army. His last assignment was Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, from August 5, 1994 to August 13, 1997, with responsibility for the region encompassing twenty countries in Africa, the Middle East, Persian Gulf and South Asia.

General Peay currently serves as Chairman, the Allied Defense Group and as a Director, BAE Systems, Inc. He and his wife, Pamela, have two sons: Jim, VMI Class of '98, and Ryan, VMI Class of '02. Their grandfather was J.H.B. Peay Jr., VMI Class of '29.

General Peay was named the Virginia Military Institute's 14th Superintendent on November 25, 2002 and assumed 14 command July 1, 2003.



The 121st Corps

Every year a group of young men made up of "Old Boys" and "New Boys" arrive on the St. John's campus. The corps is formed from a collection of cadets coming together from different backgrounds, nationalities and a world of diverse experiences. Together they build a corps; separately they build a new life. Left behind are girlfriends, little brothers and sisters, the family vehicle, the family pet, best friends and freedom.

What they find at St. John's is another set of brothers, a faculty and staff that step in as mentors and pseudo parents. Members of



Spencer Gunn's Mom helps attach his new rank!

the SJMS Corps of Cadets find increased independence, and the chance to plan their days around the structure the school provides. They also find themselves, the part that becomes blurred when living as members of a traditional family unit. They find they have inner strength and they find they possess the power to direct their own mental, physical and spiritual growth.

The evidence of this is very plain to see. Each day, the corps marches in step to the cadence of the drum, follows the order of the day and grows together to form a cohesive unit. Within that unit there are young men growing and finding themselves, young men

finding their way to manhood.

There are difficult moments



Tyler Schneider with his grandma.

along the way, times when letters arrive from home with news that a girlfriend has moved on. Times when bad news of any kind arrives through an e-mail or phone call, give the cadets reason to miss the life they left behind. During those times

cadets must reach out to new friends and find solace in the words of encouragement offered from the faculty and staff.

There are also personal triumphs to celebrate both in the classroom and

outside the academic building. Triumphs in Chemistry when the cadets finally understand chemical reactions, triumphs



Sam Gile prepares to crash!

in English when the verb is correctly conjugated, triumphs in band when the high note finally sounds clear and the tone is true, triumphs during drill team practice when the rifles are

caught and spun with perfection and triumphs when a promotion order goes through and a "New Boy" becomes an "Old Boy" or a sergeant becomes a lieutenant. The triumphs blend together to make a year full of memories that will sustain young men into their old age and allow the next Corps of Cadets to begin the cycle again.

Members of the 121st Corps of Cadets are: Phillip Abernathy, Emmanuel Aguilar, Eric Aguilar Soler, Thomas Alexander, Zakary Anderson, Thomas Ashe, Omar Balderas, Zachery Baldwin,



Guy Chadwick squares his meals.

Carlos Ballina, Joshua Batchelor, Jimmie Bazor, Chaz Bertrand, Merrick Best, Ian Brands, William Brooks, Taylor Brown, Andre Cardoso, John Carter, Joseph Casey, Guy Chadwick, Jesse Chisholm, Sergio Cois, Devon Conway, Collin Cooper, Timothy Crawford, Steven Crockenberg, Dylan Cruz, James Curry, Ryan David, Stefan DeKraker, Connor Dempsey, Mark Dubaniewicz, Erick Eakin, Harrison Farr, Justin Ferraro, Tyler Files, Cameron Fleet, Victor Fontana, Nicholas Foster, Jonathon Frank, Luis Garcia, Ricky Gesino, Samuel Gile, Lester Gillberg, Dylan Gray, Jonathan Gray, Dalton Guilfoil, Spencer Gunn, Jeffrey Hamulak, Patrick Harden, Joshua Harroun, Jacob Hooker, Hao Zong Huang, Kevin Kees, Joshua Kidd, Mitchell Lamb, Enoch Lau,

Gavin Laupa, Kang Lee, Baek Lim, Logan Lord, Yechi Ma, Richard Martin, William Mauck, Edgar McBee,

Sean McCoy, Wilkency McGuckin, Nathan McKee, Chase McNamara, Scott McNutt, Joshua Miller, Ovid Morphew, Jacob Nash, Jason Nguyen, Wiley Parrish, Kody Patterson, James Pena, Justin Pennington, William Pickering, Preston Pitterman, Andre Popovic, Jeffrey Provenzo, Ryan Quintana, Sergio Reina, Zachary Risenhoover, Jose Ruiz Migoya, Fadl Safieddine, Brandon Santana, Nicholas Saullo, Luke Saunders, Gregory Saville, Tyler Schneider, Ilya Sheldon, Ian Sitarik, Justin Small, Jonathan Smith, David M. Sorenson, David T. Sorenson, Gary Stone, Paul Strebeck, Austin Strecker, Kyle Stuart, Benjamin Stump, Patrick Sullins, John Swenson, John Taylor, Kyle Taylor, Wondirad Tefera, Joshua Terlouw, Austin Thompson, Daniel Tomaske, Cody Tupper, Ian Vaughn, Eduardo Velasco,



Zak Anderson leads Ricky Gesino, Kyle Taylor, Luis Garcia and Timothy Crawford in the Santa Fe Days Parade in Salina.

Dylan Vinyard, Luke Wachter, Joshua Webber, Jacob Wilcox-Haskett, Deven Williams, Elliot Wood, Jonah Woodley, Jacob Wolf and Tyler Wunderlich! 121st Second to None!

Members listed as of 10/19/2008



Andre Popovic studies with one eye on the camera!

Honor Company ^{the} Competition is tough!

Honor Company at St. John's Military School is determined by a year long competition between the companies with eleven weighted criteria used to determine the winner. The scores are compiled every quarter and the company that does the best each quarter receives \$100 for a pizza party. The criteria and point value per quarter are as follows:

Academics	1,000 pts
Daily/Weekly Inspections	800 pts
Community Service	600 pts
Extracurricular Activities	600 pts
Annual Formal Inspection	500 pts
Class I Offenses	400 pts
Cadet Challenge	400 pts
Muleskinner Olympics	200 pts
Military Field Day	200 pts
Commandant's List	10 pts per cadet
President's List	20 pts per cadet

First Nine Weeks Results
1st Place
Bravo Company - 3040
Headquarters - 2640
Alpha Company - 2980



Maj. George Stelljes

St. John's Military School stresses the importance of grades and that is why academics are worth 1,000 points. Each quarter the company that comes in first place earns 100% of the possible points, while second place earns 75% and third place 50%. For example, the company with the highest each quarter GPA earns 1,000, while second place earns 750 and third place 500.

The competition has been extremely tight this year, with only .15 separating the three companies GPA for the first quarter. The difference between first and second place was only .08. The Cadet Challenge was also very close with only .27 separating the top two companies.

The cadets will know which company earns the honor each quarter, but the Annual Formal Inspection, Mule-Skinner Olympics, and Military Field Day are held during the fourth quarter and so the final standings can change drastically just before the school year ends.

Maj. George Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets

Admissions Update!

The number of returning cadets in the 121st Corps of Cadets may be the best in the history of the school. For the first time since 1980 we began the year with more students than we ended with the previous year. The retention of cadets is likely due to many factors. Cadets, faculty, staff and other St. John's supporters have combined efforts to ensure St. John's is a desirable school for cadets!! Reasons cadets choose to return to St. John's include the following:

- The new re-enrollment program allowing tuition discounts for early re-enrollment
- The grand opening of Jack Vanier Hall
- The new Recreation and Workout Center in the JVH basement
- D. Dale Browning's guidance and leadership
- A spectacular commencement weekend in May of 2008
- No tuition increase for cadets returning for the 2008-2009 school year
- Kansas Assessment Scores exceed Kansas State Department of Education expectations
- The return of Mule-Skinner soccer
- The new Browning Drum and Bugle Corps
- JROTC Honor Unit with Distinction continuing tradition
- Faculty and staff who care deeply for cadets



Mrs. Ginger Wooten

The admissions team is working diligently to expand this year's opening enrollment figures. Recruiting travel dates are posted on the SJMS web site. Phil Kellogg maintains a recruiting office in the Denver area and recently returned from Wyoming where he spoke with school counselors, churches and other organizations about the educational benefits offered at St. John's.

Debby Edgerton, Admissions Administrative Assistant stays busy in the office fielding phone inquiries and sending information to potential cadets and their families.

Marcia Demuth attended the Nebraska School Counselor Association convention in Omaha, Nebraska opening lines of communication with middle and high school counselors who provide alternate educational choices to parents and students looking for options other than the public school. Demuth also recently returned from a trip to the Kansas City area promoting the benefits of St. John's for young men.

Roy Lawrence who was a part of the admissions team last summer traveling to Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, remains in contact with families interested in St. John's and makes initial contact with families beginning their research with St. John's.

Promoting St. John's in California and Arizona last summer was Rob Forde. Forde recently he returned from a trip to St. Catherine's Academy in Anaheim California where he represented St. John's at St. Catherine's School Fair. St. Catherine's is a military school for boys in grades Kindergarten through eighth. Two 2008 graduates of St. Catherine's now attend St. John's.

During the past month Education Consultants from China, Mexico, and Houston, Texas have visited the campus. The Consultants expressed excitement and appreciation of the grounds, buildings staff and faculty. Several education consultants are interested in sending students to St. John's.

Rifle Team Members

Shoot at... Camp Mary Dell



Deven Williams

Jonathon Frank

Austin Strecker

The weekend of October 3-5, 2008, three returning St John's Rifle Team lettermen attended the annual Kansas State Rifle Association Junior Shooting Camp located at Camp Mary Dell in Abilene, Kansas. I had hopes of taking several new shooters to this camp since it provides basic instruction in three position rifle shooting and the newer shooters can learn so much from the older and more experienced shooters, but due to circumstances beyond my control only three shooters were able to attend. None the less, I believe these three enjoyed themselves and definitely got a lot of practice in over Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday morning was devoted to training and practice; then after lunch everyone competed in the individual match shooting called a half match, where each shooter shoots two targets in each position; prone, standing, and kneeling; and in

that order. All together every shooter shot for over six hours Saturday. On Sunday we were shooting again by 0830 but were now firing in the team competition. We took the scores from the day before and put five two man teams together by matching up the better scorers with the lower scorers. This gives everyone a better chance to win a medal. It also is a great learning activity since each shooter gets an opportunity to shoot a match and then turn around and coach his or her team mate.

Once the team competition ended the younger BB gun shooters came down and were afforded the opportunity to shoot something bigger in the way of our .22 caliber target rifles. The boys thoroughly enjoyed working with younger kids. By the looks on these youngsters faces it was evident that they were totally in awe of the cadets. After cleaning the range we ate lunch and attended the awards ceremony.

The cadets shot very well and earned a number of awards. Individually Jonathon Frank shot extremely well shooting a 568 out of 600 to take 1st place. Austin Strecker took 2nd with a 528 and Deven Williams just missed third by 10 points earning a 4th place medal with a 488. In the team competition Deven Williams and his teammate bounced back by taking the 1st place medal shooting a combined score of 474. Austin Strecker's team took 2nd with a 465 and Jonathon Frank and teammate took 5th with a 403.

Coach Tony Blair



Joseph Casey, Jonathon Frank, Phillip Gamito, Addison Eby and Austin Strecker display their medals!

One thing about the sport of competition rifle shooting is if you want immediate gratification you better get into another sport. On

February 23-24 of 2008 the MuleSkinner Rifle team competed in the Junior Sectional Championship fired on our own range at St John's Military School. What we knew at the time was that Phillip Gamito and Jonathon

Frank took 2nd and 3rd overall while Addison Eby, Austin Strecker, and Joseph Casey took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the JROTC category. Of course we were the only team in the JROTC category and our boys made up 6 of the 12 junior shooters competing at this sectional. The thing about sectionals is when they are all finished across the country they turn into a National Championship. What we didn't know until today (October 20, 2008) is that our boys finished in 2nd place nationally in the scholastic category. Cadets Phillip Gamito, Class of 2008, Jonathon Frank, Battalion Commander 121st Corps of Cadets, Addison Eby, Class of 2008 and Austin Strecker, returning shooter will each receive a NRA National Indoor Junior Championship 2nd place medal.

Coach Tony Blair

Admissions Update cont.

The admissions team has hosted several campus tours, allowing prospective patrons the chance to gain insight into the total St. John's experience. The Browning Room in Linger Admissions Center provides a warm and inviting place for families to visit with the admissions team and view the 2008 promotional video.

Justin Sperry, SJMS webmaster, maintains a dynamic and informational web site allowing St. John's a vital window of communication with patrons surfing the web. Sperry spends much of his time taking photographs of cadets; among parents possibly the most popular segment of the school website is the photo gallery. Sperry is responsible for many of the photos in the gallery and is solely responsible for management of the gallery.

The good work of the admissions team combined with the efforts of satisfied patrons spreading the word about St. John's will help fulfill "New Boy" enrollment goals during the current year, and "Old Boy" retention goals for the 2009-2010 school year!

Ginger Wooten, Director of Admissions and Marketing

Fall Sports

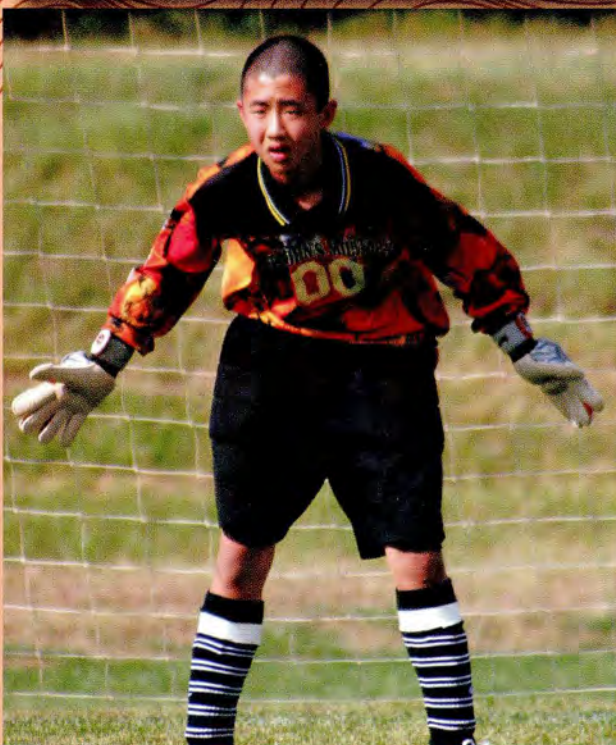
Soccer



Patrick Harden winds up for a free kick!



The team locking hands before a match!



Enoch Lau defends the Mule-Skinner goal!

Football



The football team prepares for battle.



Patrick Sullins races around the corner!

Cross Country



GO TEAM!



The offense sets for the snap!

Fall sports serve to provide an outlet for physical conditioning, personal triumphs and help to build school spirit. The teams practice after the academic day is finished right up until evening mess during the week. Travel to games near and far give the members of the teams a chance to catch a nap to and from the contest and an away game means a trip to a fast food restaurant before returning to campus.



The mighty SJMS runners, Chase McNamara, Zak Anderson and Devon Conway stay in a pack!



Fahl Safieddine, Chase McNamara, Devon Conway and Zak Anderson wait for the start of the race.



Chase McNamara, Zak Anderson and Devon Conway move up on the team from McPherson while fans gather to watch their runners hit the finish line!



The St. John's Military School Parents Association (SJMSPA) had a magnificent kick-off during Parents' Weekend! Over one-third of the parents on campus for Parents' Weekend became members of the SJMSPA exceeding everyone's expectations. The SJMSPA, as part of their membership drive, offered parents the chance to join the association on two levels. The Platinum Family Lifetime memberships for \$500.00 and the Gold Family Membership for \$100.00. Each membership includes a brick engraved with the family name. The bricks will cover a portion of the walkway in front of Jack Vanier Hall.

Upcoming activities of the Parents' Association will include a quarterly newsletter, the hosting of a luncheon for members during Parents' Weekend in February and the purchasing of senior class rings for the 122nd Corp of Cadets.

Please be sure to take a look at the www.sjms.org website for membership information and the names and numbers of the board members.

The SJMSPA is there for you!
Be involved in your cadet's journey.



Kevin David, Colleen Wunderlich, Steve Class and Tammy Ashe, founding members of the Parents' Association, launched the membership drive during Parents' Weekend October 9-12, 2008.

Broome and Barth cont. from page 4

Iron Maiden, two of the biggest bands in the world back to America in the 1980's, to be the opening act on the Blackfoot Tour. Blackfoot has performed nationally and internationally, with a scheduled tour in Sweden in November of 2007.

Lou Barnett, 1973, traveled to Houston to catch a concert of Blackfoot in August 2007. Lou states, "it was great getting to see Bobby perform, and then to be invited on their tour bus and to watch the band sign autographs was thrilling."

To view the bands accomplishments go to www.blackfootrocks.com. Barth has many credits to his long career in music and attributes his desire to pursue his music career to teachings afforded him while at SJMS in the mid 60's. Barth & Broome are quick to note the long road has not been an easy one; however both are eager to share their SJMS stories to anyone that will listen.

Jeff Broome, Ph.D., is a Professor/author, teaching Philosophy at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, CO. He tells about the time he visited the Denver Folklore Center, "wearing my SJMS t-shirt, Barth, (who happened to be in the store), approached him saying, "excuse me, did you go to St. John's?" From that day forward, their road of friendship began and continues to this day.

Broome recently has released his third CD of solo guitar instrumentals **Just Give It Time** and a book entitled "Dog Soldier Justice: The Ordeal of Susanna Alderdice in the Kansas Indian War." "Custer into the West," his second historical novel is due to be released in December of 2008. Jeff has frequently visited SJMS and has spoken to the Corps, showing his artifacts from the Kansas Indian War. Jeff is a member of the SJMS Wall of Fame in the Professional Endeavors category.

SJMS, in conjunction with Barth & Broome, depending on their schedules, would like to invite anyone interested to participate in a jam session during Commencement weekend. If you are a strummer, or can seriously crank out the tunes, please plan to join us. It will be great to jam with your fellow "Old Boys" and start a Commencement tradition. Please let Plumberg know if you plan to participate. terryp@sjms.org. More information will follow concerning the jam session

Barth and Broome credit the time they spent at St. John's with laying the foundation for their success in life, both professionally and in their personal lives.

Terry Plumberg, Alumni Coordinator

"It's a long road, when you walk alone, but step by step the journey will take you home – Just give it time." Bobby Barth

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