


The

Skirmisher

Spring 2014

Volume XCV No. 3

St. John's Military School



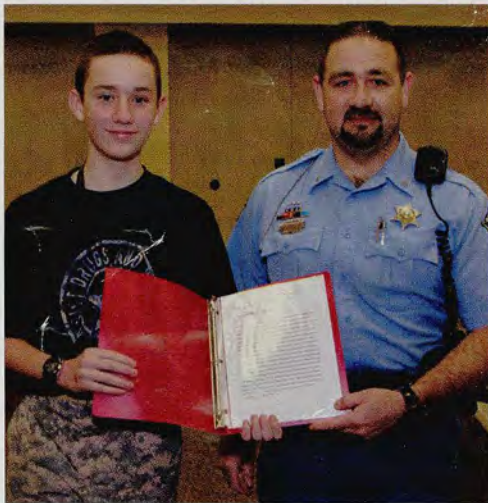
COMMENCEMENT
126th
CORPS OF CADETS

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



Officer Scott Trembley, Alexander Neroni, Paula Wilton, Grant Dagnan, Jackson Brinn, Noah Nicodemus, Sean Wilson-Bynoe, Robert Conde, Cameron Ojennes, Mark Pearsall, Emmanuel St. Martin, Suliaman Abdul-Hadi, Levin Truitt, Ryan Boger, Brandon Burrage, Grant Nickerson, Jacob Younger, Bryan Udofia, Officer Lt. Sean Kochanowski, Oluwatimi Osunkoya, and Daniel Jones



All students in the class submitted an essay as part of their participation in the D.A.R.E. program. Cadet Brandon Burrage submitted the winning essay. Burrage received a medal and a gift pack which included a \$20.00 gift card provided by *Sunflower Bank*, a Chili's gift pack, and pretzel coupons provided by *The Pretzel Maker*. Congratulations, Brandon!

Keeping it R.E.A.L

“The class met a total of 10 times during second semester. Each Cadet was required to attend all 10 lessons and participate in lesson specific scenarios in which the Cadets had to apply what they had learned in that particular class to reach a positive outcome. Each lesson was developed by D.A.R.E. after years of research and talking with thousands of kids from across the country from

their peer groups about real life situations that middle and high schools kids face, or may face in today's world.

This research is what changed D.A.R.E. to D.A.R.E. ‘Keeping it R.E.A.L.’, which stands for “Refuse, Explain, Avoid, Leave,” any one of which, either used by itself or together, are

fantastic tools for young people to remove themselves from a bad or potentially harmful situation.”



“Deputy Scott Trembley did a fabulous job teaching and working with the Cadets. We hope to build upon this program next year.”
Paula Wilton

Daniel Jones



contents

Spring 2014 Volume 95, Number 3



Inside Cover

The Middle School D.A.R.E. Graduation

2 ALL IN THE FAMILY

Tyler Sullivan's family represents the Air Force connection

3 CADET FORMAL INSPECTION

The 126th puts on a great show

4 ACADEMIC STARS

Cadets earn Blue Beret, Honor Roll, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian

5 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Cadets shine in and out of the classroom

6 DIPLOMAS AWARDED TO SENIORS

Thirty seniors reach their goals

8 COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

Parade of flags, inspirational music, and a speech for the ages thrill the crowd

10 FOURTH GENERATION ARMY

Luke Whitting follows the family path

11 GORDON PRIZE

Levi Harmon joins a prestigious group of Alumni

12 DISTINGUISHED AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Cadets reap the rewards of their efforts

14 "OLD BOY ASSOCIATION" OBA

SJMS benefits from strong Alumni support

16 FIRST ROBOTICS

The Ranger Robotics team scores

17 HONOR COMPANY

Alpha Company gets the job done

Front Cover

C/COL Levi Harmon carries the Hardy Sabre for the last time.
Photo by Scott Wiedeman



Tyler Sullivan from Colorado Springs, Colorado, finished his sophomore year at St. John's by

celebrating winning

some awards and scholarships, and being named Executive Officer of Bravo Company for the 127th Corps of Cadets.

Spotting Tyler's family during commencement weekend activities was pretty easy to do. His mom, dad, and stepdad attended events in their full dress Air Force uniforms.

Stepdad, COL (ret.) Jim Wolf, is a consultant for the Air Force in space operations and engineering. COL Wolf was commissioned as an aerospace engineer in 1984 and retired in 2009.

COL Beth West, Tyler's mom, is on active duty and currently stationed at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs, Colorado. COL West is the Deputy Director of Operations for Space and Cyber Air Force Space Command. She was commissioned in 1988 with a Bachelor's Degree in computer engineering and holds a Master's Degree in aerospace engineering. Her Air Force specialty is space and cyber operations.

LTC Shane Sullivan, Tyler's dad, is on active duty as Commander at the Air Force Training Corps Detachment 190, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign. LTC Sullivan's Air Force specialty code is Space Operations. LTC Sullivan was assigned to the Pentagon as the Air Force Legislative Liaison, serving as the primary interface on Capitol Hill, was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was named Space Wing Chief of Safety at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado.

COL West says, "Tyler wants to join the military, but he hasn't decided which service yet. Of course, I would love for him to go to the Air Force Academy since COL Wolf and I plan to settle in Colorado Springs."

One thing is for sure, if Tyler has any interest in engineering or aerospace engineering he won't have to go far to find help with his studies.

We congratulate Tyler for his success his first year at St. John's and look forward to having his distinguished 'Air Force' family back on campus! Thank you for your service!



COL Jim Wolf, Tyler's stepdad; Tyler Sullivan; COL Beth West, Tyler's mom; and LTC Shane Sullivan, Tyler's dad, take a moment to celebrate Tyler's accomplishments.

Airman's Creed

I am an American airman.

I am a warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.

I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
a Tradition of Honor,
and a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman,
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
my Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.
I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman:

Wingman, Leader, Warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind,

I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

Tyler's Awards

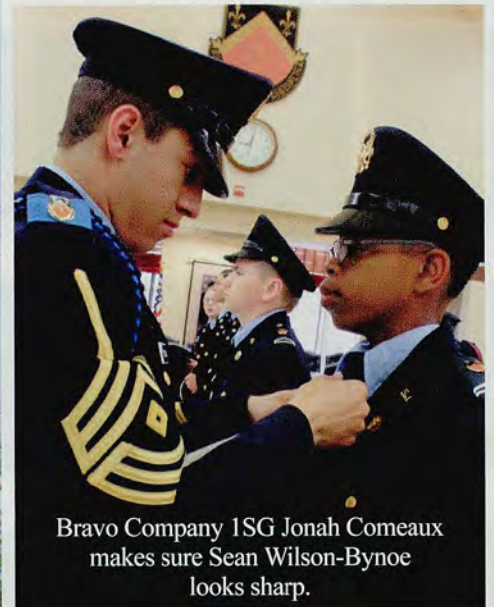
- Course Award in Biology
- Varsity Letter in Academics
- Varsity Letter in Color Guard
- Varsity Letter in Drill Team
- JROTC Academic Wreath
- Teamworx GPA 10th Grade
- Brands Family Writing Scholarship \$1,000.00
- Browning Achievement Award \$2,000.00

Cadet Formal Inspection



Battalion Executive Officer Eli Harmon stands at present arms during the welcome ceremony, as the band plays the Star Spangled Banner.

The 126th Corps of Cadets participated in Cadet Formal Inspection (CFI) on April 25, 2014. The schedule included a welcoming ceremony, in-ranks inspection, the battalion staff briefing, un-casing and casing the colors by the color guard, a formal pass-in-review, a performance by the drill team, and a review of the record keeping of the JROTC department. Battalion Commander Levi Harmon added a new tradition this year. The Corps stood at present arms while lining the teardrop as the inspection team departed campus. The Corps scored 995 points out of a possible 1000. This score reflects an almost perfect performance by the Corps of Cadets. *Hooah, 126!*



Bravo Company 1SG Jonah Comeaux makes sure Sean Wilson-Bynoe looks sharp.

The SJMS band under the direction of bandmaster Calvin Guardiola performs Sound-Off during the pass-in-review on the Browning Parade Field. The 126th stands on the ready line waiting to do their part in the ceremony.



Battalion S3 David Schmaus gives his briefing to the visiting team. The members of the battalion staff worked many long hours preparing for their briefing. On inspection day, the briefing earned the staff many compliments.

Blue Beret

ACADEMIC Stars

High School



Eli Quinn Harmon
Valedictorian



Levi Cole Harmon
Salutatorian



Sean Udofia



Brandon Swain



Cameron Lum

DEAN'S HONOR ROLL



ZinYang Du



Tyler Sullivan



Colton Brown



Brandon Wright



YiFan Xu



Jake Whitting



Eli Harmon



Levi Harmon



Seth Werner

HONOR ROLL



Thomas Elliott



Jonah Comeaux



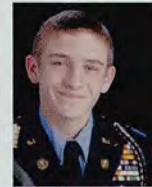
Jacob Wiese



Wenhao Fu



JiaJi Liu



Richard Reynolds



Edmund Sykes



YiXiong Xu



Qionglin Huang



Caelon Tautz



Jack Glasgow



Francisco Arismendy



Jacob Gengler



Trenten Moser



Matthew Stern



YiXiu Li



Gabriellus Gurskas



Quan Gao



Adam Walther



Garrett Whorton



Hongyu Wu



Nathan Bower



Matthew Wilder



Dylan Martin



Stephan Selby



Reece Turner



HaoRan Zhang



Blase Whitting



Brandon Burrage



Jackson Brinn



Mark Pearsall

Blue Beret and
Dean's Honor Roll

HONOR
ROLL

MIDDLE School



Robert Conde



Bryan Udofia



Bryce Kisner



Sean Wilson-Bynoe



Cameron Ojennes



Oluwatimi Osunkoya



Seth Gundlach



Emmanuel St. Martin



Christopher Reilly



Noah Nicodemus



Marshall Otter

Cadet Recognition

SEPTEMBER



Oluwatimi Osunkoya is a seventh grader from Jacksonville, North Carolina. His parents are Dr. Adesola Awomolo and Dr. Yomi Osunkoya. This is Timi's third year at SJMS. His favorite subject is math and he participates on the drill team and is a member of the band. His hobbies are basketball and playing video games.



Brandon Wright is a senior from Parker, Colorado. He is the son of Doug Wright. This is Brandon's third year at SJMS. His favorite subject is applied technology. His hobbies are bowling and fishing. He also enjoys playing basketball and ice hockey.



Bryce Kisner is an eighth grader from Ludell, Kansas, and is the son of Megahn and Larry Anderson. This is his second year at SJMS. Bryce's favorite subject in school is math. He enjoys playing sports and likes being on the basketball team.



Luis Garcia is a junior from Mexico City, Mexico. He is the son of Gabriel and Mayna. This is his second year at SJMS. His favorite subjects are English 11 and Algebra 2. He likes playing soccer, hanging out with his friends, and playing video games.



Matthew Stern is a junior from Edwardsville, Illinois. He is the son of Richard Stern and Brenda Stern. This is his first year at SJMS and his favorite class is Industrial Arts. He participates in football, J-Lab, and Robotics. His hobbies include welding, fishing, football, lifting, and mechanics.



Robert Conde is the son of Lynn Reed from Wichita, Kansas. This is his second year at SJMS and he is in the seventh grade. His favorite subject is science. He participates in band and a hobby he enjoys is building things.

JANUARY



Chris Reilly is an eighth grader from Wichita, Kansas. He is the son of Lynn Reed and Edwin Galusha. This is his second year at SJMS. His favorite subject is reading. Chris participates in band, woodshop, and basketball. His hobbies outside of school are swimming, playing basketball with his friends, and running.



Christopher Wilson is a senior from Thornton, Colorado. He is the son of Johanna Gilliam. This is his third year at SJMS. He enjoys playing paint ball and spending time with his family and friends. His favorite class is Computer Applications and he participates in golf.

MARCH



Brandon enjoys playing sports and working on puzzles. He especially likes football and baseball.

Seth Gundlach is an eighth grader from Rogers, Arkansas, and the son of Heather Gundlach. This is his third year at SJMS. Seth plays the guitar, bass, snare, drum set, piano, and writes music. He also enjoys skating, playing video games, running, drawing, painting, and hiking. His favorite subjects are math, English, and science. Seth is very involved at SJMS as he plays basketball and participates in band.



Brandon Burrage is a sixth grader at St. John's from Houston, Texas. Brandon is the son of Monique Burrage. This is his first year at SJMS and his favorite subject is science. Brandon participates in Civil Air Patrol, cross country, and chapel council. He also enjoys swimming, playing video games, and running.



Sean Udofia is a sophomore from Richmond, Texas, and the son of I.B. and Ann Udofia. This is his first year at SJMS and his favorite subject is English 10. He is a member of the soccer team and also enjoys music and reading.



Jonah Comeaux is a senior from Castle Rock, Colorado. Jonah's parents are Scott and Olga Comeaux. This is his third year at SJMS and his favorite subject is computers. Jonah's hobbies include working out and listening to music.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Does the right thing when no one is watching ** Acts as a mentor in the classroom ** Works hard to maintain good grades ** Leads by example ** Sets the standard **

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



Blase Whitting is an eighth grader from Glen Head, New York. His parents are David and Janine Whitting. He is in his third year at SJMS. He participates with the drill team and the color guard. His hobbies are basketball and football. P.E. is the class that Blasé enjoys the most.



Brandon Swain is a junior from Fayetteville, Arkansas. This is his first year at SJMS. Brandon's parents are Brian and Jovie Swain. His favorite subject is

The Student of the Month program gives teachers the opportunity to recognize Cadets who choose to work hard, act as mentors, and generally 'do the right thing' when no one is looking. These Cadets are chosen and voted on by the faculty during September, October, November, January, February, March, and April.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



"This year's seniors are a wonderful group of young men. They are a prime example of the brotherhood that develops among Cadets at St. John's. Academically and in the barracks, they led a Corps that set new standards for performance. More importantly, they are great people. They will go on to achieve great things. We are honored to have worked with them and will miss them greatly."

E. Andrew England, President

Class of
2014



Francisco
Arismendy



Nathan
Bower



Gage
Brklacich



Colton
Brown



Jonah
Comeaux



Thomas
Elliott



Quan
Gao



Gabrielius
Gurkas



Alexander
Hamm



Eli
Harmon



Levi
Harmon



Nathan
Harris



James
McCaffery



Paul
Meyer



Trenten
Moser



"Stating that the senior class of the 126th Corps of Cadets are an amazing group is a gross understatement. As individuals, their accomplishments have been incredible. As a class and a group of leaders, their accomplishments are even more astounding. This class steered a group of young men to the very best academic performance in all my years at St. John's. Most importantly, I trust them! Each time I asked one of them to manage a task, I knew it would be accomplished and handled with dignity and respect. This class of seniors will be forever held in high regard, with distinction! Only God knows what the members of the SJMS senior class of 2014 will accomplish. I will be watching with pride!"

Ginger Wooten, Academic Dean



"It was truly an honor and privilege to work with this outstanding group of young men. They did a great job leading the Corps of Cadets from start to finish. They led the way in athletics with our football team winning the first playoff game in the school's history and Thomas "Cyborg" Elliott becoming the leading rusher ever at SJMS. Levi and Eli Harmon led the soccer team to a successful season. Colton Brown led A Co to a dominating performance, earning honor company. Levi Harmon was selected for the Gordon Prize. This was a great year for St. John's.

I know this class is moving on to bigger and better things and will do a fantastic job of representing SJMS in the future. HOOAH!"

MAJ George Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets



Brandon Mudd



Andre Popovic



Zachary Reimer



David Schmaus



Stephan Selby



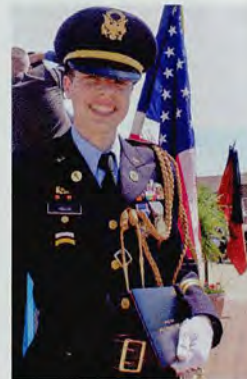
Jordan Vera



Adam Walther



Luke Whitting



Jacob Wiese



Matthew Wilder



Blake Williams



Christopher Wilson



Brandon Wright



ChengMing Xing



XiaoFeng Xu

126th Corps of Cadets

Commencement

Terry Plumberg and Scott Wiedeman shot over four thousand pictures during commencement weekend.

The task of sorting the photos and posting the photos to the photo gallery is a daunting task...but one that Scott Wiedeman takes on gladly.

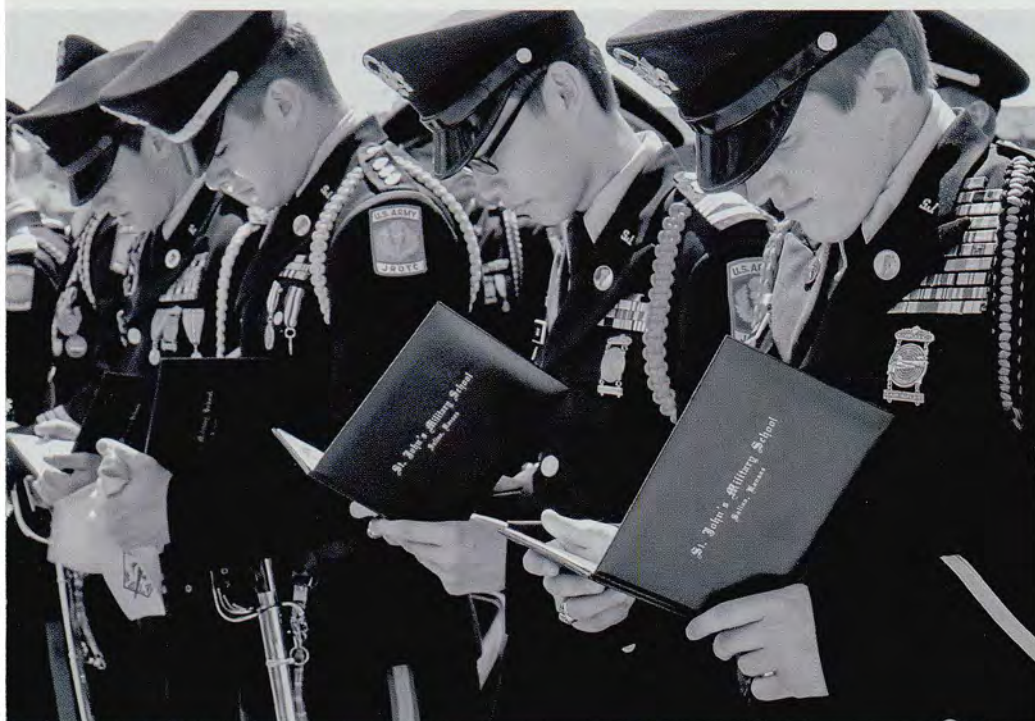
Parents, patrons, friends, family members, and Cadets are encouraged to visit the photo gallery often and witness the many moments captured by Ms. Plumberg and Mr. Wiedeman.

The First Division Band from Ft. Riley, Kansas, the special music provided by St. John's favorite Debbie Adams-Nelson, the father and son inspecting officers during the final pass-in-review, the parade of flags, the inspirational speech delivered by Matthew Lewis, and the class of 2014 all combined to create a memorable morning in front of Jack Vanier Hall.



PARADE OF FLAGS GRADUATION

A LEGACY OF SERVICE



Matthew Lewis at the podium. Debbie Adams-Nelson at the microphone. Jacob Gengler carrying the state flag of Nebraska. The First Division Band performing Sound-Off. Luke Whitting, his father, Dave Whitting, Ed Harmon, father of Levi, and Eli Harmon, trooping the line. Gabrielius Gurskas, Quan Gao, Thomas Elliott and Jonah Comeaux looking over their diplomas. *What a morning!*

"I, Luke Whitting, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God." The oath was administered by Luke's uncle, Scott Whitting.

AIRBORNE



Dave Whitting, Janine Whitting, Luke Whitting and Uncle Scott Whitting.

Luke Whitting, C/CSGM of the 126th Corps of Cadets, took the United States Army oath of service given by his Uncle Scott Whitting during the award ceremony on Friday, May 9, 2014. When Luke completes his initial training period, he will be the 4th generation paratrooper to serve in the United States Army from the Whitting family.

Luke's Great Uncle Donald John MacPhee was a member of the 505th Parachute Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. PFC MacPhee was killed in action June 16, 1944, in Normandy, France.

Scott Whitting, 2nd generation Paratrooper, brother of Dave's father served as a Medical Specialist in the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne (Green Berets), Bad Tolz, West Germany, 1965 ~ 1966, following two years of training. Scott served as the Medical Supervisor with the "MIKE Force" (Mobil Strike Force), 5th Special Forces Group Airborne, Republic of Vietnam, 1967 ~ 1967. Following selection for duty with the "MIKE Force," all must volunteer or decline. This was a reaction force for Special Forces "A" Teams under siege and also conducted operation "OMEGA," a Special Operation formed to hunt and identify enemy units within highly

mobile units. He recruited, trained, and operated with the Montagnard Tribesman (pronounced Mountain Yard), mercenary soldiers employed by Special Forces. Scott participated in the first ever Special Forces combat parachute jump and was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Uncle Scott also served in the U.S. Army Special Forces Reserves and is a retired Major in the New York Guard.

David J. Whitting, 3rd generation Paratrooper, enlisted in the U.S. Army in January, 1991, after the liberation of Kuwait. Dave attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course (SFAS) in May of 1993. After successfully completing SFAS and two years of intensive medical and language training, he was awarded the Green Beret and assigned to 1st BN, 1st Special Forces Group, Airborne in Okinawa, Japan. Dave first served as a Medical Sergeant (18D) for Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 121 where he trained US and foreign counterparts in all phases of combat and Special Operations while providing emergency and long-term medical care of the Detachment, allied and indigenous personnel. While on ODA 121, he successfully completed Ranger School graduating with class 8-96. Shortly after completion of Ranger School, an

opportunity arose for more advanced training. After successful completion of the Special Forces Underwater Operations Combat Diver Qualification Course and the Dive Medical Technician (DMT) Course in Key West, Florida, Dave moved to ODA 125, a Combat Diver Team. Once there, he served as a Medical Sergeant and DMT while conducting Joint Special Operations in the Pacific Theater traveling and training in Guam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Australia. Dave was honorably discharged in January 1998. About one year after 9/11, he was asked to re-enlist by a friend to assist with a Civil Affairs Unit that would be deployed to Iraq. After re-enlistment and additional training, he became a Team Sergeant for a civil affairs team where he was attached to 3rd BN, 3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Once in country, the team conducted civil military operations in and around both central and northern Iraq. Besides operating a civil affairs team, Dave also initiated a permanent aid-station in his base camp, providing 24-hour care for 75 US and indigenous personnel. After spending one year in country, Dave returned home to Glen Head, New York, where he and wife, Janine, raise their five children.



THE GORDON PRIZE

GIVEN TO THE CADET WHO BEST COMBINES THE QUALITIES OF SCHOOL SPIRIT, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE IN STUDIES AND ATHLETICS



from left: Kyle Stuart, Battalion Commander 122nd Corps of Cadets, 2010 recipient; George Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets; Levi Harmon, Battalion Commander, 2014 recipient; and E. Andrew England, President.



The Gordon Prize was first awarded in 1906. Those winning this prestigious award are among St. John's most distinguished alumni. The Gordon Prize is not awarded every year and is given to only one Cadet per year.

Fred Pate, the oldest surviving recipient, says of receiving this award in 1942: "It was such an honor to have received the Gordon Prize in 1942 and having my name engraved on a marble slab. One great occasion for me was when Major Clem (also known as COL Remy Clem, rector and superintendant of SJMS from 1936-1968) wrote to me while I was in college at Syracuse University in New York state and told me my name had been inscribed on the marble slab. In truth, the greatest part in receiving the Gordon Prize was to see two Cadets whom I truly admired, Gene Penny and Alan Clem, follow me in subsequent years in winning the award. I feel very honored to have my name alongside such great Cadets and later great men."

Levi Harmon, Battalion Commander of the 126th Corps of Cadets, fulfilled every category of the Gordon Prize requirements. Levi served in every leadership position during his four years as a Cadet. He holds numerous Blue Beret certificates which belong to the top three grade point averages in the Corps during each grading period. Valedictorian of his class and a member of the National Honor Society, Levi sets the standard for excellence in academics. C/COL Harmon was a member of the SJMS soccer team, serving as team captain and earning all-league honors both his junior and senior seasons.

Levi is the brother of C/LTC Eli Harmon, the Executive Officer of the 126th Corps of Cadets. He is the son of Donna and Ed Harmon of Flagstaff, Arizona.

C/COL Harmon will be a 2014 member of The "Rat" Class at Virginia Military Institute and will take his oath of cadetship on September 7, 2014.

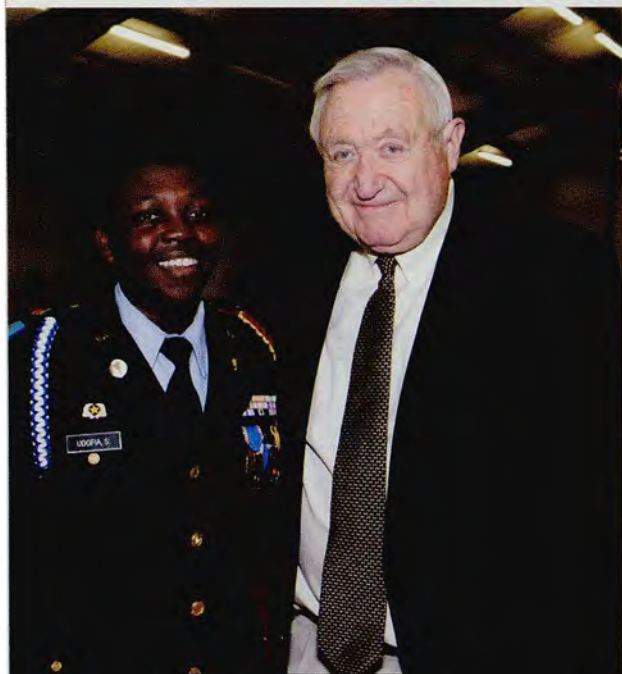
Congratulations, C/COL Harmon. *God Speed!*



Scholarships &
Awards earned
by members
of the 126th
Corps of Cadets



William Johnson with his parents, Mamie and Mark, celebrate the Litowich Family Trust Scholarship, and the Senior Army Instructor Leadership Award William earned.

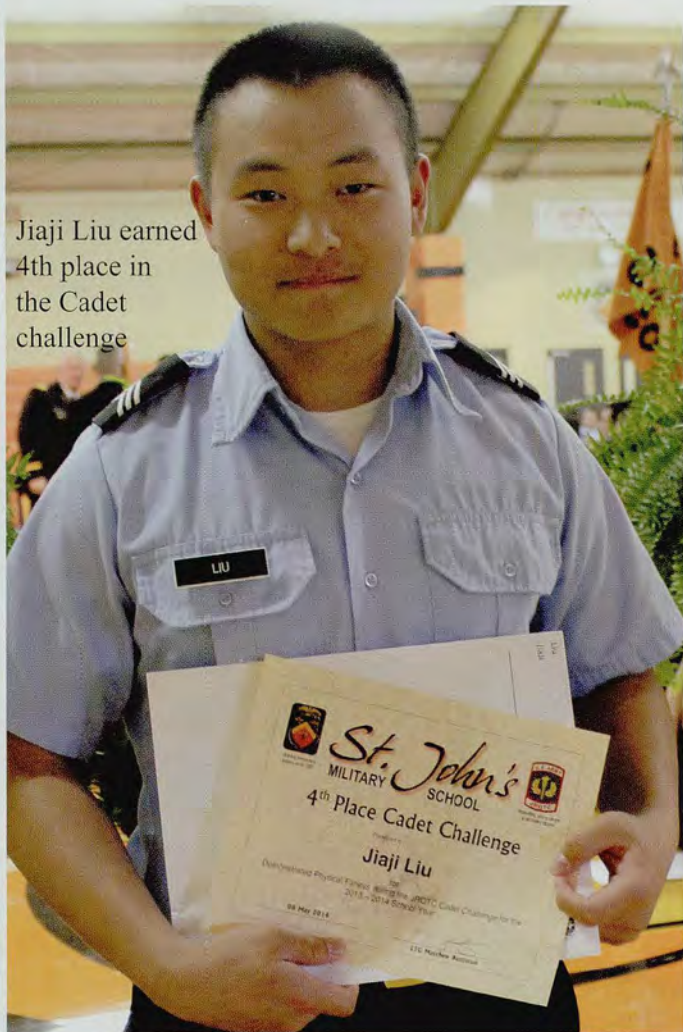


Sean Udofia, recipient of the D. Dale Browning Scholarship, stands with Mr. Browning.



Jennifer and William Latteman stand with their son Chandler after he received the Litowich Family Trust Scholarship. Chandler also earned a varsity letter in middle school tennis.

Jiaji Liu earned 4th place in the Cadet challenge

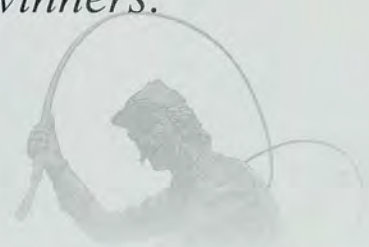
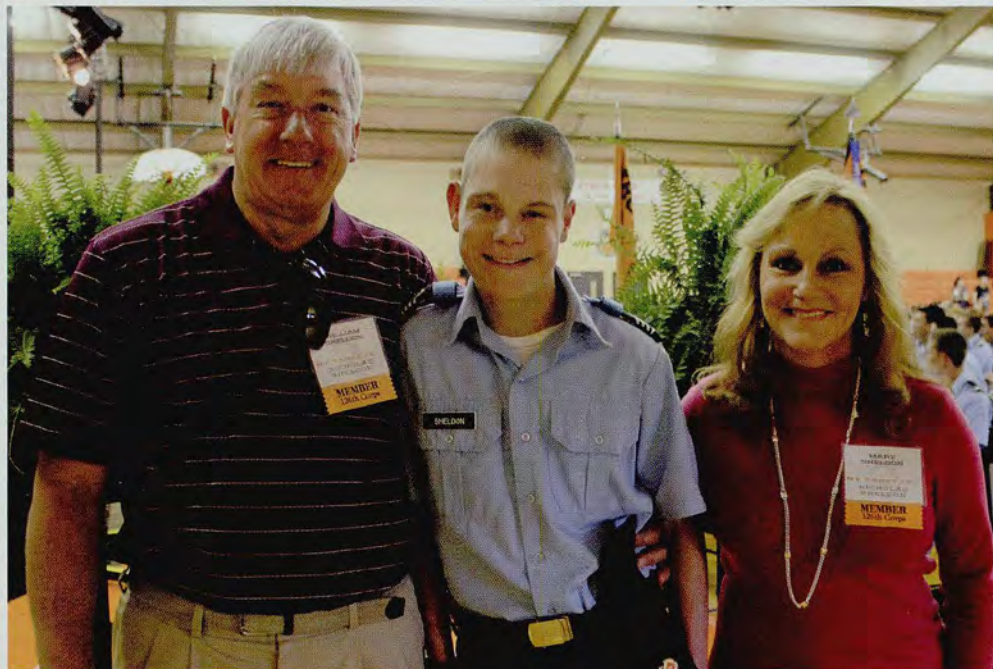


Antonio Miranda and his Grandmother Sharon Latta, smile about his awards - the Excellence Staff Performance Award, a varisty letter in band, and the Jesus Martinez Scholarship.

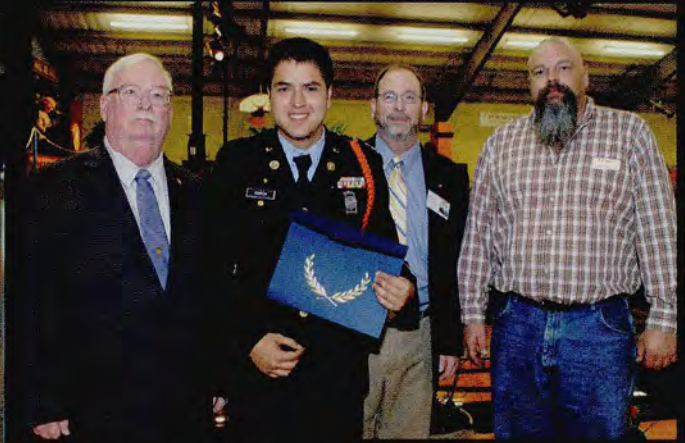


A full listing of the awards will be published in the 2014 Yearbook! Congratulations to all the scholarship and award winners.

With his parents Mary and William Sheldon, Nicholas Sheldon celebrates winning the COL Keith and Elizabeth Duckers Scholarship and the JROTC Good Conduct Award.







OBA Board Members Tom Wilson, Kent Tretheway, and Mike Wagner, with Luis Garcia, 2014 OBA scholarship recipient.

The "Old Boys Association," (OBA) is proud of their scholarship fund, made possible by alumni donations. Last year, Adam Walther, Class of 2014, received a \$5,000 scholarship from the OBA. Walther achieved great things his senior year and will continue his education at Texas Christian University, majoring in theology. This year, Luis Garcia, Class of 2015, was awarded an OBA Scholarship of \$5,000. "When speaking with the recipients each year, it is rewarding to see the expression on their faces when we tell them that 'Old Boys,' their brothers, made this scholarship possible," stated Terry Plumberg, Director of Alumni.

Thank you for your kindness to others...
Pay it Forward!

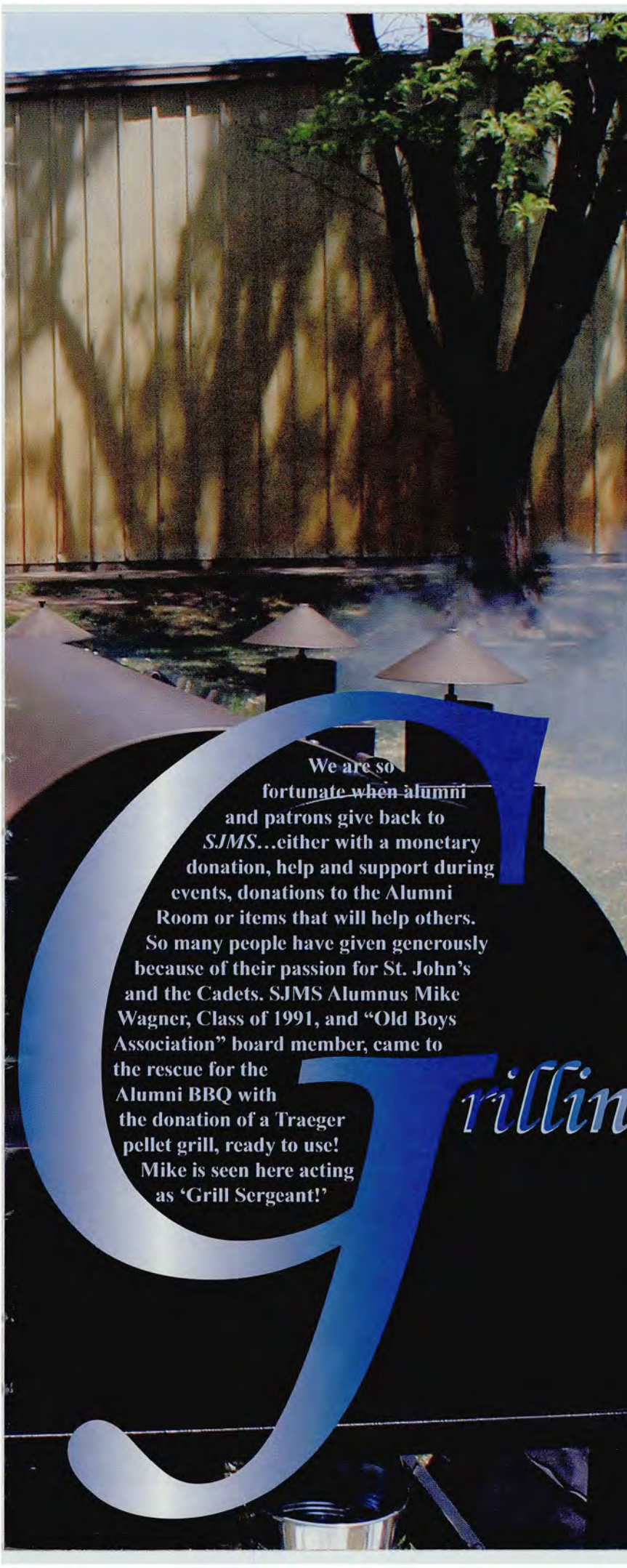
Grillin' and giving!

Mike is owner of Mike's Truck and Trailer Repair, Hays, Kansas, and has two daughters. While being very involved with his daughters' sports and school events, Mike always takes the time for a phone call or a quick trip up the road to Salina to offer his help.

Wagner believes in giving and making life a little easier for those around him. Mrs. Stein presented Mike with a special apron for his efforts. Katy England drew a picture of Mike on the front along with text... which reads, **GRILL SERGEANT.** *Thanks, Mike!*

We are so fortunate when alumni and patrons give back to SJMS...either with a monetary donation, help and support during events, donations to the Alumni Room or items that will help others.

So many people have given generously because of their passion for St. John's and the Cadets. SJMS Alumnus Mike Wagner, Class of 1991, and "Old Boys Association" board member, came to the rescue for the Alumni BBQ with the donation of a Traeger pellet grill, ready to use! Mike is seen here acting as 'Grill Sergeant!'





Human player, Kevin Kraus, in charge of loading the ball back in the can for another shot.



FIRST ROBOTICS (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a competition in every sense of the word. The

"The boys represented SJMS well. They faced many challenges and overcame most. As far as numbers go, they scored more points the first day than in all other competitions."
Anna Robles & Pam Kraus



Selfie

ROBOTICS

teams come with the intent to win the ultimate prize. That being said, the goal of *FIRST* founders, Dean Kamen and Woodie Flowers, was to develop ways to inspire students in engineering and technology. *FIRST* is noted for its philosophy of cooperative competition, which is expressed by the organization as *coopertition* and gracious professionalism. Ms. Robles explains, "Our robot was never able to shoot the ball above the truss like we had hoped. Several teams came over to help us. At one point, a member of Team *UBotics* spent 45 minutes working with SJMS Ranger team members, Caelon Tautz, Kevin Kraus, and Reece Turner, helping to add another air tank. Also, one of the mentors from the *Railer Robotics* team in Newton, Kansas, was always coming by our area in the pit offering his thoughts on changes to help us reach the truss."

The St. John's Robotics team designed a very creative robot they named *Sidewinder*, using parts from last year's robot and some 'found' parts in the St. John's storeroom. A frisbee from last year was fitted inside a trash can which was mounted on the robot drive train. "Many of the judges and other mentors loved the creativity and simplicity of the trash can idea. For anyone who was watching the Live Streaming during the 2nd or 3rd match, the master of ceremonies specifically talked about SJMS and our trash can robot with the frisbee from last year," said Anna Robles.

The matches held throughout the three-day event offer excitement for both the spectators and the participants. Each time the robots are placed on the competition floor, the crowd cheers and the master of ceremonies calls the match much like a sporting event. Teams are grouped in Blue and Red teams with each color forming an alliance. Once the matches are completed, the teams swiftly move back to the pit area to make repairs and to plan strategies with the other members of the alliances.

The SJMS Ranger team is looking forward to next year's event!

16 Congratulations on another great effort!



Caelon Tautz drives while Reece Turner launches the ball, and Ms. Robles gives verbal cues!



Repairs



SSG Roy Burch
Military Advisor



2LT Joe Risher
Military Advisor



SFC Mark Giles
Senior Military Advisor

HONOR COMPANY



“A” CO



Alpha company commander, Colton Brown, is joined by Stephan Selby, and company 1SG Zachary Reimer, showing off their new company banners.

Honor Company scoring criteria is a combination of several different components of the SJMS system. Academics is scored at the top of the scale. Weekly room inspections, community service hours, extracurricular activities participation, Cadet challenge results, Muleskinner Olympics, military field day, Cadet formal inspection, and being named to the President’s list or the commandant’s list all count towards positive points for each company. Adversely, the companies can lose points for Class I offenses and if a member of the company quits participating in a school sport points are deducted.

SFC Mark Giles, Senior Military Advisor of “A” Company states, “I’m very proud of the accomplishments of Alpha Company this year. The Cadets did a great job of

trying to excel in all areas, which paid off when we were named Honor Company of the year. When the dust settled at the end of the year, the Cadets of Alpha had a lot to be proud of. The company won Honor Company, Best Prepared for CFI (Cadet Formal Inspection), Best Drill Company, Best Drill Platoon, the Muleskinner Olympics, and succeeded beyond my expectations in academics this year. There are no words to explain my sense of pride in these young men. They are a group of men to emulate!” *Congratulations, Alpha Company!*



NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 31

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Suliamon Abdul-Hadi, Daniel Bright, Doug Dutton, Sean Wilson-Bynoe, Cameron Lum, Levin Truitt, Rylan Snow, Emmanuel St. Martin, Antonio Miranda, Andre Popovic, Taj Taylor, Brooklyn McKnight, Ross Ray, Sean O'Gary, Edmund Skyes, Father Randy McIntosh, and Patrick Tipton

"The mission trip started out as an idea for the boys staying on campus to do something productive, and to have a learning experience they could take with them when they left the school. I went on-line to find mission trips and found five that looked promising. *Praying Pelican Missions* (PPM) began over 20 years ago by uniting groups with local churches throughout the world. PPM seeks to build a bridge between community needs and organizations seeking to offer help and support. I put together a group of 14 cadets (mostly New Boys) and three adults. We traveled to Tucson, Arizona, where we took down a large tree, repaired playground equipment, cleaned up the playground, and sanded, refinished, and sealed over 23 church pews. We spread 12 tons of gravel around the parking lot and led a Vacation Bible School for the kids of the church.

During our free time, the Cadets spent time in the pool at the motel, while we 'older folks,' used the hot tub (which our bodies needed). We spent one day traveling to *Gates Pass* and did some exploring. On the way back to St. John's, we went to the *Grand Canyon* and to an Indian trading post. We spent ten days together, working hard and having some fun. I am truly grateful for this chance to connect with the boys on a level that is often difficult for a chaplain to accomplish.

I am extremely proud of the Cadets for their hard work and the way they represented SJMS.

GREAT JOB, GUYS!" *Fr. Randy McIntosh*

Board of Trustees

E. Andrew England, President
D. Dale Browning, Trustee Emeritus
Larry Britegam, Chairman of the Board
Lee Young, Immediate Past
Chairman of the Board
Tom Bell
David Dumler
Rob Exline
Dr. David Hendrick
Bill Medina
Bob Miller
Tom Pestinger
Pete Peterson
John Seitz
David Terry
Mike Terry
John Vanier
Doug Dutton, Treasurer
Kari Wilson, Secretary

The Skirmisher is published
three times a year for
alumni, parents, students,
and friends of
St. John's Military School
P.O. Box 5020
Salina, KS 67402-5020
(785)823-7231
www.sjms.org

Editors

Katy England, Wendy Stein
& Chris Zerger

Contributing Writers

Anna Robles,
Wendy Stein, & Pam Kraus

Photographers

Paul Meyer, Trenten Moser,
Terry Plumberg,
& Scott Wiedeman

Layout and Design

Derius Mammen &
Wendy Stein

Production - Jostens