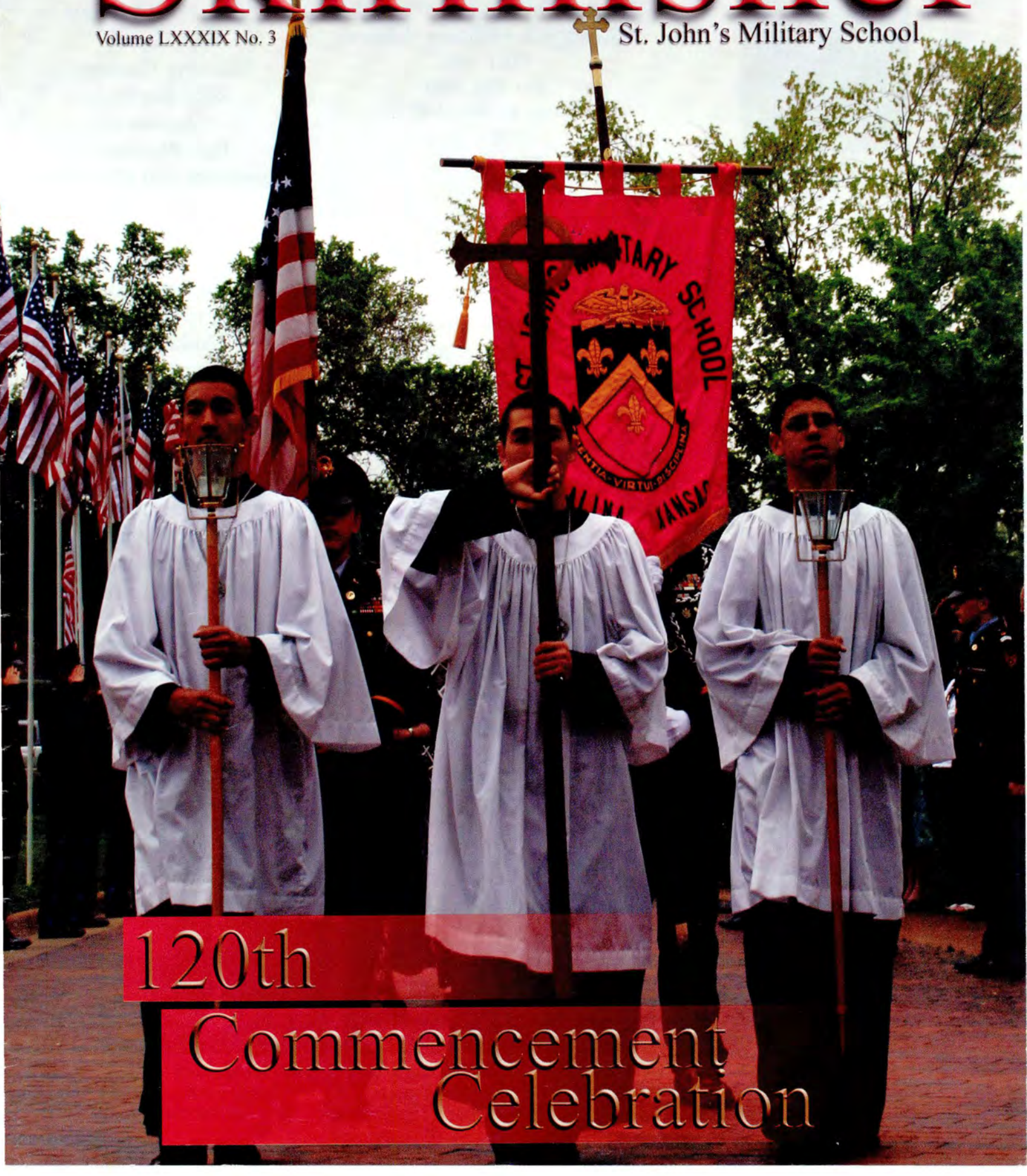


The **Skirmisher** Summer 2008

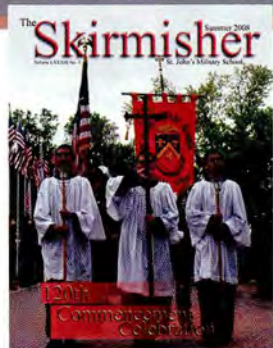
Volume LXXXIX No. 3

St. John's Military School



120th

Commencement
Celebration



Cover Photo by Scott Wiedeman
 Left to right: Edgar McBee, Devon Conway,
 (carrying the Ducker's Cross) and Brandon
 Santana, lead the Freedom Tree Procession.

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Terry Plumberg, Alumni Coordinator,
 Fred Pate and Col. Al Ransom
 "Old Boys," visit on the porch of Vanier.



D. Dale Browning and Ryan Quintana
 the recipient of the D. Dale Browning
 Scholarship.



Old Boy Association board members stand
 ready to induct their members
 into the hall of fame.

Larry Britegam

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



I just want to take a second and take in the "positive energy" from you today. I'm really not sure I ever thought I would be the commencement speaker at such a prestigious school or that I ever had enough insight or skill to uphold the

many speakers that have spoke before me.

I want to recognize the faculty and staff at St. John's. You are the best!

I want to recognize the moms, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and all other family members for the agonizing decision that you made to send your son to school at St. John's! You did the right thing, you made the right choice.

I want to recognize and congratulate the cadets of the 120th corp. I salute each of you!

When you're asked to be a commencement speaker, you know there's a lot of pressure on you to perform. I consider today the greatest honor I've ever been asked to perform.

I thought my message today would be something we might have a common interest in. From a former old boy, to someone who has traveled the path of life the last 40 years. From someone whose entire thought process about life, relationships, family, making a difference, seeing the big picture and so on have changed since that rainy day in August in 1967 when I came to St. John's.

I was sitting in your chair 40 years ago and I can honestly say I know how you feel. The furthest thing from my mind was being the Commencement Speaker 40 years later! I would tell you today, that some day, one, or several of you will be asked to have this same honor that I received.

My story is not unlike many of you. I came from a good family, a loving family, parents that wanted the best for their kids.

But along the way, something happened to me. From concerns of a brain tumor in 7th grade, to missing an entire year of school because of migraine headaches, my parents made the decision to send me to St. John's.

No it was not easy for them to make that decision or to make it work financially. It didn't help that I didn't want to go. Counting the days until commencement, I could hardly wait to get on with the next stage of my life. After two years at school, my parents gave me the choice to go back to public schools. I jumped at the chance. Today though, I must tell you that in a lot of ways I regret that decision. In my heart, I wish I had graduated from St. John's.

I attended public schools, did OK in the classroom, attended Kansas State University and flunked out of school. Boy, was my dad happy with me. I painted houses for a year and kept telling my parents I would go back to school, knowing in my heart the motivation was not there.

One day, my mom made a statement to me that has forever been a part of me. I did go back to college and graduate with a degree in "Business and Finance". Yes, mom, your advice has been invaluable and I'm forever indebted!

I was fortunate 30 years ago to be hired at the place I always wanted to work. But, after six months, I quit. I kept saying to myself that nobody was noticing me. Nobody was getting how talented of a person I was. Nobody was getting what a difference I could make.

Why? Fortunately, someone did care about me and took the time to be a mentor to me, someone who saw something in me and said some things to me that made me realize I had to change. That was 30 years ago, and I'm still with the same organization!

My point in telling you this story, is to ask you to take the time to look around you. How many of us in the audience today, have been down this path, or maybe are on that path today? Sometimes the answers for our questions are right in front of us, yet we don't see them.

COL Keith Duckers, longtime President of St. Johns and a very close personal as well as family friend, took me under his wing. Keith took an interest in me as an eight grader and right up until the time he passed away in 2007. He helped me believe in myself, when I didn't.

Much like all of the faculty and teachers have taken an interest in you. Remember though, at some point you must decide what path you want to take.

Early in my life I took the wrong path. One that was filled with self-pity, why is this happening to me questions, and one lined with no motivation or goals.

I would bet that some of you are on that path too.

What I realized one day and what you will realize some day, is that you have to dig yourself out of that type of thinking. Nobody will be there to take care of your problems for you; you must take that responsibility yourself. But boy, will you feel good about yourself when you make that decision!

What I have realized in my life is that St. John's has been the infrastructure for most of my growth, especially after my formative years.

Its discipline, character, passion for people, religious influence, has been the very thing that I have relied on so many times. It took me years to realize what impact the two years I spent here had on me. It's taught me so many things that quite frankly, I may never have learned without this education.

St. John's taught me;

That attitude is everything. Be true to your friends and yourself and show compassion for others and the world will be at your fingertips.

To always surround myself with good people. People of character, people with vision, positive role models, friends that will be there in good times and bad.

To always establish goals. Whether you attain those goals or not is not the judge of success or failure. Your effort is.

To always be a great communicator. You must always share what you are feeling. This is something that I have to work on each and everyday.

To understand what real possibilities there are in my life and the lives of other people. See the good in everybody.

To understand people. There are not any of us that are alike. Those that have great success in life, and I'm not just talking about financially, are those that take the time to understand someone else's position and thoughts. The key to leadership to me is having the compassion to listen, and the wherewithal to create a common path for all to go down.

To constantly tell people when they are doing a good job. It will make a big difference in your relationships.

To never blame my failures on others.

To always accept the responsibility and move forward. Our greatest lessons most often come from our failures, not our successes.

To always listen to others. You just might be surprised what you learn.

To be a mentor for others. You owe that to yourself and to those who were there and helped you along the way. Embrace that responsibility, nurture the opportunity to make another human being grow.

To talk about my family every chance I get and to tell those closest to me how much I love them and how much they mean to me and how proud I am of them!

I encourage all of you to enjoy the ride each and everyday, no matter what stage of your life you are in.

St. John's Military School has survived poverty, the depression, two world wars, existed during three centuries, the invention of electricity and the telephone, the invention of air transportation, the internet, high and low enrollments, a man on the moon, disagreements, financial strain and many other challenges. But through it all it has persevered and continued it's original mission of helping any of us who needed a "second chance".

We are all just like St. John's. We need good core values, mentoring from others, to learn from our mistakes, and the opportunity to make a difference.

I simply love St. John's. I love everything about it. Forty years ago, I wouldn't have said that. Today, I realize in my heart, what it did for me.

To my great friends Jack Vanier, Dale Browning, and Tim Soule, all "old boys" leaving their own legacies at this school that all of you are benefiting from today. If I can ever be anything close to what they are and what they represent, my life will be complete.

I challenge each and every one of you to not let any opportunity slip out of your grasp. Don't take the path of least resistance; it won't lead to where you want to go.

Challenge yourself, dig deep inside and draw on what you learned at St. John's. You have been taught the right path. Remember that success is measured in so many ways. It takes each and every one of us to create what you see here today.

I hope as each of you leaves the school, that you don't forget about what it has meant to you. I encourage all of you to stay in touch, to stay involved; to make sure that SJMS is here forever. You are the next generation that will assure the very existence of this school

In some ways I owe my life to this school. When you wake up someday and realize that the real difference we make in our lives and how we ultimately are judged, is the difference we make in the lives of others. It's really that simple!

I believe that the faculty and staff figured that out early on in their lives. How lucky each and every one of you are to be around that kind of influence!

In closing, I want to congratulate the seniors and wish them the very best in whatever career you decide to take.

To the rest of the corp, I wish you the very best next year as you create the 121st. corp's legacy!

May God Bless each of you, the United States of America and St. John's Military School!

SJMS FOREVER!



Members of the board of trustees applaud Mr. Britegam's speech. Pete Peterson, Don Lamb, Lee Young, Mary Vanier and Janet Terry.

Alumni

Reach Recruit and Represent
Old Boys Association Mission Statement
Reaching Out...



Wall of Fame Recipients....Inspired Speeches.....touching remarks!

The Wall of Fame inductees addressed the corps during the Academic and Military Awards ceremony. Their remarks were filled with sage advice and comical stories about their days as cadets.

N. Earle Fox Old Boy 1955

Graduated from SJMS in 1955. While at St. John's he was a member of the Crack Squad Drill Platoon and a Cadet Officer.

He received his BS from Southern Colorado State College and is a recognized leader for the City of Pueblo, CO. He served in the US Army; Special Forces Unit. Retired from the Colorado Iron and Fuel Corporation as Assistant Superintendent. Vice President and Director of Operations for Goodwill Industries of Pueblo. Job Placement for mentally and physically impaired teenagers; Funeral Director for Pueblo Funeral Homes; and Instructor for the American Driving Academy.

SJMS has prepared me to deal with change and has made me a strong leader in the community.



Advice to the Corps

Consider today as the best day of the rest of your life. Set goals and high standards for yourself, have a purpose in life and be the best you can be. Learn from your mistakes.

Robert Miller Old Boy 1947

Robert Miller attended St. John's from 1938 - 1947. He was awarded the Commandant's Medal in 1943 and 1946, and was the first cadet awarded a Major's rank.

After graduation, Robert attended Brown Mackie College and joined the Air Force. He worked for United Airlines as an aircraft inspector and Braniff Airlines as a technical representative. His early retirement years found him as a mediator in Hawaii and Washington State.



Advice to the Corps

Your references for other people's opinions are only good until you or someone else modifies them for the better.



Fred Pate Old Boy 1942

Fred Pate attended SJMS from 1939-1942 and was extremely proud when made Cadet Captain of The Corps. Fred was also the Crack Drill Squad Captain, football and Army Captain and Skirmisher Editor-in-Chief. Upon graduation he was awarded the Gordon Prize

Entered the US Marine Corps in 1943 and was shipped to the Pacific as a Turret Gunner in a TBM Torpedo Bomber. Flew off the Islands of Guam, Tinian and Ie Shima, also off the air field below Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima when secured by the Marines. Received the Air Medal while in Squadron 131 from Major General L.E. Woods, USMC, on Okinawa. Received a BS degree in Agriculture from California State University San Luis Obispo, CA. Fred worked the later part of his working years in real estate and was sales manager for The William Lyon Co. Fred has three daughters, one son, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



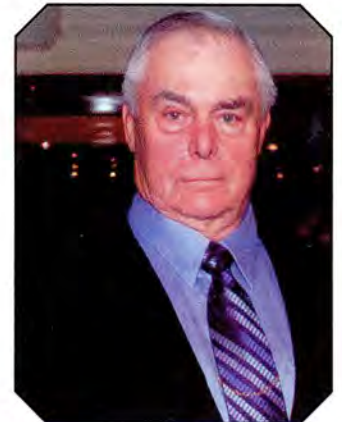
Advice to the Corps SEMPER FI (ALWAYS FAITHFUL)

Lou Wyman 1951 Old Boy

Wyman received the Gordon Prize while attending SJMS, which was a highlight of his time at SJMS. Lou served in the Korean War, and attended Colorado State University before having to help his father on the ranch. They raised elk, and even organized shipping of the elk to Korea.

Lou turned the ranch into an 8500 square foot living history, non-profit museum. Wyman's dream is not just to have old items sitting around for people to look at; he wants to bring history to life by having machines that operate.

He continues to archive the past with his museum.



Advice to the Corps

Reflect on what you're doing. Apply yourself and you'll reap the rewards."



Purpose

The SJMS Wall of Fame Committee shall consider and induct those who have a strong commitment to duty, honor, pride, loyalty and achievement into the St. John's Military School Wall of Fame.

The Legacy...

Continues with the arrival of this year's new boys!

As parents, we all want what is best for our children and grandchildren. In a world which offers many challenges to young people, it becomes extremely important to choose the right path. Using good judgement is often difficult, and the path to making the right decision can be filled with many roadblocks.

Tom Farr, 1968 and Bob Eakin, 1953, SJMS "Old Boys," have made a decision they feel is best for their child and grandchild. Harrison Farr, son of Tom, and Erick Eakin, grandson of Bob, will be joining the 121st Corps of Cadet this fall.

The SJMS campus has changed tremendously since Farr and Eakin attended; however the values and traditions remain strong. This is what made both men think of their boys when deciding to send them to St. John's. After attending the Commencement of the 120th Corps of Cadets, both knew they had made the right decision.

Harrison Farr will be a seventh grader



From Left: Bill Bunting, long time former SJMS military advisor, dressed as 'The Mule-Skinner,' "Old Boy's" Fred Pate and Bob Eakin with Bob's grandson, Erick.

this fall, and is looking forward to one day becoming a member of the SJMS rifle team and playing football. He is a member of the Boy Scouts and looks forward to participating in Troop 1, St. John's Boy Scout troop. When asked about his decision to become a Mule-Skinner, he replied, "I'm a little nervous about being away from home, but I look forward to meeting new friends and think this will be a fun experience." "I think it is cool to do what my Dad did." "When my Dad attended SJMS, he never got a sabre, I promised him I would work hard to get one, so I can give it to him."

Tom Farr agrees, and knows all too well the changes Harrison will experience; "friendships you make at St. John's will last a lifetime." "St. John's will also prepare you for life, and teach you how to attain your goals; to me, it was a simple decision to send Harrison."

Bob Eakin also feels the building of friendships that takes place at St. John's is



From Left: Graduating senior, Jason Ostrom passes the 'handle' to "Old Boy," Tom Farr.

invaluable. He has many fond memories of his time with good friends, Bill Meidell, 1954; D. Dale Browning, 1955 and Bill Salmon, 1953; and they remain in contact with each other. This is something Eakin hopes will happen for his grandson, Erick. Erick will enter SJMS as a sophomore, and is looking forward to playing football, and living in Jack Vanier Hall. Erick also anticipates enjoying the new activity center in the basement of Jack Vanier Hall. Eakin is "thrilled Erick has joined the 121st corps at St. John's" and "I know he will get a top notch education."

Taking advantage of the opportunity to become the best is a goal Bob and Tom want for both their boys. This goal will be easily achieved if Harrison and Erick use their time at St. John's wisely.

Lyrics from the SJMS Alma Mater, written by Paul H. Kellogg, "Sons as yet unborn will hail thee" becomes prophetic with the arrival of Harrison and Erick.

Welcome to St. John's.



Harrison Farr, outside the Salina Bicentennial Center prior to the Friday evening President's Recognition ceremony during commencement weekend.

Sons as yet unborn will hail thee.....

Orange and Black to stay!



Andy England



How did you come to be involved with the SJMS board?

I learned of St. John's through Bob Kastner. He was a family friend of my in-laws and knew of my attending military school. He discussed SJMS often and suggested that I get involved. My first involvement was in taking

some SJMS cadets to Kansas City for a VMI recruiting dinner. Peter Wilcox was a member of that first group and graduated from VMI a few years ago.

Who asked you to get involved?

As I mentioned, Bob Kastner had put the bug in my ear years earlier, but Don Lamb is the one that actually recruited me to be on the Board of Trustees.

How long have you been involved?

I came on the board in 2004.

How does serving on the board impact your life?

I know, first hand, the value of an all male military school education. Being involved in seeing that type of education perpetuated is very fulfilling. I believe that living in a community is not enough to call yourself a part of that community. By being involved at SJMS, I believe that I am enhancing the entire community of Salina. I am taking a personal stake in how our community is perceived and what our community produces; namely some fine high school graduates. SJMS provides a home for some boys, a place to get back on track for some, and a place to achieve higher goals for others. Watching the process of what SJMS can do for all young men is very personally satisfying.

What is the history of Salina Building Systems?

Salina Building Systems was founded in 1969, by my father-in-law A. Norman Yenkey. We have been a Buildership for Butler Manufacturing since our founding. Norm retired in 1998, and my partner and I purchased the firm. We are and always have been a General Contractor that specialized in pre-engineered metal building projects, however, we do a fair amount of conventional construction projects, project management, and maintenance services.

What types of projects is your company involved?

My company specializes in pre-engineered metal building projects in the manufacturing, warehousing, and industrial market. We have constructed buildings ranging from 1,200 to 130,000 square feet. The majority of our business is performed for repeat clients in the manufacturing industry in and around Salina, KS. We are currently involved in projects for the U.S. Army and Ft. Riley, KS, the Kansas National Guard in Salina, and local restaurants, dental clinics, manufacturers, and developers.

Describe your feelings about the current economy and how your company has adjusted (or not) to be viable in these turbulent economic times.

We have yet to see the turbulence that is being widely reported in the media. Salina is blessed to have a strong manufacturing base with markets overseas. Our current backlog of work and quote volume are higher today than they have ever been in my tenure here. We are certainly keeping a wary eye to the future, but are riding the wave of a boom in local manufacturing, military, and retail construction. As commodity prices escalate (mainly fuel and steel) we are taking every opportunity to purchase needed materials early.

Describe how being an alumni of VMI gives you more insight into the lives of SJMS current cadets.

Having lived in barracks and endured a system very similar to that of SJMS, I can empathize, and sometimes sympathize, with what the cadets are going through. As I attended the commencement activities for the 120th, I could see the bond of brotherhood between the boys. It brought back fond memories of my cadetship and the never ending bond that I share with my fellow cadets. My VMI experience provides me with insight into what programs and activities the boys need to have a fulfilling and successful cadetship.

Does being involved with the cadets, faculty and staff offer any challenges?

The challenge for me and the Board of Trustees is to ensure that the staff and faculty have every tool required to provide the programs necessary to successfully educate and develop these young men. We have to overcome the economic and logistical hurdles to ensure that we are providing these boys with a unique and challenging experience. As a board, it is easy to get caught up in the business aspects of SJMS. We must remain vigilant in business area, but remain focused on the Corp of Cadets. That can be a challenge. Being able to personally interact with the boys, faculty, and staff help me to remain focused on the Corp and overcome this challenge.

Do you feel that you have an impact on what takes place on campus?

I would hope that in the few times I get to address the Corp, that a few things I say sink in and take root. By being on campus and available with an open ear or word of advice, I hope to instill a greater sense of involvement in the greater community of SJMS to all who are involved. People who feel they are a part of the SJMS team will go the extra mile to ensure that things are done right. If I can help to foster that sense of belonging, I will consider my Chairmanship a success.

What message would you like to send to the people who will be reading this Skirmisher?

The benefits of a SJMS education are not fully realized until you fully commit yourself to the process. A commitment to being a working part of something much larger than yourself, a sense of personal responsibility, and dedication to the process and the goals you hope to obtain makes all the difference in how a boy and his family perceive their results from a SJMS education. The "Old Boys" understand this full well. I would hope that the boys, parents of the boys, and anyone considering SJMS would come to embrace this thought.

The "Old Boys" are the life's blood of SJMS. As recruiters, supporters, and stewards of the school, they can do more to

perpetuate it than any one person on the Board of Trustees, staff, or faculty. For those that have not taken the opportunity, rekindle your connections to your classmates, friends, and the school. For those currently involved, we appreciate you and celebrate your devotion to your alma mater.



Andy England, D. Dale Browning & LTC. Antonio Pino



Spotlight on Achievement



Justin Billings



Tyler Raymer

Justin Billings and Tyler Raymer received Full ROTC Scholarships worth a total estimated value of \$80,000.00 each at Wentworth Military Academy, located in Lexington, Missouri.



Kevin Broeils

Kevin Broeils received a Full Tuition Scholarship for \$21,500.00 Renewable for Four Years at the University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan. David Stoppel received a \$10,000.00 music scholarship renewable for four years at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas. Richard Wallace received a \$5,000 tuition scholarship renewable for four years at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado.



David Stoppel



Richard Wallace

Congratulations!

SJMS Scholarships

- Browning-Soule Achievement Award - \$2000.00 - Thomas Ashe
- Browning-Soule Achievement Award \$2000.00 - Joseph Casey
- Jesus Martinez Scholarship \$2000.00 - Omar Baldaras
- Jesus Martinez Scholarship \$2000.00 - Jaime Rico-Rivas
- Milton L. Morrison Scholarship \$2000.00 - Ryan David
- Hoobler Family Award- \$2000.00 - Victor Fontana
- Keith & Liz Duckers Scholarship \$2000.00 - Gavin Laupa
- Robichaux Family Scholarship \$2000.00 - Edgar McBee
- The Hazel Fonck Memorial Scholarship \$2000.00 - Wiley Parrish
- Charlie Stevens Scholarship \$2000.00 - Justin Pennington
- Unsung Hero Scholarship \$2000.00 - Brandon Santana
- Don Dieckhoff Scholarship \$2000.00 - Patrick Sullins
- Tim Soule Scholarship \$2000.00 - John Taylor
- Donna Vanier Scholarship \$2500.00 - Lester Gillberg
- Donna Vanier Scholarship \$2500.00 - Ilya Sheldon
- Donna Vanier Scholarship \$2500.00 - Austin Strecker
- Mark Delane Lewis Memorial Scholarship \$2500.00 - Kyle Taylor
- Browning-Soule Achievement Award \$3000.00 - James Tobler
- Browning-Soule Achievement Award \$4000.00 - Paul Strebeck
- Lesta Vanier Scholarship \$4000.00 - Joshua Webber
- John K. Vanier Scholarship \$4000.00 - Jacob Woolf
- Litowich Family Trust Scholarship \$5000.00 - Jacob Wilcox-Haskett
- Ethel Hines Scholarship \$5000.00 - Chaz Bertrand
- Richard Anderson Scholarship - \$5000.00 - Ian Brands
- Richard Anderson Scholarship - \$5000.00 - James Pena
- Sadie Miller Scholarship - \$5000.00 - Andre Cardoso
- J.J. Vanier Scholarship - \$5000.00 - Steven Crockenberg
- Browning-Soule Achievement Award - \$5000.00 - Justin Pennington
- Wiley T. Baner PSO Scholarship - \$5000.00 - James Wall-Toussignant
- Cozy Inn Scholarship \$7500.00 - Ian Sitarik
- J.D. Berkley Scholarship \$10,000.00 - Joshua Batchelor
- J.D. Berkley Scholarship \$10,000.00 - Ian Vaughn
- Horesji Family Foundation Scholarship - \$10,000.00 - Jonathon Frank
- Horesji Family Foundation Scholarship - \$10,000.00 - Jason Nguyen
- Horesji Family Foundation Scholarship - \$10,000.00 - Gary Stone
- D.Dale Browning Scholarship \$19,600.00 - Ryan Quintana



Ryan Quintana



Gary Stone



Jason Nguyen



Ian Sitarik



Joshua Batchelor



Jonathon Frank

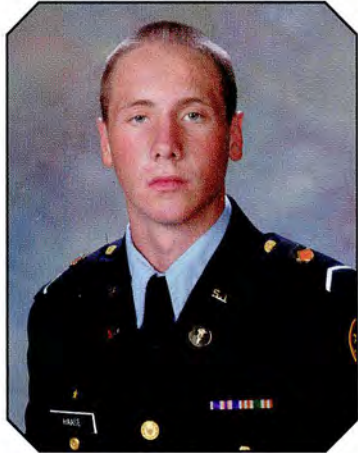


Ian Vaughn



Blue Beret

The Blue Beret is awarded to the top three grade point earners each grading period. Cadets earning Blue Beret honors were the coveted Blue Beret and receive a movie pass.



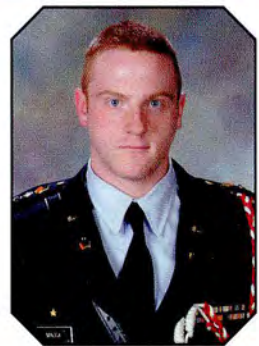
Aaron Haase



Kyung Kyu Moon



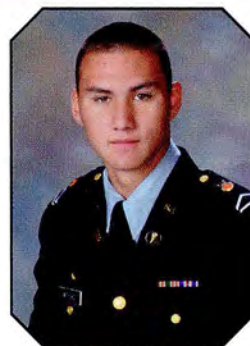
Gary Stone



William Mauck



Jason Nguyen



Jackson Moyers



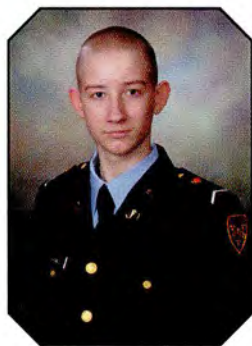
Andre Cardoso



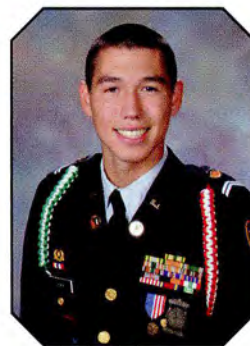
Ian Vaughn



Carlos Ballina



Ian Brands



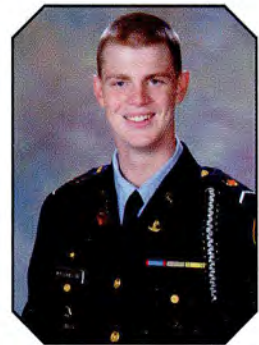
Devon Conway



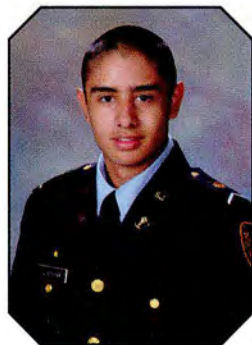
James Pena



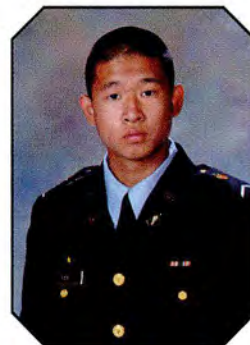
Ian Sitarik



Joshua Batchelor



Ryan Quintana



Kang Lee



David Sorenson

Dean's Honor Roll



Baek Lim



Terell Cornell



Francisco Laso-Castro



Jacob Wilcox-Haskett



Edgar Mc Bee



James Tobler



Jonathon Keller



Phillip Gamito



Jamie Rico-Rivas



Miguel Castro



Alec Beavers



Jason Ostrom



Zak Anderson



Spencer Gunn



Travis Vindelov



Joshua Webber



Jordan Tucker



Travis Vindelov



Richard Wallace



Gavin Laupa



Cameron Fleet



John Carter



James Wall-Toussignant

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll cadets are listed in order by GPA!



Jonathon Frank



Stefan Spatafora



Kevin Broeils



Brandon Santana



Nicholas Saullo

Third Quarter Honor Roll are listed in order by GPA!

Leadership Camp

START THE YEAR PREPARED



This year's leadership camp will focus on leadership training, teamwork, self-confidence, physical fitness, and adventure activities. The Military Department selected the attendees based on their leadership potential and ability to make a positive impact on the 121st Corps of Cadets. Cadets will attend leadership classes to enhance their individual leadership and to prepare them for future positions of increasing leadership and responsibility within the Corps of Cadets.

We will be holding the Drill Instructor, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant/First Sergeant, and Officer Candidate Schools. These classes are mandatory for certain promotions and help explain the art of leadership at the various levels. The cadets will then get to put their newly acquired knowledge to practical use in various environments.

We will promote teamwork and self-confidence through our adventure training. We will be taking the cadets to St. Francis for the high ropes course, Rock Springs for horseback riding, canoeing, and a leadership reaction course, plus conducting our own team building and leadership reaction courses on the St. John's campus. One of the annual highlights will be the trip to Ft. Riley to run through the obstacle course. Our leaders will also be taught how to properly conduct physical fitness training for the 121st Corps of Cadets and complete a 10K road march.

This leadership camp will build the foundation for the 121st Corps of Cadets. We will establish what we expect of our leaders and teach them how to conduct themselves in accordance with the high standards that have been established by the cadets who have gone on before them. It is an honor to be selected for Leadership Camp and each cadet will be given the opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun at the same time.....*MAJ George Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets*

Admissions



The admissions department is pleased to announce that a record number of cadets have chosen to become members the 121st Corps of Cadets. The

numbers represent the highest percentage of returning cadets in the history of the school. The re-enrollment process began in January for "Old Boys." "Old Boys" and their families who have not yet re-enrolled may do so by returning their signed contract that was sent to them this spring. Should you wish to have a copy mailed to you please call the admissions department

We are in the height of our recruiting season for "New Boys." Mr. Roy Lawrence is working in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas and has already been on the road for several weeks. Phil Kellogg is working in Colorado, Utah, Montana, New Mexico and Western Nebraska. Mr. Kellogg is relocating to the Denver area, from Salina, sometime this summer. Marcia Demuth is recruiting in Kansas, Missouri and Eastern Nebraska and is responsible for the coordination of all campus tours. Rob Forde is working in Arizona, Nevada and California.

Recruiting receptions are planned in a 10 number of locations during the summer

months. These receptions offer families the chance to meet members of the admissions and administrative staff to discuss the advantages of an education at St. John's.

"Old Boys," their families, and other friends of St. John's are welcome to attend the receptions. Please call or email for locations.

Atlanta, GA

Friday, June 27, 2008

Dallas, TX

Monday, July 7, 2008

Fort Worth, TX

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Oklahoma City, OK

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Tulsa, OK

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Grand Junction, CO

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Colorado Springs, CO

Friday, July 18, 2008

Denver, CO

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Salina, KS - St. John's OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, July 12, 2008

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Presentation and Campus Tours will be provided. *RSVP Requested*

To assist in our recruiting effort we have created a short video that tells the St. John's story. This video may be found on our website, www.sjms.org. In addition, if you

know of a family or a young man interested in St. John's and you would like to give them a copy of the DVD, please contact us and we will mail a copy to you.. Another tool we are using to spread the word about St. John's is a recently developed flyer. We mailed over five thousand of these flyers to patrons, cadets and friends of St. John's in the hopes that they will be posted throughout the country and create a network of interest in areas we are not able to physically recruit. We will gladly mail more flyers to anyone interested in posting them.

Please call our toll free number 1-866-704-5294 or send email to gingerw@sjms.org if you are interested in helping us in our recruiting efforts, would like a copy of our DVD, plan to distribute and/or post our flyers, or if you have questions or comments.

The advantages of an education at St. John's military school are not widely known and it's only through the assistance and help of our parents, patrons, cadets and alumni that we can make these advantages known.

This school has the finest facilities in the country and our administration, faculty and military staff are superb. We hope that every member of the St. John's family will assist us in our recruiting efforts...*Ginger Wooten, Director of Marketing and Admissions*

Jack Vanier 'Hall'



Jack Vanier and Tim Soule pass the handle.

The 121st Corps of Cadets will be making new memories when they step on campus for the beginning of the 2008- 2009 school year. The dark and dingy hall ways of Mize Hall will be silenced. Instead, Jack Vanier Hall with its high ceilings and brightly painted hallways will afford the cadets living quarters second to none. Jack Vanier provided the funding to build a barracks which will house cadets in high style for many years to come.

But along with the rooms where the cadets will study and sleep, there is a basement that will offer a place to rest, relax, entertain and build both body and mind. D. Dale

Browning and Tim Soule stepped in to provide the funding to turn the bottom floor of Jack Vanier Hall into a recreation complex. Already in place are two theatres, each equipped with a flat panel TV screen, theatre seating and surround sound. Included in the recreation area are three new pool tables, three new ping-pong tables, a snack bar, a 16 station video game room for Nintendo and X-Box games, a game room stocked with traditional board games and a quiet area for study and relaxation.



Mrs. Jack (Donna) Vanier and their daughter Mary Vanier, SJMS trustee.

Soule and Browning have agreed to fund the building of a gym/weight room in the southwest portion of the basement. The room will be fitted with gym equipment purchased from Advanced Life Fitness Equipment. The weight machines are commercial grade and will include;

- 2 treadmills
- 2 elliptical machines
- 1 leg extension machine
- 1 seated leg curl machine
- 1 seated leg press
- 1 bi-cep curl machine
- 1 tri-cep extension machine
- 1 seated rowing machine
- 1 chest press machine
- 1 chest pull down machine
- 1 shoulder press machine
- 2 bench press stations
- 2 complete sets of dumbbells
- 3 weight lifting benches
- 2 heavy duty power racks

Each member of the 121st Corps of Cadets will receive training in the proper usage of the weight machines. This new gym/weight room



Jack Vanier and his son John Vanier.

is scheduled to be ready for use during leadership camp. The equipment is scheduled to be installed the first week of August. The gym/weight room will be available for use by the P.E. classes and this area will be open during the weekends and during the hours the cadets have free time. Browning noted that cadets knowledgeable about the weight machines will be hired to train new cadets as they arrive on campus.

The combination of living space and recreational space provided by Jack Vanier, D. Dale Browning and Tim Soule, promises to make life as a cadet at St. John's the very best in the history of the school.



Wiedeman



Wiedeman



Wiedeman

The basement of Jack Vanier Hall as viewed by those taking tours following the dedication. Left: three new pool tables center: movie theatre with theatre seating right: the snack bar area

Congratulations Graduates!

N



ALEC BEAVERS



JUSTIN BILLINGS



KEVIN BROEILS

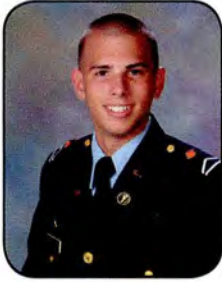


WALTER BROWN



NATHAN DIXON

O



ADDISON EBY



PHILLIP GAMITO



LATHAN HICKS



BRANDON HOLMES

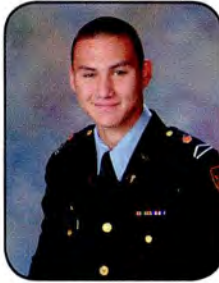


FRANCISCI LASO-CASTRO

O



WILLIAM MAUCK



JACKSON MOYERS



JASON OSTROM



DAMIEN PULSCHER



TYLER RAYMER

O



JOSHUA SIBIO



DAVID STOPPEL



CHANCE THORNTON



JORDAN TUCKER



TRAVIS VINDELOV

91% of the class is college bound
9% enlisted in the military

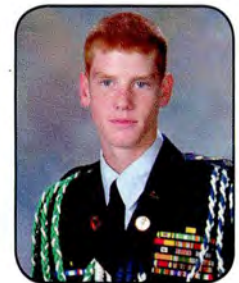
- Twenty-three cadets representing 12 states and Mexico
- Class Valedictorian - Kevin Broeils
- Class Salutatorian - Richard Wallace
- Awarded over \$306,000.00 in college scholarships
- Average ACT score 21.45
- List of colleges and universities where seniors were accepted
 - Wentworth Military Academy
 - Virginia Military Institute
 - The University of Nebraska
 - Colorado State University
 - The University of Northern Colorado
 - Drury University
 - Kansas Wesleyan University
 - University of Detroit Mercy
 - Western State College
 - Univeridad Ibero Americana



TREVOR VINDELOV



RICHARD WALLACE



BRIAN WHEELER

Commencement

Rain threatened to put a damper on a weekend of activities that had been in the planning since late November. The rain held off and each event went like clockwork. Commencement weekend offered something for everyone. A chance to graduate, a chance to be reunited with sons that have been away at school, a chance to feel pride in accomplishments, a chance to say farewell to retiring staff members, a chance to look ahead to the 121st corps and a chance to look forward to Jack Vanier Hall coming alive with the first moments of leadership camp in August 2008.

Every detail was planned with the greatest of care. The music performed at each event had special significance. The campus was sculpted into a work of art by Lance Werber and his very dedicated crew of workers. D. Dale Browning thought of everything, and if he didn't think of it, staff members suggested many ways to make this commencement special.

Many people were extremely disappointed by the cancellation of last year's commencement weekend because of the 100-year flooding that occurred in Salina in May 2007. This commencement was planned in a way that would reach out to those who were deprived of their celebration last year and those who were new to St. John's traditions. Pam Best, mother of Merrick Best, who joined the 120th corps and is enrolled for the 121st corps, described commencement weekend as "one of the single most special events of my life. I have never been so repeatedly moved. I can't even imagine what it will be like when it's Merrick's turn." Those of us who have been privileged to be a part of many commencements agree that the 2008 celebration will go down as one of the most memorable events in recent history.

There were ceremonies celebrating cadet achievement, opportunities to share meals together, the dedication of a splendid new barracks, moments of sadness when remembering loved ones during the Final Roll Call and the return of the First Division Band, Fort Riley, Kansas to provide musical support for the final Pass-in-Review.

President Emeritus, Keith G. Duckers and Virgil "Lefty" Loy were given special recognition following the Final Roll Call. Colonel Ducker's family, wife Elizabeth, sons Kyle and Ed and daughter Sarah were on campus to remember their husband and father and reminisce about the time they spent living on campus and the impact Colonel Duckers had on thousands of young cadets. Virgil Loy's wife Helen, daughter Teeny Kelly and son-in-law Tom Kelly attended several events during the weekend enjoying the chance to renew their St. John's connections and remember the contributions "Lefty" made during his long career as a teacher and coach.

Two new flags were added to the magnificent collection of flags on the Tear Drop. Wanda Faulkner, beloved sister of D. Dale Browning and mother of Ron,

Vicki and Kristi Faulkner was given a flag posted close to the chapel. Eric Stein, beloved husband of Wendy Stein and father of Derek and Adele Stein was given a flag placed right next to Mrs. Faulkner.

The President's reception Friday evening, at the Salina Bi-Centennial Center brought the entire St. John's family together to celebrate the classes of 2007, 2008 and 2009. D. Dale Browning presented the class of 2007 special certificates and a commemorative coin. The class of 2008 also received a commemorative coin from Browning. The class of 2009 received an SJMS class ring, a gift from Browning, which was presented in one of the most moving ring ceremonies in recent memory. The final event of the evening culminated in the traditional farewell speeches given by the members of the Battalion Staff. Some spoke from their hearts without a note in front of them, others had prepared a speech, but what was common in each was the extreme sense of brotherhood that they had gained from their time at St. John's. The usually soft-spoken Francisco Laso-Castro, CSGM of the 120th corps, spoke passionately about the impact his time at St. John's has had on his life. His voice quivered as he touchingly spoke about the friendships he had made, the staff and faculty that he will never forget and the love in his heart for his alma mater. As each member of the staff approached the podium to say their farewell, it was evident to all in attendance that St. John's was indeed a very special place and those who work, teach and learn here are bound together by a force stronger than themselves.

Sunshine greeted the SJMS family on the morning of graduation. The front of Jack Vanier Hall was a spectacular backdrop for graduation exercises. Larry Britegam delivered an inspired commencement address. The class of 2008 was treated to a dignified presentation of the diplomas and allowed a few minutes to properly say good-bye to each other at the conclusion of the ceremony. Devon Walter, Academic Dean, presented the graduating seniors and awarded the Valedictorian and Salutatorians their medals. This class included the last cadets Walter had in class during his tenure as Industrial Arts teacher.

The Final Pass-in-Review on the new football field was a fitting conclusion to the weekend festivities. The First Division Band, Fort Riley, Kansas, added a spectacular musical contribution to the event and the members of the 120th paraded around the field with extra vigor in their step.

When the hats flew into the air as Nathan Dixon, Battalion Commander dismissed the 120th corps forever; there was a spirit of hope and optimism in the air. The future is bright at St. John's and the traditions continue to inspire loyalty towards an institution that has touched the lives of many.

SJMS FOREVER!



Jonathon Frank takes the battalion colors from MAJ. George Stelljes as a symbol of assuming the command of the 121st Corps of Cadets.

Two "Old Boy's from different generations, Al Ransom and David Dumler, pass the handle during the handle ceremony.



Nathan Dixon delivers his farewell address.



Al Ransom, Denny Dumler, D.Dale Browning and Tim Soule at the reception in Linger Hall.



Devon Conway, Lathan Hicks and Jackson Moyers un-case the colors during the President's Recognition Ceremony.



Jack Lobertini, class of 2007, marches through the sabre arch to accept his certificate and coin.

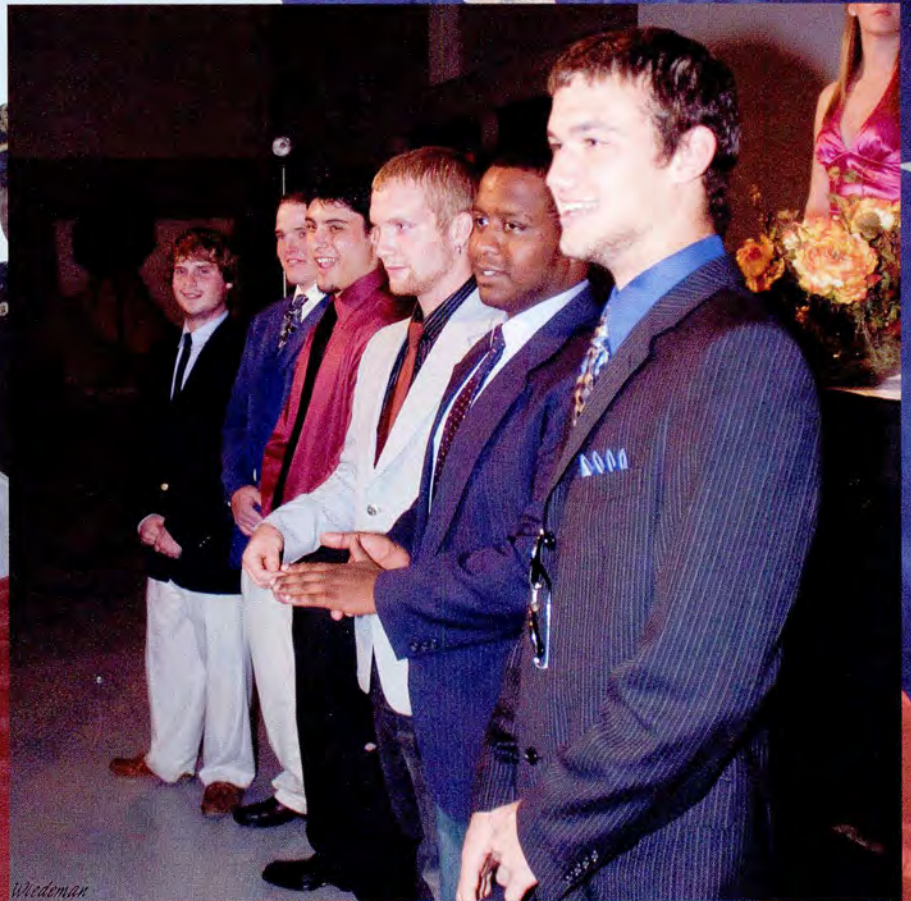


"Old Boy" Brandon Lee returned to SJMS to perform several vocal solos.

Commencement Weekend 2008

Members of the class of 2007 returned to be recognized by D. Dale Browning, Jared Wood, Samy Wahabrebi, Shane Scott, Ben Roman, Robert Mc Nair and Jack Lobertini were able to make the trip back to their alma mater.

Elizabeth Duckers and her son Ed prepare to raise flags Friday morning on the Tear Drop.



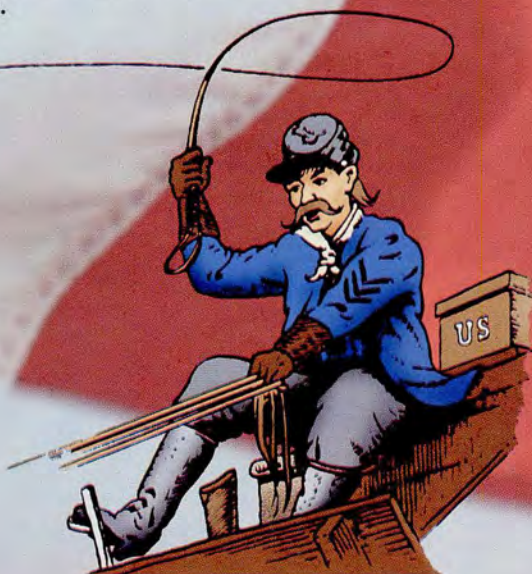
Joshua Sibio receives a check from Dan Pestinger for being the first cadet to join a branch of the armed service.



"Old Boys" form "F" Troop for the Tear Drop Pass-in-Review.



The senior class prepares to enter Chapel for the Senior Eucharist.



Alec Beavers receives the John Phillip Sousa Award from Mrs. Stein.



Carlos Ballina and his Mom accept his SJMS ring from D. Dale Browning.

Final Roll Call

Steven Crockenberg takes his turn at the table of honor.



Joshua Batchelor plays echo taps following the final roll call.



A cadet officer preparing to place a rose on the table.



Jason Nguyen, Elizabeth Duckers, Kyle Duckers and D. Dale Browning in the Freedom Tree procession.

Dick Becker

Husband of Sheri Becker
Longtime employee and SJMS Mom
June 15, 2007

Dick Peach

Old Boy
Topeka, KS
August 31, 2007

John Michael Beckner

Old Boy 1970
Grand Junction, CO
October 23, 2007

Jerry Litz

Old Boy 1942
Richland, WA
May 18, 2007

Leo D. Perkins

Old Boy 1953
Norman, OK
September 14, 2007

Pearce Harvey III

Old Boy
Topeka, KS

Wanda Faulkner

Beloved sister of D. Dale Browning
and friend to SJMS
Santa Fe, NM
May 25, 2007

Nicholas Beinlich

Old Boy 2005
Lincolnshire, IL
September 12, 2007

Marvin H Ellis

Old Boy
Montrose, CO
December 22, 2006

Jack Tissaw

Old Boy 1940
Las Vegas Nevada
May 18, 2007

Mark Wayne Baker

Old Boy 1966
Bayfield, CA
February 8, 2001

George Clark

Old Boys 1949
Scottsdale, AZ
March 26, 2007

President Emeritus Keith G Duckers

43 years of dedication
Salina, KS
August 13, 2007

Marvin Phillips

Old Boy 1950
Hillsboro, KS
April 24, 2006

Gary Casey
Old Boy 1971
Kansas City, MO
October 9, 2007

Eric Stein

April 2, 2007
Husband of Wendy Stein

The sunrise gone....





Zachary Risenhoover renders honors during the rose ceremony.



Spencer Gunn prepares to raise a flag.



Ed Duckers speaks about his father, President Emeritus, Keith G. Duckers. Elizabeth Duckers and Helen Loy stand in the background.

Elizabeth Duckers, D. Dale Browning and Ed Duckers applaud as the 120th Corps of Cadets Pass-in-Review following the *Final Roll Call*.

Robert Grove
Old Boy 1964
Apache, Junction, AZ

Glenn Howard
Old Boy 1946
Prescott, AZ

Thomas DeSpain
Old Boy 1967
Milford IA
May 4, 2007

Robert W Sanders
Old Boy 1940
Onalaska, WI
Sept 18, 2007

Nelda Dane Garoutte Linger
Wife of Lyman Linger
Loveland, CO
December 25, 2007

Arthur Carpenter
Old Boy 1948
Blue Rapids, KS
November 30, 2007

Fred Saathoff
Old Boy 1944
Overland Park, KS
September 22, 2006

Robert Boucher
Old Boy 2006
Colorado Springs, CO
January 10, 2008

Dr. Mace Braxton
Former Trustee
Salina, KS
February 15, 2008

Mae Rice
Honorary Colonel
Hosington, KS
March 9, 2008

Dr. Edward Simmons
Former Trustee
Charter Muleskinner
Salina, KS
March 8, 2008

Jospeh Neblock
Old Boys 2005
Bourbonnais, IL
March 9, 2008

James "Mike" Cox
Old Boy 1980
Steamboat Springs, CO
March 23, 2008

Robert Macauley
Cadet Major 1948
Cheyenne, WY
February 7, 2008

Virgil "Lefty" Loy
January 26, 2007
SJMS Teacher and Coach

since you graced this earth ♦ farewell ♦ in our hearts you will remain

THE MULESKINNER GOLF TOURNAMENT

IS BACK IN AUGUST!

SHOTGUN START
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Four Person Scramble
Salina Elks Country Club
August 8, 2008



7:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast
1:00 p.m. Lunch and Awards Ceremony

Hole Sponsor
Opportunity

\$200.00

Sponsor Signs
displayed
on golf course

Name on next
year's
entry form

Name in newspaper
advertising

ENTRY FEES

Foursome \$300.00

Individual \$85.00

Muligans \$5.00 each

Entry Fee Includes:

Breakfast

Green Fees

Cart

Gift Bag

Beverage Cart

Lunch

Prizes

OUR THANKS TO THE 2007
HOLE SPONSORS

AmeriServe

APAC KS, Inc.

Bennett Auto Plex

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Clark, Mize & Linville

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Framing Matters

The Golf Shop

KASA Controls

Kennedy & Coe

Matinelli's

Midwest Music

SSI of Texas

Sunflower Bank

Debra Stevens in

Memory of Charlie Stevens

UMB Bank

Van Diest Suppy

Senator Ben Vidricksen

Become a Whip-Cracker by recruiting a new Mule-Skinner!

Mule-Skinner Fun from years past!



John Jones, Duane Will and John Peterson join Ottmar Lang for a day of 'serious' golf.



Pete Peterson helps Donna Vanier celebrate being named "Top Gun."



Kelly Rudolph, Chuck Spielman, Phil Kellogg and Mark Ramsey cuttin' up on the fairway.



Doug Alt, Daren Neuschafer, Pete Peterson and Tom Dunn are all smiles before they get serious on the course.

SPRING SPORTS

Justin Billings carries his own clubs...where is the caddy?



Raymer



Raymer

Justin Billings shows good follow through!



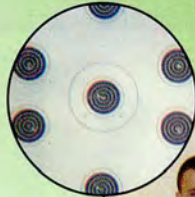
Raymer

Justin Billings on the green preparing to putt.

Spring sports at St. John's consists of golf and tennis. The Rifle Team finishes it's season in March. The members of the Rifle Team are pictured wearing the medals they earned during this year's NRA Smallbore Rifle Sectional. ISG Tony Blair, coach, reported that this year's team was one of the finest teams.

The golf team fought rainy and cold weather throughout the golf season but still managed to enjoy their time on the links.

The tennis team was small but mighty! Coach Gerald Martin transported the team to Oakdale Park for practice and managed to have some of his team medal in a local tournament.



Raymer

Back row: Austin Strecker, Jacob Wilcox-Haskett, Phillip Gamito, Jonathon Frank and Addison Eby. Front row: Joseph Casey and Deven Williams.



Kyung Moon receives his medal as Jackson Moyers and Coach Martin share the moment.



Jackson Moyers accepts his medal for the tournament.





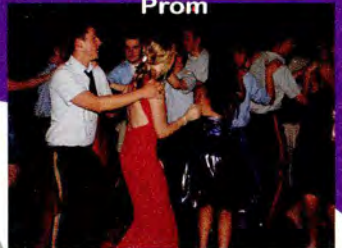
Celebrate



Music



Farewell



Prom



Garrison Flag



The First Division Band Returns!



Lonny Liljegen



Diplomas in hand!



Prom Date



Jacob Woolf loads the car!



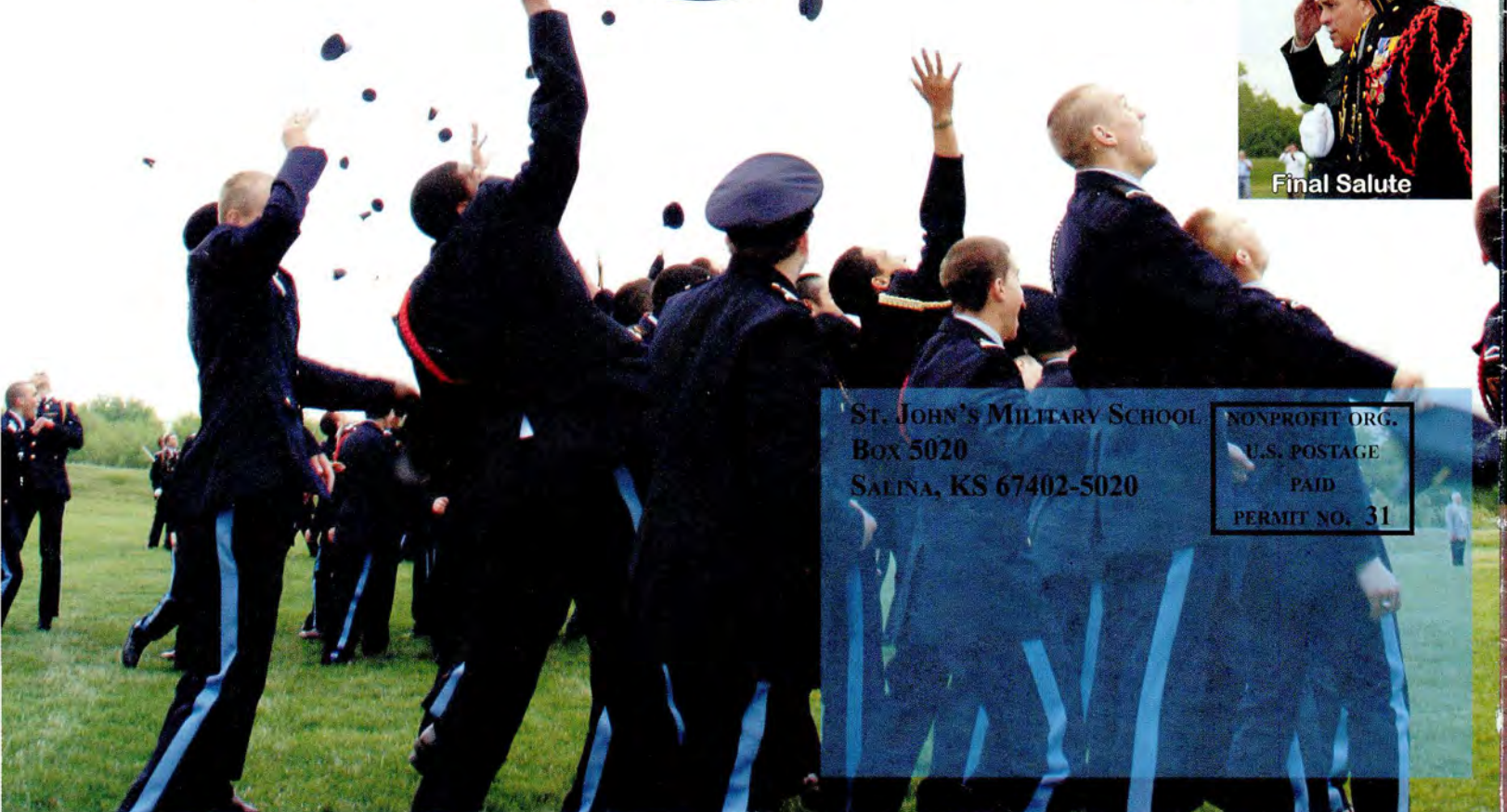
Old Mule-Skinner



Family



Final Salute



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