

The

# Skirmisher

Summer 2011

Volume XCII No. 3

St. John's Military School



**COMMENCEMENT**

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### Cover Photo

By Terry Plumberg

In the Photo: Jake Whitting  
and Timothy Nicoll  
present the colors at  
commencement!

## The Skirmisher

is published three times a year for  
alumni, parents, students  
and friends of

St. John’s Military School

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Be watching in the mail for....

### ***The Muleskinner Campaign Kick-off!***

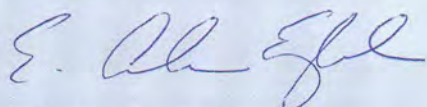
It is my pleasure to invite you to become a member of the Muleskinners organization of St. John’s Military School.

Former President Keith G. Duckers formed the Muleskinners organization in 1967. Its purpose was to raise funds for capitol improvements. In 1988 the purpose of the fund was shifted to provide scholarships to cadets who exemplify the ideals of SJMS and have a demonstrated financial need. The purpose has not changed since, and in excess of \$700,000.00 of scholarship funds have been raised.

I hope you will join us in providing scholarship assistance for the many young men who are in need. Your generosity will ensure that many more young men will be able to attend St. John’s, and enhance the quality of their future lives.

I look forward to receiving your Muleskinner membership and deeply appreciate your support of St. John’s Military School and its students. Please stop by the school some time and see for yourself, the fine work being done with our cadets.

Warmest Regards,



E. Andrew England  
President, St. John’s Military School



# Forward, March!



## "Old Boy" Association

From Left: John Torgan, 1961, David Dumler, 1987, Bretton Hibler, Neal Therrien, 1986, Merit Davey, Mike Wagner, 1991, John Scott, 1986 and Trevor Sullivan, 1991 gather after the awards ceremony in Banes Gymnasium Commencement Weekend.

The "Old Boys" Association (OBA) awarded their second annual scholarship to three Cadets during Commencement Weekend. The recipients are Bretton Hibler, a senior from Medina, Ohio; Matt O'Donnell, a junior from Fort Collins, Colorado; and Merit Davey, a sophomore from Montgomery, Alabama. Terry Plumberg, SJMS Alumni Director stated, "These boys have demonstrated their desire to

become leaders and do well at SJMS. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing them grow as individuals and Cadets."

COL. Al Ransom, "Old Boy" Class of 1956 kicked off the "Forward, MARCH!" Scholarship Campaign Commencement Weekend 2010. Ransom challenged his fellow Alumni to raise \$250,000. To date, \$70,000.00 has been raised.

## A New Challenge!

The members of the board of the OBA would like each class to raise money equal to that of their year of graduation. The class of 2003 for instance, would set a goal of \$2,003.00. The first class to accomplish this goal would receive special recognition on a plaque that will hang in the alumni room. Contact your fellow "Old Boys" and challenge them to be among the first to pledge and donate.

Any amount will be accepted and is fully tax-deductible.

"We have principles we believe in. We have faith. We have great traditions, and we have a great cause behind us and before us."

*John Morley 1838 -1923  
English Statesman*

**OBA MISSION  
STATEMENT:  
REACH,  
RECRUIT,  
AND  
REPRESENT**

For further information, contact  
Terry Plumberg, Alumni Director  
785-823-7231 ex. 7783  
[terryp@sjms.org](mailto:terryp@sjms.org)



"Old Boys," D. Michael Gambetta, Class of 1986 and Tim Soule, Class of 1966 pass the handle during the handle ceremony.



# AFI



*Left:* Quenton Schur, member of the Cadet Patrol.

*Top:* Connor Madden,

Ryan Lynch, Timothy Nicoll, and Travis Huffman in the color guard.

*Bottom:* Zakary Anderson leads the band on the sound-off.



Annual Formal Inspection requires teamwork at every level. The 123<sup>rd</sup> earned the highest score in the nation, 999! Every day for months, AFI is on the minds and in the hearts of every Cadet on campus. The Battalion Staff prepares a briefing, the drill team performs a drill, the band performs sound-off, the color guard cases and un-cases the colors, each company stands the in-ranks inspection, and the faculty and staff lend their support. AFI...together SJMS shines! *Hooah!*



The 123<sup>rd</sup> reacts to the announcement of earning a 999! Merit Davey and Devon Jemmett, give a shout out while the rest of the Corps of Cadets join in the celebration.



Top: The inspector is greeted by Enoch Lau and Chief Edwards. Middle: Haozong Huang leads Alpha CO through in-ranks. Bottom: Drake Donenfeld sounds off.

# Paul H. Kellogg Wall of Fame Inductee



Lt. Col Paul H. Kellogg (USMC, Ret.)  
Commandant of Cadets

In his 22 years of service to SJMS, Lt. Col Paul H. Kellogg worked with over 3,000 Cadets and found his greatest rewards from the performance of his Cadets. Kellogg was also responsible for writing the words to our SJMS Alma Mater.

Civic responsibilities were a priority for Kellogg. He would arrange for the Cadets to be escorts, provide Color guard, honor guards and buglers for military funerals and sent Cadets to march in countless parades. He prided himself with "showing off" the Corps.

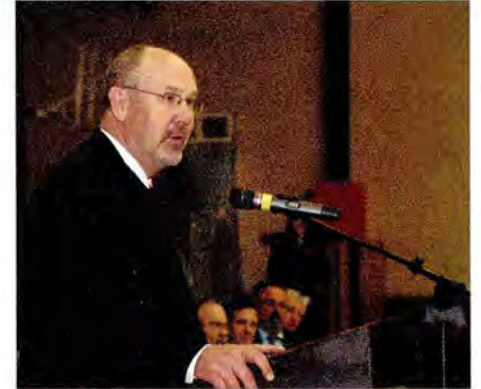
**Advice to the Corps, "I'd like to think we made progress in the quality of the Cadets and training programs. I feel that I have made a contribution."**

*Paul H. Kellogg*

Prior to coming to SJMS, Kellogg had a 23 year career in the Marine Corps. He served as a Marine fighter pilot in three conflicts, WWII,

Korea, and the early stages of Vietnam. He earned the Purple Heart for his heroic efforts.

His son, Phil Kellogg, SJMS Denver Recruiter, spoke about his father's love for the school. He remembered the passion with which his Dad approached everything in life and the dedication he displayed while serving the Cadets at St. John's.



Phil Kellogg speaking at the induction ceremony.

## SJMS Parents Association



We hope you are enjoying the summer and having some quality time with your family. The Parents Association is busy getting ready for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

Summer camp is underway and will continue through July 1. With a record 80 boys attending, good times should be had by all. Many events and fun activities are scheduled.

Recapping last year, we enjoyed a huge success with our ongoing series of *Life 101* classes. The classes include *Responsibilities*, *Consequences*, and *Life after SJMS*. The *Responsibilities Class* is taught by the Kansas Sheriff's Department and deals with the effects of driving while impaired. The boys enjoy the class as the officers bring a variety of hands-on tools such as a go cart. The cadets drive while the instructors manipulate it to demonstrate the effects of various levels of impairment. Special goggles let the boys experience the feeling of being intoxicated.

The *Consequences class* is taught by Juvenile Court Judge Jared Johnson and Salina South High School Resource Officer, Chris McFadden. This class teaches the boys the consequences of making wrong decisions from both a police department perspective and from a long-term legal perspective. Topics range

from drinking in public, consequences of pre-marital sex and many other related topics. Our third class, *Life after SJMS*, is a comprehensive class where the boys work through case studies after being assigned different professions. We always have a good chuckle when the boys discover the reality of having to pay taxes! More than one hundred-twenty boys attended these classes last year, and we are committed to continue to reinforce these messages in the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to the *Life 101* series, we are adding a class for the parents of the boys who will be attending SJMS for the first time. This class will be taught by CPT Mike Reid, Senior Military Advisor of Headquarters Company, and a member of the Parents Association Board. This class will let the parents know what to expect while their cadet engages in his first year at SJMS and will help eliminate some of the anxiety we have all encountered.

The SJMSPA enjoyed tremendous growth last year. We are proud to have contributed to the cadets' education in science, technology, and problem solving skills for both the middle school and high school. For the first time, we were able to give three grants to the faculty totaling \$1,000.00. We are hopeful these grants will be the first of many of these types of educational contributions we make to the school.

We are very excited about the upcoming school year! We have big plans for growing, improving, and educating our Cadets. Expectations have been set high, and we have every intention of meeting them. SJMSPA board members do a lot of things behind the scenes to help ensure successful PA events for our members and cadets. We need your help to keep these events going. To volunteer your time or services to the SJMSPA either as a board member or just to help with a project or class, please contact:

Tammy Ashe at  
[tamaraashe@hotmail.com](mailto:tamaraashe@hotmail.com)  
303-944-2344

OR

Sara Cline at  
[businesswriter@msn.com](mailto:businesswriter@msn.com)  
402-350-8872

Finally, SJMSPA wishes to thank Colleen Wunderlich. She has been an integral part of the PA since the inception four years ago. The countless hours she has dedicated to the Cadets and parents has been astounding. Her son graduated from SJMS in 2010. Even though she is stepping down as president, she will remain a valuable consultant.

High School

# Blue Beret

Middle School



Haozong Huang Levi Harmon Daohan Sun



Richard Reynolds John Sun Matthew Giachetto Bryan Ingram-Dubois

High School

# Dean's Honor Roll

Middle School



Vernon Chan Merit Davey Wei Feng Steven McPherson Yechi Ma Eli Harmon Andrew White Derek Bartholomay



Reece Turner



Craig Roukema Matthew O'Donnell Patrick Harden Aaron Marlow Nuoya Wu James McCaffery John Erlewine

The Blue Beret is worn by the Cadets earning the highest GPA in the Corps!  
The Cadets are listed in order of their grade point average.

High School

# Honor Roll

Middle School



Steven Bartholomew Jared Bressman Nihal Guatum Brandon Becker John Watkins Zakayo Lazaro Jesse Campbell Alexander Bresse



Demetrios Kyriazakos Daniel Johnson Jake Whitting



Justin Baack Nicholas Holmgren John O'Neill Zachary Porter Arman Singh Enoch Lau Brian Strong Steven Weiler



Nathan Pitts Daniel Laws Cameron Smith



Aaron Poulin Luke Whitting Lukas Pumo Chase McNamara Aaron Lock Ashton McKinney Sammy Said Sean Dolan



Nathaniel Pearson Kole Stoltz Dawson Fritz



Joshua Batchelor Alexander Gorring Rafael Vitar Wilson Morris Derek Miller Michael Deagle Bretton Hibler Jonah Comeaux



Blase Whitting Brock Contello Roberto Elias-Romero



Quenton Schur Abraham Quraishi Jeffrey Sapp Drake Donenfeld Justus Holiday Stefan Roberts



Richard Wik Gunnar Hatton

# Commencement Weekend

May 12, 2011

## Boy Scout Court of Honor

## Armstrong Chapel

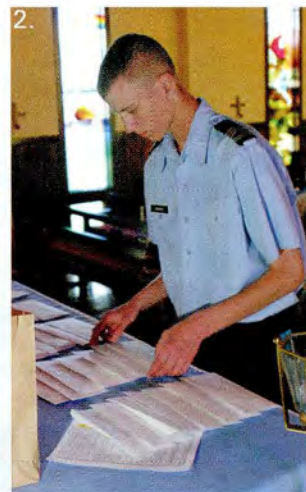
"The court of honor is a ceremony in which ranks and other awards are presented to the Scouts who earned them!"

Boy Scout Journal



### Boy Scout Oath

On my honor,  
I will do my best  
To do my duty  
to God and my  
country;  
To obey the Scout  
Law;  
To help other  
people at all times;  
To keep myself  
physically strong,  
mentally awake  
and morally  
straight.



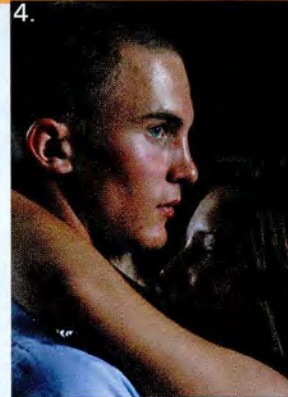
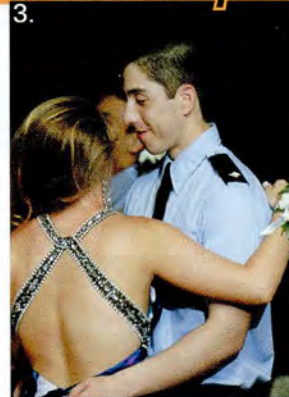
1. Scoutmaster Gary Shoemaker explains the ceremony. 2. Ryan Harris takes another look at the awards. 3. Orson Smith accepts congratulations from President E. Andrew England. 4. Reece Turner flashes his smile as he accepts his award. 5. John Erlewine listens as Shoemaker explains his many scouting accomplishments. 6. Bryan Long accepts his badge from Shoemaker. 7. Reece Turner's mother, Shirley Turner, along with his brother and sister shared in the big event. 8. William Johnson completed requirements towards his merit badges and was congratulated by England.





# Junior Senior Prom

## The Salina Country Club



1. Yamil Nassar-Suarez places a corsage on his date's wrist. 2. Enoch Lau 'busts a move' on the dance floor. 3. Rafael Vitar dances with his lovely date. 4. Quenton Schur slow dances to a song he and his date will surely remember. 5. Everyone enjoys themselves once the music starts rolling. 6. Bryan Parets, Aaron Poulin, and Trevor Hansen looking sharp with their gorgeous dates. 7. The Cadets and the girls do the cupid shuffle. 8. Bryan Cerato has all the right moves as the Cadets and their dates do a line dance.

# Commencement Weekend

May 13, 2011

## Flag Raising Ceremony

The flag raising ceremony marks the official beginning of Commencement Weekend during which over 140 flags are flown over the tear drop and remain flying until the weekend is over.



1. Yamil Nassar-Suarez attaches his flag to the pole along with the other members of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Corps of Cadets.
2. Nicholas Henriksen gazes up at the flagpole.
3. Chase McNamara, John Miner, and several other Cadets gather the garrison flag before sending it up the flagpole.
4. Wei Feng stands ready to raise the flag as the band begins to play the Star Spangled Banner.
5. Ryan Lynch prepares to raise the flag.

## Distinguished Awards Ceremony



1. The ceremony begins as the color guard presents the colors.
2. MSG Paula Lambert, SJMS Administrative Assistant to the Commandant, was surprised and overjoyed at being named an honorary "Old Boy."
3. Ryan Lynch salutes the colors.
4. 1SG Luke Whitting, of "B" Company accepts his scholarship certificate.
5. "Old Boy" and SJMS benefactor, Tim Soule presents Bretton Hibler with his scholarship award.
6. Brenda McCoy, SJMS School Secretary, was named an Honorary Colonel and received a bouquet of roses from Ginger Wooten, SJMS Academic Dean.

The Final Roll Call is a time to remember loved ones, SJMS patrons, and "Old Boys" who have passed away during the past year. The ceremony begins with the playing of *Amazing Grace* by a piper. As each name is announced, the chimes ring out. A Cadet then places a rose on the table, then renders a salute. At the conclusion of the ceremony, *echo taps* is played; and the canon is fired.



1. Steven Weiler salutes after placing a rose on the table. 2. Colton Adkins renders honors during the final roll call. 3. Bryan Cerato plays the echo to Joshua Batchelor's taps. 4. Arjun Singh gives the command to fire the canon as part of the canon detail. 5. Lonnie Liljegren, local piper, plays *Amazing Grace* to start the ceremony. 6. Andrew White waits his turn in line as a member of the honor guard.

## Banes Gymnasium



1. Xavier Ryan, Thomas Endlsey, David Schmaus, Levi Harmon, and Chase Rose sing the Alma Mater. 2. Stephen Ritter, Gregory Saville, and Patrick Harden perform a rendition of *Hallelujah*. 3. D. Dale Browning, Headmaster stands with, Zakayo Lazaro, the D. Dale Browning Scholarship winner. This scholarship covers all expenses for a full school year and is given to the Cadet that most exemplifies the characteristics displayed by D. Dale Browning when he was a Cadet. 4. Darius Bridgeman shows his platoon's Best Drill Platoon Banner. 5. Daniel Johnson raced to the podium to accept the Honor Company banner for "A" CO. The competition for Honor Company is fierce and is usually decided by a fraction of a point. "A" CO added this banner to it's guide-on immediately following the ceremony. 6. Sergio Cois accepts President England's congratulations for receiving a scholarship. Merit Davey receives an "Old Boy" Scholarship Certificate from SJMS Alumni Director, Terry Plumberg.

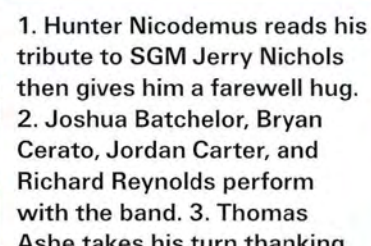
6. Sergio Cois accepts President England's congratulations for receiving a scholarship. Merit Davey receives an "Old Boy" Scholarship Certificate from SJMS Alumni Director, Terry Plumberg.

# Commencement Weekend

May 13, 2011



*SGM Jerry Nichols  
Pass-in-Review*



1. Hunter Nicodemus reads his tribute to SGM Jerry Nichols then gives him a farewell hug. 2. Joshua Batchelor, Bryan Cerato, Jordan Carter, and Richard Reynolds perform with the band. 3. Thomas Ashe takes his turn thanking

SGM Nichols and giving him his farewell embrace.

4. SGM Nichols acts as the reviewing officer for the pass-in-review. 5. "A" CO gets straight on the ready line prior to the pass-in-review honoring SGM Nichols.

6. "A" CO commander Dalton Guilfoil adds his words of tribute to Nichols and takes the chance to show his appreciation for the guidance and care SGM Nichols gave to Alpha CO.



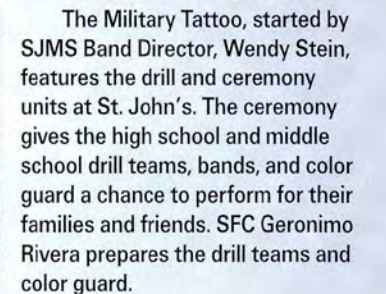
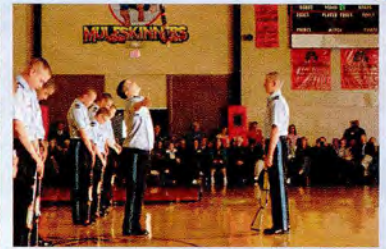
SGM Jerry Nichols retired from his position as Alpha Company Senior Military Advisor. *Good Luck and Best Wishes, SGM!*

## President's Recognition Ceremony



1. President, E. Andrew England, welcomes the Cadets, families, staff, and faculty to the recognition ceremony. 2. Colton Adkins, Ryan Lynch, Timothy Nicoll, and Jake Whitting presented the colors. 3. Leqian Zhu accepts his senior ring from President England. 4. Justin Small accompanied by his parents, Jerry and Tina Small, accepts the Bible each senior received as a gift from the school. 5. Ryan Lynch posts the colors. 6. Haozong Huang accepts his senior ring as his father, Guy Cerato stands by in support of his son.

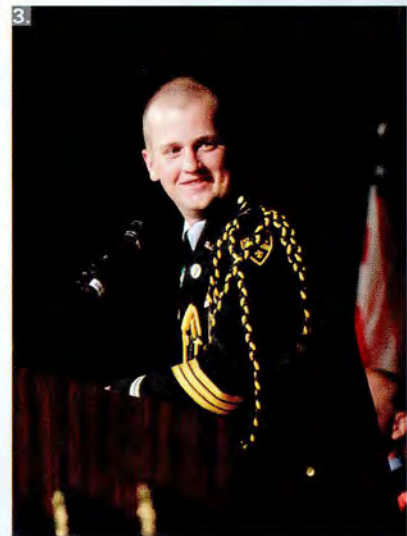
his commemorative coin from Headmaster D. Dale Browning, given by Browning as personal gift. 7. Bryan Cerato accepts his senior ring as his father, Guy Cerato stands by in support of his son.



The Military Tattoo, started by SJMS Band Director, Wendy Stein, features the drill and ceremony units at St. John's. The ceremony gives the high school and middle school drill teams, bands, and color guard a chance to perform for their families and friends. SFC Geronimo Rivera prepares the drill teams and color guard.

Tattoo Members: Colton Adkins, Zak Anderson, Joshua Batchelor, Brandon Becker, Darius Bridgeman, Jordan Carter, Bryan Cerato, Chandler Clark, Sergio Cois, Wesley Dishron, Dawson Fritz, Matthew Giachetto, Justin Gilbert, Austin Grounds, Patrick Harden, Joshua Harris, Samuel Hetherington, Travis Huffman, Devon Jemmett, Steven Juszczuk, Demetrios Kyriazakos, Daniel Laws, Alexander Liu, Ryan Lynch, Connor Madden, Quenton McCarthy, Jacob Nash, James Pena, Nathan Pitts, Abraham Qurashi, Richard Reynolds, Stefan Roberts, Alberto Elias-Romero, Chase Rose, Gregory Saville, Tyler Schneider, Quenton Schur, Codey Shute, Jonah Starbuck, Kole Stoltz, Gary Stone, John Sun, Reece Turner, Blase Whitting, Jake Whitting, Luke Whitting, Richard Wik, and Tyler Yankey.

## Salina Bicentennial Center



1. Nuoya Wu his mother, Qi Xiaojun and father, Bin Wu take a moment to stand for a family photo before the seniors receive their gifts from D. Dale Browning and the school. Wu, is from Bonjingwan, China. 2. Patrick Harden, battalion CSGM, thanks the faculty and staff and members of the corps for their support during his years at St. John's. He explained, "I am a completely different person than when I arrived at St. John's," and he will never forget the friendships he forged while a Cadet at SJMS. 3. Duncan Aron looks toward Nuoya Wu during his farewell address to the corps and tells him... "I'm going to tickle you!" It must have been some inside joke! Duncan paid special tribute to his many friends in the corps. 4. Rafael Vitar, a member of battalion staff during the second semester, thanked his family and friends for their support throughout the year.

# Commencement Weekend

May 14, 2011

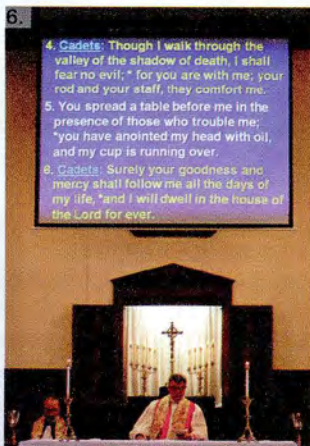
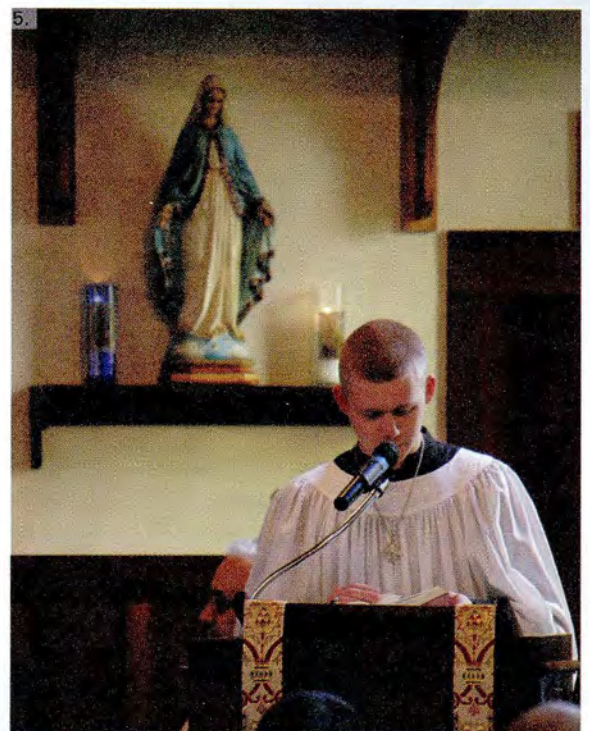
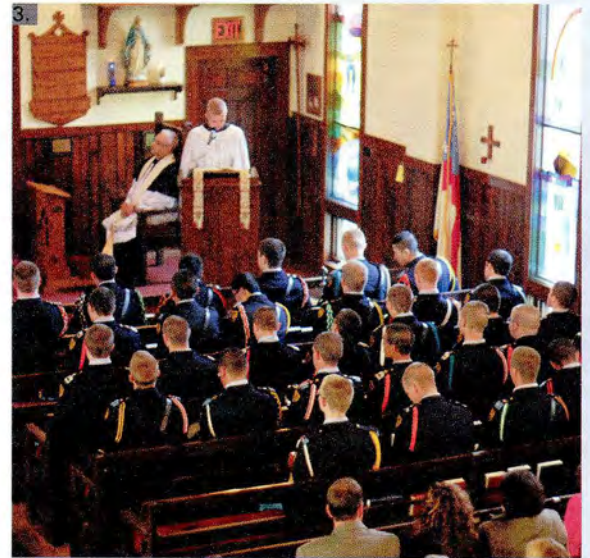
*The Senior Eucharist is the final chance for the Seniors to worship together as a class before they graduate. Guest Soloists and traditional hymns make the service memorable.*



1. Father James Cox and Father Brian Viel assist Bishop Michael P. Milliken while he blesses the Holy Eucharist.  
2. The seniors wait to enter the chapel.  
3. The seniors sit together as they participate in worship.  
4. Debbie Nelson sings the Lord's Prayer as Merrell Nelson, SJMS Director



of vocal music and church organist, plays the accompaniment. This husband and wife pair provide many inspirational performances at SJMS church services and ceremonies.  
5. Bretton Hibler, a member of the Altar Party, reads the first lesson. 6. The Bishop leads the service while the Cadets follow along on the new screen above the Altar, provided by D. Dale Browning.



4. Cadets: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \* for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
6. Cadets: Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \* and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**The Freedom Tree was dedicated October 30, 1982 to honor the memory of Salinan**



**Maj. Dennis G. Pugh. Pugh was shot down returning from a mission over North Vietnam!**

**A wreath is laid at the base of the tree while each senior declares, "Freedom Forever. Freedom Tree," followed by a salute.**



1. The Altar party leads the senior class to the Freedom Tree while the 123<sup>rd</sup> Corps of Cadets renders a salute to the colors.
2. Stefan Roberts stands ready to hand off the flowers to be placed at the base of the tree.
3. With the Bishop watching over them, Dalton Guilfoil and Thomas Ashe render honors to the Freedom Tree.
4. President, E. Andrew England escorts SJMS Former "First Lady," Liz Duckers, to The Freedom Tree.
5. Patrick Harden and Nuoya Wu place a rose before saluting.
6. Samuel Lobon and Yechi Ma salute The Freedom Tree.
7. John Erlewine and Andrew White sound-off at The Freedom Tree.
8. Patrick Harden and Nuoya Wu finish their tribute to The Freedom Tree with a salute and sound-off.

# Commencement Weekend

May 14, 2011



1. The mounted Color Guard from the First Infantry Division carried the colors during commencement. 2. SGT Foxx conducts the First Division Band during their concert prior to the ceremony. 3. E. Andrew England welcomes everyone to graduation. Sitting on the stage beside

England were, Larry Britegam, Duncan Aron, Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz, D. Dale Browning and Bishop Milliken. The majestic Jack Vanier Hall makes a spectacular backdrop for the commencement stage. 4. Duncan Aron narrates the Parade of Flags. Cadets from thirty-seven states and 7 countries carried their state or country flag as the First Division Band played, *You're A Grand Old Flag*. 6. Alexander Goring, Jesse Campbell, Nicholas Zucker, Jeffrey Sapp, and Isaac Travers celebrate with the 123rd. Merrell Nelson, S.J.M.S. Director of Vocal Music, organist and accompanist plays for the singing of the *Alma Mater* and *God Be With You*. 8. The 123rd stands ready as the procession begins towards Jack Vanier Hall.







1. Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz, gives the commencement address. Seitz visited St. John's earlier in the school year and was a long time member of the board of trustees. 2. Enoch Lau passes the responsibility of command to Jason Czerwinski, Battalion Commander for the 124<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets. Lau had to adjust Czerwinski's cover which wasn't an official part of the ceremony! 3. Father Brian Viel gives the invocation. 4. Chaz Molina accepts the commission as CSGM of the 124<sup>th</sup> Corps from CSGM Patrick Harden. Molina was 1SGT of HHC during the 2010-2011 school year. 5. Chairman of the Board, Harry Smith, addresses the crowd. 6. Battalion Commander, Enoch Lau gives his farewell speech. 7. The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas, gives the benediction.

# Class of 2011



**Duncan  
Aron**



**Thomas  
Ashe**



**Ian  
Brands**



**Erick  
Eakin**



**John  
Erlewine**



**Andrew  
Fager**



**Tyrrell  
Judy**



**Mitchell  
Lamb**



**Samuel  
Lobon**



**Yechi  
Ma**



**Derek  
Miller**



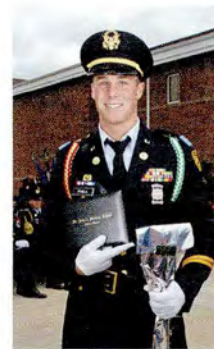
**Macio  
Palacio**



**Nicolas  
Payan**



**Stephen  
Ritter**



**Anton  
Ryan**



**Justin  
Small**



**Dalton  
Guilfoil**



**Trevor  
Hansen**



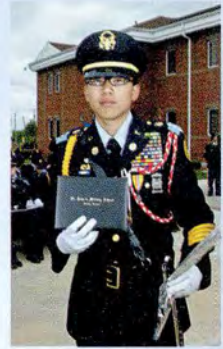
**Patrick  
Harden**



**Ryan  
Harris**



**Samuel  
Hetherington**



**Haozong  
Huang**



**dismissed forever!**



**Enoch  
Lau  
Valedictorian**



**Corey  
Lewis**



**Chase  
McNamara**



**Steven  
McPherson**



**Gary  
Stone**



**Brian  
Strong**



**Christopher  
Taylor**



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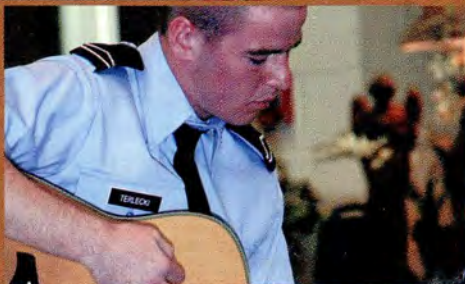
### First Annual Recital



"Old Boy" Dick Retrum answered the call when Merrell Nelson, Director of Vocal Music at SJMS, put a piano on his wish list! D. Dale Browning, Headmaster, thanked Mr. Retrum for the donation given by, Cheryl Retrum, Retrum's sister.



Stephen Ritter, Haozong Huang, and Dawson Fritz, performed a variety of compositions on the new grand piano. Nelson organized the recital and played a duet with Ritter.



Anthony Terlecki, Jonah Comeaux and Ryan Lynch rounded out the recital performing some original tunes on their guitars!