

The

Skirmisher

Winter 2010

Volume XCI No. 2

St. John's Military School



*MacArthur
Award Winner*

*Kyle
Stuart*

**DUTY
HONOR
COUNTRY**

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St. John's Military School
110 E. Otis
P.O. Box 5020
Salina, KS 67402-5020
(785)823-7231
www.sjms.org

Editors

Elizabeth Duckers
Wendy Stein

Contributing Writers

Liz Duckers
Terry Plumberg
Wendy Stein

Photographers

Jered Hoffmann
Terry Plumberg
Justin Sperry
Wendy Stein
Nuoya Wu
Scott Wiedeman

Layout and Design

Derius Mammen
Justin Sperry
Wendy Stein

Production

Jostens

Board of Trustees

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Lee Young



Marcia Demuth

Board Secretary

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COVER PHOTO
Lifetouch Photography

A Letter from the Editor!



During the movie "Dead Poets Society," Mr. Keating, English teacher, played by Robin Williams, takes the boys out in the hallway of their school and asks them to peer into the eyes of the young men pictured in the photos hanging on the walls. He then asks the boys to lean in and listen. The students are puzzled by this request and then in the silence each begins to understand the meaning of their teacher's request. We must listen to those who came before us; we must stay connected to our past. History remains alive through the memories of each passing generation. Keith and Elizabeth Duckers children, Ed, Kyle and Sarah grew up on the St. John's campus and have agreed to share some of their memories. They remember staff members and cadets who touched their lives and helped shape their childhood memories. Those of you who remember the Duckers family will enjoy their remembrances and those of you who don't, will catch a glimpse into the colorful history of St. John's.

Greetings from ^{THE} Parents' Association

Thank you to all of our SJMS Parent Association members and cadets who attended the very successful luncheon we hosted at Winter Parents Weekend! We were so happy with our speaker, Casey Bayne, as she shared her story of hard work, determination, perseverance, and success. We're certain that both our cadets and parents got a great deal of inspiration from her. Thank you 1Lt. Casey Bayne, USAF! To add to the wonderful speaker, we were treated to a great lunch that was beautifully prepared and delicious. Thanks to Linda Payne and her staff for all of their hard work and time spent making this such a successful event for everyone.



two classes in our Life 101 series were very successful! We had great attendance, and the boys even admitted they learned a thing or two. We feel strongly that anything our boys can take away from these classes to help them use better judgment in life's challenges is a good thing! Our final class for this year in the Life 101 series is "Life After SJMS." This class will be interactive where the instructors will drive home the link between education and income earning potential. The students will examine real-life case studies in a small group format.

Together they will compare, contrast, and discover different aspects of each case study including:

- salaries/education level
- taxes
- 401(k)/retirement planning
- benefits, i.e. insurance, vacation, sick leave, employee perks
- budgeting
- credit ratings
- insurability

Our goal is to empower the cadets to make good decisions and choices for their life after SJMS. The class was held on Saturday, March 6. SJMSPA members received a discount on the price for the class.

On Friday, February 26 the Parent Association member cadets enjoyed their third pizza party for the year. The pizza party is a nice break for the boys and gives them a chance to get away from their normal routines for a while.

As we plan for Commencement Weekend, we look forward to presenting this year's juniors with their class rings. This wonderful formal event is one of many that are so special at the school during this weekend.



You definitely do not want to miss Commencement Weekend! Whether your cadet is a senior or in the sixth grade, you and your son will always remember this weekend. The rich tradition of the school activities and events, coupled with seeing how the young men have matured over the year, makes all of the activities events so impressive and fun to watch. The 'polish' they have gained throughout the year will be quite evident.

We welcome new board member Sara Cline. Sara resides in Nebraska and brings professional writing skills to our association. Cline's son, Justin Ferraro, is in his second year at St. John's. We say good-bye to friends Kevin David and Mary Smith as they could no longer make the time commitment with their demanding job schedules.

We are always looking for folks that can help us out. Our work has to be very detailed with a lot of follow up. If you're detail oriented and would like to contribute your skills to our association, please contact Tammy Ashe at tash@phillong.com or by phone at (303) 944-2344.



Our first annual pancake eating contest was a blast! About 40 boys competed and IHOP gener-



ously donated all of the materials. This is in addition to the 15 percent discount they already provide SJMS Parents Association members at both of their Salina locations! MAJ George Stelljes flipped pancakes as fast as he could to keep up with the boys. It was a fun event, and we look forward to it again next year.

We've had a very busy year. The first

Celebrating Achievement!

D. Dale Browning treated Headquarters Company (HHC) cadet and adult staff to Brookville chicken after church on February 28. Browning thanked and commended the HHC staff for their "excellent work in preparing "New Boys" to become productive members of the 122nd Corps of Cadets."

Sam Lewis was recognized for his trip to state wrestling on Friday February 26 and for his baptism performed by The Rev. Father Brian Viel that morning. Lewis's mother and sister joined in the celebration. Sam received a shadow box containing his picture and regional medal from wrestling coach Mike Reid and a leather bound Bible from Browning to commemorate his baptism.



John Deters, Sarah Lewis, Sam Lewis, Joy Lewis, Deb Feil and Father Brian Viel.



'HHC' STAFF

Front row: Ian Niebla, Enoch Lau, Daniel Stanciaszek, Liam Lueck
Second Row: Danny Phillips, Rafael Vitar, Victor Liwag, Omar Balderas, Christopher Whitehead, Victor Fontana Back Row: Jason Czerwinski, Father Brain Viel, Steven Juszczuk, Anton Ryan, D. Dale Browning, Ian Niebla, Patrick Harden, Jeffrey Provenzo and Mike Reid. MSG Keith Price (not pictured)

Kyle Stuart Wins MacArthur Award Battalion Commander

Each year the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation presents the MacArthur Cadet Awards in recognition of the outstanding cadets of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools. The award is designed to encourage the students of the member institutions to emulate and practice the leadership qualities exemplified by General MacArthur while he was a cadet at the West Texas Military Institute and the United States Military Academy.

C/LTC Kyle Stuart has demonstrated those qualities as Battalion Commander of the 122nd Corps of Cadets at St. John's Military School. He accepted what has proven to be both a challenging and rewarding command. His command requires him to be tough, and make decisions that are not always popular with his peers and the other members of the battalion staff.

Stuart is a member of the AMS (Advanced Military Skills) team at St. John's and is currently serving in the Army National Guard. He plans to go active Army after attending Kansas State University on the GI Bill and hopes to become a member of an Airborne Army Unit.

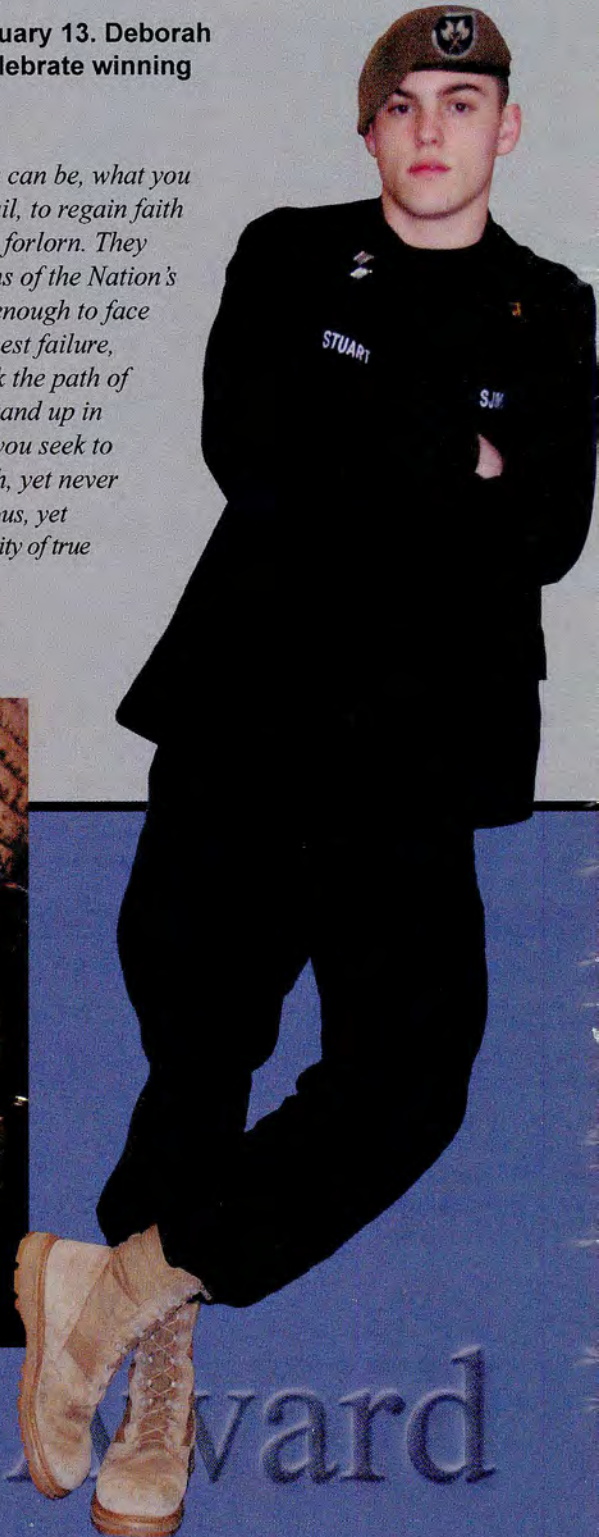
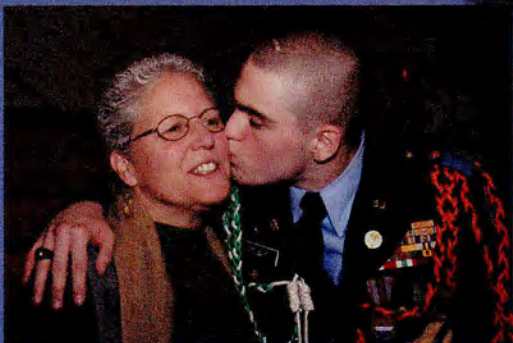
Stuart accepted his award at a ceremony on Parents' Weekend, February 13. Deborah Stuart, his proud and devoted mother was on campus to help Stuart celebrate winning this prestigious award.

"Duty," "Honor," "Country" -

... "those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you want to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn. They build your basic character. They mold you for your future roles as the custodians of the Nation's defense. They make you strong enough to know when you are weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid. They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success, not to substitute words for actions, not to seek the path of comfort, but to face the stress and spur of difficulty and challenge, to learn to stand up in the storm, but to have compassion on those who fall; to master yourself before you seek to master others, to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high, to learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep, to reach into the future, yet never neglect the past, to be serious, yet never to take yourself too seriously, to be modest so that you will remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength."

These words were taken from General MacArthur's address to the cadets of the U. S. Military Academy on May 12, 1962.

Stuart received a pin on emblem to be worn on his dress uniform, a full scale replica of the medal struck by the Congress of the United States honoring General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, a copy of *Reminiscences* a book written by MacArthur, and a \$50.00 U.S. savings bond.



MacArthur Award

Martin Luther King Celebration

Members of the SJMS Band and Color Guard traveled by charter bus with Wendy Stein and Merrell Nelson to the campus of Fort Hays State University to perform for the Martin Luther King Celebration on Martin Luther King Day, January 18. After unloading the bus and rehearsing on the stage of the Beach Schmidt Performing Arts Center, the cadets were treated to a dinner buffet including Mongolian barbecue and an ice cream machine!

The event was sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement at Fort Hays. George E. Jackson III, Coordinator of Diversity Affairs at the center, thanked the cadets for... *"the wonderful renditions you played for us at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. The Color Guard and the band were very moving. I received many compliments on your performances."*



Stephen Ritter, and Connor Dempsey presented the colors, James Pena, Bandmaster, Joshua Batchelor, Stefan Roberts, Sergio Cois, Darius Bridgeman, Duncan Aron, Greg Saville, Patrick Harden, Alexander Liu, Jordon Carter, John Sun, and Collin Cooper performed "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," "This is My Country," and "America the Beautiful." The band was joined on "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," by Merrell Nelson on the piano.

State Band

Patrick



For the second year in a row, Patrick Harden, was chosen to represent St. John's as a member of State Honor Band. Harden performed during the Kansas Music Educators Convention in Wichita, Kansas, February 27. Harden is the son of Martha Harden, Edmond, Oklahoma, and Thomas Harden, Fort Worth, Texas. Harden plays the Euphonium in the SJMS Band, and for chapel services. He is a member of the battalion bugler detail, and the battalion drums. Harden is in his second year as a member of the Salina Youth Symphony, and is active in the sports program at St. John's lettering in soccer and basketball. Harden was promoted to 1LT during February parents' weekend and serves in a leadership position in Headquarters Company!

Congratulations, Patrick!



Harden

Parents' Weekend

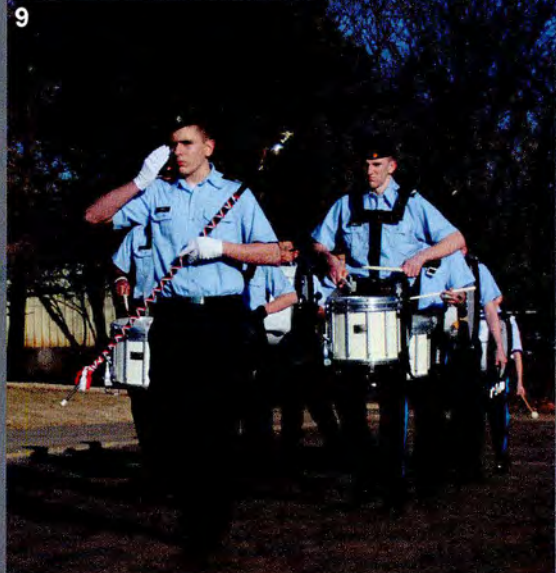
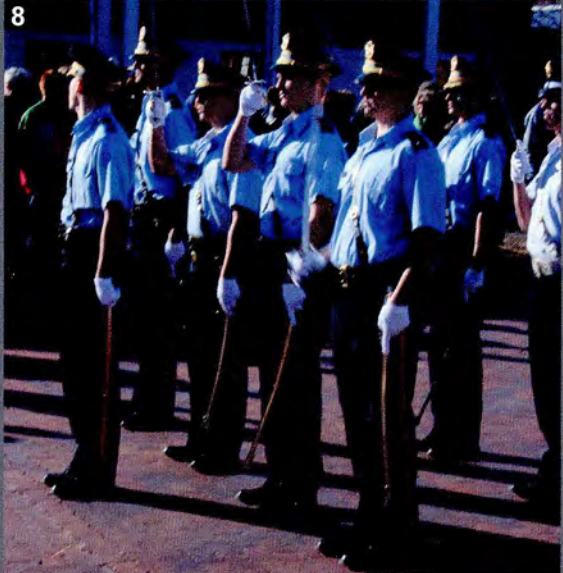
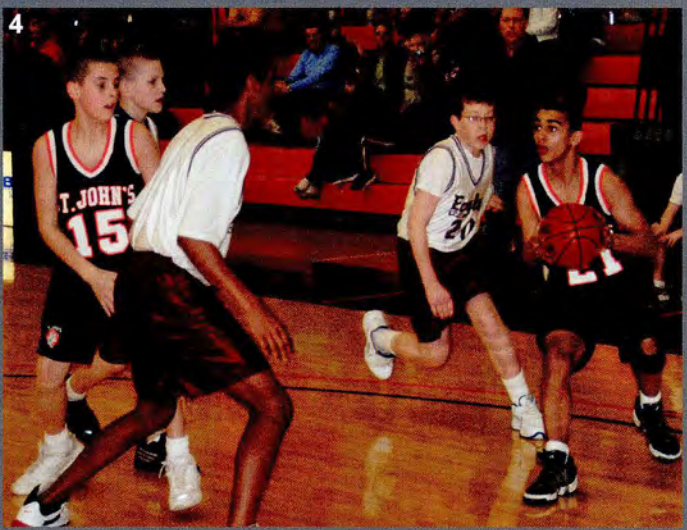
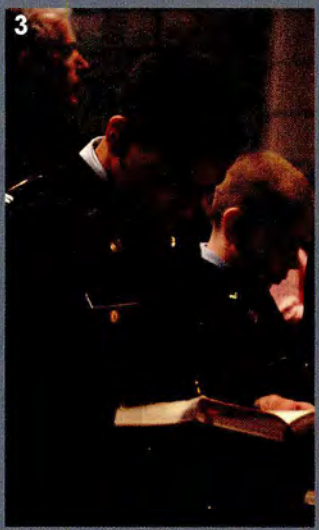
February 12, 13, and 14

Pictures on page 7: 1.) Anthony Olderback, Steven Juszczyk, Gary Stone, and Taylor Noyes perform as members of the 'Black Nights' drill team for the parents at the half of the varsity basketball game. 2.) Sergio Cois fights to turn his opponent at the wrestling match in Chapman on Saturday morning of Parents' Weekend. Francesca Cois, Sergio's mom, was able to watch the match. 3.) Calvin Guardiola and Benjamin Gregory follow along during mass at the cathedral. 4.) Drake Donenfeld controls the ball as Jake Whitting 'sets the pick.' 5.) Gary Stone and Joshua Batchelor, National Honor Society members light the candles during the NHS induction ceremony. 6.) Edgar McBee and Enoch Lau recite the NHS pledge as they become the newest members of the National Honor Society. 7.) William Johnson's becomes an "Old Boy" as his parents, Mamie and Mark Johnson put on his rank. 8.) The Battalion staff, Kyle Stuart, Jonathan Gray, Phillip Abernathy, Austin Strecker, Edgar McBee, Devon Conway, and Ryan Quintana give a sabre salute while on the march. 9.) James Pena, Bandmaster, leads the Battalion Drummers around the teardrop. Kristopher Stimpfel joined the group for his first performance as a drummer for the pass-in-review. 10.) Bryan Cerato makes his way across campus with his younger brother John, and his mother, Marcelline in 'tow.'



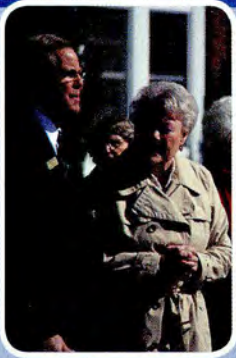
Edgar McBee Drill Team Commander, Joshua Batchelor, Battalion Bugler, Jordan Carter, Drum Major, and Omar Balderas, winner of the pancake eating contest!





Notes from Liz

"The three Duckers children, Ed, Kyle, and Sarah, are the only children in SJMS history to spend their childhood growing up on campus. They were baptized and confirmed in Armstrong Chapel. I think they all think it was a good life, but different!"



All three of our children were born at St. John's hospital and returned home to the first house inside the front gate, now called the commandant's house. We lived in that house for ten years before moving up the drive to the President's home in February of 1967. The last one of the kids to leave campus was Sarah who moved to Houston, Texas in 1986 after graduating from the Kansas University Law School.

When they were six weeks old, we started taking them to the mess hall where we had a basket placed on two chairs. After Kyle was born, Ed moved to a high chair, after Sarah was born, Kyle moved to the high chair and Ed to a booster chair. Lower school twin cadets would come by our table every day to look at Ed asleep in the basket and one day asked, "when will he open his eyes?" Ed would sleep soundly in all that hub-bub and wake up in the silence that was home! Some may wonder why we were dragging

babies over to the mess hall. It was because that was part, actually most of your salary. Staff would work for a place to live, food to eat, and a small cash salary. As a 'rookie reporter' on The Salina Journal, I was making more money than Keith was after six years at the school. Keith worked as an official for football and basketball games to make 'spending money.'

There were other faculty children living on campus for a portion of their childhood and they liked playing games in the old bull ring (now the teardrop) with the Mulberry hedge. The faculty children attended Hawthorne grade school on North Ninth street.

Ed, the oldest child, liked playing basketball in the old gym. On weekends he would go through the barracks urging the cadets to join him in a game. Kyle, next in line, spent many summers painting in various campus buildings with SGT Dwight Woodall. Sarah, the youngest, grew up in this all male atmosphere knowing that anything a boy could do, she could do as well or better! They were all graduated from Salina Central and the University of Kansas. All are avid KU basketball fans.

GROWING UP AT SJMS

"The most overriding memory is the multitude of young men who came to St. John's for a multitude of reasons. And the success SJMS had in educating young men and helping them to become solid citizens."

Sarah Duckers

I've been trying to decide which story to tell of my memories of growing up on campus, but decided I really could not limit myself to just one. So the following is a collection of the memories that leap to mind as I think of those years:

1. Colonel Kellogg wearing his crisp Marine dress whites at commencement, and reading his tribute to the American flag. Truly, he was a Marine's Marine. I know cadets will have a hard time believing this, but deep down, he was really a softy.
2. Astronaut Jim Irwin visiting the school.

3. Marching to the mess hall every morning for breakfast and every night for dinner. I still expect to hear someone yell "fire!" and shoot a cannon when I hear the call to the colors and miss eating creamed chipped beef on toast.

4. Mike Torpey and his "radio" joke. Stupidest joke of all time, but it was the way he delivered the meaningless punch line that still makes me laugh.

5. Major Webb always commenting in bad weather that "it is a beautiful day in Chicago!"

6. Dad starting each commencement welcoming all to "the green, green grass of Perkins Field."

7. The fire in 1978 that finally destroyed Vail Hall. My car was parked right next to the building and had been there for several weeks because it wouldn't start. COL Kellogg asked my mom for the keys to move it because the firemen were concerned that the tower might collapse. Mom told COL Kellogg that it wouldn't start. He said "it'll start for me." It did! It did not start again until it got repaired.

8. The bullring, and the circular trench worn down from cadets walking penalty tours.

9. Many, many Thanksgiving dinners at the old 4-H building.

10. New boys (then called "Rats") having to eat "square meals."

11. Playing flashlight with other campus kids – especially Patty, Billy and Bobby Faerber.

12. Moving "up the drive" from the house inside the gate to the President's house when I was six. Moving my furniture out to move to Houston when I was 25.

13. Some really awful meals in the mess hall. The worst had to be the salmon cakes (I think they used one can of salmon for the whole corp) and stewed tomatoes. Even Mrs. Faerber complained, and she never complained about anything.

14. My brother Kyle finding a stray cat he named "Thomas" and taking it to Mrs. Faerber, who kindly took it in. It turned out that "Thomas" was really "Thomasina," which we figured out when she brought her newborn kittens to Mrs. Faerber's garage.

15. Larry and Kathy Lysell's dog, Hono – a big white, mean, German Shepherd, who stood at the door of their house and threatened anyone who came near the door.

16. The rattlesnakes that were brought back each year from COL Guemsey's annual rattlesnake hunt. I still shudder when I think about those rattles.

17. That stupid white mule someone donated to the school, and was housed for a time in the field north of the President's house (where the maintenance building is now). What was Dad thinking when he accepted that? It was mean, would kick anyone who got close to it.

18. The multitude of cars that were donated to the school – The Green Army Bomb (fuel gauge was broken, so you never knew if it had any gas – always add a gallon just in case); Buck n' Chug (named when my brother Ed used it to learn how to drive a manual transmission); the Blue Merc (which I bought for the whopping sum of \$250 – and see paragraph 7 above).

Ed worked for Bob Dole, either on his Washington staff or on the campaign staff. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center and was a partner in Hogan & Harlson in Washington, D.C. He now practices law in San Francisco. He has three children, Christopher who will graduate from Hargrave Military Academy, Chaffee Elizabeth, and Alexander Rose.

Kyle earned a MBA from George Washington University in Washington, D. C. He now is a Senior Advisor in foreign countries for Oracle Corporation. He travels around the globe to Australia, China, Brazil, India, Germany, England and many other countries. He has two children, Lisa Christine and A. Landon. He lives in Manhattan Beach, California.

Sarah was a partner in Vinson & Elkins, the largest law firm in Texas, for many years. She left the firm to practice law on her own. She lives in Houston and has two sons, William Grafton and Thomas D. Davidson. When they come to Salina, they all have to make a trip around campus to see what is new. 🐾

He left, and I took a nap.

As I was drifting off, I started thinking..hmmm they must have placed the bats there to guard the treasure...

For those of you to young to remember Vail Hall, think Hogwarts, painted entirely in Java Brown.

Oh and thinking of painting, I remember painting with Dwight Woodall one hot summer. I guess it takes retrospect to now realize that between his surviving the Bataan Death March and Paul Kellogg's heroics at Guadalcanal, I was living and working among true American heroes.

One morning I woke up looked out the picture window of the house and was greeted by a F-14(think it was an F-14, correct me if I'm wrong Al), flying over the formation area at tree top level and heading straight for me. I tried to explain what I had just witnessed, but Dad told me Al Ransom had been given permission to fly over at 1000 feet. While vehemently saying it was just a scosh lower than 1000 feet, Al flew over again. This time, upside down.

A third fly over where he flipped from upside down to right side up, tilting his wing to avoid our television antenna (kids, this is what the pioneers used to get TV reception in the 60's), convinced me I was truly living in an amazing place.

Colonel Kellogg was on many occasions an impromptu language teacher where I learned many words I'd never heard before and where decorum denies me the ability to list here.

The other story I like to tell people about the days at St. John's, is of the Wild Game feed out in the shop where during the course of all the hunting tall tales, and a fifth or two of Wild Turkey, the distinction between the city burghers and the maintenance crew, vanished and you would have been hard pressed to pick either out of a line up.

Come to think of it, I don't think anyone worried about the line up since the Sheriff and Chief of Police were typically also there.

I would spend the summers in the rec center playing pool and was occasionally joined by coaches Kellogg and Lysell. I'm sure the names ring a bell. Coach Kellogg (Editor's note: This was Paul Jr. not Phil) would always refer to everybody with the honorific 'San'...as in Kyle San, Eddie San, Larry San.. In recent memory I have had the occasion to travel to Japan and be referred to as "Kyle San". I asked them.."So you know Coach K?" "Wanna play some 8 Ball?"

And parts of this story are a bit blurry to me, but Lillian Faerber likes to remind me of the day I showed up on her doorstep with a cardboard box full of newborn kittens. I guess it was her reputation as a kind heart that was always taking care of others that made me just know she would be a soft touch.

Of course, I could also reminisce about the mess hall, but these memories should be uplifting and many of us have spent years in extensive therapy trying to remove the words "Pinwheels", and "False Meat" from our consciousness. One spring evening, Mom and I had the pleasure of hosting one of the school's benefactors at the mess hall, when the evening's dish was composed of one can of tuna, 100 pounds of potatoes, and spackle.

And at the risk of sounding hokey or maudlin, not only was St. John's home, but it felt like one. I know this is a feeling I share not only with the other kids that grew up on campus, but the old boys that return year after year. 🐾

“One of the challenges about writing a reminiscence about the school is that part of the memories are about the school, but the larger ones are about the place you called home:

Kyle Duckers

The bull ring was where formation was held, but also the front yard, the staff at the school part of the extended family, the field out behind old Mize hall, the location of my first summer job. My lullaby was the discordant sound of some kid trying to master 'Taps'.

The other stories I suppose I need to check with legal counsel about statute of limitations issues and of course the ones with my brother Ed and I...he and I are still working under the theory of mutual assured destruction.

I suppose you mainly remember the people. 'Lefty' Loy sending me off to paint old Vail hall from third floor

to basement in the color, 'Java Brown' which Dad must have found 8 barrels of on special at the army surplus store. I think 'Lefty,' found a great way to get rid of me by sending me off to paint, and far be it for me to complain since I was painting the floorboards and as a result could mainly sit on the floor all day.

One afternoon (sorry this will only resonate to us dinosaurs who remember old Vail Hall), after a long boring day of painting Java Brown I started thinking about that blue turret up in the far southwest corner of Vail Hall and how it was weird that no matter how much I explored the building I could never figure out where the entrance was. There must be buried treasure, or Snyder's bones, or some cadet hid a six-pack or something up there. Suddenly, I had to find it. Bound and determined to explore until I did, I found a cubbyhole in the wall that I pried open. Looking across the vast expanse of empty attic I saw the light from the windows of the 'blue room.' As I started to walk my way across the rafters, I heard the squeaking of what I thought to be mice.. but from up in the ceiling..so I started thinking..hmmm rats.. flying...batssssssssss... and I high tailed it out of there.

Running home I mentioned to my brother Ed that I had heard there was a six-pack up in the 'blue room' and he should go get it.

Blue Beret



Enoch Lau

Hao Zong Huang

Klaus Mullens



Dean's Honor Roll



Victor Liwag

Luis Del Toro

Steven McPherson

Jonathan Demastus

Stephen Ritter



Matthew Kassing

Charles McCullough

Kristopher Norlander

Elliot Wood

Nuoya Wu



Devon Conway

East Fang

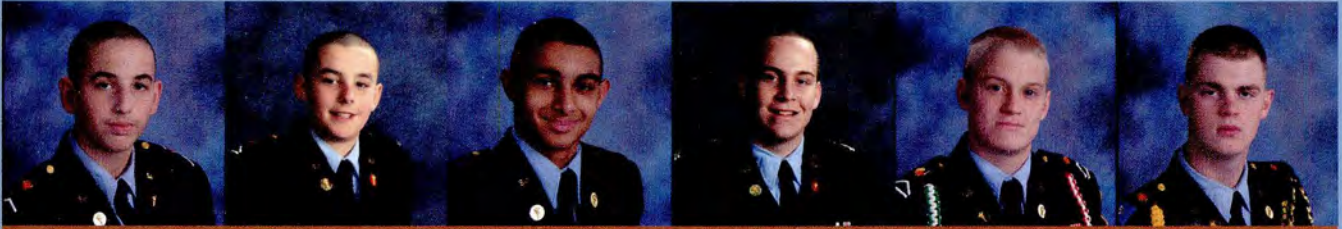
John Sun

Yechi Ma

The Blue Beret Award goes to the cadets earning the highest GPA for each nine weeks period.

The Blue Beret cadets are also members of the Dean's Honor Roll.

The second quarter Blue Beret and Dean's Honor Roll are listed in order of their grade point average.



Daniel Weisman Jake Whitting Drake Donenfeld Brian Christ Jeffrey Provenzo Joshua Batchelor



Gary Stone Tyrrell Judy Duncan Aron Ian Brands Kevin Aberg Edgar McBee



Bryan Ingram Patrick Harden Eric Soler Nicolas Payan Dakota Strawn Cordell Kile



Tyler Schneider Jesse Campbell Nicholas Diamond Dylan Yohe Samuel Lewis Chandler Clark



Phillip Abernathy Zachary Mosier Richard Reynolds Jonathan Gray Steven Bartholomew Liam Lueck



Austin Griego Taylor Noyes Rafael Vitar Victor Fontana Kang Woo Lee Anthony Olderback



Gregory Saville

Over a third of the 122nd
Corps of Cadets are
members of the
Honor Roll!
Fantastic!

Honor Roll



The second quarter honor roll cadets are listed in order of their grade point average.

COL Al Ransom Commencement Speaker



COL Albert J. Ransom, "Old Boy" is scheduled to deliver the 2010 commencement address to the 122nd Corps of Cadets. His lifelong friend, SJMS Headmaster, D. Dale Browning, explains "Al excelled in everything at St. John's which laid the foundation for his success in life." Ransom is no stranger to the St. John's family, returning to

campus many times since his graduation in 1956, Ransom can often be found carrying the guide-on for "F" troop, the "Old Boy" platoon during commencement weekend. This man, once a young cadet, has lived an amazing life, full of excitement and adventure. Talk to him about his St. John's experience and you will see into the heart of this man. His message to the corps is sure to be heartfelt and inspiring. When asked why he remains interested in St. John's he explains that he enjoys the camaraderie

with his classmates during class reunions .. "but mostly for what the school did for me as a young man, I would never have



"New Boy" Al Ransom

achieved what I accomplished if it were not for SJMS and the people that worked with the cadets." Ransom remembers many staff members that helped guide him through his youth. "Russ Guernsey, Commandant of Cadets, and long time science teacher, for what he taught me in leadership. 'Fat' Elmborg and 'Lefty' Loy provided me with the fundamentals to excel in sports and life. (They were the reason I went on to become an All State football player.) Ray Hower for having the patience and ability to help me understand



A cadet, COL Remy Clem, Roger Bigler, Class of 1955, President Harry Truman and Al Ransom.

Algebra and Trigonometry, which I used throughout my aviation career. COL Clem for believing in me and giving me a second chance, and making me truly understand the meaning of integrity. Keith Duckers, the first person I met as an 8th grader at SJMS, became a friend for life. Duckers' love of the school and the cadets helped me understand how important it is for a man to be dedicated. The faculty wives for being my away from home mothers who always made sure that the cadets felt at home at St. John's. Hazel Fonck, the bursar of the school, who always made sure I received some spending money even though I did not have any money in my account. She and

Algebra and Trigonometry, which I used throughout my aviation career. COL Clem for believing in me and giving me a second chance, and making me truly understand the meaning of integrity. Keith Duckers, the first person I met as an 8th grader at SJMS, became a friend for life. Duckers' love of the school and the cadets helped me understand how important it is for a man to be dedicated. The faculty wives for being my away from home mothers who always made sure that the cadets felt at home at St. John's. Hazel Fonck, the bursar of the school, who always made sure I received some spending money even though I did not have any money in my account. She and

Ransom's decorations include 1.) The Distinguished Flying Cross for Dangerous Combat Missions. 2.) The Bronze Star for a heroic act with the Koreans.

F8U-Crusader



From 1960-1963 Ransom logged 1000 hours in the F8U Crusader Jet Fighter. He flew off three carriers when his squadron, VMF-451, made the first Marine Trans-Pacific flight from California to Japan aerial refueling across the Pacific.



F11F Tiger Fighter



Ransom flew the F11F Tiger Fighter from 1963-1965 and was later an instructor in Texas flying over 1000 hours over the USA including over his Alma mater, SJMS, when the cadets were out in formation.



A4 Skyhawk Attack Jet



In 1966-67 Ransom was in Vietnam with the Korean Marines who received US Marine air support and Navy ship support. The last six months of this deployment he flew combat missions in the A4 Skyhawk attack jet.

Fighter Pilot

her husband always had SJMS sports team members to their house following games.”

Ransom had the extreme good fortune, of having an unknown person provide the funding so he could remain at St. John's until he graduated. Ransom explains, “we did not have scholarships then and my Mom could not afford to send me back for my final two years.”

Ransom proved to be very worthy of his 'scholarship.' Chosen as the Battalion Commander his senior year, he was also Vice-President of “S” Club, (letter man club) and was Captain of both the Crack Drill Squad and the Crack Drill Platoon.

Following graduation from SJMS, Ransom attended Colorado University on a football scholarship. After two years he enlisted in the Marines and after one year was selected to the Navel Aviation Cadet program. Eighteen months later he received his commission and his wings. Ransom spent the next 28 years flying and traveling all over the world. (The jets he flew and a synopsis



of his amazing flying career is explained below.)

From 1985-88 Ransom was the First Commanding Officer of The Marine Corps Air Station at Camp Pendleton. Ransom retired in 1988, ending a thirty-year career, with over 10,000 accident free

flying hours. His only scare came in 1961 when as he tells it.. “I was in a flight of 4 F8U Crusaders



at the time and we were in close formation when this C-117 came into our flight group. I was the only one to have a midair collision. We both landed safely and saved both our aircraft. I had a two foot hole in my left aileron and he was missing six inches of his right wing.” During his many hours of flight through the Vietnam years, he sustained multiple hits from enemy fire while piloting the A4 Skyhawk. Soon after, in 1978 he described a wheels up landing in Okinawa while flying an A4 aircraft, “I was distracted during landing and forgot to lower my wheels, I landed on empty fuel tanks with minor damage and flew the aircraft back to my home base in Japan the next day.”

Following his career in the military he was an airport manager, and flew with a Learjet company. Ransom and wife Cathie started their own business, Los Willows, a 44 acre wedding site including an inn, vineyard, avocado grove, and a team building ropes course. Ransom reports that “Cathie mainly runs the business and I assist as needed and play golf.” *See you in May, Colonel Ransom!*

3. The Legion of Merit a high peace time award. 4.) Twenty-four Air Medals for combat missions.

OV-10 Bronco



From 1969-71 Ransom was the senior test pilot on the OV-10 Bronco which was configured with a gattling gun under it that could swivel 180 degrees with a FLIR (forward looking infrared) and laser target designator. In 1970 Ransom took two NOGS (Night Observation Gunship) aircraft to Vietnam for a test evaluation of the system and it exceeded all expectations. He spent the next year in Washington D. C. briefing dignitaries on overall benefit to the war effort.



A-4 Fighter Jet



From 1976-79 he was Commanding Officer of VMA-311 and flew 6000 hours in the A4 Skyhawk Jet attack aircraft. From 1979-81 Ransom was assigned to the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy for six months and followed that assignment with the NATO Allied Forces South in Naples, Italy as the Marine Amphibious Planner for the Mediterranean Sea. During this time he traveled to all NATO countries.



F-18 Hornet



Promoted to Colonel in 1981, Ransom was sent to Hawaii where he met his wife, Cathie. He was on the FMFPac Staff (Fleet Marine Force, Pacific) for Aircraft Logistics for all marine aircraft West of the Mississippi and the Far East until 1983. Here is where he had the opportunity to fly the F-18 Hornet still used today in Iraq.

DOUG MORRISON

Class of 1997

Doug Morrison spent eight years of his young life as a cadet at St. John's. When he was about to enter the 5th grade he found an advertisement for St. John's in Boys Life Magazine. His Mother, Pat, informed him that if he wanted to go to St. John's he would need to make all the necessary arrangements. The rest is history, his first letter home was upsetting for his mom..he said "I hate it here.. come and get me ...or else." Deep down, his mother knew that St. John's was the best possible place for her boy and she told him to "get tough and stick it out." He came to love St. John's and his accomplishments were many; he played sports, excelled in academics, was a member of the band and battalion drums, and the rifle team. Morrison displayed outstanding leadership skills as he moved up the ranks finally reaching the rank of C/ COL as Battalion Commander of the 108th Corps of cadets. Morrison went on to attend the Merchant Marine Academy, travel the world, meet and marry Cheryl, and find an exciting job as a nuclear engineer.

Morrison currently lives and works in a suburb of Chicago. On this page he shares some of his feelings about St. John's, the Merchant Marine Academy and his career.

"Mrs. Faerber, you taught us with your daily encouragement, that the things most worth striving for, are not the easiest to accomplish by any means."

"Mrs. Harris, you gave us a place inside to feel the passions of life, you gave us heart, and the voice to show it."

"Mrs. Stein, you taught us how to open our eyes to the music in our hearts, so we'd never have to be alone."



was not immediately evident what the scholarship was, what it meant or why I was selected; when everything finally came together there was a tremendous rush of emotion that still gives me



Terry Plumberg, Alumni Director and Wendy Stein, traveled to Chicago to attend a baby shower hosted by Pat Morrison-Gustas and George Gustas for Doug and Cheryl Morrison expecting their first child at the beginning of March. Pets Murphy, Harley and Lucy helped make the weekend great fun!



chills today. The idea that my actions and a solid engagement in academics, athletics, and social activities would have been able to provide a benefit to those around me beyond what I gained personally from participating in those activities was truly impactful. There is no doubt that the scholarship was tremendously beneficial to my family, it was pivotal; it allowed me to continue to attend SJMS. Its impact on me was much larger. I learned that through my actions I can impact the lives of others. I strive to continue to do that today through my work and personal choices.

In an excerpt from his commencement address as Battalion Commander of the 108th Corps Morrison said..."As I look back on the eight years that I've spent at St. John's, I can recall many if not thousands of people and events that changed the way I think, act and live. The amount of things one can learn from St. John's is tremendous. Within St. John's school there is a team - a family - of close knit individuals working to produce a perfect product. This product is molded in a strong tradition of leadership, ethics, morals and discipline - anything that can be imagined is incorporated into the molding of every cadet."

"Attending the Merchant Marine Academy truly was rewarding, it presented me with the opportunity to work in over 18 different countries while participating in a service that is often unmentioned but a very important part of our nation's history. During WWII, about 1 in 26 mariners died while performing their duty. The Merchant Marine had a larger percentage of war caused deaths than any other branch of the

service. The WWII losses were great to the Academy, 142 students died during their training and service during the war. Today it is still the only service



academy that sends its students into active war zones. The United States merchant marine transports over 90 percent of all products that comes into or out of our country, by ship, across the oceans of the world. The history of the merchant marine and the physical and mental challenges it presented made it my first choice and in retrospect, practically one of the only choices that could have presented me with a challenge appropriate enough to follow SJMS."

"Working in the nuclear industry is very interesting for many reasons, but mostly because of the attention given to safety and human performance. We work on machines that are routinely in the neighborhood of a million or more horsepower; everything is immensely heavy and even the smallest of the components work in concert to keep tremendously devastating potential dangers at bay. Mistakes can be costly and understanding the problems and challenges provide us the opportunity to engineer our actions to limit failure. Proven advances in safety and maintenance in our industry impact all of us across many industries; most commonly, aviation."

“The Trouble With Boys”

By Wendy Stein

What's the trouble with boys? Well, let's see they can't sit still, they can't seem to get organized, they fight, they loose homework assignments, they would rather sleep than listen to a lecture on the Civil War, given the chance, they would play video games and drink sugary soft drinks all day and all night. They think wearing their pants down around their knees is cool. Wow, that sounds like trouble to me!

Peg Tyre wrote a book in 2008 entitled “The Trouble With Boys” which was described as being “a riveting, deeply thoughtful and encouraging book that leads the way to embracing the best in our boys.” In her book she relates cases of boys who at some point in their life have had problems at home and at school. She gives both parents and

the school system wonderful suggestions about how to handle boys in a way as to help them achieve their best in every facet of their lives. St. John's Military School is full of boys, boys who just like their public school counterparts want to be cool, and want to fit in, and want to succeed in school, but for some secret reason, try to avoid academic success.

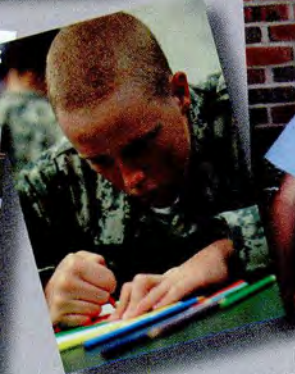
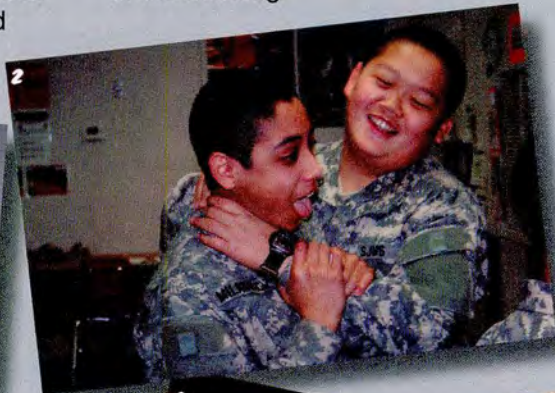
St. John's has many tools in place to help each cadet achieve academic success. Class sizes are small and cadets are grouped according to grade level and individual ability. Study halls are provided for cadets during the academic day and again during evening hours. Faculty members have the opportunity to request cadets attend tutorial period in the morning

before school for individual help. After school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday any cadet with missing work is required to attend opportunity study hall and stay until their work is completed!

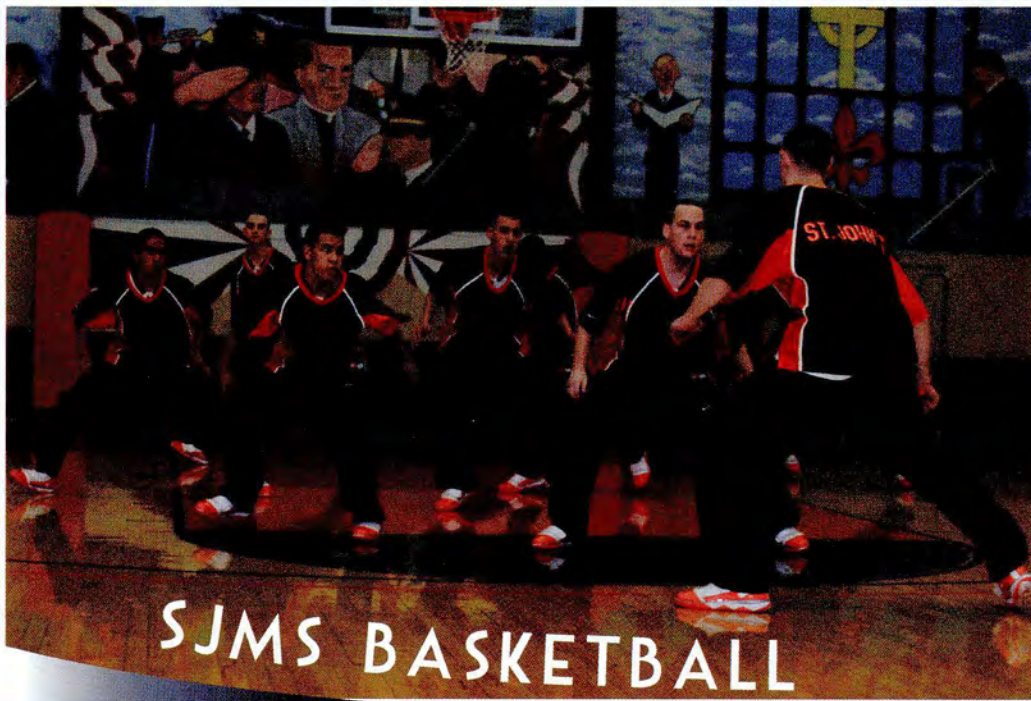
So while ‘boys will be boys’ the young men at St. John's are given every opportunity to be successful boys. A large percentage of the corps earns a spot on the Honor Roll and Dean's Honor Roll each quarter. Each company receives points towards Honor Company based in part on the company GPA! Many cadets also aspire to become members of the Blue Beret Club consisting of the top three GPA's in the corps.

There are plenty of opportunities for success at St. John's, and plenty of boys are achieving it! 🎓

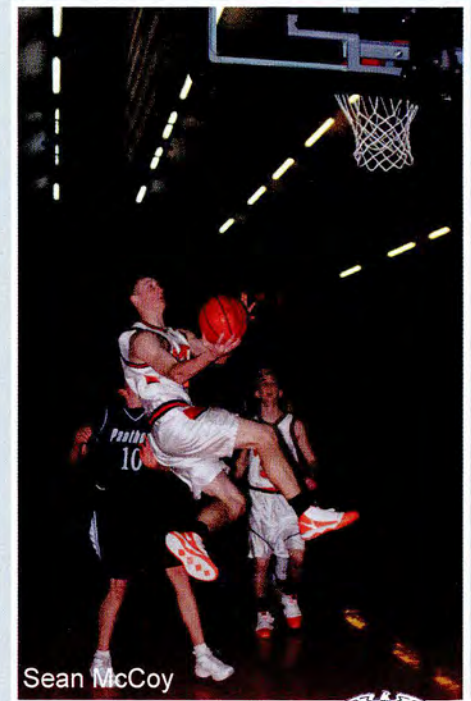
We say...
**“There is NO
 Trouble With Boys!”**



Boys being boys 1.) Calvin Guardiola and Jacob Andrews throw paper airplanes. 2.) John Sun pretends to strangle his classmate Benjamin Milanovich. 3.) Tyler Schneider about to enjoy eating his popcorn ball. 4.) Bryan Long displays his million dollar smile. 5.) Roy Lawrence and Tony Blair (big boys) reach for the last cinnamon roll. 6.) Kody Korum, Charles Johnson and Pierre Jones gather their Valentine treats. 7.) Diego Gamboa admires Collin Cooper's artistic display of name tags. 8.) Jesse Campbell concentrates on his art project. 9.) Stephen Ritter, Paul Strebeck and Grant Heffington mug for the camera during a surprise popcorn break during the academic day.

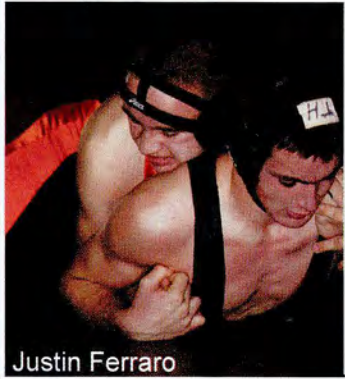


SJMS BASKETBALL

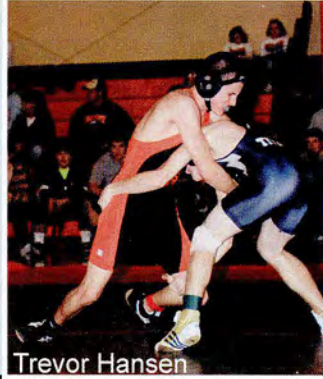


Sean McCoy

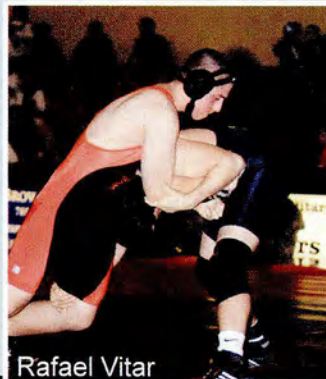
SJMS WRESTLING



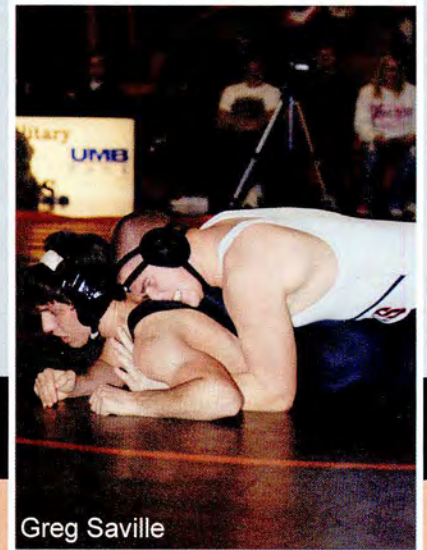
Justin Ferraro



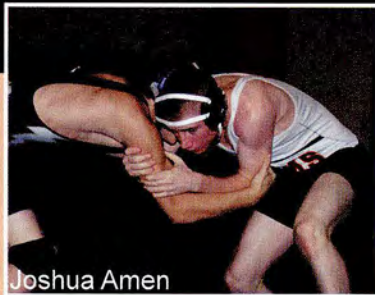
Trevor Hansen



Rafael Vitar



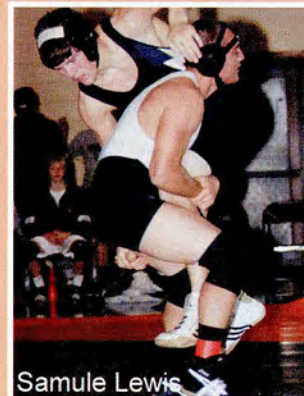
Greg Saville



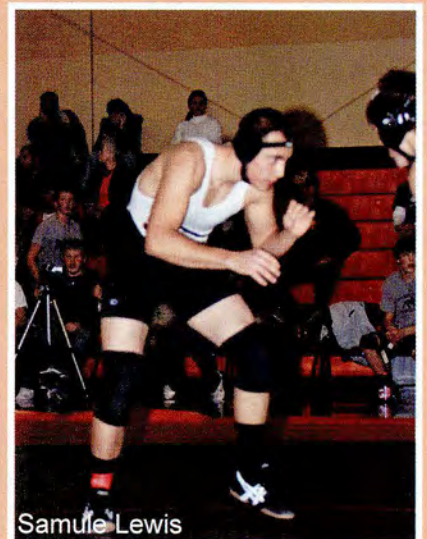
Joshua Amen



Corey Lewis



Samule Lewis



Samule Lewis



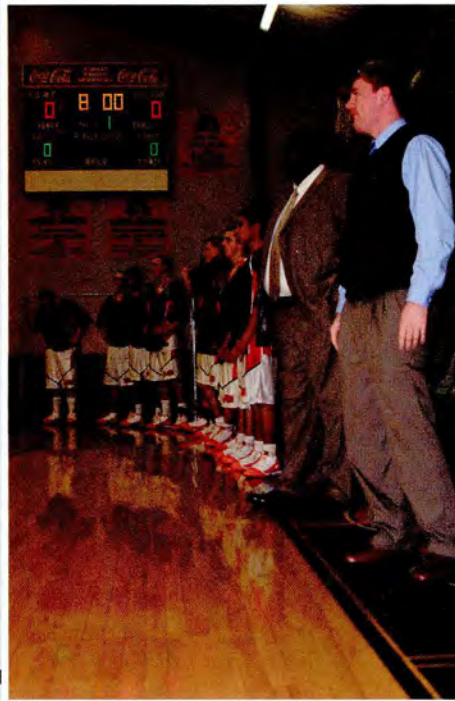
The SJMS Wrestling Roster;

- Joshua Amen
- Sergio Cois
- Justin Ferraro
- Trevor Hansen
- Cordell Kile
- Corey Lewis
- Samuel Lewis
- Steven McPherson
- Gary Stone
- Gregory Saville
- Elliot Wood
- Rafael Vitar

Head Coaches: Mike Reid, and Hector Serna
Coaches Aides: Spencer Popple, and Andy Griffith



Aron Turner



The Mule-Skinner Basketball team was led by high scoring senior, Sean Mc Coy. With a handful of talented support for this senior, the basketball team was able to provide some thrilling wins for the fans. Hanson Mc Kinney, Nicholas Nelson, and Aaron Turner were explosive players adding excitement to the fast paced style of Mc Coy. Connor Dempsey, Ricky Gesino, Henry Jacinto, Victor Liwag, and Nicolas Payan added both offensive and defensive help throughout the season. Bryan Cerato, Paul Iudice, Klaus Mullens and Steven Weiler saw playing time especially during the home game Friday night of parents' weekend.

Congratulations on a great season! 🏀

Head Coach: Roy Lawrence

Assistant Coaches; Leneal Weiser, and Travis Williams

Managers; Zachary Benishek, Jordan Carter, Mark Glaser, and Chris Whitehead

ON TO STATE

On February 19, SJMS top wrestlers, Greg Saville and Sam Lewis traveled to the regional wrestling tournament in Hoisington, Kansas hoping to qualify for State. Fighting hard during the first round on Friday, both Saville and Lewis made it to the consolation rounds on Saturday. Saville won in the first round but was eliminated in the second round by a 2009 state qualifier. Lewis made it to the final consolation match earning a fourth place finish. Lewis is the first cadet in 14 years to qualify for state competition. Coach Hector Serna thanked Mike Reid,

Head Coach, Assistant coaches, Spencer Pople and Andy Griffith for their "insight, leadership and hard work in mentoring the wrestlers and improving their wrestling techniques, and for helping Lewis prepare for State competition." Serna also thanks the fans who traveled to the meets; SJMS Staff members, Deb Feil, and Paula Wilton, Devon Walter, former SJMS academic dean, Francesca Cois, mother of Sergio Cois, Christine Brown-Basnet mother of Corey Lewis mother, and Joy Lewis, mother of Sam Lewis. 🏪

GOOD LUCK AT STATE!

SENIOR NIGHT!

Sam Lewis, his mother Joy Lewis, Elliot Wood, his mother, Darlene Wood, and Sean Mc Coy, and his mother, Lisa Mc Coy celebrated senior night in Banes Gymnasium. Lewis, a member of the SJMS wrestling team, Wood a member of the wrestling team and Mc Coy a member of the basketball team each presented their mothers with red roses during halftime of the varsity basketball game on Friday, February 12, 2010. The seniors were recognized for their efforts as members of a sports team. Each year the sports teams count on the seniors for leadership both on and off the court. Lewis is executive officer of Alpha company and Mc Coy is Alpha company's 1SGT. 🏪

Congratulations, Seniors!



New Music in the Choir Loft

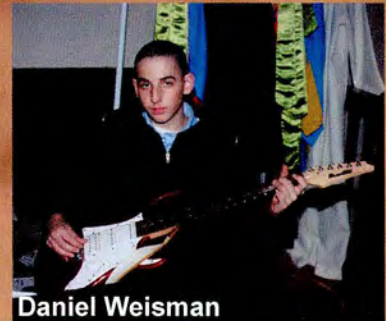
Thanks to the combined efforts of Headmaster, D. Dale Browning, The Rev. Brian Viel, SJMS, Chaplain, and Merrell Nelson, Choir Director and Organist, there is a new sound coming from the choir loft during church services. Fr. Viel and Nelson worked together to choose more contemporary hymns as they created booklets to be placed in the pews to augment the hymnal choices. Browning provided funding for a set of electronic drums to add a little spark to the beat of the music. Nelson searched contemporary sacred music libraries to find up tempo hymns the cadets would enjoy singing. Brass instruments and guitars have been added to the mix to take the sacred music to another level. The Chapel Choir sound has been richly enhanced by the more contemporary approach to chapel music. Browning often comments on "how inspirational the music is during the Sunday

worship service." Cadets Patrick Harden and Greg Saville are regular accompanists each Sunday on the euphonium and tuba and Jordan Carter plays the drums. Joshua Batchelor joined the group in December for the Lessons and Carols service. One Sunday morning in February Cadets Ryan Lynch and Daniel Weisman joined with their guitars. Nelson's goal "is to have more of the cadets participate in Chapel services with their musical instruments."

Merrell Nelson



Ryan Lynch



Daniel Weisman

Justin Small, Jered Hoffmann, Joshua Batchelor, Patrick Harden, Connor Dempsey, James Curry, Stephen Ritter, Enoch Lau, and Mitchell Lamb

The Choir



Enoch Lau, Choirmaster



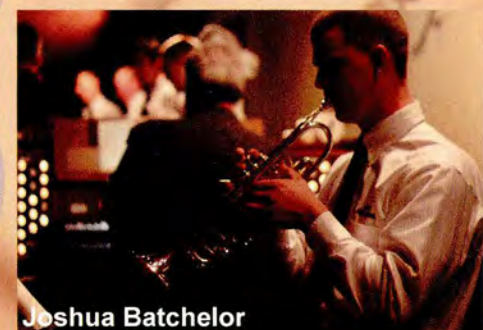
Greg Saville



Patrick Harden



Jordan Carter



Joshua Batchelor

Rifle Team Wins Back Traveling Trophy

**JUNIOR OLYMPIC QUALIFYING
MEN'S DIVISION
FIRST PLACE**

Joshua Batchelor
SECOND PLACE
Jered Hoffmann

EARNING MEDALS IN THEIR AGE GROUP

Jonathan Gray
Stephen Ritter
Graeme Slack

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA) SECTIONALS
SECOND PLACE**

Jered Hoffmann

EARNING MEDALS IN THEIR AGE GROUP

FIRST PLACE

Joshua Batchelor

EARNING MEDALS IN THEIR AGE GROUP

Jonathan Gray
Stephen Ritter
Graeme Slack

The rifle team traveled to historic Leavenworth, Kansas, for their only away rifle match on February 17. Twice a year the rifle team competes against Leavenworth High School. A much improved Mule-Skinner team scored a 1081- forty-one points better than Leavenworth High School to bring home the Champions Cup Trophy last won by SJMS in February of 2008. Individually, Joshua Batchelor fired a personal best, taking the first place medal with a score of 278. Graeme Slack fired a 274 improving his score by 27 points to take home the 2nd place medal. A Leavenworth shooter took third while Jered Hoffmann secured a 4th place medal by firing a 269. Stephan Ritter rounded out our top four with a score of 260. Jonathan Gray scored a 254 beating three of the five Leavenworth shooters.

"Our members are all first year shooters and have done quite well and I expect will finish the season strong."



Coach
Tony Blair



Back Row: Stephen Ritter, Jered Hoffmann,
and Jonathan Gray Front row: Joshua Batchelor,
and Graeme Slack

Commencement Schedule May 6, 7 & 8

THURSDAY, MAY 6

0800 – 1130	Registration
0800 – 1115	Parent Teacher Coffee - Vanier Academic Center
1000	SJMS Old Boys Golf Tournament
	RSVP to Terry
1015	Boy Scout Court of Honor Armstrong Chapel
1130	Pass-in-Review - Honoring Gene Johnson Tear Drop
1200 – 1330	Lunch for Cadets & Families - Stevens Center
1330 – 1530	Academic/Military Awards Ceremony Banes Gymnasium
1500 – 1800	Reception Room for Old Boys
	Ramada Convention Center
1530 – 2230	Pass Gate for all Cadets not attending Junior/Senior Prom
1730-1800	Photo opportunity for parents at Prom Salina Country Club
1800 – 2230	Junior/Senior Prom - Salina Country Club
1800 -2030	Reception - Parents, Faculty and Staff - Linger Hall
0100	Pass Gate Closed for All Cadets attending Junior/Senior Prom

FRIDAY, MAY 7

0800	Flag Raising Ceremony
	Final Roll Call - Tear Drop
0820	Forming of "F" Troop & Pass-in-Review - Old Boy Association Board (OBA) on the Reviewing Stand Tear Drop
0845	Continental Breakfast Parents/Families/Old Boys- President's Home Lawn
0845	Breakfast for Cadets - Stevens Center
1000	Scholarships and Distinguished Awards Ceremony Wall of Fame Inductions - Banes Gymnasium
1130	Mess for Corps and Families - Stevens Center
1300	Formation of Cadet Corps - Tear Drop
1315	Re-Dedication of Loy and Guemsey Memorial Tear Drop
1345	Pass-in-Review - Tear Drop
1400	Military Tattoo Ceremony - Banes Gymnasium
1500	Pass Gate Open for Cadets with family for dinner
1730	Mess for Cadets without Parents - Stevens Center
1730	Class of the 50's Dinner - Stiefel Theater
1800	Alumni Dinner - Ramada Inn
1900	President's Recognition Ceremony - Ramada Inn
	Ring Ceremony Class of 2011
	Farewell Class of 2010 Battalion Staff
2400	Pass Gate Closes for All Cadets

SATURDAY, MAY 8

0700	Breakfast for Cadets Only - Stevens Center
	Breakfast for Seniors - Hosted by Old Boys - Reception Room Stevens Center
0830	Senior Eucharist - Armstrong Chapel
1000	Freedom Tree Ceremony
1030	Graduation - Class of 2010 - Formation Area Jack Vanier Hall
	Final Pass-in-Review - Browning Parade Field - 312th Army Band
Noon	BBQ for Old Boys and Families - President's Home
1730	Class of the 50's Dinner - Salina Country Club



Bold-Denotes Alumni Activities



HELP FOR HAITI

Pam Kraus, SJMS Chemistry teacher, spearheaded an effort to lend some support to the people of Haiti. Kraus and the cadets made 35 health kits and donated \$26 to help with shipping. Supplies were purchased with money donated by SJMS cadets and staff members. The health kits were distributed by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on

Relief) which had been operating in Haiti for many years prior to the earthquake.

- Each Bag contained:
- One hand towel
 - One washcloth
 - One bar of soap
 - Band aids
 - One comb
 - One toothbrush
 - One tube of toothpaste
 - One nail clipper or fingernail file



Yechi Ma, Taylor Noyes, Paul Strebeck, Omar Balderas, Pam Kraus, and Dakota Strawn gather in the chemistry room while preparing relief kits for Haiti.

St. John's Military School
Box 5020
Salina, KS 67402-5020



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