

The Skirmisher

Fall 2007

St. John's Military School



“Old Boy”

D. Dale Browning

At the Helm

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St. John's Military School

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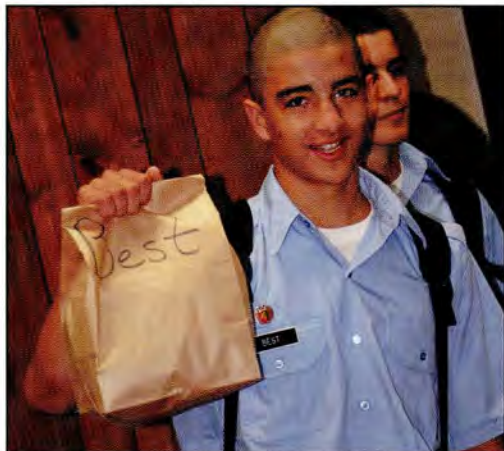
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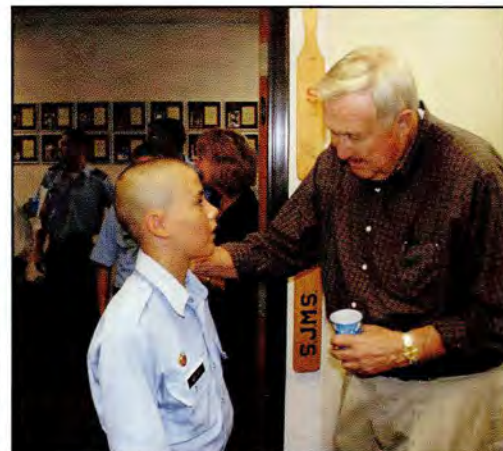
Cover Photo by Scott Wiedeman



Merrick Best looks happy about receiving a care package. Thanks, Mom!



Devin Williams concentrates on getting it just right!



Mitch Molina is welcomed to the "New Boy" reception by D. Dale Browning.

D. Dale Browning

GIVING HIS TIME...
AND HIS TALENT

Many people have made a difference at St. John's Military School. One hundred and twenty years of existence has seen the emergence of men and women who not only offered their guidance and support but, were inspired to dedicate a portion of their lives to the education and training of young men.

A few have been both students and teachers at St. John's and then moved on to take their place in the outside world. D. Dale Browning is a shining example of that phenomenon. D. Dale came to St. John's after losing his mother to a cruel illness and being raised by his beloved older sister Wanda Faulkner while his father ran the family business. Browning was, by his own account, an 'ornery' young lad and the structure and discipline offered to cadets at St. John's was just what he needed. He blossomed at St. John's contributing to every facet of the military, sports and academic programs.

His name has long been associated with success at St. John's. His picture appears on the Wall of Fame as a distinguished Alumni. He was named an *Honorary Colonel* for "his internationally known banking innovations, his star presence on the basketball court by achieving the all-time scoring record at St. John's, his service to SJMS as a trustee and for his distinguished achievement in every turn of his life." In the hallway of the Vanier Academic Center a bronze plaque bears his name and likeness which lists the recipients of a full scholarship given annually in his name with funds established by the members of the Plus System Inc., following his retirement from his distinguished career in banking.

More than just a picture and a name, D. Dale has become a comrade, colleague and mentor to the members of the 120th Corps of Cadets and the faculty and staff lucky enough to be on campus during his tenure as Interim President. He has single handedly transformed the atmosphere both physically and emotionally at St. John's by infusing his spirit of gentle manliness and generosity to every corner of the campus.

Browning rises early and works with dogged determination throughout the day. Staff members scurry around completing tasks he has assigned during the many meetings he directs daily. He joins the Corps of Cadets for breakfast and lunch each day learning their names, lending a sympathetic ear, providing sage advice while maintaining mental notes of each of their many accomplishments and triumphs. Browning can be seen in the bleachers during home basketball games running late into the night even

though he rises at 4:30 a.m. each day.

His other "job" as Chairman of the Board of Frontier Airlines periodically takes him away from campus. Handling the complex issues facing the airline industry provides Browning plenty of challenges and still he is able to focus squarely on his mission at St. John's.

D. Dale has become a fixture on campus since moving into the position as Interim President. His life could be drastically different; he has homes in Golden, Colorado and Scottsdale, Arizona. He could be teeing off daily on the golf links in the warm sun of the American southwest and enjoying the finest cuisine; instead he chooses to make his home at the Salina Courtyard Marriott Hotel and dine among the young men of St. John's.

Under Browning's direction, the school has been re-energized with both cadets and staff walking a little taller and looking to the future with greater hope. He has directed the staff to make sure that the 2008 *Commencement Weekend* is a memorable one. He along with many others was extremely disappointed that the 2007 graduating class had to leave St. John's without the tradition and ceremony each class had experienced for the previous 119 years.

Excitement is building throughout the corps for the culmination of what has been up to this point a year to remember. D. Dale Browning must accept much of the credit for this, knowing that his contributions go far beyond dollars and cents. He is sensitive to the needs of everyone around him and takes great joy in giving. He has been a devoted and loving uncle, brother and son and enjoys a multitude of close friendships with both champions of industry and the most common of folks.

While we look forward to the presidential tenure of Larry Lysell to begin in June of 2008, those of us fortunate enough to have been working closely with Browning can't imagine St. John's without D. Dale. We can rest assured in the thought that D. Dale will never be farther than a phone call away and the investment of his time and talent will pay unimaginable dividends for years to come.



Alumni

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



"It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Mother Teresa

"Old Boys" and friends of SJMS have reached out with the giving of their talent, time, and resources. Mr. D. Dale Browning, 1955, Interim President, is a driving force in ensuring the story of St. John's is told. SJMS is in the process of developing an aggressive strategy to revitalize and organize an effective marketing, recruiting and re-enrollment program. Most members of the Board of Trustees and many "Old Boys" are currently involved in developing new strategies, exploring new markets, and developing additional marketing materials that will have a very positive effect on our on-going recruitment efforts.

REACH....

Establishing a relationship between SJMS and the Episcopal churches are: Denny Dumler, member of the Endowment Board, "Old Boys" Rick Taylor 1964, Tim Soule 1966, and Dr. Bill Salmon 1953, who

have made an assertive effort in contacting the Episcopal churches in the Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, and New Mexico areas. Taylor writes, "St. Johns has taken good kids who need a structured environment and joined them with a very highly-skilled faculty to bring out the very best in these individuals for over a century. This is an educational opportunity to prepare young men to compete for acceptance to this nation's most prestigious universities and military academies. The school curriculum develops the entire person in all aspects of his maturation into adulthood with a focus on education and spirit. The school instills character, discipline and inner core values that are so important in his life."

"Old Boys" Max Brooks, 1989, and Edward Lehman, 1943 have taken a special interest in advertising for SJMS in the Colorado area.

Max was recently on campus discussing ways to better extend the SJMS network.

"Old Boys" Tim Soule, 1966, and David Dumler, 1986, are assisting Mrs. Ginger Wooten, Director of Admissions and Marketing to establish contacts with high school counselors in the state of Colorado.

RECRUIT....

Recently, "Old Boy" Jeff Broome, 1971, received a phone call from a prospective parent with questions concerning St. John's. Broome took the time to visit with the family, and arranged for the family to attend a reception in the Denver area with our Admission team. By reaching out, Broome helped the family, and SJMS. The young man joined the 120th Corps in late January 2008.

REPRESENT...

Mrs. Donna Vanier, wife of "Old Boy" Jack Vanier 1955, and D. Dale Browning are together bringing back class pictures to once again

hang in the hallways of the Vanier Academic Center. The class photos will be uniform in size and frame, and will be ready for display on Commencement weekend. "Old Boys" and staff alike enjoy seeing those familiar faces.

"Old Boy" Bill Meidell, 1953 is diligently working on preserving our history and traditions of SJMS through the making of a DVD. He plans to incorporate information from the history book written by Virgil "Lefty" Loy, "*A History of St. John's Military School 1887 - 1963*" into the DVD.

Contributions from our "Old Boys" and friends will only continue to grow, as we reach out. The desire to share the St. John's story and to see the campus grow is heartwarming for both the "old" and "new" boys. The opportunity is now... developing leaders, one boy at a time!



Where are you now? If you see yourself in these photos please send an e-mail to Terry Plumberg Alumni Coordinator terryp@sjms.org Let us know what you are doing and tell us your fondest memory of your time at St. John's. We look forward to hearing from you!

Larry Britegam

St. John's Memorabilia

When Larry Britegam read the recent Skirmisher article about the watercolors Paul Sommers has painted relating to St. John's, "the wheels began to turn."

Anyone acquainted with Larry Britegam knows of his genuine interest in and dedication to St. John's Military School. His own association with the school began when he joined the Corps of Cadets in 1967. Larry was at St. John's during his eighth and ninth grade year. But his involvement with the school did not stop there. Larry is currently serving his sixteenth year as a member of the Board of Trustees. Britegam has been Chairman of the Board twice and has served as Chairman of two major fund drives for the school.

One of his hobbies is collecting St. John's memorabilia. Leisure time often finds him surfing the Internet, searching for items to add to his collection, which has become quite extensive through the years.

Mr. Britegam is President of Sunflower Bank in Salina, with corporate offices in Salina. His pride in St. John's is evident there as well. Prominently displayed on a wall in his office is a beautiful reproduction of Vail Hall, painted by Dean Groves, a long-time friend and Board of Trustees member of St. John's Military School. Also displayed is a saber noting Larry as Honorary Battalion Commander of the 104th Corp, in 1991. The saber was presented to Larry by Colonel Keith Duckers, one of Larry's early mentors at SJMS and a very close family friend.

Impressed with local artist Paul Sommer's artistic talent and fond memories of St. John's cadets, faculty and staff, Larry commissioned Paul to paint an original watercolor of St. Barnabas Hospital.

St. Barnabas Hospital was constructed on the St. John's campus in 1909. It was Salina's first hospital building. It served as a hospital until 1922, when it became St. John's Junior School. The transformed facility included a lower school dormitory, classrooms and a dining hall. The building filled those needs until it was replaced by Mize Hall in 1965, a building Larry lived in for 2 years while he attend St. John's.

There remains one more reason, a rather personal one, for Larry to want a watercolor of that stately, old building. His Great Grandfather, Mr. Alfred Ritter, was the general contractor in charge of building St. Barnabas Hospital. Mr. Ritter, formerly of Kansas City and an engineer by trade and very successful building contractor in the Kansas City area, also was the general contractor for Salina's original YMCA, which served the Salina community well into the 1970's. Alfred Ritter also built a family home on South Santa Fe in



Salina, called the "Ritter House", that Larry's brother-in-law now lives in.

Mr. Ritter's parents migrated from Prussia in 1833 to the Georgetown area and eventually ended up in the Kansas City area where Alfred was born in Uniontown, KS in 1889. One of his son's, John Forest, Larry's Grandfather, made his way to Hays, met his future wife, eventually moved to Salina where he started Ritter Tile Company 95 years ago, now owned by Larry's uncle Charley and cousin Mike Ritter.

One other point of interest, Larry's great-grandfather Alfred, his grandfather John Forest and Larry were all born on the same day, February 15th! Larry's interest in his family's heritage in Kansas are linked to both sides of his family. The Britegam's were original settlers in Lincoln County Kansas, northwest of Salina and were original land grant owners in the 1870's!

With the completion of Britegam's commissioned work of St. Barnabas Hospital, he has another item of St. John's memorabilia to display in his office.

Paul Sommers may be reached by mail at: 1854 Lewis, Salina, Kansas 67401.

His new e-mail address is: sommers2@cox.net.

Story by Larry Britegam



Armstrong Chapel

Armstrong Chapel received a much needed 'facelift' inside and out. Jessie Given, longtime benefactor of St. John's along with her grandson "Old Boy," Dan Moran, 1993, provided the funding for both. New siding was applied to the outside and the carpeting for the alter area and the



isle down the middle of the sanctuary was replaced. New cushions were added to the kneelers and new pads were provided for the pews. These most recent improvements compliment the beautiful new front door Jessie provided for the chapel in

2007.

Armstrong Chapel serves the corps as a place of meditation and prayer. The cadets come to worship each Sunday and twice during the week. Chapel Council, made up of cadets willing to be a part of the alter party, is responsible for making sure the chapel is ready for each service.

Jessie Given believes that religion needs to be the centerpiece of the school. Her great-grandson Dan related that "the chapel has always had special meaning for his great-grandmother and the school has been an important part of their family for many years."

Jessie stays informed about St. John's through the phone calls she receives from

Gets a 'facelift'



Skip Mac Alexander (former president of St. John's) and Jerry Bradley (former Commandant of Cadets).

Jessie remains active running her antique business while Dan pursues his Doctorate in Education at Auburn University.

The longevity of Armstrong Chapel will be assured through the generous gifts of Jessie Given and her great-grandson, Dan.

The Buildings the legacy the people

Few campuses around the country can boast such a wonderful combination of beautiful buildings and well kept grounds as St. John's Military School. Each of the buildings is named for someone that has meant a great deal to the longevity and success of St. John's.

Mize Hall, home to countless young men since 1964 takes its name from the Right Reverend Robert H. Mize Episcopal Bishop of the Salina diocese and Superintendent of St. John's during the early part of the 20th century. His vision and leadership allowed the traditions of St. John's Military School to continue well past his tenure. Many times during his term as Bishop, Mize moved his young family onto the campus of St. John's to see to the daily needs of the school and to offer his vision for sustaining what the Right Reverend Elijah Smith founded in 1887. It was an easy choice to name the new barracks, destined to house the younger cadets at St. John's, after Bishop Mize as he had meant so much to the longevity of the school. His son, Father "Bob" Mize founded the St. Francis Boys Home a longstanding institution offering hope to countless young men in central Kansas since 1963. Both father and son offered salvation for boys needing guidance and a place to call home. St. John's is fortunate to have Mize Hall stand as a tribute to a family of men who have provided two generations of young men with hope.

Mize Hall will soon be retired as a barracks with a plan to remodel this grand old hall to serve in a new capacity. "Old Boys" calling Mize Hall home could tell countless stories of late night shenanigans and lasting friendships that were cultivated within the walls of Mize Hall. When the cadets pack for home at the end of the 2007-2008 school year Mize Hall will stand silent and an era will come to an end but the memories will linger in the minds of

many for a building that served it's purpose well and offered many a temporary place to call home.

The Vanier Academic Center, named after John J. and Lesta Vanier, grandparents of current board of trustee member Mary Vanier, and parents of "Old Boy" trustee and benefactor John "Jack" Vanier and his wife long time board of trustee member and St. John's benefactor Donna Vanier holds a revered place among the beautiful campus buildings. The Vanier Academic center continues today as a tribute to the commitment of the Vanier family to sustaining the mission of developing leaders one boy at a time.

Sage Hall and Clem Ferris, both barracks built during the 20th century were named after men who made a difference at St. John's. Their contributions came in the form of faithful service to a school that needed leadership. The close ties to the Episcopal Church have sustained the connection between church and school leaving the future open for young men to find their hidden potential.

Linger Hall takes its name from "Old Boy" Lymon G. Linger a successful Colorado Rancher committed to the longevity of the school he once called home. The late Keith G. Duckers, President Emeritus of St. John's, liked to call Linger Hall his flagship building and took great pride in the fact that this state of the art building was built during the last part of his presidency.

The Stevens Center was built to replace tired and worn Nichols Dining Hall under the watchful eye of former trustee and building contractor Charlie Stevens. Stevens spent many days on campus supervising every detail of the fantastic new facility planned to house a rifle range that would host state and national rifle meets a recreation center, a twelve bed infirmary, the duty office, new battalion staff quarters and a brightly lit dining facility. Opened in 2004, it stands as a beacon to the memory of the late Charlie Stevens.

(cont. on pg 7)

Lee Young

SJMS BOARD OF TRUSTEE NAMED TO SALINA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME



Lee Young, a St. Johns Military School trustee since July 2001, joined the ranks of local business men inducted into the Salina Business Hall of Fame. Lee stated “it is truly an honor to be recognized along with those who contributed to the success of our community and its history”. In his acceptance speech, Young told the group assembled that “It

is a humbling honor to be considered a contemporary with men like Al Schwan (Tony’s Pizza/Schwan Foods Chairman) Charlie Walker (Founder of Blue Beacon Truck Washes/Green Lantern Convenient Stores) and Roy Applequist (Chairman/Founder of Great Plains Manufacturing)”.

Beyond this honorable distinction, Young offers his time to serve the young men of St. John’s Military School. He is Chairman of the Curriculum and Accreditation Committee and serves on the board’s Executive Committee. His business acumen serves the school well adding a special perspective to the complex issues facing a boarding school in the 21st century.

A visit to the new “state-of- the- art” manufacturing facility of Vortex, the company Young helped found in 1978,

offers insight into the mind of this community leader and world traveler.

Vortex is a world leader in the design and manufacturer of innovative dry bulk material handling valves. The company’s products help its customers produce products everyone uses in their daily lives. From your first cup of coffee in the morning, to the tires on your car, to antibiotics for your stuffy nose, to the cement in your driveway, the products made by Salina Vortex indirectly touch each of our lives. Vortex has 125 dedicated employees that design, apply and produce 17 valve product lines for distribution in 40 countries with offices in Canada, Columbia, Mexico, United Kingdom, Singapore and China.

Young believes that the recipe for success hinges on “surrounding yourself with the right people and creating a great team.” A tour of the company confirmed the “people centered” nature of his business.

A glimpse into the private life of Lee Young can be seen through the photos adorning the walls of the Salina Vortex offices. Young travels the world with his family in search of adventure and captures those adventures with the passion of a *National Geographic* photographer. Young’s passion for family, work, adventure and community service is reflective of the values of St. John’s Military School.

St. John’s Military School is blessed to have a Board of Trustees that bring a wide array of experiences and insight into the complex issues we face. We thank the men and women of the board and look forward to featuring their stories in future Skirmisher magazines.

cont. from bottom pg. 6

Standing on the grounds next to the Stevens Center is the soon to be completed “Jack Vanier Hall.” This new barracks is scheduled to be dedicated during commencement weekend on May 9, 2008 and will be open for tours following the dedication ceremony. The new structure will provide much more than just Spartan quarters for the cadets of the 121st corps. The building boasts high ceilings and wide corridors with more than ample space in each room. The military offices are placed for strategic monitoring of cadet activity and provide well appointed offices for the battalion and company leadership advisors that supervise the cadets after school hours.

The Vanier family is well entrenched in the past success of St. John’s having given both monetary gifts and donations of time and talent. During the Duckers administration, Donna Vanier served as the first Development Officer helping to raise money for the school and both Jack and Donna served many terms on the board of trustees.

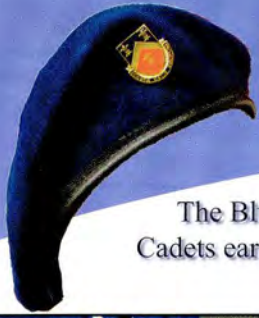
The newest building on campus “Jack Vanier Hall” serves as a beacon to the future The five-million dollar price tag well surpassed the initial commitment of Jack but the project was fully funded through each cost increase because of the fierce loyalty that the Vanier family has consistently shown towards St. John’s and the young men it serves. Perhaps Jack’s generosity can be measured through his extreme philanthropy but there must be a deeper meaning in the commitment that he has made to St. John’s.



He must have felt that special feeling that only a cadet can feel, the feeling of brotherhood and camaraderie that permeates each corps. He must possess a deep secret insight into what happens to a young boy as he grows into manhood. He must know that it is a very special journey, one that demands that each generation takes care of the next.

Presidents have libraries, Lincoln has a memorial, Trump has his towers and right here in Salina, Kansas at the end of North Santa Fe Jack Vanier leaves his mark on the campus of St. John’s. The most recent in a series of buildings that carry the name of men who had vision, men who had dreams and men who have provided St. John’s the chance to flourish well into the 21st century.





Blue Beret

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



Trylan Loftis



Jackson Moyers



William Mauck



Gary Stone

Dean's Honor Roll



Zakary Anderson



Nathan Dixon



Aaron Haase



Trylan Loftis



William Mauck



Jackson Moyers



Kyung Kyu Moon



Jason Nguyen



Ryan Quintana

Honor Roll



Alec Beavers



Ravi Bhasin



Kevin Broeils



Walter Brown



Andre Cardoso



Miguel Castro



Devon Conway



Stephan Dekraker



Addison Eby



Victor Fontana



Jonathon Frank



Aaron Haase



Edgar McBee



Damien Pulscher



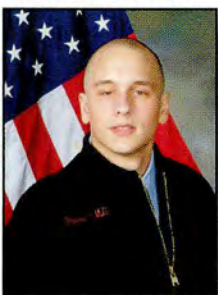
Ian Sitarik



David Sorenson



Patrick Sullins



Chance Thornton



Jordan Tucker



Trevor Vindelov



Travis Vindelov



Richard Wallace



Brian Wheeler

The first semester Honor Roll cadets are listed in alphabetical order not by GPA!

Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire. Y.B. Years



Staff Shuffle... *JUST THE RIGHT FIT*



St. John's is experiencing a staff shuffle that will improve and invigorate the school with the cadets standing to benefit most from each change.

Maj. George Stelljes JROTC SAI (Senior Army Instructor) became commandant after former commandant, Lt. Antonio Pino, returned to New Mexico to take a position as director of the *New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy* (NMYCA.) in Roswell, NM. Stelljes has accomplished a great deal during

his 12 year tenure at St. John's. He has developed a reputation for expecting only the best effort and behavior from the cadets. The corps know they can expect the very same from Stelljes in return.

It's a good partnership that is sure to produce great results.



Mr. Justin Sperry moved from computer applications teacher to full time web master. Sperry is charged with re-building the web site to maximize St. John's communication on the World Wide Web. The administration of St. John's understands that in today's world, the web site is a vital link to both our current patrons and cadets but also serves as a bridge to prospective students across the world.



Phillip Kellogg, longtime St. John's faculty member has been re-assigned to the admissions team. Kellogg will be recruiting and living in the Denver area. Mr. Kellogg's history with St. John's Military School dates back to his childhood. Kellogg is the son of Mary and legendary Commandant of Cadets,

Marine Col. Paul H. Kellogg. Phil Kellogg learned long ago the benefits of discipline and structure in a young boy's life and through his parent's long association with St. John's he is well equipped to tell the St. John's story.



Ginger Wooten spent her first 9 years at St. John's in the position of academic counselor. Ginger was recently named Director of Admissions and Marketing. Wooten is working closely with academic consultants and school counselors to ensure that the St. John's Military School name is well recognized. Wooten has developed a fierce loyalty to St. John's during her tenure as academic counselor and

along with that loyalty brings high energy, a strong work ethic and immeasurable dedication to her new position.

Eric Winters joined the teaching staff in 1999 following a career in manufacturing. His history lectures are legendary and his passion for education is readily apparent. After completing his degree in school administration he became the logical choice to replace Ginger Wooten. His title, Assistant to the Academic Dean, allows him to wear many hats.

He will assist Academic Dean Devon Walter with accreditation and federally mandated education issues, assist cadets with registering for and preparing for the SAT and ACT tests and coordinate state assessments.

Living with change is a part of life; at St. John's we believe these changes happened for good reasons. We look forward to the contributions each of these dedicated staff members will bring to their new positions and know that the future is bright at St. John's.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, and the staff and faculty of St. John's, I would like to extend an invitation to all current cadets to re-enroll for

the 2008-2009 school year, committing to the 121st Corps of Cadets. Tuition will remain the same for returning cadets. In addition, applications received before March 1, 2008 will receive a \$2000 tuition reduction. Applications received after March 1, 2008, but before Sunday, May 11, 2008, will receive a \$1,000 tuition reduction. All applications must be accompanied by a \$1,500 non-refundable deposit. This deposit will be deducted

from the tuition payment in August of 2008. Cadets who receive scholarships for merit at Commencement time will receive an addendum to their contract adjusting the tuition amount by the amount of the scholarship.

Parents may re-enroll their cadet(s) by returning the contract that has been mailed to them along with the non-refundable \$1500 deposit check, or by visiting the business office. Should you have any questions regarding the re-enrollment process, please contact me at 1-866-704-5294 or 1-785-823-7231 extension 7751.

The faculty and staff join me in extending our sincere hope that your cadets will be returning next year. We pledge our best efforts to ensure his success and personal development while he is enrolled at St. John's Military School.

We are always interested in talking with families and young men about the exciting array of opportunities waiting for them at St. John's. If you would like to assist us in sharing the story of St. John's please let us know. You are welcome to become a part of a current initiative, or call us and share your ideas with us.



"New Boy" Wash gets fitted for boots by Ms Casstevens in the Quartermaster.

State Assessments



Megan Rackley

Every year in April schools across the country spend a portion of each day measuring student knowledge and progress. The Bush Administration decided schools needed help to ensure that all American school children would receive an exemplary education.

“AYP,” Adequate Yearly Progress mandated that by 2014, 100% of students will score proficient (Meets

Standards) on state tests. The No Child Left Behind Law “NCLB,” requires that we track our state test scores to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Because state tests measure the academic levels of students in Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies students in every state must be tested. “KSA,” Kansas State Assessments are given to each student at St. John’s in each grade level being tested.

Megan Rackley, SJMS math instructor developed a program to help the cadets understand testing, what it means to their future and what immediate rewards they can expect for doing well on assessments! Rackley attended a North Central Association

workshop about incentives and rewards meant to motivate students to perform well on tests. Rackley amended the program to fit our needs at St. John’s.

The cadets will be challenged to do their best on the state assessments for the following reasons; their effort is representative of themselves and their school, their score will reflect what they have learned and there will be rewards for earning a high score.

The goal is to assure that by the time cadets are eligible to graduate, they will be proficient in Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

If the cadet meets the standards, exceeds the standards or scores exemplary he will receive

a variety of rewards to be chosen from the following:

- Accelerated Promotions
- Merits
- % Points to be used on your final grade
- Amnesty from 4 – Class III and Amnesty from 1 – Class II
- NO FINALS!!!!!!
- Extra RON to be used prior to next years test
- Exempt from ALL finals
- 1 year Movie Pass
- Tuition discount for the next school year

The cadets will be briefed on the reward system prior to taking this year’s tests. It is hoped that each cadet will do his absolute best during the testing process and take full advantage of the incentives in place.



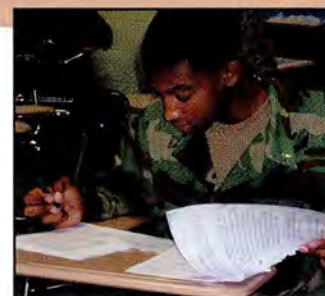
Safieddine takes a break in his art class.



Devon Walters keeps Vaughn in line while Mom watches.



The photography/yearbook class makes plans for the yearbook.



DeKraker studies his notes before making a presentation.



Billings works on an assignment in class. The atmosphere in the Vanier Academic Center is constantly monitored by Academic Dean Devon Walter to ensure that the cadets can concentrate on school work.



Cadet Molina works on a class assignment in the Remy Clem Library



Cadets Haase and Holmes complete a lab in Chemistry. Pam Kraus, in her second year at St. John’s, helps the cadets understand the chemical world.

The
Vanier Academic Center
MINDS AT WORK!

Commencement Weekend

THURSDAY MAY 8

MAY 8, 9 & 10

- 8:00-11:30am Registration
- 8:00-11:15am Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11:30am Pass-in-Review - *Tear Drop*
- 12:00-1:30pm Lunch for Cadets and Families – *Stevens Center*
- 1:30-3:30pm Academic/Military Awards Ceremony – *Banes Gymnasium*
- 3:30-10:30pm Pass Gate for all cadets not attending Junior/Senior Prom
- 6:30-8:30pm Reception-“Old Boys,” Parents, Faculty and Staff - *Linger Hall*
- 6:00-11:00pm Junior/Senior Prom *Salina Country Club* Parents of Juniors and Seniors may join their cadets at the Country Club from 6:00 – 6:30 pm for a reception and photo opportunity.
- 1:00am Pass Gate Closed for All Cadets attending Junior/Senior Prom

Suggested Attire: Thursday Events Business Casual - jackets not required
SHORTS, JEANS, AND SHIRTS WITHOUT COLLARS – DISCOURAGED



Raising the garrison flag a Commencement Weekend Tradition

FRIDAY MAY 9

- 8:00am Flag Raising Ceremony-*Tear Drop*
- 8:10am Final Roll Call-*Tear Drop*
- Special Recognition of President Emeritus Keith G. Duckers
- 8:20am Pass-in-Review -*Tear Drop*
- 8:45am Continental Breakfast for Parents/Families-*President’s Home Lawn*
- 8:45am Breakfast for Cadets-*Stevens Center*
- 10:00am Academic/Military Awards & Wall of Fame Induction – *Banes Gymnasium*
- 11:30 noon Noon Mess for Corps and Families-*Stevens Center*
- 1:00pm Formation of Cadets Corps
- 1:00-3:30pm Dedication of New Barracks Followed by Personal Tours for Cadets and Families
- 3:00pm Boy Scout Court of Honor Awards Ceremony-*Armstrong Chapel*
- 4:00-5:00pm Military Tattoo Ceremony-*Banes Gymnasium*
- 5:30pm Mess for Cadets without Parents-*Stevens Center*
- 5:30pm Pass Gate Opens for Cadets with Family to Transport to the *B-centennial Center*
- 7:00pm President’s Recognition Ceremony- *Bicentennial Center*
- Mandatory for All Cadets**
- Recognition of the Class of 2007
- Ring Ceremony Class of 2009
- Farewell Class of 2008 Battalion Staff
- 10:30pm Pass Gate Closes for All Cadets

Suggested Attire: Friday Daytime Events - Business Casual - jackets not required
SHORTS, JEANS, AND SHIRTS WITHOUT COLLARS – DISCOURAGED
Friday Evening Event - President’s Recognition Ceremony -jacket and tie required



Ground breaking, May 2006 for “Jack” Vanier Hall



Maj Wooten presents Nathan Dixon his award

SATURDAY MAY 10

- 7:00am Breakfast for Cadets Only – *Stevens Center*
- 8:30am Senior Eucharist, Parents and Cadets Welcome – *Armstrong Chapel*
- 10:00am Freedom Tree Ceremony – *Teardrop*
- 10:30am Graduation- Class of 2008 – *Perkins Field*
- Final Pass-in-Review – *Perkins Field*
- First Division Band

Suggested Attire: Saturday Events - Business Casual – jackets optional
SHORTS, JEANS, AND SHIRTS WITHOUT COLLARS – DISCOURAGED

All events are mandatory for cadets!
Cadets will be released at Noon on Saturday
Parents are welcome at all events!



118th Corps Dismissed Forever

Art Awards

Every year when art students return from Christmas Break, one of their first tasks back is preparing artwork for upcoming art shows. The first one on the calendar is possibly one of the most impressive and important - the annual Scholastic Art Award competition, held in Wichita, Kansas at the Wichita Center of the Arts. This show is a regional exhibition which



Tyler Raymer

covers a good portion of Kansas. Works first must be selected for the exhibition, which in itself is an impressive

accomplishment. This year about 293 of 1300 artworks were selected. These works are then eligible to receive Honorable Mention, Silver Key, or Gold Key Awards. The coveted Gold Key Awards qualifies the recipient for national competition. St. John's students usually submit 5 to 7 pieces and occasionally have a work of art selected for an award.



Ian Vaughn

This year St. John's fielded some exceptional artists, and about 16 total works were submitted. Art teacher Scott Wiedeman was pleased to announce that a record of 5 works were accepted. And for the first time

in Mr. Wiedeman's career, St. John's earned a Gold Key Award! Tyler Raymer not only received this prestigious award for his digital photo of

bicycle spokes, he also was awarded a Fort Hays State University \$500 Award of Excellence Scholarship. Tyler also had his sculpture, "Mammoth Man" selected for the show.

This was also the first year that a Middle School art student entered work. Eighth grade cadet, Ian Vaughn's non-objective painting, "Color Clash" was not only selected for the 7-9 category, but also was awarded a Silver Key!

David Sorenson was awarded for his artistic efforts by having 2 of his works selected for the show; "Topsy," a mixed media piece, and his sculpture, "How much Patina Does It Take to Screw in a Lightbulb?"

The winning cadets, teachers Mr. Wiedeman and Mrs. Stein, along with Tyler Raymer's parents, attended the Awards Ceremony on



David Sorenson

February 9th. More information about show is available on the Wichita Center for the Arts'

website: <http://www.wcfta.com/scholastic.html>

Art students also prepared for a local show entitled "Saline County Showcase," sponsored by Kansas Wesleyan University and hosted by Artspring Gallery of Salina. This competition was open to all Salina area schools. Cadet James Tobler's non-objective painting, "Blendage" was accepted, as was Braxton Greenlow's painting "Fruit Abstractions." Also getting into the show was Ian Sitarik's photo, "Showing Respect," and Tyler Raymer's self-portrait drawing ' "Reflections of Me." This show runs through the end of February.

Photos and Story by Scott Wiedeman



Ian Sitarik



Braxton Greenlow



Congratulations to these award-winning artists, and all those that made the extra effort to enter these shows.

Scuba



Scuba training is available each semester. Training begins with some classroom time, as cadets meet once or twice a week with Mr. Scott Wiedeman, scuba sponsor. Coursework requires them to read the Open Water manual, complete the Knowledge Reviews for each chapter and view the training DVD.

With this portion of the training complete, a weekend trip to Wichita, Kansas, is planned where cadets continue the course under the direction of the Pro Ski and Scuba Dive Center. Once the cadets pass the final exam, it's on to the pool. Instruction is now focused on assembly, water entry and exits, and an intensive battery of skills that build proficiency and understanding of equipment operation and problem-solving tasks to establish a comfort level for their first scuba experience.

The final and most exciting portion of the training is completing their Open Water dives at Beaver Lake, Arkansas. Cadets depart after school on a Friday, and after a lengthy bus trip, arrive at Pro Ski & Scuba's lake house, for two days of intensive of training. Saturday morning starts with equipment and wet-suit fitting, proper weighting and buoyancy checks, and an orientation dive of the training cove, which features a sunken ski boat, the training platform, and frequent sightings of bass, carp, and catfish swimming amongst the submerged lawn ornaments. The rest of Saturday and Sunday morning is spent training underwater with the same skills the cadets performed at the pool. Boat rides and fun dives complete the Beaver Lake activities. The cadets return to Salina as Certified Open Water Divers! In the fall of 2007, divers Steven Crockenburg, James Pena, and Patrick Sullins earned their Basic Open Water certification.

The SJMS Divers Club also allows for continued involvement long after certification. As certified divers, cadets can participate on Beaver Lake trips as *Fun Divers* to dive and explore the lake at their leisure. Cadets can continue their training with Advanced Open Water certification. This is accomplished through a trip to Beaver Lake involving book study with the completion of five supervised "Adventure Dives." These dives provide divers with more specialized and extensive diving experience and skills. These may include Boat, Night, Underwater Navigation, Search and Recovery, or Underwater

Digital Photography Diving. With additional dives or training, divers can also earn Specialty certifications in these areas, as William Brooks did, earning his Dry Suit Diver specialty on the fall Beaver trip.

Following Advanced training, cadets may choose to pursue the Rescue Diving course, which includes Emergency First Responder training. Ultimately, with the completion of 5 dive specialties and 50 logged dives, a select few cadets have reached the top recreational rating of Master Scuba Diver.

Once a year, during either Christmas or Spring Break, Wiedeman takes some cadet divers to Cozumel, Mexico, to experience some of the world's best coral reef and aquatic life. The trip usually involves a six night stay at Casa del Mar Motel, with ten boat dives to Cozumel's best reefs, followed by unlimited shore diving and night diving. Making this year's Cozumel trip, during Christmas Break, were divers Josh Sibio, Patrick Sullins, and Brandon Holmes. Holmes completed his Advanced Open

Water certification on the trip. Joining the cadets was SJMS '07 "Old Boy" Nicholas Cantrell.

For more information contact Scott Wiedeman at scottw@sjms.org.



Josh Sibio explores Columbia Reef at Cozumel.



Patrick Sullins finds plenty to explore on the C-53 wreck in Cozumel.



Brandon Holmes enjoys some fishy company as he dives La Francesca Reef in Cozumel.



Divers find themselves surrounded by amazing coral and aquatic in Cozumel.

Photos and Story by Scott Wiedeman

The Rifle Team



The 07-08 Rifle season is off and running for another year. Rifle team tryouts were conducted and practice began the first week of November. With the exception of a couple of warm up matches in December the bulk of the team's competitions began after Christmas break and will run through the end of March culminating with the Kansas State Indoor 3-position Championship.

The cadets will compete in over 29 different competitions including two state championships, five national matches, eight league matches, and two shoulder

to shoulder matches against our rivals from Leavenworth High School. As the cadets gain experience and become more competitive there are even more opportunities that may come along for them to compete.

Right now the team is very young but what they lack in experience they make up for with enthusiasm and desire. This is the first year in a long time that all seven shooters who started in November are still with the team in February. If everyone, except the seniors return next year we should be able to pick up where we leave off this year. This hasn't happened for awhile and our win/loss record for the last

three years reflects this. Right now the team is shooting scores higher than we have seen in the last three years, and this is with only one returning letterman on the team.

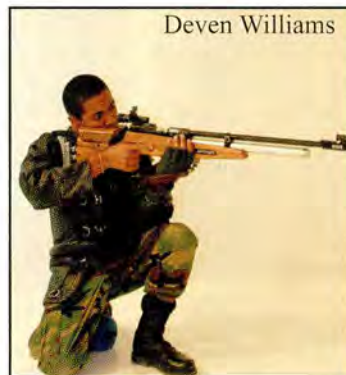
Team Captain Jonathon Frank is starting to put together some of his highest scores in his short two year career while trying to adjust to a new rifle made possible by a generous donation made in memory of "Old Boy,"



Austin Strecker

Brett Jakubowski. Staying neck and neck with Frank is Co-Captain and senior, Phillip Gamito. Even though this is his first year on the team his concentration level and ability to focus is of someone with

much more experience. Austin Strecker is using the experience he gained this September when he attended the KSRA's Junior Shooting Camp at Camp Mary Dell to bring his scores up into the respectable 250s and if Gamito and Frank are not careful they will soon have some competition. Other first year



Deven Williams

shooters, Addison Eby, Jacob Haskett, Deven Williams, and Joseph Casey are coming along nicely and gaining valuable experience with every match as well. Competition between team members is quite fierce and yet

the way they pat each other on the back when they have done well and the support they give each other when they don't do so well is awesome to watch as a coach.

At the time of this article, this year's competitive season is still in its infancy, and yet; several of the boys are starting to put



Addison Eby

together a collection of medals. Gamito was the overall match winner during this summer's Kansas State Rifle Association's Junior Shooting Camp at



Joseph Casey

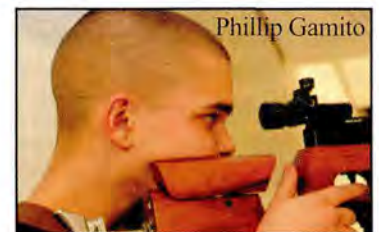
Camp MaryDell in Abilene, Kansas. At the same camp Eby won a silver and bronze while Strecker earned a gold medal in the team competition. In December Gamito also won a silver in our shoulder-to-shoulder match against our rivals from Leavenworth High School. More recently, all of our shooters competed in the Kansas State Junior Olympic Qualifier and even though none qualified for the one invitation

to the Junior Olympic National Match we didn't do too badly either. Gamito took the silver in the overall men's category while



Jacob Wilcox-Haskett

Frank earned the bronze. Both Strecker and Eby also won a silver medal in their respective age groups. Altogether in league competition we shoot in eight matches against four



Phillip Gamito

other teams from Wichita, Abilene, Manhattan, and Delphos. So far this season we are three and one in the league. We have defeated Delphos pretty soundly twice while losing a close one to last year's league champions from Wichita and then winning an equally close match against Manhattan.

As I said before, this team is young so we still have our ups and downs but I am so impressed with how far these guys have come along since November. Not only are individual and team scores on a constant rise these seven individuals have truly come together as a team. They constantly support and coach one another and when one is down others step up and fill the void. This group of cadets illustrates what being a team truly is.

Story by Tony Blair,
Rifle Team Coach



Jonathon Frank

Remodel & Renew

Visitors to the St. John's campus found something new in the Vanier Academic building and Linger Hall following winter furlough. The last two administrations made their mark on St. John's in a variety of ways. Change allowed each man at the top to mold St. John's into the school they hoped it would be. Some changes were subtle and hardly noticed others were evident to even the most casual observer. D. Dale Browning is leaving his signature on several areas of campus.

Affectionately called the "front office," the portion of the Vanier Academic center that houses administrative offices is considered by some to be the heart of the campus. The past few years this office space has been compartmentalized to accommodate staff needs. Interim President D. Dale Browning decided to re-model the front office into an area that reflects the spirit of the school. The new space offers a warm and inviting place for parents, visitors and patrons to be welcomed to St. John's.

Mr. Browning personally funded the entire remodel; purchasing oriental rugs, a grandfather clock, a wall clock, three main sitting areas comprised of chairs, coffee tables, end tables and table lamps. The walls have been adorned with coordinating art creating an atmosphere that invites people to linger and relax.

The alumni room in Linger Hall created especially for the preservation of St. John's history and as a place for alumni to reminisce boasts ample display areas for memorabilia with plenty of seating for "Old Boy" reunions. The furnishings were again, all provided by Browning.

The admissions reception area in Linger Hall also received the Browning touch. Prospective cadets and their families are welcomed to St. John's with a first stop in the "Browning" room. Lush carpeting, a flat panel TV boasting a screen that mimics a warm toasty fire a lush sitting area framed by soft and comfy sofas and a handsome table at the center of the room makes any meeting a distinct pleasure.

Keeping the cadets at the forefront of his mind, D. Dale has partnered with fellow "Old Boy" and St. John's benefactor Tim Soule to create a state of the art recreation center in the basement of the new five million dollar "Jack Vanier Hall" scheduled to be dedicated during the May 2008 Commencement Weekend. Soule and Browning know first hand the daily life of a cadet and realize the importance of having on campus entertainment options for the corps to enjoy. The new recreation center boasts a snack bar, two movie theatres; one for sports and one for movies, video games, pool tables, ping pong tables and ample comfortable seating for the boys to just sit and relax.

When contemplating the generosity and scope of the gifts provided by D. Dale Browning, Jack Vanier, Tim Soule and a wide variety of "Old Boys" it is easy to celebrate what St. John's has meant to countless young men and to wonder which "Old Boy" yet to be identified will be next to contribute to the future of the school.

Front Office Vanier Academic Center



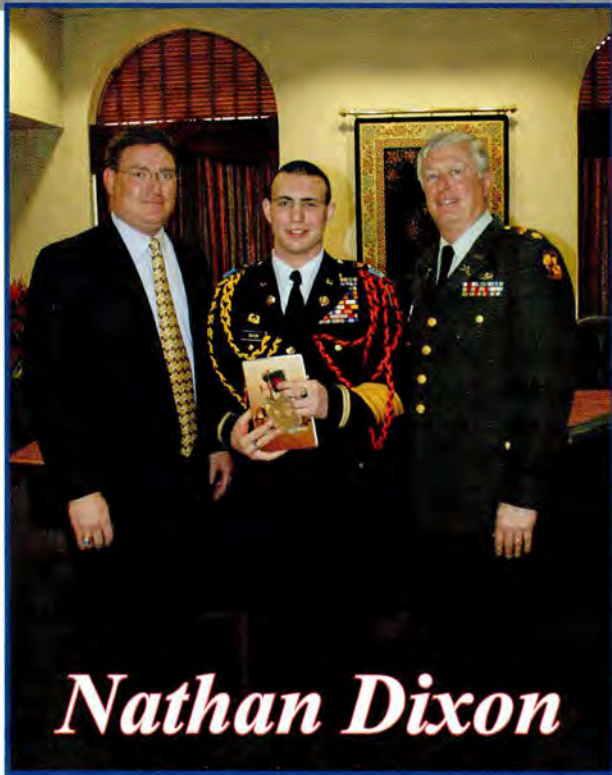
Browning Room in Linger Hall



Front Office Vanier Academic Center

MacArthur Award

AND THE WINNER IS....



Chairman of the St. John's Military School Board of Trustees, Andy England, C/Col. Nathan Dixon and Maj. George Stelljes.

C/Col. Nathan Dixon won the coveted MacArthur Award for the 2007-2008 school year. The criteria for the award is the most soldierly performance by a senior class cadet considering academics, athletics and leadership. Col. Dixon joined the Corps of Cadets in the Stevens Center for the award presentation.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Andy England, described Dixon as an "exemplary leader, one who leads by example, with a firm hand and a strong heart."

Maj. George Stelljes, Commandant of Cadets, read the poem by Douglas MacArthur entitled, "A Father's Prayer." This poem could have been written with Dixon in mind.....*"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory."* *"Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high, a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men, one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past."*

Dixon chose to share the spotlight with C/CSGM Francisco Laso-Castro, CSGM of the 120th Corps of Cadets. Dixon honored Castro with a special plaque, naming Castro an unsung hero for all the support he has given Dixon during the last two years.



C/Col. Nathan Dixon presents the unsung hero award to Castro.



Eighth Grader *NAMED BATTALION BUGLER*

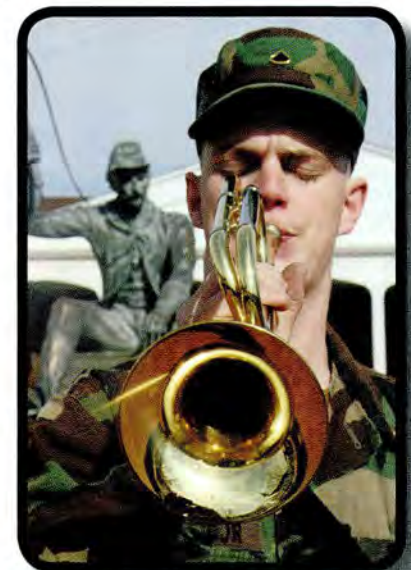
Meeting the group of new boys during registration each year brings hope for what each young man will contribute to the corps of cadets. Joining the 120th was one energetic and sincere young man willing to try learning to play the trumpet. Joshua Batchelor responded to every request and assignment with determination and tenacity. By the time first semester came to an end he had managed to make enough progress to join the other members of the class much more experienced than he and has continued to blossom through second semester. Batchelor was awarded the Battalion Bugler figure 4 before Christmas break and has begun playing bugle calls *Retreat* and *To The Colors* by himself when the weather permits.

Studying music is an amazing journey. Once an instrument is mastered the feeling of accomplishment and pride can never be taken away. Every other attempt to learn something new is met with a degree of excitement because of the success enjoyed while attempting to learn the language of music.

My own life has been a kaleidoscope of experiences woven through the world of music. From the moment I heard Elvis belting out Rock n' Roll songs on my parents Hi-Fi and Tommy Dorsey recordings playing in elevators as I forged my way to adulthood I have been fascinated by every kind of music known to man. In college I studied world music, classical music, opera, and music education and fell in love with every genre.

Teaching and living music has been an honor and a thrill. Having a student like Batchelor eager to work hard and succeed is a music teacher's dream come true. He is one of many cadets over the years that has faced and met the challenge of playing and performing a musical instrument.

Batchelor joins the other members of the SJMS horns and percussion in providing musical support for on campus military ceremonies.



Kansas City Here We Come

One day in early January Maj. Stein received a phone call from New York. On the other end of the line was a man named Bernie Garzia. Garzia works for ADM Productions out of Port Washington, New York which produces the annual Wal-Mart convention held in Kansas City, Kansas. Garzia needed a military band to perform on stage at the convention during a presentation for a group of employees sending supplies to U.S. troops around the world. The United States Army Band could not perform because the event would not be open to the general public so Garzia went looking for a military school in the area. Being the only military school in Kansas worked to our advantage. The producer visited the SJMS web site finding pictures and information about the band at www.sjms.org/activities. He was impressed with the looks of the cadets and the St. John's uniform. After requesting a recording of the

band and inquiring as to what it would take for the band to make the trip...the SJMS band was hired for the 'gig.'

Wal-Mart chartered a bus for the round trip ride to the Kansas City Convention Center, set up a continental breakfast for the cadets to enjoy upon arrival, ample room for rehearsal and provided a hot lunch for the band prior to their departure. Garzia and an ADM choreographer Gary John LaRosa rehearsed the band and explained how the performance would go. The band performed for 8,000 enthusiastic Wal-Mart employees. Everyone, including the cadets was very satisfied with the event. A DVD of the performance is available. Anyone wishing to receive a DVD should contact Major Stein. We look forward to the next time Mr. Garzia goes looking for a military band!

Members of the band making the trip were:

- Zak Anderson - Bandmaster
- Joshua Batchelor - Trumpet
- Alec Beavers - Trombone
- William Brooks - Snare Drum
- Miguel Castro - Alto Saxophone
- Nathan Dixon - Bass Drum
- Jonathon Frank - Alto Sax
- Ricky Gesino - Snare Drum
- Treytan Loftis - Trombone
- David Stoppel - Tenor Sax
- Gary Stone - Trombone
- Patrick Sullins - Cymbals
- Kyle Taylor - Snare Drum
- Jacob Woolf - Bass Drum



WINTER SPORTS



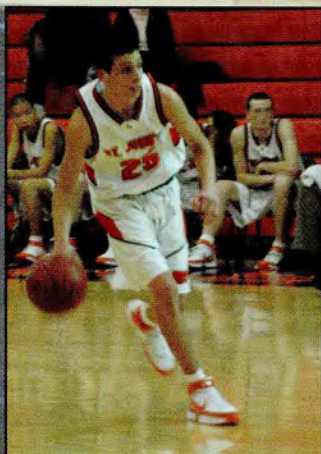
Raymer

McCoy shoots a free throw.

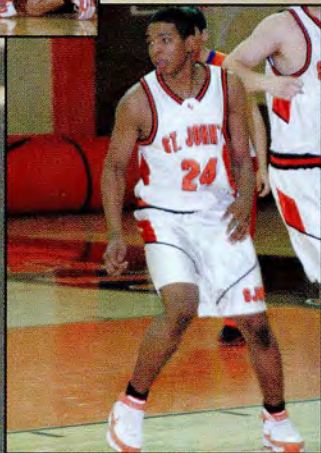


Sitarik

The team takes a time out.



Saullo drives to the basket.



Dobson gets open and looks for the ball.



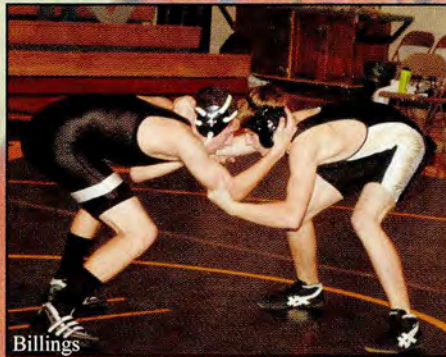
Team huddle before the sub-state game.

Raymer



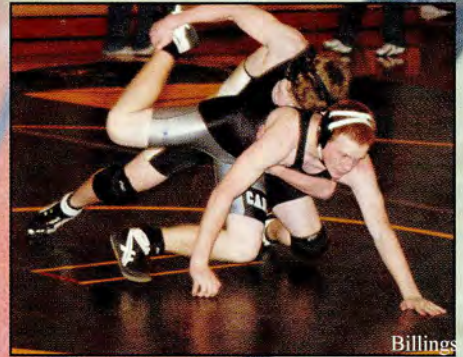
Gilberg

Stone is seconds away from pinning his oponent.



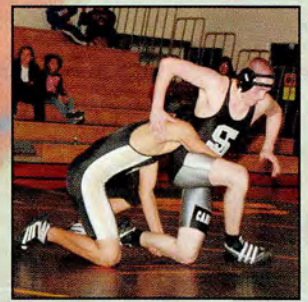
Billings

Crockenberg begins his match.



Billings

Pitterman goes to the mat.



Taylor, J. tries to escape from his oponent.

The Basketball and Wrestling seasons are drawing to a close.

The wrestlers traveled to regionals during Parent's Weekend. The team fought hard and missed qualifying for state by the slimest margin! Dixon, Parrish and Taylor, J. made it to the quarter finals. We look forward to next season and wish all the wrestlers good luck.

The Basketball team was scheduled to play a home game during Parent's Weekend and were looking forward to having the home crowd advantage. Unfortunately, the oponent cancelled the game. The team finished the regular season with a home game on Thursday night the 21st of February. Coach Lawrence described one of the team's wins by explaining, "the Varsity game was exciting to watch and coach. I knew we were in for a good game when the team came onto the court and the Corp of Cadets had a tunnel formed for us. Cadet Safieddine had a double double with 14 pts and 14 rebounds, Cornell 18pts, Saullo 10pts, and Darcy 6pts. We won 57 to 51." "The JV lost by two points but the effort was one of the best thust far this season. Cadet Dobson 13 pts, Best 9 pts, Sullins 8 pts, and McCoy 4 pts. the score was 34 -36.

Congratulations to the hard working wrestlers and basketball teams.



Gilb

Dixon with the advantage at regionals.



Kansas Wesleyan University



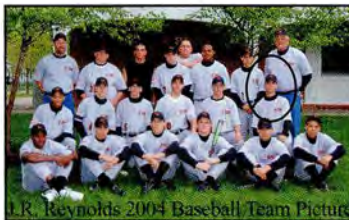
David Stoppel

One year ago, David Stoppel wasn't sure he wanted to go to college. As of the middle of February things have changed. Stoppel visited Kansas Wesleyan University, and was offered a \$10,000 scholarship to perform with the Kansas Wesleyan Band.



Ray Parker in SJMS Football Jersey in 2006

Joining Stoppel on the Kansas Wesleyan campus will be two "Old Boys," J.R. Reynolds and Ray Parker. Former SJMS Coach and military advisor Mike Reed is coaching football at Wesleyan



J.R. Reynolds 2004 Baseball Team Picture

and recruited Reynolds and Parker to return to Salina to play ball.

Kansas Wesleyan offers cadets a chance to continue their

education at a place very similar to St. John's. The class sizes are small and the faculty and staff are committed to providing a nurturing environment.

The faculty and staff offer our congratulations to these cadets and look forward to having them close by!



Paula Wilton's English students read Ellie Wiesel's Nobel Peace Prize winning novel, *Night*, a terrifying account of Nazi death camps.

Emmaly Reed, a death camp survivor, living in Salina, Kansas, came to St. John's on February 12 to speak about her experiences. Reed spoke about her struggle to survive the horrors of the Nazi regime. She was extremely soft spoken, yet you could hear every word she uttered. Cadets and faculty members asked Reed pointed questions about this terrible time in her life. Reed related that she had been taken to a concentration camp at age 3 and kept at various camps until she was 15 years old.

While there was sadness in her voice and evidence of a difficult journey Emmaly showed no outward signs of bitterness.

Emmaly credits Christian missionaries for her survival and was finally liberated by the French army before the end of the war.

The Corps of Cadets, faculty and staff gather in the Battalion Assembly Area to hear Emmaly Reed's story.



Emmaly Reed listens to a questions before responding.

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