

# The Skirmisher

Fall 2006

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St. John's Military School



# The Skirmisher

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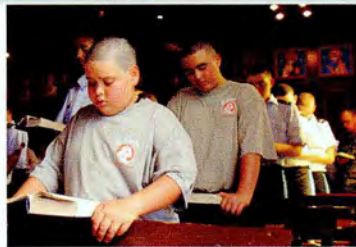
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### The Skirmisher

The Skirmisher magazine is a publication of St. John's Military School in Salina, Kansas. It is published three times per year and sent to alumni, parents, cadets and friends of the school.

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# the Campaign for Excellence



**Peter L. Peterson**  
*Chairman of the  
Board, SJMS*



**Jack Fox**  
**Col., AUS (Ret)**  
*President, SJMS*

Since its founding in 1887, St. John's has provided thousands of cadets with the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically in a structured environment. Today, our mission is the same, and with your support of our Mule-Skinner Campaign for Excellence, we will make each cadet's experience at SJMS a better one. We also believe that everyone who provides support to St. John's is a Mule-Skinner – thus the campaign name.

In order to simplify our fundraising efforts, we have redesigned our giving levels. The gift you make will be used to support not only the campaign, but also the annual fund drive that in the past has been our Mule-Skinner Golf Tournament, year-end appeal, and auction. In short, a portion of your gift will be used to ensure that the campaign goals are funded, as well as our ongoing annual needs (scholarships, leadership programs, academics, and capital projects). By asking everyone to make one gift that will support both the campaign and the annual fund, we will eliminate the duplication and confusion sometimes caused by multiple appeals in the past.

Our message to you is simple – your support of the campaign goals is vitally important to the cadets at St. John's!

Thank you,

Peter L. Peterson  
Chairman of the Board,  
SJMS

Jack Fox  
Col., AUS (Ret)  
President, SJMS

## Recruiting

Historically, our cadets, parents and graduates have been our best recruiters. To maintain a full Cadet Corps, one of the campaign goals is to formalize our Parents and Old Boy recruiting network. We want to encourage everyone to volunteer to help us recruit a New Boy. Sending just one more cadet to St. John's adds substantially to the bottom line – the same effect that a monetary gift would have. Please return the enclosed reply card if you are willing to volunteer to help us recruit. A gift of your time is a tremendously valuable contribution.

## Leadership Training & Physical Fitness Education Programs

We must vigorously enhance our Junior ROTC and Boy Scout programs and projects. Although we already have active and effective programs for JROTC and the Boy Scouts, we need to provide the Commandant with increased funding to implement all of the programs that would make St. John's a much better experience for each cadet. As an example, we want to expand our athletic facilities and programs for our non-varsity athletes.

## Christian Environment

We must continue to enhance an active moral environment for all cadets regardless of their faith or belief.

## Academic Program Funding

We must continue to elevate our level of instruction by well-trained, competent teachers in small classes with individual attention and high expectations for success.

## Construction & Renovation Needs

As noted, we have received a lead gift of \$4 million from an anonymous donor to fund a new barracks. We also have other worthwhile and much-needed projects on the list – renovate Mize Hall, move our football field, and expand our library, just to name a few.

## Annual Fund

In order to keep our annual fund drive going, a portion of each campaign gift will go to support the many projects that the annual drive has funded.

# Recruiting...



Janet and David Terry became associated with St. John's when researching a school for their young son, Spencer, in 2002. She remembers knowing "from the beginning that St. John's would provide the environment that was both strong enough and nurturing enough to empower our son to reach his potential as a young adult."

Janet is now serving on the St. John's Board of Trustees. When asked about why she decided to serve on the board of trustees Janet explained,

*"as our son's graduation from St. John's Military School was approaching in the 2005-2006 school year, my husband and I determined that we wanted to maintain a relationship with SJMS.*

*The combination of experience as a SJMS parent and my previous involvement in board governance spurred my interest in becoming a member of the board."*

Historically, our parents and graduates have been our best recruiters. We want to challenge everyone to help us identify new students. Because recruiting is so important to any school, we are establishing a Parent and Old Boy recruiting network. Please return the enclosed response form if you are willing to volunteer. A gift of your time is a valuable contribution!

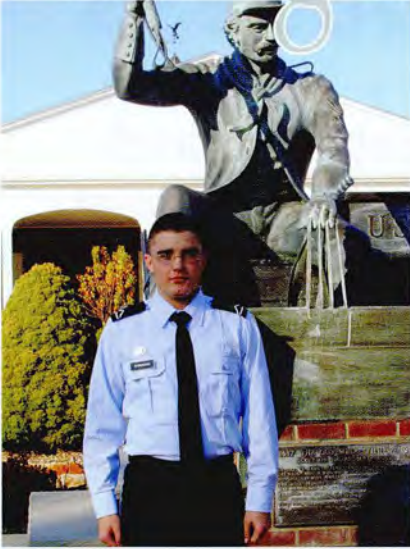
## How Can YOU Help Recruit?

- Host a recruiting party in your home
- Support a scholarship
- Talk to Boy Scout Troops in your area
- Visit school counselors in your area
- Advertising
- Web sites
- Press releases



reach ♦ recruit ♦ represent

# creating a successful experience



Cadet/Pfc. David Sorenson of Roswell, New Mexico, arrived at St. John's during Parent's Weekend in 2005. Sorenson had prior experience with military school structure and discipline so he says "it was easy to adapt to St. John's." He has participated in both color guard and wrestling. His favorite academic subject is chemistry, but he says "it is also my most difficult class." Sorenson is a member of Bravo Company serving as guidon bearer and clerk.



Cadet Daniel Blacktin is an eighth grade student from Santa Clara, California. He is pictured here reciting the Boy Scout Oath. This year the Boy Scouts have participated in an overnight campout, and are currently working on their cooking badges.



Cadet Kyung Kyu Moon is in his first year at St. John's Military School. Moon is from Seoul, Korea, and says that being a New Boy was a challenge, but now that he is an Old Boy "it's OK!" When asked if it was difficult to adjust to the American diet, he explained that he "often ate American food in Korea and enjoys it very much." Moon will be traveling home with Cadet Justin Pennington for the Thanksgiving holidays and won't see his parents and older brother until Christmas furlough.

## New Boy Parent Mentor Program Launched

One of the unique aspects of St. John's is the individual attention we give to our cadets and their parents. St. John's has launched the New Boy Parent Mentor Program this school year.

We have a list of Old Boy parents who have volunteered to serve as "mentor parents" for the parents of New Boys. When a New Boy parent wishes to visit with another parent, we will provide them with a list of mentor parents in their area.

If you are interested in being a mentor parent, please contact the St. John's Admissions office.

unique experiences for  
unique boys

# Leadership...

## Accomplishment & Success



### Cadets Participate in March at the Robert Land Academy

Under the leadership of Col. Jack Fox, SJMS President, four cadets traveled to Canada to participate with Robert Land Academy in a grueling and challenging 60+ mile march.

Col. Fox and Cadets Richard Dube, Joshua Sibio, Travis Falconer, and Walter Brown traveled from Salina to Buffalo, NY, and on to Niagara Falls, Canada, by bus and then braved an adventurous trip to the Robert Land Academy, where they joined up with faculty member Lt. Reif Ongcangco and his cadets to prepare for a rigorous and traditional annual 96 kilometer march.



By all accounts, the SJMS cadets conducted themselves in a professional and superb manner as they marched through rough terrain and endured the rain and other surprises of nature. They were excellent ambassadors for SJMS, and their performance and decorum brought great credit to SJMS. The boys returned with some great stories and are looking forward to next year's march.

### Mule-Skinner Olympics

The first annual Mule-Skinner Olympics was a tremendous success. Cadets were treated to a variety of activities ranging from a fun-filled and crazy "Izzy Dizzy" to a test of strength Tug-of-War.



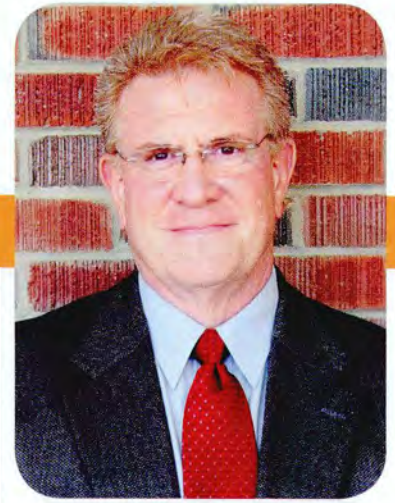
All four companies competed for bragging rights while enjoying friendly competition. When the dust settled and the entertaining Biathlon (bicycle relay and running relay) was history, Alpha Company emerged as the winning team.

All companies earned Honor Company points and enjoyed a barbecue luncheon at the conclusion of a fun-filled day.

It was very interesting to see the members of each company come together and form a bond of comradeship between the newly arrived New Boys and the seasoned Old Boys.

# Our Needs

- A Field House for the Corps to use for racquetball courts, a weight room, nautilus equipment, & basketball courts
- Two outdoor basketball courts
- Recreation Center equipment
- Field Leadership Reaction Course, including a climbing wall
- Low Ropes Course
- Obstacle Course
- Paintball Range
- Two baseball fields
- Mule-Skinner
- Olympics equipment
- Special bus and driver
- Rifles for the Corps
- YMCA Memberships



Lee Young is the President and CEO Vortex Corporation, a manufacturer of industrial valves for handling dry materials. Mr. Young has been a member of the SJMS Board since July of 2001. He is currently serving as Chairperson for the Curriculum/Accreditation Committee, a member of the Executive Committee and serves as an advisor for the construction of the new SJMS dormitory.

*"My wife, Chris, and I are pleased to be able to support the growth and development of the cadets of SJMS through a gift that will fund a new and revitalized Boy Scout program over the next five years. A revitalized scouting program will provide for activities not currently available at SJMS. These activities will fill the cadet's free hours with physical and mental challenges to build character and moral values. As Troop 1, the first in the nation, SJMS has a proud tradition to uphold."*

# Scholarships...



Born and raised in Salina, KS, Stewart Horejsi first became involved with St. John's when he served as a Trustee for 12 years. He next became a member of the Endowment Board, where he currently serves.

As a manager of mutual funds that are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Mr. Horejsi understands very clearly the importance of good leadership training and character building in the youth of today.

*"I believe St. John's makes a difference in the lives of boys. I am proud of the organization and the school, and I feel very good about their mission."*

*"St. John's helps the boys have a sense of self worth. I think it helps the boys self esteem. It's important that they feel good about themselves."*

Providing scholarship support and monies for financial assistance is critical to the future of St. John's. There are many young men in America who want to attend our school; however, the financial reality is that this may be too difficult for their families to afford.

Anyone who applies themselves can find a way to go to college, but only after they have completed high school. St. John's is truly important in providing the tools young men need to be successful, and preparation for success in college is part of what we prepare them for.

Thanks to all of our donors for your support! We especially want to thank Stewart Horejsi, Dale Browning, Tim Soule, Mike Berkley, the Vanier Family, and many others. Because of this support, we have been able to help many young men -- the need is still there.

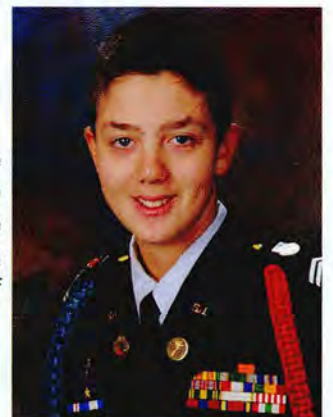
## Will YOU Help?

D. Dale Browning, SJMS "Old Boy" Class of 1955, chose to have part of his legacy honored by a full scholarship being funded in his name upon his retirement from the banking world. This annual scholarship was awarded to Cadet/Cpt. Nathan Dixon from Great Bend, Kansas, for the 2006-2007 school year. Dixon is in his fifth year at St. John's and has held leadership positions at every level since becoming an Old Boy in the 115<sup>th</sup> Corps. Currently, Dixon is Company Commander of Alpha Company, plays varsity football and aspires to attend Annapolis, the United States Naval Academy, when he graduates with the 120<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets in 2008.



Cadet/Ltc. Samy Wahabrebi received The Cozy Inn Scholarship provided by the heirs of the Cozy Inn, a famous local hamburger shop, in memory of Katheryn Pickering, the former owner. He is the Battalion Commander of the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps and has provided excellent leadership on the football field, in the classroom and for the Corps of Cadets in general. Wahabrebi is a fine example of what a young man can achieve at St. John's. Having arrived in January of 2005, he is only in his second full year at St. John's.

Cadet Travis Falconer of Kansas City, Kansas, received the SJMS Memorial Scholarship. The SJMS Memorial Scholarship is funded through monies given in honor of people who have had a positive impact on the lives of St. John's cadets. He is a member of the Drill Team, the Band, and holds the position of company drill instructor in Headquarters Company.



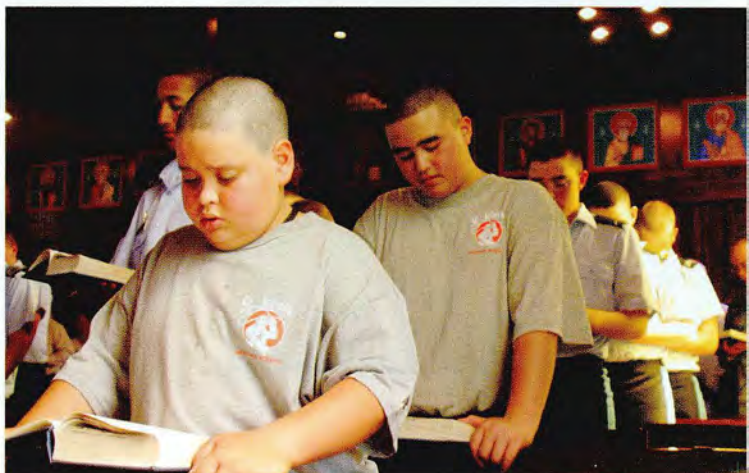


# Christian Environment...

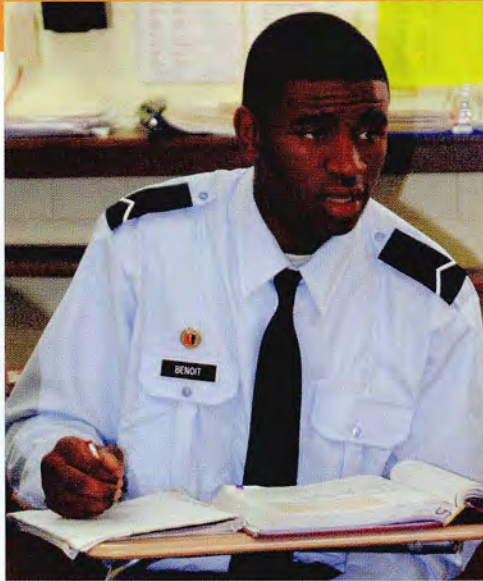
We must continue to enhance an active moral environment for all cadets regardless of their faith or belief. This has been a pillar throughout the history of St. John's.

## ***Our Needs***

- Spiritual Life Center that would house a classroom, youth group room, and office for the chaplain
- Funding for full/part time youth minister to assist the chaplain
- Carpet for the Chapel
- Chapel siding
- Chapel pews
- Sound system for the Chapel
- Set of Red Vestments to include chasuble, stole, burse, veil, and lectern hangings
- Set of White Vestments
- Re-silver the Gospel Book cover
- Processional cross
- Gold chalices for special days
- Altar fair linen
- New linens
- Pew Bibles



# Academics...



## ***Our Needs***

### **Equipment**

- A/V Projectors in each classroom with student interactive software
- 1 to 1 Laptops that would be assigned to students at in-processing
- Textbooks on computers
- Furniture for the lounge, front office, cadet desks, teacher desks, filing cabinets, and book shelves

### **Laboratories**

- Science Lab upgrades (CBS's, GPS, Lab equipment)
- An additional 24 module Computer Lab
- Library computers
- Visual Arts Lab
- Distance Learning Lab

### **Construction/Renovation**

- Visual Arts Building to house art, drafting, multipurpose shop area, and technical trade classes
- Dedicated Band Room
- Dedicated Conference/Testing Room for 60 students
- Library
- Parking

### **Faculty/Staff**

- Salary advancement for teachers



# Excellence in the Classroom

## Curriculum Additions Enhance SJMS Education

**T**HE COMPANIES ARE FORMED and the opening bell hath rung on the 2006-2007 school year, an exciting but anxious time for cadets and staff alike. New teachers nervously prepare for first lessons while veteran teachers mentor and add new life to classroom walls. Some exciting changes are coming with the new year. A new accreditation cycle, student tutors, applied help in the reading and math curriculum and a number of new faces in the academic sector.

Closing out the year last year we were given an unblemished accreditation score for school improvement and our elevated test scores in both reading and math. This year begins a new five-year accreditation cycle and some new ideas to enhance a curriculum already tailor made for student success.

Cadets this year will be able to seek tutoring help in our library during evening study hall. A faculty member with student tutors will be available three nights a week to assist students during evening hours. Teachers will also be available at tutorials which have been moved to the morning to better aide students prior to classes. This is an attempt to give students ample opportunity to seek the help they need on any given subject. Tutorials can be teacher requested or student directed. If a teacher requests, the student must attend the tutorial session. If the student needs assistance,

the teachers are available even if they have not requested that student.

New to the curriculum this year is an Honors English for juniors. Students must meet a minimum GPA and have a recommendation from their former instructor to be scheduled in this class. We will continue to offer more Honors classes in the future with the goal of making them concurrent college credit through Kansas State University.

Also new to the curriculum will be reading for grades 7, 8, 9 and 11. These are the grades that are tested on the Kansas Assessments. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are required to take reading. Ninth and eleventh graders who did not meet a cut-off score to be proficient on past reading exams will be scheduled in these classes. We have done this in previous years in our math department and the outcome has been successful.

We look forward to a successful school year and a continued partnership with parents. If you are seeking information on classes, teachers or any other school information, please visit our website at [www.sjms.org](http://www.sjms.org). This website has faculty and staff contacts and much more information pertaining to St. John's Military School. Please feel free to contact teachers or administration at any time.

*Pictured above: Junior Honors English Class*

# Construction & Renovation



**Tom Pestinger**

*"I grew up at 1411 North 5th Street in Salina. The site for the new sports complex was where my family grew and sold peonies each Memorial Day. My brothers, sister and I weeded the large garden that my family grew on that ground. It was a great place to work and grow up. My hope for that ground is that the boys at St. John's Military School will work, grow, play and love the lessons they learn there as much as I do."*



## **New Barracks**

The new barracks being constructed at St. John's will increase our student capacity by 20 cadets. This will ensure a positive future for our school. Funds are needed to endow the continued maintenance of this new asset.



## **Athletic & Football Fields**

With construction of the new barracks, we have temporarily moved the football field to the location of our soccer field. Through the generous assistance of Tom Pestinger and existing funds that were designated for land purchase, we have added three acres to the present athletic fields and now must build a new permanent football field and construct other athletic fields. One key project that we want to provide for will be an eight-lane running track around the new football field. This will permit the introduction of track and field into our athletic program.



## **Vanier Academic Center**

The basement of the Vanier Academic Center is under renovation and will consist of 5 new state-of-the-art classrooms.



## **Renovation of Mize Hall**

Mize Hall will be renovated to hold a new Quartermaster, Boy Scout Activity Center, Recreation Center and Alumni/Old Boy Center.



## **Renovation of Linger Hall**

Linger Hall will become the Administrative Center for SJMS and will house the Chief Financial Officer and staff, Admissions staff and the SJMS President.



## **Physical Plant Building**

Currently, the physical plant is housed in the building on the northeast corner of campus. A new building to house the physical plant needs to be constructed north of the present building and the existing building will become the Visual Arts Center.



## **Obstacle & Low Ropes Course**

These facilities need to be constructed to enhance our present cadet leadership programs.

# Mule-Skinner Giving Levels

Your support of the goals outlined here are crucial and essential to continue the tradition of excellence at St. John's.

It is our intent to serve you better by simplifying the giving and fundraising process. In short, a portion of your gift will be used to ensure that the campaign goals are funded, as well as our ongoing annual needs (scholarships, leadership programs, academics, and capital projects).

By asking everyone to make one gift that will support both the campaign and the annual fund, we will eliminate the duplication and confusion sometimes caused by multiple appeals in the past.

## **New Giving Levels:**

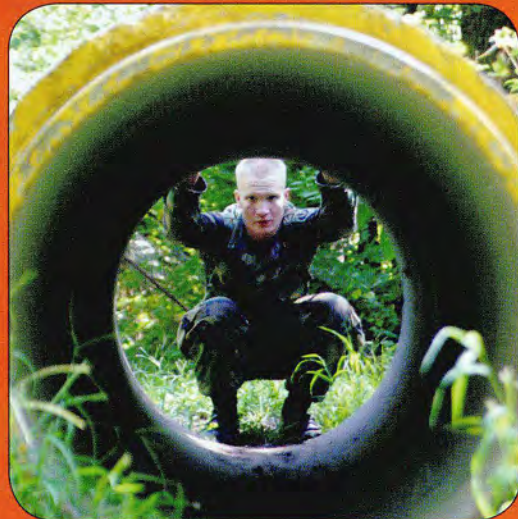
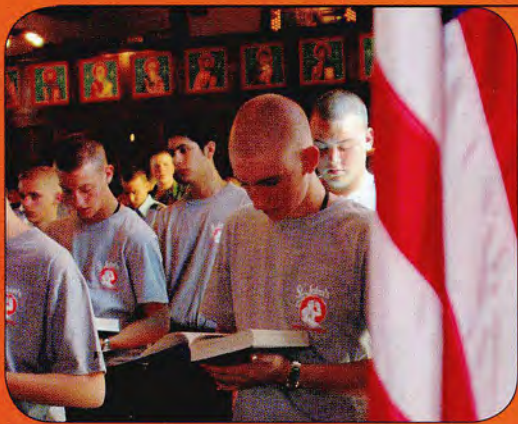
- **Bishop's Circle** \$25,000 and up
- **Chairman's Circle** \$10,000 - \$24,999
- **President's Circle** \$2,500 - \$9,999
- **Brigadier's Club** \$1,000 - \$2,499
- **Colonel's Club** \$500 - \$999
- **Major's Club** \$250 - \$499
- **Captain's Club** \$100 - \$249
- **Trooper's Club** Gifts up to \$99



**Col. Jack Fox, AUS (Ret)**  
President, SJMS

*"Everyone connected with St. John's Military School realizes what an outstanding school we are and have been. Unfortunately, we remain one of the best kept secrets in the nation. We have been blessed in the past through the generous support of a few loyal supporters. These outstanding individuals have continued to provide us with generous donations which have enabled us to remain a strong school. However, that support is no longer enough. For St. John's to remain the finest military school in the country and to regain our national recognition, we must ask all of our Old Boys and supporters to help us maintain and build up the current levels of excellence that exist. I am asking everyone to invest in the future of St. John's and in the future of the young men who will be the Cadet Corps of the future. Your giving to St. John's now will help us meet the needs and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."*

reach ♦ recruit ♦ represent



# TEAM 2006-2007

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 John Gillam  
 Jesse Given  
 Glass Services  
 Golf Shop  
 Bill & Donna Goss  
 Marilyn Grady  
 Green Lantern  
 Dean & Betty Groves  
 Terry Haden  
 Gary Hanna  
 Garry & Mary Heath  
 Helm Electric  
 Al Herron  
 Michael D. Heywood  
 Marilyn Hines  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 Holiday Inn-Holidome of Salina  
 Wendell P. Holland  
 Thomas & Sherri Holmes  
 Max Holthaus  
 Dan & Vicki Hoobler  
 V. G. Hopkins  
 Fred & Ellie Hoppe  
 Hoy Fox Automotive Market  
 Ken Jennison

# 7 Mule-Skinners



Harry & Ann Jett  
 Gene & Sarah Johnson  
 Leslie Johnson  
 Randy Johnson/Josten's  
 Jones Gillam Architects/Engineers  
 John W. Jones  
 Wayne Jones  
 Kasa Industrial Controls  
 Terese Keil  
 Phil & Janice Kellogg  
 Kennedy, Berkley, Yarnevich &  
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 Mahlon Love  
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 M & M Construction  
 Polly Manuel  
 Gerald D. Martin  
 Martinelli's Little Italy  
 Max L. Mazy  
 Kevin & Brenda McCoy  
 Steve McCrossin  
 William & Paula Medcalf  
 Memorial Art Co., Inc./Greg Peterson  
 Memories Bound, Inc./Derius  
 Mammen  
 Chris & Pam. Meyer  
 Larry & Jennifer Michel  
 Mid America Awards  
 Midwest Music  
 Bob & Linda Miller  
 David Miller  
 Mark L. Miller  
 Sarah Mitchell-Tebow  
 MNB Trust/Larry & Marge Bengtson  
 Harry Moffitt  
 Don Moore  
 Charles M. Morrison

Richard Morrison  
 Roger Morrison  
 Carolee J. Nicholson  
 Rod & Barbara Nitz  
 Devine Norris  
 North Central Kansas Gallery League  
 Frank & Jeannie Norton  
 Michael & Leslie Pantera  
 Jola M. Persinger  
 Pestinger Heating & Air Conditioning  
 Tom & Nancy Pestinger  
 John & Brenda Peterson  
 Peter & Rita Peterson  
 Edwin Piersee  
 Daryl & Mary Pierson  
 Antonio & Debra Pino  
 Christine Pon  
 Mark & Cindy Ramsey  
 Clint Randolph  
 Douglas & Linda Randolph  
 Ronald & Theresa Reagan  
 Ritter Tile Shop/Charles & Mike Ritter  
 David & Linn Roberson  
 Val & Patricia Robichaux  
 Kelly & Connie Rudolph  
 Ryan Mortuary/Marc Ryan  
 Salina Airport Authority/Tim Rogers  
 Salina Supply Company/Mark & John  
 Zimmerman  
 Thomas & Myra Schraeder  
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 Schwans  
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 Sunflower Bank/Larry Br  
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 UMB Bank, Don Lamb, Cla  
 Carolyn Peterson, Richar  
 Steven Phillips, Rex M.  
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 Jack & Donna Van  
 John K. Vanier  
 Mary Vanier  
 Ben Vidricksen  
 Vidricksen Distributing C  
 Robert Vishneske  
 Danny D. Walker  
 Ronald & Tina Walla  
 Wal-Mart Stores, In  
 Devon & Kandi Wal  
 Deborah & Chuck W  
 Paul G. Webb  
 John Weiss  
 Lance & Debbie Wer  
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 Witheral School Child Ca  
 Kuechenmeister  
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 Pete Workman  
 Marvin W. Wrigley  
 Bill & Fay Wyles  
 George & Margaret Yar  
 A. N. & Kristyne Yen  
 Lee & Chris Young  
 Christine A. Zerge  
 Terry Zimmer

*Names listed are for gifts  
 during our current fiscal  
 June 1 - current. Please  
 us if there is a mistake, a  
 name should be listed an*



## A Family Thread

by Major Wendy Stein

**A** thread that was woven through the passage of time continues today with the announcement that Mary Vanier joins the St. John's Military School Board of Trustees.

Like a quilt gently crafted from treasured pieces of fabric, the Vanier family name is woven through almost a century of St. John's Military School history creating a stunning legacy of both financial support and fierce loyalty.

From the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when local businessman and philanthropist John J. Vanier and his wife, Lesta, became "friends" of the school, St. John's Military School has benefited greatly. First, during the Rev. Col. R. L. Clem administration when the need for a new dining facility became apparent, J.J. Vanier sat listening to a discussion of how the money could be raised to build the much needed dining facility. Elizabeth Duckers, first lady emeritus of St. John's, tells the story: "As suggestions surfaced around the



table in the board room regarding getting 'the money from a foundation, or a wealthy philanthropist in New York,' John Vanier interrupted with the declaration that the money would be raised in that very room right then, right now. He began by asking each in attendance how much he would give. In just thirty minutes, the entire cost of the building (\$45,000) had been raised."

Following the tragic fire of 1979 that destroyed Vail Hall, J.J. and Lesta Vanier placed their full support behind the building of a new state-of-the-art academic building. Granddaughter of J.J. and Lesta Vanier, Mary Vanier, when asked about her fondest memory of St. John's, tells about representing the thirteen Vanier grandchildren, by presenting a portrait of her grandparents, J.J. and Lesta Vanier, to Col. Keith G. Duckers, President, during the dedication of the Vanier Academic Center. Even the most casual visitor to the St. John's campus is keenly aware of the Vanier family name as the portrait graces the wall just inside the front entrance of the building.

John J. and Lesta Vanier decided that St. John's was just the place to bring a touch of discipline into the lives of their rambunctious young sons, Jack and Jerry, who had been growing up footloose and fancy free at the CK Ranch in Ellsworth County, Kansas. From those early days as a young cadet, Jack began a journey that has yet to reach its end.

Jack Vanier, SJMS "Old Boy," served on the board of trustees for many years. The day Vail Hall was destroyed, President Duckers called trustee Jack Vanier, who was in Kansas City at the time, to inform him of the tragedy. When Jack returned to Salina and visited the site where his former school building lay in ruins, he had the foresight to survey the site for mementos. Among the ashes, Jack spotted the front door handle and rescued it. Jack's saving the handle of Vail Hall has provided a treasured tradition – the handle

school year attended dances with the dapper young cadets of St. John's, unaware of the impact St. John's would have on her own life. Donna Vanier shared her husband's passion for St. John's. Liz Duckers describes Donna as having been "a one person alter guild for Armstrong Chapel," providing fresh cut flowers and clean linens for weekly chapel services. Keith Duckers hired Donna to head the development office and chair the St. John's Military School Foundation. Donna also served as a trustee from 1993-2004. From her daily involvement with the school, Donna came to understand that St. John's was a special place. Donna feels that "St. John's is a marvelous educational institution closely linked to a young man's moral and spiritual growth." Donna also feels that "the place grows on you because of the cadet stories, both the failures and the many successes."

So now, it is Mary Vanier who will carry the torch and continue to weave the thread started so long ago by her grandfather John. Mary believes that the school's long history and connection with the Episcopal Church is one reason the Vanier family has continued their support. When asked about her earliest memory of St. John's, she mentioned the movie "Up the Academy" filmed on the campus of St. John's. Anyone connected with St. John's in the late 1970's remembers the stir created on campus by the Warner Brothers movie stars and film crew. For the cadets



# Thread... Woven Through Time

ceremony - for each commencement ceremony since that day. To ensure that the thread continues, each graduate of St. John's touches the handle as it is passed around a circle formed by graduates and "Old Boys."

Jack married Donna Lindsey fifty years ago; Keith and Liz Duckers wed the next year. Already acquainted through their membership in the Episcopal Church and their mutual interest in Kansas State Athletic programs, the friendship that developed between the Vanier family and Keith and Liz Duckers helped cement the close connection with St. John's. Both couples shared a rich and lively social life that revolved around family and St. John's. Their families grew with the arrival of children, John, Marty and Mary Vanier and Ed, Kyle and Sarah Duckers. Both families shared common ground with their service to St. John's and their belief in the importance of family as the center of their lives.

As a young girl, Donna Vanier attended an Episcopal Church camp on the campus of St. John's and during the

of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Corps, it was just one of many events that shaped their school year. As Mary Vanier grows to understand her role as trustee and begins to develop a vision for the future of St. John's, we look forward to her contributions and the continuance of the Vanier family thread.

*The family photo left to right: Mary Vanier, Marty (Vanier) Krause, Jack, Sarah, John, Bob Krause, Lauren and Donna  
Bottom left photo: The Vanier Brothers...*

*"St. John's is a unique and special place. My family is very proud of our long association with St. John's, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board of such an outstanding educational facility."*

Mary Vanier



# 2006-2007 SJ



**T**HE SJMS CAMPUS once again was alive with the sound of cadets running around getting into uniform and putting away those comfortable “civies”. The leadership for the school year arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and immediately went about gathering uniform items and getting their rooms “squared away” as they prepared for a two week long period of intensive leadership training.

Led by the Battalion Commander, Cadet/Ltc. Samy Wahabrebi, the leaders quickly changed into their uniforms to take on the challenge of leading the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps. For eleven days, the Cadets went through a series of instruction on developing their leadership skills. Classes on leadership styles, counseling and motivational techniques, and drill and ceremony filled the formal instruction part of the training. The younger leaders were exposed to a demanding series of instruction presented by 1sg. Tony Blair from the JROTC Department. This course of instruction, “Squad Leader School”, was aimed at preparing young leaders to learn skills which will enable them to teach basic skills at the lowest unit level. The last four days of leadership camp were devoted to team building exercises. The low and high ropes complex at St. Francis was the first site for an intense exercise on team building as well as confidence building. It was frightening, yet inspiring, to see these young boys scaling up and down ladders and high wires that looked like they were hundreds of feet up in the air. The following day cadets traveled to Ft. Riley and went through an obstacle course, combat simulators and an interesting tour of the Ft. Riley Museum. They had an opportunity to enjoy a meal of “good old Army chow” and totally amazed the Army cooks as the cadets devoured hundreds of hamburgers and hotdogs.



*“My name is Samy Wahabrebi, and I am from Colorado. I am the Battalion Commander of the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets at St. John’s Military School. The year has started off well, and I predict that this will be the best Corps SJMS has ever had, as I have an excellent staff and great teachers to support me. I will represent SJMS and Kansas at the JROTC competition in Valley Forge. I look forward to that. The New Boys have done a very good job, and are learning to march well. My only statement to the Corps is keep up the good work!”*

- **Recruited by Friends**
- **Scholarship Recipient**



# SJMS Battalion Staff



"My name is Jared Wood. I'm from Black Forest, CO. I am the Battalion S1 this year. I plan on attending one of the academies or the University of Wyoming and study aviation."

- Recruited by Family Friends
- Scholarship Recipient



"I am Glen McNair, and I am from Florissant, CO. I am the Battalion S2 of the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps. I plan on attending Colorado University and study electrical engineering."

- Recruited by Cadet Referral
- Scholarship Recipient



"My name is Sam Bowman and I am from Hockessin, DE. As the Battalion S3 for the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets and in charge of the New Boy program, I will do my best to fulfill my role."

- Recruited by Counselor Referral
- Scholarship Recipient



"My name is Sam Corle. I am a senior and have attended St. John's for three years. As Battalion S5, I am responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising public affairs operations and media coverage for SJMS. I enjoy running, playing soccer and snowboarding. I expect the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps to exceed all standards and expectations and look forward to graduating at the end of an amazing year."

- Recruited by Parent
- Scholarship Recipient



"My name is Ben Roman, the Battalion XO. I am a senior and currently in my fifth year at SJMS. I am a varsity football letterman and an active member of BMS. Upon graduating from St John's, I plan on attending college while majoring in chemical engineering."

- Recruited by Advertisement
- Scholarship Recipient



"My name is Jack Lobertini. I am the Battalion S4, or the logistics officer. I am in charge of the mess hall, laundry room and the quarter master. I plan on attending Gainesville State College in Athens, Georgia. I have been at St. John's for three years."

- Recruited via the Internet
- Scholarship Recipient

# The Old Boys

*"The Old Boys of SJMS are behind the Campaign for Excellence, and pledge our support to ensure the continued success of St. John's."*

*Roy Knight  
Class of 1974*



## Mission

Duty to Reach,  
Recruit and  
Represent

## Vision

The vision of St. John's Old Boy Association is to foster life long relationships among cadets and perpetuate the traditions of St. John's.

# Keepsakes

One of my prized possessions is a frayed and stained silk flag. Not the Stars and Stripes we are used to, but one that is half red and half blue with a lopsided gold star in the middle. It is a Viet Cong flag taken in battle forty years ago by one of the great men I have known. It has been one of my prized possessions for over 30 years.

While St. John's may be one of the best kept secrets in education, to those who know the school, it is certainly no secret that some very remarkable men have worked there molding young men. I was very fortunate to attend from 1971 to 1974 during the tenure of Commandant Lt. Col. Paul Kellogg, who put together a "Dream Team" of TAC Officers. This August group of senior NCO's included 1SG Bill Bunting, AUS (Ret.); MSG Dwight

Woodall, USAF (Ret.); 1SG Richard Lipps, USAF (Ret.); and 1SG Benjamin C. Titus, AUS, (Ret.). Each of these men was combat veterans and perfectly suited to St. John's. Each of these men was very special in my life and each contributed to making me what I am today. This is focused, however, on one particular individual, Ben Titus.

1SG Titus fought in Europe in WWII, followed by a combat tour in Korea and two combat tours in Vietnam. He never really spoke of his combat experiences, but would relate stories that were usually very funny and often with a lesson for this young cadet. Physically, he was short in stature, very compact and muscular. There hadn't been any hair



...making opportu

# of SJMS...

under his green bus driver-style hat in many years and he peered at you through black rimmed glasses. His voice was gravelly and loud and he often had a cigarette gripped in his teeth rather than his lips. He was very high energy and usually in motion. He also was blessed with a terrific sense of humor. Sarge was 60 years old when I knew him and even then he could grip a broomstick with both hands and jump over it without letting go of the stick, and then reverse the process. He also had another feat that still amazes me. He would ask me for a dime, then squeeze it very hard for a moment, and throw it on a table top. The dime would rock back and forth after being bent slightly by his fingers.

I learned a great deal from 1SG Titus and the other TAC officers, much of which boiled down to personal integrity. Things such as: take care of your troops; overcome the obstacles and get the job done; face your battles head on; tell the truth. Simple stuff really, but valuable beyond measure.

Just before I graduated in 1974, Sarge had me over to his home for a fine supper prepared by his wife, Ethel. After dinner, Sarge gave me that stained and tattered old flag. He didn't say a lot about how he came to have it except that the original owner did not survive the transaction. I could tell that it was important to him and it became very important to me, and has been



*Nick Cantrell observing the Viet Cong flag*

one of my treasured "keepsakes" over all of these years.

I am sure that every cadet, no matter what era they come from, has their "Sarge." One of the core strengths of St. John's is bringing great men such as these into the lives of young cadets to teach them the important things they need to know. And while succeeding generations of cadets will never know him personally, the legacy lives on through the current and future generations of outstanding staff that have devoted themselves to our school and the cadets.

The flag is now framed and hanging in Vanier Hall to hopefully inspire both staff and cadets and share some of the history of one of the important contributors to St. John's Military School. I did take the opportunity to talk to Sarge and thank him for all he had done for me some twenty years after I graduated. One of his favorite hobbies was fishing and on September 19, 2000, 1SG Benjamin C. Titus quietly passed away after cleaning a stringer of fish he had just caught.

## *unities, one boy at a time!*

# Old Boys Making a Difference...

**D**EREK BARTH '89, 101<sup>st</sup> Corps, was on hand for the forming of the 119<sup>th</sup>. Derek was the former Alpha Commander, and donated his saber and Sam Brown belt to the new Alpha Company Commander, Nathan Dixon. Derek stated while he was commander of Alpha they received Honor Company, Best Company Drill, Best Platoon Drill, Best Squad Drill and Best Individual Drill Banners. Alpha Company is made up of juniors and seniors. Derek has stayed very involved with St. John's after his graduation. He is currently serving on the Old Boys Alumni Board (OBA) and is very active in helping Old Boys reconnect to SJMS.



# A Salute to Service

**H**ARRY SMITH JOINED the St. John's Military School Board of Trustees as the new millennium dawned in the year 2000. This year, with his two year term complete, he is leaving the board having served through a period that saw three changes in administration, a number of challenges, and many triumphs.

Harry is an executive with The Schwan Food Company, the largest manufacturing employer in Salina, Kansas. Harry states that "our organization has had someone on the St. John's Board of Directors for close to twenty years. We often support youth based and youth education programs throughout the United States."

Prior to joining the board, Harry was connected with St. John's through his membership in the Episcopal Church, which annually hosts the Corps of Cadets in their cathedral. Meeting the cadets and their families allowed him to become familiar with the St. John's story.

Harry is married to Pam and they have three daughters: Michele, Shawna and Shannon, all living in the great state of Kansas. Harry joined the St. John's Military School Board of Trustees during the McAlexander administration, and states "that the decision to serve was easy." He feels that the board, faculty and administration have grown and evolved throughout his term and he leaves the board feeling good about the future of the school.

Harry believes St. John's greatest asset is the cadets. He explains that "without them there is no reason for existing." His fondest memories of his time on the board were the people he served with and the genuine caring and love of helping others that everyone connected with the school displays. Harry says "the memories will be of graduations. The pomp and celebration of another year and sending one more group of prepared young men into the world, knowing we have helped them in some way or another."

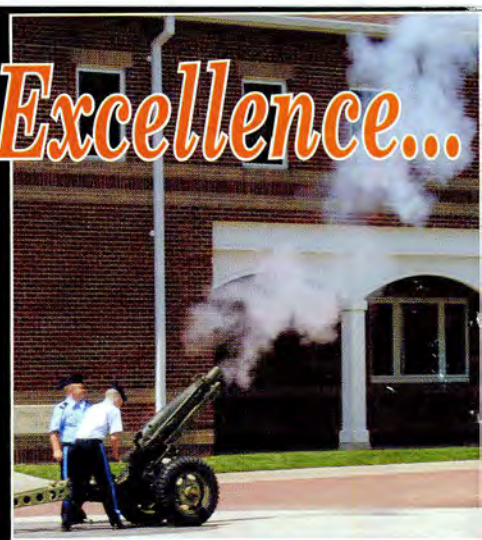


*"Some of my fondest memories will be of graduations ~ the pomp and celebration of another year and sending one more group of prepared young men into the world, knowing we have helped them in some way or another."*

reach ♦ recruit ♦ represent

# Continuing the Tradition of Excellence...

- ◆ *The mission of SJMS is to provide each cadet with the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically.*
- ◆ *We develop student leadership & academic skills in a structured military environment.*
- ◆ *There is a 10:1 student teacher ratio, with up to 3 hours per day of additional instruction available for each cadet.*
- ◆ *We are a college preparatory school designed to equip students with the skills necessary for post secondary education.*
- ◆ *The central core of our mission is to instill values of honesty, loyalty, dignity and pride into all cadets and all that they do.*



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