

# The Skirmisher

Spring 2004

St. John's Military School



## *This Issue:*

- 999 Again!  
Annual Formal  
Inspection
- Commencement  
Weekend
- Presidential  
Classroom
- Spring  
Sports

*through the eyes of an*  
**Old Boy**  
*Jefferson Schlesinger*

**Class of 1922,**  
• St. John's oldest  
Old Boy

# This Side



by Jack H. Albert, Jr.  
**President**

As I prepare this column, my heart and mind are full of emotional tugs. This week began on a solemn note as the Corps of Cadets stood as an honor guard for the memorial service and internment of Charles E. Stevens, Jr.; SJMS Trustee, former Chairman of the Board, friend and benefactor to St. John's Military School (Stevens Center) and personal friend and confidant to me. Then on the next day the 116<sup>th</sup> Corps (for the fourth time in a row) scored 999 out of 1000 points in their Annual Formal Inspection as the United States Army declared them an "Honor Unit with Distinction" for the 32nd year. Finally, as I sit in my office preparing for Commencement and all the excitement that annual event brings for family and friends, I also prepare for a new journey that will take me from St. John's and from Salina, Kansas. As most of you are aware I have accepted an appointment to the Presidency of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. I will leave Salina on June 16 and report to my new home and position in July.

As all of these events have coalesced the tide of emotion has been powerful. The successes of our boys, the victories

of the school, the passing of a great supporter and friend, the new leadership of two great military schools all point very clearly to what life is all about: change. Sometimes the change is exciting. There are times that change is painful and sad. At other moments change is refreshing and brings a new perspective. Regardless of its nature change is inevitable. It is really what we do with change that is important. How we accept change fashions our character and develops who we are. I think it is significant that all of this change that I have spoken to you about has amassed as we close out this extraordinary year. It is a year that so much has been accomplished by the Corps, our Parents, our Faculty and staff, our friends and our benefactors. These are important times for this school and I believe the best is yet to come.

In closing, let me encourage you to be prepared for continual change; it is unavoidable. Be mindful of how you deal with change. Ultimately the choices you make when change is on the horizon will fashion your character and define who you are. Take change and grow with it.

Finally, thank all of you for your kind and genuine support these past three years. This is one journey that I would not have missed. Thanks for the memories.

## On the cover:

Eric Cook, Silver Plume, CO, freshman takes a trip back in time as Old Boy Jefferson Schlesinger shares and compares his St. John's days.



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### St. John's Military School

North End of Santa Fe

P. O. Box 827

Salina, KS 67402-0827

(785) 823-7231

[www.sjms.org](http://www.sjms.org)

### Editors,

Barbara Nitz

Scott Wiedeman

### Contributing Writers,

Barbara Nitz

Scott Wiedeman

George Stelljes

Wendy Stein

The Salina Journal

Jefferson Schlesinger

### Photographers,

Scott Wiedeman

Barbara Nitz

Monarch Portraits

### Layout and Design,

Barbara Nitz

Scott Wiedeman

### Production,

Arrow Printing

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# cadets earn 999 four years running!



Above: Cadet Christophe Javelly stands tall while an Army Inspector drills him on his JROTC knowledge during the in-ranks inspection. Left: As a reward, SJMS employee Verna Hulett let cadets cut her long hair. Below: The band, led by Kevin Kerns prepares for the opening pass-in-review. Senior Army Instructor, George Stelljes praised the "musical magic" of band instructor Wendy Stein. "She takes youngsters who know very little about music or marching in the fall and, in one year, hones them into a unit," he said.



The cadets of St. John's achieved a score of 999 on May 4<sup>th</sup> during their Annual Formal Inspection (AFI). It was the fourth straight near-perfect score, which made Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps history. "Only a handful of schools, out of more than 1,500 in the United States have achieved a 999 since Junior ROTC's inception in 1916," said MAJ George Stelljes, senior Army instructor. He prepares the cadets year-round for the annual inspection with first sergeants Anthony Blair and Amon Tidmore.

They have to be perfect in their appearance, from their haircuts to uniforms and shined shoes. Ribbons and insignias have to be in the right place.

Each cadet is asked two to three questions ranging from JROTC knowledge, customs and courtesies, chain of command, first aid, map reading and current events. The U. S. Army Inspectors from the 11<sup>th</sup> brigade, Fort Carson, CO, who did the inspections, don't give scores of 1,000, so 999 is the highest possible.

The final graded event was the pass-in-review. The entire corps, color guard and fife, drum and bugle corps is graded on marching and the precision of synchronization of the group's movements.

Cheers erupted when the cadets heard their score that day! The school also earned the Honor Unit with Distinction designation, which goes to schools with scores of 960 or higher. It allows St. John's Military School to nominate three cadets to each of the five military academies.



The Corps with the Color Guard performed a pass-in-review with COL Dennis and Battalion Commander COL McBride as the reviewing officers. Once again the cadets earned 149 out of 150 points. The inspection team commented about how impressed they were with the way the cadets marched. Inset: Battalion Commander McBride joins COL Dennis on the reviewing stand.





## Message from the Commandant *Jerry Bradley*

I will forgo my normal comments in this space and reproduce part of a letter I received from a young man who accompanied one of our military advisors on the ski trip this year. I do this because he pays tribute to some “unsung heroes,” the parents of these young men of St. John’s. I am sure that those of you who were there, will remember this young man.

He writes . . . “Dear St. John’s Staff. I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible for the cadets. I had a great time helping in the few ways that I could, and working directly with some of those fine young men who accompanied us on this most enjoyable outing. My thanks are especially intended for the parents who I met along the way, and who helped us out in every way possible. “you folks were incredible!”

“Thanks to Mom Broeils for having a car packed with snacks for the cadets every day, patrolling the table of goodies, even buying socks, gloves, and goggles for the wet and weary. Thanks to Mom Reynolds for watching all our gear when we were too tired to care, and providing the much needed comic relief. Thanks to the Purdy Parents for helping me round up the cadets, and for gathering all the gear, while Staff Sergeant Madden was tending to cadet Bowditch, and scouting the coolest runs on the mountain. Thanks to Mom Tortorich for stopping and getting bottled water for the bus ride on the way home, and especially for her continuous smile.

There is much more I could say, but in the interest of time, and space, I will simply say “Thank You” to all the parents who took Staff Sergeant Madden and myself in as one of their own, and for making sure that we were taken care of. I am honored to have had the opportunity of meeting all of you.

## Message from the Academic Dean *Doug Randolph*



It seems like such a short time ago we were starting this new school year, and now we are preparing for the end with the graduation ceremonies.

The cadets are diligently practicing for the AFI (Annual Formal Inspection). This is a big event every year as they are always trying to up the previous year’s score. This year we will try to match the past three years’ scores as they all have been as good as they can get. At least we have been told by the inspection team that there will never be a perfect score, and we have only been one point off for three years. We all wish the best of luck to the Corps for a good score.

Following the hype of AFI, full attention will be directed to semester final exams and the graduation weekend program. The cadets are always anxious to get to their summer fun and want to depart campus early; therefore, some may try to convince their parents that graduation weekend is just for seniors. We have many events during that weekend that include the entire Corps. The Military Ball on Friday evening of that weekend includes giving awards for all grade levels from the Military Department. Saturday morning is the Academic Awards Ceremony which includes awards from the Academic Department for cadets at all grade levels. The entire Corps has a part to play in the actual graduation ceremony, so as you can see, it is important that they are here to participate in all activities.

The seniors are looking forward to their new and varied adventures following graduation from high school. The faculty and staff are looking forward to a short break before the summer program begins. If you have any questions regarding our summer program, give the Admissions Department a call and they will be glad to help you. In the short time remaining in this school year, we will be scheduling cadets for the 2004-05 school year.

We look forward to seeing many “old” faces returning to SJMS next school term and I, on the behalf of the faculty, wish the entire Corps and their families a wonderful and safe summer break.

## New Faces on Campus



**Lance  
Graves**  
Military Advisor



**Edie  
Knopp**  
Seamstress



**Nancy  
Shanahan**  
Nurse

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW!!**  
The 38th Annual  
*Mule-Skinner*  
Golf Tournament

Friday, August 13, 2004  
Municipal Golf Course  
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 Shot Gun Start

July is re-enlistment month  
for Mule-Skinners &  
Recruitment Month for  
those who would like to  
provide a GREAT  
opportunity for a young  
man!



All of these  
current or  
former SJMS  
employees  
invite you to  
join them for a  
day of golf to  
benefit  
SJMS cadets!  
Do you know  
this comely  
foursome?

*photo from Spelman,  
1988*

For more information on Mule-Skinners or the Golf Tournament contact:  
Barb Nitz at (785)823-2731 ext 7730 or email [barbn@sjms.org](mailto:barbn@sjms.org)

# Memory Lane

## Puttering Club



This photo was found in an early yearbook. We're looking for who is in the picture, but more importantly, what exactly the "Puttering Club" was. It only appears in one yearbook with no explanation of what qualifications one needed to join. If you think you have the answer, call or email Barb at (785) 823-7231 ext. 7730, [barbn@sjms.org](mailto:barbn@sjms.org).

# f.a.q.

## *frequently asked questions:*

### What does the Parent/Staff Organization do

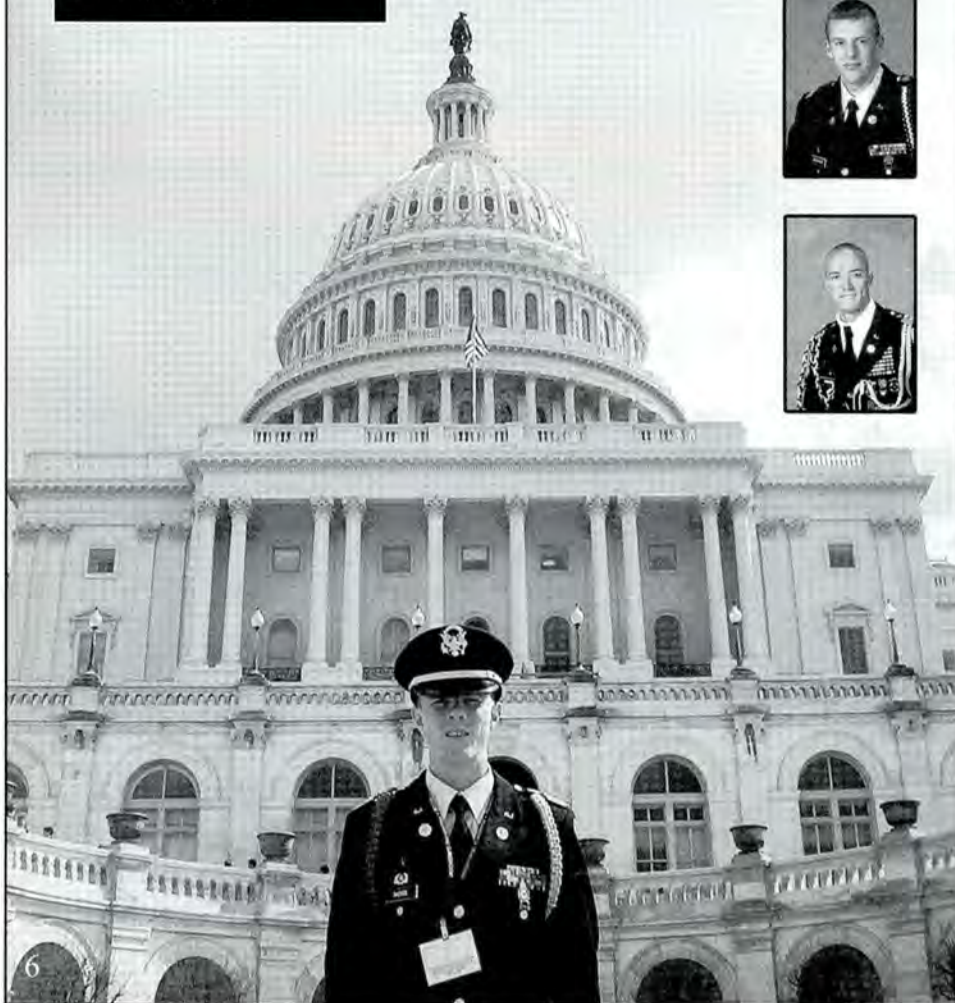


The Parent Staff Organization (PSO) seeks to enrich cadet life by providing funds for special projects both on and off campus. This organization is much like the PTA in public schools which has

for many years provided financial support for special projects not funded through the general operating budget. Two of the many projects that the PSO funds each year are the Presidential Classroom

and the presentation of Juniors with their Senior ring. Each of these projects are highlighted here. For more information on the PSO call one of the board members listed to the far right.

Travis Sachse, *below*, and his fellow travelers, *shown at the right top to bottom*, Matt Rohlman, Bill Greenwood, and Josh McBride, visited the White House by special invitation during the weeklong Presidential Classroom program.



### **Presidential Classroom**

Presidential Classroom (PC) Scholars program is held each year in Washington D. C. It is the leader in civic education, provides the best and brightest high school seniors unprecedented access to the leaders who shape America's public policy.

During the week-long program, PC Scholars interact with Washington insiders, including Members of Congress, presidential appointees, senior military officials, top business leaders and journalists. Students observe the U. S. Congress in action, visit their congressional offices and debate current issues with peers from the United States and abroad. They also visit the well-known sites of our nation's capital such as the White House (by special invitation), the U. S. Department of State and Arlington National Cemetery. Additional program highlights include a Central Intelligence Agency briefing, a mock presidential election and foreign embassy visits.

Aimed at the high-achieving students, PC programs are unique and challenging academic and leadership development experiences in Washington D. C. Only the highest achieving cadets at St. John's are given the opportunity to interview with a 3-person panel. The panel chooses the top four cadets to represent St. John's and Kansas at the weeklong program. Without the PSO underwriting this program, our cadets would not be able to attend.



Mrs. Judy Rutherford places the Senior Class ring on Rocky Krug's finger. Mrs. Rutherford escorted him under the sabres to receive his ring. *Inset*, PSO President, Ms. Roni Reynolds and Athletic & Activities Director, Mr. Roy Lawrence prepare to hand out the rings to all returning Juniors.

### Senior Class Rings

Each year returning Juniors are presented with their Senior Rings by parents or friends under a canopy of sabres wielded by the graduating Seniors. The Senior Class rings and Presidential Classroom program are two of the many programs, activities and items that the PSO purchases for the school. For more information on the PSO call one of the board members listed to the right.

***DON'T FORGET . . .***  
 we need your help to make this year's PSO auction, "For the Boys" another smashing success!

*We need donated items to be auctioned, your talents and help!*

Contact **Wendy Stein** for more information at (785) 823-7231 ext. 7716 or email [wendys@sjms.org](mailto:wendys@sjms.org)

## Parent/Staff Organization (PSO) Board Members

### PRESIDENT:

Roni Reynolds  
(303) 838-0715

[inorreynolds@msn.com](mailto:inorreynolds@msn.com)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Vicky Hoobler  
(504) 394-1002

[cres30@hotmail.com](mailto:cres30@hotmail.com)

### TREASURER

Julie Fischer  
(785) 823-7231 ext 7701

[julief@sjms.org](mailto:julief@sjms.org)

### SECRETARY

Wendy Stein  
(785) 823-7231 ext 7716

[wendys@sjms.org](mailto:wendys@sjms.org)

Patty Robichaux

(970) 565-6259

[vrobichaux@pol.net](mailto:vrobichaux@pol.net)

Tammy O'Neill

(785) 823-7231 ext 7775

[tammyo@sjms.org](mailto:tammyo@sjms.org)

JoAnn and Stephen Class

(303) 789-9209

[firstCLPlumbing@hotmail.com](mailto:firstCLPlumbing@hotmail.com)

Ginny Conroy

(719) 593-9587

[ginnyconroy@aol.com](mailto:ginnyconroy@aol.com)

MAJ George Stelljes

(785) 823-7231 ext. 7739

[georges@sjms.org](mailto:georges@sjms.org)

Karen Korody

(303) 423-0609

[karenkorody@aol.com](mailto:karenkorody@aol.com)

Barbara Nitz

(785) 823-7231 ext 7730

[barbn@sjms.org](mailto:barbn@sjms.org)



Above: Accepting a congratulatory hug from his mom, Gabriel Espinosa, Mexico City, MX smiles with relief that graduation day finally came! Gabe came to St. John's as a freshman and completed all four years. Left: Command Sergeant Major Ryan Woody, Grapevine, TX and Battalion Commander Josh McBride, Hugoton, KS place a wreath before the Freedom Tree.

The campus bustled with cadets, alumni and parents as they made ready for the most exciting days of the year - Commencement Weekend.

Friday evening found cadets readying for final Pass-in-Reviews and the Military Ball held at the Bicentennial Center. Seniors welcomed parents, friends and faculty with hugs and handshakes in the receiving line, and the night was underway with brief farewells from the battalion staff, followed by numerous military awards and accolades.

Returning Juniors were presented with their Senior Rings by parents or friends under a canopy of sabers, and the drill Team took the floor for their final

performance and change of command.

Saturday, the frantic pace continued as Academic Awards are given out and scholarships recognizing hard work are awarded. Seniors and their parents attended a luncheon to honor the graduating cadets, and all too soon they make their last trip to Armstrong Chapel for the Senior Eucharist led by Bishop Adams. The Corps then quickly formed up as seniors marched to the Freedom Tree, placing a wreath to pay special tribute and remembrance to past and present servicemen and women.

Finally, the moment arrived and not a minute too soon as most cadets would concur. The melody of Pomp and Circumstance rolled across Perkins Field

to greet the processional of Seniors, faculty, and the Processional of Flags, awarding of two D. Dale Browning scholarships, a traditional Handle Ceremony, and a farewell address by Battalion Commander Josh McBride.

Friends and family enjoyed the warm afternoon sun as the events quickly winded down the much-anticipated awarding of diplomas, and seemingly like only yesterday that the year had begun, the 116th took to the field for their final Pass-in-Review. Orders were barked, salutes were snapped, and cameras clicked, and at long last the magic words, "116th Corps Dismissed Forever!" sent a flock of hats skyward in jubilation.

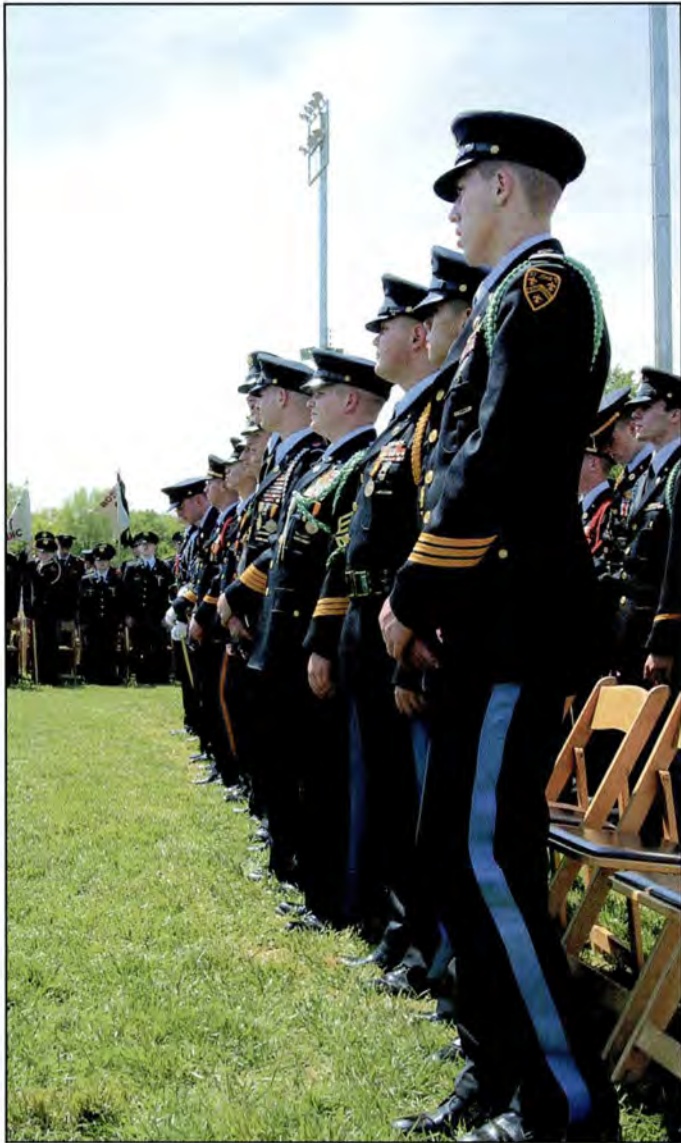
## Graduating Class of 2004

- |                      |                        |                       |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| MAJ Felipe Batalla   | SGM Jordan Harman      | SSG Gary Lopez-Watts  | MAJ Daniel Persing   |
| WO3 Rodney Bradley   | SGM Chase Houghton     | PVT Brandon Lovegren  | 1SG Kyle Resch       |
| MAJ Bernardo Chico   | SFC Ian Hsu            | COL Joshua McBride    | CPT Matthew Rohlman  |
| MSG Paul Dowling     | SGT Brett Jakubowski   | SGT Curt McFarland    | MAJ Travis Sachse    |
| MAJ Gabriel Espinosa | MSG Christophe Javelly | SGT Chauncey Miller   | MAJ Joshua Selland   |
| PVT Brandon Fascilla | SGM Dillon Keith       | CPT Matthew Miller    | MAJ David Smith      |
| 2LT Aaron Gallegos   | MAJ Kevin Kerns        | CPT Jeremiah Moran    | SGM Seydou Soumare   |
| MSG Brian Gardner    | PVT Jordan King        | SGT Nicholas Moynahan | SFC Blake Walker     |
| CPT Scott Green      | WO3 Jonathan Krug      | SGM Gum Ngaak         | SGT Charles Williams |
| PVT Bill Greenwood   | MSG Brandon Lee        | CPL Sean O'Keefe      | SGM Alexander Winkel |
| PVT Alex Hamilton    | CPT Robert Lee         | SFC Tyler Olentine    | LTC Richard Wood     |
| PVT Richard Hardy    | MSG Jordan Lee         | SGT Daniel Penne      | CSM Ryan Woody       |



Seydou Soumare, Antwerp, Belgium, accepts his diploma, handshake and congratulations from COL Bradley as COL Randolph looks on.





*Left:* After the Seniors completed their processional march across Perkins Field, they prepare to take their seats as the ceremony gets underway. *Above right:* As a perfect Kansas breeze blows the American flag, Josh McBride gives his final farewell remarks to the 116th Corps of Cadets, family, friends, alumni and faculty. *Below right:* Battalion Executive Officer Richard Wood, Lafayette, CO, along with McBride and SJMS President Jack Albert review the Corps one last time before the final order to dismiss the 116th Corps forever is announced, sending hats high into the air (*Below*).



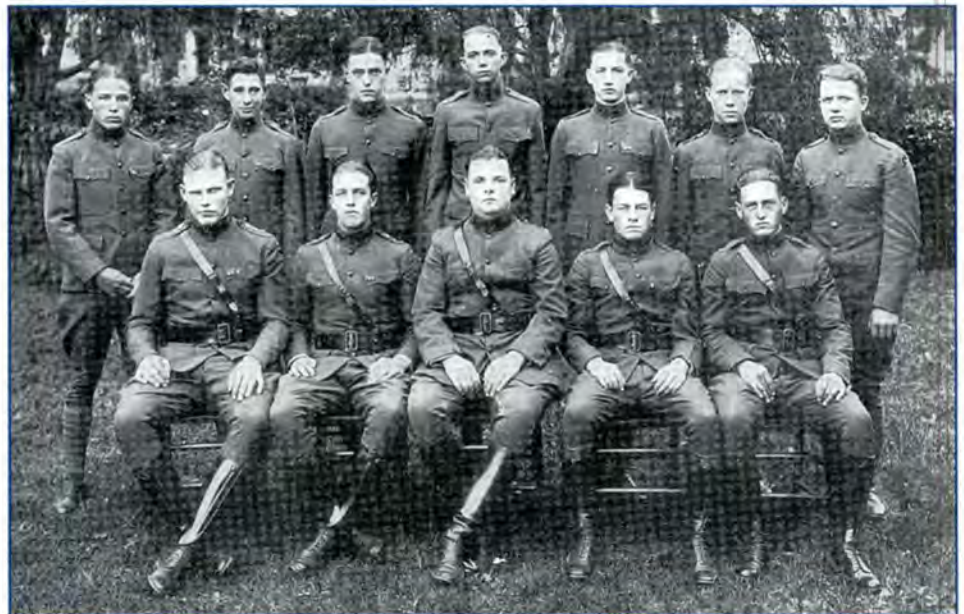
# Stories told by Yesterday's Old Boy

A feature of life at St. John's during the years Jefferson Schlesinger attended was the spring encampment (*Above photo*). Each year the entire Cadet Corps and members of the faculty went into camp at the site southeast of Salina. There for a week or ten days - depending on how quickly the work at the rifle range was complete - the school lived under canvas. The time was occupied in firing on the range, in games, in hunting, fishing, and swimming. When the cadets returned to their regular studies, the entire atmosphere was changed. The early spring sluggishness had gone and a vigorous active working power took its place. (from the St. John's Military School *Circular of Information 1922 -1923*)

Jefferson Schlesinger graduated with the *36th Corps of Cadets* in 1922. There aren't many folks around today that can claim this, in fact, it's fairly safe to say that Mr. Schlesinger is a "one of a kind." He is St. John's Oldest living Old Boy. At 98 years of age, Schlesinger is a delight to visit with. He amazed cadets, Eric Cook, Rocky Krug, and editors Barb Nitz and Scott Wiedeman with his detailed accounts of life at St. John's from 1917 until his graduation in 1922.

Schlesinger was born in Colorado Springs, CO in 1906. His father died when he was 9 years old, and he entered St. John's when he was 11. The money his father had left for his education ran out during his junior year.

Instead of kicking him out of the school, St. John's officials promoted him to his senior year and allowed him to graduate because he had accumulated enough credits. Later, Schlesinger would regret the early graduation, explaining he missed a course in physics that would have benefited him later in life.



Jefferson Schlesinger (back row, second from the left) was promoted a year early into the graduating class of 1922. (Archive photo)

Schlesinger was a cereal chemist at the Union Equity Cooperative Exchange. He founded the Union Equity grain lab in 1955. He retired 16 years later in 1971 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 65. He has now been

retired for 33 years - one third of his life.

The following account is from Jefferson Schlesinger's years at SJMS and are taken from his memoirs that he so kindly and fondly shared.

*Excerpts from Jefferson  
Schlesinger's memoirs,  
"So Soon Old \* So Late Smart"*

In the fall of 1917, Mother enrolled me in St. John's Military School, Salina, Kansas. I was eleven, in the seventh grade and one of the younger and smaller cadets. Being one of a hundred odd cadets was a new experience for me who had never lived with more than one other boy, but I adapted.

The first year passed rapidly. I adapted to the routine doing as I was instructed. I realized that I was there to learn, to get an education so that I could survive on my own when I graduated. I did my best. My love of reading stood me in good stead. I liked to study. I enjoyed military drill even though I got tired. The exercise was good for me. I hadn't had much during my earlier life when I was doing a lot of reading.

Mother was traveling almost constantly so I usually spent most of the year at the school when the other cadets went home for the summer. I made friends with Duke, a large shepherd dog who was the school mascot. The dog liked me and I liked the dog. I spent the summer climbing trees, playing Tarzan, swinging from bough to the ground, eating cherries and apples when available. I was content. I'd always been able to amuse myself. I liked the freedom from the usual school routine. My summers were happy.

All too soon summer vacation was over and the next year began. The school year was only two months old when the great influenza epidemic of 1918 broke out. A number of cadets became ill and were sent to the infirmary on the top floor of the barracks taking their bedding with them. One evening,

*Photo right:* Mr. Schlesinger points out a family member to Barb Nitz, *Skirmisher* co-editor. Schlesinger would smile and talk excitedly about his marriage to Jessie. He said she was the greatest thing that ever happened to him. She died in 1999. They have two children, Doris, of New York, who worked staging tennis tournaments like the U. S. Open until her retirement, and Bill, a mathematics professor at Tufts University at Medford, MA, now retired.

early in November, I felt ill and was told to get my bedding and go to the infirmary. This I did and collapsed at the top of the stairs. Desperately ill, they thought that I might die as I was unconscious part of the time. I survived only to learn that WWI was over, we'd won and I had missed the great celebration. I was disappointed that I had been sick when such momentous events were taking place. I do remember how good I started to feel and how hungry I was as I recuperated.



The chess set, shown in the foreground, was carved by Schlesinger while he was a cadet at SJMS. Carved from Osage Orange wood, Schlesinger declared, "It was the hardest carving I ever did. That wood was hard!" Along with his chess set, Schlesinger still had his three scholarship trophies awarded to him.



The other boys told me about the celebrations and I read all about it. Out of my illness I acquired immunity to that flu strain and quickly regained my strength as did the other boys. I don't recall if any died. I do know I almost did and was thankful that I survived.

Shortly after the Armistice and the flu epidemic, I was sitting in Captain N. A. Barker's Latin class (yes, I studied Latin) when a new teacher was introduced. He was Captain R. R. Shideler, just out of the Army. He would teach commercial subjects. Our teachers carried the rank of Captain. We saluted and called them Sir. We also had a Major J. L. Weir, a West Pointer, who taught mathematics and military science, a Major Perkins, Quartermaster and over all Colonel W. L. Ganssle, Superintendent. I don't specifically recall having Captain Shideler teaching me as he was mostly in administration, but we became good friends. He and Vera, his wife, would have me help around their small home and especially in their garden north of the campus. It was good to be able to feel close to someone and gave me a chance to advise with him when I wished. They went out of their way to be nice to me. I appreciated this and reciprocated. We were friends for the rest of our lives.

At Commencement exercises at the end of the second year, 1919, I received a small loving cup trophy as head of the 2nd Form as the eighth grade was called

at SJMS. The cup signified that I had the best scholastic record in my class. I was very pleased.

Each spring, in May, the entire student body and teachers spent two weeks camping out. We pitched tents on Bob White's farm southeast of Salina on the Smoky Hill river. Each squad erected a large quadrangle army tent. We staked the guy ropes well, knowing if we didn't, it might blow down in the Kansas wind and rain storms. It wasn't any fun to re-erect it in a storm as some found out. We slept on army cots, were issued a canteen for drinking water and a mess kit from which to eat. We'd scour the grease from our kits with river sand. Naturally, we had all kinds of weather from quiet, warm, sunny days to heavy rain storms. We endured the rains even though sometimes the camp became a quagmire with water running through those tents that hadn't been properly "ditched." One year the Smoky Hill flooded and we had to move camp, but we always stayed our full two weeks.

Each day a different group of cadets would have rifle practice firing 30-30 army issue Springfield rifles at targets. Some cadets qualified as sharpshooters. We all participated using pointed steel-jacketed bullets. Although the guns were lethal weapons, no one was ever hurt because we were taught how to use and care for them correctly. We'd disassemble, clean and reassemble them after firing.

On our recreation periods we could swim in the river. We had a large rope, knotted at the end, tied on a large cottonwood that hung over the river. We'd stand on the high bank holding the end of the rope, swing out to the middle and drop off. By then, I could swim well enough. It was a lot of fun!

Near the end of my third year I was promoted from private to corporal. It was school policy to gradually increase a cadet's responsibilities as he demonstrated that he could handle them.

The cadet corps was divided into two athletic clubs, Army and Navy. Mine was the Navy club. Each spring we'd have a track meet, running, jumping,

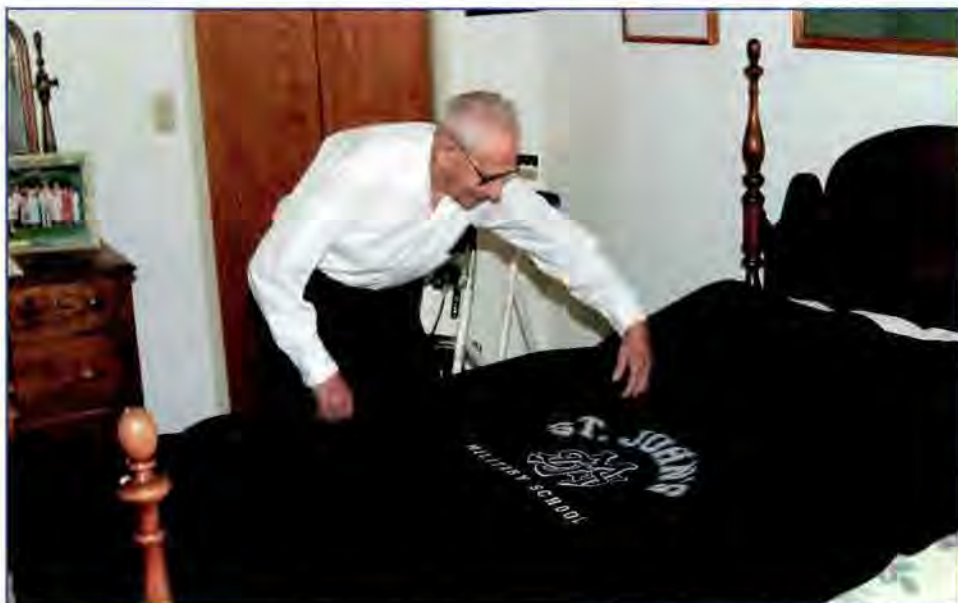
vaulting, throwing the discus, etc. Being smaller than most, my specialty was running. Though I didn't make the track team, I did win a few races for the Navy against the boys my age. In one race I ran so hard that I fell exhausted near the finish line and badly skinned my knees on the cinders. The wounds were treated to avoid infection and as they healed I had some beautiful scabs.

About this time I started carving a chess set out of the iron-hard Osage Orange wood, which I still have. This was the hardest carving that I ever did.

The school authorities realized that Mother wasn't able to provide me with much spending money. I was allowed to earn some by waiting tables in the dining hall, baby sitting Joyce, Colonel Ganssle's baby when they were out for the evening and by working in the school store. I never had much money, so I was careful how I spent what I had. My extracurricular activities didn't interfere with my studies. A medium sized silver loving cup was presented to me at Commencement for being the top scholar in the 3rd form, 1st year of high



Old Boy, Jefferson Schlesinger, *class of '22* relaxes after recounting numerous stories to cadets Eric Cook, Silver Plume, CO; and Rocky Krug, Lindsay, OK, about the "old days" at St. John's. One might think, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." The common thread of brotherhood among cadets was a recurring theme.



Wanting to show off his new gift from the school, Schlesinger quickly covered his bed with his new blanket. He was also happy to receive a new coffee mug, because his old one (that he drinks coffee from each day) needed updating.

school. This was 1920.

During the summer of 1920, I remained at school. The main building, Vail Hall, built in 1888 was four stories with an impressive tower at the east end. Earlier in the year, one of our braver and more fool-hardy boys had crawled out of a dormer window and up to the ridge of the main roof. He actually walked upright on it for a few feet like a tight-rope circus performer. He got down safely but was severely reprimanded. I was impressed and realized that it was dangerous. However, I thought that if he had the courage to walk on the ridge I ought to be able to crawl on it. When I was free of surveillance, I climbed out of the same window with my heart pounding. It was easily fifty or more feet to the ground and the roof had a very steep slope. I knew that the building was over 30 years old, that wood can rot and break. Nevertheless, I made myself crawl up the valley between the tower and the roof to the ridge. Then I sat on it and finally inched along for a few feet. I was aware that I was foolish and in great danger if anything gave way, but I felt that I had to prove to myself that I could do it. I was at least smart enough not to try to stand as I wasn't sure that I could keep my balance and realized that a fall could be fatal. Gradually, I inched back to the valley, and feet first, slowly slid down the valley

to the gutter and then got into the window. I was shaking all over, but elated that I had conquered my fear and that I had returned safely. My guardian angel was looking after me. In retrospect, it was VERY foolish to risk my life just to prove to myself that I had the guts to do it. I was lucky that nothing gave way and that I didn't fall.

The fall of 1920 found me in my sophomore year of high school. I took part in all of the "undercover" barracks activities such as playing tricks on other boys and having chili feeds during the night. We'd heat chili in mess kits over cans of Sterno, canned heat, a combustible waxy substance. Dangerous, but fun and good eating for growing hungry boys.

When cadets broke the rules, like being late returning on a pass to town, he was given demerits. These were walked off by carrying a 30-30 rifle around and around the bull ring, 15 minutes for each demerit. I avoided this waste of time and energy by incurring as few as possible.

At 14 I thought that I'd never grow up. Time passed slowly. How different it is now 84 years later. I remember a Metropolitan Life Insurance advertisement that pictured a boy running and an old gray-bearded man with a cane hobbling in pursuit. The caption read, "An old man is gaining on you!" How

true!

1920 passed into 1921 with my life following the now familiar daily routines. At Commencement I won the large silver trophy as head of the 4th Form, high school sophomore. I had applied myself. When baby sitting, I spent my time reading Colonel Ganssle's *Books of Knowledge*. I picked up a lot of information by reading the dictionary, following up words that explained ideas that I wasn't clear about.

In the fall of 1921 one of my studies was inorganic chemistry. I liked it and absorbed atomic theory, how atoms were constructed and how they combined to make molecules of all our substances. It fascinated me to know that an apparent solid body was actually multitudes of atoms spinning in space. It was a beginners course. Later I wished that it had been more exhaustive, more complete.

About the time of my 16th birthday I was told by Colonel Ganssle that Mother had informed the school that Father's insurance would be exhausted by the end of this school year. I thought that this meant that I wouldn't get to graduate, but he informed me that since I had accumulated sufficient credits, I could skip my senior year and graduate with the class ahead of me. This I did. I was the youngest member of the graduating class of 1922. I didn't receive my scholarship trophy as my class status was mixed. This didn't matter. I was elated to be out of high school even if I had no idea of what lay ahead.

I left St. John's and went to Salt Lake City, Utah to be with my Mother. Boyhood was over.

Spring  
**TEAM  
 PHOTOS  
 2004**

**2004  
 Tennis Team**

*Back row:*  
 Anthony Fortino,  
 Mark Sveninsson,  
 Patrick Toth,  
 Coach Gerald  
 Martin.

*Front Row:*  
 Jacob Porter,  
 Scott Green,  
 Karl Baedeker,  
 William Daddono.



**2004 Varsity Golf Team**

*Back row:*  
 Assistant Coach Beryl Reichardt,  
 Jordan Lee,  
 Travis Sachse,  
 Blake Walker,  
 Head Coach Chuck Spielman.

*Front Row:*  
 Justin Williams,  
 Aaron Gallegos,  
 Richard Hardy,  
 Daniel O'Donnell.



**2004 Junior Varsity  
 Golf Team**

*Back row:*  
 Titus Blosser,  
 Jordan King,  
 Robert Lee,  
 Thomas Kramer.

*Front Row:*  
 Christopher Reinertsen,  
 Colin Kennedy,  
 Nicholas Cantrell.





### 2004 Track Team

*Back row:* Samuel Bowman, Eric Cook, Gunnar Bjornstad, Ronald Flythe, Paul Austin, John Walton, Josh Selland, Todd Morris, Jonathan Irwin, Ray Parker, Michael Uranga, Head Coach Matt Hurtt.

*Middle row:* Mitchel McCartney, Joseph O'Mara, James Milberg, Joseph Beardsley, Adam Clark, Phillip King, Assistant Coach Felix Martinez.

*Front row:* John Bender, Sean O'Keefe, Justin Klebieko, Richard Korody, Chad Wagyu.



### 2004 Baseball Team

*Back row:* Assistant Coach Jeff Speilman, Joey Voiron, Matthew Tortorich, James Henrie, Ryan Woody, Alonzo Doss, Arturo Cruz, Head Coach Lance Werber.

*Middle row:* Chauncey Miller, Ryan Storck, Chris Hoobler, Dillon Keith, Bill Greenwood, J.R. Reynolds.

*Front row:* Anthony Durant, Alex Medina, Travis Bostick, Cody Hays, Andres Elizondo, Christopher Hughes.



### 2004 Middle School Track Team

*Back row:* Matthew Guidry, Nathan Dixon, William Gadol, Jon Allison, Brian Miller, Nicholas Purdy, Joseph Deegan, Steel Donaldson, Blaine Stratton, Ian Sitarik, Jhuty Kem, Coach Phillip Kellogg.

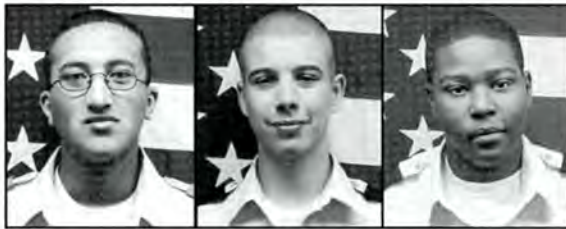
*Middle row:* Preston Miller, Wade Goins, Andrew Landes, William Brooks, Travis Falconer, Robert Boucher, Kevin Broeils, Spencer Watson, Alex Broeils.

*Front row:* Brandon Holmes, Steven Wagner, Timothy Tribble, Tyler Ramsey, Benjamin Fryman, Chase McGraw.

## Second & Third Quarter Blue Berets and Academic Achievers



2nd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Ben Roman  
2nd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Matt Rohlman  
2nd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Rodney Bradley



2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School Elias Gebremeskel  
2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School Jesse Levin  
2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School Anthony Durant



3rd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Spencer Terry  
3rd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Hunter Lobertini  
3rd Qtr. Blue Beret High School Mark Davis



3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School John Adams  
3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School Brian Gardner  
3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever High School William Mauldin



2nd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Jesse Matschke  
2nd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Remington Smith  
2nd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Nathan Dixon



2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School William Gadol  
2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School Ian Sitarik  
2nd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School Steel Donaldson



3rd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Nathan Dixon  
3rd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Jesse Matschke  
3rd Qtr. Blue Beret Middle School Kevin Broeils



3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School Edward Martin  
3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School William Brooks  
3rd Qtr. Academic Achiever Middle School Johnny Special

### National Honor Society Spring Inductees



Mark Davis  
*Sophomore*



Brian Gardner  
*Senior*



Chase Houghton  
*Senior*



Dillon Keith  
*Senior*



Jonathan Krug  
*Senior*



Rocky Krug  
*Sophomore*



Raymond Parker  
*Sophomore*



J. R. Reynolds  
*Sophomore*



Joseph Voiron  
*Junior*



# Fourth Quarter

## Blue Berets and Academic Achievers



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
High School  
Rodney Bradley



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
High School  
Jonathan Krug



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
High School  
Jesse Levin



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
Middle School  
Nathan Dixon



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
Middle School  
Edward Martin



4th Qtr. Blue Beret  
Middle School  
Jesse Matschke



4th Qtr. Academic Achiever  
High School  
Eric Cook



4th Qtr. Academic Achiever  
High School  
Chase Houghton



4th Qtr. Academic Achiever  
High School  
Travis Sachse



4th Qtr. Academic Achievers  
Middle School  
William Brooks



4th Qtr. Academic Achievers  
Middle School  
William Gadol

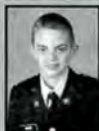


4th Qtr. Academic Achievers  
Middle School  
Richard Lomax

### Junior National Honor Society Spring Inductees



Kevin  
Broeils  
8th Grade



William  
Brooks  
7th Grade



William  
Gadol  
8th Grade



Edward  
Martin  
8th Grade



Blaine  
Stratton  
8th Grade



**Justin Williams**, sophomore, qualified for the Golf State Tournament in Hesston, KS. He finished in a tie for 5th place and after a play off he placed 8th in the state. **Jordan Lee, Travis Sachse, Aaron Gallegos and Dan O'Donnell** competed in the Regional Tournament.

**Brett Jakubowski**, senior, will be attending Barton County Community College on a soccer scholarship next year. He is a three-year letterman who held down the outside left defensive position for two years before moving to sweeper during his senior year.



**Seydou Soumare**, senior, will attend Barton County Community College on a soccer scholarship in the fall. He is the all-time leading goal scorer for the Muleskinners, hitting the back of the net 39 times. Seydou was a threat to score every time he touched the ball. He scored five goals in one game, tying the single game scoring record.

**Charles Williams**, senior, signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Highland Community College. He is a Varsity letterman and honorable mention All-League team. Charles averages 11.9 points per game and 7.3 rebounds.



# SKINNERS' Old Boys

## Remembrance of Old Boys & Alumni Reunions

A cadence of drums broke the early Commencement morning quiet as cadets marched onto the teardrop with 116 flags, and the band's *National Anthem* accompanied their swift ascent to meet the morning sun, as they joined the massive garrison flag in painting the breeze with patriotic

colors. A solemn line of rosebearers then brought their quiet tributes up to a table adorned with boots, gloves, and sabers in remembrance of the passing of Old Boys, as the bell rang out with the reading of each name, and the bugler's sad notes of *Taps* concluded the ceremony.




### Last Roll Call

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Douglas Mintener<br><i>Old Boy 1969</i>    | Alfred Beck<br><i>Old Boy 1959</i>  |
| Lee Ivy<br><i>Old Boy 1930</i>             | Jeffrey R. McAfee<br><i>Old Boy 1998</i>                                    |
| Fred M. Lynch<br><i>Old Boy 1960</i>       | Edward McKie<br><i>Old Boy 1946</i>   |
| Todd Campbell<br><i>Old Boy 1976</i>       | Robert Sperling<br><i>Old Boy 1945</i>                                      |
| Robert Mark Benham<br><i>Old Boy 1975</i>  | Elwood L. Sellens<br><i>Old Boy 1941</i>                                    |
| Buster M. Pottorff<br><i>Old Boy 1960</i>  | Don Wendler<br><i>Old Boy 1953</i>  |
| Charles C. Chisholm<br><i>Old Boy 1966</i> | Ernest Moore<br><i>Old Boy 1940</i>   |
| James R. Massell<br><i>Old Boy 1966</i>    | Charles Stevens, Jr.<br><i>Past Chr. of the Board/<br/>Honorary Colonel</i> |
| George Race<br><i>Old Boy 1955</i>         | Cloyd Pugh<br><i>Founder Pugh Library</i>                                   |
| Bradley Post<br><i>Old Boy 1984</i>        | Harold Fraizer<br><i>Former Teacher/<br/>Honorary Colonel</i>               |
| Max L. Bosshart<br><i>Old Boy 1960</i>     |   |



*Page 18, left corner:* The Flag Detail prepares to raise the massive garrison flag. *Top Center:* Steel Donaldson and Matthew Guidry take part as rosebearers in placing roses of remembrance as an Old Boy's name is read. *Middle center:* As each name on the Roll Call list is called, cadet John Adams sounds the bell. *Top right:* The quiet morning air carries the sad echos of *Taps* from Remington Smith at the conclusion of the Old Boy ceremony. *Inset:* Boots and gloves honor the Old Boys. *Page 19, Above:* Returning alumni relive fond memories of the Pass-in-Review as they form up around the teardrop and join the Corps as the "F" Troop. The "F" Troop Company Commander is last year's Battalion Commander Rex Robichaux. *Above right:* Years of tradition and brotherhood connect generations of Old Boys as the Vail Hall Handle is passed around the circle. Morris Johnson, '45 of Valentine, NE and Fritz Schoeb, '46 of Tyler, OK take part in the ceremony, as the oldest Old Boys in attendance.



## Wish List

SJMS would like to humbly request the donation of, or help with purchasing the following items:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Office Supplies</b><br/>           Electric Stapler<br/>           Manual Three-Hold Punch devices<br/>           Paper shredders<br/>           Heavy Duty Paper Cutter<br/>           8-Foot Folding Tables<br/>           Folding Machine<br/>           Receptionist Chairs</p> | <p><b>Supplies Cont'd</b><br/>           Electric Spiral Binding System<br/>           Projector<br/>           Digital Copy Machine</p> <p><b>Electronics/Hardware</b><br/>           PlayStation II Video Games<br/>           VCR/DVD Player<br/>           Paxton Action Lab Series - <i>technical training series</i></p> <p><b>Sporting Equipment</b><br/>           Pitcher's Net<br/>           Batting Cage<br/>           Canoes, Paddles, Lifevests<br/>           Scuba Diving Equipment</p> <p><b>Educational Materials</b><br/>           3 Sets of Novels</p> <p><b>Other</b><br/>           Garage for Car Club</p> |
|---|---|

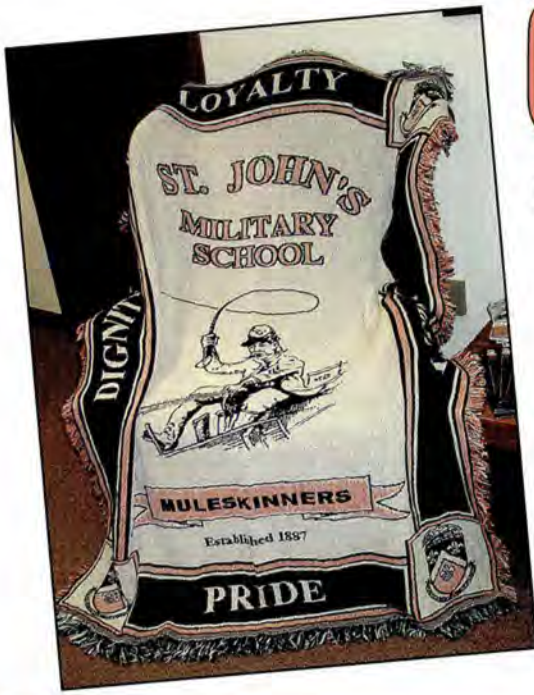


## COMING THIS SUMMER!! SPECIAL SKIRMISHER SUMMER EDITION:

Publication of the  
 Alumni/Old Boy Information Updates

Make sure you have your current information and  
 email address to Barb Nitz at [barbn@sjms.org](mailto:barbn@sjms.org)

\*\*\*A 1970 Senior Class ring was found in  
 Michigan . If you are from the class of 1970 and  
 seem to be missing your class ring, give Barb a  
 call at (785) 823-7231 ext. 7730\*\*\*



# Go Under Cover

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## Armed Drill Team Places 2nd at Western Nationals

The St. John's Drill Team was the only team accepted within their six state Brigade to attend the Western Nationals that were held at Texas A&M, in College Station, Texas. In its first time Nationals competition, St. John's finished second in the *Armed Drill Team* under the direction of team captain, Matt Miller.

Cadet John Adams finished third in the *Individual Knockout Drill*, competing against 200 participants.



Award winning Drill Team *back row*: Anthony Wilkerson, Ryan Storck, Chase Houghton, Leif Brettner, Travis Giannini, Cody Hays and Alex Winkel. *Front row*: CPT Matt Miller, Drew Mardian, Jordan Harman, Jonathan Irwin, Ben Roman and Joseph Voiron.

### June 13, 1904 ST. LOUIS -

The St. John's cadets have been heard from again. This time, it is as the pennant winners at the World's Fair, winning the honors upon the drill ground against all comers. The St. John's boys had to fight for their honors, but there was no discount upon their ability to win. The judges were officers of the U. S. Army, and it is worthy of note that the St. John's cadets were the only ones who were recalled, or asked to give a special exhibition.

- From the Salina Journal archives

The storage shed has made its way home! Mr. Walter's Industrial Tools & Processes classes constructed the shed that was built for use on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center grounds. A grant from The Salina Community Fund was awarded to St. John's to pay for supplies.



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