



The Skirmisher

St. John's Military School



Spring 2005



Hats Off to the 117th Corps

By Wendy Stein

Commencement weekend arrived with the speed of a supersonic jet fighter. One minute the cadets were preparing for AFI, the next minute hats were being tossed into the air. Seniors that had long hoped for the time when studies were complete and obligations were met had traveled the last few weeks of school in the blink of an eye. Families, friends, Old boys and former staff members all descended on campus to put the 117th

Corps to rest. Preparations had been met with more intensity than in the past simply because many of the new faces on campus had never experienced a St. John's commencement weekend.

A brief look at the schedule would give most people pause with one ceremony following another - leaving little time in between. As traditions dictate, the last two days of the year are filled with tributes, memorials, speeches and pomp and circumstance serving to commence us all into the future.

The day dawned when the 125 flags were raised on the tear drop, honors would be rendered for the fallen and the ring ceremony would herald the forming of the next class of seniors. Saturday would bring worship to our God and honors to the freedom tree which would melt into graduation on Perkins's Field.

Members of the classes of the 1940s and 1950s joined the 117th Corps to celebrate the memories of a time gone by. Old boy soldiers

returned to campus to relive the glory days of St. John's when America's proclaimed greatest generation were young men wearing the St. John's colors. Stories were told about the shenanigans that occurred in the barracks and the hallowed halls of Vail Hall.

Friday morning, the thirteenth of May, the threat of rain kept the weather cool. The cadets marched in the front gates clutching their flags about to be hoisted up their designated flag pole. The band provided a spirited rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner* as 125 flags were raised to the sky. The Memorial ceremony followed, allowing the St. John's family to honor Old boys, and former staff members whose life on earth had ended. With the placing of a rose and the chiming of the bell, the memory of those important lives were etched into our hearts. Remington Smith and Daniel Ragan offered echo taps as a musical tribute to those who had died.

The pass-in-review followed with an unusually large company of men

forming "F" troop. Those Old boys on campus for their reunions cut an impressive form remembering both the position of attention and right face and not missing a beat on the march.

The awards ceremony held in Banes gymnasium gave faculty and staff the opportunity to honor the men of the 117th. Military and academic achievements were measured and rewarded as names were called and plaques, ribbons and medals were given. Special effort was made to keep the ceremony brief while maintaining the dignity of those being honored. Major George Stelljes administered the oath of the armed services to the four seniors about to become members of America's military machine. The event concluded with the announcement of the scholarship recipients for the 2005-2006 school year. Five cadets and their pleasantly surprised parents heard the announcement that they had been awarded full scholarships for the coming school term. Hunter

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What's News



left: Hunter Lobertini assists with personal inspections rendered on the grinder.

letters: The Corps of Cadets anxiously awaits news of the AFI score in the gymnasium.



By Maj. George Stelljes

The 117th Corps of Cadets maintained the tradition of military excellence at St. John's by earning a score of 994 out of 1,000 on the Annual Formal Inspection (AFI) held on April 28, 2005. Once again, the cadets earned the highest score within the 11th Brigade, which is based out of Ft. Carson, Colorado and includes the states of: Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Minnesota. The cadets have had the highest AFI score in the 11th Brigade for nine straight years.

The inspection began at 0900 when the Battalion Executive Officer Robert Parekh served as the Commander of Troops as the Honor Guard, SJMS Band, and Corps of Cadets welcomed Col. Humphrey on the Tear Drop. The band sounded great, the Honor Guard looked sharp, and the Corps marched exceptionally well, forming

a wonderful first impression of St. John's and the 117th Corps of Cadets.

The Battalion Staff briefed the inspection team at 0930, while the companies prepared for the in-ranks inspection on the grinder. The many rehearsals paid off as the staff earned 97 out of the 100 points that were possible on the briefing. The inspectors commented that it was an outstanding briefing and one of the best that they had seen this year.

Battalion Staff members: S-1 Joseph Voiron, S-3 Travis Bostick, S-4 Anthony Durant, and S-5 Elias Gebrehiwot had each of their respective areas of responsibility inspected and each earned a perfect score of 50 points. Voiron was responsible for the cadet database and every administrative record of the upper school cadets was subject to being checked. Bostick was responsible for all of the weekly training schedules that he had written over the year and accounting for all of the training time

spent in JROTC by the upper school cadets. Durant had the task of taking the inspector through a four and one-half page checklist and accounting for all of the government property on campus. Gebrehiwot was responsible for the public affairs program at St. John's and the interface between JROTC and all of the available media assets on campus.

Each of the companies went through an in-ranks inspection where the cadet uniforms and personal appearance were checked. The 117th Corps of Cadets with the Color Guard performed a pass in-review after lunch with Col. Humphrey as the reviewing officer to complete the day's activities.

The Final score of 994 out of 1,000 was the result of many hours spent preparing and checking every little detail in an effort to get it just right. The 117th Corps of Cadets can be justly proud of what they accomplished on that day. Every St. John's

old boy should be proud of them as well and they maintained the tradition of military excellence and put forth a maximum effort to earn the highest score in the Brigade.



Battalion Commander, Nathan Sutera with Brigade Commander General Humphrey serve as reviewing officers for the formal Pass-in-Review.

Positive Changes Will Propel the 118th Forward



By Col. Jack Fox

This past school year was an exciting time for the St. John's Military School Corps of Cadets, staff and faculty. We had

the opportunity to participate in history through our support of the Global Flyer and in welcoming home our local National Guard Unit, C Battery 2-130th Artillery from Iraq. Our scores on the Kansas Assessment tests showed great improvement over last year, and our junior class scored above the National and State average on the ACT. Now summer is here and with it we are busy preparing for the 2005-2006 new year. The Commandant and Academic Dean are both preparing for the upcoming year and I'm sure you will be hearing from them during the summer as they keep you informed of their plans.

We have had one major change here at St. John's. Duane and Judy Rutherford are leaving St. John's to pursue new opportunities. They have been great members of the St. John's family and we will miss them. Capt. Mark Bucholtz will be moving back into the Admissions Office and Col. Jerry Bradley, our former Commandant and Admissions Director, will be assisting in Admissions for a short time while

we conduct a search for our new Admissions Director.

Father Ron Longero will be attending training with *Character Counts* this summer. We will be a *Character Counts* school and will incorporate the six pillars of character into our program. While we have always taught our cadets the SJMS values of Loyalty, Dignity, Honesty and Pride, we feel that teaching the six core ethical values that form the foundation of the *Character Counts* program will better enable us to prepare our cadets for the moral and ethical challenges they may face when they leave St. John's.

In that regard, the theme for 2005-2006 will be the "year of character". We will focus on leadership and character development and feel this will be a great step forward in the history of St. John's Military School.

The Commandant will be establishing new leadership courses to complement the present officer candidate course. There will be a Squad Leaders' school and First Sergeants' school to prepare our cadet leaders for their responsibilities at these levels. Additionally, there will be a far more productive intramural and physical fitness program conducted under the direction of the Commandant. I feel it is important that we insure our cadets are taught the values of physical fitness as well as the importance of character and leadership. Physical

fitness will be continual and integrated into all the Corps continues to do.

In keeping with the above approach, I have carefully studied our competitive varsity athletic program. St. John's is by design a small school and we will remain so. We cannot, nor should we, attempt to field athletic teams in every sport. After careful review, we have decided to field varsity level high school teams in football, basketball, wrestling, tennis and golf.

I realize that losing soccer or baseball may disappoint some, but we must be realistic as we spend our resources. We must insure that we don't spread ourselves so thin that we can never field competitive teams and this was the case with fielding both soccer and football simultaneously. We do not have a home baseball field and had to rent a field from the City to host home games. This required us to travel to all games and prevented the Corps from attending if they desired. We will insure that soccer and softball are a major part of our intramural experience, and in this manner, more boys will have an opportunity to play at a comfortable level.

Our academic program will continue to excel. This past year we introduced several college classes into our program and are working on partnerships with Kansas Wesleyan University and other local colleges. We are moving our

JROTC department and classes into new classrooms in the Stevens Center. By making this move, we will be able to have all high school classes in Vanier Academic Center and all middle school classes in Linger Hall. This will reduce the amount of movement required by cadets between buildings during the class day.

We are working on plans for building a new barracks (dorm) and increasing our scholarship endowment. We feel these two areas are important to our future and we will be providing more information on these two projects in the upcoming months.

Finally, I want to insure that everyone is aware we have set up our alumni web page. Our new alumni online community will assist our "Old boys" and supporters in keeping up with all that is happening at St. John's and with each other. This new service will allow alumni an alumni email address for life and a searchable alumni directory. To access this page, go to www.sjms.org, and then click on alumni.

St. John's Military School is a dynamic, growing school that has produced leaders for America for the past 117 years. It is our goal that the next 117 years will be even greater.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the formation of the 118th Corps on Monday, 29 August.

What's News

...farewell to our graduating seniors



Lee Baker
Littleton, CO



Jeff Billings
Frederick, CO



Travis Bostick
Cody WY



Leif Brettner
Mundelino, IL



Michael Cirillo
Monument, CO



David Cybyske
Parker, CO



Joseph Devlin
Haysville, KS



Anthony Durant
Capitol Hts., MD



Andres Elizondo
Omaha, NE



William Fabry
Bartlesville, OK



Anthony Fortino
Arvada, CO



Elias Gebremeskel
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Tyler George
Bartlesville, OK



Dillon Hasting
Eaton, CO



Rocky Krug
Lindsay, OK



Shane Meers
Cherry Hills Vil., CO



Matt Mickelson
Bartlesville, OK



Joshua Monteroso
Los Angeles, CA



Tyler Murphy
Woodland Park, CO



Wesley Negus
Brookville, KS



Robert Parekh
Glendale, CA



Devin Parker
Upper Marlboro, MD



John Rutledge
Maumelle, AR



Ryan Storck
Chanute, KS



Nathan Sutera
Thornton, CO



John Toth
Colby, KS



Joseph Voiron
Metairie, LA

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Lobertini and Matthew Ravan were awarded the D. Dale Browning Scholarships while Spencer Terry, Raymond Parker and Jesse Levin received the Horejsi Family Foundation Scholarships. Col. Al Ransom, '56, classmate of D. Dale Browning, '55 encouraged each of the recipients to prove that they were worthy of these full scholarships by demonstrating through their efforts, attitudes and leadership that the honor being bestowed on each of them was deserving.

The Military Ball Friday evening began with the traditional senior receiving line and progressed di-

rectly into the ring ceremony. Next years senior class was born with parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles as their witnesses. The dance portion of the evening was scripted by Complete Music DJ Service with old boy Steven North at the controls.

The sun shone brightly as Saturday morning dawned and the senior Eucharist was held in Armstrong Chapel. Honors paid to the Freedom Tree followed, with the laying of a wreath at the foot of the tree by Battalion Commander Nathan Sutera. From there the Corps formed two lines on Perkins Field for the senior class to

make its way into the future. Old Boy Brandon Lee, '04 returned to St. John's as the guest vocalist for the annual singing of the Alma Mater and the poignant song "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again." Commencement speaker Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, grandson of President Dwight D., stressed the importance of continuing to educate oneself and explained that there is really no substitute for hard work and setting individual goals high. Mr. Atwater's youth and his connection to a local American hero made his appearance as guest speaker an easy choice for Col. Jack Fox.

The year ended in style under the bright blue Kansas sky with the playing of *Taps*, the firing of the cannon and the dismissal of the 117th Corps forever.

Good traveling class of 2005, stay in touch and *commence* into a future bright with promise.



Message from the Commandant, LTC Tony Pino



Commencement 2005 is now history and the 117th Corps of Cadets has marched into the history books with heads held high and all in step! St.

John's with all its glorious traditions had another successful and exciting Commencement weekend. Commencing with the inspirational Flag Raising ceremony to the final Pass-in-review the Corps of Cadets performed admirably and were the recipients of numerous accolades. Some of the highlights included the change of command where C/Col. Nathan Sutera passed on the Hardy Saber to C/Maj. Hunter Lobertini and along with it the challenge of Command. Cadet Lobertini has been selected to lead the 118th Corps and will have the awesome mission of implementing a multitude of changes as St. John's begins a new era of leadership challenges.

The 118th Corps will come to life on the 29th of August 2005 and along with it a facelift that will re-establish some traditions that have somehow slipped into the shadows as well as some new avenues that will provide cadets with a more positive approach on life at St. John's. The major tradition that will be re-established is the implementation of an Honor Code. For many years the Honor Code was a way of life at St. John's, consequently its re-introduction will provide a great tool for "character development" an already strong point at this great institution.

The new disciplinary system is another tradition that for many years existed at St. John's. The Corps will be introduced to a "Merit/Demerit System" of discipline. The main thrust of this system is to reward cadets who do subscribe and abide by rules and regulations. Privileges and promotions will be tied into Cadet department as well as academics and will recognize the efforts and accomplishments of Cadets who live by the Code of Honor and acceptable behavior. Cadets who choose to disregard rules and regulations will

suffer the appropriate consequences for their actions; however, will be provided an opportunity to recover from their indiscretions if they have the right attitude adjustment and adhere to the rules.

The privilege of supervising the Corps of Cadets during leadership training and activities outside the classroom will still rest with the Military department. The re-organization of the Commandant's staff will focus on a new approach. The new system will be that of a mentor and advisor as opposed to that of a police officer and disciplinarian.

The Military Department will have four basic but yet demanding responsibilities. The most important responsibility is the safety of Cadets. The re-organization of the Commandant's staff will provide a larger number of supervisors during non-classroom cadet activities, consequently enhancing the safety of Cadets. The remaining three major responsibilities are the leadership training, accountability and discipline of the Corps. The leadership training will incorporate leadership seminars and instruction starting at

the Squad Leader level and progressing to a 1SG school and culminating with an intensive Officer School. The Officer School will focus on counseling techniques, styles of leadership and a more positive approach on training young cadets.

The titles for the new organization are Battalion Leadership Advisors (BLA's) and Company Leadership Advisors (CLA's). Additionally there will be some part-time staff members that will work the midnight shift. These staff members will be Training and Control Officers (TAC's). BLA's will have the primary responsibility to insure that the CLA's are fulfilling their mission as well as to provide mentorship to cadet leaders. The CLA's have the awesome task of providing guidance, training and mentorship to a specific Company. All in all, the challenge of being mentors and advisors to young Cadets is an awesome responsibility but a most rewarding one!

School Year 2005-2006 will have many changes but it will be exciting and rewarding!!!

The Academic Side

Message from the Academic Dean, Devon Walter



"The 117th Corps is dismissed forever" was the final command given to end the year with an enjoyable commencement ceremony.

Thus begins the reflection of a year of change and preparation for the 118th Corps.

As I prepare for summer school and the fall semester, I find myself looking back on the year to help improve areas that may need attention or change. There will be some changes in the academic area and I will inform you of those prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

During this past school year I have had parents indicate they were told "students were not allowed to fail". I want to address this by saying we give every opportunity for academic success by maintaining small classes, tutorials before and after school, in addition to night study hall in the barracks. When we see that a cadet may be experiencing problems, we schedule a "team meeting" to include the student, his teachers, military advisors, academic dean, chaplain, and counselor. During these meetings we can compare and discuss what works and doesn't work with a certain student. We compare grades, attitudes and even if the cadet works better in the morning or afternoon. Often these meetings shed light on an area that one or more faculty or staff is missing that may assist this student in his education. On occasion there is a cadet who does not wish to work to his potential, but we find that with time and persistence, we are able to help him enjoy success at SJMS. This may take more than one semester to achieve, dependent upon his attitude, but rest assured,

we continue to work with these students.

Our school is required to meet Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) standards as is any state or nationally accredited school. Your cadet may find St. John's Military School to be more difficult than the school they previously attended, because our curriculum exceeds KSDE standards and will continue to do so. At the same time we will always see to it that our cadets experience the small classrooms and adequate tutorial time to make their experience a positive one that many public schools cannot accommodate.

I enjoyed visiting with many "Old boys" during the commencement weekend. One concern that some of these former cadets had was that we were refusing to take many of the "second chance" students. I agree that our admission policy has certainly become more strict, but for the better. There are a small percentage of applicants that we are not staffed with the appropriate personnel to help, and it is not fair to their families to give them false hope. All applications are reviewed by a team of seven school officials prior to acceptance and occasionally a one-on-one interview with the cadet and his parents. Our admissions policies are designed in the best interest of the students, parents and school to be successful.

I would like to thank all parents and families for your participation in the Commencement activities. All communication from you assists us in making the educational process an even better experience for your cadet.

I look forward to continuing to work with each of you. I am excited for the fall semester and invite you to keep in contact with me and my staff through the summer by phone, email and newsletters. Have a great summer.

Jumping In, by Father Ron Longero



Having completed my first year at St. John's I have made an observation. It goes something like this. A cadet will come to

SJMS for some reason. The reason doesn't really matter. What does seem to matter is that many come with a willingness level on a continuum ranging from perhaps a begrudging willingness to an outright defiance. (There are of course those who come because they just want to, however I think that is more the exception.)

Depending on where the cadet fits on the continuum there is a tendency for them to resist the St. John's program. In the beginning the resistance comes during "new boy" training. A cadet may make the drill instructors life difficult. They may try to resist the new military ways of doing things and following orders. They may try to run away (although it is an exception). They may refuse to pay attention in the classroom or do homework. They may even intentionally try to get into trouble or force the system to send them home.

If the cadet makes the necessary adaptation to complete "new boy" he then has a new challenge to take on. That is entering a company and trying to become one of the guys. The resistance to the SJMS program takes some different turns but some of the above-mentioned struggle may continue. However, being faced with the prospect of rejection or acceptance by their new peers cadets will do other things that bring them into conflict with the system and with what they know they are supposed to be doing.

In truth the transition to a military school is a difficult one to make for a free spirited young man used to doing pretty much what he wants. He is forced to leave an environment of family and friends (regardless of the level of family strife or conflict it's still more comfortable there than here initially). He moves into a milieu where he is required to develop new habits and even new values. When he arrives he is given a cadet handbook that

defines for him what a "good" cadet is and does. In a sense it provides a guide for what the nature of a cadet is.

When a cadet spends much of his energy refusing to accept his situation and the program he has tremendous difficulties. He helps create his own misery and generally spends a lot of time standing by the commandant's 105mm howitzer shell getting extra military instruction.

Spending time with and observing cadets with this kind of internal turmoil has given me pause for reflection. I wondered, how might their life be better without such conflict? An answer came recently while in Colorado fishing. Yes, fishing.

One day I was in a lake with my waders on fishing. With me, sleeping on the bank was my 6-month-old Labrador Retriever, Pete. People had been telling me that it might be hard fishing with Pete because he would be in the water all of the time. After all, that was the nature of Labs. However, Pete had not seemed to take to the water. The most he would do is get his paws in the water to get a drink. That day though, was to be different. I was fishing in the water about 10 yards off the shore. Pete woke up from a nice slumber to find me farther away than he wanted. The next few moments were priceless. I watched as he walked through some very shallow water to climb up on a rock protruding from the water so he could be closer. Not satisfied, Pete wanted more. I could see his anxiety grow. He turned back to shore; looked at me, then back out to the rock. I observed as Pete stared at the water, ears perked up as if he was trying to talk himself into going in. I turned my back to cast my line into the water. As I did I heard a splash. I turning around and there was Pete swimming out to me.

That day Pete learned a little more about his own nature as a Lab. It did what Labs like to do. Get in the water. He was happy as could be. Another observation came to mind. Cadets who had bought into the St. John's program and were happy with what they were doing. So...what if cadets who were resisting the water of St. John's just jumped in?

Transcript submittal requests for present or previous SJMS students require written request by fax or mail. The request must be approved by the SJMS Business Office prior to submittal of such information. If the contractual obligation with SJMS for the past or present student has not been fulfilled, no academic records will be submitted unless directed by the SJMS President or Business Office.

Official transcript copies can be sent directly to another learning institution, military recruiter, or place of business for verification of credits earned or graduation date from SJMS. Past or present students, a family member or guardian may obtain an unofficial transcript copy.

Provided the above criteria have been met, upon graduation from SJMS, graduates shall be offered one (1) free official copy of their transcript. A \$5.00 administrative fee will apply for all additional requests and payment must be received prior to release.

NOTE: This publication is now available on our website at www.sjms.org/skirmisher

If you would like to receive your edition of the *Skirmisher* in this manner, or if you no longer wish to receive a paper copy, please contact Wendy Stein at (785) 823-7231 Ext. 7730 or wendys@sjms.org.

In and Out of the Classroom

Young Kansas Artists Showcase Talent at St. John's

By Scott Wiedeman

For a day, and only a few hours at that, Banes Gymnasium rested from its usual parade of athletic talent dribbling down its courts to show off talents of another kind - becoming the artistic center of Kansas' First District high school students and their amazing array of artwork.

Beginning in early spring, planning got underway for St. John's Military School to host the 2005 Congressional Arts Competition. Sponsored by U.S. Representative Jerry Moran, the invitation was sent out to high schools within the First District of Kansas, nearly two-thirds of the state, for students to submit their best two-dimensional works. "This art competition is an opportunity to showcase the talented students in Kansas," Moran said. "The winning artwork is seen by thousands of visitors to the U.S. Capitol and by virtually all members of the U.S. House of Representatives. I continue to be impressed with our students and look forward to this year's competition."

Students competed for over \$800 in cash prizes, with the winning artwork to be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for one year, itself a representative of Kansas, alongside winning pieces from across the nation.

Entries were received from 10 schools, submitting a total of 67 works from painting to photography. Getting the arduous task of judging the show and awarding prizes, Professor Brad Anderson, artist and Art Department Chair at Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, was also impressed with the overall body of work.

This year's winning entry was Jordan Zerr from Wheatland High School in Grainfield, Kansas. Jordan's pencil drawing entitled "Lunch at Harvest," was a rendering of his father and siblings catching a quick bite to eat inside the cab

of their wheat truck, a typical scene from the harvest fields of Kansas. Jordan also received \$250.

Receiving Second Place, \$150 cash award, and home turf bragging rights was Ben Patton, 2nd year cadet and 1st year art student at St. John's Military School. Ben's winning entry was a self-portrait done in white pencil on black paper.

Other students receiving cash prizes and Judge's Merit Awards included Brandi Stegman of Great Bend High School, Desirae Johnson and Jessie Sauer of Little River High School, Jenna Neaderhiser and Lory Traugott of Smoky Valley High School, Mindy Strecker of Solomon High School, and Rebecca Woodall of Wheatland High School.

The public was invited to a reception and awards ceremony honoring the participants on Friday, April 22, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, in conjunction with Parents Weekend and the dedication of the Reagan Freedom Plaza. Congressman Moran was on hand to deliver comments, congratulations, and prizes.

Coordinating the competition and the day's events, art teacher Scott Wiedeman was quite pleased with the showcase of talent. "A walk from one end of the exhibition to the other was quite a revealing journey into the depth and diversity of these amazing artists. St. John's was truly blessed, if only for a brief moment, to provide a home for these spectacular works."

St. John's would also like to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the show's sponsors. \$800 in cash awards was made possible through the support of Schwan's Foods, Salina; Devon Walter and the Sheila Walter Memorial Art Foundation for Children, Lincoln; Mr. Mike Berkley and Bennington State Bank, Salina; Brent Wiedeman and Farmers and Merchants Bank, Colby; and Col. Jack Fox, President, St. John's Military School.

Durant Wins for his Essay

Cadet Anthony Durant became the first St. John's cadet to earn a coin from the Western Region Commander for his essay on "What the JROTC uniform means to me." The following is his essay.



To me, wearing the JROTC uniform is a passage way to a bright future in any line of work. I say this because I have discovered that in order to wear this prestigious uniform, one must possess self-control as well as mandatory self-discipline. Also, wearing this uniform means that I am at the turning point of my life.

Wearing this uniform is a huge honor for me, because people now see me as a different person. I'd rather be thought of as a young man with a high discipline level, as opposed to being stereotyped as a young man with little discipline. Wearing the JROTC uniform also represents my success. I now know that I can achieve anything I desire. This uniform can take me so many places in life that I did not think were possible.

The JROTC uniform also means responsibilities as a cadet, especially if one is placed in a position of authority. People are always watching cadet leaders, seeing how they carry themselves. This uniform gives the outside world an example of what a cadet is being taught under the control of the JROTC program.

Finally, this uniform means a lot because never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be wearing this uniform. I always thought it was not a part of me. Now I realize, however, how much this uniform signifies. I am proud of my accomplishments both as a cadet and, more importantly, as a young man who looks forward to a productive, fulfilling future. Wearing the JROTC uniform symbolizes the bright future I desire.

3rd & 4th Grading Period Blue Berets & Honor Roll

Blue Berets: Top 3 G. P. A.s per grading quarter



Will Depoliti Middle School 3rd & 4th Qtr
Ian Sitarik Middle School 3rd & 4th Qtr
Zack Tebow Middle School 3rd & 4th Qtr



Hunter Lobertini Upper School 4th Qtr
Lee Baker Upper School 4th Qtr
Hoang Nguyen Upper School 4th Qtr



Riley Dunn Upper School 3rd Qtr
Ben Roman Upper School 3rd Qtr
Spencer Terry Upper School 3rd Qtr

3rd Quarter Middle School Academic Dean's Honor Roll: Zackery Tebow, William Depoliti

3rd Quarter Middle School Honor Roll: Ian Sitarik, William Brooks, Alex Broeils, Michael Manuel and Timothy Tribble

3rd Quarter High School Academic Dean's Honor Roll: Ben Roman, Riley Dunn, Spencer Terry, Matt Ravan, Samuel Corle, Hoang Nguyen and Lee Baker

3rd Quarter High School Honor Roll: Zackaree Ebert, Ryan Storck, Rocky Krug, Hunter Lobertini, Nathan Dixon, Jared Wood, Garrett Cote, Tyler Pohl, Robert Korody, Quinn Gordon, Scott Halterbaum, Elizs Gebremeskel, Mark Davis, Trevor Vindelov, Neil Sorenson, Brandon Blake, Michael Class, Ryan Nolan, Kevin Broeils, Shane Scott, John Toth, Robert Parekh, Brian Mershon, Dillon Hasting and Jesse Levin

4th Quarter Middle School Academic Dean's Honor Roll: Zackery Tebow, William Depoliti and Ian Sitarik

4th Quarter Middle School Honor Roll: William Brooks, Travis Falconer, Alex Broeils, Michael Manuel, and Daniel Torres

4th Quarter High School Academic Dean's Honor Roll: Lee Baker, Hunter Lobertini, Hoang Nguyen and Samuel Corle

4th Quarter High School Honor Roll: Quinn Gordon, Garrett Cote, Rocky Krug, Evan Finn, Matt Ravan, Zackaree Ebert, Riley Dunn, Scott Halterbaum, Ben Roman, Mark Davis, Ryan Nolan, Tyler George, Elias Gebremeskel, Spencer Terry, Alex DiFonzo, Brandon Blake, Michael Class, John Adams, Brian Mershon, Christopher Reinertsen, Thomas Sweeney, Damien Pulscher, Ryan Storck, Jesse Leviin, Anthony Fortino, Nathan Dixon, Neil Sorensen, Joshua Monteroso, Remington Smith, Kevin Broeils, and Joseph Devlin



Top: Kansas Congressman, Jerry Moran with 2nd Place Winner and SJMS cadet, Ben Patton and his mom, Kathy. Above: Ben with his artwork.



Above: First Place Finisher, Jordan Zerr from Wheatland High School in Grainfield, Kansas shakes hands with Congressman Jerry Moran.

School News

Rutherford says Goodbye to SJMS



By Duane Rutherford

It is hard to believe that the 117th Corps of Cadets has graduated and are marching

forward to take their place in society. These young men, I have no doubt, will make their mark as they enter life's next journey. I wish all of them much success as they go forward. Our hope is that the 117th Corps will remain an integral part of St. John's Military School as Alumni and challenge each and every one of them to remain faithful to their Alma Mater. We look forward to hearing from them and celebrating their future success.

We as a school must also march forward as we prepare for the 118th Corps this fall. Many of you have already re-enrolled and we are truly excited by what we see. The staff under the guidance of our

President, Col. Fox, will continue to provide the best program possible to prepare each and every cadet with the necessary skills to help ensure success in their future endeavors. These are exciting times for St. John's Military School. As a reminder, our Summer Academic Leadership Camp will begin June 18th - July 23rd, 2005. Space is still available.

In closing, and with hesitation, I must inform you that Judy and I will be leaving St. John's effective June 30, 2005. This decision certainly was not an easy one but an opportunity has presented itself to us that could not be ignored. It has been an honor to have met so many wonderful parents and a privilege to have played a part in so many young men's lives. We are also appreciative of the support we have received from the St. John's staff, Col. Fox and the SJMS Board of Trustees. Our experience here at St. John's will be a lasting memory for us and we thank all of you for letting us be a part of it.

Another Look Back at Commencement Weekend



Battalion Commander, Nathan Sutera prepares to address the 117th Corps for the final time.



Top: Matthew Mickelson gets a congratulatory graduation hug from his mom following the ceremony. Above: Hunter Lobertini is announced as the 118th Corps Battalion Commander. Col. Pino and Nathan Sutera help

Parent Staff Organization

"For The Boys" Update

The Annual Parent Staff Organization Fall Parents Weekend "For the Boys" Auction has officially been declared a tradition.

The 2005 event is planned for Parents Weekend Friday, October 9th in the afternoon prior to "Friday Night Football". The dress will be casual and the event will feature a theme.

Please be canvassing your communities to seek donations for the auction. Letters are available (as downloadable PDF files at

www.sjms.org) that explain the auction to the businesses in your community. Donations thus far include; jewelry, vacation retreats, souvenir mugs, sculpture and reserved seating at commencement.

Everyone is encouraged to donate to the auction. Last year Old boys and parents alike sent donations from their businesses and items acquired during their travels.

Let's work together to make the 2005 "For the Boys" Auction the most profitable ever.

How the Program Works

- You can sign up for the Take Charge of Education by calling 1-800-316-6142 or by visiting Target.com
- Designate SJMS as your eligible school, and Target will donate an amount equal to one percent (1%) of your Target Visa or Target Card purchases (minus returns and sales tax) at any Target store and Target.com, and one-half percent (1/2%) of your Target Visa purchases (not including cash advances, balance transfers, and purchases of other cash equivalents, and minus returns and sales tax) everywhere else you use your Target Visa.
- Target will track purchases charged to participating accounts and will distribute the accumulated donations to schools in March and September.

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An Open Letter to

Ginny Conroy



Dear Ginny,

Thought you would like to know that your friends, family and biggest fans decided to honor all your good works for St. John's Military School by making you an Honorary Colonel. You are familiar with the program and have stood many times in the hallway in Vanier Academic Center looking at the plaques and the pictures. Your picture will join those now so that each of us that knew you, love you and are thankful for the enormous difference you made in the lives of St. John's cadets, patrons, Old boys and staff can remember you always. We will keep you alive in the hearts and minds of everyone that was privileged to know you.

God bless you Ginny. Sincerely,

The Trustees, Staff, Faculty, Parents and Old boys of St. John's Military School

It's Easy.

Use Your Card and Help SJMS



Take Charge of Education launched in April 1997, brings the Target tradition of giving to the heart of communities. Since the program was launched, Target has donated over \$120 million through fundraising dollars.

Through the Take Charge of Education program, Target will donate an amount equal to 1% of RED card (Target Visa and Target card) purchases made at Target and Target.com and 1/2% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere, to St. John's Military School PSO.

Old boys

Old boys' Class Reunions are a Great Success



By Terry Plumberg

It was truly a very special time renewing old friendships and seeing the familiar faces of our family during the Commencement festivities.

Old boys traveled as far away as the Philippines Roger Bigler '55 and Northern Ireland, George Merritt '55 to celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. The Class of the 40s were well represented also – thanks to the efforts of Fritz Schoeb, Oklahoma. Each year the "Handle Ceremony" seems to grow with alumni.

Our Online Net Community continues to thrive by Old boys and Alumni updating their information, keeping us informed of their lives and employment and helping them find their classmates and friends. Please log onto alumni.sjms.org to view our web pages

and to view our "Alum of the Month," Jack Vanier.

We are constantly helping families connect to their past by researching former Old boys that had attended here. The smile on their faces when we find their loved ones grade cards or photos are well worth our efforts. Recently, we received a letter from Luling, LA., which was post marked October 25, 1977 – addressed to a former graduate of SJMS. With a little investigative work, we were able to locate the alum, and hand him the lost letter from home. David Hudkins '78 was thrilled to receive the letter from his mother, whom had passed away in 2002.

If you are traveling this summer, please feel free to stop in and visit our campus. We are proud of our traditions and welcome anyone who would like a tour of our campus.

Contact us at alumni@sjms.org or call 785-823-7231 and ask for Terry Plumberg for further information.



Old friendships renewed: Fritz Schoeb, '42 and former First Lady, Liz Duckers.



Three generations of the "Clems." Standing are Allen "Cub" Clem, '42, and his grandson with statue Remy Clem, Rec- tor & Superintendent from 1936 - 1968.



David Hudkins, '78, shown with his mother while he attended SJMS.



Fred Pate, '42, stands in front of the Gordon Award, which has his name inscribed in it.

Known Old Boys who sacrificed their lives in service to their country

Robert Austin	WWII	Joe Starbuck	Vietnam
Norman Lusk	WWII	Fred Schram	Vietnam
A. Marr	WWII	Art Maynard	Desert Storm
Robert Young	Korea	Michael Scarborough	Iraqi Freedom

If you know of any Old Boy who was killed in action, please let us know. Contact: terryp@sjms.org

SJMS Bulletin Board

Wish List

St. John's Military School would like to humbly request the donation of, or help with purchasing the following items:

\$	50.00 or under
\$\$	50.01 - 100.00
\$\$\$	100.01 - 500.00
\$\$\$\$	500.01 - 1,000.00
\$\$\$\$\$	1,000.01 and up

Classroom/Office Supplies

10 Eight Foot Folding Tables	\$\$	Equipment	\$\$\$
6 Receptionist Chairs	\$\$\$	Softball Equipment	\$\$\$
1 Projector	\$\$\$\$\$	Weight Room Equipment	\$\$\$
1 Digital Copy Machine	\$\$\$\$\$	Soccer Balls	\$
Library Chairs	\$\$\$\$\$	2 Canoes	\$\$\$
Classroom Chairs	\$\$\$\$\$		
New Desk/Work Area	\$\$\$\$\$		

Electronics – Hardware

PlayStation II Video Games	\$
1 Combination VCR/DVD Player	\$\$\$
1 Notebook Computer	\$\$\$\$
Bar Code Scanner and Cash Register	\$\$\$\$\$
New HS Computer Lab	\$\$\$\$\$
Small Laser Printers	\$\$\$\$\$
Annual Laptop Lease Fee	\$\$\$\$\$
5 New Computers and Monitors	\$\$\$\$\$

Educational Materials

3 Audio Books (CD or cassette)	\$\$
Incubation Chamber Oven	\$\$\$

Sporting Equipment

Stop Watches	\$
Volleyball Nets & Volleyballs	\$\$
Basketballs	\$\$

Music

Music for Marching Band	\$\$\$
10 Manhasset Music Stands	\$\$\$
1 Saxophone	\$\$\$\$\$
1 Trombone	\$\$\$\$\$

Other

Bulletin Boards (72" x 36")	\$\$
1 for each Barracks	
Fence	\$\$\$\$
Partitioned Storage	\$\$\$\$\$
for Basement of Linger Hall	
Lift Gate for Truck	\$\$\$\$\$
Auto Scrubber	\$\$\$\$\$
for New Gym Floor	
Stationary Sound System	\$\$\$\$\$
for Gymnasium	\$\$\$ Scuba

Commencement Weekend Pictures are Ready for Viewing & Ordering

Commencement Weekend photos are available online.

It's so simple to order:

- Go to: www.previewgallery.com/monarchportraits/sjgrad
- Click on the following link to view your photos: **Formal (Military Ball) HS Grad 8th Grad**
- Find your cadet's photographs (*there may be a couple pages of portraits you will need to view in order to find your cadet's photo*).
- View the photographs
- Follow the directions for ordering directly on line.

For questions or concerns, please contact Bill Roenne, owner of Monarch Photography at bill@monarchportraits.com or (785) 823-6077

Special Thanks to Browning & Soule

Recently two of our Old boys, D. Dale Browning, Class of '55, and Tim Soule, Class of '66, stepped forward and assisted St. John's Military School with unprogramed requirements.

Dale Browning was aware that we were initiating a program to start placing the faculty and staff back into military uniform. This would require the school to provide an initial uniform allowance for the faculty and staff members which the current operational budget was insufficient to cover. Mr. Browning has provided significant funding for the startup of this program and approximately 15 members of the staff and faculty have volunteered to return to the military uniform at the beginning of the 2005 fall semester. We believe this will signal a major step in achieving a more military feel to the campus and provide for increased unity between the faculty and military staff.

Mr. Tim Soule became aware of the Commandant's initiative to upgrade our intramural program. Upon hearing of this requirement, Mr. Soule donated the funds to construct two volleyball courts and also provide new athletic equipment for our intramural program. Mr. Soule also donated some much needed teleconferencing equipment which will be put to good use.

These two Old boys continue to demonstrate their loyalty to SJMS and their support of our cadets. They both also serve as active members of our Board of Trustees. We salute them.

Spring 2005

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Back Page Sports



Go for a Thousand

SJMS Running Program promotes physical fitness

By Jack Fox

This past year we initiated a running program at SJMS called "Go for a Thousand". This program is open to all cadets as well as the staff and faculty. The program was developed to encourage physical fitness and requires the participant to keep a running log. Levels of accomplishment were set at 25 miles, 50 miles, 100 miles, etc. A tee shirt designating the level

achieved is given to each individual as they reach that level.

I have received several inquiries from parents asking if they could participate. I think this would be a great idea; however, we would have to charge for the shirts and the postage for shipping to those off campus who reach their reward miles.

If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me.

Cadets Discover that, Yes, the Water Really is that Blue



Cantrell Demski Krug
above right
Nolan Pulscher

By Scott Wiedeman

Several St. John's Military School cadets have completed various SCUBA Certifications. Training was coordinated by Jeff Kelsey, diving instructor of Pro Ski & Scuba of Wichita, KS. SJMS Sponsor was Scott Wiedeman.

Nicholas Cantrell, Ryan Nolan, and Damien Pulscher have completed their **Basic Open Water Certification**. They were responsible for reading all course materials and completing all testing with 100%. They then completed pool training sessions, having to demonstrate proficiency in a series of Scuba skills related to equipment assembly, underwater breathing and swimming, including safety techniques and problem-solving procedures.

Open Water certification requires the cadets to demonstrate the same skills in an open-water environment. Cantrell and Nolan completed their certification in Cozumel, Mexico, on March 21,



Nicholas Cantrell Scuba diving in Cozumel, Mexico.

2005, and Pulscher completed his training at Beaver Lake, Arkansas on May 8, 2005.

Nicholas Cantrell and Robert Demski have completed their **Advanced Open Water Certification**, completing bookwork and testing pertaining to five SCUBA Adventure Dives, including Deep Diving, Night Diving, Underwater Navigation, Boat Diving, and Drift Diving. Cadets then completed these dives March 20-27, at Cozumel, Mexico.

Dive Specialty Certifications include more concentrated diving and training as it pertains to a specific area of Scuba Diving.

Cadets also earning Specialty Certifications include **Nicholas Cantrell** - Boat, Deep, Dry Suit, Night, and DPV (Diver Propulsion Vehicle); **Rocky Krug** - Boat, Deep, Drift, Night, and Underwater Navigation; and **Damien Pulscher** - Dry Suit.

Durant Signs with Butler

from The Salina Journal

Anthony Durant, who left St. John's Military School with the school's single-season scoring record, has signed to play basketball next year at Butler Community College in El Dorado.

"It was just the environment, the people and coach (Randy) Smithson is a great coach," said Durant. "He gives 100 percent to his players and I felt comfortable there."

Durant, averaged 27.7 points and 13.7 rebounds a game as a senior. Coach Smithson said, "To get him (Durant) this late in the recruiting season is great," of all the Kansas players out there, I felt Anthony was the best. He's 6'7" and I don't think he's done growing."

Smithson said he plans to use Durant as a small forward. "We want him to be able to play small forward at the Division I level and we're going to teach him."



Anthony Durant was a stand-out basketball player for the 2005 season. He was atop the Kansas Preps Weekly state-wide statistic charts in both scoring and rebounding, as he helped St. John's become a team to be reckoned with.

Parker Campin' Out

from The Salina Journal

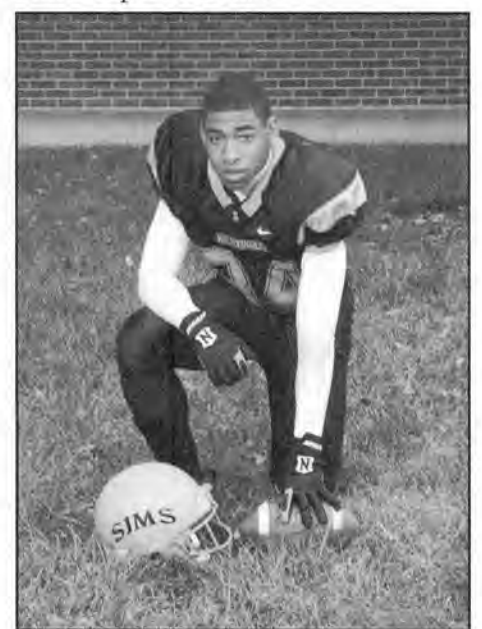
St. John's junior, Ray Parker recently took part in the NIKE training camp on the Kansas State University campus, one of 12 such camps being conducted this spring across the nation.

Parker has aspirations of playing football at the NCAA Division I level after graduating from high school in May 2006. He had his skills put to the test under the scrutinizing eyes of dozens of college coaches in attendance.

The NIKE camp was one of several Parker has attended in recent months. "The NIKE camp was a totally different feeling than the other camps," Parker said. "It was even more awesome than the all-American camp in San Antonio."

Parker, a 5'8", 188-pound tailback, became St. John's first running back to rush for more than 1,000 yards last season. Parker said he hopes to make visits this fall to Colorado

State, Kansas State, Michigan and Illinois, though he considers K-State at the top of his list.



Junior, Ray Parker became the first SJMS running back to rush for more than 1,000 yards last season.