



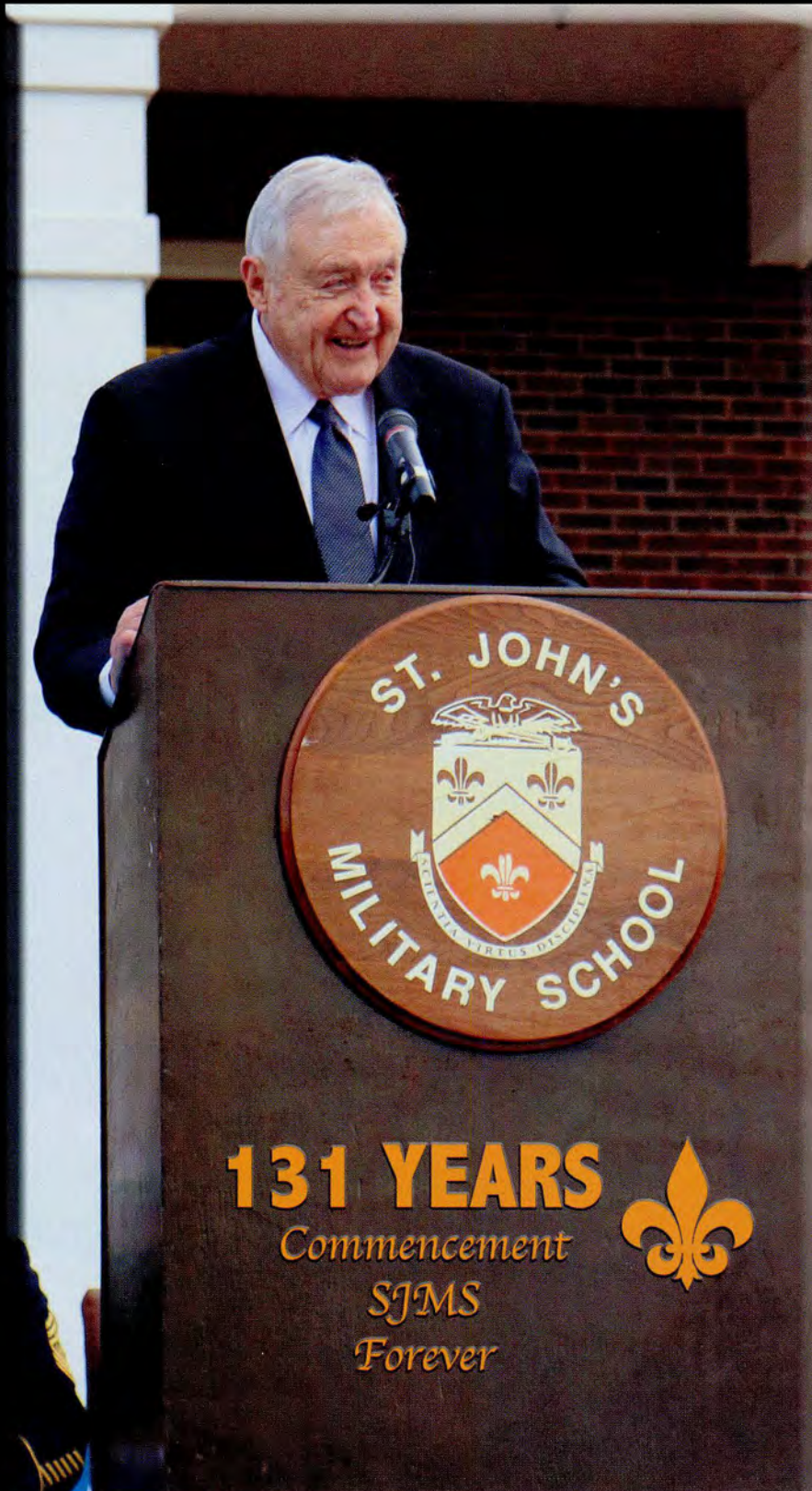
St. John's Military School

The

Spring 2019

Skirmisher

Magazine



131 YEARS

Commencement

SJMS

Forever





This, the final issue of the Skirmisher Magazine, was produced with a heavy heart. Until we meet again...SJMS Forever!

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Front Cover - D. Dale Browning speaking at Commencement.

Photo by Mike Pappas

On Back - "A strange thing"
Two Old Boys meet

father & son *The SJMS Legacy*

Mike Pappas



It all started with a very simple question: "Teresa and I are thinking about attending the St. John's Commencement this year. If we do, would you folks like me to shoot it?" Because of this simple question to which I quickly re-

plied, "Yes", the final St. John's Commencement was captured in photographic splendor due to the amazing talent of Mike Pappas, father of Old Boy Miles Pappas. As I was opening the many folders of photos, my heart was full. Not only did Pappas capture the essence of St. John's, but he was happy to do it. My comment in an email to Mike was, "What a labor of love you have given the St. John's family." His response was, "SJMS saved my son Miles' life." The 2019 Sound-Off will have the photos Mike shot during Commencement week-end. When asked about his work life, Mike responded, "I am self-employed in the broadcast industry. My business partner and I, along with our private investor group, own a small business that builds processing equipment for radio and television stations. While traveling worldwide and talking to our customers, I always carry my camera gear with me. Photography is a hobby of mine which has taken on a life of its own. I started taking pictures in high school in the early 70's and shot *medium format* film for more than 40 years until all of the film went away. Eventually, I moved to digital. I typically only shoot things that interest me. Obviously, I loved shooting at SJMS for the two years my son Miles was attending."

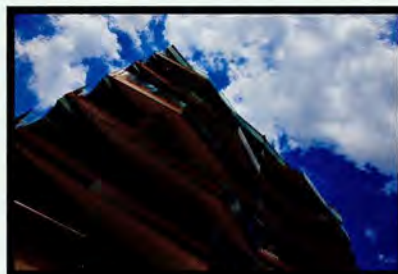
&

Miles Pappas



Miles Pappas graduated from St. John's in May of 2016. When asked what he gained from his experience as a St. John's Cadet, Miles responded, "It gave me insight on how to take care of myself and watch out for others." His appointment to the Citadel was a source of pride

for his mom and dad; however, Miles had another idea. Miles spoke to his dad about college and wondered if it would be okay to attend Colorado State University instead. His dad countered with a deal: he offered to pay the total cost of attending the Citadel, or Miles could attend Colorado State University and find a way to pay for it. Miles wisely chose the Citadel. During his freshman year, 'knob' Pappas felt the need to get some moral support from Mark 'Gunny' Giles, the Deputy Commandant at St. John's. Mark said of Miles, "He was questioning his choice and I simply told him to hang in there and stay strong." Three years later, Miles has finished his junior year and landed a summer job with Electronics Research Inc. installing radio and TV antennas on broadcast station towers across the country. His plans after graduation are unsure and his only requirements for employment are "benefits and a paycheck." Good Luck, Miles. Way to Go!



Photos from Mike's recent trip to Berlin! *Stunning!*



the
SENIOR
CLASS OF 2019



The last class to graduate from St. John's Military School distinguished themselves as leaders, scholars, and brothers. The Battalion Staff members, all seniors except for junior S2 Adrian Cabildo Arias, and the S3 SGM McCale Bladzik, bound together and led by example. The seniors combined years as SJMS Cadets totaled more than 50 years. They gathered here on the front porch of the Vanier Academic Center before moving to the Browning Parade Field for the graduation processional.



front row: Andres Ayala, Parker Diehl and Christopher Harper Martin. second row: Joshua Jeffries, Philip Tabor, James Evans, Ethan Broome, Alexander Neroni, Robert Conde, Kenneth Golden, William Kaczor, Daniel Bright, Christopher Bergman, Blake Wedelstedt and Kecheng Qian.

Happy Trails!



Andres Ayala
El Paso, TX
Son of
Ana Offutt &
Mark Offutt



Christopher Bergman
Chicago, IL
Son of
Jeffrey Bergman &
Tasha Bergman



Daniel Bright
Scottsdale, AZ
Son of
Stanley Bright &
Stephanie Bright



Ethan Broome
San Anselmo, CA
Son of
David Broome &
Tracey Broome



Robert Conde-Reed
Wichita, KS
Son of
Brenda Reed



Parker Diehl
Holcomb, KS
Son of
Chelsee Villatoro &
Francisco Villatoro



James Evans
Sour Lake, TX
Son of
Lashon Proctor &
LaSandra Williams



Kenneth Golden
Katy, TX
Guardians
Marco Lazar &
Amy Luedemann



Joshua Jeffries
St. Louis, MO
Son of
Loveless Evans &
Vielia Jeffries-Evans



William Kaczor
Los Angeles, CA
Son of
Christopher Kaczor &
Jennifer Kaczor



Christopher Martin
San Anselmo, CA
Son of
Christopher Martin &
Chloe Martin



Alexander Neroni
Georgetown, SC
Son of
Frederick Neron &
Tatiana Neroni



Kecheng Qian
Qidong China
Son of
Jianhua Qian &
Li Shen



Philip Tabor
Colorado Springs, CO
Son of
Gregory Tabor &
Lenora Tabor



Blake Wedelstedt
Leawood, KS
Son of
Vince Wedelstedt &
Gina Wedelstedt

Membership in the elite Blue Beret Club represents the top grade earners for each quarter.

3rd Quarter



Sean Lu Lingyin Zhang Jason Udofia

Blue Beret



4th Quarter



Sean Lu Xiyuan Feng Lingyin Zhang

Dean's Honor Roll - 3rd Quarter



Sunkit Tsui Hayden Knauss Chris Bergman Adrian Cabildo Blake Weldelstedt Philip Tabor XiYuan Feng Daisun Wagner Nicholas Bergman Nicholas Jarman



Nicholas Rosenthal Brayden Fisch Austin Slaybaugh Yuyang Zuo Gia Bui Maxwell Dawson Dominic Holthaus Yiqui Song Parker Diehl Harper Martin

Honor Roll - 3rd Quarter



Bradley Berutich Chase Weis Andres Ayala Jared Douthit Alexander Neroni David Kapustein Ken Golden Benjamin Jung Holden Smart



Robert Conde-Reed Daniel Bright Mitchell Miera Jon-Michael Frazier Jake Delaney John Latenser Kevin Kerman Ethan Broome Aiden Smith



Bryan Flores Vladislav Banuh Deven Brown James Evans Kevin Dowling

Dean's Honor Roll - 4th Quarter



Daisun Wagner Jason Udofia Parker Diehl Sunkit Tsui Maxwell Dawson Yiqui Song Hayden Knauss David Kapustein



Gia Bui Chris Bergman Jon-Michael Frazier Bradley Berutich Alexander Neroni Nicholas Bergman

Honor Roll - 4th Quarter



Jared Douthit Blake Wedelstedt Nicholas Rosenthal Austin Slaybaugh Adrian Cabildo Arias John Latenser Leo DeMeyer Yuyang Zuo Bryan Flores Robert Conde-Reed Dawson Odegard



Nicholas Jarman Chase Weis Dominic Holthaus Brayden Fisch Philip Tabor Daniel Bright Alexander Schmidt Benjamin Jung Aiden Smith Andres Ayala Mitchell Miera

3rd Quarter



Jacob Delay Magnus Velez Alexander Fray

Blue Beret

Middle School



4th Quarter



Magnus Velez Jacob Delay Diego Baca

Honor Roll - 3rd Quarter



Kyle Rada Eliazar Leybas Chung Huang Jack Lord Aleksei Stepanov

Honor Roll - 4th Quarter



Aleksei Stepanov Chung Huang

Old Boys *The heart of St. John's*

"I would like to personally thank every one of you for returning to St. John's this weekend. The St. John's Military School Historical Museum Board of Directors also shares the same appreciation. Although I only have a personal history of 32 years with SJMS, I know as an Old Boy, we are all equal in sharing the 131 years of St. John's history. During Commencement weekend, I met many Old Boys for the first time. Many of those introductions began with a firm handshake and ended in an emotional hug. We all came to Salina to be part of the final Commencement, but also to come together to assure each other that this was not a farewell to the history and brotherhood of St. John's Military School. Make plans to stay connected to your fellow Old Boys, staff and SJMS friends so we can keep the legacy alive."

Thank you, Mike Wagner, President, Old Boy Association



from left: James Watson, Ryan Munich, Gabe Boyle, Henry Kessler, William Heath (hidden) and Mike Wagner.



from left: Matt Beynon, Tom Wilson, Eli Harmon, Bryce Kisner, Alex Fabian, Jonathan Luttwak, and Ian Brands

preserving the Legacy



“In the week now that has passed, I finally had the chance to view photos. What should have been cold brass was warm with nostalgia. Thousands of Old Boys have placed their hands on this, opening the door to what would be the rest of their lives. In the few seconds I held the handle, a sensation of sadness, glory, and hope ran through me all at the same time. I never thought that nearly 30 years ago I’d be doing what I’m doing today, but right now at least, I can say I’m serving my purpose. SJMS Forever!!!”

Tim Piowaty, Old Boy Association Board Member



Colin Fisher looks over Kent Tretheway’s shoulder during the ceremony.



Richy Wallace, Kyle Stuart and Omar Bladeras stand together.



Mark Giles watches as David Elk takes his turn with the handle.



from left: Patrick McKnight, Jeff Ewert, David Godin, Thomas Zachary, Clark Landman, George Miklos, Tim Piowaty and Christopher Muhr.

“F” Troop Epic in Proportion

On the morning of May 10, 2019, over 350 Old Boys gathered on the lawn south of Armstrong Chapel to form the largest “F” Troop in St. John’s history. Knowing their beloved Alma Mater was closing, Old Boys from near and far made the journey ‘home.’ “F” Troop formed again by Linger Hall May 11, 2019, on the Browning Parade Field to witness the Final Pass-in-Review of the 131st Corps of Cadets. Thomas Zachary commanded the troop and Kevin Kerns was the guidon bearer.



photos by Terry Plumberg



Pappas



Howard Haythorn

Old Boy Class of 1945

Howard Haythorn visited the St. John's campus in the fall of 2018. "Whenever I go through Salina, I like to see all the improvements to the physical plant and visit my friend Terry Plumberg who showed me around. During his last visit, Howard said, "It is a good feeling that this school is still growing strong and upholding the fine traditions." He agreed to be interviewed for an article in the Skirmisher and his message and story is an inspiration from the history books of St. John's.



Howard by his class composite in the hallway of Vanier.

Howard Haythorn graduated with honors from St. John's in 1945. His honors included winning the Gordon Prize, considered by some to be the most prestigious award given at St. John's. His name is etched in the marble stone plaque located on the wall by the front entrance of the Vanier Academic Center. Haythorn visited the St. John's campus regularly during his travels and like many Old Boys had a special relationship with long-time alumni director, Terry Plumberg. Plumberg remembers Haythorn's visit with great fondness: "Howard always had such a curiosity about the state of St. John's and the welfare of the current Cadets. It was always a pleasure to give him a tour of campus and reconnect."

During his time at St. John's, he served as Battalion Commander his second year in attendance...a feat never before accomplished. His goal as Commander was to "treat all Cadets how he wanted to be treated." His fondest memory of his time at St. John's occurred when "the distinguished COL Remy Clem, a man and mentor who through example and training molded men of honor, congratulated me on my accomplishments at St. John's. This meant the world to me."

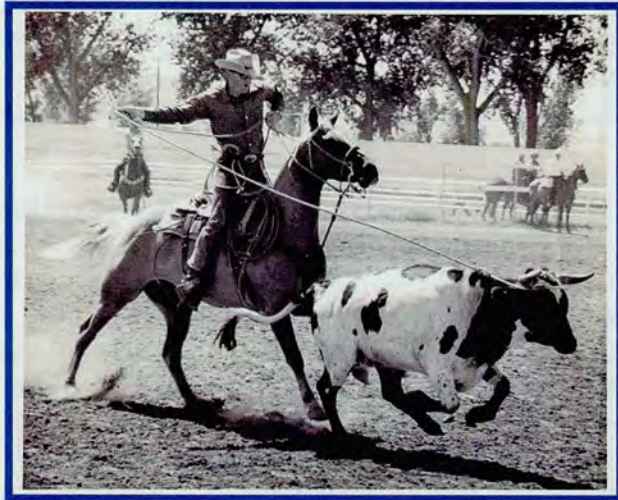
Howard believes the education he received at St. John's complemented what he learned from his family: respect, discipline, hard work, and love of country. He feels that "today's generation needs more of all of the above, because life with young adults should start with respect. This generation would benefit from past generations and the training given at St. John's."

Haythorn's advice to future Cadets is "to enjoy what you do and give 100 percent." He reflects that "the teaching of discipline, hard work, and honesty has stayed with me throughout my lifetime; the Korean War, the ups and downs of ranch life, and the life-long friendships built at St. John's gave me the strength to make it through."

Through the efforts of then St. John's President COL Remy Clem and former Governor of Kansas Andrew Schoepel, Haythorn received an appointment to the United States Academy at West Point. He turned down the appointment because he was needed at home on the ranch. "I was more interested in getting home to the ranch than I was in school."

Howard's life on the Haythorn Ranch, known for its prized Herefords and horses, was as successful as his time at St. John's. Howard is an inductee in the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, and he was given the 1983 Trail Boss Award from Nebraska Land Days in North Platte. Haythorn is a gold card member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and he, his father, and

The Broken Trail, a TV mini-series starring Robert Duval, recounts the story of Howard's grandfather's journey.



Howard, the Cowboy, displaying his roping skills.

his grandfather have all been inducted in the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame. When asked about a cowboy's most important characteristics, he replied, "Family, honesty, hard work, love of animals and respect of the land." In an article about Howard, Rodeo News reported, "Harry Haythornthwaite, Howard's grandfather, gathered 500 head of horses from Burns, Oregon, in the late 1800s and railed them to Nebraska. Howard has continued the tradition of raising, training, and selling quarter horses on the approximately 20,000-acre ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills."

Haythorn was honored by St. John's for distinguished service and his photo and a description of his accomplishments can be found in Linger Hall. When asked what being honored

at St. John's meant to him, he said, "The Distinguished Service Award is all important for different reasons. Because no Cadet had previously been Battalion Commander after attending only one year, this opportunity gave me the chance to accomplish my goals."

Howard was involved in many activities while a Cadet and earned various track, football, and basketball awards. After graduation from St. John's, his hard work and determination continued. He was named to the Cowboy Hall of Fame, and his ranch won the distinguished Remuda Award, which recognizes outstanding ranches for their efforts in raising American Quarter Horses. This lifetime of achievement in both his youth and as an adult combined to make for a successful and fulfilling life. Haythorn is a man who cherishes his roots and believes his time at St. John's represents an important influence in shaping the man he is today. His alma mater will always hold a special place in his heart. The next time Howard travels through Salina, hopefully the St. John's Military School Historical Museum will be open for business so he can reconnect with other Old Boys and share memories of St. John's.



from left: Clark Landman, Thomas Zachary, Troy Tramba, Susie Harris and David Godin.

Beloved retired teacher **Susie Harris**

*Commencement weekend activities included many events for the multitudes of Old Boys returning. One such activity gave the alumni a chance to re-connect with treasured staff members. Susie Harris was the 'hit of the ball.' Cadets clamored for her attention and begged her to tell them they were her favorite. Harris spent many hours reminiscing with Cadets, imploring them to stay and fill her in on their lives. Three of those Cadets explain why **she** was **their** favorite!!*

David Godin, Class of 1994

"Mrs. Harris was my English teacher so 'me no writ-ed so good.' There is no way for me to come up with a single story that can touch how much Mrs. Harris has affected my life as a Cadet and the years after. As a teacher, she was able to take rowdy military school boys and tune us in like the dog whisperer. She did it all without ever raising her voice! Mrs. Harris would simply give you a finger gesture to come here and charm you into doing what she wanted. She was able to build relationships with Cadets that made them feel she had a real love and interest in them. I went to St. John's from the sixth grade through graduation. Being away from home all those years was hard.

Having a teacher like Mrs. Harris was priceless. God help you if you were a Cadet who got out of line in her class and went too far because the corps ran the corps and the Cadets who adored her would find you and sort you out fast. The higher ranking Cadets would come down on you like a ton of bricks at the defense of Mrs. Harris. We all loved her. That was the trick of Mrs. Harris. We all thought she was so amazing because she was a teacher who went the extra distance by giving love to her students in a way that was real. Seeing her last month made me realize the real truth. She was somehow able to put *hundreds* of Cadets under her spell. WE ALL LOVED HER. As her best looking and most favorite student of all time, plus the highest ranking officer in her class, I felt an extra weight on my shoulders. I was not a great student...I was supposed to set the example, but I had a weird fetish to read all of the thousands of *National Geographic* magazines she had in her classroom instead of doing the assignment for the day. She always caught me and never blew her stack (she should have).

My senior year she arranged a date for me to take to an SJMS dance. This girl was a knockout and the star of Salina High School's play *Little Shop of Horrors*. I hadn't even been in a classroom with girls since elementary school and I was awkward as heck. Harris also took me out to get buffalo pizza because I won some bet. She introduced me to improvised acting with Troy Tramba. One of the fondest memories of my life was going to other high schools and acting out crazy five-minute plays we made up on the spot. She didn't care what the subject was as long as it was creative. Since my graduation, every time I went through Salina I would stop at her house and we would talk until dawn...literally dawn...then I would have to drive two more days to the East Coast. The lack of sleep almost killed me, but I wouldn't trade these visits for the world. When I moved my family back to Detroit after living in Colorado for fifteen years, we stopped in Salina and she showed up with presents for my each of my kids. She remembers hundreds of stories of me in perfect detail!

Now that I have what I always wanted in life, a happy family of my own, it makes me realize how lucky I was to have attended St. John's and for Mrs. Harris to realize I was a good guy all along. I feel blessed just to know her. She liked me as I was and I could tell it was real. It was the foundation which helped me grow into the man I am today. If Mrs. Harris liked me, then I must be OK."

Isaac Magdaleno, Class of 1992

"First of all, it is funny to hear that Mr. Godin thinks he was Mrs. Harris' favorite Cadet. We all know I was her favorite Cadet. She made us all feel very special because that's how special of a woman she is. I honestly believe that all of us in some way were her favorite and, of course, she was all our favorite.

There were several other people at St. John's who impacted my life, but Mrs. Harris did it in a different way. Mrs. Harris simply made me feel like a normal high school kid. For those who knew me at St. John's, they knew I was a very motivated, driven, and by-the-book Cadet. My focus was academics and the Cadets under my command. I tried my best to lead by example and be the mother and father figure these kids did not have while they attended St. John's. For me, there was no time for girlfriends or weakness.

Mrs. Harris was able to see through all that and bring out the real Isaac, not Captain Magdaleno. Through her classes of drama and forensics, I developed the personality I have today. She saw something in me that nobody else did. She saw a talent I never knew I possessed. She forced me to act chaotic in *The Blues Brothers* skit, she forced me to be passionate and emotional in the *Born on the Fourth*

of July skit, and she taught me how to reach my inner soul and bring out the gifts that God gave me. Some of those gifts were compassion, sensitivity, humor, and love just to name a few.

I will never be able to thank Mrs. Harris enough for what she did for me. I only hope that through this writing she will be able to read and understand how much I love and appreciate everything she did for me as well as the other Cadets at St. John's.

I will always view her as a mother and never as a teacher. She will always hold a special place in my heart that no other woman shares, not even my mother or my Aunt Marcy."



David Dickinson, Class of 1998

"I still remember my very first day of classes at St. John's...I was so homesick and wanted nothing to do with anything St. John's. Then I walked into my first class with Mrs. Harris and my life instantly changed!

I will never forget Mrs. Harris' huge smile as she greeted me! It was so comforting and loving and set my mind at ease. I knew then and there that she and I would get along great! What I didn't know then was what a profound impact Mrs. Harris would have on my life! Throughout my three years at St. John's, Mrs. Harris was not only my English teacher, but she became a very good friend. Don't get me wrong—more than once my face became Mrs. Harris' canvas when I would fall asleep in class. Looking back on it now, I realize Mrs. Harris was trying to keep me engaged creatively. Besides, what's a little

marker on the face among friends?

All kidding aside, Mrs. Harris was always there for me when I needed someone to talk to. She understood what we went through as Cadets, and she was always willing to listen and offer sound advice whenever needed. Not to mention, she was always there when we just needed a hug!

Mrs. Harris taught me many things during my tenure at St. John's. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned was having empathy for others. Mrs. Harris taught me to always try and put myself in the other person's shoes and try to understand things from his perspective. This lesson has not only helped me in my personal life but also in my professional life. It has afforded me the opportunity to build and cultivate many strong relationships, allowing me to prog-

ress and become a vital resource within my company.

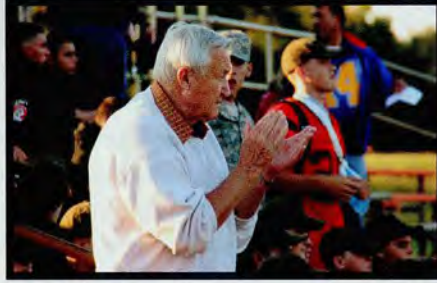
Every time I return to visit St. John's, I make it a priority to have lunch with Mrs. Harris and reminisce about the old days. I have many great memories of my time at St. John's and a good majority of them involve Mrs. Harris. She is one of the most important pillars that made up St. John's and I am blessed to have been influenced by such a wonderful and loving woman!"





D. Dale Browning

a lifetime of service to St. John's.



Dale Browning encouraging the Cadets on the playing field and visiting with his dear friend Donna Vanier.

D. Dale Browning stands alone in the history of St. John's. His association with the school began when he arrived as a young boy. He was a Cadet under the tutelage of COL Remy Clem, rector and superintendent of St. John's. His beloved teachers Russell Guernsey and Lefty Loy were a great inspiration to him and led him to achieve greatness in the classroom, the playing field, and within the Corps of Cadets. Following graduation from SJMS, he stayed in Salina and attended Kansas Wesleyan University and during this time he continued at St. John's as a counselor in the evenings and on weekends.

After graduating from Kansas Wesleyan, he joined the St. John's staff as a teacher, coach, and assistant to the Commandant. His tenure at St. John's lasted another four years at which time he moved to Chicago to accept a position at the city's largest bank in their executive training program. Additionally, he attended the University of Chicago for his graduate studies. Browning had a long career in the banking and financial-technology industry. In 1968, he was a member of an executive committee which founded the Visa credit card.

He joined the Colorado National Bank and served as its president and CEO from 1985 until 1992. In the early 1980s, he created the first national ATM network, which was sold to Visa International in 1993. After retiring from his banking career, he served as Chairman of the Board of Frontier Airlines. In the 1990s, he served as a consultant to Visa. All through his busy years as a banker, he stayed involved with

his alma mater by serving on the Board of Trustees from 1975-2019. Dale kept a close eye on the institution. He was only a phone call away and would be on campus at a moment's notice if the need arose.

Dale served as St. John's interim President twice! During his administration, the staff felt appreciated and the Cadets felt they had a friend and mentor in Dale. Often giving Cadets his personal cell phone number, he encouraged them to call him anytime.

Dale became Headmaster in 2012 and also served on the Endowment Board on and off for the last 30 years.

Dale's contribution to the school will never be matched. As he said farewell to St. John's at Commencement during his final address, his message was clear, "St. John's was a wonderful place...we were blessed to have so many wonderful and committed people on the staff and the young men who attended the school will always have a special place in our hearts. SJMS Forever!"

Thank you D. Dale...we couldn't have done it without you!

The Vanier Family

a legacy of giving.



Jack & Donna



The Vanier family's financial support and dedication to the welfare of everyone connected with St. John's is unparalleled in the school's history.

Jack and Donna Vanier carried on the work of Jack's parents John and Lesta Vanier. The Vanier Academic Building was made possible through the efforts of Jack's father John. Following the tragic fire of Vail Hall, John Vanier gathered the Board of Trustees and encouraged everyone to make a donation. Enough money was raised in that very meeting to build a suitable school house. While going through the rubble of the fire, Jack Vanier rescued the handle of the front door. This handle was placed on a piece of walnut and has been used ever since as a way to connect the Cadets of the past with every young man to graduate from St. John's, thus preserving the legacy of the school.

Donna served for many years as president of the St. John's Foundation, raising funds to enhance Cadet life. Donna had a fondness for Armstrong Chapel and the spiritual life of the Cadets. She often attended chapel services and donated flowers for the altar. Both Jack and Donna served on the St. John's Board of Trustees. Their son John and daughter Mary have also served on the board extending the Vanier commitment to the school through three generations. The state-of-the-art barracks, Jack Vanier Hall, was made possible through the Jack Vanier family. At the end of the 2019 school year, this building housed the entire Corps of Cadets. When 'JVH' was being dedicated, longtime St. John's

English teacher Susie Harris thanked Mr. Vanier for his generosity, to which he replied, "It's fun."

Many Cadets were able to continue their education at St. John's because of the many thousands of dollars the Vanier family provided in scholarship money.

The Vanier family also commissioned a Kansas artist to paint a mural depicting the history of St. John's. This mural hangs in the entrance of the Vanier Academic Building.

Jack and Donna regularly attended school functions and often spent time with the Cadets. Seldom have other benefactors spent as much time with the Cadets. During a trip to a fast food restaurant, Jack was spotted at the counter. The Cadets recognized him and started a conversation. The Cadets remarked afterward, "He's just a regular guy!"

The impact of the Vanier family's support of St. John's is immeasurable and served to prolong the life of the school they loved.

Jack and Donna are retired and live in Manhattan, Kansas.

Rifle Team

Has a great season!

“Going into another year with only one returning letterman to lead, I can honestly say I wasn’t expecting much other than rebuilding a team and winning a medal or two along the way. As it turned out, this was going to be the last rifle team ever so rebuilding was out of the question.

Under two-time letterman and Team Captain McCale Bladzick’s leadership, this young team stepped up and surpassed all expectations. Improving every week, we beat most of last year’s scores finally finishing second in the league behind a much more experienced team from Manhattan. McCale raised his average by 31 points over last year. He dominated over the junior class shooters he went up against, taking first place in every major tournament of the year. Following McCale’s leadership were first year shooters Aiden Smith, Bradley Berutich, David Kapustein, Clayton Burough, and Cameron Wolfe.



Between the five rookies, the riflemen brought home 22 medals adding to their Captain’s ten for 32 total. A first accomplishment in St. John’s shooting legacy was when McCale Bladzick and Coach Tony Blair were overall match winners in their portion of the National Rifle Association’s Junior and Open Sectionals.

I suppose everything has to come to an end some day. I honestly have to say that this year was a fitting end to my over 25 years of coaching. St. John’s forever!” Tony Blair

North Central Kansas Gallery

League Match Results

10 Jan 19	Delphos/Abilene	Loss
17 Jan 19	Wichita	Loss
24 Jan 19	Manhattan	Loss
14 Feb 19	Wichita	Win
25 Jan 18	Delphos/Abilene	Win
21 Feb 19	Wichita	Win
28 Feb 19	Manhattan	Loss
Total	3 Wins – 4 Losses	



McCale Bladzik



Clayton Burough



David Kapustein



Aiden Smith

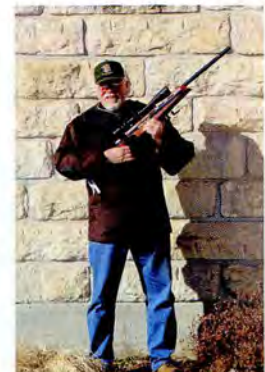


Cameron Wolfe

Awards

- Smallbore Junior 1st Place – McCale Bladzik
- Olympic Qualifier 2nd Place – Bradley Berutich
- 3rd Place – Aiden Smith
- Air Rifle Junior 1st Place – Bradley Berutich
- Olympic Qualifier 2nd Place – David Kapustein
- 3rd Place – McCale Bladzik
- NRA Junior and Open Junior Match Winner – McCale Bladzik
- Sectionals 3rd Place – Aiden Smith
- Open Match Winner – Coach Blair
- Kansas State Indoor Prone 1st Place Junior – McCale Bladzik
- Championship 2nd Place Junior – Aiden Smith
- 3rd Place Junior – Bradley Berutich
- 1st Place Expert (Open) – Coach Blair
- 1st Place Junior Team – Bladzik/Smith
- 2nd Place Junior Team – Berutich/Kapustein
- 3rd Place Junior Team – Burough/Wolfe
- 1st place Open Team - Blair/Richardson
- Kansas State Indoor 3-pos 1st Place Junior – McCale Bladzik
- Championship 2nd Place IJ – Bradley Berutich
- 3rd Place IJ – Aiden Smith
- 1st Place Junior Team – Smith/Berutich
- 2nd Place Junior Team – Bladzik/Kapustein
- 3rd Place Junior Team – Burough/Wolfe
- End of Season League Awards 1st Place Junior – McCale Bladzik
- 1st Place IJ – Aiden Smith
- 2nd Place IJ – David Kapustein
- 3rd Place IJ – Bradley Berutich
- League Champion – Coach Blair
- Most Improved – McCale Bladzik

For the second year in a row the St. John's Military School Rifle Team won the NRA's JROTC Precision Air Rifle competition in the Army service class. This was a postal competition we fired on 19 February. Just like last year, winners were not announced until a day or two before our Commencement, which is the reason for my late announcement. What is neat about this competition is that the winning team and the winning senior on the team both receive a \$250.00 check from the NRA. Unfortunately, we did not have any seniors on the team this year. Branden Rucker won it last year. This year McCale Bladzik was the top shooter in the junior class. In the sophomore class, Bradley Berutich took first followed closely by Aiden Smith and in the freshman class David Kapustein took first followed by Cameron Wolfe.

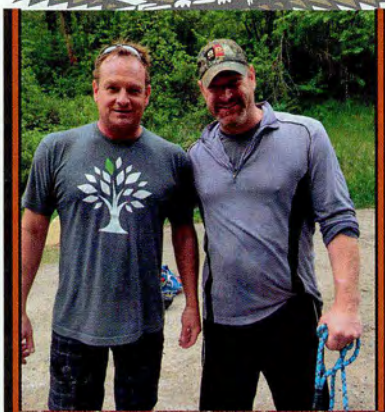


Coach Tony Blair



Stranger things!

brotherhood



St. John's Military School
Code of Honor
Honesty - Dignity - Pride

*"None can exist without the other,
nor will the absence of any be tolerated."
Major Brian Sweeney '89*

*Here's a photo of the
Honor Code - It stuck for
30 years - and of me with
the 'kid' I met tonight -
Cortland Dunn, '96. He
kept calling me 'Sir'!
Cheers, Brothers!"
Brian Sweeney*

"A strange thing happened to me this evening. I took a mountain bike ride to Mystic Lake, up in Sourdough Canyon in my hometown of Bozeman, Montana. It's a beautiful ride, and it was nice and cool that evening with a slight drizzle.

When I arrived back to the parking lot, a man and his wife had just finished a hike. We said our hello's and he proceeded to ask me about the trail, how far is it to the lake, etc? So I told him a bit about it and proceeded to ask him where they were from. They had just moved here from North Carolina, but he grew up in Denver and went to college in Missoula - played football for the Griz! He asked where I was from. I told him that I have lived here 20 years but was also from the Denver area and he inquired about my high school. When I told him I went to military school, his eyes widened and he proceeded to ask me if it was St. John's Military School in Salina, KS. Of course it was, and of course he went there too, about seven years after I graduated. When I told him my name, he about fell over and proceeded to tell his wife that I was the Cadet who wrote the "Code of Honor" that he had to recite almost every day his first year there.

Anyway, I thought it was ironic and, maybe a little serendipitous, because I had just told a friend the story of the Honor Code and the school had just celebrated its final Commencement after 131 years. Cell phones, lawyers, and the snowflake society we live in today don't allow for the military high school model, and it's tragic! Myself, and many other boys became men at that school.
- No Slack! It stuck for 30 years!

A note to the Board of Trustees:

*Thank you for your service and for your dedication to the Cadets and staff of St. John's.
Happy Trails!*

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