

# The Skirmisher

Summer 2007

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St. John's Military School





# The Skirmisher

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### The Skirmisher

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

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# Farewell to the Foxes

BY MAJ. WENDY STEIN, SJMS

**C**OL JACK & MARVINE Fox, AUS (Ret), spent precious little time at St. John's Military School, yet still managed to leave their mark. Under their administration, much has changed.

Col. Fox brought friend and former colleague Bill Wyles on board to initiate and orchestrate a capital campaign. Many new giving categories have been introduced, with the Mule-Skinner name now being assigned to all who give.

Marvine hosted wonderful

*We were sorry to lose Col. Jack Fox as our president. Our loss is New Mexico's gain, where Col. Fox will be promoted to the rank of general, and where he will have a major role in running the New Mexico National Guard. Meanwhile, the SJMS board of trustees has already started the search process to locate the next president of the school. Chairman-elect Andy England is heading up that committee. We have resolved not to proceed hastily; on the contrary, we will take as much time as necessary to identify the best possible candidate. In the meantime, we may hire an interim president to handle routine day-to-day matters. The trustees themselves will also be taking a more active role in overseeing the school's operations during this transitional period.*

**Peter L. Peterson**  
Chairman  
SJMS Board of Trustees

The cadets wear new uniforms, the faculty and staff wear Army greens, and the physical improvements include a beautiful new gym floor, along with a new barracks scheduled to welcome cadets in January of 2008.



New military staff has been added with recommendations from LTC Antonio Pino, Commandant of Cadets, to enhance the safety and security of the cadets. New faculty positions have been added at the urging of Academic Dean Devon Walter. The admissions team has been expanded and the Board of Trustees meetings have increased in intensity and frequency. The Vanier Academic Center now houses all academic classes, grades seven through twelve, and the JROTC department was relocated to the basement of the Stevens Center. Linger Hall has been transformed into the admissions department and the "Skinner" museum, housing St. John's Military School artifacts and memorabilia.

receptions in the basement of the President's home for both board members and St. John's faculty and staff. She routinely volunteered for projects that would benefit the cadets and could be seen about campus supporting and cheering on the cadets at every opportunity!

We will miss seeing the Foxes on campus, but we know in our hearts that they will always be a part of the St. John's family. We wish them well in their new home in Santa Fe, NM, sure in the knowledge that their time at St. John's was good for all associated with this military school on the plains of Kansas.

Bon Voyage!



# A letter to the Corps of Cadets

BY MAJ. WENDY STEIN, SJMS

(Written two days before the flood)

**T**HE 119<sup>TH</sup> CORPS.... dismissed forever! Those are the last official words spoken during commencement exercises.

Without actually counting, it is possible to imagine that thousands of words have been uttered since the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps was formed September 2, 2006.

Both encouraging and discouraging words were traded during the many training, teaching, mentoring and counseling sessions held each year on the St. John's campus. The words that will be chosen to be remembered will be the work of those who listened to those words.

These are the words I will

on campus matters to no one but themselves and that the path they travel is theirs alone. I would beg to differ. Each step they take is taken in step with both the cadets surrounding them and the staff and faculty that arrive on campus each day to go about the business of helping the Corps achieve their goals. We meet in the hallways, classrooms, barracks, round room, Grinder, Teardrop, parade field and the mess hall with one common goal; to make it to commencement with dignity and pride.

The campus is beautiful when the Corps is formed in early September. The campus is beautiful in the spring when flowers are planted and mulch is spread in the garden. The campus is beautiful when over 120 flags are raised on Friday morning of commencement weekend. The campus is beautiful when the Corps parades around the Teardrop with each cadet in step and marching tall. The campus is beautiful at dusk when study hall is being observed and another day of learning and observing comes to a close. The campus is beautiful when a solitary young boy climbs the stairs of the Mule-Skinner statue to polish the bronze to a beautiful finish. And, the campus is beautiful when an Old Boy arrives to bring his past back to life and to reconnect with the staff that he holds dear in his heart.

Every Corps of Cadets contributes to the history and longevity of St. John's. Some Corps leave with a sense of accomplishment because of their AFI score and other Corps leave with a feeling of regret for what they didn't accomplish. One thing for sure is that each and every Corps has proud moments; when a football play works and a touchdown is scored, when the drill team performs without dropping a rifle, when the band plays a memorable rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," when the rifle team shoots a winning score during a postal match,

(Continued on page 21)

remember. Thanks, Ma'am! Two words that were offered to me with sincerity and appreciation by young men that looked to me for patience, kindness, guidance and support. Are there any more important words to remember? I think not. As the memories of another school year fade into the past twenty-four years I've spent sharing my days with cadets, I will be able to hear those words spoken by the 119<sup>th</sup> Corps until my life comes to an end.

Cadets may feel that their time





# Flooding brings early graduation at St. John's

**W**ITH FLOODWATERS causing sewer lines to overflow in rest rooms, officials of St. John's Military

School Monday ordered an early closing of the school year; conducted an impromptu graduation ceremony and began sending its 135 cadets home.

Only a few rest rooms on the campus were usable, said Lance Werber, the school's director of facilities, and the cadets were unable to take showers.

"We can't do anything until the creeks go down," he said.

Col. Jack Fox, president of the school, said none of the rest rooms in the three dormitories could be used because of the raw sewage problem, and the decision to close the school a week early – and skip most final exams – was made for health and safety reasons.

Fox said most students had good enough grades that they don't need to take their final exams. Those who did need the final exams to pass their courses took them Monday morning.

The school's graduation ceremony, which had been set for Saturday, was instead hurriedly conducted Monday afternoon, with 13 of the school's 18 seniors participating. Few parents were in attendance.

"This is a unique graduation ceremony," Fox told the graduates, who typically receive their St. John's degrees in formal ceremonies marked with military precision. But, he added, "I promise you, gentlemen, this one will last forever."



BY TIM U  
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SALINA JOURNAL

Pete Peterson, a Salina attorney who is president of the St. John's Board of Trustees, delivered the graduation address with just 30 minutes of preparation time.

"I certainly am not prepared to be here," he said as he launched his address. "I've got some thoughts I kind of pulled out of my head, to try to leave you with words of wisdom."

Graduate Jared Wood of Black Forest, CO, was one of the few cadets who had supporters in the sparse audience. His friend, Deidra Mason, and her mother, Tammy Mason, quickly drove down from Great Bend when they learned of the graduation.

"I feel sorry for the parents not being able to see their kids," Tammy Mason said. "Graduation is such a big deal in their lives. Everybody should have somebody there."

Capt. Sam Bowman, 18, a graduate from Hockessin, DE, said he'd been "waiting four years to walk the stage." He lamented that his parents weren't there to watch as he achieved that goal.

"The only good thing is I don't have to look for a date for the senior

ball," Bowman said, referring to one of the many graduation-related events that was canceled.

Soon after the ceremony, some of the students boarded a bus chartered by the school and bound for Colorado, home to many of the cadets.

Wendy Stein, St. John's communications officer, said the school won't be deserted this week. Faculty and staff will continue to work in the Vanier Academic Center, where there is access to rest rooms. And a few cadets will remain on campus, because their travel arrangements home couldn't be changed. They will use the showers in the campus infirmary or the nearby Salvation Army.

"We are going to make sure the boys left behind are well taken care of," Stein said.



# SJMS

## Wall of Fame



**Jeff Guernsey**  
**Old Boy 1961**

Due to his parents working at St. John's, Jeff Guernsey became friends to many cadets. While growing up on the campus, he knew each cadet's name and where they were from. He saw many changes at SJMS, but always felt the changes were for the best.

Guernsey has been a Civil War reenactor for over 20 years. He also joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1966 and retired in 1986 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Guernsey also holds an Extra Class ham radio license and a 4th degree black belt in Taek Won Do, and advanced rank in five other styles.

*Advice to the Corps:*

*St. John's prepared me for life. Whatever you want to do, don't be afraid to do it for fear of failure. Keep trying. There is no such word as "can't."*



**Jack McCandless**  
**Old Boy 1942**  
**Coach/Teacher**

Jack McCandless earned his Boy Scout Eagle Badge as a member of the LaJunta Troop known as the Koshares. As part of one badge requirement, he performed authentic Indian dances in costume researched and made by him.

After graduation from SJMS in 1942, McCandless entered the Navy and served three years. He was stationed in Idaho, Oklahoma, California and the South Pacific. He served aboard the *USS Chandeleur*, a repair ship for seaplanes, and began training as a pilot before being discharged.

McCandless entered Colorado State University after his service to country, and graduated with a poultry agriculture degree.

He began working for SJMS as a teacher in the junior school and later became Commandant of Rank and Discipline.



**Tom Keil**  
**Class of 1985**

The six years at SJMS were highlighted with numerous opportunities to grow as a leader (Battalion S3), an above average student and a multisport varsity athlete. Tom Keil feels certain he would not have accomplished that elsewhere.

Keil is a graduate of Wichita State University with a degree in criminal justice and a master's in human resource management from Webster University. Currently, he is branch manager of a human resource company specializing in temporary staffing, professional placement, HR consulting, training and development and pre-employment testing and evaluation. Keil began a professional career in direct service and administration and specialized in child welfare and residential programs serving run-a-ways, homeless and troubled youth.

*Advice to the Corps:*

*The hard work you do now is great and will fulfill some of your short term goals. However, you must take steps to choose a direction you will take after you leave St. John's. The road ahead is extremely unpredictable and challenging. You must have a plan that will set you on a path of success. Your future is in your hands; plan and pursue it well.*





## Virgil "Lefty" Loy SJMS Instructor

Virgil "Lefty" Loy joined the staff of SJMS in 1952 and retired after 36 years in 1988. Loy taught social science. Through those years, he assisted in coaching several sports and was instrumental in beginning the physical fitness program.

Loy served his country (1943 – 1946) by joining the Marine Corps and was assigned with New Guinea defense units. During his tour of duty, he saw action at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa and was with the Occupation Forces in China.

Loy did his graduate work in social science at Emporia, KS, and received his master's degree in May, 1964.

He authored "St. John's Military School...A History," which covered SJMS' first 99 years. This book has been instrumental in remembering the past.

"For anyone ever associated with St. John's, this book will be a fascinating and informative look at what time has wrought."



## Richard Retrum Class of 1966

Richard Retrum spent two years in the U. S. Army with the 3rd Battalion 6th Infantry Division of the Berlin Brigade, where he earned a spot on the Berlin Bears football team. The team traveled all over Europe, playing other Army and Air Force teams. During that time, the team took the Com Z Championship trophy, which was the Army's "Super Bowl" Award. In addition, he provided ceremonial guard duty at Spandau Prison where the only inmate was the former Deputy Fuhrer of Nazi Germany, Rudolf Hess.

Retrum graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in social science and history, and a Master's of Science in family economics and consumer affairs in 1974. While at college, he co-authored and published a student guide to off-campus housing titled "The Tenant Handbook" and was one of the founding members of the Consumer Relations Board. He has helped write many local and state legislation related to landlord-tenant issues

Retrum was a teacher for 12 years before moving into the field of health care administration, overseeing the operations of seven long-term care facilities in four states. During that time, he spearheaded an investigation into Alzheimer's care and developed the company's first two care units to provide that level of specialized medical service.

*Advice to the Corps:*

*Stay focused. Don't give up. The future is yours if you prepare for it today. Learn to follow the rules now; if you don't, they get tricky later in life.*

*Always be proud of your accomplishments no matter how small because they add up.*



## James Charles "Chuck" Vaile Class of 1985

Chuck Vaile graduated from SJMS in 1985 as a Cadet Major with honors. He competed in football, basketball, rifle team, flag detail, color guard, honor guard, cadet patrol and was a six-time Blue Beret.

After graduation, he enlisted in the U. S. Army and was trained as a combat medic and operating room specialist. Vaile was permanently blinded in the line of duty.

Vaile attended the Veteran's Administration Blind Rehab Center in order to learn as much as he could about succeeding in a new world. He attended the University of SW Louisiana and sustained a 3.75 GPA, was a columnist for the school newspaper and was inducted into the Pi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. From there he moved back to his home in Colorado and enrolled at the University of Denver. He sustained a 4.0 GPA, wrote for the school newspaper and led the fight to make the university accessible and inviting to the handicapped.

He founded the Doberman Rescue in Colorado and has since lead a life in public service and volunteerism. In 13 years, he has been personally responsible for saving nearly 1,000 animals' lives and gives considerable services as an expert canine trainer and behaviorist to any who ask for it.

Vaile embodies the spirit of the SJMS Old Boy through his dedication and passion.



# The Class of 2007



**Vance Beene**



**Samuel Bowman**

Tennis Letter  
 JROTC Academic Wreath  
 Commendation Award for S3 perfect score of 50  
 Sr. Army Instructor Leadership Award - LET IV  
 Course Award for Interlocution to Literature 251



**Nicholas Cantrell**

Golf letter  
 Band Letter  
 American Legion Certificate  
 Commendation Award for S5 perfect score of 50  
 JROTC Academic Wreath  
 The "Semper Fidelis" Award for Music Excellence  
 Artistic Merit Award  
 SJMS Diver Certificate for PADU SCUBA Diving as Digital Underwater Photographer  
 Activity Leadership Medal/Ribbon  
 Michael E. Harris Bandmaster Medal



**Stephen Hanna**

KSHSAA Citizenship Award  
 Blue Beret Certificate  
 Academic Letter  
 The American Legion Award  
 Citation for the Superior Cadet Decoration Award  
 Course Award for Physics  
 Course Award for Calculus  
 Course Award for Expository Writing I  
 Salutatorian Class of 2007  
 JROTC Academic Wreath  
 K-State Engineering Award for the outstanding student in Mathematics and Science



**Steven Brandt**

Course Award for Ecology



**Kendall Camp**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
 Commendation Award for outstanding effort for AFI



**Samual Corle**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
 Commendation Award for outstanding effort for AFI  
 Course Awards for Photography



**Joshua Hanson**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
 Kansas Council on Economic Education Certificate



**Matthew Kurtze**

Reserve Officers Association of the United States Award  
 JV Certificate for Tennis  
 JROTC Academic Wreath  
 Cadet Challenge - 2nd Place





**Jack Lobertini**

FHCS best ball golf scramble 2007 - Medal  
The American Legion School Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Commendation Award for S4 perfect score



**Robert McNair**

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.  
Course Award - Economics  
Course Award - Government  
Course Award - Spanish II  
Course Award - Trigonometry  
Course Award - Probability & Statistics  
Course Award - English 12  
Academic Letter  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Senior Army Instructor Leadership Award for LET II  
Daughters of the American Revolution Award



**Austin Pool**

Sage Memorial Medal/Ribbon  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
Citation for Superior Cadet Decoration Award



**Benjamin Roman**

Rotary Award  
Valedictorian for 2007  
Citation for the Superior Cadet Decoration Award  
National Scholar/Athlete Award  
Course Award for Honors Government  
Academic Letter  
JROTC LET IV Academic Excellence Award  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
Course Award Morals & Ethics  
Course Award JROTC IV  
Academic All-State Team Honorable Mention  
Blue Beret  
United States Marine Corps  
K-State Engineering Award for outstanding student in Mathematics and Science  
Teamworx Highest GPA in the 12th grade



**Shane Scott**

FHCS Best Ball Golf Scramble 2007



**Thomas Sweeney**

JROTC Academic Wreath



**Samy Wahabrebi**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
The American Legion Military Excellence Medal  
Golden Eagle Award for a Senior



**Brandon Urias**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award for Life Sports



**Jared Wood**

Course Award for JROTC III  
JROTC Scholastic Excellence Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
JROTC LET III Academic Excellence Award  
Commendation Award for S1 perfect score



# 119th Corps Awards &

**Adams, Jeffrey**

Lyman Linger Award Ribbon Only  
Varsity in Band  
Course Award for PE/Health  
Battalion Medal/Ribbon  
Best Bugler Medal/Ribbon

**Anderson, Zakary**

Band Letter  
Ethel Hines Scholarship for \$5000  
Battalion Drummer Ribbon  
Best Drummer Medal/Ribbon

**Billings, Justin**

JROTC Scholastic Excellence Award  
J.J. Vanier Scholarship \$5000  
Golf Letter  
JROTC LET II Academic Excellence Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award JROTC II

**Bollig, Matthew**

Wiley T. Baner PSO Scholarship \$10,000  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
JROTC Cadet Challenge 4th place  
Academic Letter  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Leadership Award  
Course Award English 9  
Course Award Reading 9  
Kastner Medal/Ribbon

**Broeils, Alex**

JV Certificate for Tennis

**Brooks, William**

Band Letter  
Battalion Drummer Medal/Ribbon

**Brown, Walter**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort for AFI

**Clark, Jonathan**

Ethel Hines Scholarship for \$5000

**Climp, Charles**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort for AFI

**Conway, Devon**

Cadet Challenge 1st Place  
Academic Letter  
JROTC LET I Academic Excellence Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award for JROTC I

**Darcy, Joseph**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award for Industrial Science  
Ferris Award Medal/Ribbon

**David, Ryan**

JROTC Academic Wreath

**Dixon, Andrew**

Band Letter  
SJMS Diver Certificate PADI  
SCUBA Diving-rating of Open Water Diver  
Battalion Drummer Ribbon

**Dixon, Nathan**

United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award  
AMVETS Award  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort for AFI  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award for Honors English 11  
Horejsi Family Charitable Foundation Scholarship for \$19,500  
Wilson Loyalty Medal/Ribbon

**Fontana, Victor**

MS Medal/Ribbon  
Blue Beret Certificate

**Frank, Jonathon**

John Philip Sousa Band Award  
Course Award for Band  
Band Letter  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Senior Army Instructor Leadership Award - LET I  
Cozy Inn Scholarship for \$5,250  
Army JROTC Air Rifle Champion - 1st place team - Kansas

**French, Dakota**

Course Award for English 7

**Gamito, Phillip**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
United States Army Recruiting Command Award for JROTC  
Commendation for outstanding effort for preparing for AFI  
JROTC Upper School Marksmanship Award  
Jesus Martinez Scholarship for \$1,000

**Grady, John Justin**

J.V certificate for Tennis  
Unsung Hero Scholarship for \$500

**Harrington, Roland**

Band Letter  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award for Percussions

**Holmes, Brandon**

Good Conduct Award  
Golden Eagle Award  
Commendation Award for Bravo Company Perfect Score  
Senior Army Instructor Leadership Award for LET III  
Sons of the American Revolution Award  
Litchman Scholarship for \$1,000  
D. Dale Browning Scholarship for \$19,500  
Upper School Effort Medal

**Hoyte, George**

Middle School Progress Medal/Ribbon

**Hutcheson-Tipton, Angelo**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
Band Letter

**Johnson, Devin**

Course Award for PE/Health 8

**Kendall, Dalton**

Milton L. Morrison Scholarship for \$1,500  
JROTC Academic Wreath

**Klamm, Ryan**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Course Award English 11  
Course Award Spanish III

**Kleven, Rodney**

Best Individual Drill without a Weapon Award  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI

**Laso-Castro, Francisco**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
Sergeant's Major Association Award  
Course Award for Spanish IV

**Loftis, Treylan**

Teamworx Highest GPA for the school year - 9th grade Ribbon only  
Course Award - Algebra I  
Course Award - Physical Science  
Course Award - Honors English 9  
Band Letter  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Commendation Award for earning a perfect score of 65 in the AFI in-ranks inspection  
Blue Beret Certificate  
Horejsi Family Charitable Foundation Scholarship for \$19,500  
Academic Letter  
SJMS Foundation Award  
Kevin Kerns Outstanding Bandsman Award

**McBee, Edgar**

Course Award for Architectural Drawing  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Academic Letter  
Keith and Liz Duckers Scholarship for \$1000

**Molina, Sergio**

Cadet Challenge - 3rd Place

**Moon, Kyung-Kyu**

Good Conduct Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Blue Beret Certificate  
Academic Letter  
Lesta Vanier Scholarship for \$4000  
Course Award for ESL  
Course Award for English  
Course Award for Algebra I

**Moore, Andrew**

SJMS Diver - PADI - Open Water Diver



# Honors

**Newell, Nicholas**

SJMS Diver PADI - Open Water Diver  
Good Conduct Award  
Robichaux Family Scholarship for \$2000

**Nsuangani, Nsele Christian**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
John K. Vanier Scholarship for \$2500

**Nutter, Sheridan**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
JV certificate in Tennis  
Don Dieckhoff Scholarship for \$1000

**Ojeda-Calvo, Andres**

SJMS Diver PADI - Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Dry Suit Diver, Boat Diver, DPV Diver

**Pennington, Justin**

SJMS Memorial Scholarship  
Battalion Drummer Medal/Ribbon

**Pryor, Nicholas**

Most Improved Bandsman Medal/Ribbon

**Pulscher, Damien**

Course Award for Honors American History  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort on preparing for AFI

**Purdy, Nicholas**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort on preparing for AFI  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Band Letter

**Raymer, Tyler**

Artistic Merit Award

**Root, Anthony**

J.D. Berkley Scholarship for \$10,000  
Middle School Citizenship Medal/Ribbon  
Course Award for Math 7  
Course Award for Art 7  
Course Award for Reading 7  
Course Award for Kansas History 7  
Course Award for PE/Health 7  
Course Award for Geography 7  
Course Award for Life Science 7  
USMC League Award  
Teamworx Highest GPA Award for 7th Grade

**Root, Jonathan**

Sadie Miller Scholarship for \$10,000  
Cadet Challenge 5th Place  
Citation for the Superior Cadet Decoration Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
Academic Letter  
Good Conduct Award  
Course Award for Geometry  
Course Award for Biology

**Santana, Brandon**

Course Award for Math 8  
Course Award for Art 8  
Course Award for Middle School Shop  
Association of Military Colleges and School for the U.S. Award  
Blue Beret Certificate

**Sapio, Raffaele**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Academic Letter  
Course Award for World Cultures

**Sayers, Destyne**

Richard Anderson Scholarship for \$5,000  
Course Award for English 8  
Middle School Effort Medal/Ribbon

**Sibio, Joshua**

Upper School Commandant's Best Individual Drill with a Weapon  
Course Award for Reading 11

**Siemer, Drew**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Academic Letter  
Mark Delane Lewis Memorial Scholarship for \$2,500  
Course Award for Algebra 2  
Course Award for American History  
SJMS Foundation Award  
Course Award for Chemistry  
Teamworx Highest GPA for 10th Grade

**Sitarik, Ian**

Horejsi Family Charitable Foundation Scholarship for \$19,500  
Artistic Merit  
JROTC Academic Wreath  
The Veterans for Foreign Wars  
Citizenship Award  
Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI  
Association for the United States Army - Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps Medal  
Course Award for Video Technology  
Course Award for Art  
VFW Award

**Smith, Remington**

JROTC Academic Wreath

**Solis-Perez, Raul**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI

**Sorenson, David**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
SJMS Diver -PADI Certificate for Open Water Diver

**Stone, Gary**

Blue Beret Certificate  
Teamworx Highest GPA for 8th grade  
KSHSAA Citizenship Award  
J.D. Berkley Scholarship for \$10,000  
Course Award for Math 8  
Course Award for Reading 8  
Course Award for American History 8  
Course Award for Earth Science 8  
SJMS Foundation Medal/Ribbon

**Stoppel, David**

JROTC Academic Wreath  
Band Letter  
SJMS Diver - PADI Certificate for Open Water Diver  
SGM Eugene Lewis Medal/Ribbon

**Taylor, Kyle**

Battalion Drummer Medal/Ribbon  
Band Letter  
Tim Soule Scholarship for \$1,000

**Tebow, Zackery**

Course Award for Spanish I  
Course Award for English 10  
Course Award for JROTC II  
JROTC Scholastic Excellence Award  
JROTC LET II Academic Excellence Award  
JROTC Wreath  
Academic Letter

**Thomas, Chadwick**

SJMS Diver-PADI Certificate for Advanced Open Water Diver

**Torres, Fernando**

Manual of the Guidon Award

**Toro, Luis**

Battalion Drummer - Ribbon

**Tucker, Jordan**

SJMS Diver-PADI Certificate for Open Water Diver

**Vaughn, Ian**

Richard Anderson Scholarship for \$5,000

**Vindelov, Travis**

JV Certificate for Tennis  
JROTC Academic Wreath

**Vindelov, Trevor**

JV Certificate for Tennis  
JROTC Academic Wreath

**Wolfe, Derek**

Commendation Award for outstanding effort in preparing for AFI

**Wood, Scott**

Cheney Marksmanship Medal/Ribbon  
Hardy Rifleman Medal/Ribbon  
SJMS Foundation Medal/Ribbon  
Teamworx Highest GPA for 11th grade  
Army JROTC Air Rifle Champion - 1st Place Team Kansas  
Army JROTC Championship Air Rifle - 2nd place in 11th Brigade  
Academic Letter  
Cozy Inn Scholarship for \$5,250  
National Sojourners Award  
JROTC Academic Wreath



# Mule-Skinner Golf 2007

BY MAJ. WENDY STEIN, SJMS





# THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Mule-Skinner Golf Tournament in memory of Virgil "Lefty" Loy is, as they say, in the record

books. The change in venue to the Elks Country Club golf course and the change in date to late April made for a cool and wonderful afternoon of golf. The staff of the Elks Country Club treated the golfers to a cordial welcome and a hearty lunch.

Fifteen teams hit the links at 1:00 p.m. for a shotgun start. Some were out there for the sheer fun of it; others were there because of their intense love of the game. First place teams in each flight were:

First Flight – Pete Peterson, Andy England, Denny Dumler and Bill Wyles  
Second Flight - Dan Stutterheim, Karl Stutterheim, Mike Junk and Paul Junk

Mike McMahan of Teamworx provided a splendid array of prizes for the golfers and a generous amount of items for door prizes. Many local businesses and individuals stepped up to be hole sponsors for the event.

Debra Stevens continued her tradition of honoring the memory of her late husband, Charlie Stevens, longtime friend and trustee of St. John's Military School, with a Gold Hole Sponsorship. Donna Vanier remembered Lefty Loy with a Gold Hole Sponsorship.

The day concluded with the annual Chuck Wagon Buffet in the Stevens Center. Linda Payne and her AmeriServe staff served up a wonderful meal. A short awards ceremony followed the dinner. Lefty's wife, Helen, daughter, Kristine, and son-in-law, Tom Kelly, were on hand to help celebrate his memory.

The Mule-Skinner Club, founded during the Col. Keith Duckers administration, is in its 40<sup>th</sup> year of existence. In celebration of this milestone, St. John's honored the charter members of the Club with a gift in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the Club. Duckers, President Emeritus of St. John's, spoke briefly to those in attendance and longtime first lady of St. John's, Liz Duckers, received a painting of Armstrong Chapel done by former St. John's staffer and local artist, Paul Sommers.

## Hole Sponsorships

### GOLD

Debra Stevens

Donna Vanier

AmeriServe

Kennedy & Coe,  
LLC/CPA

Teamworx

### SILVER

Candlewood Suites

Glass Services

K Solutions

Sunflower Bank

Tom Rupp's Floor Perfect

VanDiest Supply Co.

### BRONZE

Bennett Autoplex

Frazier Brothers  
Plumbing & Contracting

Green Lantern

Long McArthur

Jack & Marvine Fox







# Tiny Brush Strokes Depict Love for S





St. John's..

**T**INY BRUSH STROKES FILL THE CANVAS, AND WITH EACH, the image appears as it flows with color. The idea, which formed in his head, is now becoming a reality. Paul Sommers, artist and former counselor at SJMS '69 – '79, has many fond memories of his time at SJMS. He remembers lovingly the faculty and staff, but when mentioning an Old Boy, his smile broadens and eyes twinkle. Patience is a virtue of Sommers as he helped, listened and guided cadets into becoming successful young men. The patience has been extended to his paintings in capturing the moment.

During his tenure, Sommers touched many lives. His caring and concern over each Old Boy is evident through the warmth of his smile and the enthusiasm of his voice. He is eager to hear the update of the lives on each Old Boy, and listens with pride knowing how well his former cadets have done.

Sommers reconnected with SJMS when he did a watercolor painting of Vail Hall. The painting is based on a 1904 picture, with all the turrets and towers. Through his love of the campus and cadets, Sommers wanted to capture the image and traditions on canvas. He numbers each painting, and as a special gift to President Emeritus Keith & Liz Duckers, they received the first print of Vail Hall for their 50th Anniversary gift.

Since that time, Sommers has extended his St. John's related paintings to include Armstrong Chapel, a 1988 yearbook photo entitled David & Goliath and a portrait of a cadet surrounded by symbols of the positive influences found at St. John's.

Sommers is reconnecting with the Old Boys, faculty and staff by offering to sell his prints with a portion of the proceeds going back to SJMS. Each of his prints hang in the quartermaster store.

He states, "It has been great hearing from everyone and to get caught up on their lives since they graduated from SJMS. We have many fine alumni scattered across this great country of ours. Several have written saying their print has arrived in good shape and that they were very pleased. Let me tell you that it is an honor to have my artwork displayed in their home or office."

The cost of each print is \$30, which includes postage and handling. If interested in purchasing a print of your own, contact Sommers at [psommers@tri.net](mailto:psommers@tri.net).







# Admissions Corner

**T**HE ADMISSION OFFICE seems to be buzzing with activity as the summer gets underway this year.

The office staff relocated to Linger Hall at the beginning of March and is busy with all kinds of recruiting activity. With the help of many on campus, a new website was activated mid-March and we have had a lot of positive responses. Take a few minutes to browse through all the new information and sections at [www.sjms.org](http://www.sjms.org).

Recruiting efforts are underway for an exciting group of New Boys to matriculate in August. So far, 19 boys are already accepted and many new applications are being received all the time! Maj. Kiker challenges each of you to share the SJMS story with those

around you who may benefit from such a unique opportunity.

Recruiting events are being scheduled for many areas for this summer; continue to watch the website for updates of where SJMS will be visiting. This summer, SJMS is fortunate to have Old Boy Pat Johnsen, 2003, to manage the recruiting efforts in Colorado; he will be assisted and mentored by Mr. Dale Browning of the Board of Directors and Mr. Denny Dumler of the Endowment Board.

Additionally, there are new admission officers; Capt. Jordan Redmond is on staff now, and Capt. Marcia Heins will be starting in June for this recruiting cycle. Debby Edgerton remains as Admission Counselor/Coordinator to keep the office running smoothly.





### **GREETINGS FROM LINGER HALL**

– the new home of the Admission Office!!! I am Kerry Kiker, SJMS/Major, the new Director of Admission. I was so fortunate to join the welcoming SJMS family on March 1.

I have been asked to take a few minutes and give you a little background on myself. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in public relations from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. The summer after completing my BS, I was asked to go back to start a master's degree and teach public speaking; I then graduated two years later with a Master of Arts in speech and mass communication.

Upon completion of my master's, I decided to continue my interest in admission work and accepted the position of Admission Counselor at New Mexico Military Institute. I was then promoted to Associate Director of Admission within a year and maximized on the opportunity to learn so much about database management.

I look forward to bringing my background of military school admissions, database management and enthusiasm for a structured education to SJMS. I encourage you to take a few minutes next time you are on campus to stop by Linger Hall and visit the admissions office.

I look forward to many successful years here at SJMS!!!!



### **PAT JOHNSEN, A 2003**

graduate of St. John's, has joined the admissions staff this summer to recruit for the State of Colorado.

Currently, Patrick will be entering his 5th year at the Virginia Military Institute where he majors in civil and environmental engineering. Upon graduation, he will be seeking environmental engineering positions in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest region. Patrick has committed this summer to bring his life experiences, military school experience, and his passion to give back to his alma mater by ensuring that the young men in Colorado will be heard from by St. John's Military School.



### **MY NAME IS MARCIA HEINS.**

I am a Kansas girl and have lived in Salina for 17 years. I have two children: Sheila, age 20, and Patrick, age 16. Sheila is a student at the Academy of Design and Technology in Chicago, IL. Patrick will be a junior at South High this fall. I am a full-time student at the University of Phoenix Online, and will graduate in December with my bachelor's in business marketing. I am planning my March 8, 2008, wedding, and also enjoy hiking, reading, theatre, and experimenting in the kitchen.



### **CAPTAIN JORDAN REDMOND**

graduated high school from New Mexico Military Institute with Highest Honors in May 2001. While a Boy Scout, Redmond achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and earned the rare Heroism Award. He began college at the University of New Mexico before transferring to Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, IL. After working as a youth minister in a small local church, Redmond moved to Washington, D.C. to work as an intern for the United States House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services policy office and for author Nancy Pearcey. Redmond graduated magna cum laude from LCC with a bachelor's in general ministry with a focus on psychology and theology.

Redmond spent his first two years here at St. John's as a Company Leadership Advisor before moving to the admissions staff. He is currently pursuing his Master of Science degree in organizational leadership from Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.

Redmond spends a great deal of time working directly with the cadets here at St. John's and is the Boy Scout Troop 1 committee chairman. He also works with youth in town, coaching softball and volleyball and working with a church youth group.



# Scholarships



**Nathan Dixon**  
2007-2008 Horejsi Family  
Charitable Foundation  
Scholarship Recipient



**Treylan Loftis**  
2007-2008 Horejsi Family  
Charitable Foundation  
Scholarship Recipient



**Ian Sitarik**  
2007-2008 Horejsi Family  
Charitable Foundation  
Scholarship Recipient



**Brandon Holmes**  
2007-2008  
D. Dale Browning Scholarship  
Recipient

## A Decision to Serve



**M**ATTHEW KURTZE HAS known for some time that he would be a member of the United States Army following his graduation from St. John's Military School. That decision made it possible for him to reap the rewards of a special new opportunity for St. John's cadets. The program provides a \$500 unrestricted gift to the first cadet that signs with a branch of the armed services before graduation. The funds are being generated by an anonymous \$5,000 grant given to St. John's specifically to be used as a way of rewarding young men that make a commitment to serve their country.

Daniel Pestinger, a former United States Marine, is presenting the check to Kurtze on behalf of the Salina Veteran's Association. This money is being given as a token of thanks from Veterans to today's youth that volunteer to help defend our nation against the war on terror.

Pestinger has a long association with St. John's Military School. The SJMS Band provides musical support for his annual observance of the United States Marine Corps birthday on November 10th. Following the ceremony, he and his fiancé, Jacque Conner, host the members of the band for a hearty breakfast and lively conversation.





## North Central Kansas Gallery League Awards Banquet

**O**N 19 APRIL 07 THE NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS GALLERY League (NCKGL) held their annual awards banquet in the usual location at the Torchlight Restaurant in Longford, Kansas. As usual, the Mule-Skinner rifle team was in attendance and at the center of attention. Every year everybody wants to know how many boys will be there so that they can make sure they have enough fried chicken prepared.

This event has been a NCKGL tradition for as long as I can remember and serves as a great opportunity to award the boys for their efforts as a Mule-Skinner rifleman, as well as a member of the league. The following team members were in attendance and received the awards mentioned below. In addition, all members were awarded a SJMS letter for lettering in a varsity sport.

Scott Wood received a plaque for having the highest average in the league for a junior shooter, while also earning the NRA's Sharpshooter Qualification Badge for smallbore rifle shooting and the small bronze pin for air rifle.

Enrique Penunuri earned a silver medal for having the second highest junior average in the league, while also earning the NRA's Sharpshooter Qualification Badge for smallbore rifle shooting and the small bronze pin for air rifle.

Jonathon Frank was awarded a 3rd place medal for having the third highest average for a junior shooter. He also received a NRA Sharpshooter Qualification Badge for smallbore rifle shooting and a small bronze pin for air rifle.

Heath Holmes earned the NRA's Marksman First Class Qualification Badge in smallbore rifle shooting. Since he was a latecomer to the team, he did not shoot enough air rifle matches to be eligible for the air rifle pin.

Due to a conflict, the only second year letterman on the team, Nicholas Purdy, could not attend the banquet, but he earned the NRA's Sharpshooter Qualification Badge and the small bronze pin for air rifle.

Coach Blair received a plaque for having the highest individual average in the league. The team from Manhattan went home with the 1st place team award with a record of 7 wins and 1 loss.

## Relay for Life



St. John's cadets, along with staff, participated in the recent Relay for Life anti-smoking campaign for the American Cancer Society.

The following walked for the staff team: Ginger Wooten, Mark Ramsey, Megan Rackley (& family), Phil Kellogg, Tony and Debra Pino, Wendy Stein, Garry Heath, Johanna Swenson, Ron Longero, Pam Kraus and Sandy Wallace.

Capt. Bell and his wife walked with one of the cadet teams.

Tammy O'Neill stopped by to provide moral support and pop.

Thanks to Wendy and Johanna for making runs for food and other supplies and helping provide supervision.

We had 21 cadets participate in Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society and we appreciate all of you who helped SJMS to be well represented at this event.

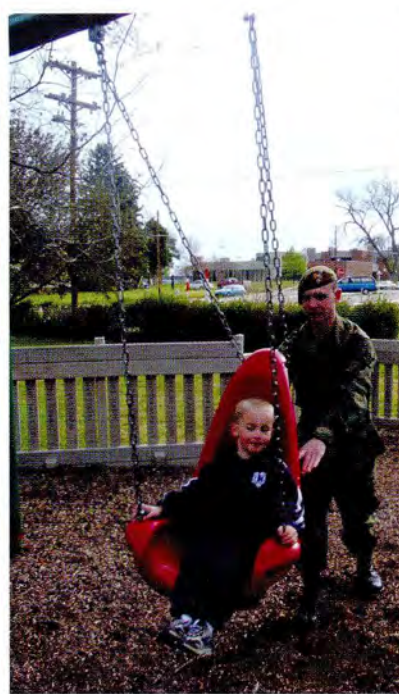








STORY & PHOTOS BY  
BRENDA MCCOY



# Cadets Investing in Children...



**B**RENDA MCCOY AND six cadets traveled to the Children's Center in Lindsborg for the Week of the Child. This has been done for the past six years. The children range from two to five years of age, and really enjoy the "Army men" coming and playing with them.

This year, the cadets and children took a walk to the park, while the children got to pick their walking partners. Brandon Holmes had four little girls walking with him. One of them kept taking his hat and putting it on her head and smiling at him.

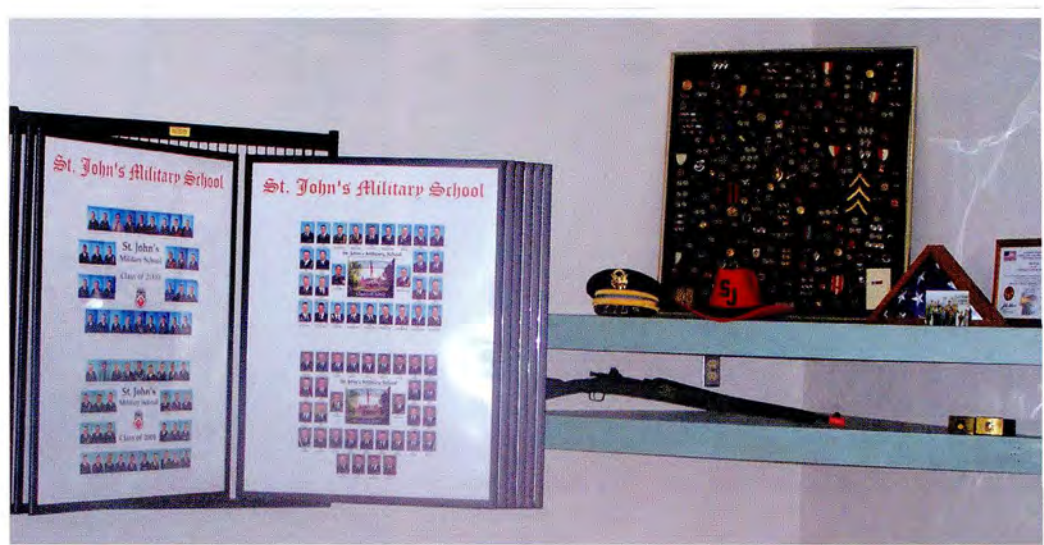
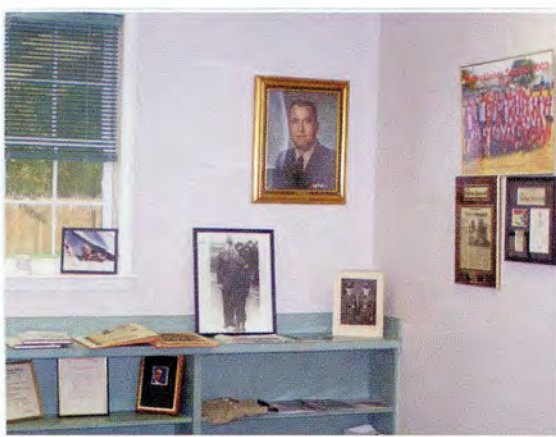
Brandon Santana played hide-n-seek with many of the kids. Nathan Dixon, who has participated the past five years, was an official pusher on the swings.

Jeff Adams and Ian Sitarik took turns taking pictures and twirling kids on a tire swing. Victor Fontana helped the kids go across the monkey bars and played tag.

The cadets had snack time with the children, who insisted they have some snack with them. The director of the Children's Center asked if the cadets could come again and more than once a year, because the kids enjoy having them there. The staff commented on how well mannered the cadets were and how well they got along with the kids.







# The SJMS Alumni Room



**A** **SAM BROWN** belt with inscription in the worn leather “Lt. B. N. Edwards, B Company, 2nd Platoon, Denver, Colorado; 1922 – 23 – 24 – 25 – 26 – 27;” a scrapbook from Fritz Schoeb ‘46; a Class A uniform from Mike Heywood ‘74; A framed portrait of Col. Keith Duckers, a shadow box full of medals from Jeff Broome ‘71, AFI ready boots from the 115th Corps.

These are just a few of the items that are viewed as priceless – as they were from Old Boys who put their heart and soul into St. John’s. The photos, yearbooks and memorabilia are now on display in a renovated room at Linger Hall.

The Wall of Fame plaques and graduation photos hang proudly, and are ready for anyone to view. The Alumni/Old Boy reception room helps us to touch our past and be cadets once more.





# Gone But Not Forgotten...

## Forever Young

Loved ones lost over the past year...

Christian "Chris" Antoine Colburn  
July 16, 2006  
Winter Park, FL  
Graduate 1983  
Robert Lance Mack  
June 7, 2006  
Hayden, CO  
Old Boy 1985  
Ron Neely  
January 13, 2006  
Georgetown, CO  
Old Boy 1957  
Sigthor Sigfusson-Petursson  
June 6, 2006  
Boulder, CO  
Old Boy 1971  
Raymond Willard Bledsoe  
May 20, 2006  
Ottawa, KS  
Old Boy 1958  
Coach Jim "Fat" Elmborg  
September 11, 2006  
Topeka, KS  
Former Teacher/Coach/Athletic Director  
Edward White  
September 24, 2006  
Atchison, KS  
Former SJMS Board of Trustee  
Brett Jakubowski  
October 19, 2006  
Littleton, CO  
Old Boy 2004  
Fred "Fritz" Schoeb  
November 22, 2006  
Broken Arrow, OK  
Old Boy 1946  
Wall of Fame Recipient  
David Bruce Rhoads, Jr.  
November 8, 2006  
Kansas City, KS  
Old Boy 1987  
Virgil "Lefty" Loy  
January 26, 2007  
Salina, KS  
Former Teacher, Coach at SJMS  
Wall of Fame/Honorary Colonel  
Paul David Chomik  
February 22, 2007  
Las Vegas, NV  
Old Boy 1972  
Eric Stein  
April 2, 2007  
Salina, KS  
Husband of Wendy Stein

Gene Ely  
April 6, 2007  
Houston, TX  
Honorary Colonel/ Wall of Fame  
Recipient  
Old Boy 1954  
Troy Porter  
April 20, 2007  
Wichita KS  
Old Boy, 1996  
Jake Carey  
April, 2007  
Former Board of Trustee  
Hutchinson, KS

No one hears the door  
that opens;  
When they pass  
beyond our call  
soft as loosened leaves  
of roses;  
One by one our  
members fall  
from our chain, the  
links are severed;  
And our land, their  
stars have set  
but enshrined on  
memory's tablet;  
Their true worth we'll  
ne'er forget  
Lord, into thy hands,  
I commend their spirit,  
Amen.  
Don Pattison '22

Letter to the 119th Corps of Cadets  
(Continued from page 2)

when the basketball team runs the play just as the coach intended, when the Red Cross blood drive is held on campus and every single time slot is filled, when a company or group of cadets performs many hours of community service, when the battalion staff presents a perfect briefing during AFI and when a husband dies and the Corps offers words of support and comfort through cards, flowers and hugs.

The 119<sup>th</sup> Corps has experienced bumps in the road just like every other Corps of the past, but one thing is for sure, along the way they have accomplished much and will be remembered by this "Old Girl" as a Corps with a heart and a Corps that made a difference. That's what I'll hold onto; that's what I will keep in my mind; that's what counts in this complicated world we live in.

Go out into the world with hope and return to campus as often as you can. Learn from both the good and bad choices you've made and remain open to the opportunities you will be offered, and remember all the words that meant the most. Hooah 119<sup>th</sup>!





