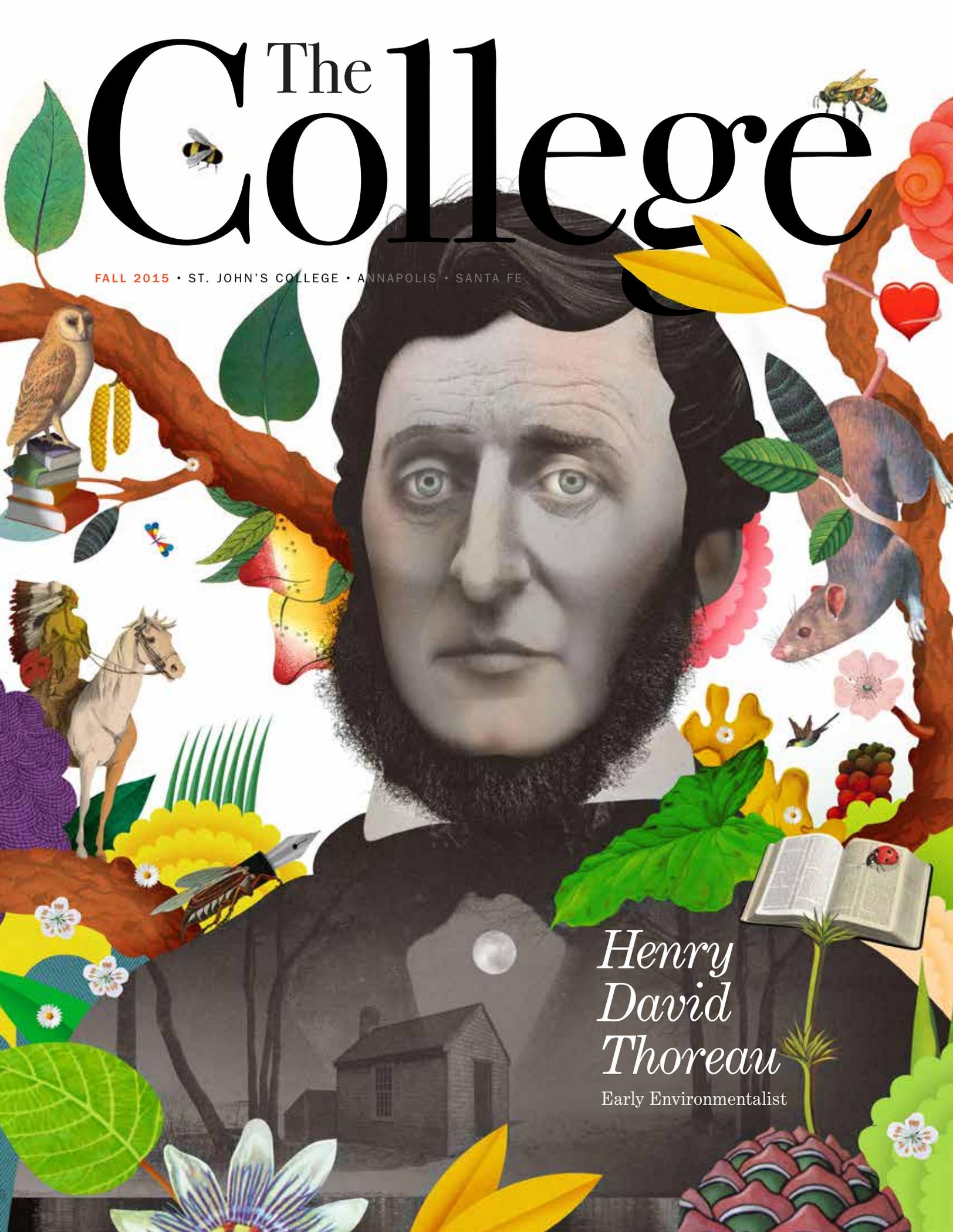


The College

FALL 2015 • ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE • ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE



*Henry
David
Thoreau*

Early Environmentalist



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ST JOHN S. COLLEGE

K. MARTIN WORTH



OPENING NOTE

Who among us has ever yearned to shut down the computer, turn off the cell phone, and be immersed in solitude, where nothing but the sounds of the wind and rustling leaves fill our ears—a peaceful retreat in nature to restore our spirit and make us feel human again? Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), poet, philosopher, historian, and early environmentalist, understood the importance of connecting with nature. In the woods along Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, the muse of Thoreau's *Walden*, he makes a case for simple living and self-sufficiency. The book is also an invitation to be daring, cast aside convention, and live life to the fullest.

In this issue of *The College*, we will hear from Johnnies who have found a Walden of their own: a backyard oasis, filled with vibrant flowers, treetop canopies, and assorted creatures; a once abandoned building, smack-dab in the heart of America's Rust Belt, brought back to life; and a farm nestled in a Southwest corner among "winged angels of agriculture." As summer breezes give way to crisp autumn air, now is an ideal time to pick up a copy of *Walden*. In the words of tutor David Townsend, "You may find yourself thrilled with unanticipated wonder."

Gregory Shook, editor

The College

If transcending time and keeping your soul forever young attracts you, then *Walden* is your text. And Thoreau is a man you can go to school on.

—David Townsend, tutor



FEATURES

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FREEDOM UPON AN ACHILLEAN SHORE

Walden, Henry David Thoreau's experiment in simple living among nature, continues to challenge American pragmatism and beckons us to experience life to the fullest.

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HALCYON HAVEN

Thanks to a visionary alumnus who transformed an abandoned historic building into a cozy neighborhood pub, good conversation just got easier to find in downtown Cleveland.

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BIRTH OF A BEEKEEPER

Raising queen bees is about much more than harvesting honey—the tiny creatures are profoundly important for sustaining the planet's plant species.

ON THE COVER:
Thoreau illustration
by Brett Ryder

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TONY J. PHOTOGRAPHY

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ABOVE: Annapolis President Christopher Nelson (SF70) enjoys the labor of garden work.

From the

BELL TOWERS

FIRST PERSON

Toward a Greener Future

Robert Bienenfeld (SF80) Helps Steer the Transportation Revolution



Robert Bienenfeld, (SF80) assistant vice president, Environment and Energy Strategy at American Honda Motor Company, Inc., discusses his longstanding passion for exploring environmentally friendly technology and reducing the auto industry's carbon footprint.



Why did you choose to work at Honda?

I knew after leaving St. John's that I wanted to work in industry. People told me throughout my four years that St. John's was a great education. I thought: if that's true I ought to be able to go to work without going to graduate school. I also knew I wanted to build something, and that turned out to be a great idea. It's an amazing thing, to be part of a team. No individual can bring a car to market. It takes untold numbers of people, not just the engineers and the marketers but the people in the factory, hundreds of suppliers, all of their R and D people. It's very collaborative, and the essence of the St. John's education is very collaborative. If it weren't collaborative you would just go to the library, read the books, and you'd be done. But what you do is read the books and have your own ideas, then you come to class and test them and they're challenged in that crucible of seminar or tutorial. Invariably you're left with better ideas, a deeper understanding, more questions. Sometimes a book you didn't like is revealed to be

more beautiful than you could have ever imagined. That's what I have enjoyed when I've worked on teams. It can be difficult, you have to listen to other people's ideas, and people don't always do what you want them to do, but through that collaborative approach you can shape the direction of the company, bring better products to market, and provide valuable benefits to society that might never otherwise have come about.

What is your role at Honda?

Externally, I represent Honda to the EPA and California EPA and internally, I represent the EPA and California EPA to Honda. Inside the company I think about what society (writ large) is trying to accomplish and promote those values within the company. It's not that the values inside the company aren't the same as those of society, but they don't always have the same intensity, the same timeline, the same power. Right now we're in the middle of a revolution in transportation. And revolutions are inherently terrifying: they're unstable, there are new forces at work, [and] things change quickly.

To the outside we're trying to provide the best information we can to regulators on the theory that good information will make good regulations. We work as cooperatively and positively as we can to look for ways to advance the environmental agenda. That being said, we try to make sure that the proposed regulations or laws are fair and equitable, that they're feasible, and that they're going to accomplish their intended goals.

We're trying to have a smooth, bloodless revolution from an older generation of transportation to a much less carbon-intensive model. That's being done through advances in technology and through regulation and it's a very interesting challenge. Both the regulators and the car companies have to be mindful of consumers. If the regulations are too demanding then the products could be too expensive and consumers might reject them. The question is: are the regulations aggressive enough, and reasonable enough, and can industry accomplish those regulations in a way that will be acceptable to consumers?

How did you end up working in environment and energy strategy?

I've had a varied career. I've been here since I left college, and I've worked in nearly a dozen areas in Japan and the U.S., in sales and marketing and product development and strategy. In 2008 a friend of mine was running this area and saw an opportunity to bring me in.

I'd worked in related areas before that. I've worked on alternative fuels since 1993: on electric, natural gas, and hybrid cars. That first brought me into contact with public policy—an interesting and important part of the business. Vehicles have unintended consequences: you buy a car and there're all kinds of unseen impacts. A lot of people don't really think about where their gasoline comes from, what it takes to manage those resources, and the impact of the car's exhaust. Of course, cars have an enormous benefit to society as well. But there are social costs, or externalities, and we seek to minimize those costs. Sixteen years ago I started working on car sharing, and just in the last half dozen years it's

“We’re facing an extraordinary challenge with respect to climate change, and dramatic action is needed. It won’t help anybody if car companies go out of business trying to make this transition.”

started to become a commercial success. But in the twenty-two years I’ve been in alternative fuels it’s been very difficult to achieve success. In some respects it’s been twenty-two years of failure.

Why is it so difficult to find success with alternative fuels?

Because the incumbent technology is pretty good. In the last forty years, smog-forming pollutants that come out of the tailpipe of the car have been reduced to almost 1/1000 of what their pre-regulated emissions were—an incredible accomplishment. Although you might think we absolutely need electric cars for clean air, it turns out that we can do quite well with internal combustion vehicles.

One of the fascinating things about this work is how, holistically, you have to think about a transportation system. For example, in China, because their electric grid is seventy percent coal-generated, an electric car is not nearly as clean as a good hybrid car. You have to think in a holistic manner to understand all the impacts of a transportation system.

What’s the focus of your work right now?

Between 2015 and 2025 we are tasked with doubling fuel economy which means that we will be able to go twice as far on a gallon of gas and cut the carbon intensity of automobile use almost in half. The rules through 2025 are pretty clear,

but how to get there will involve very important choices with respect to technology. Right now we’re trying to make some critical decisions about advanced internal combustion engines vs. increased hybridization, and plug-in vehicles, how much to invest in fuel cell vehicles, those kinds of things.

We’re facing an extraordinary challenge with respect to climate change, and dramatic action is needed. It won’t help anybody if car companies go out of business trying to make this transition, so it’s really important that we help guide the regulators to understand what’s possible, what we think consumers will accept, where the technology is, and what is cost-effective.

What did you learn at St. John’s that is most helpful in your work at Honda?

What I appreciate the most about my St. John’s education is that it’s four years of teaching you how to fall in love—how to pick up a subject you never thought you’d be interested in and have it open your thinking and your mind and your heart; to find it interesting and collaborate with people and throw yourself into it. It was kind of random that I found myself at Honda, but I’ve been able to throw myself into this work and be part of some amazing projects, and we’ve made history. That’s a really valuable lesson. ☺

— Susan Borden (A87)

CLUB WITH A CAUSE

“I believe that wherever there is a college or a community, there needs to be an environmental club,” says Jon Shrestha (A17), archon of the Environmental Club at the Annapolis campus. Under Shrestha’s leadership, the club’s activities this past year included a bike lending program and recycling initiatives at Croquet; students worked with the company Waste Neutral to collect 1.19 tons of commingled recyclables at the event as well as 200 pounds of reusable plastic pallets. The club also joined forces with the Food Recovery Network to donate unopened leftover canned goods from the dining hall to a local shelter.

Most recently the club organized a seminar on “Higher Laws” from Thoreau’s *Walden*. “I thought

that ‘Higher Laws’ appealed to our philosophical nature in terms of driving us to examine the question ‘What is the right way to live?’” says Bonnie Scott (A17), the Environmental Club’s vice archon. Led by tutor Brendan Boyle, the seminar discussion explored people’s relationship with nature, something that many of us may not consider as we go about our daily lives. “One of the most important things you can do to better the world is to make sure that you’re in touch with the ways that you affect everything around you, whether that is how you speak to other people or what you throw away in the trash or the recycling,” says Scott. “It’s all interconnected.”

— Eunji Kim (A15)





ANYI GUO (A14)

HODSON TRUST INTERN

Learning Through Inquiry

Xiaoqian (Lara) Hu (A16) has long been interested in education. Through the Hodson Trust Internship Program in summer 2013, she interned at Shenzhen High School in the Guangdong Province of southeast China. Fascinated by classroom dynamics, Hu observes the importance of the relationship between teachers and students and understands the politics involved in education. “I want to be a professor in college or graduate school,” she says, “not doing research, but working with students on a personal level.”

Hu notes that Shenzhen “is one of the most open-minded high schools in China. It is dedicated to the preparation of students for the highest scholarships in the U.S.” One of Hu’s responsibilities as a teacher’s assistant was to organize workshops about American colleges. “It was very informal,” she says. “I would make and present a PowerPoint. Then I would let the students ask questions and have discussions.” Her presentations described her academic experience as well as cultural differences that surprised her. “When I first got here, I made so many mistakes. Nobody told me I could drink the tap water or how to use a dryer.”

Xiaoqian (Lara) Hu (A16)

“When I first got here, I made so many mistakes. Nobody told me I could drink the tap water or how to use a dryer.”



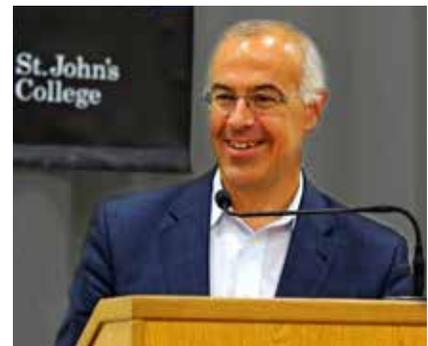
Many of Hu’s students were interested in St. John’s discussion model of learning. “They felt that they could participate in the sessions rather than just listen to the lectures,” says Hu. “They loved talking to me, and that was a real surprise. They thought I knew how to listen to what they were really talking about.” The classes at St. John’s encouraged her to seriously consider the principles that others had, even those with whom she initially disagreed.

“Returning to my high school gave me a new perspective,” she says. “I realized how important inquiries are. Asking questions is a more effective way of learning than just answering questions.”

—Nutchapol Boonparlit (A14)

DAVID BROOKS HELPS CELEBRATE SANTA FE’S 50TH

David Brooks, the *New York Times* columnist, author, and pundit, helped close out the yearlong celebration of Santa Fe’s 50th anniversary as the featured speaker at a gala benefit dinner on June 26 at the Santa Fe campus. In his remarks, Brooks cited two authors from the Program—St. Augustine and George Eliot—to illustrate the practical virtue of studying the lives and works of great authors. Brooks noted that the gala was a singular experience for him. At no other event, he said, had Rousseau been quoted twice during dinner-table conversation. Proceeds from the evening’s events will support scholarships for students from New Mexico. The 50th anniversary campaign raised more than \$30 million for the campus’s endowment and operations.



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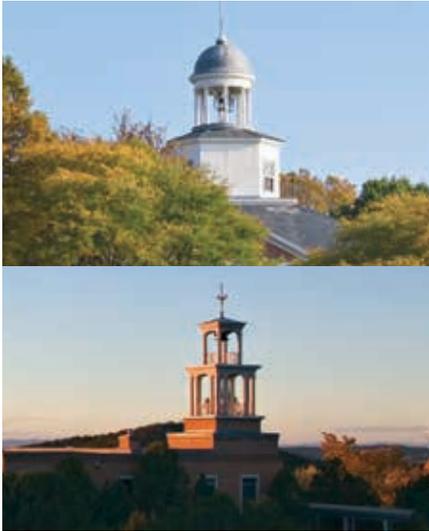
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TALK OF THE TOWERS



In Annapolis, five new tutors have joined the faculty. **Erica Beall** (A07) is from the University of Southern California, where she is working on completing her Ph.D. in social psychology. **Ronald Hafidson** joined the college from the New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received his Ph.D. in Christian ethics and practical theology. **Zena Hitz** (A95) earned her Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton University. **Marius Kempe** comes from the University of Durham, England, where he earned his Ph.D. in anthropology. **Bryan Luther** received his Ph.D. in nuclear physics from The Ohio State University. In Santa Fe, two new tutors have joined the faculty. **Allison D’Orazio Levy** is from Boston

College, where she received her Ph.D. in political science. **Maggie Evans McGuinness** received her Ph.D. in American literature/poetics at the University of Oregon, where she taught literature and composition.

In Santa Fe, **Victoria Mora** is the college-wide senior vice president for Development and Alumni Relations. **Renee White** is the new director of Conference Services. In Annapolis, three new directors have joined the college: **Benjamin Baum** is the new director of Admissions; **Susan Jenkins** is director of Web Initiatives and Social Media; **Joe Smolskis** is the new treasurer; and **Melissa Steiner** is the new registrar.

IN ANNAPOLIS

Thinking Outside the Numbers

New Treasurer in Annapolis

Though he has held numerous high-powered positions throughout his career, Joe Smolskis, the new treasurer in Annapolis, is still a kid at heart. On a breezy July afternoon, while the campus was buzzing with Summer Academy students, Smolskis grabbed a quick lunch before popping over to the local comic book shop to pick up the new issue of *Archie*. “I read them when I was a kid but haven’t read them in years,” he says, adding that he was “always a superhero guy. I probably have three-quarters of the entire history of *Daredevil*.” Being fiscally-minded, he estimates his most prized comic book, the debut issue of *Daredevil*, at around \$35. “It’s not a great copy, but what’s really cool is that it came out in 1963, the year I was born, and was printed in my hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut.”

When Smolskis came to St. John’s in August 2014, he was familiar with the college’s reputation as “the great books school.” What he was surprised to learn, though, was that the curriculum is conversation-based and that this core aspect of academic life influences the college community as a whole. “I’ve noticed that students and tutors are talking all the time—and not just about great books,” says Smolskis.



“At every level, you can feel that at the college, in conversations with staff and faculty, in board meetings. It’s very different from any other place where I’ve worked. This makes a difference when you can have a real conversation about, say, the budget, IT, or facilities. Rather than a debate about resources, it’s a productive discussion about supporting the departments.”

Smolskis’s role at the college includes oversight of the budgeting process, the college investments, short-term and long-term financial forecasting, and working with the board and the management committee to make sure the college remains in sound shape fiscally. He has been designated the CFO across both the Santa Fe and Annapolis campuses and is working with Santa Fe Treasurer Bryan Valentine to unify accounting procedures and other business practices.

Before coming to St. John’s, Smolskis served in executive leadership roles at Trinity Washington University and the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation in Washington, D.C.,

“I get my feet into a lot of different areas, including non-financial duties, which is part of what makes my position interesting.”

among other organizations. Returning to higher education, “I get my feet into a lot of different areas, including non-financial duties, which is part of what makes my position interesting,” he says. “And I do things that are outside the numbers, like moving forward on deferred maintenance and plans to spruce up the campus. We want to make sure that St. John’s is a great place for students to live and feel comfortable. The campus should sparkle, so that visitors’ first impressions are good ones.” He also oversees the information technology needs of the campus and handles compliance and personnel issues.

Just as he eagerly awaits the next issue of his favorite comic book, Smolskis looks forward to the future of St. John’s, doing his part to make the college a vibrant place of learning both inside and out. “As we make long-term strategic plans, we have to realize that we’re going to face challenges for some time,” he says. “But that’s part of what’s fascinating—how we manage our resources in order to get the best bang for our buck.”

—Gregory Shook

CONVERSATION

“We’re In This Together”

As **Michael Peters**, the sixth president of St. John’s College, Santa Fe, prepares to depart the college in December 2015 – after 10 years of dedicated service – he reflects on the Program’s influence on his life, how St. John’s has changed over the last decade, and a college community whose passion and commitment to the Program are rooted in love. New Santa Fe President Mark Roosevelt will be profiled in the next issue of *The College*.

What stands out most as you look back at your time as president?

One of the most significant changes has been the movement and evolution of the college’s relationship with its alumni. The alumni are our greatest advocates and are a natural source of support if we’re going to continue to thrive in a turbulent world.

To what do you attribute this evolution?

There have been changes in the way the Alumni Association operates, the way they choose their leaders and rotate leadership, and together we’ve created the Alumni Leadership Forum. We’ve made it possible for alumni to focus their efforts on behalf of admissions, career services, and, of course, on fundraising. The great leadership shown by the alumni in recent years really proves that we’re in this together.

Your favorite book is *War and Peace*, and you’ve led seminars on it. Has your reading of the book changed because of that?

I’d first read the novel while studying Russian, so I read it first in its original language. I’d say I had a more general, almost superficial appreciation for it. But my study of the novel became much deeper when I encountered it at St. John’s. I’ve truly come to appreciate the depth of the work and the nuance that came through discussion in seminar.

You’ve led seminars all over the country and in the Summer Classics program. Can you talk about your engagement with students in seminar?

One of the first things I did as president was participate in seminar with the January Freshman class of 2008. As someone who didn’t graduate from St. John’s, it was beneficial to sit in on seminars during my first years here. Around that time, several students knew about my background in international affairs and



“One thing that is impossible to appreciate from the outside, until you’ve been in the midst of what we do here, is the love—which is really the best word for it—this community has for the St. John’s Program.”

approached me about starting an international affairs study group. The study group would revolve around a contemporary news article on an issue in international affairs or U.S. foreign policy. Similar to the St. John’s seminar approach, I would ask a question to get things started. It’s been one of the most rewarding things I’ve done at St. John’s, because it has given me a chance to get to know our students more personally than I would otherwise. It was a combination of my background and the individual students that kept it alive.

How has your impression of St. John’s College changed in the last ten years?

One thing that is impossible to appreciate from the outside, until you’ve been in the midst of what we do here, is the love—which is really the best word for it—this community has for the St. John’s Program. You can read about it, but until you’re here and really see on a day-to-day basis, the intense level of commitment and passion, the sacrifices that members of this community are willing to make to preserve and nurture the Program, it is impossible to appreciate it fully.

When people think about your time here, what would you like them to remember?

We’ve got to acknowledge that the college is facing challenges. It’s troubling to me to leave with some of the challenges unresolved. However, I hope after having been here for ten years that I’ve left the college a little more stable than when I found it. I’ve worked to create a healthy, collaborative relationship among the president, the dean, the faculty, and our colleagues on the Annapolis campus to preserve our distinctive identity, and to ensure we have the wherewithal to continue to offer this education to future generations of students.

What will you miss about St. John’s?

Definitely all the people I’ve gotten to know and become very close to over the years. In any organization, the people are the most important and the folks here—staff, faculty, alumni, and friends—have an astounding dedication to this very singular education. Eleanor and I will also miss Santa Fe. We’ve become very fond of this area, and we’ll spend as much time here as we can after we step down.

Do you have any advice for the new president?

The best advice is pretty straightforward: Listen and take the time to get to know the place. Sitting in on seminars gave me an opportunity to get a sense of the students and faculty and all the wonderful attributes they exhibit in the classroom. There are a lot of other things on a new president’s plate, but taking the time to listen and really get an understanding of the college is important. It’s also important to get to know the place where the college is located—the history, culture, and ethos of Santa Fe and northern New Mexico.

What's next for you?

Initially, Eleanor and I will go back to New York City, where we have a home, and then we'll see. I don't have any immediate plans professionally, and I would like to take some time to regroup and see where we go. We'll do some travel because our son and his family have just moved to Turkey and we'll be going over there to make sure they raise our grandsons properly [laughs]. One of the things I said in the Commencement address I was honored to give this year's senior class is that when you go through life you have to be willing to be open to serendipity or providence, whichever term you prefer. I'm going to try to follow my own advice and see where that takes me. ☐

—Gabe Gomez

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Levan Hall, completed in 2010 to house St. John's Santa Fe's Graduate Institute, is among the key legacies of Peters's presidency. He and his team expanded the college's facilities and improved the existing physical plant to provide an excellent learning environment for students and faculty.

Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) with Peters at an inauguration reception, October 2005. Peters came to St. John's after a distinguished military career and service as executive vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mike and Eleanor Peters celebrate the groundbreaking of Levan Hall on the Santa Fe campus.

Peters presides over the groundbreaking ceremony for Winiarski Hall, a multi-use building with housing for students, tutors' offices, and classrooms. From left: former BVG Chair Mike Uremovich, then-Santa Fe Mayor David Coss, tutor David McDonald, who chaired the campus planning committee, and Warren Winiarski (Class of 1952), who donated the building with his wife, Barbara (Class of 1955). The building was completed in 2012.

Mike Peters's family applauds during his inaugural address on October 28, 2005. Peters began his presidency in January of that year. From left: Peters's wife, Eleanor; son, Michael; daughter, Rebecca; and father, Max.



FRANK COONS



COMMENCEMENT 2015

Words on Wisdom in Annapolis

Barely two years into his retirement, tutor emeritus Jonathan Tuck (H14) returned to the Annapolis campus to deliver this year’s commencement address. The 111 seniors in the Class of 2015 “wanted our experience in the classroom and in this community to be represented to our families sitting in the audience by someone who has experienced it firsthand,” explained Alexandra Wick (A15) in a letter to the selection committee. “Our education has been an exercise in community and vulnerability, and we chose Mr. Tuck to be the speaker for his embodiment of those virtues.”

With characteristic humor and a knack

“If we are wise in no other way, we are wise enough to reflect on this experience and to value it as it deserves.”

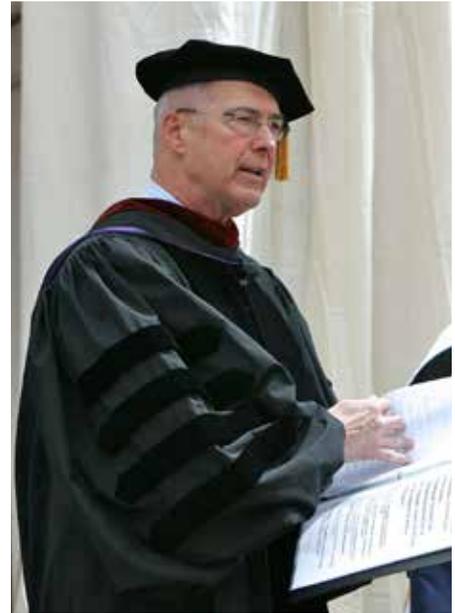
Jonathan Tuck (H14)

for getting straight to the heart of things, Tuck addressed the graduating seniors and 19 Graduate Institute students assembled on the campus front lawn seminar-style—with an opening question: “How is this choice [to come to St. John’s] working out for us? Did we get what we came for?” Tuck, who joined the faculty at 31 and retired in 2013 after nearly 35 years at St. John’s, let these questions linger while he reflected on the “immersive experience of being a part of this community” as well as “the program we have in common, our common objects, the books we read, our common understanding of our undertaking, [and] the community within which we live and grow—all these [which] bind us more closely in virtuous friendship.” In his concluding remarks, Tuck, with an ancient Greek virtue in mind, shared this parting thought: “If we are wise in no other way, we are wise enough to reflect on this experience and to value it as it deserves.”

PHOTO, TOP LEFT: Tutor emeritus Jonathan Tuck (H14) in Annapolis.
TOP RIGHT: Santa Fe President Mike Peters.



TONY J PHOTOGRAPHY



BRADY LEE (AG14)



TONY J PHOTOGRAPHY



COMMENCEMENT 2015

Santa Fe's Presidential Speaker

President Michael P. Peters presided over the 48th commencement on the Santa Fe campus. By special request of the Class of 2015, Peters also delivered the commencement address, encouraging the class to “find something—an idea, a passion or a role—that brings meaning or purpose to your life” and also to “look for an opportunity to contribute to or serve others.”

Peters, who retires at the end of 2015 and who has led some of the college's major milestones during his 10-year term as president, said he was humbled by this opportunity to speak to Santa Fe's 84 graduating seniors and 10 masters candidates. The graduates and

**“Perhaps most importantly,
find ways to feed your
soul as well as your mind
and body.”**

Santa Fe President Michael Peters

their families and friends came together to celebrate this singular moment in their lives and to hear Peters praise them for the courage they had demonstrated in coming to and graduating from St. John's when conventional wisdom is increasingly questioning the value of a liberal education. “You enrolled at St. John's, persevered, learned, grew and arrive at this ceremony today,” Peters said. “You stood

out from the crowd by taking on the challenges and seizing the opportunities St. John's affords. And I am sure you will stand out from the crowd wherever you go.”

He concluded by saying, “Your time here was only the beginning—a prelude. After all, this ceremony is known as commencement. If you are going to find meaning for yourself and contribute to others you must continue to grow intellectually, to foster your curiosity and imagination, and to call upon your courage and self-discipline. I also encourage you to continue to challenge your assumptions, and move beyond observation and description to thought and action. And, perhaps most importantly, find ways to feed your soul as well as your mind and body.” □



SPARE TIME

Gardener's Delight

When not tending to executive duties at the college, leading a seminar on Plutarch, or speaking out on the value of the liberal arts, Annapolis President **Chris Nelson** (SF70) is often found working in his garden, a lush sanctuary that he calls home. Pausing from his presidential duties, Nelson talks with *The College* about what makes gardening more than just a hobby.



TONY J PHOTOGRAPHY

Annapolis President Chris Nelson (SF70) helps care for more than four acres of ground.

I understand that when you have time to spare from your presidential duties, you like to garden. Can you tell us what you do?

Well, let us get our terms straight first. My wife, Joyce, is the gardener. I am heavy labor. We have a dear gardening friend who calls me the under-gardener. I limb trees, edge and mulch the gardens, lay woodchip paths through the woodland areas and stone paths among the flower beds, gather the slash and cuttings to be hauled away or composted for use a year later to enrich the soil throughout the property. I love working with my pruning shears, tree loppers, chain saw, and eight-pound splitting maul, splitting and stacking wood for our indoor and outdoor fireplaces, for the college, and for friends. If I am about shape, form, and a path through, then Joyce is about beauty, color, and content. She decides what is to be planted and where—and then goes about doing almost all the planting and tending of the flower and shrub gardens. And she studies gardens and reads voraciously about an extraordinary variety of plants and trees, and then she brings her learning to bear in her selection of plantings for the garden at home.

What do you like best about gardening?

There are so many things! I love the quiet concentration and focus required. I am free of distractions and only thinking about how to bring a pleasing shape to a tree or a walking path. I love walking through the garden at the end of the day with Joyce, seeing with some satisfaction the results of the day's work and laying out what the next day's tasks will be. Then, there is the exercise out-of-doors. After spending most days in the office, car, or airport, I enjoy the fresh air. Joyce, too, has been a busy professional, working as an attorney at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington. The garden is our common space, where we engage in our parallel play, usually in different parts of the garden. At the end of the day, we can each share with the other what little bit of improvement we have made, usually with a glass of wine in hand when we take our stroll. And of course, gardening is endless; it is never finished. So, as we get pleasure in both the doing and the viewing, it means we can continue such enjoyment endlessly. Then again, we are happy to be of service to the college, which has done so much to enrich our lives. We entertain a lot, and the garden gives us a beautiful venue for the purpose.

You mention the paths you have made through the garden. Why are these important?

We have a gorgeous piece of land to care for. It is more than four acres of rolling, hilly ground. Great big oaks, tulip poplars, magnolias, maples, white pine, hollies, river birch, cryptomerias, yoshino cherries, and rows of boxwood give it structure. And there are beautiful visual destination points in many different places, from the Severn River and the students sailing off the pier to the quiet waters of Shady Lake where the Great Blue and Green Herons do their fishing; from the fountain with the cardinals and goldfinches taking their afternoon baths to the terrace flower beds attracting varieties of pollinating bees, Eastern Swallow Tails, and many colorful butterflies; from the several sculptures we have placed around the property to Joyce's small garden house and library down by the water. In my view, if you have the space, a garden should not just be taken in through a single lens; it should be laid out to take you on many little journeys to see what is around the next corner. We have laid out the garden so that we can walk around the property in several rings without repeating our steps. Always something up ahead to look forward to. And then we have benches and viewing areas to see the osprey and their young learning to fly each July, the family of fox tripping across the lawn, the fat groundhogs eating the grass, the small herd of deer limbing up the Yoshinos, and the thousands of fireflies lighting up the garden in the early June evenings.

Is there any one thing that gives you special satisfaction?

Pulling the long trails of porcelain berry vines out of the trees. It takes weeding to a high level.

It's an awfully big property. Do you get any help in managing it all?

Oh my, yes! We could not manage the half of it without the college's Buildings and Grounds crew mowing the lawn each week and feeding the special trees, delivering the truckloads of mulch and woodchips, hauling away the slash from a pile we build each weekend, and repairing the big equipment when it breaks down. Then there has been a student helping us each year over the past decade, which gives us the added pleasure of getting to know better some of those students I otherwise only see passing across the platform at Convocation and

“A garden should not just be taken in through a single lens; it should be laid out to take you on many little journeys to see what is around the next corner.”



Commencement. We also have a special friend and neighbor who has been of extraordinary assistance to us this past year and a half. She has made the garden more beautiful than ever. And after twenty-four years developing the garden we have today, we have employed a friend and professional photographer, Don Dement, to document the garden over a twelve-month cycle, with the plan of making a book to leave with the college, showcasing our favorite photographs from the thousands he has taken.

Does the garden serve as an escape when you need it from the pressures of the day?

What pressures? ☒



ABOVE: A woodchip path through the garden's woodland areas. FOLLOWING PAGE: View from the terrace down to the Severn River at the president's house in West Annapolis.

PHOTOS: DON DEMENT



DOON DEMENT



Take your book out to the edge of whatever town or city you inhabit as Thoreau took the *Iliad* to Walden Pond. Read with “alert and heroic” character. There is no Concord—no peace—unless you are prepared to fight for it.



FREEDOM

upon an Achillean Shore

by David Townsend



When you encounter a truly great book, you feel it in your mind, heart, and gut as your soul expands and rises. So Henry David Thoreau's transcendental *Walden* hit me at 19, when I was fortunate to read it in Charles Hands' brilliant American Literature class at Loyola, Baltimore. I had previously studied Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience," a seminal guide to non-violent resistance to the cruelties of government and social tyranny, and a foundation for Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day at the *Catholic Worker*, and Father Phil Berrigan, pastor of St. Gregory's in Baltimore, where I volunteered as a young man, eager to learn how best to live.

Thoreau's message is a wake-up call: live your own life, not somebody else's. You can become an army of one and be your own minuteman. Answer for yourself the essential questions, "How to Live?" and "What to Do?" Start where you are. Don't be afraid to say "I." Make your life an experiment. If you break molds or "march to the beat of a different drummer," so be it.¹ By centering upon a single "*point d'appui*,"² you can become free, like Sadi's *azad*,³ or become an original, free, independent American citizen of the "true America."⁴ The horizons extending from your center point lie beyond your circumferences of "expectation."⁵ You may find yourself thrilled with unanticipated wonder.

LEFT: Photo of Walden Pond circa 1900.
 ABOVE: Thoreau's manuscript journals
 from 1837-61. ART RESOURCE, NY

Walden is an educational manual and method for living life fully. Thoreau teaches every reader to pursue a liberal education by living their own lifelong experiment:

*I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.*⁶

Thoreau writes his book as an “honest man,” in the first person. All books are so written, but many pretend not to be:

*I should not talk so much about myself if there were anybody else whom I knew as well. Unfortunately I am confined to this theme by the narrowness of my experience.*⁷

Walden Pond is the “earth’s eye,”⁸ “sacred as the Ganges.”⁹ Make its deep center, which Thoreau locates by surveying diameters crossing, a symbol of your own deep foundation. You may be leading a

love? There are three methods in *Walden*: Nature, America, and Reading.

Begin with nature. “I love the wild not less than the good.”¹³ Live “as deliberately as Nature.”¹⁴ We can learn much from Thoreau’s radical ecology, face our environmental crisis, and address the daily extinction of species. Throughout *Walden*, Thoreau melds his mind with many creatures—owls, mice, insects, birds, and most especially a loon.¹⁵ He confronts false clarity, challenging philosophers and economists who would only interpret the world to change it.

If we fail to change, Nature may take revenge on those who blaspheme her. Walden Pond herself “whoops”¹⁶ unexpectedly as the ice speaks. Is “whoop” the cry of the original Native American for whom the pond is named,¹⁷ who may be “the grandmother of Adam”? The indigenous spirit of Nature rebounds.

*[L]et wild Nature reign once more and the tender and luxurious English grains will probably disappear before... the great corn-field of the Indian’s God ... prove itself indigenous, and resume its ancient importance and dignity.*¹⁸

The second method of *Walden* is to establish “true America.”¹⁹ True Americans, who live self-reliant lives of practical courage and economy, crow “as lustily as Chanticleer”²⁰ to awaken us from “quiet desperation.”²¹ Consider how emerging wild, courageous, and indigenous Americans will invigorate a weakened “tender and luxurious” America and liberate us from tyrannies of fashion²² and conformity.

*The only true America is the country where you are at liberty... where the state does not endeavor to compel you to sustain slavery and war and other superfluous expenses.*²³

This “true America” is possible only when individual true Americans rise up one by one to claim “their own.”²⁴ Like Socrates in Plato’s *Republic*, Thoreau knows that the “power and capacity exist in the soul already.”²⁵

Thus Thoreau talks “purposefully” to the poor immigrant John Field “as if he were a philosopher.”²⁶ What is the true cost of “superfluous expenses”?... “the cost of a thing is the amount of... life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run.”²⁷ This is true “full cost accounting.” A simple dwelling costs “ten to fifteen years of a laborer’s life.” Learn from Native Americans rather than old Europe: “In the savage state every family owns a shelter as good as the best” but not in the economy

Thoreau’s message is a wake-up call: live your own life, not somebody else’s.

desperate life and have to steal time from your creditors to read this essay. If so, fear not. Freedom is at hand. You can “start now” and proceed “instantly,”¹⁰ without waiting for permission from any authority.

Like the artist of Kouroo in the ancient Vedic tale that Thoreau recounts, you can set out at once on your sojourn with your own “pure and perfect” walking stick. Resist giving away your life to those who would dominate and master you, and your rewards will be great. In Thoreau’s parable, the artist’s “Singleness of purpose and resolution, and his elevated piety endowed him, without his knowledge, with perennial youth.”¹¹ If transcending time and keeping your soul forever young attracts you, then *Walden* is your text. And Thoreau is a man you can go to school on. But you are no one’s disciple. Not even Thoreau’s. Never, never, never surrender your own life in order to live someone else’s.

A philosopher might interpret *Walden* as a phenomenological description of finding the self. Thoreau calls it the way of love. “Nothing can deter a poet for he is actuated by pure love.”¹² How shall we

to which we surrender, “in modern civilized society not more than one half the families own a shelter.”²⁸ Such inequality is unacceptable. Will you trust Fannie Mae or yourself to address this problem?

Thoreau describes in detail his experiment of building a simple cabin to live as a squatter on the banks of Walden Pond in the woods a mile outside of Concord, beginning on July 4. Counting costs to the half-penny, he demonstrates how to live economically by working only six weeks a year. It is possible to achieve home ownership and resist war, slavery, and superfluities. Thoreau builds his own low-cost housing and starts a movement of non-violent resistance by going to jail. He refuses to pay taxes to finance wars required to preserve vicious inequalities, whether against Mexico or others.

Learning to read is Thoreau’s third and final method. He prophesies a “reign of poetry.”²⁹ The paradox of *Walden* is that its clarion call to change America and the global polity comes in the solitary reading of a great text. It is a book as challenging as the poetry of the Hebrew prophets and the ancient texts of Homer, the Vedas, Zoroaster, and Confucius. *Walden* resounds with prophets and poets from Ezekiel and Pindar to Sadi and Coleridge. Reading is not equivalent to living. Nevertheless, to live free, you must learn to read as you have never read before:

*Those who have not learned to read the ancient classics in the language in which they are written must have a very imperfect knowledge of the history of the human race; for it is remarkable that no transcript has ever been made of them in any modern tongue, unless our civilization itself may be regarded as such a transcript.*³⁰

Walden summons us to “our” true citizenship one reader at a time. What if each American took personal responsibility to read “the transcript” of “our civilization”? What if the truth of this *logos* lay alertly and heroically upon every American tongue, speaking to the questions, “How to live and What to do?” Consider how the indigenous “reign of poetry”³¹—a way of understanding all three methods—will invigorate a weakened “tender and luxurious” people.

Take your book out to the edge of whatever town or city you inhabit as Thoreau took the *Iliad* to Walden Pond. Read with “alert and heroic”³² character. There is no Concord—no peace—unless you are prepared to fight for it. As Krishna leads Arjuna to recognize in the *Bhagavad-Gita*,³³ Thoreau’s guiding text



Take up Thoreau’s American pragmatism. Start now and confront subjectivity, nature, animals, land, village, and visitors face-to-face.

for *Walden*, you cannot withdraw from the battle.” Start now. You are an army and majority of one.³⁴

Step out as Achilles³⁵ does in the *Iliad*. Defy the injustice of Agamemnon. Give your armor over to love. Don’t worry about what you will put on. The gods will provide. Unfurl your own free flag to April’s breeze and you may find yourself suddenly at Concord Bridge with a cohort of minutemen able to fire “the shot heard round the world.”³⁶

Thoreau found freedom at Walden upon “an Achillean shore.”³⁷ Liberation requires a new birth of freedom in self, society, and economy. Radical ecology begins as locally as a 17-year locust emerging from apparently dead wood.³⁸ Imagine a 240-year locust. Take up Thoreau’s American pragmatism. Start now and confront subjectivity, nature, animals, land, village, and visitors face-to-face. Thoreau invites us to “travel a great deal in Concord.” Do take up *Walden*. The life and the planet you save are certainly your own. ☐

¹ *Walden – Norton Critical Edition*, third edition, p. 219; cited hereafter as *Walden* and page number.
² *Walden*, p. 70
³ *Walden*, p. 57
⁴ *Walden*, p. 140
⁵ *Walden*, p. 143
⁶ *Walden*, p. 217
⁷ *Walden*, p. 5
⁸ *Walden*, p. 128
⁹ *Walden*, p. 132
¹⁰ *Walden*, p. 219
¹¹ *Walden*, p. 219
¹² *Walden*, p. 180
¹³ *Walden*, p. 143
¹⁴ *Walden*, p. 69
¹⁵ *Walden*, pp. 95, 159
¹⁶ *Walden*, p. 183
¹⁷ *Walden*, p. 125
¹⁸ *Walden*, p. 162
¹⁹ *Walden*, p. 140
²⁰ *Walden*, pp. 5, 60
²¹ *Walden*, p. 8
²² *Walden*, p. 21
²³ *Walden*, p. 140
²⁴ *Walden*, pp. 14, 17, 52, 83
²⁵ Plato’s *Republic*, 518c
²⁶ *Walden*, p. 140
²⁷ *Walden*, p. 24
²⁸ *Walden*, p. 24
²⁹ *Walden*, p. 162
³⁰ *Walden*, pp. 73-74
³¹ *Walden*, p. 162
³² *Walden*, p. 76
³³ *Walden*, p. 200
³⁴ “Civil Disobedience,” p. 235
³⁵ *Walden*, p. 156
³⁶ Emerson, “Concord Hymn”
³⁷ *Walden*, p. 196
³⁸ *Walden*, p. 223

HALCYON



HAVEN

WILL HOLLINGSWORTH
(A08) RECLAIMS A
SPACE OF HIS OWN

BY PAULA NOVASH



On the homepage of the Spotted Owl Bar's website is a copy of owner Will Hollingsworth's (A08) favorite poem, "Fern Hill" by Dylan Thomas. Hollingsworth says that the work is "sort of our mission statement. It's all there, especially in those last two lines, 'Time held me green and dying, Though I sang in my chains like the sea.' It's being young, but at the same time, knowing we're on our way out."

But while the poet mourns his lost youth, Hollingsworth is embracing his youth now—witness the Spotted Owl, which opened in summer 2014 after three years of planning that included the thoughtful reclaiming of a long-vacant, pre-Civil War complex of buildings in the recently revived Tremont area of downtown Cleveland.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW WELLS

PORTRAIT OF WILL HOLLINGSWORTH (ABOVE)
BY HEATHER CAMPBELL

“IT BOTHERS ME WHEN PEOPLE WANT TO ‘REVITALIZE’ AN AREA BY TEARING EVERYTHING DOWN.”



A self-confessed “bar nerd”—Harry Brownes in Annapolis is a favorite—Hollingsworth envisioned the Spotted Owl as a neighborhood pub similar to those in Portland, Oregon, his hometown. “There are lots of great restaurants in the area, but there was no cool bar,” Hollingsworth recalls. “I love bars and their history. People come to bars to have fun, fight, fall in love. You can relax and enjoy yourself because the surroundings say, somebody who’s behind this really knows what he’s doing.”

Cleveland was a serendipitous choice for Hollingsworth’s foray into business ownership. He was on a cross-country road trip, taking a breather from stints at a nonprofit think tank in Washington, D.C. and campaigning for candidate Barack Obama, when he got off the highway and never left. “There’s an honesty to the culture here that really appealed to me after working in a political atmosphere,” he says. He tended bar at two well-known Cleveland restaurants, becoming more immersed in the city and the people he met. “A bartender can talk about anything with anyone; a Johnnie is particularly well-suited,” he says. “You need to be able to make a really great drink, but also know what’s on today’s sports pages, where an apartment is coming up for rent and what regulars might like to be introduced to each other.”

The idea of opening a bar became more tangible after Hollingsworth became friends with one of his regulars. “Bars kept coming up in our conversations, then the conversations turned to meetings. Eventually he said, if you can put numbers to your idea I can help you go out and find the money.” Hollingsworth spent the next 11 months developing a business plan and was fully capitalized by 2012.

Finding the perfect location was next, and when he walked into the abandoned mid-19th-century building that had formerly housed the long-defunct Cleveland College, a Civil War hospital, and a publishing house that produced religious tracts, among other tenants,



he knew it was right. “The last time it was occupied was over seventy-five years ago by an all-female ministry, the Gospel Workers Society,” he recalls. “It had a dirt floor and old brick and a poured-concrete ceiling—great elements to preserve for an old pub feel.”

The Spotted Owl now is a dark, intimate haven of tables built of salvaged barn wood and denim-blue concrete floors, softened by some stained glass and toile. Hollingsworth calls the style he was going for “brawny colonial. We used as many of the existing features as we could. It bothers me when people want to ‘revitalize’ an area by tearing everything down.”

Although the bar’s been successful since day one, Hollingsworth is still open to tweaks. “In the first week we realized our business was ninety percent specialty cocktails,” he says. “I’m a bar guy, not so much a cocktail guy—but now I’ve got to figure out how to own a cocktail bar.” That means in addition to putting in 16-hour days at the Spotted Owl, Hollingsworth is regularly traveling to New York and other locations to learn the nuances of original cocktail development (the Spotted Owl’s have names like “Done & Undone,” “The Sun Came After,” and “Queen By The Gold On Your Head”).



OPPOSITE: The bar’s tables are built of salvaged barn wood.

TOP: Hollingsworth finds the perfect location — an abandoned 19th-century building.

LEFT: Beer taps await their first pour.

“PROVIDING A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN ENJOY THEMSELVES AND ENJOY EACH OTHER IS, I THINK, A NOBLE ENDEAVOR.”





Putting in the work for something you believe in reflects the sensibility of his adopted city, according to Hollingsworth. “People in Cleveland believe, one, you don’t get anything without hard work, and two, you do what you have to do to survive. It’s a wonderful place, but you really have to experience it to understand,” he continues.

He would say the same thing about his years at St. John’s (three in Santa Fe and senior year in Annapolis). “I spent four years doing something that took up all of me,” he explains. “I remember junior year, when there’s literally not enough hours to do all the work, so the professors are interested in what work you *choose* to do. You decide what you want and pour yourself into it completely.

“I needed something that’s like that every day, something that pushes me up against my limits,” he continues. “I wanted to dedicate my twenties to something—and providing a place where people can enjoy themselves and enjoy each other is, I think, a noble endeavor.” ☐



A cozy nook provides an ideal setting for good conversation.

PHOTO: EDSSEL LITTLE / CREATIVE COMMONS

*Melanie Kirby
(SF 97) hugs a jar
of bees on her farm
in New Mexico.*



JANEY STILLINGS

BIRTH OF A BEE - KEEPER



*One Social Butterfly's Metamorphosis
into a Conscious Nectar Nomad*



by Melanie M. Kirby (SF97)

I

've travelled many a road, in the darkest of nights, serving as chauffeur to beings of lightness and sweet, migrating with them as a fellow follower of the bloom. On other starry dappled nights, I ride as passenger, hearing the hum of the motor and the buzz of the bees, smelling the scents of warm beeswax and nectar being fanned to its essential and existential perfection. I hop in and out of the truck opening and closing gates, allowing the navigator to slowly ease over bumpy tracks to the distant land of milk and honey. I latch the gate behind the truck and realize that here in this darkest of night skies I am helping to carry tiny embers of pure starlight to their new fragrant pasture.

What am I doing? Transporting queen bees I've raised to their new hives, where they will form the foundation for a group of beings that ensure the existence and continuation of plant species, and in the process produce exceptional honey. My business, Zia Queenbees, raises queen bees, provides beekeepers with starter nuclei and assembled hive boxes, produces varietal honeys, and offers pollination services and community education about the wonders of beekeeping.

How did I get here? I recall as a five-year-old wanting to be a nurse. I was intrigued with the biology of life and with the science that leads to healing. I wanted to be liked—and I wanted to promote wellness. A few years later, I wanted to be “interesting” and to become a writer of

interesting things. I entertained a career as an anthropologist, so I could learn how people in other cultures live, what they strive to attain in their lives and how they celebrate. It was the celebration and power of music and dancing that I became intrigued with next, while at the same time pursuing the sciences. I had no clue that I would be able to include all of my childhood interests into one career path—that of keeping fuzzy insects for my livelihood.

Now, close to two decades after the bees found me, I feel a little more “interesting”—enough to write. After travelling the globe from farms to forest lands, following the bloom from flower to flower and from hive to hive, I recognize the pieces of my life’s puzzle. And, so, today I am a professional apiculturist, one who keeps bees. I am a specialist. I am a queen honeybee breeder. The heart of the hive rests with the queen, and in selecting and following Mother Nature’s lead, I help to nurse hives; by doing so, I immerse myself in their culture and feel their musical vibrations.

Keeping bees is very different from “having” bees. In order to keep bees, one has to constantly learn from the natural and man-made forces and their interactions. Synergy is the interaction of individual conditions that yields an effect greater than the sum of the individual effects. The interactions between a bee and its environment, between its colony and their environment, are ever-changing. Mother Nature’s dynamic interface requires the ability to adapt and the ability to relate to more than one stimulus.

The bees rely on the natural and supplemental forage that surrounds them. They are at the mercy of the elements. Their importance to plants is profound. Also known as the “winged angels of agriculture,” their efforts help to produce more than ninety percent of all food. As Hippocrates claimed,

I had no clue that I would be able to include all of my childhood interests into one career path—that of keeping fuzzy insects for my livelihood.”



Kirby inspects a hive of honeybees.

“Let food be thy medicine, and medicine thy food.” Seventy percent of all cures are derived from plants, and it is this connection between horticulture and medicine that keeps the bees, and man, healthy.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of my small bee farm, which is nestled where the Santa Fe, Carson, and Pecos National

Forests “kiss.” The idea for the farm developed out of a love of books. When I met my partner Mark Spitzig (who runs Superior Honey Farms in Michigan now) while working at a bee farm in Florida, we started eating dinner together with a dessert of heated discussions about Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged*. Books fostered our conversations, and it was

through books that we came to learn about each other and our passion for bees. Books and their musings inspired us to discuss. And books inspired us to plan and to act.

Books encouraged us to dream, to become inspired, to visualize and then manifest. How can learning to learn inspire others and inspire a sense of preservation and, thus, sustainability? It is in thinking that we create. Creating is the reflection of what Mother Nature and Father Time have been molding us to do since time immemorial. It is this, and this alone, that moves the cosmos.

We see it reflected again and again, in the writings of Plato in the *Meno*: what is the bee? Is the bee a bee or is it a bee because it is part of a collective hive mind? Can a bee be a bee without his hive mind? And, does the hive exist apart from its bees? What, we daresay, what IS it? And WHO are we?

I've had a few epiphanies over the years, nothing short of miraculous for me as I am rather high-strung, scarcely slowing down to eat and sleep. It is my creative mind that I struggle to rein in on occasion. It takes me through the honeycombed labyrinths of reality. Yet, I find the calm when I am truly in the honeycombs, kneeling in the apiary. This calm is pervasive. You can hear it humming its maternal frequency. You can smell its sweetness and you can see its majesty. And it beckons you to preserve it.

These sensory experiences appeal to my thoughts, allowing me to reconnect with the exquisiteness of life and strive for a glimpse of origin. I did not know that beekeeping would become the professional and personal declaration for me that it has. I attribute that to my experiences as a student at St. John's, learning to learn and wanting to learn. Wanting to learn has everything to do with manifestation. It is humbling to recognize that what one thinks, one sees—and what one does, one makes real.

My beekeeping journey began 19 years ago; it has been exhilarating. My *vida loca* has me travelling the speed of light in thought between the micro and macrocosmic perspectives as I follow the bloom from season to season. My life as a nectar nomad has fed me both in body and in mind. I see the bee. I AM the bee.

I see her working: visiting each blossom, sensing its perfumes, collecting its pollen and starlit nectar, and then returning home to transform these energy particles into more decorated entities of light and sweetness. It is that light, that sweet light, at the core of it all. It emanates from the source, radiating down from the heavens, shining



The scent of nectar wafts from hive boxes.



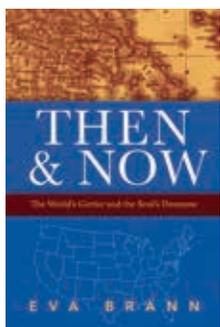
After travelling the globe from farms to forest lands, following the bloom from flower to flower and from hive to hive, I recognize the pieces of my life's puzzle."

down on a lonely planet. This lonely planet then absorbs light and is inspired to grow beings of light, beings that transform it into sweet and fragrant nectars. Other beings of light help transfer the glow, serving as midwives and pollinators, helping to deliver fruit full of this light energy, nourishing our minds and our bodies. From stardust to stardust, it is we who help to create the environment in which we exist. ☐

About the Author: Melanie Margarita Kirby has followed the bloom with her bees to South America, North America, Eastern Europe, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean. She will venture to the Mediterranean this fall to visit French queen honeybee breeders in Normandy. She also serves as the editor of Kelley Beekeeping monthly online newsletter, with more than 40,000 subscribers. To learn about her farm, visit www.ziaqueenbees.com.

EVA BRANN

Reading Comprehension



“Comprehension works by circumspection, by looking around a being’s outer limits, its borderlands.”

This slim volume, *Then and Now: The World’s Center and the Soul’s Demesne* (Paul Dry Book, 2015), comprehends two essays: one on Herodotus and one on “imaginative conservatism.” I use the slightly odd, and possibly ungrammatical, locution “comprehends” because it seems that this idea—“comprehending”—unites the work. “To comprehend” does not, on Annapolis tutor Eva Brann’s (H89) telling, merely mean “to understand.” Comprehenders, as she might dub them, *do* understand, but, more importantly, these comprehenders demonstrate a particular form of mindedness—the form offered in Herodotus’ *History* and the form that the “imaginative conservative” would do well to cultivate.

The special form of understanding that is comprehension does not work by heading straight to the center of things. Comprehension works by circumspec-

tion, by looking around a being’s outer limits, its borderlands. Rather than grasping hold of an inner essence, comprehension “allows what a thing is to coalesce out of what it is not.” That thing, for Herodotus, “Greek being” and that out of which it coalesces, are barbarian mores. And so in pursuit of Greekness, Herodotus, the comprehender, must necessarily visit and delineate the “envi-

roning Barbarians, both because they are wonderful in themselves and because it is in opposition to them that the thus pin-pointed Greeks are to be defined.” And here is where comprehension becomes quite a delicate matter. Greek being is not simply the opposite of barbarian being. It rather coalesces out of these others—out of Egyptians who revere for domestic cats, Persians who revere most natural forces, and Scythians who have not much use for the divine.

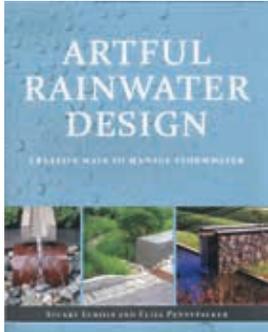
But just what coalesces out of this motley? Herodotus does not always say, leaving the reader a fair bit of work. But I imagine Herodotus would have nodded approvingly at this, Brann’s description of the Greeks’ relationship to the divine: “For all the art their anthropomorphic gods elicit, the Greeks are more natural by far than the Egyptians and indeed than

most barbarians, since it takes worldliness for humans to become natural; hide-bound tribalism tends to be artifice-ridden. The alien veneration of animals, and by contrast, their own beautiful anthropomorphic gods must bring home to Greeks their proper integration into a natural cosmos, a well-ordered world in which humans do not worship lower species, but live in a continuity of appearance and in a great chain of being with the higher orders.” These remarks show what a majestic mode of mindfulness comprehending is. While the fraternal twin, the apprehender, goes straight to the heart of things, what care and attention must the comprehender bring to such a great swath of being! And what nobility does this, in turn, bestow upon barbarian practices? For what glory is there in coalescing out of a stew of savagery and insignificance?

But is there reason to think, as the book’s second essay claims, that comprehending is a mode of mindedness that ought specifically appeal to conservatives? Perhaps so, if Brann is right to describe conservatives as “not famous for tolerance.” For if this is the case, “So much the more ought they, in their proper thoughtful mode, gain a reputation for inclusiveness more deeply grounded than in the unreliable vagaries of mere putting up with each other, called ‘tolerance.’” Herodotus did not put up with Egyptians, Persians, or Scythians. He comprehended them. Such comprehending might help conservatives do what they are—etymologically, we might say—called to do: “to keep safe” that which is worthy of safekeeping. This strikes me as persuasive, but I see no reason to limit it to imaginative conservatives. Those who are famous for tolerance might steel their thin, bloodless version with Brann’s reminder that “the confines of what I positively approve are equally the limits of its negative complement: the latter therefore cooperates in the definition of the former and is thus a necessary aspect of all positive being.”

Brann identifies other aspects of imaginative conservatism, walking around its borders and recording what she sees: a bias against the future, a disposition to feel awe in the face of faith, a populism based on friendship and difference, a protectiveness of what is of slow growth and has endured. Her borderlands are less wild than Herodotus’, but her little book can honorably stand next to his big one, two authors speaking to one another with deep, and mutual, comprehension.

—Brendan Boyle

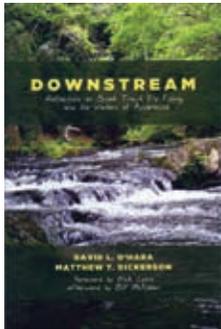


Artful Rainwater Design: Creative Ways to Manage Stormwater

By Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker (A79)
Island Press, 2015

In their new book, *Artful Rainwater Design: Creative Ways to Manage Stormwater*, Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker (A79), faculty members at Penn State's Department of Landscape Architecture, rethink traditional stormwater treatment systems and offer innovative solutions for managing heavy rainwater and the runoff in ways that are valuable and beautiful. From the book's opening pages, readers are reminded that rain is a resource, not a waste product. Artful

Rainwater Design (ARD), a term coined by Echols in 2005, describes an approach to sustainable stormwater management in which the management system is designed as a landscape amenity. Building on a decade of research, this comprehensive guide explores methods to design creative yet practical landscapes that treat on-site rainwater management as an opportunity to enhance site design through education, recreation, safety, public relations, or aesthetic appeal. The book also highlights techniques for ecologically sustainable rainwater management and features diverse case studies that illustrate how landscape designers and engineers throughout the country are implementing principles of ARD.



Downstream: Reflections on Brook Trout, Fly Fishing, and the Waters of Appalachia

By David L. O'Hara (SFGI00) and Matthew T. Dickerson
Cascade Books, 2014

David L. O'Hara (SFGI00), an associate professor of philosophy and the classics at Augustana College in South Dakota, has co-written a collection of meditative narrative essays on fly fishing. His chapters are interspersed with chapters by his friend Matthew Dickerson, a professor at Middlebury College. In each chapter, O'Hara and Dickerson fish—alone, together,

or with friends and family—as well as hike and camp throughout Appalachia. The fishermen seek brook trout, the famous native fish of the rivers and streams in the Appalachian Mountains. The stories they tell are reminiscent of the evocative fishing scenes in Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It* but include information about history, geography, water politics, and conservation that is skillfully woven into inviting, voice-driven prose. *Downstream* features a forward by Nick Lyons, a renowned fly fisherman and founder of Lyons Press, and an afterward by Bill McKibben, a writer and environmentalist who won the 2014 Right Livelihood Award.



Money Trees: The Douglas Fir and American Forestry, 1900-1944

By Emily K. Brock (A94)
Oregon State University Press, 2015

This scholarly work is a thorough interdisciplinary history of forestry in the Pacific Northwest and a significant contribution to environmental studies. Foresters did not necessarily consider their work ecological, but they did consider themselves to be scientists. Emily Brock (A94), a research scholar at Germany's Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, considers

their work in the context of the biological sciences as well as through the lens of American political and economic processes, including the New Deal, which was a time of turmoil for foresters due to the ravages of the Great Depression and changes in federal land and resource management. Brock also explores how foresters became involved in the lumber industry during the early 1940s, as logging companies started to consider the long-term health of forests—a move that distanced forestry from its origins in nature and turned it into a means for corporations to gain the approval of Americans concerned about deforestation.

ALUMNI



Honoring Outstanding Alumni

At the annual Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF) Awards Banquet, alumni are recognized for leadership and volunteerism with the Alumni Association's Volunteer Service Awards (or ALFies). In June on the Santa Fe campus, a dozen Johnnies received ALFies. "The Awards Committee received so many nominations this year that it was really hard to select twelve winners," says Lee Katharine Goldstein (SFGI90), who steps down this year from the Alumni Association Board.

Recognized for their work with alumni chapters, Paul Frank (SF82) has organized chapter events and held leadership positions in the Chicago Chapter since the early '80s, while Harry Zolkower (A82) and Nicole Levy (SF92) developed Virtual Alumni Chapter seminars. For several years, Larry Davis (SFGI87) has helped the Austin/San Antonio Chapter donate a complete set of the *Encyclopedia Britannica Great Books of the Western World*

to a first or second year student from Texas.

Rachel Dudik (A02), Juniper Lavato (SFGI13), and Sabina Sulat (A87) received ALFies for their work with Career Services. Dudik established summer internships and participated on Career Services panels, and Lavato established a "Guest Program" at the Santa Fe Institute for current students. Sulat helped coordinate both the first alumni career services webinar and other networking events.

Cindy Lutz (A98), Nick Gazzolo (A93), Amy Hoffman Parakkat (A93), and Barbara McClay (A12) received ALFies for their work online. Lutz identified (and engaged others to help identify) significant errors (typos, dead links, etc.) on the college's new website in the weeks after it was launched. Gazzolo and Parakkat established the Johnnie Quote Facebook page, and McClay conducted an alumni interview series on the student blog Johnnie Chair.

Perhaps the most emotional ALFie of the evening, though, went to Annette Prapasiri (SF04), recognized for her efforts with engaging other members of the Class of 2004 to complete the Armillary Sphere Project. The senior legacy project resulted in one of the highest class giving rates. A tearful Prapasiri thanked her fellow classmates and project leaders, adding that the project demonstrated the impact that St. John's had on her class and the legacy they wished to leave future Johnnies.

Finally, Lee Katharine Goldstein (SFGI90) received her own personalized Johnnie Chair in honor of her years of outstanding service to the Alumni Association. With roaring applause, the award was the perfect way to cap off the alumni celebration.

—Babak Zarin (A11)

VIRTUAL CHAPTER SEMINARS

Hungry for good conversation? Enter the St. John's Virtual Chapter seminars. Open to alumni in search of a serious discussion about a difficult reading, this fall's Virtual Chapter seminars, led by St. John's tutors, will explore such works as Plato's *Gorgias*, Dante's *Inferno*, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, among others.

Seminars, which use the online conference program ZoomUS, will be held on Sundays at 4 p.m. EST. To participate, all you need is a computer with a webcam (iPads work, too).

To reserve your seat at the table for any or all of these seminars, please contact Annapolis Alumni Director Leo Pickens at leo.pickens@sjc.edu.

October 4:
Genesis 25:19-50:24
(Stories of Jacob and Joseph),
led by Sam Kutler

November 8:
Plato's *Gorgias*

December 13:
Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*

January 10:
Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*,
Book II (1103a-1110a) & Book VI
(1138 b-1145a).

February 7:
Dante's *Inferno*,
Cantos 32, 33 & 34,
led by Joe MacFarland

March 13:
Descartes' *Discourse on Method*

April 3:
Hegel's Preface to
Phenomenology of Spirit

May 1:
Shakespeare's *The Tempest*



ADRIAN TREVISAN (A84)
Alumni Association Board President

“I’m excited to be leading the Alumni Association as we work with St. John’s staff on both campuses to create new ways to strengthen the Johnnie community and support the college. By developing local events focused on admissions, career services, giving, and whatever else people think of in addition to the traditional alumni seminars, we hope to attract Johnnies of all interests, broaden local alumni leadership, and create a more vibrant alumni community.”

A New Direction for the SJCAA

A record-breaking number of alumni joined the Alumni Association Board at the Alumni Leadership Forum held in Santa Fe, June 4-7, to discuss the Association’s progress in engaging alumni and supporting the college. After reviewing the November 2014 Alumni Survey and accomplishments in the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan, the board and alumni concluded that the 2015-2017 strategic planning process should focus on alumni engagement at the local level.

Alumni survey results show that while 60% of respondents want their chapter to include seminars among the activities it offers, chapters still need to offer other kinds of activities to attract the remaining 40% of alumni. Other activities receiving high marks were social activities, helping with admissions, and (especially among younger alumni) career services. (The survey report can be found at: <http://community.stjohnscollege.edu/aa-records/2014-alumni-survey>)

With these facts in mind, alumni participants suggested the following ideas for the board and chapters to consider:

Local Chapter Activities

Chapters/local alumni should put thought and effort into engaging recent graduates by developing a variety of activities to appeal to a wide range of ages and the different interests, and financial capabilities. that these represent. Not all alumni will want to participate in all events, and chapters may want to consider collective leadership to allow multiple meetings each month. Some recent examples of chapter activities include:

- Twin Cities pop-up or flash seminar on Obergefell scheduled after the SCOTUS decision on marriage equality
- Santa Fe’s fundraising hike for the Hallie Leighton Fund
- Chicago’s picnic in Millennium Park with the Grant Park Orchestra

Board Leadership for Local Activities

The Association should define clear roles for alumni in the field, both within a chapter and individually; the Association should then develop tools and a guidebook to roll these out to alumni.

Fundraising

Make clear that small donations are welcomed—fundraising communications to alumni should emphasize that any amount is welcomed, and specifically that a high participation rate is very desirable, regardless of amount.

The board will prepare a new strategic plan focused on alumni engagement at the local level.

If you would like to contribute ideas to the plan, or volunteer for a working group, contact your local chapter leader. If you don’t know who that is, look them up via IntroMaps or www.sjc.edu.

Please welcome the new leadership of the Alumni Association, serving in the following capacities:

OFFICERS

- Adrian Trevisan (A84), President
- Tia Pausic (A86), President-elect, Nominating Committee
- Phelosha Collaros (SF00), Past-President, Awards Committee
- David Pex (SF77), Treasurer
- Susann Bradford (SF89), Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

(listed by working group)

Admissions

- Anne Fenton (SFGI07)
- Joao Santa-Rita (A09)

Alumni Giving Council

- Merry Peckham (SF07)
- Heather Upshaw (SF04)

Alumni Leadership Forum

- Brenna Strauss (SF04)
- Babak Zarin (A11)

Career Services

- Sabina Sulat (A87)

Chapters and Regional Events

- Elihu Dietz (SF06)
- Carol Freeman (AGI94)

Strategic Communications

- Aaron MacLean (A03)

Student Engagement

- Briana Henderson Saussy (A03, EC05)

Ex-Officio: Sarah Palacios (Director of Alumni Relations, Santa Fe)

Director Emeritus:

- Allan Hoffman (Class of 1949)

1955

After 50 years of conducting, **Harold Bauer** (A) is mostly retired from the world of music and has taken a keen interest in oil painting. As president of the Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club, he became active in international service as well as serving his local community. He and his wife, Karen, hope to do some serious traveling in the years ahead.

1963

William (A) and **Jessica Hoffmann Davis** (Class of 1965) are retired from Credit Suisse and Harvard, respectively, and are now spending most days along Squam Lake in New Hampshire, where Jessica writes books on the arts in education and plays that are performed at the local theater. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Boston.

1964

Cecily Sharp-Whitehill (A) began her second year as a Purpose Discovery Coach at Alliance4Discovery Coaching in Florida. She can be reached on IntroMaps, Facebook, and LinkedIn, or at 941-350-9626.

1965

Allenna Dungan Leonard (A) received the Warren McCulloch Award of the American Society for Cybernetics, given for lifelong contributions to the nurturing of cybernetics, at the ASC 50th Anniversary Conference in August 2014.

1966

Rod Roderick (A) writes that he was a freshman twice, once in 1962, when he left for “unrequited love,” and then again two years later, when he returned at the invitation of admissions director James Tolbert. In the meantime, he had worked for the Hunt Brothers Royal Traveling Circus, worked in New York City as a

1982 *Inspirational Orchids*



Don Dennis (SF) is living on a small island off the west coast of Scotland, where his wife is a dairy farmer. He grows and photographs orchids, and makes flower essences with them. “The orchids are giving me a spur to investigate the topography of the (Bohemian) Implicate Order in relation to Consciousness,” he writes. “Discussions of Plato around the SJC tables come to mind in this endeavor. If you are ever near the Isle of Gigha, please stop in to say hello.”

delivery boy at Bellevue Hospital, and been a show page at ABC and a copy boy for the *Courier Post* in New Jersey. He left the college again in 1964, when, he says, “I got a job with an ad agency and became a successful Madman. Life is wonderfully peculiar!”

1967

Lovejoy Reeves Duryea (A) and her husband have bought a condo in West Palm Beach. She plans to spend winters there, away

from NYC. She is also painting and playing croquet and recently competed with a much younger Johnnie at the Merion Cricket Club’s fall tournament.

1968

Randall Albury’s (A) book *Castiglione’s Allegory: Veiled Policy in “The Book of the Courtier (1528)”* was published by Ashgate in 2014. This new study shows that Baldassare Castiglione’s dialogue about life at a Renaissance court

contains a veiled message for those whom Castiglione describes as “judicious readers.”

Julie von Erffa (SF) writes, “I was in the pioneer class that started in 1964. There were 81 of us, though only 18 actually graduated, and I made some lasting friends. St. John’s prepared me for acupuncture school. The slant of the foreign language and concepts made the transition familiar. I have been practicing acupuncture with Chinese herbal remedies since 1995 and facilitate hypnotherapy sessions. I have stayed in New Mexico since graduating from St. John’s and have four daughters, one grandchild, and another one coming.”

Rick Wicks (SF) spent 34 adventure-filled days in the Caribbean exploring Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba.

1969

Retired from her job in the Office of Public Affairs at Yale, **Dorie Brodie Baker** (A) became a certified master gardener and went to Venice for the first time. She is still married to her husband of 44 years and has two grandsons.

Barbara Mordes (A) sends her thanks for an outstanding Class of 1969 homecoming in Annapolis. “I will treasure the memory of our 45th homecoming,” she writes. “Every minute was exciting! The campus, though getting more buildings, is still very beautiful, more so with all the memories that fill its corners.” She joined the nominating committee for The Screen Actors Guild and plans to move with her husband, John, from Los Angeles to Palm Coast, Fla.

1970

Benjamin Barney (SF) reports that he is well and living in Lukachukai, Ariz., near Canyon del Chelly, in the heart of the Navajo Nation. He is interested in reconnecting

with his classmates or anyone affiliated with the college.

On a recent visit to Greece, **John Dean** (A) was once again baffled and inspired by the wide, deep, universal range of its first three millennia of communications. “Such a sense of place,” he writes. “It encapsulates Mediterranean light. It occupies a spiritual place that generously includes many gods and not a limited monotheism. It has moral grooming adorned with independence and frankness. Without the engagement which our first year readings at St. John’s gave, I wouldn’t know how to begin to go and get what’s there, for which one remains grateful.”

E. M. Macierowski (A) delivered a paper in November 2014 at a conference in Toru, Poland, “Truth in Democracies: A Case Study on Population Policy,” as part of the VIIth International Congress “Catholics and the Truth: Opportunities and Threats” at the College of Social and Media Culture, Catholic University of Culture. A copy of the conference program is available at www.wksim.edu. In May 2015, he was invited to participate in the Woroniecki Memorial Lecture Series at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin on the theme of atheism and justice.

1972

Michael Green (A) and his wife, Polly, have retired and left Southern California for Annapolis in order to be near their children and family. He would be glad to hear from fellow Johnnies at michaelkevingreen@gmail.com.

1973

Michael Aaron (SF) reports that he and his partner, Danusha, have become grandparents for the first time. He is still working for IBM and considering retirement. They invite their St. John’s friends to come and visit them in Sydney.



Ellen Veden’s (SFGI77) artwork *Mapleton Road Bridge* was on view at the Trenton City Museum.

After working in South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa, **Anne Ray** (SF) has returned to Santa Fe, where she is teaching full time at Mandela International, a new public IB school. She is still doing ceramics and writing her third book and first work of fiction. Her eldest daughter, **Heather Sherwin** (SF03), is completing her residency in emergency medicine.

Peter Squitieri (A) received his B.A. from St. John’s College at the 2015 commencement exercises.

1974

After graduation, **Eva Virginia (McKemie) Greene** (A) worked as a copy editor for *The Jerusalem Post* while learning Hebrew, and then taught at Eilat Conservatory of Music in Israel. She and her future husband, Dr. Bradford Greene, returned to the States in the 1980s and worked in Washing-

ton, D.C. for the next two decades. In 2007, she resigned from the Inter-American Development Bank and moved to Vermont, where she and her family have lived for the past eight years. She currently serves as a musician for Brattleboro’s Unitarian Church and works part time as a recreation therapist.

Mary (Geoghegan) Jolles (SF) writes, “Three years ago I retired from school administration to escape from stress but have continued to work part time for the Colebrook, N.H. School District as an administrative assistant. My tasks include writing grants and organizing school activities and events, as well as publishing the monthly school newsletter. Hiking has been my passion since 2009, and in 2013 I finished hiking the forty-eight four thousand-footers of the White Mountains. This was a great experience and I

recommend it to anyone as a way of getting to know the White Mountains better. My husband, **John Jolles** (SF75), and I are active members of the local Kiwanis Club, and John continues to work as a contractor. It was great to get together with other members of the Santa Fe Class of ’74 last September.”

1975

Eric Scigliano (SF) writes, “I’m now in my fourth decade in Seattle, and as befits the locale, getting more involved in marine science and environmental work. After co-writing the book *Flotsametrics* (on, no kidding, flotsam oceanography) and a report evaluating responses to ocean acidification in connection with a Washington State blue-ribbon panel on same, I’m working as the science writer/editor at Washington Sea Grant, a NOAA-funded research and education program

at the University of Washington. I'm also writing several chapters for a forthcoming book on Pacific Coast marine protected areas and joining in occasional kayak-borne "Pumpout Pirate" missions to help boaters keep their wastes out of the waters. When I can, I write for Crosscut.com, the public-media regional news site where I was formerly an editor. I still love the hiking as well as paddling here but miss the Sangre de Cristo."

1977

Walter Featherly (SF) moved to the law firm of Holland & Knight. He would love to hear from any Johnnies living in Anchorage or traveling through.

After 10 years at the helm of the American Sleep Apnea Association and nearly a year of "fun-employment," **Edward Grandi** (A) was hired in February to be the executive director of the National Genealogical Society. "While I will have a continuing interest in the field of sleep medicine and health in general, I am looking forward to contributing my administrative skills to this one hundred-twelve-year-old organization," says Grandi, who still lives in D.C. and enjoys alumni chapter events there.

Ellen Veden (SFGI) writes, "The Central New Jersey St. John's Alumni Chapter is off and running thanks to the efforts of **Adrian Trevisan** (A84) and **Jerome Dausman** (A11), the new chapter chair. The group was given a tour of the Trenton City Museum's Ellerslie Open 32 juried exhibit by Brenda Springsted, wife of **Eric Springsted** (SF73), followed by a picnic at their lovely home in Trenton. What made it special for me was that my artwork was chosen to be exhibited in this juried show."

1978

After receiving his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from McMaster University, Canada, in 1983, **Ossama Abdul-Haggag** (SFGI) went



Ossama Abdul-Haggag (SFGI78) poses with his wife in Egypt.

to Egypt, where he is currently a professor of electrical engineering. "The study of the philosophy of science as viewed by the ancient scientists and philosophers has provided me with motivation and insight into my research," writes Abdul-Haggag, who is married with two children.

1979

Blake Kline (A) became a grandfather for the first time on April 13 with the birth of Gabriela Joyce Pedroza-Kline.

Miyoko Schinner's (A) fourth cookbook, *The Homemade Vegan Pantry, the Art of Making Your Own Staples* (Random House/Ten Speed Press), is now available. She is the founder/CEO of Miyoko's Kitchen, makers of artisan vegan cheese, which was launched in September. Her youngest daughter is a sophomore at the Santa Fe campus.

Lisa Simeone (A), writes, "I continue to love living in Charm City, riots or no riots. I participated in several demonstrations in support of Freddie Gray and the many other people in this city brutalized by police violence. At one of those demonstrations, by the way, we marched together

with the police. I'm just enough busy with freelance work (World of Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, *Style Magazine*), in addition to volunteer work with Single Carrot Theatre, Homewood House Museum, and Baltimore Heritage. I'm a volunteer docent with the latter two, so if you're ever in town, let me know and I'll give you a tour! I love showing off this beautiful, quirky, one-of-a-kind city. When I'm not out and about, I'm blissfully sitting on our screened-in porch, reading, writing, and rabble-rousing. I'm in touch with other Johnnies regularly and often see **Bruce Babij** (A) and family, who live nearby. Looking forward to Alumni Weekend to be with my classmates from the Class of '80, the one I joined after I took a year off. Last year's was so much fun, I can't wait!"

1980

Peter Grubb (A) and his wife, Betsy, built and operate River Dance Lodge, an adventure resort in central Idaho. For the past 16 years he has served on the board of Idaho Rivers United, Idaho's statewide river conservation organization. He also served four years on the board of Spokane's Center for Justice, an advocacy organization for those without a voice in the justice system. He still loves reading, particularly about natural and cultural history, and would love to connect with Johnnies via Facebook or in person in northern Idaho.

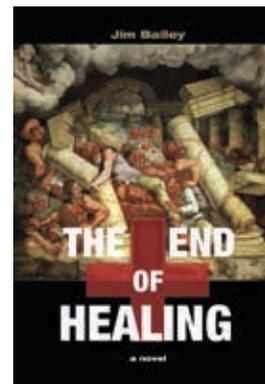
1981

Andrew White (A) will publish his first book, *Performing Orthodox Ritual in Byzantium*, with Cambridge University Press. A longtime theatre artist and critic on the Washington, D.C. theatre scene, he received a Ph.D. in theatre history, theory, and criticism from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has become an expert on the performing arts

of Byzantium, the Greek-speaking Roman Empire. In addition to translations of key Greek texts from Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, he is developing a repertory translation combining key plays of Euripides with the text of the Christos Paschon. He currently serves as adjunct faculty in humanities with Stratford University in Woodbridge, Va.

1983

Jim Bailey's (A) new novel *The End of Healing* (The Healthy City, 2015) chronicles a young physician's discovery of every level of Dante's hell in the world of modern medicine. In January he spoke at the University of Memphis on "The End of Healing: Telling the Truth about American Healthcare through Fiction." Bailey writes, "*The End of Healing* is already being used for medical sociology and health policy courses at four colleges and universities. Because the book is of particular interest to students interested in the classics and their application to the most pressing social and political problems of today, it should interest Johnnies. My inspiration for writing *The End of Healing* came from the *Divine Comedy* in large measure. I followed that inspiration to Florence, Italy—Dante's hometown—for a sabbatical 10 years ago. That is where I began writing *The End of* [continued on page 38]



BIOLOGICAL PURSUITS

By Robin Weiss

Cara Gormally (A02) Advocates Science Literacy

Cara Gormally (A02), a biology professor at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., relished the importance of intellectual community even as a child. Up to age eleven, while the family frequently moved for her father's job, she displayed a knack for easing her way into schools and friendships in five states. Back then, science was not her thing. During high school in Milford, Connecticut, calculus, biology, physics, and chemistry "never really captured my attention," she recalls. Now, acknowledgment of her former negative "science baggage" fuels her enthusiasm for teaching non-science majors, as well as her research in science education.

Freshman Lab at St. John's triggered Gormally's passion for biology. "Without PowerPoint or giant lecture halls, you're engaged with the reading, with the works themselves," she says. The creativity of experimentation, "always asking questions," inspired a hunger for science that led to a Hodson Internship the summer before senior year. In a neuroscience lab at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Maryland, Gormally's doubts emerged about neuroscience as a career. Staying inside all day, "stuck under a microscope, sacrificing mice," was hardly an appealing vision of her future.

In contrast, during her senior year, engaged in botanical lab and fieldwork with now retired tutor Nick Maistrellis (H14), she suffered from too much fun. "I loved being outside," she remembers, but she worried that ecology and environmental fieldwork were not serious. Gormally paraphrases Maistrellis's question from that time: "Why would you want to spend your days doing something that isn't fun, that you don't enjoy?"

After graduation, Gormally worked part-time in a different lab at USUHS, took classes, and then moved to a plant biology lab at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. "Nick Maistrellis was right," she decided. "Why wouldn't I go do something I really enjoy?"

Two powerful mentors, Maistrellis and tutor Kathy Blits, raised her search standards as she chose a graduate program in plant biology and ecology. In 2004, beginning a doctorate at the University of Georgia's plant biology department, she joined an academic community where her growing wonder for plant biology and science education could thrive.

Having earned her Ph.D. in 2010, Gormally taught briefly at Georgia Tech. While engaged in ecological fieldwork in botanical gardens, she and her students explored the effects of invasive plant species on a habitat.

During her interview for a tenured professorship at Gallaudet, which serves deaf and hard of hearing students, she felt a connection with her future colleagues. Attracted to the collaboration among faculty, she sensed a strong caring about students, which she had also felt during her St. John's experience. Despite her Ph.D., she "knew virtually nothing" in

her first semester, she states. Learning from scratch, Gormally immersed herself in American Sign Language and a new culture. Her colleagues' patience and encouragement helped enormously with this challenging leap.

She continues to be grateful for "people's willingness to bring me into the community and to teach me." Of the classroom interpreters, she says, "They're not there for one person; they're there for everybody," acting as a bridge for communication. Instead of lectures, she encourages small-group activities; clusters of students work through biological problems. After two years of teaching, she declares, "I'm not fluent. But I feel comfortable signing for myself."



"Why would you want to spend your days doing something that isn't fun, that you don't enjoy?"

Her current research in biology education involves promoting science literacy. She explores strategies that support teaching assistant and faculty development, and researches students' attitudes toward science to improve learning for non-science majors. Gormally's fascination with what she calls "perspective shifts" spurs recent collaborative work on mentoring, aiming to increase student participation from underrepresented populations.

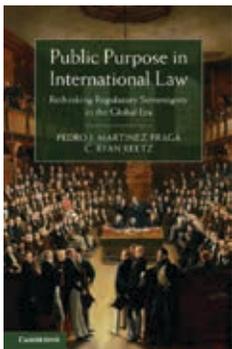
In her senior essay at St. John's, Gormally wrote about Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. "Gregor wakes up one morning and finds out he's this giant cockroach, or some sort of insect," she says. Her own surprising transitions have been "all about shifting perspectives." ☐

[continued from page 36]

Healing and discovered just how good an allegory *The Comedy* offers for modern healthcare. So, this story could be a helpful example of how the great books can inspire and guide us in today's world."

1984

Pedro J. Martinez-Fraga (A) co-authored the book *Public Purpose in International Law: Rethinking Regulatory Sovereignty in the Global Era* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). He notes that the book "explores how the public purpose doctrine reconciles the often conflicting, but equally binding, obligations that states have to engage in regulatory sovereignty while honoring host-state obligations to protect foreign investment." Martinez-Fraga has published five books on public and private international law; two of his works have been translated into Mandarin by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Mark Niedermier (A) moved back to Minnesota where he is now head of school at Many Rivers Montessori in Duluth. He also became a trained civil mediator and is doing alternative dispute resolution in the county court system.

1986

Douglas Gentile's (A) third book, *Media Violence and Children: A Complete Guide for Parents and Professionals* (Praeger, 2nd Edition, 2014) is now available on

2002

NAVIGATING THE STARS



David Prosper (SF) writes, "Several years ago I escaped from working for a sim-racing startup and now work full-time as an astronomy educator at the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. My main projects are in support of the NASA Night Sky Network, a program devoted to helping amateur astronomy clubs show the night skies to the public. I am also the program director for the Eastbay Astronomical Society at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California, and sometimes I even get paid to give tours of the night sky!" His new co-authored book, *The Total Sky-Watcher's Manual*, was published by Weldon-Owen Publishing in 2015.

Amazon and at www.abc-clio.com/Praeger.aspx. Gentile is an associate professor of psychology at Iowa State University.

John Newell (A) has discovered a new type of probability that is based on directional similarity. The probabilities provide a way to understand quantum entanglement and violations of Bell's inequality. Find out more at www.hellos.com/physics.

1987

Charlotte Glover (SF) reports that she survived her first year as a business owner in fine style. Her store, Parnassus Books and Gifts, has thrived in downtown Ketchikan, Alaska for 30 years thanks to supportive locals and loads of cruise ship passengers who want books about all things Alaskan. Visit her store on Facebook as "Parnassus Books in Ketchikan." Several classmates have called

in book orders, which she says is "much appreciated and a welcome blast from the past."

1988

After teaching for five years at Title One middle schools, **Claudia (Probst) Stack** (A) is currently working full-time on her new film about sharecropping.

1989

Beth Heinberg (A) is wrapping up her 10th year teaching performing arts at Carolina Day School in Asheville, N.C., where she is suddenly legally married to her wife, Nancy Asch. They are both involved with LGBT and progressive activist causes, among them Girls Rock Asheville, a mentoring program for girls ages 8-16.

1990

Michelle Baker's (SF) first work of fiction, *The Canoe*, is now available for Kindle on Amazon as well as in print. Set in 1912, half the book takes place in a small town outside of Annapolis, along the West River. Read more at www.thecanoebymichellebaker.com.



2006

Johnnies in the Big Easy

Mac Ward (A) writes, "In April, six Johnnies who started in Annapolis in 2001 stormed New Orleans to mark ten years since we should have graduated St. John's. From the left:

Evelyn Anne (Johnston) Clausen (A07), **Mac Ward** (A06), **John Gerard** (A05), **Scott Danner** (A05), **Janae (Decker) Gerard** (A05), and **Brent Morris** (A05).

Kilian James Garvey (SF) recently won the Research and Scholarship Award at the University of Louisiana for his experimental work in judgment and decision-making in the areas of rationality, political orientation, and religious belief and is working hard to help introduce evolutionary psychology to regions of the United States still somewhat resistant to the idea.

1991

Christopher Peck (SF) writes, "**Nate Downey** (SF) interviewed me for an article that was published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*: <http://goo.gl/1Ej97o>. I am co-author of a book *The Resilient Investor: A Plan for Your Life, Not Just Your Money* (Berrett Koehler

Publishers, 2015). I live in Sonoma County, California, where I'm married with a 20-month old son, and life is good!"

1992

Christopher Hadley (A) finished his Ph.D. in systematic theology at Marquette University. Over the next two summers, he will complete the final phase of his Jesuit formation in Portland, Ore. In between those summers, in 2015-16, he will have a post-doc fellowship at the Lonergan Research Institute at Regis College, University of Toronto, living with the Jesuit seminarians of Regis College.

1995

David M. Friebus (SF) was made a partner in BakerHostetler's Chicago office.

Kira Zielinski (SF) is moving to Iowa City, throwing pottery, and dancing tango. Anyone in the area or passing through can reach her at kirazielinski@gmail.com.

1996

Frank Giuseffi (SFGI), dean of academics at Missouri Military Academy, received the 2015 Light-house Award for Excellence from Lindenwood University.

1997

Shani N. Warner (SFGI) was recently re-elected to the City Council in Hyattsville, Md. for a second four-year term. She views her role as a tutor in a community-wide conversation and would love to see more SJC alumni run for office. "Government service, particularly at the local level, is wildly undervalued," she writes. "But it provides an unparalleled opportunity to put your ideas into practice, make a real difference in your neighbors' lives, and literally shape your community."



1998

Liz Trice (SF) owns a co-working space called PelotonLabs in Portland, Maine. She is engaged to David Levi, owner of Vinland restaurant, and trains at Circus Atlantic to stay sane and happy.

2000

Kelsey Bennett's (SF) book of literary criticism *Principle and Propensity: Experience and Religion in the Nineteenth-Century British and American Bildungsroman* was published by University of South Carolina Press in 2014.

2001

Chris Barnett's (AGI01) second book *From Despair to Faith: The Spirituality of Søren Kierkegaard* was published by Fortress Press in 2014.

Jennifer (Westie) Skalla (A) graduated in May with a master's in nursing from Regis University in Denver.

2002

James Marshall Crotty (SFGI) released two documentaries this year about his experience teaching debate and speech to young men in the South Bronx. The feature doc, *Crotty's Kids*, which debuted at SXSW and soon will be in national distribution via Passion River, looks at how adult male mentorship and surrogate family can help turn the tide on our nation's urban dropout

epidemic. The short doc *Master Debaters* examines how high-speed debate—untethered to perennial moral ideas—can lead to Sophist nihilism. To learn more, visit www.crottyskids.com or contact him at jim@jamescrotty.com.

Sally Choate Fox (AGI) is practicing law in Decatur, Ga., with a focus on family law and divorce. She would love to hear from other Johnnies in the Atlanta area at sallyfoxga@gmail.com.

Steven Oppenheimer (AGI) graduated in May with a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law. He plans to continue in the field of intellectual property (he is currently a licensed patent agent), and seeks to join a state bar and become a patent attorney. He is also developing a technology startup ImagiStar LLC (www.ImagiStar.com).

John Rogove (A) is finishing up his Ph.D. in philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris, where he teaches philosophy. He also teaches liberal arts at NYU's Paris campus.

2003

Sally Benson (SF) has been teaching for the last six years—the first three in the Santa Fe Public Schools and the last three years at the Penitentiary of New Mexico. In August 2015, she began the Ph.D. program called Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

2004

Emma Elliott Freire (A) and Lucas Grassi Freire had a daughter, Cecilia Janke, on December 11, 2014 in Exeter, United Kingdom.

After a stint in Los Angeles working for the Getty Research Institute, **Joshua Machat** (SFGI) recently accepted a post as a communications officer at Yale University Press, Department of Art & Architecture.

Paul McLain (SFGI) completed the two-year certificate program in spiritual direction at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. He serves as sub-dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Ark., where his wife, Ruthie, is an attorney.

2005

Matthew Gates (A) and Claire Muneza were married on December 5 and 6, 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda, where Matt works in agricultural research and Claire works in advertising.

Chris Horne (SF) obtained a Master of City Planning degree from MIT and has been practicing as a researcher, freelance consultant, and for the last three years, as a private planner with Sasaki Associates. A project that he managed this year won the Daniel Burnham Award, the highest award given to an urban planning project by the American Planning Association.

Abram Trosky (SFGI) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation

“Moralizing Violence?”—a critique of positivism in peace studies and social psychology—on August 8, 2014. He is beginning his third year at the United States Coast Guard Academy, teaching courses in political theory, moral and ethical philosophy, and American government to future officers.

2006

Daniel Grimm (SF) graduated with a master's from the NYU School of Law's tax program and is headed to Houston to work in Ernst & Young's Mergers & Acquisitions group. He recommends the study of taxation to anyone who enjoys obscure German authors (Kant, Hegel, etc.), or rolling large boulders uphill for all eternity. He is happy to report that the Internal Revenue Code is replete with Euclidean formulations in the manner of “A is to B as X is to Y.”

Jacqueline Kennedy-Dvorak (AGI) is working in civil litigation, doing lots of farm cases, in Middle Georgia. She keeps in regular contact with **Everett Reed** (AGI07) and **Paul Cooper** (AGI). She wel-

comes a good conversation, so any Johnnies in the area should drop in and chat.

2007

Jessica Dixon (SF) became an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) on July 12 at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Oak Park, Ill. This concludes a process toward becoming a pastor that she began at age 15, which included a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary following St. John's and years of working in churches and church-based nonprofits. Her work at Fair Oaks is focused on youth ministry, mission, and worship leadership. She writes, “I am grateful for all the ways SJC has been formative in my identity as a pastor and leader as well as the great friends who have supported me in the years at and since St. John's.”

Margaret Rachel Shultz (A) is living and working in the great Johnnie mecca of Chicago, and enjoying the vibrant alumni community there. She married on August 8 and honeymooned in Scotland.

Lucas Smith (SF) writes, “In March, I finished filming my documentary, *Ghosts of the Aral Sea*, produced over four and a half years in western Kazakhstan. It had been a long process, following a group of fishermen over several years and in every season. In May, a feature documentary film for which I was cinematographer, *Last Man in Dhaka Central*, premiered at the Venice Biennale, and I married my love of six years, Miriam, in a self-sanctified wedding in Iceland.”

2008

Ben Hoffman (A) is now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, working for GiveWell, a nonprofit that evaluates charities to find the ones that have the greatest impact per dollar spent.



Matthew Gates (A05) ties the knot in Africa.

2010

A Momentous Year



Carolyn Luppens (SF) writes, “This year was a particularly momentous one for me. I graduated from The Alpert Medical School of Brown University on May 24 of this year, and was chosen by my peers to give the commencement address (in which I availed myself of my SJC background and spoke about Achilles and Odysseus, among other things). I was additionally selected by the Rhode Island chapter of The American College of Surgeons to receive the annual award given to the graduating medical student who has excelled in, and demonstrated service to, the surgical community. In June I began my General Surgery residency at The University of Utah in Salt Lake City.”

2009

Jake Crabbs (A) and **Marianna Brotherton** (A10) were married in Killington, Vt. on June 20. They are now residing in Chicago.

Katherine Hale (A) was accepted into the 2015 entering class of the Field Naturalist Master’s Program at the University of Vermont.

2010

Ethan Brooks (A) left the Marine Corps as a captain this summer to begin a master’s in computer and information technology at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Alysia Johnson (SF) graduated on June 20 from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in marine transportation. She also received a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve and a Third Mate (Unlimited) U.S. Coast Guard license. She writes, “After graduating from St. John’s I took a year off to bum around and sail, and then started the program at USMMA, one of the five federal service academies and seven maritime academies in the country. In my time there, I completed a year of sea time sailing as a cadet, including trips for the Middle East, Asia, and participation in Operation Deep Freeze to refuel McMurdo Base, Antarctica. I was also an active member of the sailing team and served as the regimental waterfront officer

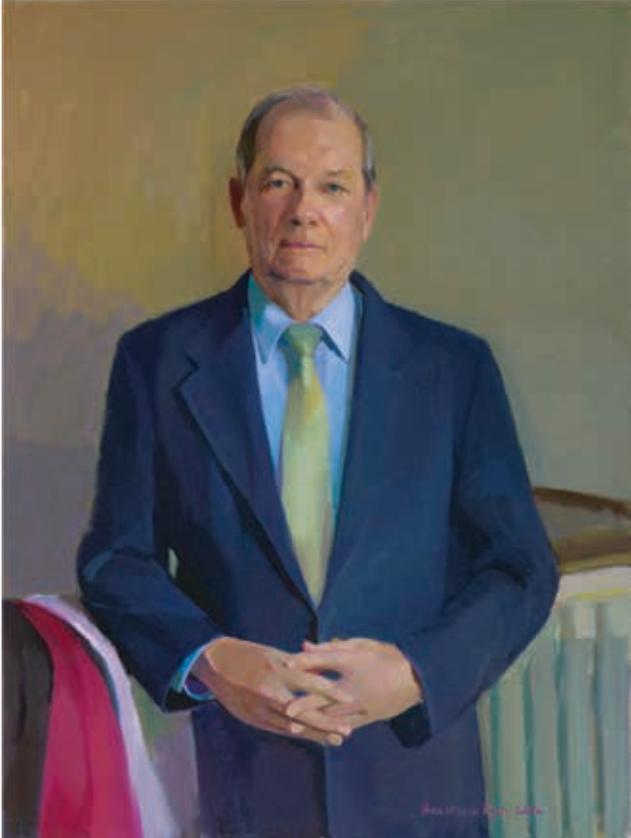
for one of my midshipman billets first-class year. I was honored with several awards for leadership, scholar-athlete participation, and academic achievement. Although it means missing our five-year reunion (sorry, Stef!), I have taken a job working with TE Subcom as a mate on a cable-laying ship. I plan on filling my free time with more traditional square-rig sailing, a hobby I took up while at SJC, and couch-surfing with friends and classmates. I welcome e-mails or Facebook messages from everyone!”

2012

Rhett Forman (SF) traveled to Dorf Tirol, Italy in July to present a paper on Ezra Pound and early modern psychology at the 2015 Ezra Pound International Conference held at Brunnenburg Castle, the home of Pound’s daughter. The conference presentation was the result of research he conducted in summer 2014 as a participant of the Ezra Pound Center for literature at the castle. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Literature at the Institute of Philosophic Studies at the University of Dallas.

2013

Shaun Rieley (AGI) has begun working toward a Ph.D. in political theory and American government in the Department of Politics at The Catholic University of America.



ANASTASIA EGELI (A92)

In the mid-1960s, Dyal was invited by the Johnson administration to serve as country director for the Peace Corps in Colombia. Subsequently, he led Peace Corps programs in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia as one of the program's four regional directors.

William Dyal (H89)

January 29, 2015

President, Annapolis

William M. Dyal (1928-2015) served as president of the Annapolis campus from 1986 until 1990, when he stepped down for health reasons. He was admired by faculty, students, alumni, and board members for his wise and even-handed leadership. Before coming to St. John's, he had a wide-ranging career that encompassed work for the U.S. government and for international volunteer agencies.

Dyal met his wife, Edie, while both were studying at Baylor University. He later studied theology and pastoral counseling at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and the couple served as Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica and Guatemala; he then worked for several more years throughout South America training other missionaries. Years later when he was at St. John's, Dyal led a seminar on a new reading: Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." The students did not know, and Dyal did not tell them in advance, that he had met and visited Dr. King in jail while working for the social action agency in the 1960s.

In the mid-1960s, Dyal was invited by the Johnson administration to serve as country director for the Peace Corps in Colombia. Subsequently, he led Peace Corps programs in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia as one of the program's four regional directors. In the 1970s, he was named head of the Inter American Foundation, a public corporation to fund social and economic grassroots development. The following decade, he served as president of the American Field Service (AFS), one of the best-known world student exchange programs.

During his time at St. John's, Dyal brought his strong and welcome sense of the world beyond St. John's and his gift for reconciling differences among people. He completed fundraising for the addition to Mellon Hall and for the renovation of the Hodson Boathouse, both in preparation for a planned capital campaign. He is survived by his wife, Edie; daughters Deborah, Kathy, and Lisa; nine grandchildren; and brother, Terry.



Edward Sparrow (H93)

April 23, 2015

Tutor and dean, Annapolis

Edward Grant Sparrow, Jr. (1929-2015), retired tutor who also served as dean of St. John's College in Annapolis, died in Barton, Vermont after a brief illness. An alumnus of Harvard College, class of 1951, Sparrow earned a law degree from Harvard Law School. He eschewed a legal career by earning his M.A. from Columbia University Teacher's College and joining the faculty at St. John's College in 1957, where over the course of 33 years he taught the entire curriculum.

Sparrow was born in Paris, France, on July 28, 1929, the son of Edward Grant Sparrow and Catherine Groth Sparrow. His family returned to the United States when he was 10, and lived in New York City, where he attended Buckley School and, later, St. Mark's in Southborough, Massachusetts. He married Lydia Huntington in 1953, and then joined the Army, and was sent to West Germany as part of the U.S. occupying forces. Upon returning to the United States, he was hired as a tutor at St. John's. From 1964 to 1966 he was acting director of the Integrated Liberal

Arts Curriculum at St. Mary's College in California before he returned to Annapolis.

In July 1977, Sparrow began a five-year term as dean of the Annapolis campus. He taught his students at St. John's with a sense of wonder which never left him. He loved literature, poetry, classical and popular music, and old time radio. He could deliver the lyrics to any Gilbert and Sullivan opera with verve and style. His conversion to Catholicism in 1957 was a profoundly important event in his life; he became an oblate of Mt. Savoir Monastery in Elmira, New York.

Sparrow is survived by his wife, Margaret; former wife, Lydia; sister, Helen Roosevelt; seven children, Bartholomew, Edward, Elizabeth, Helen, Katherine, Richard, and Sophie; and 12 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his eldest son, Christopher.

Grant Wiggins (A72)

May 26, 2015

Visionary education reformer and self-professed "educational trouble-maker of longstanding" Grant Wiggins (1950-2015) died at home in Hartford, Connecticut. Wiggins was a writer, thinker, researcher, teacher, and learner. Best known as the co-author of *Understanding by Design*, he challenged educators to think logically, designing instruction backward from clarity on learning goals. He believed that learning was not signaled by the accumulation of knowledge but, rather, by the power to take action. After St. John's College he received his Ed.D. from Harvard and went on to work on some of the most significant reform initiatives in the

world, including the Coalition of Essential Schools, the AP and IB programs, and many state and national reform efforts. Wiggins admired educators who wanted to make a difference and were willing to challenge themselves as part of that effort. He loved rock and roll, soccer, good food and wine, Paris, the Red Sox, walks, and conversation. His greatest joy, though, was his family. Wiggins is survived by his beloved wife, Denise Wilbur; daughters Alexis and Priscilla; sons, Justin and Ian; parents, Dorothy and Guy; brothers, Guy and Noel; and grandsons, Elios and Amadeo Estrada.

Theodore Otteson

Class of 1952

May 6, 2015

Theodore (Ted) Otteson (1925-2015), passed away at his home, surrounded by four generations of loving family. He was 90. Otteson was a teacher, mentor, friend, counselor, and seeker of wisdom and adventure. Born March 9, 1925 in Poona, India, the son of missionary parents, his primary and secondary education was in schools in India and the United States. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a translator in Japan at the end of the war. Otteson taught for 45 years at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, in the English Department and in the program for adult continuing education. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Pearl Holbrook. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Beverley; daughters Malory, Paula and Susan; son, Clovis; and numerous grandchildren.



Barbara L. Lauer (SF76)

December 19, 2014

Former St. John's College Alumni Association officer, Board of Visitors and Governors member and Alumni Association Award of Merit recipient, Barbara L. Lauer (1950-2014) died at her home in Laramie, Wyoming. A generous friend and colleague, she lighted the lives of everyone she knew. Born in Sacramento, California to Van and Louise (Keeney) Shepherd, Lauer attended Chapman World College Afloat, better known today as Semester at Sea, before coming to St. John's. She then studied law at the University of Edinburgh, and completed her law degree at the University of Wyoming. Her love of St. John's was evident through her exceptional service with the college's Alumni Association. From 1996 to 2010 she served as the Alumni Association's director, vice president, secretary, and director emerita. Lauer was preceded in death by husband, Ted. She is survived by her sister, Paula; brother, Doug; and numerous other family members.

Anne Nelson (H90)

May 18, 2015



Anne Higgins Nelson (1925-2015) died at BayWoods, her home in Annapolis. Anne developed a deep love for St. John's College when she married her husband Charles A. Nelson (Chuck), Class of 1947, that lasted her entire life. Her son, Christopher, is president of St. John's College in Annapolis. She was born in Savannah, Illinois, to Edith Ballou Higgins and Colin Olney Higgins on March 22, 1925. Anne grew up in Berwyn, Illinois, and graduated from Morton High School, then continued on to obtain her B.A. in economics from Oberlin College in 1946.

Following graduation, she married her high school sweetheart, Chuck, her loving and much-loved husband of 69 years. The couple spent their first year of married life in Annapolis, while Chuck completed his B.A. from St. John's College and Anne was employed as a social worker. Anne and Chuck then returned to Chicago, where Chuck began his career in education. They made a home in the Chicago area, where their four children were born. In 1956, a job change for Chuck brought the family to New York. Settling in White Plains, N.Y., Anne was elected president of the Rochambeau School P.T.A. and led the movement to desegregate the White Plains public school system in the 1960s. Anne was active in the Democratic Party and challenged the Republican status quo in the predominantly Republican city with an (unsuccessful) run for White Plains City Council. As the children grew older, Anne returned to work, first joining her husband's consulting practice, and later, the faculty of the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, where she worked until her retirement in 1990. Anne was proud of her work at Cornell, writing and teaching classes for labor union women, administrating programs, and securing grants. She was fiercely committed in every facet of her life to the fight for equal rights and social justice for all.

In 2002, Chuck and Anne left their home in Croton-on-Hudson to continue retirement in Annapolis. Anne started the first residents' newsletter at BayWoods of Annapolis, their retirement home, where she helped form a great books discussion group. She revived the Annapolis chapter of the League of Women Voters, an organization in which she was actively engaged for her entire adult life, and edited the local LWV newsletter for several years. When someone asked about her hobbies recently, she looked puzzled and said, "I guess I don't have any." But then amended it to, "Well, I guess politics is my hobby." She was a proud supporter of Barack Obama's campaign for president, never missed voting in an election, read (and discussed) the *New York Times* every day and was always up for a good political debate. She was also captivated by the great women English mystery writers and read hundreds of mysteries, sometimes until the early morning hours to find out "who done it?" She remained feisty but cheerful to the end. Anne loved her family and was much loved in return. She is survived by her husband, Chuck; sons, Christopher, Colin, and Ted; and daughter, Janet Berggren; as well as 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Also Deceased:

Jonathan B. Bredin, *SF74*
December 31, 2014

George Brunn, *Class of 1945*
June 30, 2014

Richard T. Carruthers, *Class of 1948*
October 22, 2014

Alexander E. Clift, *A03*
November 16, 2014

Samuel F. Dunbar, *Class of 1964*
April 18, 2015

Paul Frank, *SF82*
July 26, 2015

Edward Gelblum, *Class of 1955*
June 12, 2015

Meredith G. Hamilton, *SF97*
March 22, 2015

Philip Heilig, *Class of 1952*
May 31, 2015

Marvin J. Hoffenberg, *Class of 1947*
February 17, 2015

David E. Johnson, *A68*
June 21, 2014

Sarah Macina, *SF70*
January 23, 2015

Barbara C. Prendergast, *SF72*
November 24, 2014

Merton E. Rice, *Class of 1953*
November 10, 2014

John H. Rubel, *SF90*
January 13, 2015

Marilyn L. Schaefer, *SF79*
March 8, 2015

Brian D. Shields, *A83*
January 30, 2015

Leo L. Simms, *Class of 1956*
December 13, 2014

Jacqueline R. Vest, *A86*
January 26, 2015

William B. Walter, *SF85*
October 5, 2014

George P. Welch, *Class of 1947*
March 17, 2015

Amy R. Wood, *SF11*
January 26, 2015

SJC: NOT YOUR STANDARD FACTORY FARM

By Kevin Lam (A18)

When I was 12 years old, I reached the lowest point in my life. In the spring of 2009, my mother died of gastric cancer and my father lost his job. My ethnic Chinese parents had emigrated from Vietnam to Fairfax County, Northern Virginia, where I was born and raised. My mother worked full-time in an exhausting job as a housekeeper, while managing all our household chores and being both mother and father to me. My father mostly ignored me, gambling away what little money we had. Because my mother was my most significant human connection, losing her caused much anger, sadness, isolation, and confusion to occupy my mind, to this day.

Despite losing the most important person in my life, I experienced a major transition. New life was taking root from the ashes. All these feelings spurred me to ask a fundamental question: “Why?” As I questioned everything around me, I developed an intense curiosity.

One of my favorite quotes from a St. John’s seminar book represents my transition. In Plato’s *The Republic*, Socrates said, “We mustn’t hug the hurt part and spend our time weeping and wailing like children when we trip. Instead, we should always accustom our souls to turn as quickly as possible to healing the disease and putting the disaster right, replacing lamentation with cure.” My mother’s death ignited my desire to know as much as I can about the world and to make it better.

My curiosity led me to pursue reading zealously, which helped me develop an important connection with my AP U.S. history teacher, Mr. Evans. Throughout my junior and senior years in a large, academically intensive public high school in Fairfax County, I visited his classroom after school for intellectual conversation. During one such exchange, he caused a paradigm shift in my life. I was expressing disillusionment with the college admissions process. I was spending countless hours filling out forms in order to do the same thing in college and



“I have developed an unquenchable curiosity. With the courage and ability to ask ‘Why,’ I am able to pursue an education that will help me to better understand the world and humanity.”

the rest of my life. At a job with no hope of intellectual freedom, I would drown in mind-numbing work. “We’re all just cattle being herded to our eventual intellectual slaughter,” I told Mr. Evans.

His response: “Why don’t you go to St. John’s College? They read a lot of books there.”

When I learned more about St. John’s, I felt a surge of excitement. There was a place that did not conform to the standard higher-education system that seemed like a factory farm to me. Its people tackled difficult philosophical questions to understand the world and what it means to be human. Students are told what to read, but not what to think.

I knew I had found my home for the next four years. Every new reading reaffirms

this fact. The Platonic Dialogues make me feel fulfilled and at peace because of the immense concentration necessary to even remotely grasp them.

The death of my mother sparked my curiosity and my pursuit to understand the world. In three years, I will graduate from St. John’s College and fully reconnect with the world. Sadly, I will still not have my mother, and will always grieve over her death. Despite this burden, I have developed an unquenchable curiosity. With the courage and ability to ask “Why,” I am able to pursue an education that will help me to better understand the world and humanity. As I follow my dream of bettering the world with my mother always in my heart, St. John’s will prepare me for it. ☐

THREE-PEAT THWARTED

Johnnies Reclaim the Annapolis Cup, but Midshipmen Earn a Victory of Their Own

By Susan Borden (A87) and Gregory Shook

With a final score of 3-2, Navy's high hopes for a three-year winning streak were resolutely dashed. At the 33rd annual St. John's-U.S. Naval Academy croquet match held on April 18, the Johnnies performed with vigor and gusto before a crowd of more than 5,000 spectators—the largest in the history of the match—to bring home the Annapolis Cup for the first time since 2012. “It was a wonderful feeling, and not only for the team,” says Imperial Wicket Sam Collins (A15). “Everyone on campus was super excited about it.”

Collins is quick to point out that alumni deserve a slice of the proverbial victory cake. A month before the big match, with snow still on the ground, the croquet team huddled in the Chasement, the cozy basement of the Chase-Stone dormitory, with several former Imperial Wickets and players, including Josh Rogers (A98), Hardison Wood (A98), Kit Linton (A97), and John Lawless (A00), among others, for a strategarium, mapping out key strategies on a chalkboard and discussing the game's finer points. Alumni also paired with student players for a full day of skill training and matches. With added guidance from the croquet elite, “our team felt comfortable with more complex strategies,” says Jennifer Shumpert (A15), a member of this year's team.

On game day the Johnnies adhered to their golden rule: have fun. Decked out in Hawaiian shirts, denim shorts, aviator sunglasses, and fake mustaches, they paid playful tribute to television's *Magnum, P.I.* However, detective skills were not required to spot



BRADY LEE (A14)

Tell me, O Muse, the impetuous unrush of wing-footed Johnnies:

Whom shall I mainly make butt of my hopelessly talentless singing?

Him who ran hardest arriving first sweaty in need of a shower?

Or him who sauntered at ease, smiling sweet and as cool as an iced beer?

Here is what I will do following prudence, my elderly goddess:

I shall bestow my much sought-after hugs on the unsweaty cool one,

But on the winner I'll place undegradably immortal laurel.



the outrageous fashions that filled the front campus lawn. Throughout the afternoon, Lisa Simeone (A79) and Didi Schanche (A80) waded through the sea of festive gowns, wide-brimmed hats, and bold bowties to select the cream of the crop for their Best Attire awards, a new addition to the day's events. The alumnae judges relished the opportunity to mingle with the crowd and reconnect with old friends on a picture-perfect Saturday. "The whole idea of a croquet match—a civilized, old-fashioned pursuit—against the Naval Academy is delicious," says Simeone. "Here you have this bastion of liberal arts up against a highly militarized institution. How could one not love the irony?"

Croquet was not the only competition of the day. Weeks before the match, Johnnies began signing up as runners, sponsors, and donors for the 2nd Annual Memorial Fun(d) Run, which took place that morning, to see which intramural athletic team could raise the most money, field the most runners, and clock the best time. Not only was this the first year the intramural teams joined the event, it was also the first year that Midshipmen were invited to compete. They ably countered their losses on the croquet court by taking first and second place in the run. Midshipman Justin Maguire won the race with a time of 15:43. The first female to finish was Elizabeth Fenelon, also a Midshipman. Still, Johnnies made a good show with Annapolis tutor Brendan Boyle finishing third at 18:32. Robin Lancaster (A18) was the first St. John's student to complete the race, at 19:29.

The Memorial Fun(d) Run is hosted by the Friends of the Lawrence L Saporta, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship Fund and was established to raise money and awareness for the college's Memorial Endowment Funds. This year the run raised \$2,420 for four Memorial Funds. The Hustlers raised the most money, the Spartans fielded the most runners, and the Furies claimed the fastest time.

Annapolis tutor Eva Brann (H89) completed the event by crowning the winners with (plastic) laurel wreaths and delivering a fine speech, written in dactylic hexameter, reprinted to the left. ☐



SUSAN JENKINS



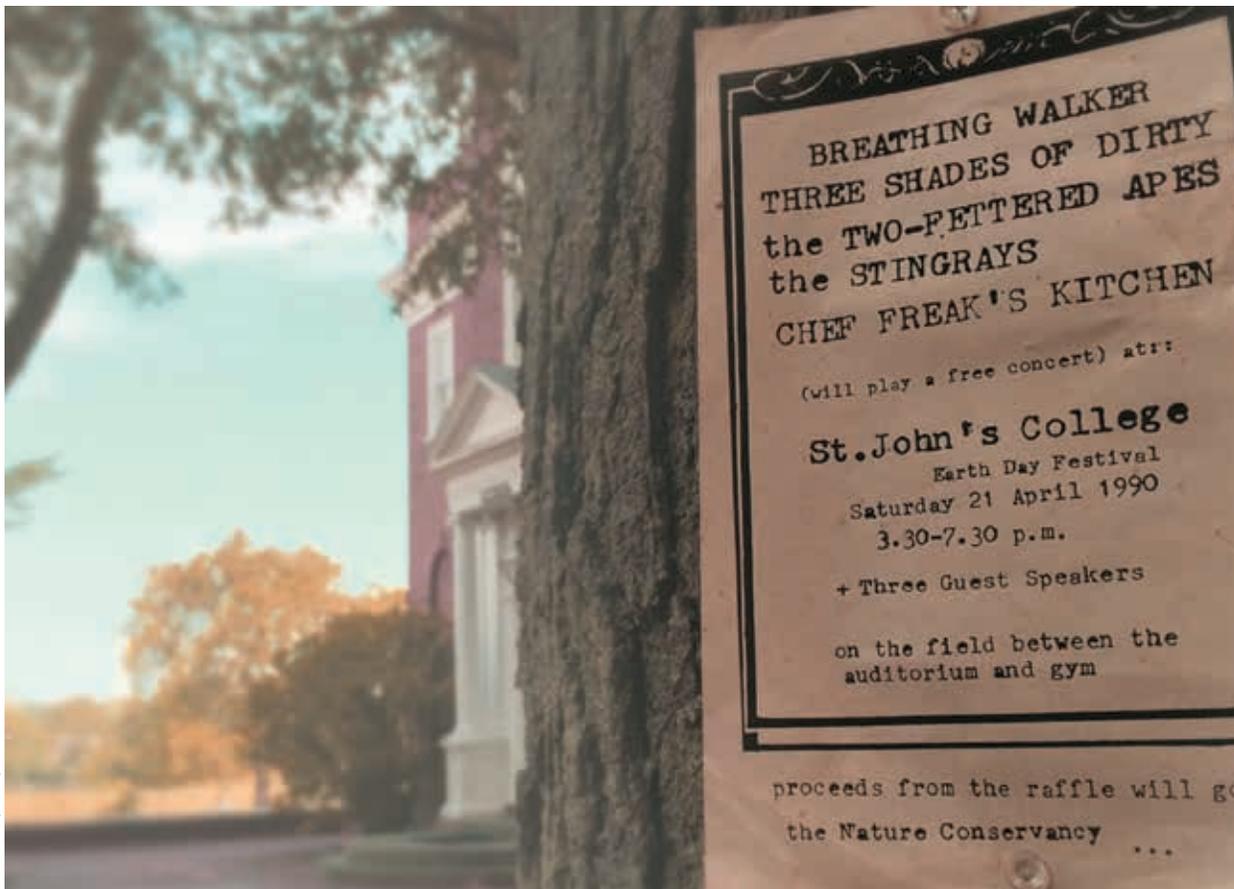
SHAYNA JENKINS (A15)



SHAYNA JENKINS (A15)

Photos, opposite page, top: The Magnum, P.I.-inspired Johnnies bask in the glow of their 3-2 win; bottom: Dylan Tyler (A15) takes a shot, concentrating amid the distraction of 5,000 spectators. This page, clockwise from top left: Marta Lively (A78), on the right, joins other fashionistas competing for the most splendidly attired award; Eva Brann, master of Homeric congratulatory verse, greets a Fun(d) Run finisher; Midshipmen and Johnnies run for the money—to benefit SJC student scholarships.

Check the college's social media and the SJC website to stay tuned for info on the 2016 match, scheduled for April 16.



BRADY LEE (AG114)

ONCE UPON A WHEN

Looking at this memento—a concert handbill that has faithfully adorned the wood-paneled wall in my parent's basement for the past 25 years—I wonder who else out there might remember this day in St. John's history. At the time I was a 17-year-old townie and an aspiring drummer who on this occasion sat in on congas with the band Breathing Walker, a motley crew of Annapolis post-punk rockers. Spring showers forced the concert indoors, but spirits were far from dampened. Throughout the afternoon the bands gave it their all, playing to the crowd of mostly students gathered in the dining room in Randall Hall to celebrate Earth Day. As evening crept in, Three Shades of Dirty, a newly formed group featuring Dan Littleton (A93) on guitar/vocals and Colin

Meeder (A93) on his trusty Steinberger bass, delivered a blistering set of music like I'd never heard before. To this day, the band's only cassette is among the most prized items in my music collection.

This concert also served as an introduction to St. John's. My high school graduation was two months away, and with no imminent plans for college, I recall the uneasy feeling I had chatting with undergrads who hungrily devoured such authors as Hegel, Kant, and Plato. (I was reading Tama Janowitz and Charles Bukowski.) But I also felt an immediate affection for St. John's and hoped to someday be a part of it. It's funny, the things we remember.

—Gregory Shook



“I grew up in a family of artists, always knowing from a young age that I wanted to paint portraits. One reason for my passion is that I am drawn to people. That fascination was stoked by my classes at St. John’s, which introduced me to so many great minds.

People are complex, multi-faceted, and continually changing. Painting gives me the challenge to capture those changes and present a complete sense of someone. I feel as though painting has given me the privilege to come to know people in a truly unique way.



I am now working as a portrait artist, living in New York City. I feel as though I have been so blessed. I can go visit countless museums to enjoy the works of Spain’s Sorolla, with his bold colors, or a John Singer Sargent exhibit at the Met. I am constantly studying to improve my use of color and my skill in drawing.

My ideal day is sitting with someone, listening to their thoughts, and painting what it is to be with that particular person. Surrounded by inspiring work and people, every year I enjoy an increasing curiosity and a deeper appreciation of being alive.”

—Anastasia Egeli (A92)

Learn more about Anastasia Egeli (A92) at www.anastasiaegeli.com.

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