EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Upcoming Events: Please plan to register for and attend these important upcoming events:

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

Friday, September 27th
Forward Ever Forward: A Saint John’s Celebration
(5pm mass; social & banquet 5:30 - 8:30pm) CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Alumni Jam @ Brother Willie’s with The Snozberries & Friends (9pm - Midnight)
- Featuring CSB/SJU alumni and current student musicians

Saturday, September 28th
Class Reunion Activities, Homecoming Football Game & Celebration on the Tundra following the game - We need Board Volunteers to assist in bestowing Alumni Achievement Awards on recipients. Please click here to email Raj Chaphalkar to indicate your willingness to assist (see full notes for more details).

Career Expo - November 6, 2013 - CSB Gorecki Center (events throughout the day and evening) CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF RELATED EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

An Evening with Father Don - November 21, 2013 - Science Museum of MN, St. Paul, MN

Alumni Association Board Meeting - December 5, 2013 - Twin Cities location TBA

Sustaining Agreement between Abbey & University
All should refer to the “Sustaining Agreement” which very succinctly summarizes the motives for and means by which Saint John’s will continue to sustain and nurture the vital relationship between the Abbey and University. CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DOCUMENT ONLINE

Board Participation in Student Fund
It is vitally important that the Alumni Board act as a visible example for the Saint John’s Alumni Association. We expect all Board Members to make a contribution to the Student Fund. We have a $40,000.00 total goal. Please click here to email Michael Cummings your pledge or CLICK HERE TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE before Homecoming.

Please see full minutes (below) for all meeting details.
FULL MINUTES

Welcome - Saint John’s University President Michael Hemesath

Thank you for all you do for SJU!

Reflection - Dick Howard

This place, Saint John’s, is a “thin place” - a place where the earthly world and the spirit world come together; where the veil of spirituality opens up and our awareness of God is heightened.

*May we all be aware of these “thin places” in our lives, where we can truly see God and listen with the ear of our heart.*

Meeting Opening - Jim Platten

(NOTE: conferencing technology will be employed at meetings to allow members to dial into meetings when not able to be at meetings in person. Three Board Members joined us today via audio conference. THANK YOU for making the effort to connect via phone.)

Goals for today: welcome our new Board Members; get an update from SJU; review each committee’s goals for the 2013-14 year.

Please review the slate, constitution, job descriptions, by-laws and commitment letter in your meeting folders.

Board black shirts and magnet nametags are available for new members. If you didn’t receive yours at the meeting, please be in touch with Leila Utsch to coordinate.

Introductions around the table. Please reach out to our new members to get to know them.

Overview of Alumni Relations Benchmarking Data - Adam Herbst

Institutional Advancement has begun a new alumni connectivity report that tracks a number of vital statistics. Here’s a short list of some of the top level numbers for FY2013:

Number of active alumni: 23,631
% of those for which we have email addresses: 58.21%
Number of unique Volunteers: 1,361 in FY2013
% of volunteers who are donors: 61.87%
Number of alumni attending reunions: 537
Number of alumni events (world-wide): 198
Number of attendees at alumni events: 5,378
Capital Campaign Update - Rob Culligan

We are in the final phases of the Forward Ever Forward Capital Campaign in support of the University and Abbey. $150M goal. Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B., who founded the first Benedictine monastery in the U.S. and drove the establishment of Saint John’s was fond of using the phrase “Forward, always forward, everywhere forward!” In that spirit, we move forward with this campaign with dogged determination in the face of new challenges facing Saint John’s.

Please be sure to register for and attend the Homecoming Banquet & Campaign Kickoff Event:

Forward Ever Forward: A Saint John’s Celebration
Friday, September 27th, 2013
5pm Mass - Followed by Dinner, Presentation of Walter Reger Award to Jim Frey ’78, and Campaign Unveiling

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Board of Trustees Report - Tom Nicol

Saint John’s has purchased a home on Fruit Farm Road in which President Hemesath and his family will reside.

Reports are that the new corporate structure is working well. All should refer to the “Sustaining Agreement” which very succinctly summarizes the motives for and means by which Saint John’s will continue to sustain and nurture the vital relationship between the Abbey and University.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SUSTAINING AGREEMENT DOCUMENT ONLINE

Student Fund Update - Michael Cummings & Jesse Stremcha

In an attempt to more accurately and simply (transparently) describe its purpose and in hopes of increasing participation, The Annual Fund has been re-named the “Student Fund.” When you support the Student Fund 100% of your gift goes directly to student scholarships.

READ MORE ABOUT THE STUDENT FUND

It is vitally important that the Alumni Board act as a visible example for the Saint John’s Alumni Association. We expect all Board Members to make a contribution to the Student Fund. We have a $40,000.00 total goal. Any size of contribution is welcome.

Please click here to email Michael Cummings your pledge or CLICK HERE TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE before Homecoming. We need all Board Members to at least pledge their commitment to participate at some level. You can always increase your gift before the end of the fiscal year next summer.
Generosity is a choice. We are all encouraged to make sure that Saint John’s is one of each of our top charitable gifts this year.

Institutional Advancement and Resource Development Committee have been working on a plan to make better connections with current students to help them better understand the importance of giving and instill a habit of giving to Saint John’s. An upcoming initiative involves recent graduates (and not necessarily the most wealthy of these) sending personal notes to current students to help students understand the importance of their giving.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Office of the President - President Jim Platten, Past President Josh Otto, Incoming President Eric Burggraaff & Secretary Aaron Smith

In additional high level direction and support for all committees, our top goals are to firm up the structure and processes of Board activities; have our Board Mtg. Schedule confirmed by Homecoming; and improve transparency & communication between Board and IA, Past Presidents, and Past Board Members.

Alumni Connections - Jim Platten / Todd Stoffel

Jim provided a brief report for the Alumni Connections Committee on behalf of their V.P., Todd Stoffel, who was unable to attend. The committee is gearing up for a busy year of alumni events, chapters & clubs activities, making connections with alumni through Class Representatives, and bestowing Alumni Achievement Awards on worthy Johnnies.

Homecoming Alumni Achievement Awards - Volunteers Needed

In addition to being hosts for the Homecoming Celebration on the Tundra, each Homecoming, Alumni Association Board Members assist with the bestowing of Alumni Achievement Awards on recipients from specific classes at the class dinners on Saturday, Sept. 28th. As of 9/18/13 we are in need of volunteers to assist with the following awards in the locations noted:

1963 - John Lindstrom (Founders Room)
1963 - Al Woodward (Founders Room)
1968 - Joe Cronin (Quad 264)
1968 - Larry Hergott (Quad 264)
1978 - Kevin DeVaan (Tent on Tundra)
1983 - Stuart Harvey (Tent on Tundra)
1988 - Pat Lynch (Tent on Tundra)
1993 - Lino Rulli (Tent on Tundra)

Please click here to email Raj Chaphalkar to indicate your willingness to assist.
CLICK HERE TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF 2013 AWARD WINNERS
Upcoming Events
Here’s a quick list of important upcoming events:

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

**Friday, September 27th**
*Forward Ever Forward: A Saint John’s Celebration* (5pm mass; social & banquet 5:30 - 8:30pm)

Alumni Jam @ Brother Willie’s with The Snozberries & Friends (9pm - Midnight)
- featuring CSB/SJU alumni and current student musicians

**Saturday, September 28th**
Class Reunion Activities, Homecoming Football Game & Celebration on the Tundra following the game

- **PLEASE WEAR YOUR BOARD SHIRTS DURING SATURDAY HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES**

Career Expo
November 6, 2013 - CSB Gorecki Center (events throughout the day and evening)
[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF RELATED EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES](#)

An Evening with Father Don
November 21, 2013 - Science Museum of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN

**Alumni Association Board Meeting**
December 5, 2013 - Twin Cities location TBA

**Benedictine Way Committee - Dick Howard & Andrew Spaanem**

The committee aims to foster Benedictine Values within the Alumni Board, Alumni Association at large, the greater Saint John’s Community - and beyond to the public. Through service opportunities, cohorts for individual and group exploration and expression of Benedictine ideas, recognition of Benedictine luminaries, retreats and study of Benedictine heritage we can each grow in our own sense of these values and help to share these ideas with others.

**Service Opportunities**

**Dorothy Day Center** - The first Sunday of each month (approx. 4 - 5:30pm) the committee and any interested individuals gather at the Dorothy Day Center in Saint Paul to assist with meals and other service activities.

**People Serving People** - Clothing drives and other opportunities to give time and contribute goods to help others. A new event is being planned for next quarter.
**Spirituality Cohort Groups** - Small groups get together to talk about Benedictine Values and spirituality in the modern world. All are encouraged to think about their own groups they could start.

**Retreats** - Individual and Group Retreats to the House of Prayer at Saint John’s - and a “Retreat to Italy” to rediscover our Benedictine Heritage are being planned.

**Promote spirituality events and recognize important leaders** in Benedictine thinking.

- Event with Fr. Don Talafous, evening of November 21st @ Science Museum of MN
- Possible visit to Saint John’s by Richard Rohr in 2015

**Benedictine Way Fund** - to help support these efforts (please consider an additional contribution to this fun)

*Reach out to Dick Howard or Andrew Spaanem if you would like more information or would like to participate.*

**Resource & Development Committee** - Jesse Stremcha

The committee partners with Institutional Advancement to strengthen fund-raising efforts - particularly focusing on the “Student Fund” goal set at $2.9M and our Alumni Board giving. In addition to general strategic support, specific complementary committee efforts include:

- Thank You’s to all new young alum donors
- Reaching out to Classes/Reunion Committees - Emphasizing utilization of online tracking tools
- LYBUNTS (gave last year, but unfortunately not this year)
- Fiscal Year-End Efforts to maximize results

It was suggested that the Alumni Board identify a Board “liaison” to reach out to the CSB/SJU Parents Association to strengthen their understanding of our efforts, to help instill a philosophy of giving within their students, and lay groundwork for additional support by this group.

*We can all help this committee by making our pledges to the Student Fund by Homecoming so that they can then use our 100% participation as a promotional point of difference as they focus their efforts with other alumni groups.*

*Please click here to email Michael Cummings your pledge* or [CLICK HERE TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE](#) before Homecoming.
Student Preparation Committee - Mike Koalska

The Committee works to help students prepare for careers and to help facilitate connections with alumni while at SJU. Specific projects include:

Internship Programs

**Local Internships** - Support and help to track the strong local internship program that already exists.

**International Internships** - Help develop the international internship program by communicating existing opportunities (in China & London) and make further connections with alumni to add additional sites in other countries. By the end of the year they aim to have a new internship program established in Germany.

**Study Abroad Internships** - Help to establish guidelines, processes and connectivity to create an internship program aligned with study abroad programs.

*All Board Members are encouraged to think about who we work for...does my company have an internship program? Maybe it should? Is my company global? Are there international internship opportunities? Contact Mike Koalska if you have ideas.*

Career Expo - November 6, 2013 @ CSB Gorecki Ctr.
Speaking opportunities for alumni at Career Seminars
Promote alumni companies/organizations at the Career Fair
Networking Reception - connect with other alumni and students. Share advice with students while helping them enhance their networking skills.

Take a Johnnie to Lunch
The committee will make regular visits to Sexton Commons and the Palaestra to promote this opportunity and sign-up students.

*The group mentioned that it is important to prepare student participants early in the process regarding the scope/process of the program so that the logistics/scheduling are more easily accomplished. (i.e..they should be prepared to meet in the Twin Cities metro) and have some talking points prepared to jump right into a conversation.*

Private College Job Fair Reception - February 2014, Securian, Saint Paul
Alumni gather with students the evening prior to the Job Fair to allow students an opportunity to do their interview “pitch,” receive recommendations/critique, and ask alumni general questions about career paths, skills needed, etc.

*As the number of students has continued to increase for this event, Alumni Board help needed this year to boost alumni participation so that lines can be shorter and more quality conversations can take place.*

Board Members are also encouraged to individually reach out to faculty at CSB/SJU to offer to be guest speaker for a class - sharing insights, career recommendations, general knowledge.
Student Recruitment Committee - Jeff Murphy

The committee works with and alongside Admissions to determine most effective ways for the Board and alumni at-large to help to recruit new Johnnies and Bennies.

Admissions has recently been redefining their marketing efforts and seems to be succeeding. The 10-Day Student Numbers for 2013 show 497 1st Year Students at SJU (vs. goal of 475) and 538 1st Year Students at CSB (vs. goal of 525). Average ACT score of 26 for incoming class. And - the most ethnically diverse incoming freshman class ever (from 27 states and 15 countries).

The committee will meet with Admissions in October to discuss and find that “sweet spot” for alumni involvement...finding the best way to allow alumni referrals to increase, and replace Admissions efforts to reduce their non-productive time. Specific ideas being considered or underway:

Card Signing by Alumni for accepted students (an ongoing effort)

Admitted Student Receptions at Best Buy & Securian (Board participation requested!)

Leverage our Chapters & Clubs to build affinity with prospective students by region and/or activity

Alumni drivers and/or tour guides for student admissions visits

School Connectivity - With (3) educators now on the committee, increase efforts to reach out to schools / counselors / influencers.

Refinement of Talking Points so that involved alumni are singing the same tune as Admissions