

Thank you, Rob and Tom. I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for so many wonderful colleagues and alumni I have gotten to work with over the years. I thank you all. And, I especially thank my family for all the support and love they have given me. I am blessed in so many ways.

My first assignment in the SJU public information office was to write an obituary for the Summer 1973 "Saint John's" magazine on the passing of Joseph Vertin, SJU Class of 1894. I am now helping recruit students for the SJU Class of 2016. I am proud to have an association with Saint John's spanning 122 years...and counting.

During my 20-some years as director of alumni relations, I often said I had the best job at Saint John's. It was my pleasure to get to know hundreds of wonderful Johnnies around the country who eagerly volunteered their service to alma mater and fellow alumni. I am finding now that retirement is even a better job, especially with my part-time position as an assistant baseball coach where I am hanging out with wonderful current Johnnie student-athletes.

I assure you all: our students and our alma mater are worthy of your continuing service and support. It's easy and rewarding to join the T-E-A-M. With examples, here's what I mean:

T Time

- Serving as a volunteer
 - Class committee
 - Affinity groups
- Attending alumni events
- Reading "Saint John's" magazine

E Expertise

- Networking
 - Student preparation
 - Saint John's LinkedIn groups
- Serving as an academic resource
 - Classroom visit
 - Internship host

A Attitude

Speaking positively about SJU

With other alumni

With friends

With prospective students

With corporate leaders

Wearing Saint John's gear

M Money

Making annual, capital and planned gifts

Supporting other Saint John's enterprises

Saint John's Abbey

Liturgical Press

Hill Museum and Manuscript Library

Saint John's Arboretum

I guess that my legacy over these decades is the SJU #1 logo that I designed some time ago. It was never meant to proclaim WE ARE NUMBER ONE. It's meant to be a reminder that we need to STRIVE to be Number One, to work to be the best ... in athletics... in the classroom ... as an alumni association... as sons and as fathers and as husbands ... as employers and employees. It's like when we sing the Johnnie Fight Song: Show the world what SJU can do.

Here's a practical alternative: Consider Saint John's as Number FOUR. Saint John's likely should be your own personal Number Four following your faith, your family and your job. Alma mater then vies among varied interests such as Rotary, fishing, teaching religion classes, the children's scouting activities, on and on.

If Saint John's can be Number Four once in a while, when it's optimal for you and whatever Saint John's initiative you choose to support, you can defy the laws of mathematics because Number Four then equals Number One.