

Johnnie Wall 2019 – 2021

It is important to do all things for the Glory of God, because His purpose is greater than my own. As a Johnnie, I strive to do all things for that purpose, from my studies to my social interactions. I hope to graduate with a higher understanding of His purpose, while having established the means to pursue it. – Nicholas Tawil '20

My parents have always taught me that there are no bad days, however tough circumstance may be. Being a Johnnie means that while we might struggle, while we might have rough encounters, while we might fall down, there will always be another person there to lift you up. Johnnies band together, it's who we are. This brotherly bond brings out our full potential. It helps us endure the difficult times and love the beautiful ones. It's what being a Johnny is all about. – Joseph Schwamm '21

The people in a community decide what their community looks like. The people hold the power to seek change when need be in order to improve the community for the well being of the present in the future. In our community the people inspire me to be a Johnnie. To persist through the challenges, and to aspire for greater goals. Those 15 minute link discussions with the a stranger, the late night conversations on societal issues, and the continuous drive of individuals are all what helps me get motivated. You will be amazed by the people who exist in this community, and if you're reading this, you and your own individuality is beautiful. The sharing and appreciation of that beauty will only make our community stronger. Courage & Peace. – Muqkadeen Poole '19

Growing up, and to this day, family remains the most important facet of my life. They have always supported me, loved me, encouraged me to be the truest version of myself. I find my fellow Johnnies serving the same purpose. The Saint John's community has challenged, led, and inspired me to live life to the fullest, regardless of judgment and fear. It is the men of this community that continue to inspire me to go off into the world after graduation, and better it. – Jackson Oettinger '20

Respect for all persons. A Johnnie can be anyone or from anywhere, and our community values should uphold and acknowledge others existence and effort. Justice. Our environment opens your mind to the world outside your bubble. Let the bubble pop, and tackle the problems of tomorrow. Be conscious of how your actions affect others, and how they affect lives of people now and in the future. Listening. Be sensitive and patient with all created beings. Have the strength to come to agreements and find peace without one another. Don't be afraid to engage; It fosters growth. These are the values that our institutions stand by, and I am inspired to promote and support these values regardless of where life takes us. – Alexander Modeas '20

During my time at CSB/SJU I have had the fortune to examine my life experiences and how I have benefited from many arbitrary results. For example, I am blessed with good health, a loving family, committed friends, strong educational background, and motivated peers who inspire me. Would CSB/SJU has taught me that I cannot control the fortunes I have received but I do control how I use them. This is why I am committed to serving those who have been on the opposite end of fortune and giving back to the communities that have given me so much. CSB/SJU will not

only provide you with an education, it will give you something even more important: the inspiration to be an agent of good in the world. – Brendan Klein ‘19

I am inspired to be a Johnnie because of my parents. In everything they do, they have always put my needs before their own. As a result of their love for me, I strive to put the needs of others before my own. At Saint John’s, I am able to pursue ways to use my abilities to help others, and am actively encouraged to make myself the best version of me I can be. – Michael Klonokowski ‘21

Though there are many integral parts of the St. John’s community, the faculty and staff at this institution pushed to its not only to excel in academics but to complement it with indelible character as well. This relates to the Benedictine value of hospitality, to treat all with kindness and empathy. I am proud to call myself a Johnnie, knowing that my four years here will have allowed me to gain experiences that greatly developed my sense of respect and compassion for others. I hope to inspire others around the world through work as a medical professional with the fundamental human experience of simple compassion. – Quinlen Marshall ‘20

Saint Johns is a place like no other. We are leaders, scholars, and driven workers that take full advantage of the friendships we build, academics we pursue, and extracurricular activities we undertake. My 4 short years here will result in development, lessons, and inspiration that will resonate far beyond the time I spend on this campus. The positive reputation St. Johns has is not because of what it is, rather it is a result of who makes up its community. I am in constant admiration of the men that surround me, as they continually developed to be the pinnacle of leaders and ambassadors for good, both on this campus and far beyond the pine curtain. St. John’s has shaped much of who I am, and I am forever grateful for the endless values it has embedded in me. – Andrew McGee ‘19

I used to obsess over winning the race—to reach the end without delay. But life is not a race. Each day, a leg on the journey. Each step formational, an opportunity to pursue what is good and true. We are capable of more than we can even imagine, falsely masked a task needing completion. Unable to see the finish line, we lose hope. I last hope. Inspiration I found in the pursuit. The bright light of sunrise, the sweltering heat of the day, the sore feet of the evening, all tell me I am alive. I am on my way. To where, I do not know. Each step, the slow work of God. – Taylor Kallsen ‘19

What inspires me most is the community that surrounds us. There are a multitude of Johnnies doing incredible things in all fields of studies, curricular and extracurricular. It is this common drive shared among so many of my fellow students that inspires me to work harder each day. That is why we must strive to better the community that we hold in such high regard for each and every individual that makes up these campuses. It is imperative that we, especially as leaders, empower all students to be the best that they can be. – Nathan Saunders ‘20

What inspires me is the desire to fully understand myself and realize my own potential in relation to the world around me. Everyone at St. John’s arrives with ideas and values that when challenged sharpen and mold us in ways we could not have imagined. The shared tribulation of

growing into who we are destined to be, in this place, at this time, with this community is what inspires me. – Jaheer Jones ‘19

I am a Black male who grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – arguably the worst city in America for African American males to grow up in. Just in my zip code alone, more than half of the males have been behind bars, giving 53206 the highest incarceration rates in America. A study in 2012 concluded adults in 53206 report lower rates of high school graduation and a lower percentage hold college degrees than adults in the metro area. The problem is, a vast majority of Milwaukee's inner city populations are still drinking from different fountains. Fountains of education, food, housing, job opportunities, health care, and many more. Being a Johnnie, for me, is more than just securing a future for myself – it means securing futures for everyone back home. It means inspiring ambition, drive, in the heart to be and make the difference. – Ryan Graham ‘21

We are all stewards. I look around me, at all of the beauty and the good in the world, and I know that we are a part of something more significant than ourselves. This is my inspiration as a Johnnie. Saint John's is a place that nourishes individuals to become stewards of life. Every day, I am inspired by Johnnies and Bennies who aim to create worldwide communities that contribute to the betterment of society; communities that put others first. St. John's was founded on these values, and I will strive to continue the legacy of stewardship throughout my life. – Will Gillach ‘19

Through my study music here at CSB/SJU, I have found a seemingly endless source of inspiration guiding my thoughts on what it means to be Johnnie, and more broadly, a good person. Of the many things I have learned as a musician, one thing stands out particularly in this moment. A great mentor mind once said during a rehearsal that, “There is no inspiration! Without purpose the music dies.” Similarly, our lives mirror the same idea. We are living our lives in order that we might find inspiration and meaning; something that we can actually live for. And what I have found, especially through my studies of music, is that one does not need to do this alone. What we learn from others and the relationships we make with those around us all contribute to our sense of purpose in life. I am inspired by this mentor of mine to continue to search for my own purpose in life as well as strive to be that inspiration for others through the actions I take in the music I make. – Jacob Ford ‘19

During my time here at Saint John's, I have grown tremendously both as a student, and more importantly, as an individual. This growth stems from friendships I made with professors, students I share a classroom or organization with, and my teammates on the baseball team. What I have taken away from these relationships is far greater than any material learned in a textbook. Friendship is what inspires and motivates me to be a Johnnie. The stronger the friendship is, the stronger the inspiration will be, something I have experienced with each of my closest friends. Each personal connection made has emphasized for me the truth behind the idea that it's not enough to be friendly. You have to be a friend. – Dominic Schleif ‘19

Shared values inspire me to be a Johnnie. The values I speak of are those that I see live through others around me every single day. I see a campus community full of individuals committed to bettering themselves, enabling one another for self-improvement, and forming relationships that

will last a lifetime. Through interactions with other Johnnies I am continually inspired to invest myself as fully as I can into living and encouraging these processes, day in and day out. – Daniel Bachmeier '21

We come from diverse backgrounds exemplifying rich cultures, from different cities, states, islands or countries. We come here to share and build a community that is founded on inclusivity, friendships, and respect. We come to learn, to listen and to love. My inspiration comes from exactly that, I'm able to leave my mark on this wonderful community just like many Johnnies have done before me and will after me. There's certain pride that comes with being a Johnnie, one that is transformed the longer you are one period. This is why I'M A JOHNNIE! – Jarrol Torres '19

Becoming a Johnnie has made me realize, that I should not pride myself on what I was inherently given. Instead, I now take pride in knowing that regardless of the space I occupy, I am the hardest worker in that space. Here, at CSB/SJU, I know that if I stay persistent and humble in my endeavors, my dreams will come true. This defines the beauty of this institution. My message to anyone who reads this: know that the secret to success, is that there is no secret. Know that the only thing that sets you apart from your peers is the amount of work you put to realizing your dreams. Adapt this mindset, and you will be unstoppable. I know I am. – Bardia Bijani Aval '20

Every day at Saint John's I'm reminded how fortunate I am to be here. This institution is unique in its mission to use the Benedictine values as a framework for paths of scholarship and service. I've been taught to view myself as an integral part of the whole, and to balance my personal growth with selflessness and community. I'm valued as an individual, but also reminded of the strength I can find in unity. This institution has taught me not to just celebrate my victories, but to practice humility and charity, while remembering to give thanks to those who have helped me along the way. Being a part of this powerful group is an inspiration to me every single day. – Sam Black '21

My grandparents not only stressed the importance of receiving a quality education, but also assured me that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. My parents work extremely hard, and give me the last of their resources to provide the tools that I need to perform to the best of my ability. My younger brothers observe and imitate my every move in hopes to achieve their individual goals and accolades. St. John's has given me the platform to honor my grandparent's will, serve as a significant figure to emulate, and continually make my parents proud. – David Johnson III '19

Whenever I think back on my past, I realize that the obstacles and challenges I have faced in my 21 years of living here have given me the ability to be resilient, stay motivated and keep working hard. The challenges I faced have also made me realize the positive impact I can have on my friends and peers at CSBSJU and people in the world. Being a member of this community allows me to see the wonderful talents and potential my peers have on this campus, which pushes me to work harder. Another thing that motivates me is seeing the wonderful and different personalities on this campus and working to make sure the needs of everyone on campus is met. Being motivated by positive energy and people around me, makes me realize I still have great things to accomplish in my life not only for me, but for others in the world as well. – Farrad William '20

Saint John's inspires me to make a difference in the world. To help those in need. To stand up for what I believe in. To fight for social justice. To be a voice and not an echo. To love everyone. To appreciate and embrace our differences. To express gratitude. To step outside my comfort zone. To be the person that God created me to be. To be a Johnnie. – Jackson Erdmann '19