

## Johnnie Wall 2022 Final Responses

“Fulfilling the responsibility of a Johnnie takes more than enrolling in Saint John's University, as for us Johnnies, we will continue to grow as new challenges face us daily. While on the surface all that may unite Johnnies is gender, guided by the institutions, Johnnies create and sustain the communal environment on campus by challenging the role of those who have come before us. Johnnies are imperfect, as we all are, yet have shown strength in times of darkness and have risen to the growing needs of change. What faces us once we leave this community may be beyond our control, yet Johnnies will draw upon the bonds created and the relationships gained here at Saint John's University to ensure a brighter, better future for all.” Ryan Imm ‘24

“My mom, Marnie Teagle, always made sure I was reaching out of my comfort zone, always expanding. That sentiment has defined my time here as a student and that sentiment, that expansion, I found here at St. John's. Some may write this place off as nothing more than a bubble, a small pond. Maybe they're right, but within this bubble, I found no boxes, only boundaries to break and new shapes to fill. Wherever you may find yourself, opportunity will be knocking and almost always in ways you would not expect. St. John's has taught me to be fluid enough to hear that knock at the door and to take the next step towards a path so beautifully unknown.” - Nathan Meyer ‘22

“Johnnie legend John Gagliardi described St. John's as "ordinary [people] doing ordinary things extraordinarily well." ("men" substituted for "people"). If this does not exemplify what it means to be a Johnnie, I do not know what does. A Johnnie is one who is truly committed to instituting extraordinary change in the world using the gifts of a liberal arts education, becoming a well-rounded individual, whether that is in academics, athletics, or the arts. By allowing students to find their authentic selves, St. John's creates true servant leaders committed to doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well in order to promote the common good for all in our community and world.” - Logan Edwards ‘23

“Ser un Johnnie significa tener el valor de extender tu mano a los que se miran diferentes de ti. Significa aprender de los demás y entender las jornadas que a echo uno para llegar a este lugar. Nuestros caminos son diferentes, pero todos merecemos la oportunidad de ser escuchados y de pertenecer aquí porque hemos demostrado que merecemos lo que hemos ganado. Los Johnnies están unidos para el bienestar de nuestra comunidad. Nuestros valores como una institución benedictina nos guían a que todos nuestros miembros sean incluidos. Cuando alguien se cae, los demás están ahí para socorrerlo. Nuestra fraternidad como Johnnies es lo que nos une y es lo que nos distingue. Un Johnnie ama a su prójimo, sin importar sus valores, de donde viene, su educación, su religión, como se mira, como oran, o su participación política. Aunque no somos perfectos, juntos seremos la esperanza para que todos los Johnnies del futuro encuentren un hogar aquí. Seremos la esperanza para un mundo que lucha para la justicia, paz, y para socorrer a los que son alienados en nuestra sociedad.” - Fredi Ponce Parra ‘24

“As a first-year, I applied for a scholarship and didn't get it. In defeat, I reached out to two faculty members and an older student, asking where I went wrong and what I could do to receive a different result next year. All three spent multiple hours meeting with me, offering advice, and helping me through the process. The willingness to help others is an intrinsic value of the St.

John's community, and one of many reasons why it is so special to spend four formative years here in Collegeville. Being a part of this community means not just appreciating the different lived experiences that each individual brings to campus, but diving into them, in turn developing a diversity of experiences that expands your understanding of the world. As I continue to get older, I hope to leave a lasting impact on other Johnnies in the way that the three people mentioned above did on me. Helping others is a cyclical habit, and SJU is a prime example of that." - Landon Peterson '24

"To me, being a Johnnie means living with an innate sense of community and hospitality. One of the first things I noticed when I stepped on campus as a first-year was the understanding between Johnnies that we are living a shared experience, one made better by the presence of each other. Every class I've taken and every activity I've been a part of has been filled with Johnnies genuinely caring about one another and exhibiting interest in each other's lives. It's inspiring and refreshing in a world centered around self-interest. Hospitality blossoms from that sense of community, when members of our community not only kindly welcome those who visit us, but also work to make those that are already part of the community feel continuously and enthusiastically welcomed. I think one of the greatest parts of SJU's existence as a small college is the bonds formed between students as we see each other again and again. While we are here, we have the fantastic opportunity to build relationships with those around us, and I certainly hope that makes us better equipped to spread these values of community and hospitality after we leave this place." - Jacob Gathje '24

"To be a Johnnie means to wholeheartedly embody the Benedictine values through our interactions with each other in the community. In essence, it means to be a leader filled with courage and honor." - Liam Miller '23

"Helping people grow and feel a part of the community inspired me to be a Johnnie. Seeing the smiles on others' faces inspired me to be a Johnnie. Saint John's University has provided me and many others with countless opportunities to grow mentally, physically, and spiritually. This institution provided a place for leadership skills to be developed and used. I have learned a lot about myself, my strengths, and my weaknesses. I have also built long-lasting friendships. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this community because it made me who I am today. I love the person I have become. Once a Johnnie, always a Johnnie." - Trayias Bowe '22

"To me being a Johnnie means creating and being part of an inclusive community in which everyone is accepted. It means following Benedictine values since it is the foundation of who we are. Our Johnnie values foster a community in which we are not only given career opportunities but life skills as well. As a BIPOC Johnnie, I recognize the privilege I have to be studying in a private Catholic University and understand the influence I hold on campus. Lastly, to me being a Johnnie means building long-lasting friendships and relationships with my fellow peers." - Jesus Segovia '24

"Being a Johnnie means taking pride in your every action on campus. It's holding the door for a monk, studying hard for your classes, and advocating for causes near and dear to your heart. Being a Johnnie means appreciating our school's history, while acknowledging that we must make changes to welcome future Johnnies who will come from all walks of life. Being a Johnnie

is an honor, and something that will always be a part of us, regardless of where we are in the world. We are proud to be Johnnies.” - Drew Engel ‘22

“One of my biggest influences on campus is Br. Dan Morgan. For the last three years, he used a speech by Teddy Roosevelt to inspire the RAs. In the speech, Teddy Roosevelt said that the person who is to be respected and given credit is not the critic, but the man in the arena. The person who is bleeding, sweating, and crying. The person trying their hardest to rise to the occasion, and who even if they fall short, do so daring greatly. To me, that is what it means to be a leader. To answer the door when opportunity knocks, to put yourself out there, and to not be satisfied with words when you can try to make a difference. To lead by example and by your actions, even if you fall short, is far more noble a goal, and one I hope we all strive for.” - Avery Bentrrott ‘22

“As a Johnnie, I am inspired by excellent leaders and mentors all around me. I am motivated to strive for greatness each and every day by my fellow Johnnies. One crucial component of the Johnnie identity is our sense of community. Saint John’s is unlike any other atmosphere because the community members display a feeling of warmth and hospitality that is quite frankly unmatched. To me, being a Johnnie means that you are willing and wanting to actively help other members of the community as well as motivate them to strive to be their best selves. Saint John’s is a living breathing ecosystem composed of its students, mentors, and leaders. It is within this ecosystem that we can all grow and develop our own identities, but one crucial part of that will always be the Johnnie identity. If we all take time out of our days to be more accepting and supportive of the members of our community, we can continue the great Johnnie legacy.” - Zach Olmschenk ‘24

“Being a Johnnie entails hard work, positivity, passion, and the strive for excellence in everything I do. It requires going beyond the mundane and everyday life to achieve something greater than oneself. These three years at Saint John's have given me the opportunity to grow, learn, and develop both inside and outside the classroom. Getting involved in numerous clubs, sports, and other activities to experience new opportunities has elevated my college experience. Leaders need to create positive change by their relentless passion, dedication, and belief behind whatever they choose to pursue. This is what makes Saint John's special - a smaller university where many individuals understand the problems that need to be addressed, and our voices can and should be heard.” - Matthew Anderson ‘23

“To me, being a Johnnie is being a part of a bigger and stronger community. I chose to come to St. John's because of how strong the community was up here, and I have loved being a part of this community every moment that I am here. Being in this amazing community means supporting others every chance you can and to be there for everyone when times are tough and them being there for you when you need it as well. I wish that every single person had the chance to experience a community that is as strong as the one here at St. John's. And to know that this community stays with you just as strong even when you graduate and move on to do big things in the world is something that not many other places can match.” - Max Doom ‘24

Ever since I was young, my parents taught me how to be a part of my community and the world. As an Eagle Scout, I learned the best way to do this is to serve others and to always try and do

your part as a member of your community (the scout motto is do a good turn daily). Saint John's has given me opportunities to do just that. Recently I was blessed to travel to the Bahamas with SJU faith for a volunteer service and immersion trip. I was not only able to serve the people there, but I also was able to get to know the community I was serving. I believe that the mission of an Eagle Scout is closely tied to the values of a true Johnnie. This is something I valued when choosing Saint John's. - Elias Wehr '25

“To be a Johnnie is to believe. It is the belief that one values their individuality, to grow in one's faiths and gifts, and to do so in community. It is the belief that we guide where and how our community grows and just as importantly our impacts are just as valuable as our intentions. It is the belief that patience, reflection internally and impacting positively, and empathy are the ingredients for good choices, good leadership, and good advocacy. It is the belief that leadership is in service to a greater good and that we will meet others where they are, without judgement or prejudice. It is the belief that now is the time to make real the promises of our community and fellow institutions. It is the belief that we must learn from those who came before us, and in mentoring those who come behind us. To be a Johnnie is to believe that faith without work behaves like a plant without water. To be a Johnnie is to promote justice in our communities and in our world; to preserve our environment; empower the underserved and underprivileged; and to rebuke racism, sexism, transphobia, and other oppressive beliefs. To be a Johnnie, to be true in this belief, is to come together as a beginning, keep together to make progress, and always strive towards becoming a true community as success.” - Geonn Taylor '22

“Leadership, in general, can mean many things. However, at Saint John's, leadership is action. It is holding the door open for a peer you have not met yet. It's thanking the Link driver as you step off the bus. It is uplifting your teammates after a loss and celebrating after a win. It is introducing yourself with a smile. It's fighting injustice regardless of impact or degree. It is being a friend to those that need one. Leadership at SJU is pure, genuine, and contagious. People go to college to succeed in their careers. People go to SJU to succeed in their lives, and it all starts with holding a door open.” - Christian Loeb '22

“The beauty of St. John's and the picturesque environment inspires me to live authentically. We are on this planet for a short amount of time and have been blessed with the gift of life. Go out and be in the community. Experience life to the fullest and find ways to challenge your perspective. As a Johnnie I have learned the importance of being authentically alive and enjoying the many blessings of life.” - Sean Fisher '23

“My inspiration to be a Johnnie comes from the past and continued work of Johnnies. We are given this opportunity to attend this beautiful campus, rich with connections beyond myself. We have over 28,000 Alumni who continue to connect with Saint John's, because they know it is a special place. The history of Saint John's is rich in the advancement of Benedictine values, specifically the value of Community Living. Keeping doors open at night for conversations, getting involved as much as possible, and waking up on Saturday for Johnnie football in the fall is what Johnnies do, and have been doing for years. Johnnies are simply more than college students, we are leaders. Seeing the Johnnies before me, and what they have accomplished and continue to accomplish, is what has inspired me to be a Johnnie.” - Evan Mattson '24

“My understanding of Johnnie leadership is centered on respect, care for others, and advocacy. Each year, a new class of Johnnies arrives on campus, unaware of how their environment, campus culture, and support system will mold them into better people over the next four years. I envision a future in which Johnnies embody these characteristics - consistently respecting, caring, and advocating for each other. The realization of these ideals will provide a better tomorrow and a better St. John’s community.” - Emmett Adam ‘23

“A person who inspires me is my mother. She came to the U.S so that I would have everything she didn’t get a chance of having. She has overcome many obstacles throughout her life, however that just made her work harder. She always does her best to provide for me and other siblings. I have learned so much from her and I’m grateful for everything she has done. With that being said, I would like to honor my mom, Yannet, as she is the reason why I am here today. I have come to value to never give up and to always work hard even if life brings me down.” - Ignacio Sanchez Romero ‘24

Being a Johnnie is being a part of a fellowship. Johnnies are always there for each other. We do not let anyone be alone or apart. When a fellow Johnnie needs a hand, we do not let a fellow Johnnie walk alone. Working together and looking out for each other’s well-being makes the Johnnie community as strong as it is. Johnnies are known for their respect, their consideration for others, and hard work and dedication to everything that they do.

Each of us, as an individual part of the Johnnie network, is a part of that proud tradition and has a responsibility to it. You see it in the passion we have for Johnnie football, that proud tradition of success and determination in the spirit of Coach Gagliardi. You see it in the pride that many of our relatives have in saying that they are a Johnnie. Being a Johnnie is not just something that ends once you receive your diploma and walk across the stage. Being a Johnnie is something you carry with you for life. - Connor Kockler ‘22

Growing up, I faced many challenges, learning a new language to understanding why there were letters in math. I received the help of my family, who even if they did not know the solution, they will lead me to the direction that I should go. Life is full of challenges and Saint John’s is inspiring me to overcome these challenges and give back to those that have had an impact in my life. - Jesus Moreno ‘25