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The Rule of Benedict reminds us to greet all as Christ. The tradition also encourages humility, a gentle reminder that none of us knows the whole truth and that we can always learn from others. We are knit together by the Benedictine Catholic tradition that welcomes all and provides a transformative educational experience.

In this issue of Saint John’s Magazine, our cover feature is about a Johnnie who has become the right-hand man to one of the most powerful people in the world—Denis McDonough ’92, who serves as chief of staff to the president of the United States. We also feature Mathew Ahmann ’52 (dec.), whose profound belief in equality and social justice helped bring Catholics into the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Our Saint John’s community, like the world at large, has become increasingly diverse. Indeed, our graduates represent the full spectrum of political ideologies from conservative to moderate to liberal. In past issues of the Saint John’s Magazine, we have lifted up the accomplishments of Edward Devitt ’34, Eugene McCarthy ’35, George Sinner ’50, Dave Durenberger ’55, Roger Scherer ’58, John Brandl ’59, Rick Nolan ’66 and Mark Kennedy ’79, as well as others who have served in local, state and national politics.

These graduates share a number of traits in common, including a deep political conviction, a commitment to Benedictine values and a love of alma mater. Although those in public service have potentially “hot-button” perspectives that are not an obvious part of other professions, we are proud to celebrate their accomplishments in their chosen careers.

As you will discover in the articles, Denis McDonough is and Mathew Ahmann was deeply motivated by faith and the values of humility and hospitality. We recognize them for the way in which they took their Catholic Benedictine liberal arts education and used it to succeed at the highest levels, as so many Johnnies have done for more than 150 years.
Retiring UST President Delivers SJU Commencement Address

The Rev. Dennis Dease, recently retired president of the University of St. Thomas, delivered the SJU Commencement address May 12. Dease, who served as president of UST since 1991, received an honorary doctorate from Saint John’s at commencement. “I never imagined that one day I’d become a Johnnie,” quipped Dease. “And I could not be more proud. Thank you.”

The 2013 Saint John’s graduating class included 409 undergraduate men and 24 School of Theology-Seminary graduates.

Carey ’13 Walks in Grandfather’s Footsteps

When Benjamin Carey ’13 realized that his grandfather, Richard Carey ’52, would not be able to attend the commencement ceremony, he decided to bring Saint John’s to his grandfather. Benjamin collected a series of photos taken when his grandfather was at SJU and recreated them, starring himself.

Richard died on May 2, just a few days before Benjamin’s commencement. But not before he had the opportunity to see the photos collected by his grandson. Benjamin posted the photos on popular website Reddit.

“He had a chance to see the pictures I posted to Reddit the night before he died and while I wasn’t able to be there, I’m told that he was very happy to see them and smiled for the first time in days,” says Benjamin. The story was featured in the Huffington Post, and was popular with scores of Johnnies.

Richard Carey ’52 and grandson Benjamin Carey ’13 (many years later!) by Mary Hall. For more photos like this go to http://bit.ly/SJUGrandpa.
Object of My Affection

This year, we bid farewell to 12 retiring faculty members. We asked each one to choose an object from his or her office and tell us its story. Here’s what we heard.

Gary Brown  Mathematics
Object: Two detective stories he published
“ I assigned my students to write math dialogues to illustrate how math could tell a story. With these books, I followed my own advice.”

Ernie Diedrich  Economics
Object: Piece of wood found in the woods
“I have several pieces of wood in my office that help me appreciate the artistry of nature. This one reminds me of a frog catching a fly.”

Ozzie Mayers  English
Object: “No Discrimination” sign from his office door
“I encouraged my students not to discriminate against other people, but also not to discriminate against literature… to approach reading with an open mind.”

S. Carleen Schomer ’66, OSB  Chemistry
Object: A framed photo of Mother Henrita Osendorf ’36, OSB, former prioress
“People thought of Mother Henrita as very serious, but she was very human and very holy. And she had a warm, wonderful laugh. When I had a difficult situation, I would always look at her picture and think ‘What would you do?’.”
Ed Sass  
*Education*  
**Object:** Photo of his three children  
“When I started teaching here 36 years ago, none of my children were born yet. Now, they are all Johnnies and Bennies.”

Kay Wolsborn  
*Political science*  
**Object:** A donkey and an elephant  
“I got these during one of my favorite experiences—the Washington, D.C., Summer Study Program.”

Martha Tomhave Blauvelt  
*Gender studies*  
**Object:** 1930s typewriter her family gave her to take to college in 1966  
“This typewriter, passed down from my grandparents’ generation, represented the possibility of white-collar work to my family. I also used it as a teaching tool to show my students the gendering of technology since the women who used them were themselves called ‘typewriters.’”

S. Mara Faulkner ’62, OSB  
*English*  
**Object:** An inspirational wall hanging from the late S. Nancy Hynes ’55, OSB  
“S. Nancy gave it to me when I got my Ph.D. She was my freshman English teacher and was known as ‘C minus Linus.’ I found out why when I got a C minus on my first paper. Later, she cheered me through my Ph.D. and became an invaluable colleague.”

Other professors who retired this year, but weren’t available to participate:  
John Gagliardi  
*Athletics*  
Jim O’Meara  
*Accounting and finance*  
Tim Robinson  
*Philosophy*  
Dan Steck  
*Physics*
Saint John’s Abbey is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Benedictine Volunteer Corps. Founded in 2003 by Br. Paul Richards ’78, OSB, the Benedictine Volunteer Corps offers recent SJU graduates the opportunity to spend a year volunteering at another Benedictine community.

What began with two volunteers and two locations has grown to now accommodate 16 volunteers a year at eight different locations on five continents. More than 100 Johnnies have participated in the program.

Volunteers all return with a greater understanding of what it means to serve others. David Allen ’09, OSB, was serving in Santiago, Chile, in the midst of the 2010 Chilean earthquake. He was overcome by the hospitality and generosity that prevailed in the midst of crisis. “I learned very quickly that being a college graduate is a great accomplishment, but that there is so much beyond school,” said Allen. “I felt like my mind and heart were opened.”

Rev. Richard Frechette was honored with the Pax Christi Award, the highest honor awarded by Saint John’s Abbey and University, in April.

Frechette, a Passionist priest, physician and missionary, has served impoverished children and orphans for more than three decades. He has worked with Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), also called Our Little Brothers and Sisters, since 1979. Through his work with NPH and Friends of the Orphans, Frechette has provided health care, education and love to hundreds of thousands of children.

He established and currently oversees St. Damien’s Hospital in Haiti. St. Damien’s provides long-term care to critically ill children and outpatient services to more than 17,000 children and adults each year.

Awarded since 1963, The Pax Christi Award recognizes those who have devoted themselves to God by working in the tradition of Benedictine monasticism to serve others and build a heritage of faith in the world.
Really Local Lettuce

A student-run greenhouse provided its first crop of lettuce to diners in the SJU refectory in May. The system is highly efficient, costing only about $75 for heat annually.

Stephen Johnson ’13 developed the greenhouse concept in a social entrepreneurship course his sophomore year. During the next two years, he drew on the support of the Saint John’s Senate and a number of institutional offices as well as external donors to fund it.

“I think it just falls in line really well with the Benedictine values—kind of a stewardship of the land,” Johnson said. “It’s kind of going back to the roots of Saint John’s, when we produced all our own food.”

The passive-solar heating system allows produce to be grown during the height of cold Minnesota winters. Staggered planting is expected to yield several harvests of lettuce and other green vegetables throughout the year. The majority of the produce will be sold to SJU Dining Services.

Students will continue to manage the greenhouse, working closely with the McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship at Saint John’s.

ROTC Cadets Take a First at Bataan Competition

Teams from Saint John’s and Saint Ben’s Fighting Saints Battalion Army ROTC took first and second place in the coed division of the 24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March, held at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in March. Four teams of ROTC cadets—made up of 16 Johnnies and 13 Bennies—successfully competed against several larger universities.

The marathon commemorates the 1942 Bataan Death March in which thousands of prisoners of war died en route to a camp in the Philippines. A survivor of Bataan in attendance was so impressed by the Johnnies and Bennies that he asked them to autograph his program.
Service to the Church

LIVE from the Vatican

by Jeannie Kenevan ’98

While the world tuned in for news of white smoke last February, two SJU and School of Theology • Seminary graduates, Lino Rulli and Sebastian Gomes, were the scene. In this Q&A, they tell us what it was like to cover these historic events.

How did you get a media pass for the conclave?

Getting a press pass wasn’t difficult. The challenge was getting the right access. I’ve been lucky to broadcast my show from Vatican Radio for the past six years, so I’ve built nice relationships with folks there. They’ve always been extremely accommodating, and they came through again. Considering how everyone was scrambling after the surprise of Pope Benedict’s resignation, the process was well organized.

Did anything surprise you about what people in positions of authority were saying about the future of the Catholic Church and its leadership at the conclave?

I was hoping they’d pick someone to shake things up, in a good way, in evangelization. It was surprising they were talking so frankly about the church’s needs and acknowledging all wasn’t perfect. But honestly, I was concerned they’d take the safe route: a guy who was, let’s say, boring. A status-quo type guy who would say everything’s fine. Pope Francis has surpassed any hopes I had.

How confidential was the conclave?

Completely. When we said goodbye to Cardinal Dolan and the other cardinals, we knew we would have zero interaction with them. The big fear, as a broadcaster, was that those guys would be in conclave for weeks. With no news, we’d have nothing to talk about! Even now, very few details have been revealed. And believe me, I’m trying!

People often call for the Catholic Church to update itself, yet they are attracted to an old tradition like this. What do you make of that?

The conclave is great drama and theater. We all get sucked into it. Throughout that week, in addition to my radio show, I was providing commentary on CNN’s Piers Morgan Live. Before going on one night, I was talking to Anderson Cooper. He’s not Catholic, but he admitted how fascinating it was to stare at that chimney waiting for smoke. I think by their nature our traditions are exciting and relevant.

How did your education at Saint John’s School of Theology help prepare you in life and career?

The School of Theology taught me to think about God. To think about Jesus Christ in a way that made faith real to me. I learned to put labels like “liberal” or “conservative” on folks, but one of the great things I learned at the SOT was how to take the vast, grand experience of being Catholic and experience it on a daily basis.

What was your favorite moment from this historic transition?

Seeing Bergoglio as Pope Francis for the first time. I’d been on the air five hours and was still absolutely stunned.

Lino Rulli ’93, SOT ’95

Host of The Catholic Guy with Lino Rulli on SiriusXM Radio, media advisor to Cardinal Dolan of New York and author of Sinner (2011) and Saint (fall 2013).

On the Web: www.catholicguy.com

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The School of Theology taught me to think about God. To think about Jesus Christ in a way that made faith real to me. I also exposed me to a variety of ways of looking at the church—the people inside it. We like putting labels like “liberal” or “conservative” on folks, but one of the great things I learned at the SOT was how to take the vast, grand experience of being Catholic and experience it on a daily basis.

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that they elected him. He came onto the balcony and gave a simple wave. It’s an image I’ll always remember. He was so humble, so simple, so comfortable in his own skin. The best part was that before he gave his papal blessing, he asked the people to pray for him. That just blew me away.

Sebastian Gomes ’07, SOT ’11
Producer, Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation
On the Web: www.saltandlighttv.org

How did you become a reader at the papal installation Mass?
After Pope Benedict announced his resignation, Fr. Federico Lombardi, (Vatican spokesman) called my boss, Fr. Thomas Rosica, and asked that we come to Rome to facilitate the English-speaking media. We worked for the Vatican throughout the conclave. I was asked to do the reading in recognition for our work.

You met Cardinal Bergoglio in advance of his election—what was that like?
The Sunday before the conclave, I ran into Cardinal Bergoglio on the street. He was by himself, dressed in a simple, old black suit and collar. I told him we would be praying for him and the cardinals. He took my hand, squeezed it tightly and said, “Thank you very much, I’m a bit nervous!” He struck me as a very simple, humble man.

What surprised and inspired you most at the installation mass?
The most powerful experience was listening to the Pope’s homily about authority and service. Imagine heads of state from around the world listening to the pope speak about how authentic power is exercised in service to others.

What were your strongest feelings and emotions that day?
I was nervous but continued working on other things, periodically reading the text from 2 Samuel. I prayed a lot and went to bed fairly relaxed. The next morning I was caught up in the buzz around St. Peter’s and felt comfortable. I was so grateful to Pope Francis for saying yes and for the clear signals he was giving. I had nothing else to give him, so doing the reading was my little drummer boy moment.

How did your time at Saint John’s School of Theology impact your life and career?
I learned so much during my graduate studies, not only in class but in the Saint John’s community as a whole. I never imagined working in media, but my education and formation at Saint John’s were holistic, and provided me with a comprehensive lens through which to see the church and the world.

What was your favorite part of this experience in Rome?
Seeing it up close after studying it for so long was the best part. I met many Vatican officials, cardinals and bishops, each with his own perspective on the resignation of Benedict and necessary qualities for the new pope. The cardinals came to Rome with leaks and scandals hanging over the institution. But they knew the issues, talked about them, and elected a man who loves the poor and is firmly rooted in the Gospel. We may criticize the Vatican for being dysfunctional at times, but the election of Pope Francis is proof that the Lord is still with us in the boat.

Saint John’s School of Theology offers courses and programs for personal enrichment in addition to graduate coursework for full master’s degrees. Learn more at www.csbsju.edu/sot.
If you missed the moment live on national television, you can still catch it on YouTube. On January 25, 2013, the President of the United States walks into the East Room of the White House, takes his place behind a podium with the presidential seal and announces Denis McDonough ’92 as his new chief of staff. President Barack Obama spends the next 7 1/2 minutes praising McDonough’s decency, loyalty and humility.

McDonough stands to his right, slightly behind the President, smiling at times, looking down and somewhat embarrassed at others, distinguished in his silver suit and prematurely—at 43—gray hair. The President’s affection toward the man beside him is obvious in the way he teases him about his gray hair, jokes about the rivalry between the Vikings and Bears, addresses McDonough’s family by name, commends McDonough’s deep faith and introduces him as his “great friend.”

“He’s been one of my closest and most trusted advisers,” President Obama says. “Given his humility, I don’t think people always appreciate the breadth of his experience and the range of his talents. It is precisely because of that intellect, that experience, his dedication, his determination, that I wanted Denis in this job.”

The announcement did not surprise anyone inside the Beltway. Since McDonough came to the capital and earned his position of trust in Obama’s inner circle, he seems to have been destined for this role. The marvel has been how, in a city of high-powered politics, he has maintained his reputation for and universal respect as a man of decency, loyalty and humility.
White House
Chief of Staff

Donough ’92

By John Rosengren ’86

Legends Work Ethic

McDonough used to ride his bicycle to and from work in suburban Maryland, where he lives with his wife and their three children, but now, as chief of staff, he has a secret service detail that commutes with him. Otherwise, he has maintained his rigorous schedule, waking early, working out, arriving at the office by 7 a.m. and often staying until 9 p.m. He receives about 3,000 emails daily, and his phone seems to buzz constantly. His work ethic has become legendary not just in his current position, but in previous roles as deputy national security adviser, senior adviser on foreign policy to the President, foreign policy adviser for Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle and back to Georgetown where he made lists of extracurricular reading for himself while earning a master’s degree in international affairs.

Sometimes the day doesn’t end at 9 p.m., and he works through the night. During the 2008 presidential campaign, he went so many nights without sleep that he had to check himself into the hospital. But he was soon back on the job. “Nobody outworks Denis McDonough,” President Obama said.

You could see that budding though not yet fully developed work ethic when McDonough was a double major (history and Spanish) and starting safety on the football team at Saint John’s University. He overcame his athletic limitations by outworking others to become a three-year starter for John Gagliardi from 1988-91, play on two conference-championship teams, record 171 tackles and a dozen interceptions, and lead by example. “He became a great

McDonough’s intellect shone through on the gridiron—in the way he anticipated plays and the angles he took on tackles—and in the classroom: he graduated summa cum laude.
player almost by sheer will,” said his Johnnie teammate Steve O’Toole ’92.

The tenth of eleven children who grew up in Stillwater, Minn., Denis picked Saint John’s because one of his older brothers (William ’78) had gone there. McDonough’s intellect shone through on the gridiron—in the way he anticipated plays and the angles he took on tackles—and in the classroom: he graduated summa cum laude. There were times, though, when perhaps he didn’t work as hard as he could have. For instance, Kenneth Jones, history professor and his academic adviser, had prodded McDonough—without result—to dig deeper into the issues of his senior thesis about the Duluth lynchings of 1920. When Jones saw McDonough in Washington this past winter, his former student said, “You were right.” “About what?” Jones asked. “My thesis. I should have done what you suggested.”

The exchange speaks to his modesty and the maturation of his work ethic and intellectual curiosity. “It’s so perfectly Denis,” Jones says. “He wants the fuller context for things, wants to see things in their whole.”

**Johnnie Network**

When McDonough arrived in Washington in the mid-90s after teaching high school in Belize and traveling throughout Latin America, he sought out two Johnnie alumni, Mike Zumwinkle ’86, who was working with the State Department, and Cleveland Cram ’38, former official with the Central Intelligence Agency who literally wrote the book on the secret history of U.S. counterintelligence. Zumwinkle showed McDonough around, and the two became friends. The older Johnnie spotted early on the traits that would count for McDonough’s success. “He was very smart, very disciplined, loyal, dependable, had a personality of the first order, was someone you could trust,” Zumwinkle says. “If I were running a company, I’d want someone like him on my team.”

Zumwinkle and his wife Lori ’87 introduced Denis to Kari, a friend of Lori’s from work. Denis took an instant liking to Kari, as did a couple of other guys. He chased away an aggressive suitor, won her affection and married her. They now have three children: Addie (12), Liam (9) and Teddy (6).

After graduating from Georgetown, McDonough worked as an aide to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, focusing on Latin America. He then worked for Senator Tom Daschle as a senior foreign policy advisor until Daschle lost his bid for re-election in 2004. Colorado Senator Ken Salazar enlisted McDonough as his legislative director, and McDonough also served as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Along the way, McDonough got to know Mark Lippert, a Navy reservist who advised then-Senator Obama on foreign policy. When Lippert was deployed to Iraq in 2007, he recommended McDonough as his replacement. That’s how McDonough came to serve as foreign policy adviser on Obama’s first

**CSB/SJU history professor Ken Jones remembers him as being interested in the “fuller context”**.
presidential campaign. Since then, he has become one of the most trusted lieutenants in the President’s small circle.

President Obama had come to rely heavily upon McDonough as the deputy national security advisor. On May 1, 2011, during the U.S. Navy Seal mission that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, McDonough watched events unfold from the White House Situation Room along with President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Joseph Biden and about a dozen select others. "Denis has played a key role in every major national security decision of my presidency," Obama said.

**Family and Friends First**

Heady as his position may be, Denis has remained grounded. That’s evident in a walk down the hallway of the West Wing where he exchanges fist bumps with staff members, calls out names of security guards like they’re old friends and inquires about subordinates’ family members. When Jones asked one White House guard about Denis, the guard replied, “He’s the best. He treats us all like we matter.”

McDonough’s first order of business when accepting the job was to make sure that two of his staff members could come with him. He is quick to recognize the efforts of staffers and to handwrite notes of praise for work well done. He does not grant interviews with the press—he turned down *Time*. "That’s his humility," says Matthew Lindstrom ’92, currently a political science professor at Saint John’s who knew McDonough in their undergrad days. “It’s not about Denis.”

You might say it’s about his kids, even though he does not get to see them as often as he’d like. Sunday is family day. Denis and Kari take their three children to a Benedictine church in northeastern D.C. He plays street hockey or catch with them. He attends recitals and basketball games whenever possible. He keeps a stack of toys tucked in the corner of his West Wing office for those Saturdays when they visit. When Obama appointed McDonough as chief of staff, he looked directly at Addie, Lee and Teddy and told them he understood that their dad had been away nights

As deputy national security adviser, McDonough watched the bin Laden mission unfold from the White House Situation Room on May 1, 2011.

A soccer champ in the making? Attending his children’s activities is a high priority.
and weekends and that his new job was going to be demanding, too. “But the one reason he does this is because he wants to make sure the world’s a better place for all of you,” he said. “Because he loves you so much.”

Busy as he is, McDonough still takes an interest in others, sending a personal note when a baby is born or asking about a spouse’s operation. He’s the guy who brings coffee to staff meetings or doughnuts to the White House press corps. And he’s willing to make time for others. When Zumwinkle was visiting recently, Denis gave his family a tour of the East and West Wings and served them ice cream in the Situation Room. When Jones was in town, McDonough was able to take him through the Oval Office because the President was elsewhere. He seems to enjoy being able to give others a look behind the scenes because he knows how much they enjoy it.

Here’s My Advice

McDonough is happy to pay back the help he received from Johnnie alumni. Since 2007, he has taken time from whatever position he has been in to meet with groups of students from Saint John’s University and the College of Saint Benedict. The groups, organized through the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement, meet with a variety of people working in the capital, from lobbyists to military leaders, but McDonough is the most high-profile person to sit down with them. After speaking to the students for nearly an hour recently, he asked, “Do you have a little more time?” Then he spent another 45 minutes giving them a tour of the White House.

A group of students this past February admitted to being a little in awe of him initially, but McDonough quickly put them at ease, speaking casually about his days at Saint John’s and growing up in Minnesota. He treated them as equals, listening closely to what each had to say and thoughtfully considering his responses to their questions. “I felt as though I had known this man, whom I had never met, my whole life,” says Jake Collins ’16, one of the students in the group and a political science major. “That feeling speaks volumes to the kind of person Denis is—kind, down-to-earth, surprisingly humorous—and to the powerful Johnnie connection.”

He also dispensed practical advice. When they were “blown away” by his daily schedule and asked how he did it, he stressed the need to prioritize, not just with work but life as well. At one point, he turned to Lindstrom, told him to cover his ears, then encouraged the students to read...
less of their textbooks and more of the Economist, the Wall Street Journal and the Atlantic. “It was fantastic advice,” Lindstrom says with a laugh. “His point was that the theory from the textbooks is important but it’s often all about the application and the real world politics, which those publications add to the broad theory.”

McDonough also admitted to the students that as an undergraduate he had his sights set on law school and probably would have become an attorney if a certain band (the Gear Daddies) hadn’t been playing a certain St. Joe establishment (Sal’s) on a certain night (the eve of the LSAT). Such were his priorities that certain J-term, he told the students with his characteristic self-deprecating humor.

Ken Jones recognized early on that McDonough, as a student in Jones’ introductory history course, thrived in small group projects, being a skilled facilitator who could draw others’ contributions into a solution. He has applied that ability to work toward consensus in the early phase of his new job trying to build bridges with Republicans. In April, McDonough went out for beers with Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney’s running mate, who was no friend of the Obama camp, and managed to find common ground in their Irish Catholic roots. Though it will be months before realizing the fruits of his efforts, the new chief of staff has already won the respect of his political opponents. Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, said he has been “very impressed” with McDonough.

McDonough’s blend of talents, experience and personal traits, including his humility and loyalty to Obama, made him the consummate candidate for his role as chief of staff, the person who serves as the gateway to the President. The Daily Beast observed as much in an article at the time of his appointment: “McDonough, by all accounts, is highly attuned to the protocol and etiquette in hierarchy-minded Washington. Powerful White House staffers can sometimes be high-handed in their interactions with cabinet officials, but McDonough, who grew up one of 11 children in an observant Roman Catholic family, plays the dutiful staffer with seeming authenticity.”

To see the announcement of Denis McDonough’s appointment, go to youtube.com/watch?v=m76ku3EEenGY For more coverage of the appointment go to: http://bit.ly/SJUMcDonough

growing number of business leaders in greater St. Cloud have committed time, talent and treasure to a simple idea with a grand vision. They are part of an organization dedicated to making their community one of the best places to live and work in America.

Close to a dozen Johnnies have joined the volunteer efforts of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation to benefit the central Minnesota area.

Economic growth is one part of an integrated strategy aimed at invigorating the community, says Rick Bauerly ’91, one of the Johnnies providing leadership and expertise. “The idea is to make this a great place to live,” he says.

Organized in April 2011, the GSCDC reflects a national trend as business leaders across the country take a greater role in community vitalization, Bauerly says. While economic development is a priority, GSCDC leaders see it in a broader context of community well-being.

“With the increase in budget constraints of the public sector, there is a growing awareness among business leaders that their health depends on the health of the community,” he says.

Bauerly is the managing partner of Granite Equity Partners in St. Cloud. He and Dave Gruenes ’80, an executive with Stearns Electric, were two of four organizers who launched the GSCDC. Both men have extensive business experience. Bauerly specializes in strategic and organizational development while Gruenes brings expertise in banking and a background in public service as a 14-year lawmaker in the Minnesota House and as state commissioner of commerce.

Bauerly serves on the GSCDC Board of Directors as corporate secretary. Gruenes serves on the board as chair of the Business Corps, one of six service corps charged with strategic initiatives. The Business Corps is responsible for local business retention and expansion as well as attracting new industries.

Formation of the GSCDC was inspired when a delegation of community leaders from greater St. Cloud toured Dubuque, Iowa, on a fact-finding mission. The group chose Dubuque because of similarities in demographics, size and Midwestern ethic.

For the St. Cloud group, collaborative engagement was the key insight. “We believed that greater St. Cloud had even more resources but we were not collaborating as much as Dubuque,” Bauerly says. “We all felt we were not as engaged.”

That has changed. Engaged leadership across all sectors of the community is central to the GSCDC’s strategic plan, and the idea has captured the imagination of local leaders. To date it has gotten investments from 100 area businesses, institutions, foundations and governments. Saint John’s University, the College of Saint Benedict and St. Cloud State University are among the local institutions that have joined the cause.

“There’s a lot of momentum,” says Chris Coborn ’81, president and CEO of Coborn’s. He serves on the GSCDC board as chair of the investment committee and works closely with investment committee vice chair Mark Krebsbach ’80, managing partner of CliftonLarsonAllen.

The vision to improve the quality of life resonates across central Minnesota. As Coborn explains,
there is an enthusiasm for the basic appeal to make the community stronger. Krebsbach says there is a sense of ownership and pride among the investors, and they are willing to make a commitment to the community. “This is an opportunity to really make an impact. There’s a great deal of satisfaction in that,” he says. “It’s exciting to see people engaged.”

The GSCDC has identified four inter-related objectives. Business growth, community support and talent expansion all revolve around the key objective of engaged leadership. Each objective is dependent on and contributes to the success of the others.

Gruenes describes the strategy as a holistic collaboration that capitalizes on the area’s strengths. He and Bauerly readily list the following assets: a highly educated and healthy community, a growing technology cluster, a center of government and higher education, regional retail and health care enterprises, a transportation hub and a strong work ethic among the work force.

The GSCDC is broadly focused on talent—retention, recruiting new talent and providing career opportunities for the graduates of the area’s colleges and universities. “Attracting new businesses is not sustainable without talent,” Bauerly says.

In addition to the Business Corps and Talent Corps, the GSCDC’s other service corps have targeted initiatives focusing on wellness, innovation, a vibrant downtown St. Cloud and attracting commercial air service.

Early results are promising, notably that German agricultural firm Geringhoff has selected St. Cloud as the site of its first manufacturing plant outside of Germany. In all, the GSCDC has completed 15 milestones, including nonprofit incorporation with tax-exempt status, strategic planning and organizational structuring and staffing.

All four Johnnies agree that a willingness to give back to the community is a driving force among the volunteer investors. Gruenes recalls the first organizational meeting in 2011, when Bauerly appealed to a group of business leaders to take a leap of faith.

What began as an act of faith has energized a community of leaders.
It’s a WIN WIN Situation

Students are hungry for experiences that complement their studies and help prepare them for careers. Alumni help them—and themselves—by providing internships.

John Schnettler ’85 and Joel Cherrico ’10 couldn’t be more different in some ways. Schnettler works at a health-care company that employs about 7,700 people. Cherrico ’10 runs his own pottery business and is the only employee. But both men preach the importance of interns for their companies.

Fortunately the CSB/SJU internship program isn’t a one-size-fits-all model, either. There are summer and semester internships, paid and unpaid, internships in small-town Minnesota and others in international capitals. But common threads emerge: Internships are invaluable in an increasingly competitive market, and it doesn’t matter if a company is big or small—employing interns serves a valuable function.

In response, the CSB/SJU academic internship program continues to expand. Laura Hammond ’05, assistant director of experiential learning and community engagement, reports that 297 students earned credit for internships in the 2012-13 academic year compared to only 46 in 1988.

Students take lessons from the classroom, use them in work settings and make useful career connections. They return to campus and put these tools to use in subsequent classroom learning and, later, on the job. The university benefits from having alumni help out current students, the two groups bonded by that shared Collegeville experience. Employers benefit from the skills of motivated college students during the summer or during the school year. Perhaps even more important, their businesses create relationships with individuals who can one day become full-time employees.

FROM INTERN TO EMPLOYEE

Attention Saint John’s students: When seeking internships, don’t ignore a company where the top two executives are Johnnies. Of course, once you’re in, the internship is all about dedication and talent. Combine that Collegeville connection with strong performance as an intern and a permanent job could be next. Ken Nguyen ’12 is proof.

In the summer of 2011, Nguyen was an intern at Apex Information Technologies, a company that works with health-care billing and was founded in 1995 by CEO Brian Kueppers ’89. Five years ago Patrick Maurer ’89 joined the company and serves as Apex’s president. Nguyen landed
his internship through the staffing agency Aerotek, which works closely with the CSB/SJU internship program. At Apex, computer science major Nguyen performed IT duties, work that continued into the school year.

“Our core business for our IT function is setting up new customers, doing some light programming and data mapping,” Maurer says. “In effect we were able to give Ken a part-time job during his senior year, where we could throw him 10 to 20 hours a week, whatever his schedule allowed him to do.”

By nurturing that relationship with a Johnnie through the internship program, Apex landed an application engineer as soon as he graduated. “Because they’re Saint John’s interns,” Maurer says, “you take a little extra care to kind of teach them the inner workings of the company. You get to see the students in action, see how they fit the culture, see their work habits. And if they’re coming out of Saint John’s, you know they have that liberal arts requirement and that still weighs a lot for me.”

Nguyen’s internship led not only to a job, but to relationships with mentors. The young Apex employee enjoys poker nights with his fellow Johnnies—who also happen to lead Apex. He fondly remembers a lunch outing with Kueppers that included time for reminiscing about Saint John’s and plotting a future. Nguyen hopes to run his own business one day, something his fellow Johnnie knows all about.

“Brian talked about how he got inspired and started the company,” Nguyen says. “I just loved the story and how willing he was to share it with Johnnies. As an intern, I was working hard for the company’s success and was building my career path at the same time. As a full-time employee, I am still doing what I was doing.”

ONE STUDENT, TWO INTERNSHIPS

It’s accepted wisdom that internships help college students. The same goes for study abroad programs, the overseas experiences offering opportunities for broadening a student’s outlook. Jeff Mord ’12 went one step further. Mord—who now works as a quality assurance analyst at Prime Therapeutics—combined study abroad in London with a London-based internship at Genetic Alliance UK, with Joel Cherrico ’10, owner of Cherrico Pottery in St. Joseph, Minn., is building a successful pottery business. His interns get experience in small-business operations and management.
a nonprofit organization working with health-care professionals to raise awareness of treatments for rare diseases. But when it came time to find an internship in the summer before his senior year, after he returned from London, he turned to a Saint John’s connection, Eric Burggraff ’96.

“As an intern, I was working hard for the company’s success and was building my career path at the same time.”
—Ken Nguyen ’12

Burggraff works for Aerotek and recently started a new division with the company called Stephen James Associates. He’s been instrumental in helping companies like Apex connect with Johnnie interns. In addition to those matchmaking duties, he estimates that Aerotek has hired about 10 Saint John’s students as interns over the past five years. He brought Mord in for a summer gig in Aerotek’s scientific division, where the company helps place chemists and biologists. When Aerotek employs interns like Mord, it’s not just for summer needs—there are long-range plans involved.

“In a perfect world, they go back to school their senior year,” Burggraff says. “They tell all their friends about their experience, and hopefully it was positive, and they in turn had a positive experience themselves, so they’ll come back and get hired on as a technical recruiter, which is the first step in our career path.”

Mord didn’t go back to Aerotek full-time after his internship, although with more than 30 Johnnies working at Aerotek in Minnesota, the good word about the company is out. Instead a connection Burggraff had at Prime Therapeutics played a role in helping Mord acquire his position. Mord enjoyed both internship experiences—he says people were more laid-back in his London office while still getting the work done—and the Aerotek experience served dual purposes. “I definitely related a lot of things that I learned at Aerotek to the different courses I took back at school,” Mord says. “Obviously I still stay in touch with Eric today, and having that relationship with him really prepared me as well.”

SAME NEEDS, BIG OR SMALL

Back to Schnettler and Cherrico. Schnettler is the director of planning and marketing for CentraCare Health in St. Cloud, where he facilitates the strategic planning process, works with new business development and contributes on the marketing side. Cherrico, on the other hand, is a one-man show at Cherrico Pottery in St. Joseph, serving as the artist, office manager, photographer, web developer, marketer, shipping coordinator and any other title that emerges during his typical day.

For Schnettler, being a leader in a complex system like CentraCare means it doesn’t make sense to have interns work only during the summer, not when it “takes them four to six weeks to figure out what CentraCare is all about.” Schnettler typically offers internships that last nine to 12 months, meaning the students are valuable contributors for much of the year.

CentraCare’s marketing specialists give the interns numerous projects. Interns sit in on focus groups. They’ll do market research and brochure development. “They’re getting to know people,”
Jeff Mord ’12, a quality assurance analyst at Prime Therapeutics in Minneapolis, Minn., did an internship during his study-abroad semester in London as well as a summer internship at Aerotek through a connection to Eric Burggraft ’96.

I want to do.” In reality half of his time is spent on production, the other half in the office—handling computer work, photography, writing, packing and shipping. That’s where the interns come in. Cherrico usually works with students who are interested in business, not necessarily art. “They approach it more with an operations and management perspective,” Cherrico says.

Following an uncommon path for potters—most do apprenticeships or residencies instead of relying on pottery sales as their sole income—helps Cherrico fulfill his dreams, but it means he relies on his interns even more than a larger company would. One intern, Ben Hillman ’13, worked on Cherrico’s website, developed marketing strategies, handled social media duties and filled other roles that look great on a LinkedIn profile. After graduation, Hillman landed a position at Hammer Residencies, a job he got when Cherrico offered a recommendation to one of his Saint John’s friends who worked at Hammer. The circle of Johnnie life was complete.

Shawn Fury ’97 is a New York City-based writer and author of Keeping the Faith: In the Trenches with College Football’s Worst Team.

Schnittler says. “They figure out how to get projects done, they do stuff like coordinate photo shoots or help with special events.”

Acquiring those experiences can play a crucial role when students look for those types of jobs after college. Schnettler doesn’t have a lot of jobs open up in his departments, “but I always consider the intern pool a prime pool if we do have an opening come along.”

Cherrico isn’t offering full-time jobs to interns, but he is relying on them to ease the load that comes with working 60 hours a week—80 when he gets busy around his shows—and “managing everything.” Ideally Cherrico would spend most of his time creating pottery, “just making pots on the wheel, working in wet clay, that’s what I want to do.” In reality half of his time is spent on production, the other half in the office—handling computer work, photography, writing, packing and shipping. That’s where the interns come in. Cherrico usually works with students who are interested in business, not necessarily art. “They approach it more with an operations and management perspective,” Cherrico says.

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Shawn Fury ’97 is a New York City-based writer and author of Keeping the Faith: In the Trenches with College Football’s Worst Team.
In Sight

The Quad rooftop basks in the sun.

Photo by Tommy O’Laughlin ’13

If you would like a reprint of this photo, please email sjumag@csbsju.edu with your name and address, and we’ll send you a complimentary 8 x 10 photo.
Fifty years have passed since Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream galvanized a nation.
spurred Catholics to help make the dream a reality.
On a mild summer day fifty years ago, more than 250,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. for what has been called the greatest demonstration for freedom in the nation’s history. Participants poured into the city by plane, car and bus. They were Hollywood stars, factory workers and Sunday school teachers.

Surrounded by a massive police presence, and with recently televised images of police brutality in their minds, marchers carried signs from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial to a chorus of “We Shall Overcome.” They marched for civil rights legislation, desegregation in schools and economic equality.

They were in and out of Washington in just a few hours, achieving one of the most peaceful protests in American history—the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The lone Catholic chairman and a voice from the podium that day was a 31-year-old, bow-tied, mild-mannered Johnnie named Mathew Ahmann. This young man may be one of the least known but most important figures in the history of Catholic support for the civil rights movement in the 60s.

By the late 1950s, shocking stories of civil rights struggles had become regular evening news fare.

For some, racial injustice was a daily reality. For others, it seemed isolated to the South. As laws and restrictions changed, however, Southern blacks migrated North—especially to large cities—in hopes of new opportunities. These demographic changes brought civil rights issues out of Midwestern television sets and into churches, neighborhoods and families.

“Matt’s work brought the Catholic Church out of its shell on civil rights issues.”
—Jerry Ernst, former executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice
Mathew Ahmann, serving as a field representative for the Catholic Interracial Council (CIC) in Chicago at the time, watched the growing civil rights movement and thought the Catholic Church could—and should—help.

Ahmann was appointed the founding director of the National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice (NCCIJ) in 1960. One of his first major tasks was to initiate the first national meeting on civil rights of the three major faith groups. Until then, Catholic leaders had been relatively quiet on the subject. Ahmann urged bishops to get involved. “In the North,” Ahmann told the *Saint John’s Magazine* in a 1963 interview, “the culture of many large cities has been heavily shaped by Roman Catholics and their institutions. No large northern city will seriously tackle problems of segregation in housing, for example, if Catholics and Catholic dioceses do not earnestly tackle them.”

**Faith Groups Convene**

The National Conference on Religion and Race took place on January 14-17, 1963 in Chicago, and 657 attendees represented 78 denominations and church organizations. The conference opened with a read statement from President John F. Kennedy, and speakers included Rev.
Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Corps founder R. Sargent Shriver and Rabbi Abraham Heschel, one of the nation’s preeminent Jewish theologians. At the conclusion of his speech, Rabbi Heschel said, “We are here because of the faith of a 33-year-old Catholic layman. I want him to come to the stage.” When Ahmann reached the stage, Heschel pulled Ahmann’s head down and kissed him on the head, inspiring the audience to rise in applause.

“Matt’s work brought the Catholic Church out of its shell on civil rights issues,” said Jerry Ernst, who worked for the NCCIJ and later worked with Ahmann at Catholic Charities USA. “His thoughtful, methodical, action-oriented method changed the way the church operated on these issues. It opened up the church.”

“As Catholics fought for their own rights as citizens, they now fight for the rights of Negroes and other minorities.”

—Mathew Ahmann, speaking at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

Plans were already under way for a march to promote civil rights legislation the following August. Organizers approached Ahmann, as executive director of the NCCIJ, to get a bishop to serve as one of the chairmen. Despite Ahmann’s attempts, no bishop was willing to be on the ten-person committee and attach his name to the platform. Ahmann stepped up as the Catholic presence both on the organizing committee and as a speaker for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Ahmann’s speech, just minutes before King’s, called Catholics to action. “We are gathered,” he said, “to dedicate ourselves to building a people, a nation, a world which is free of the sin of discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin, a world of the sons of God, equal in all important respects; a world dedicated to justice, and

Mathew Ahmann (second from right), a native of St. Cloud, was the oldest of three sons born to Norbert Ahmann (second from left) and his wife, Clothilda (Hall) Ahmann. Norbert, Matt and Matt’s brothers, David (left) and Peter ’61 (right), all graduated from Saint John’s Prep.

to fraternal bonds between men. I am a Catholic. These are goals the Catholic community shares with all other Americans. As Catholics fought for their own rights as citizens, they now fight for the rights of Negroes and other minorities.”

Ahmann had eventually succeeded in getting Fr. Patrick O’Boyle, the Archbishop of Washington, to offer the invocation at the march. In addition to Archbishop O’Boyle, five bishops, one archbishop and numerous priests and nuns attended. “Matt was instrumental in bringing the larger Catholic community into the civil rights movement,” says Ernst.

Passion for Justice

Ahmann’s journey to the podium of the March on Washington and into the heart of the civil rights movement started in what many would consider an unlikely place—the northern, predominantly white community of St. Cloud, Minn.

Ahmann’s grandfather, German immigrant Mathew Hall, was a pioneer St. Cloud businessman. His grandparents nurtured a large, fun-loving family who believed in education and hard work. Although Matt encountered few Jews or blacks growing up in Stearns County, he was very well read. Relatives and classmates alike say that he would read anything he could get his hands on.
A family story illustrates his early sensitivity to social justice. At one of many family gatherings, Matt’s aunt brought a young Jewish woman from Europe as a guest. When his cousins made anti-Semitic jokes, oblivious to how this might affect their guest, Matt jumped to her defense and told his cousins to stop. “Anti-Semitism really bothered Matt,” says Margaret Ahmann, his widow. “And that woman kept in contact with Matt for the rest of his life.”

“He was very bright, very sensitive and in tune with other people,” says his oldest daughter, Liz Ahmann. “He had a strong sense of justice internally. I think that, combined with faith and where Catholicism was at the time, pulled a lot of pieces together for him.”

Matt graduated from Saint John’s in three years with a social science major. He was greatly influenced by Emerson Hynes, an SJU sociology professor, and his wife Arleen, intellectuals who were committed to social justice. They raised ten children in Collegeville, and their home was a gathering place for discussion and debate. At Hynes’ encouragement, Ahmann pursued graduate studies in sociology at the University of Chicago. “I think he might have liked to have a life like Hynes, being either an attorney or a professor,” says Margaret, “but he was always called to service.”

Margaret Ahmann credits Saint John’s and the Benedictines with igniting Matt’s lifelong passion for social justice. Trained in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, surrounded by liturgical reform and serving in student social justice organizations such as Young Christian Students (YCS) put Ahmann’s ideas into action. Margaret Ahmann remembers a time in their young married life in Chicago when Ahmann wanted to offer their apartment to good friends and newly married interracial couple Al and Betty Miller for a honeymoon weekend. Like the Ahmanns, the Millers didn’t have a lot of money. Interracial marriage was controversial at the time, and Margaret was worried. Their landlord had voiced strong racist views, and Margaret was afraid both that the newlyweds might face hurtful confrontation and that the Ahmanns could lose their apartment. “To Matt,

Ahmann traveled extensively, networking with bishops and diocesan officials to support one of the primary goals of the NCCIJ: to establish and coordinate interracial councils in each Catholic diocese in the United States.
that wasn’t a concern,” says Margaret. “That’s the kind of person he was. To him, it was a no-brainer. You just did it.”

The first word of The Rule of St. Benedict—listen—wasn’t lost on him. “He was a great listener,” says Margaret. “One of the many things our kids miss about him is that he would listen to them and help them make decisions and solve their problems.”

Liz remembers her dad bringing their family to tour Saint John’s. “Saint John’s was very dear to him,” says Liz. “It was very meaningful to him and very much a part of who he was. It was always in his mind.”

Continuing the Work

After the March on Washington, Matt was also instrumental in getting white Catholics to participate in the civil rights marches in Selma, Alabama in 1965 for black voting rights. “It was not accidental that priests and nuns were very prominent in Selma, Alabama,” said the late Floyd Agostinelli, an NCCIJ representative in Washington. “When Dr. King’s call went out for clergy to come to Selma, Matt called dioceses all over the United States urging a turnout and indeed we got that turnout. Without Matt, that would not have been possible.” These marches ultimately led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act.

Ahmann’s social justice activism led to an invitation to speak at the 1965 commencement at the College of Saint Benedict. “Matt’s whole talk was about women’s rights,” remembers Don Hall ’59, a cousin who was at the commencement ceremony. “He was telling women to stand up and demand their rights. It was an eye opener for me because it was 1965, before most of us were even aware of those social conditions. We were living them, but we didn’t think about them.”

Ahmann continued with the NCCIJ until 1968. He later worked as executive director of the Commission on Church and Society, a social action commission for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas, where he focused on empowering and increasing opportunities for the Mexican American community. Ahmann spent the last 16 years of his career as the associate director for government relations at Catholic Charities USA in Washington, where he was well known, even by insiders on Capitol Hill, for closely following legislation. He died on December 31, 2001.

Ahmann offered Martin Luther King, Jr. support in November 1967 when he was incarcerated in a Birmingham, Ala., jail. On behalf of the NCCIJ, Ahmann supported King “while you serve sentence for your witness for humanity, dignity and justice.”

Credit: Authorized by: The King Center, Atlanta, GA. For more information about building Dr. King’s Beloved Community, visit www.thekingcenter.org.
Ahmann’s legacy in both Catholic social action and civil rights lives on. Jerry Ernst of the NCCIJ credits Matt’s work as being one of the primary drivers for the church’s involvement in ecumenism and the renewal of religious orders, even though he is often not recognized. “It’s typical of Matt and his self-effacing efforts,” says Ernst. “That may be one reason why he was so successful—non-threatening, not interested in taking credit for accomplishments.”

Sources

Brendon Duffy, SOT ’02, is a senior writer in advancement communications at Saint John’s University.

Mathew Ahmann will be awarded the Colman J. Barry Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion and Society posthumously in honor of his leadership and participation in the Civil Rights Movement and for his lifelong commitment to social justice.

The Colman Barry Award is given to those who have made significant contributions to human knowledge, understanding or communication in religion and society. Previous recipients include Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, Marcel Breuer, Jon Hassler ’55 and Kathleen Norris. It is named for Fr. Colman Barry, OSB, former president of Saint John’s University.

The award will be presented at the annual peace studies conference sponsored by the peace studies department on Oct. 14 at SJU. The keynote speaker will be civil rights activist Dr. Bernard Lafayette, who helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The conference is free and open to the public.

How did you come to know Saint John’s?
Since I was applying from Sweden, I used the services of Bluechip Education, who knew of Saint John’s. They sent my papers to five U.S. colleges. Frankly, Saint John’s was the best academically and made the best financial offer. It was the right decision. We have a great program for international students. There were three other freshmen from Sweden in my freshman class.

Were your parents supportive of your decision?
My parents probably would have liked me to stay closer to home, but they had spent three years in Chicago at one time, so they were more supportive than perhaps others might have been.

What’s your relationship with hockey coach Doug Schueller?
Doug was with me every step of the way when I was considering Saint John’s and after I arrived. He pushed all of us to a higher level. He wanted us to succeed. And he was always available outside the rink. I could tell that he really wanted me here.

Aside from hockey, what other rewarding experiences did you have here?
I worked in dean of students Mike Connolly’s office for four years. It was a great experience. I didn’t realize that staying on campus over the holidays or petitions about living off campus could be so consuming.

In addition to Coach Schueller and Dean Connolly, who else has influenced your undergraduate experience?
Professor Derek Larson [history and environmental studies] who taught my FYS [First Year Seminar] class got me off on the right foot. In addition, Professor Louis Johnston [economics] has helped me connect all my study areas. His open-mindedness on issues has often pushed me in doing my own research. He is also a great lecturer. And Dad has been my guiding force. He helps me reason things out. And Mom is the positive thinker in the family.

John Taylor ’58 is senior associate for institutional advancement at Saint John’s.
Scorecard

BASKETBALL (12-14, 11-9 MIAC) tied for fifth in the MIAC. Seth Marx ’14 was named to the All-MIAC first team and Mitchell Kuck ’16 was named to the five-man MIAC all-rookie team. Head coach Jim Smith ended his 49th season at SJU with a 755-535 career record (.585). He is currently second in NCAA Division III history in coaching victories and is tied with long-time Oklahoma State head coach Hank Iba for 18th on the NCAA’s all-time wins list.

BASEBALL (18-16, 9-9 MIAC) tied for fourth in the conference to earn its fourth consecutive trip to the MIAC Tournament. Pitcher/first baseman Connor Cline ’13 and pitcher Ryan Spengler ’13 were named to the All-MIAC first team and All-Midwest region.

GOLF finished sixth out of 41 teams at the 2013 NCAA Division III Championship in Florida. Dennis Granath ’13 earned his third All-America honor, while Casey Vangsness ’14 and Drew Lynch ’15 picked up their first All-America award.

HOCKEY (16-8-4, 9-4-3 MIAC) earned its first MIAC regular-season title since 2005 (eighth overall) and later punched its ticket to its sixth appearance at the NCAA Division III Tournament with its first MIAC Playoff Championship since 2003 (fifth overall). Goaltender Saxton Soley ’16 became the first known freshman to be named the MIAC Player of the Year, the Johnnies’ fourth all-time. He was named to the CCM Division III All-America West Region second team. Soley, forwards John Haeg ’15, Justin Hochsprung ’14 and Phil Johnson ’15 were named to the All-MIAC first team, while four defensemen were named All-MIAC honorable mention. Doug Schueller was named the MIAC Coach of the Year. The Johnnies are 30-17-7 (.620) in MIAC regular-season games after Christmas under the direction of Schueller, including a 16-5-3 record the past two seasons (.729).

SWIMMING AND DIVING finished fifth out of eight teams at the 2013 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships. Logan Arnold ’15 and Preston Marsh ’16 collected two All-MIAC performances each.

TENNIS (8-13, 5-4 MIAC) tied for fourth in the MIAC, defeating St. Olaf in the first round of the MIAC Tournament before falling in the semifinals. Fabricio Moncada ’13 was named All-MIAC for the fourth consecutive season after posting a 20-6 record in singles play (8-1 MIAC). The 20 wins are the most in a season by a Johnnie since Pete Crouser ’94 and Brent Feddema ’96 each won 20 matches in 1993. Willie Paul ’13 also earned All-MIAC honors thanks to an 8-1 mark in MIAC singles competition.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD finished fifth out of 11 teams at the 2013 MIAC Indoor Championships. Kevin Horton ’13 earned a pair of All-MIAC honors (top three) with a second-place finish in the 200-meter dash and third place in the 400 meters. Brady O’Brien ’13 took second in the triple jump and Willie Versen ’14 claimed third in the 3,000 meters.

OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD won three events and finished second at the MIAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. SJU’s 4x800-meter relay won the conference title by four seconds. Individually, John Subialka ’14 won the 10,000 meters and Thomas Feichtinger ’16 won the 800 meters. Horton matched his indoor season with two more All-MIAC honors in May to end his collegiate career as a six-time All-MIAC honoree (two indoor, four outdoor). Derek Rausch ’13 finished third in the 110-meter hurdles. Feichtinger became the first freshman to qualify for the NCAA Division III Championships since 1992 (Mike Cihlar ’95) and the first in the program’s history to earn All-America honors with an eighth-place finish in the 800 meters.

WRESTLING sent six wrestlers to the 2013 NCAA Division III Championships and finished 18th out of 64 teams. Mitch Hagen ’13 finished fifth at 184 lbs. to earn All-America honors. Ryan Arne ’14 (157 lbs.), Ryan Michaels ’15 (197 lbs.), John Scepaniak ’14 (285 lbs.), Nick Schuler ’13 (165 lbs.) and Chris Stevermer ’13 (149 lbs.) also competed but did not place.

gojohnnies.com 33
Frey ’78 to Receive Reger Award

Jim Frey ’78 will receive this year’s Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Homecoming Banquet on Sept. 27. The award, the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association, salutes an alumnus in the name of Fr. Walter Reger, OSB (1894-1971)—long-time secretary of the Alumni Association and friend to legions of Johnnies.

Jim Frey has spent the 35 years since he graduated giving back to the community in various ways. When he accepted the position of chair of the Saint John’s University Board of Regents in 2007, he did so as a way of giving back to a school that he said shaped him. “I wouldn’t be where I am today unless I had been a student at Saint John’s,” says Frey.

Frey led the board through many challenges—defining and strengthening SJU’s relationships with both CSB and Saint John’s Abbey, guiding SJU through enrollment and fundraising challenges associated with the economic downturn, and leading the first presidential search in almost two decades after the passing of Br. Dietrich Reinhart ’71, OSB. Frey, a former attorney, offered good counsel and sound decision making. As chair, he saw the university through the completion of the capital campaign One Generation to the Next.

Frey’s love of Saint John’s runs deep. Several members of the last three generations of the families of both Jim and his wife, Mary (White) Frey ’80, have attended CSB and SJU including their son, Peter ’08. Jim Frey is now president and CEO of the Frey Foundation of Minnesota. The Frey Foundation has been a generous supporter of Saint John’s, particularly of The Saint John’s Bible and the FirstGen initiative to enable first-generation college students to attend SJU.

Frey has served on many boards with a focus on education, homelessness and philanthropy. He currently is vice chair of Heading Home Minnesota and is a board member of the National Catholic Reporter.

J. Michael Dady ’70 noted that awarding Jim Frey the Reger Award “will put broad smiles on the members of the Saint John’s community everywhere, including, I like to think, from above, with Father Walter Reger smiling his approval down on all of us,” he said.

Korsmo ’80 to Receive Basten Award

Jeff Korsmo ’80 will receive the Bob Basten Award at halftime of the Homecoming football game on Sept. 28. The Basten Award honors a former Johnnie football player who, as an alumnus, has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a commitment to excellence. It is given in honor of the late Bob Basten ’82, a former Minnesota Viking, business executive and founder of the Playing to Win for Life Foundation for ALS Research.

As a first-year student, Jeff Korsmo ’80 was an offensive lineman on the 1976 Division III Championship Johnnie football team. Korsmo played for the Johnnies all four years, starting at left tackle as a senior when the team won a four-way share of the MIAC championship.

Since his time at Saint John’s, Korsmo has been a leader in health care. He currently serves as CEO of Via Christi Health in Wichita, Kan. Korsmo just launched a strategic vision that focuses on improving care, reducing costs and satisfying patients.

Prior to joining Via Christi, Korsmo worked at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for 28 years. He served in various roles at Mayo including two terms as chief administrative officer, executive director of the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center and member of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees.
Johnnies in the Media

Dick Pope ’58, chairman and CEO of WinCraft, was featured in an Associated Press news story on manufacturing Super Bowl memorabilia. The Winona, Minn., manufacturer has been a leading supplier of sports memorabilia for decades. Founded in 1961 as a four-person operation, WinCraft now employs 475 in its Winona facility.

Franklin Knoll ’62, retired Hennepin County District Court Judge, was featured in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune for—of all things—his poetry. Knoll has written poetry to help make sense of some of his most unforgettable cases.

The late Jim Meger ’64, a nationally known wildlife artist, has been honored with multiple memorials. The Marshall Independent (Minn.) reported on Meger’s legacy and noted that a James Meger Memorial Wildlife Area would be established there.

Dr. Larry Hergott ’68 was profiled by the BBC for his work with the Denver Zoo. Hergott, a cardiologist, has done work on gorillas’ hearts since the zoo contacted him about 15 years ago. He admits the work isn’t typical. “The trouble we’re having in the United States ... is that we are often practicing medicine as prose, rather than the poetry it really is,” Hergott says.

Prince Wallace ’68 was deemed “The Company Collector” in a feature story in Twin Cities Business. Since 1987, Wallace has bought and grown several seemingly different Minnesota companies. “The companies aren’t different,” says Wallace. “They’re built on the same model, just delivering different services. They have the same philosophy: We can win together. And it’s the same story in how you take care of your clients.”

Dr. R. J. Frascone ’70 was noted in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for receiving the St. Paul Fire Department’s meritorious service award, the department’s highest honor. Frascone risked his life by entering a burning building to provide lifesaving medical attention to a teenager when extreme cold prevented the team from moving the victim outside.

Marcellus Hall ’86 designed a whimsical cover for the June 20 issue of The New Yorker. Hall, an artist, musician and longtime cyclist, was drawn to the topic. “I’ve always considered stationary bikes funny since a person could be exercising on a real bike,” he said. This is Hall’s third cover for The New Yorker.

John Rosengren ’86 recently released Hank Greenberg: Hero of Heroes, chronicling the life of the first Jewish major league ballplayer. Rosengren holds up Hall of Famer Greenberg as a major force in assimilating a generation of Jewish Americans. His book received positive reviews from both the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal.
It was 2009, and Wayne Hergott ’57 had been planning to gather his Johnnie contemporaries together for quite a while. He just hadn’t gotten around to it. Then, in October, classmate Jim Lehman ’56 died. Hergott got right on the phone to Don Coy ’54, Leroy Lilly ’55, Bill Sexton ’55 and Tom White ’57, and two weeks later they met for lunch.

They decided to meet regularly, invite others, and the Lunch Bunch was born. Today, more than 30 Johnnies strong, the group meets monthly at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park, Minn.

There’s more than food on the bill of fare. A typical gathering also includes:

- Self-introductions of new members
- A brief spiritual message from Hergott, who, after retiring as a trial attorney, earned an MA in theology and worked at a Jesuit spirituality center
- A featured speaker

Hergott started the lunches to reconnect with Johnnies of his era whom he liked and respected, he says, but it’s gone beyond that now to include new Johnnie friendships.

He cites just one example of how meaningful it’s become. “After our group debated the question of how we might influence young people, one of our lunch regulars sent me this note: ‘After 75 plus years, I have learned it is best, for me anyway, to live my own life according to my values and beliefs, letting my actions, not my voice, speak for my beliefs, at least most of the time. I may be naive and a bit presumptive, but I have great relationships with all of our children and grandchildren, even those who might disagree with me.’

I benefit by hanging around people like him, and I carry his email in my billfold,” says Hergott.

“I love the gatherings of the Lunch Bunch because they are timely, alive, varied, and I get to hear how much the stories have changed in 60 years—like the one about the cow on 3rd Mary. Every Johnnie’s heard some version of it, but I know the real story. I saw it!” —Don Coy ’54

Favorite Menu Item

Featured speakers are a popular part of the Lunch Bunch gatherings.

Past speakers have included John Coy ’80, Abbot John Klassen ’71, OSB, President Michael Hemesath ’81, head football coach Gary Fasching ’81, Professor Annette Atkins and MPR Editor-at-Large Gary Eichten ’69.

Speakers on deck for the future include Larry McGough (whose construction company built the Abbey Church), Jesuit priest Fr. Larry Gillick, head hockey coach Doug Schuller, Fr. Tim Backous ’76, OSB, and Give Us this Day editor Mary Stommes.

To learn more about joining the Lunch Bunch, email Wayne Hergott at hergiew@comcast.net.
Summertime Fun at Saint John’s

Alumni and friends returned to campus in late June to enjoy the beauty of the season and that special sense of place you only get in Collegeville.

Highlights included cycling Central Minnesota, climbing on Saint John’s Fire Engine 1, toasting Fr. Timo Backous ’76, OSB, at his 60th birthday barbecue and singing along with the Grammy-award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers.
Milestones

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2013

John Lindstrom ’63
State District Court Judge (ret.)

Al Woodward ’63
Senior Counsel, Leonard, Street and Deinard

Joseph Cronin ’68
Founder and CEO, Incentive Services

Larry Hergott ’68
Cardiologist and Professor, University of Colorado

Kim Culp ’73
CEO, The Excelsior Group

Kevin DeVaan ’78
CEO and President, Marquee Financial Group, LLC (posthumous)

Stuart Harvey ’83
Chairman, President and CEO, Ceridian Corporation

Patrick Lynch ’88
Co-founder and President, Granite Logistics Services, LLC

Lino Rulli ’93, SOT ’95
Host, The Catholic Guy
MARRIAGES

'90 Beth Ann to Tom Theobald, Apr. '13
'00 Amanda Carlstrom to Mike Timm, Feb. '13
'03 Noopur Gupta to Nick Curtis, Jan. '12
'05 Carolyn Barker to Paul Just, Aug. '12
'05 Stephanie Peplinski to Devin O'Brien, Sept. '12
'07 Maria (Stark '08) to Jim Plaezt, Dec. '12
'08 Theresa (Naumann '08) to Mitchel Eversman, Dec. '12
'08 Flor to Peter Frey, Sept. '12
'08 Mara (Taney '08) to Jack Stevens, Dec. '12
'09 Kelly (Zachman '09) to Andy Ball, Oct. '12
'09 Rachel (Brenner '09) to Aaron Brown, July '12
'09 Megan Musselman to Joe Daly, May '13
'09 Natalie (Dimberg '09) to Jacob Kruger, Dec. '12
'09 Sarah (Stergios '09) to Matt Lindeman, Sept. '12
'09 Dana (Scheppmann '09) to Alex Wieme, May '13
'10 Tracy (Ness '10) to Brett Johnson, Nov. '12
'10 Kara (Orwell '10) to Luke Odegaard, June '12
'11 Marie (Walsme '11) to David Byrne, July '12
'11 Brooke (Miller '09) to Jacob Carrow, Sept. '12
'11 Tara (Lundberg '12) to Alex Curwick, June '12
'11 Ashley (Quan '11) to Jacob Reiter, Aug. '12
'13 Megan (Kelsey '11) to Bryan Rodriguez, Jan. '13

BIRTHS

'90 Sarah & Pat Turley, boy, Samuel, Oct. '12
'92 Angela & Tom Bassett, girl, Savannah, Apr. '13
'95 Holly & Matthew Hoenfier, boy, Samuel, Feb. '13
'96 Clayne & Steve Knapp, boy, Liam, Dec. '12

'97 Amy & Justyn Cowman, boy, Tyler, Mar. '13
'97 Stacy (Schmitz '98) & Benjamin Jansky, boy, Jaden, Dec. '12
'98 Jenny White '98 & Brett Baloun, girl, Anna, Dec. '12
'98 Tamara Moore '05 & Christian Brezinski, girl, Sophia, July '12
'98 Jenny & Brian Hertzog, boy, Henry, Dec. '12
'98 Helena & Ryan Jense, girl, Anya, May '13
'98 Sara (Anderson '98) & Cap O'Rourke, girl, Paige, Apr. '13
'98 Kay & Pat Breen, boy, Thomas, Feb. '13
'98 Sara (McElmury '99) & Paul Freid, girl, Mildred, June '12
'99 Katherine (Peters '00) & Laurence Johnson, boy, Benjamin, Dec. '12
'99 Katie & Ross Kopher, boy, Lucas, Nov. '12
'99 Siri & Eric Miller, boy, Stieg, Mar. '13
'99 Sarah & Aaron Reznechek, girl, Devynn, Dec. '12
'99 Moriga (McGovern '99) & Sam Rufer, boy, Bastian, Oct. '12
'99 Kristi (Meier '00) & Cory Sabrowsky, boy, Cannon, Nov. '12
'00 Sara (Ryan '00) & Ryan Brown, boy, William, Aug. 12
'00 Denise (Ross '00) & Jeremy Christie, boy, Theodore, Mar. '13
'00 Stephanie & Timothy Foley, girl, Julia, July '12
'00 Susan (Schulze '04) & Michael Gully, boy, Riley, Apr. '13
'00 Jessie (Odenthal '00) & Eric Hammerberg, girl, Charlotte, Dec. '12
'00 Lisa Neu '00 & Tony Kapinos, boy, Anthony, May '13
'00 Amber & Steve Lynch, boy, Osbourne (Ozzie), Mar. '13
'00 Sara (Pedersen '04) & Adam Sagedahl, boy, Evan, June '12
'00 Jaime & Eric Serbus, girl, Saoirse, Oct. '12

The Saint John’s Alumni Achievement Award is given to outstanding alumni in seven reunion classes during Homecoming each fall.

Nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award may be made at any time through the alumni office, 800-635-7303, or online at sjualum.com.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

John Lindstrom ’63
State District Court Judge (ret.)

John Lindstrom has been called to practice the Benedictine value of listening throughout his entire career. After practicing law in the Willmar, Minn., area for ten years and serving two terms as a Minnesota state representative, he received the call of a lifetime. He was appointed by Governor Wendell Anderson to Minnesota’s 8th Judicial District bench, a position he held with honor for 29 years. Since retiring in 2005, Lindstrom is a community volunteer, mediator and arbitrator and avid Johnnie football fan.
Joseph Cronin ’68
Founder and CEO,
Incentive Services

In 1981, Joe Cronin set out to create a company that would elevate the culture, behaviors and results of organizations through positive motivation. Incentive Services is now a national leader in the performance improvement and recognition industry. Cronin’s philosophy of personal and organizational motivation and leadership inspired his book Peak Performance and the creation of Incentive Services University. In addition to his duties as president and CEO, he and his wife, Joan (Berens) Cronin ’68, are actively involved in Urban Ventures, an organization committed to breaking the cycle of generational poverty in south Minneapolis.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Al Woodward ’63
Senior Counsel, Leonard, Street and Deinard

For more than 40 years, Al Woodward has been a practicing attorney, specializing in corporate finance, securities laws and mergers and acquisitions. As senior counsel at Leonard, Street and Deinard in Minneapolis, Minn., Woodward has frequently been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers® and has been named among Best Lawyers in America® in the area of corporate law. Woodward has volunteered with a number of community and church organizations, provided pro bono legal services and served on numerous non-profit boards.

Milestones

'00 Radhika (Lal ’03) & Seth Snyder, girl, Zara, Sept. ’12
'01 Kari (Hanson ’98) & Chad Capra, boy, Ryan, Sept. ’12
'01 Lecia & Blair Hovel, girl, Ahryanna, Nov. ’12
'01 Beth (Pribyl ’01) & Aaron Johnson, boy, Oliver, Jan. ’13
'01 Annemarie (Butler ’01) & TJ Rendulich, boy, Tommy, Dec. ’12
'01 Gina (O’Neill ’02) & Alexander Wesley, boy, Rhett, May ’13
'01 Naomi & Mark Woell, girl, Cora, Dec. ’12
'02 Jessica (Foster ’03) & Benjamin Imdieke, boy, Elliot, Apr. ’13
'02 Mandy & Corey McKenzie, boy, Hudson, July ’12
'02 Jessica & Jason Miller, boy, Harrison, May ’13
'02 Karla & Derek Olson, girl, Cittai, Oct. ’12
'02 Melissa & Pat Reichert, girl, Charlotte, Nov. ’12
'02 Leah (Haehn ’03) & Nick Sanner, girl, Caroline, Mar. ’13
'02 Lindsi & Ben Shanahan, boy, Kieran, Apr. ’12
'02 Anna (Collins ’02) & Ryan Tauer, twin boys, Gabriel and Rudolph, Apr. ’12
'02 Samantha & Jonathan Trebesch, girl, Sari, Jan. ’13
'02 Emily (Trettter ’12) & Charles Walters, boy, Ryker, Apr. ’13
'02 Hilary & Nathan Lamusga, girl, Amelia, Feb. ’13
'02 Angela (MacDonald ’03) & Chris Marsh, boy, Alexander, Sept. ’12
'03 Lacey & Dan McCormack, girl, Sophie, Jan. ’13
'03 Jenna (Joelson ’03) & Will McNulty, boy, Mason, Sept. ’12
'03 Melody (Otto ’01) & Noah Schumacher, girl, Lucy, Mar. ’13
'04 Amanda (Anderson ’05) & Chris Duffy, boy, Rogen, Mar. ’13
'04 Kerry (Schoenecker ’04) & Brandon Geis, girl, Mackenzie, Feb. ’13
'04 Rebecca & Eric Oelrich, boy, Gabriel, May ’13
'04 Marie & Scott Schmitz, boy, Landry, Dec. ’12
'04 Mandy & Ryan Weinandt, boy, Karl, Mar. ’13
'05 Meghan (Marpe ’05) & Brian Bos, boy, Grayson, Aug. ’12
'05 Jessica (Rasmusson ’06) & Jonathan Bruns, girl, Havana, Dec. ’12
'05 Colleen (Niznik ’05) & Joe Federer, boy, Corbin, May ’12
'05 Amy (Lehmeier ’05) & Kyle Jochuman, boy, Levi, Apr. ’13
'05 Anne & Mark Reiner, boy, Michael, Apr. ’12
'06 Melissa (Cambronne ’06) & John Broich, girl, Rachel, Feb. ’13
'06 Bridget (Donnelly ’07) & Eric Hanson, boy, Caleb, Feb. ’13
'06 Brooke (Wheeler ’07) & Jason Hardie, boy, Liam, Nov. ’12
'06 Rebecca (Kastner ’06) & James Holden, girl, Evelyn, Nov. ’12
'06 Emily & Ben Lewis, girl, Mackenzie, Apr. ’13
'06 Nicole & Ben Manthey, girl, Stelia, Apr. ’13
'07 Elizabeth (Sauer ’07) & Bryan Bauck, girl, Claire, Mar. ’13
'07 Megan & Adam Gosiak, boy, Cristian, Apr. ’13
'07 Josi & Luke Hellier, girl, Elizabeth, Apr. ’13
'07 Brooke & Aaron Kleinschmidt, girl, Sawyer, Mar. ’13
'07 Kristina (Kelly ’07) & Jeff Ostrom, girl, Hannah, Jan. ’13
'07 Kellie (McQuade ’07) & Todd Perry, girl, Remie, June ’12
'07 Katherine (Lauer ’07) & Bob Pomerleau, girl, Abigale, Jan. ’12
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Larry Hergott ’68
Cardiologist and Professor, University of Colorado

Larry Hergott’s successful career as both a cardiologist and a professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine would itself be enough to warrant an Alumni Achievement Award. However, one classmate notes, “His creative writing is most compelling, not just for how it reflects his character, but also how it significantly affects other medical professionals in our society.” Hergott has long been interested in the philosophy of medicine, and in recent years, his position has allowed him time to write poems and essays about care and compassion in medicine. His writings have inspired writing awards in his name at both the University of Colorado Medical School and Southern Methodist University.

Kim Culp ’73
CEO, The Excelsior Group

Kim Culp is founder and President of The Excelsior Group, a premier real estate investment firm in the Twin Cities. Culp was formerly a regional chairman of Marshall & Ilsley Bank and an investor, vice chairman and president of Century Bank prior to its sale to Marshall & Ilsley Bank. He was also president and CEO of The Shelard Group, a Twin Cities-based commercial real estate services company that provided leasing, brokerage and property management services. Culp has served on numerous non-profit boards including CommonBond Communities, Catholic Charities and Benilde-St. Margaret’s School.
Kevin DeVaan '78 (posthumous)  
CEO and President, Marquee Financial Group, LLC

Kevin DeVaan had a successful 30-year career in the insurance industry. His wide-ranging experience in legal, financial, product development and marketing aspects of the business established DeVaan as an expert in his field. DeVaam was the CEO and principal of both Marquee Financial Group, LLC, and Fiduciaries Risk Retention Group. One classmate noted that “Kevin was a devoted husband and father who put family first, but managed to devote an enormous amount of time to volunteer and charity projects.” SJU was a beneficiary of DeVaan’s generosity—he served a beneficiary of DeVaan’s generosity—he served a bene/eficiary of DeVaan’s generosity—he served a bene/f_iciary of DeVaan’s generosity—he served.

Stuart Harvey '83  
Chairman, President and CEO, Ceridian Corporation

Stuart Harvey has established himself as a strategic business leader. He has served as chairman, president and CEO of Ceridian Corporation, a human resource and payment solutions provider, since 2010. Prior to joining Ceridian, he was CEO of Elavon’s Global Acquiring Solutions organization. At Elavon, he led the company’s international expansion, primarily in Europe. Harvey and his wife, Mary, have been enthusiastic supporters of Fr. Richard Frechette, CP, D.O., who recently received the Pax Christi Award from Saint John’s Abbey and University. The Harveys strongly support Frechette’s work with Friends of the Orphans in Haiti.
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Patrick Lynch ’88
Co-founder and President, Granite Logistics Services, LLC

Pat Lynch believes that the role of a business leader brings with it a significant responsibility for community involvement. Since graduation, he has managed to do both. He has worked in the transportation industry in various roles, eventually co-founding and serving as president of Granite Logistics Services, LLC., a transportation brokerage firm. Naming the organizations and charities Lynch is involved with sounds like a who’s who of the St. Cloud area: Catholic Charities, CentraCare Clinic, the Sartell City Council, the St. Cloud Economic Development Partnership and the McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship at SJU.

Lino Rulli ’93, SOT ’95
Host, The Catholic Guy

Hundreds of thousands of people each weekday listen to Lino Rulli host The Catholic Guy on Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Rulli, who holds a masters in theology from SJU, uses knowledge, humor and spontaneity as he discusses life, religion and theology with his co-host, a Catholic priest. Rulli previously was host and executive producer of Generation Cross, for which he won back-to-back Emmy Awards. In 2011, he released his first book, Sinners. Last year, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, hired Rulli to be his personal media adviser. He currently handles Cardinal Dolan’s national television appearances, his radio show, books and social media presence. His next book, Saint, is due out in September.
A close Lutheran friend recently asked me to be the featured speaker at his church's forum series. The topic was Saint Benedict and The Rule of Benedict. I protested, professing little knowledge of either. He was not dissuaded. “You are my only friend who graduated from Saint John’s,” he said. “Surely you must know something about this topic.”

Well, once I gave this some serious thought, I discovered that I have in fact experienced quite a bit of Saint Benedict and his famous Rule.

This exposure came about in a convoluted manner. My teenage years, in the early 60s, were spent in California, where hot cars, fast women, surfing and other pleasures prevailed over spiritual reflection. Typical of most of my peers, religion was not high on my list—although, when I left for college and acquired a car and my first apartment, six blocks from the Santa Barbara beach with absolutely NO supervision, I certainly came to believe that there was a God!

Alas, those temptations quickly did me in. After three semesters, the academic dean informed me that I couldn’t stay at his university with a 1.77 GPA in pre-med. Luckily my grandfather had close connections with Saint John’s. It was my extended family’s “suggestion” that I should enroll there. In the middle of January, I left sunny California for the 30-below frozen tundra of Saint John’s.

The change of settings could not have been more drastic. This was the Saint John’s of strict curfews, no cars, no liquor and absolutely no women. To add insult to injury, I was housed with the pre-seminary students in 4th-floor Anselm Hall!

What was my reaction to “Gulag Collegeville?” I loved the place immediately.

I quickly formed new friendships, some that would last a lifetime. Classes were small. Instructors were there to teach, mentor, and answer questions rather than do research or seek grants. Subtly but pervasively, through the good monks, I learned Saint Benedict’s values, especially discipline, respect and the benefit of “all things in moderation.” (Admittedly I was still struggling with that notion.) Best of all, the good monks awakened in me a love of learning that not only served me well enough to make the dean’s list my first semester, it also led to a long, successful career in education as a teacher, coach and guidance counselor. Even now, there is nothing more pleasing to me than to learn something new and then to teach it, sometimes at our nearby community college or a local forum.

Fortunately my career in education allowed me to repay Saint John’s for changing my life. As a guidance counselor, I encouraged many of my best high school students to attend Saint John’s and Saint Ben’s, including my own three children. I also recruited for both schools and served on the alumni board and at the Benedictine Center for Lifelong Learning.

In conclusion, I did accept that gig to talk about Saint Benedict and his Rule to a large Lutheran audience. To their amusement, I didn’t shy away from how or why I ended up at Saint John’s. But I also stressed those Benedictine values I had learned long ago. I even had them recite aloud 14 of the rules that I’ve found so important in my own life.

Those monks who helped shape my life 45 years ago would have been proud to know just how much of The Rule of Benedict I had actually learned.

John Holbrook ’68 spent more than 40 years in public-school education as a teacher, coach, counselor and administrator with high schools and colleges. He and his wife, Mary, live on Lake Hubert, Minn., where they claim to be running a “non-profit” resort for their relatives. Their three children graduated from CSB/SJU.
Honoring Benedictine Teachings

Bill Phelps is a retired professor of constitutional and corporate law. His wife, Sayre Weaver, is a veteran trial lawyer who works for justice for victims of gun violence.

Bill and Sayre have given Saint John's Abbey their vacation cabin, with a retained life estate. They want to honor Benedictine teachings on peace, governance and stewardship, which shaped their approach to their careers as attorneys.

"I would like to thank all teachers of Benedictine values, particularly Fr. Edward Arth ’43, Bill Weiler ’51 and Tom Matchie ’57, SOT ’62, who brought Saint John's to my tiny North Dakota high school," says Bill.

It's your will.
To learn more about making a bequest to Saint John's, contact Jim Dwyer ’75, director of planned giving, toll free at (800) 635-7303 or jdwyer@csbsju.edu
Come back to Collegeville
Everyone Welcome

Friday, Sept. 27
*Forward Ever Forward: A Saint John’s Celebration*
Homecoming Banquet and more! 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 28
Johnnie Football vs. Concordia 1 p.m.

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