May 2016

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of Knightlines. With this issue, we are beginning a new publishing schedule that will enable us to keep the magazine more topical. By publishing three times a year (spring, early fall and winter), we hope to keep you better informed about everything that has happened at SJR.

The past few months have been busy ones here at the school. As you may already be aware, St. Joe’s will be moving to a President/Principal leadership model in 2016-2017, which many Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese follow. I have no doubt that it will be a significant benefit to our work in furthering the mission of our school. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as SJR’s first President, and we are now in the process of identifying a new principal. By the time our next edition goes to press, we certainly expect to introduce the school’s next principal to you.

We also have cause to celebrate the incoming class of 2020, the largest freshman class in the past 10 years. We are obviously excited about the influx of students to our halls and look forward to the many great things they will accomplish in the coming four years.

Beyond that, you will find coverage of our victory over Don Bosco in the Bergen County basketball championship (along with results for all winter sports), and our winter show, Urinetown: The Musical, already honored with the most preliminary nominations from The Papermill Playhouse Rising Star Awards of any SJR show. There are also stories about our developing STEAM program and our expanded campus ministry outreach, including our February service trip to Nazareth Farms in West Virginia.

As I write this, graduation is just a few weeks away and summer vacation beckons. It’s hard to believe that another school year is nearly finished.

Please visit our new school website (unveiled during Catholic Schools Week in February) for up-to-the-minute information about end-of-year events.

God bless you and your family.

Barry Donnelly ’71
Principal
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On the cover: Some seniors display their college choices. Left to right, standing: Nate Garvey (Howard University) and John Thomas Giles-Harris (Duke University). Sitting: Mike Tyrie (Villanova University), Joe Malfa (University of Maryland) and Chris Cheeseman (Boston College).
This year 31 new members were inducted into the Theodore J. Ryken Chapter of the National Honor Society. New inductees were Jack Battle ’16, Juan Brizzio ’17, Joseph Carrozza ’17, Mark Ciano ’17, Andre Cosini ’17, Anthony D’Apolito ’17, Nicholas Diani ’17, Brian Donaghy ’17, Stephen Foster ’17, Nicholas Fugnitti ’17, Joseph Giordano ’16, Korey Grabowski ’16, Casey Hill ’17, Christopher Hoehn ’16, Zachary Hulmes ’16, Daniel Humphrey ’16, Brian Kearns ’16, Christian Kozuch ’17, Daniel Lenahan ’17, Matthew Lobaton ’17, Conor McCabe ’17, Colin Medwick ’17, Matthew Mitchell ’17, Christopher Pasinski ’17, Christopher Ruppert ’17, Joseph Savino ’17, Brian Sevilla ’17, Ryan Sorrano ’17, Joseph Tandurella ’17, Nicholas Tauken ’17 and Nathan Tombo ’17.
School Hosts Two Special Visitors

This spring two special visitors met with SJR students.

**Representative Scott Garrett**
Congressman Scott Garrett spoke with students on March 30. He was invited to the school by teacher Frank Coppola, who moderates SJR’s popular Stock Market Club. As part of the Stock Market Club/Game, which is an initiative of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Garrett is paired with the school as it is in his electoral district.

In this election year, Garrett spoke about the importance of voting and encouraged those who would be eligible to vote in the November elections to do so. He also spoke about his interest in the economy (he is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises for the House Financial Services Committee) and the Constitution.

Garrett then entertained questions from students, including his opinion on common core, the legalization of marijuana, terrorism and gun laws.

After the presentation, students voiced their appreciation of being able to interact with one of our country’s legislators.

**Lt. General Ralph Jodice ’73**
Retired Lt. General Jodice spoke with students on April 8. He discussed his modest upbringing in New Milford, the son of a police officer later promoted to police chief. He also spoke fondly of his own family, including wife, Judy, who he started dating when he was a student at SJR, and his three sons.

The focus of his presentation was his distinguished career in the Air Force. He was originally interested in the Air Force as he wanted to be an astronaut.

Although his career did not follow that path, Jodice did fly many different type of aircraft during his 35+ years in the military. He served as fighter pilot, instructor pilot, flight examiner, flight commander, assistant operations officer and operations officer.

He and his family moved more than 20 times during his time in the military. His overseas assignments included stints in England, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and China. Although each locale and assignment was different, Jodice said he and his family had no favorite. Since his retirement, he and Judy have spent time traveling the world—including a tandem bike trip to New Zealand—and spending time with their sons and grandchildren. Jodice continues to serve our country part-time as a senior mentor, in which he works with NATO senior commanders and their staffs for exercises or training events. He also volunteers with his local Rotary Club and Junior Achievement in his new hometown of Hanover, Penn. He truly exemplifies the best qualities of a St. Joe’s graduate.
Our Students of the Week

Junior **ANTHONY D’APOLITO III** is a member of UNICO, serves as a Student Ambassador and participates in the Stock Market and Art Clubs. He is involved in campus ministry and also plays both varsity football and basketball.

**MATTHEW CARPENTIERI** is a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies, is in the top 10 of the senior class and is the vice president of the UNICO Aces service club.

**JUSTIN DELGADO** is a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies and is in the top 10 in the senior class. He is captain of the varsity soccer team and was named First Team, All-League; he is president of the Respect Life Club.

Senior **CALVIN MASELLA** is a member of the National Honor, Spanish and Tri-M Music Honor Societies. He plays baseball and is involved in theater, band, chorus, the Respect Life Club and campus ministry.

Senior **SEAN REDL** received an award from the Archdiocese of Newark for his work with campus ministry. He is a volunteer firefighter for Fair Lawn Company Three and enjoys working on cars, attending car shows and music.

Senior **THOMAS STEWART** is an AP scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the basketball team. He plays CYO Basketball, is involved in the school’s campus ministry program and volunteers at his grammar school.

Senior **MIKE TYRIE** plays soccer and is on the track team. He has appeared in SJR’s musicals and participates in chorus and WSJR. He is a member of the National Honor and Tri-M Honor Societies.

Senior **ANDREW ZOLTOWSKI** is a member of the National Honor Society. He is very interested in basketball; he has earned a Varsity Letter in the sport, serves as statistician for the team and writes about basketball for the school newspaper.

*Left to right, top: D’Apolito, Carpentieri, Delgado and Masella. Bottom: Redl, Stewart, Tyrie and Zoltowski.*
Telemundo Visits WSJR

Andrea Higgins Romero, a meteorologist for Telemundo 47, based in Fort Lee, was so impressed by the school’s television studio when she attended an Open House with her son that she decided to shoot a segment about WSJR on April 20. She taped the morning’s broadcast and interviewed on-camera Spanish teacher Martha LoBianco and seniors Kirk Brouwer and Rafael Padilla, who answered questions in Spanish. Telemundo also filmed Padilla, who is interested in a career in broadcast journalism, as he provided the closing for the segment. As of press time, the segment had not yet aired on the station.

Out with the Old, In with the New

SJR launched its new modernized, website in February. One goal was to compartmentalize its many features to meet the needs of all users: students, parents, staff, alumni and visitors. Parents as well as students and alumni now enter a portal containing the essential information for each group. Additionally, students and parents are able to subscribe to classes to receive daily homework emails; homework is posted on the class page.

Emailing faculty and staff has never been easier: click on the yellow envelope in the upper right corner of the website header or click contacts/links. You will then be brought to a searchable list of faculty and staff.

If you are interested in making a donation, a support SJR button now resides on the homepage as well as buttons to The Guardian, Knightlines, and the SJR Viewbook. A friend or neighbor looking for admissions information can locate it under the Admissions tab, including a link to register for the next Open House. An “Apply Now” button is also permanently located on the home page.

Want to see what is new at SJR? Our homepage has a News Feed, and one click will bring you to more information. Important, timely news will be featured in a “Homepage Alert,” a pop-up message that appears each time you go to the homepage and will continue reminding you until you turn it off by clicking “don’t show again” in the upper right corner.

Still looking for something and not sure where it is? Use the magnifying glass located next to the social media buttons to search the entire site. Enjoy exploring all at sjrnj.org.
St. Joseph Regional High School will build on this year’s one-to-one Chromebook rollout, moving “full steam ahead” with curriculum enhancements in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

Freshmen and sophomores will see significant revisions to their quarterly art and technology courses. The existing fine arts curriculum will undergo a major overhaul with the creation of Global Arts Connections, a new framework that will study the relationship of art within social studies, science, math, geography and technology.

Meanwhile, current Computer I and Computer II classes will be restructured, revamped and renamed. Technology I and II will still include the teaching of electronic research, evaluating resources and the citation skills needed for the development of research papers but will also include an introduction to engineering. With the assistance of the Archdiocese of Newark and in conjunction with Steven’s Institute of Technology, students will be exposed to lessons in structural/mechanical engineering, 3D modeling, beginning computer programming, graphing, data analysis and vectors using 3D math.

We will also be using a newly developed program from Dremel, the rotary tool company, to introduce digital printing into the classroom through ready-to-use lessons plans that are aligned with our Algebra I and Biology curriculums. There are currently 40 lessons that will simply allow teachers to present the same material to students in a more interactive way using CAD (computer-aided design) software and 3D printers.

“Creating prototypes and iterations with TinkerCAD then printing them on a 3D printer allows students to see their ideas come to life,” said Media Specialist Margaret Sullivan. “After visualizing, creating and printing, students are able to feel and touch their designs and then make any necessary adjustments. Integrating STEAM across multiple subjects and levels will foster student-centered exploration and learning by equipping students with the tools needed to think outside the box and use the higher-level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.”

Finally, the science department will be introducing a new junior/senior elective called STEM Engineering Design. The curriculum was developed during the 2015-2016 school year by the Archdiocesan Office of Technology, working with high school teachers within the Archdiocese. SJR Science Department Chair Joanne Cavera was directly involved with the development of the new course.

“The opportunity to be involved in the development of the new STEM elective was very exciting,” said Mrs. Cavera. “I think this new offering will fill a real need and attract student interest.”

These new initiatives will be supplemented by the expansion of our existing extracurricular programs, including the Robotics Club, the 3D Printing Club and the designing of an after-school Makerspace.
The 2016 production of *Urinetown: The Musical* ended its 12-performance run in January, but the educational impact of the show continues.

The 2001 satirical musical with the awful name pokes fun at everything from other Broadway musicals to corporate greed, imagining a future world where a severe water shortage eliminates private toilets and allows a corrupt corporation to charge citizens for the use of public amenities. The situation provided a host of educational topics for its student audience to consider.

“The most obvious subject for our study guide was the global water shortage,” said SJR Performing Arts Director John Asselta. “People in our area have very little appreciation for the severity of the problem world-wide. We tried to increase that awareness with a series of informational posters about water-related issues in different parts of the world, and an ongoing collection in support of water.org, the relief organization supported by actor Matt Damon.”

The lobby display, which was created by a group of St. Joseph parents, featured a functioning water wheel and water well, displays of global water issues that filled the front corridor and a mini-theater where patrons could watch a video of students discussing some of the issues raised by the show:

The student study guide raised a variety of issues, including topics such as world population and civic action, social class in inequality, rights versus responsibilities and social justice issues. On the day before SJR students saw a preview of the show, they completed a water-related experiment in biology, discussed the characteristics of satire and parody in their English classes and considered the social justice implications surrounding the allocation of natural resources in their theology classes. The study guide was also provided to the teachers of the eighth-grade classes that previewed the show on the morning of January 29.

“The opportunity to connect a meaningful interdisciplinary learning experience with the actual performance of the show was very rewarding,” said Principal Barry Donnelly. “The title of the show belies its content; this was a great educational opportunity for performers and audience alike.”

“The water wheel, right was part of the educational display created by parents for Urinetown. Other components included a bulletin board and fundraising for water.org.
SJR Presents Northeast Regional Premiere of *Ordinary People*

This year’s spring play, *Ordinary People*, completed its six-performance run in mid-April to wide acclaim. It was the first production of the play, written by Nancy Gilsenan, anywhere in the Northeast.

The moving family drama is an adaptation of the 1976 Judith Guest novel and the 1980 film that won an Oscar as Best Picture. The two-act play tells the story of the Jarrett family and its struggle to handle the loss of eldest son, Buck, in a tragic boating accident. His parents, Cal and Beth, and his brother, Conrad, all cope with their grief and loss very differently and the healing process takes each of them on a different journey throughout the play.

Christopher Marzulla '18, who played Conrad, said, “The most rewarding part of performing in the show was realizing how many people were moved by the story. Many people who came told me certain scenes really hit close to home.”

“I resonate most with stories that explore family relationships,” said the show’s director, Frank Ingrasciotta. “The stage version of *Ordinary People* focuses a very close lens on the dynamics of the Jarrett family at a time of deep personal challenges.”

As usual, to give more opportunities to the students to perform, *Ordinary People* was double cast, with each cast performing in three performances. Cast members included James Zitelli '18 and Marzulla as Conrad, Chris Cheeseman '16 and Alex Birchwale '18 as Cal, Victoria Duffy and Alison Rini as Beth, and Nick Berninger '16 and Joseph McDonald '16 as Dr. Berger.

The supporting cast included Luke Berninger '19, Patrick Buckley '19, Charles Cangialosi '18, Seamus Cogshall '18, Alexandra DePitno, Emma Piazza, Ariela Pizza, Calvin Masella '16, Kelsey Rosenfeld, Vincent Simpson '18 and Jack Zaccaro '19. Senior Kristian Thame was the assistant to the director.
Fashion Show a Resounding Success

Celebrating the Knight in Black and White, which featured more than 300 wonderful baskets as prizes and moms walking the runway with their sons, was held April 7 at Seasons. Members of our chorus and band also performed. The event is the school’s largest fundraiser of the year.

A special thank you to Director of Development Tracey Taylor and the event committee for all their hard work on making this a very special night!

Drama Awards Announced

Last spring’s production of You Can’t Take It With You was honored with seven nominations from the Montclair State University High School Theater Awards Program. Awards were presented as this issue went to press.

• Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design: Curtis Reik
• Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design: Steve Moldt
• Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design: Eric Fredericks
• Outstanding Achievement in Stage Direction: Frank Ingrasciotta
• Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Comedy: Joseph Murphy ’15
• Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Comedy: Chloe Troast ’15
• Outstanding Overall Production of a Comedy

You Can’t Take It With You cast members (left to right) Julio Sanchez ’15, Rosemary Lambert, Greg Kaulfers ’15, Ryan Doran ’15 and Liam Woods ’16.
**Bowling:** The season was a rebuilding year, as it was the first year on varsity for three out of four bowlers. Varsity finished the season with four wins and nine losses, while the junior varsity team finished with seven wins, six losses. The highlight of the season was defeating league champion Bergen Catholic 5-2.

Nathan Tombo ’17 continued to excel; for the second year in a row he qualified for the individual state championship, where he averaged 209. Tombo made First-Team, All-League and Third Team, All-County. James Reagan-Ward ’17 and Antonio Sirianni ’17 earned Second Team, All-League. Matt Chiocchi ’16 earned Honorable Mention, All-League.

“With four out of five varsity bowlers returning, we expect to compete for league honors next year,” said coach Frank Salvano.

**Indoor Track:** With the graduation of two All-County runners, this year several new faces contributed on the varsity level: Luke Plescia ’18, Gage Poindexter ’18, Guerson Toupissant ’18 and freshmen Gianni Lisa, Ryan Windram and Luke Berninger.

The 4 by 800 team of Bryan Francis ’18, Plescia, Poindexter and Windram placed third in the Big North and County Relay Championship. Juniors Ryan Botto and Sean Mitchell took third place at the County Relay Championship in shot put. Mitchell also qualified for the Garfield Shot Classic.

Other accomplishments include Luke Berninger taking first place in the Pole Vault Big North Freshmen Championship, Gianni placing second in the 55m Big North Freshmen Championship and Francis earning All League, Honorable Mention.
BASKETBALL: Basketball had a history-making season in 2016. This special group of hard-working and unselfish players all rallied around one another and believed in themselves enough to bring home the 2016 Bergen County Jamboree Championship, just the fourth in the school’s history. The team truly grew as the season progressed, learning from previous shortcomings to play their best basketball when it mattered most, including clutch and hard-fought victories over Bergen Catholic (quarter-finals), Pascack Hills (semi-finals) and Don Bosco (finals) in the Jamboree and then stunning highly regarded Hudson Catholic on the road in the state tournament. The varsity team finished its season with 19 wins and nine losses; junior varsity posted 10 wins to eight losses. The freshmen team reached the championship game of the County Tournament with upset wins over the third and second seeds and finished the season with 19 wins and five losses.

Many players were acknowledged for their performances. Nate Garvey ’16 and Chauncey Hawkins ’17 were named First Team, All-League, All-Bergen Jamboree and All-County. Garvey, the fourth player in school history to score 1,000 points, was selected to play in the NJSCA North-South All-Star Classic and named Athlete of the Week by northjerseysports.com. The Bergen Record named Hawkins Athlete of the Week. Joe Radi ’17 was named Second Team, All-League and First Team, All-Bergen Jamboree. Isaac Hippolyte ’17 was named Second Team, All-League and Honorable Mention, All-Bergen Jamboree. Bryan Griffin ’16 was named Honorable Mention, All-League.

In addition, Coach Michael Doherty ’82 was named Coach of the Year for basketball by the Bergen County Coaches Association.

What is the common theme in the four Bergen County Jamboree titles that St. Joe’s has captured? Michael Doherty ’82.

“It’s been pointed out to me that I am the common factor to all four Bergen Jamboree Championships that SJR has won, since I was a player on the 1981 and 1982 title teams and coach for the 2005 and 2016 title teams,” said Doherty. “But I feel connected to every guy I had the chance to play with here when I was a student as well as all of the guys I was given the opportunity to coach at St. Joe’s during the past 30 years. So, to me, everyone who has ever been part of SJR basketball is linked to these four championships.”
HOCKEY: Though the season ended with a heart-breaking overtime loss to Pope John in the second round of the states, this year’s varsity squad had a great season, finishing with an overall record of 17-5-0. The Green Knights were co-champions of the Big North Freedom division and were once again (for the sixth consecutive year) finalists in the conference playoffs. Among the season’s highlights was a Christmas championship in the Essex County Holiday Tournament and a win at the Prudential Center over Paramus Catholic (thanks to PC Coach Keith Bland, SJR Class of 1993, for arranging the game).

The JV team, meanwhile, finished 15-3-2 and won the Ice Vault JV Playoffs with a thrilling 2-1 shootout victory over Paramus Catholic.

Head Coach Larry Mahurter ‘87 said, “Despite facing adversity from the start of the season due to illness and injury, this past year was an enjoyable experience for our coaching staff and players.”

Of course, the 2015-16 campaign will be remembered as the season that senior captain Eddie Klein overcame a cancer diagnosis to play the season and, in the process, inspired everyone with a reminder of what is really most important in our lives. The team wore special camouflage jerseys paying tribute to the team’s captain during the season.

“What we appreciated the tremendous effort of all our players,” said Coach Mahurter, “we are especially grateful to our captain, Ed Klein, who has been, and will continue to be, an inspiration for us all.”

Though the team returns a talented and experienced core of players next year, there is no question that this year’s seniors—Matt Cocciadiferro, Donny Cuttone, Tim Daouphars, Paul DeStefano, Ryan Grieco, Ed Klein, Nick Krasniqi, Alex Poltarakov, Brian Quinn and David Stelmach—will be greatly missed. During their four years at SJR, the varsity program has gone 63-28-5 (a .692 winning percentage). Senior Brian Quinn, along with juniors Cole Garabed, Dominick Posta and Peter Lombardi, were First Team All-League and Second Team All-County selections. Seniors Ed Klein, Matt Cocciadiferro and Ryan Grieco and junior Pat Lynch were Second Team choices, while seniors Donny Cuttone and Nick Krasniqi received Honorable Mention. Captain Ed Klein was a Third Team, All-County honoree.

Looking back on the season as a whole, Coach Mahurter noted that, “Our program continues to grow, and in the future, we plan to develop our players, both on and off the ice, in the hopes of competing for a state title. Our #12 ranking in the final Star Ledger state hockey poll proves that we are heading in the right direction.”

And Eddie Klein noted, “The season may not have ended the way we wanted, but I couldn’t be prouder of the boys. These guys have represented the Green and Gold as it should be, wearing it with honor. You can’t ask for much more than that.”
WRESTLING: This year had a few bright spots in a rebuilding year. Many wrestlers garnered individual accomplishments. Jonathan Tropea ’16 won three District Three, Region Three BCCA titles and claimed third place at the state tournament. His career record was 145-21, and he will wrestle on a full scholarship at Rider University next year.

Michael Carfagno ’16 won his third district title, second BCCA and region titles and placed fourth in the state. He holds a record of 91-17 and has multiple offers to wrestle in college. Vin DiFilippo ’16 placed second in districts and fourth in the regions and finished his career 78-19. He plans to wrestle next year at Maryland University.

Sammy Alvarez ’18 won his first district title, placed third in the regions and finished in the top 18 in the state. His record was 33-7. Joe Napoleone ’18 placed second in the districts and fourth in the regions; Brian Sidle ’18 placed third in the districts, advanced to the regions and showed great improvement this season. Newcomers Alvarez and Napoleone demonstrated great potential. “We look to add new freshmen next year who will boost the program,” said coach Anthony Riotto.

More Athletic Honors

Senior J.T. Giles Harris, pictured near right, was named First Team in the 2016 Preseason All-USA Boys Lacrosse.

Sophomore Justyn-Henry Malloy, pictured far right, was named Richard W. “Dick” Case Athlete of the Year, given annually to USA Baseball’s top player.
Dan Costello traveled to West Virginia with four classmates and Director of Campus Ministry Harry Duchesne to work at Nazareth Farm during February break. Here is Dan's journal of his time there, originally published in The Guardian.

Day 1 - Sunday, February 14
Just got here. The drive was long, but we slept most of it. We also met the guys from Roselle Catholic [who traveled with us]. They are nice guys and fit in pretty well. It was interesting to see a speed limit sign that said 75, never saw that before.

As soon as we got off the highway you could see the quality of life dropped. The long and winding mountain roads were pretty dangerous, actually, and were not in very good condition. Our cell service went out about two miles from the place in the mountains, but we were anticipating that.

It started snowing pretty bad then, and the roads worsened. About 100 yards from Nazareth Farm we skidded off the road and went into a ditch. The workers said that they saw us coming and didn’t know why we had stopped. They had to tow the van out of there, and we had to climb out of the lopsided car and walk the rest of the way with our bags.

We got inside, and the people helped us with our belongings. They told us to go upstairs for prayer. I got to the top of the stairs and realized we were the only boys. Every other student from the other schools was a girl. After prayer we signed up for chores and went to bed.

Day 2 – Monday, February 15
Woke up early. Didn’t picture my break to be like this. We woke up to music from a speaker in the hallway, and the staff member yelled that we had a half hour until we had to go down. It was still dark out. It was a struggle for me to get out of bed. It’s very cold and that probably had to do with the fact that it snowed pretty much the whole night. Usually I get up and get right down to breakfast but not this week.

We opened with a morning prayer, which was different than the prayers we usually say at SJR. The prayer was very hands on and from the heart; you didn’t just recite everything on the page.

Then we did chores, and I signed up for the kitchen crew. Doing chores before breakfast made me even more tired.
than I was but we got through. We had to make everyone breakfast, then serve it, clean all the plates off the table and then wash all the dishes.

Then we had a talk about the four cornerstones of Nazareth Farm: Prayer, Community, Simplicity and Service. It seems like a pretty good way to live your life. It helped me think about what I’ve done and what I want to do in life. A lot of time for reflection and time to think about and discover yourself and others.

Later we took a short hike. Usually at the top of the mountain peak you could see the Stations of the Cross. Unfortunately due to the weather we couldn’t take that hike so we instead walked about a mile or two down the “holler” and saw the neighbor’s house.

I was amazed to see the way some people live. Although these people were not very poor, they still lived without a lot of technology. We then headed back to get ready for dinner. After dinner we had some free time, met some people from the other schools and played some fun games.

Day 3 – Tuesday, February 16
Woke up and did the same daily routine: prayers, chores and breakfast. The people told us they had some bad news for us. The roads were so flooded because of rain and snow that we couldn’t drive to our worksites. Even the local school district had to cancel school because the road conditions were so bad.

So we helped a neighbor who had a pipe explode in his laundry room ceiling. I felt terrible for the man because he had young kids, and he didn’t need that to happen to him. We got back to the farm and dinner was ready. Then we had prayer and more free time. I thought it was cool how they had two lights out: one for the those going to bed early and one for the night owls. Never seen that; at Esopus usually you had to go to bed right at lights out.

Day 4 – Wednesday, February 17
A staff worker woke us up to some music, and we prayed in the upstairs room. Then we did our chores, which included painting a sign for the local church because they couldn’t afford one. We made a “Church Parking” sign out of a sheet of wood and a few buckets of paint. It was nice to do.

Then we had breakfast and went to our job sites. Today we were going to the Clarksburg mission. The drive was about 45 minutes. Clarksburg was not a nice place. It definitely suffered from poverty, and the people there didn’t look very friendly.

We toured the entire mission and worked in the thrift store. We put old clothes that weren’t getting sold into laundry bags to donate to Africa.

Lou, the owner of the mission, gave us the tour. Lou had suffered addiction and became homeless. He went to the mission as a homeless person and eventually worked his way up to becoming the owner of the mission.

Day 5 – Thursday, February 18
Our morning routine continued with prayers and chores. We were the home crew, so we made breakfast.

Day 6 – Friday, February 19
Today was our last full day. This has been a really cool experience, and I have seen the real world now.

The worksite I was going to today was pretty cool. This poor guy had to carry his garbage up and down this rotting old flight of stairs, and we went to build him a new staircase. We worked in a mud pit, and we carried giant stringers for stairs up and down this steep, slushy hill. All day, we cut wood with a circular saw and a jigsaw. We also dug holes for most of the morning and filled them with concrete. It was a day of hard work but fun. I was soaked in mud because I fell about 10 times.

Straight from the worksite we went to the local parish’s fish fry. The fish was absolutely delicious. We didn’t stay for long, but we met the community.

We went back to Nazareth Farm and had a prayer at night. Tonight was our last night so we played a ton of games during free time and had a lot of fun. I couldn’t believe it was over; it flew by.
Nick Tavaglione gets paid to travel the world. As a pilot with United Airlines, based out of Newark airport, Nick flies both 757s and 767s, large aircraft with the most varied routes in United’s system. He typically flies to Europe and the United Kingdom, with other flights bringing him to the Hawaiian Islands as well as Central and South America.

He began his job at United in October 2013, after flying for Atlantic Southeast Airlines (now ExpressJet Airlines) for six and a half years. While there, he piloted a 50-seater Canada Regional Jet mostly throughout the southeastern United States. The job resulted from an internship experience while he attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Daytona Beach.

“When it was time to apply for college I reflected on the things I liked,” said Nick. “I enjoyed traveling; my grandparents had been taking me to Italy to visit family since I was 6. A family friend was a pilot, and he had a lot of influence on me. So when he told me he had attended ERAU, I applied early decision and was admitted.”

Nick attended ERAU for about five years; the first four and a half he focused on flying while attending classes. He majored in aeronautical science and minored in air traffic control. The last six months he completed two internships, including the gig for Atlantic Southeast Airlines.

While the ability to travel and see the world is the best part of his job, it can also be the most difficult. “I am often away from friends and family for long periods of time,” he said. “And it can be tough to balance my work schedule with a typical person who has the 9 to 5 job.”

Right now, Nick tries to work as many days as possible in a row so he can have about two weeks off straight. “We work half the month and are off the rest,” he explained.

Although he is based in Newark, he resides in Miami but spends most of his time in Bologna, Italy. Of the cities he has visited, he most enjoyed Barcelona, Prague and Tel-Aviv. His favorite countries are Italy and Ireland. “Italy has some of the best food, culture and sights in the world,” Nick said. “I traveled to Ireland, focusing on the south of the country, with a college friend and it was one of the best trips I have ever had. The people are amazing and fun, and I enjoyed all the pub food and seafood.”

He has yet to take his dream trip, though: a one-year cruise through the Mediterranean and Asia with his friends and family aboard.

When asked about tips for traveling by air, Nick reiterated the standard safety advice of always putting your oxygen mask on first in case of a decompression and keeping your seatbelt fastened while seated to be safe in unexpected turbulence. He also suggested traveling with hot sauce to spice up bland airport food and buying luggage where the pilots and flight attendants shop: luggageworks.com. “Don’t buy a designer bag when it is going to get rained on and beat up on the ramps and taxiways,” he advised.

This traveler’s most insightful advice is appropriate for all, no matter where in the world a Green Knight might find himself: “Show appreciation to the family and friends you have; they won’t always be there. Life is short, remember to not sweat the small stuff, have fun and enjoy your life.”
Jim Tedesco is another globe-trotting Green Knight. As a brand leader for GO Groups, a division of Flight Centre USA, he oversees 30 people who secure group space for the company’s wholesale travel partners and their clients. His job responsibilities are vast. “I am responsible for the growth and development of our people and brand, everything from budgeting and sales forecasting, to negotiations around terms and conditions with our hotel and tourism partners, to training and coaching my employees.”

His job requires extensive travel; he flies about 100,000 miles annually. In fact, he said he is waiting for the day when he boards the plane and classmate Nick Tavaglione welcomes everyone aboard from the cockpit: “I fly United often,” Jim said.

He landed in the tourism industry by chance. While working as a publicist and studying for his MBA at St. Thomas Aquinas College, he shared his resume with a fellow student who worked for the company. Three weeks later, he was working for Flight Centre USA. He has held various positions in the past nine years and assumed his current position in October 2014.

He enjoys the variety of his position. “I love that I could be in the head office in New Jersey one day reforecasting my sales numbers and in the sunny Caribbean inspecting hotels and negotiating group rates the next day.”

Two of his favorite places are Vietnam and the South Island of New Zealand. “In Vietnam, the culture, people, traditions and history are so different,” he observed. “I learned so much and came back humbled.” He called New Zealand, where The Lord of the Rings was filmed, a “photographer’s dream.”

While he is traveling for work, though, it is always more business than pleasure: “Many of the tourism boards and hotels try their best to schedule some time in my visit to experience something unique, but my mind is in a different place then. My job is to critique it and determine the target clientele and correct price point. I can enjoy the activity like any other tourist, but I’m there for a purpose and I don’t lose sight of that.”

When he is thinking just as a tourist, he mentioned that his dream trip would be a private yacht around the coasts of Italy and Croatia. He noted that “travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer,” leaving a tourist with stories and memories that last a lifetime. He also mentioned the positive fiscal realities of travel. “The tourism dollar is the reason many countries have what they have today,” he noted. “It helps create jobs and preserve and enhance the beauty of the country.”

When booking trips, Jim suggests focusing on hotels first, as many offer early booking bonuses that can include additional discounts or upgrades. He suggests that groups work with a travel agent, as many hotels will include every sixth room free as part of a group contract.

“When of all the things travel has done for me, it’s taught me to just go with the flow—there is no sense in freaking out!” Jim said. “It is what it is, and there is always a Plan B.”

Helping Groups See the World: Jim Tedesco

Left to right: Jim on a helicopter ride in Hawaii, flying first class and in New Zealand. Above, Jim making a presentation in Cabo San Lucas.
Gold Bests Green in Alumni Hockey

The Gold Knights defeated the Green Knights 6-5 as SJR skaters took the ice for the Twelfth Annual Alumni Hockey game on Saturday, March 12 at Sport-O-Rama. The Green Knights took a 5-0 lead in the first period, but the Gold Knights chipped away with a goal late in the first period, four more in the second and the game winner early in the third.

Green Knight Chris Donnelly ’05 opened the scoring 36 seconds into the game; Conor Smith ’03 made it 2-0, assisted by Dan Borsinger ’02. Randy Patner ’98 increased the lead to 3 (assisted by Stephen Seherer ’06) and Tim Sullivan ’90 made it 4-0 off assists from Chris and Scott Donnelly ’02. Kevin Alby ’90 scored the Green Knights’ final tally with five minutes left in the first period with an assist to Conor Smith.

The Gold Knights began their comeback at the 3:30 mark of the first period as James Peer ’12 scored, with an assist from goalie Martin Pelic ’13. The Gold squad tied the game in the second period with consecutive tallies by Jake Healey ’13 (assisted by Mike Peer ’08 and Matt McNamara ’15), Peter Tasca ’12 (on a penalty shot), Peer (assisted by Tyler Brooks ’13) and James Quinn ’13.

Brooks’ first goal at 14:43 of the third period gave the Gold Knights their first and final lead of the night, despite a strong closing rally by the Green team.

Other Green Knights participating on the Green team included George Weiner ’90, Patrick McMorrow ’01, Jared Arcidiacono ’02, Kevin McMorrow ’04, Robert DePiero ’01, Ben DePiero ’06 and Jeremy Narducci ’07. Gold team members included John Tomesco ’09, Georgio Scalone ’10, Nick Smith ’12, Jon Licata ’13, Devin Buonanno ’14, and Jon Tasca ’11. The goalies, who played a period for each team, were Vincent Januska ’03, Erik Frasca ’12 and Marty Pelic ’13.

SJR Adds Another Alumnus to its Roster of Pro Athletes

Matt Turner ’12 didn’t even play soccer until his freshman year at SJR. Obviously, Turner is a quick learner, as he quickly progressed from goalkeeping on the freshman team, to JV his sophomore year and then taking the varsity net his junior year. He continued to play in college, earning a scholarship from Division I Fairfield University, and, with his college career wrapping up, has been signed to the 2016 rookie class of Master League Soccer’s New England Revolution.

Turner’s recognition is much deserved. In his junior year at Fairfield, he led the nation statistically in shutouts, shutout percentage and save percentage. Good luck Matt!

On April 13, alumni and friends shared information about their professions with our juniors and seniors during Career Day. Pictured left to right: Joseph Cuccia ’06 (restaurant owner), Tim Lenzon ’76 (retired FBI agent), Chip Boganowski (father of sophomore Ryan, Dept. of Homeland Security), John Flaherty ’85 (sports broadcaster), Dan Kely ’87 (electrical engineer), Scott Donnelly ’02 (sports marketing), Bill Brown ’78 (architect), Edwyn Macelus ’05 (attorney), Bruce Buckman ’06 (physical therapist), Craig Babcock ’11 (tv production), Jeff Fucci ’01 (attorney) and Principal Barry Donnelly ’71. Not pictured: Richard Todd Adams (friend of SJR Performing Arts Dept., voice coach and actor), Joe DePietro ’09 (actor), Dr. Michael Kasper ’96 (doctor) and Taylor Popielarz ’11 (broadcast journalism), who skyped into Babcock’s presentation.
**1973**

**BOB KAISER** retired in February 2013 after 27 years with Michael Baker International, Inc., as Senior Consultant in the company’s transportation-environmental practice. He was based in the Baltimore and Washington, DC areas for all this time and led a national consulting practice. Clients included state departments of transportation and environment, metropolitan planning organizations and city governments. His family is blessed that their “life plans” worked out well and earlier than expected. Bob’s wife of 21 years, Marsha, is likely in her final year with Parsons Brinkerhoff as the Washington DC Area Consulting Services Director. The couple plan to stay in their home in the DC area as their two daughters are also there.

Spurred by the 40th year class reunion two years ago, Bob located **JOHN HAUSER** in Connecticut and recently spent an evening together in Connecticut. John and Bob grew up together, were in the same Boy Scout troop and Ho-Ho-Kus grammar school, and, of course, then to St. Joe’s. Their lives diverged during college, with Bob heading to Penn State and John to the University of Connecticut. They saw each other only once after high school graduation in about 1976. When they reconnected, they caught up on marriages, children, businesses, hobbies, their parents (all passed, but they also knew each other well), and old neighbors and friends. “After five hours it almost seemed as if we had spent all those 39 intervening years as neighbors!” said Bob. John owns and operates an HVAC business and has retained his strong outdoor recreation interests (backpacking, canoeing, camping, etc.). He is also finishing a complete rehab, with much sweat equity, of a house he purchased a few years ago.

**WALT LING** announced his retirement from IBM. He has served as senior location executive of the Rochester campus as well as senior state executive for almost 15 years. He has worked for IBM in a variety of roles for more than 38 years.

**MIKE MORROW** plans on retiring this June. He is taking a year off, an adult “gap” year. Realizing that the most rewarding aspect of his career has been mentoring young professionals, Mike then plans to go back to school to become an accredited executive coach with the aim of helping young people through career transitions. He envisions it as a part-time nonprofit gig but wants to give back after being so fortunate.

**1976**


**1984**

**DANIEL RIGNEY** lives in Beacon, N.Y. and works in the nonprofit sector. He is married to Kathleen Stoutenborough; his daughter, Penelope Mae, is 10.

**1998**

**SFC JOSEPH LOBBAN** will be retiring from the United States Army on August 1. During his time in the Army, he was deployed six times to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and Guantanamo Bay. Joseph has been awarded two Meritorious Service Medals, eight Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, five Army Good Conduct Medals, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge. He has held leadership positions ranging from Team Leader to Rear Detachment Sergeant.

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**In Memoriam**

James Plunkett ’71

James Doherty, teacher and coach

Agnes Lintermann, librarian
Congratulations to Jason and Devin McCourty ’05

The brothers were inducted into the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni on May 7. They were honored for their work in launching the Tackle Sickle Cell campaign as well as their success in the NFL.

2000

CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH lives in Washington DC and works in the education technology field as a senior compliance specialist.

DAVID WILLIAMS married Sonia Chicana. They were married on April 15. They honeymooned in Antigua.

2001

An article about JEFF FUCCI’s work with green redevelopment in Newark was posted on Newark Inc.’s website.

2002

RALPH ALOIA was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He has been a teacher in California but moved back to New Jersey for treatment. His partner, Marissa, and their young son, RJ, are still in California. Anyone interested in contributing to a fund set up in Ralph’s honor should visit bit.ly/aloha.

2005

DOUG MILLER was voted Rookie of the Year for Pro Wrestling Southern California.

DEVIN McCOURTY married Michelle on April 30; the couple honeymooned in the Bahamas. See below for more news about Devin and his brother, JASON.

2006

JOSEPH CUCCIA was recently named a semifinalist for the James Beard “Rising Star” Award.

DANIEL KUHN married Rebekka Shaak on Aug. 22 at Egner Chapel at Muhlenberg College, where they met the second day of freshman year. They reside in State College, Penn., where Daniel is a financial coordinator; Bekki is an academic advisor at Penn State.

2011

As part of his job working for ABC 57 News in Indiana, TAYLOR POPIELARZ interviewed Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

2013

DEVIN OCHIUZZO joined the Moonachie Volunteer Fire Dept as a firefighter in 2015.
SAVE THE DATE

Saint Joseph Regional High School
REUNION & HOMECOMING WEEKEND
October 22nd & 23rd

SAVE THE DATE
and join us as we celebrate our Milestone Reunions with the
Saturday, October 22nd:
SJR Homecoming Game
followed by Reunion at
Woodcliff Lake Hilton
Sunday, October 23rd:
Mass and brunch

Please keep us in mind if your address or email address changes by calling the school at (201) 391-3300 or emailing sjralumni@sjrnj.org.