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A New Era at SJJ

By: Amir Darr

For the seniors, life at St Johns has transformed a great deal since their first days as newly entering freshmen. New building construction and renovations, and the implementation of new programs and services have vastly changed the way we interact, learn, and participate in numerous activities on campus. Although many of the current upperclassmen can't really quite appreciate the current way of doing things, many of us are reminded via our daily SJJ life how much this school has undoubtedly changed.

The most notable change thus far is arguably the house system that has been the spot life of student life at SJJ. Now in its 3rd year since inception, Mr. Miller and Mr. Richard have worked hard in upholding the motto *cura personalis* or "care for the person." The house system has allowed teachers to foster relationships with students, and for upperclassmen to mentor the underclassmen on a daily basis. Although there are many differing views on the efficiency and effectiveness of the house system, many can agree that it certainly makes St Johns stand out from other schools in the region.

Along with a redesigned sports complex, comes a new athletic director, Mr. Ronai, as he replaces the former athletic director Mr. Brian Miller '72. It is assured that Mr. Ronai will continue the success of St. John's athletics especially as it enters the competitive Three Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC.)

State of the art technological and campus advancements have by now become more accustomed to. The new commons completed in the fall of 2007 was a massive project that has created a modern feel replacing the more dull and tired look of the old commons. A noticeable change was brought to the IRC over the summer as the mundane look of the old tables and computers were replaced with a more comfortable and relaxing environment consisting of sofas and elegant tables to create more of a library feel thus motivating students to study harder. Other developments in the past few years include renovations in the A+ Center, science labs, and the technology wing.



The most recent technological advancement that has become integrated into our academic lives has come from the introduction of the iPad 2 in the classrooms. iPads are now used by students to take notes, read books, search the web, and send and receive important school



emails to and from the student body. This enables a more efficient means of communication and learning. Via installing apps required by certain classes such as Theology and English, understanding concepts efficiently has become more of a reality. Although the true effectiveness of the iPad has yet to be determined, St. John's surely has taken a step to lead schools in NW Ohio in educational enrichment and enhancement.

As the year progresses leaving 2011 behind moving onto 2012, St. John's continues to strive to give its students not only the best academic education, but spiritual education as well. Whether you are watching a football game on a Friday night, or sitting through class on a Monday morning, or participating in our never-forgetting retreats, let us make the best of what St. John's offers even with the many changes that have occurred. Four years pass by quickly!



From Dreams to Reality

By: Ben Padanilam

Throughout the last year, St. John's has begun the construction of a brand new, state-of-the-art athletic field, which has officially been named Lyden Field. The field is composed of turf, a new track, and has a dazzling new scoreboard. The school is also in the process of acquiring more bleacher, adding lights, and building two press boxes. While Lyden Field is not quite yet complete, the construction process has moved along quite swiftly. In fact, the field is very much ahead of schedule. "I'm surprised by how quickly we were able to do all of the additional work," says St. John's President, Father Joaquin Martinez, SJ. "I thought we were going to be done with stage one. I'm happy that we also finished phase two and part of phase three two years ahead of schedule."

Father Martinez has played an integral role in helping to introduce the idea of a new field and raising funds for such a project. Two years ago, after having decided that the school and indoor athletic facilities were in great shape, Father Martinez began a study of the outdoor facilities. He then formed a committee of alumni, Athletic Board members, and parents to determine what outdoor facilities needed to be improved. While it was determined that most of the facilities were in relatively good shape, the committee decided that the track needed to be replaced. "We



couldn't do a simple resurfacing but had to dig up the foundations as well, since they were the original foundations from when the school was built," said Father Martinez. The committee then recommended to him that because they were replacing the entire track, he consider also upgrading the entire facility to include a state-of-the-art turf field as well. "I brought the idea to our Board, and they were very excited to endorse the project," said Father Martinez.

Father Martinez then set out to raise money to fund the enormous project. When asked why the school needed so much money in donations, he explained that, "Our Board approved the project with the understanding that we were not going to take on any debt to finance it.



Everything had to come from donations.” Thus, over the past two years, he spent much time meeting with parents, alumni, and others who have been supportive and generous in the past. While it was a long process, Father Martinez helped the school to raise enough money not only to build the field, but to renovate other facilities (such as the scoreboard, bleachers, and landscape) as well.

Lyden Field is inching closer and closer to its completion. While the construction of Lyden Field is largely the work of Father Martinez and members of his committee, he says that he could not have done it alone. “There are a lot of people who love St. John’s,” he said, “and are very happy to help make it a better place.”



Matt Houdi '12, captures an aerial view of the field before and after construction

In His Words...

Each issue, the Cavalier will present the work of a “guest writer,” who will provide his comments on various matters of interest and importance that pertain to students at St. John’s. If you have a recommendation as to whom the Cavalier should solicit to be a guest writer, please e-mail Sean Wheelock at sean.wheelock13@sjjtitans.org. This weeks guest writer is Ralph Waldo Emerson, a Transcendentalist philosopher from Boston. Mr. Emerson has agreed to blaze a trail for future guest writers with this submission:

Who wants to be ordinary? Who wants to be forgotten? Who wants to live a life that is but a drop in the vast ocean of the human experience? The choice of Achilles plagues us all: What are we willing to give to be great? I cannot answer this question for you, but I can provide an impetus to start you on your journey to greatness if you so desire. This, then, will be the subject of our inquiry: what can I do to make myself great?



First and foremost, you must be an individual. You must be self-reliant. A man who blindly follows the morays of society is but a mote of dust in the wind, a speck of sand on the beach of life, a blade of grass in a vast field. He is doomed to be forgotten. But the man who acts as himself, relies on himself, and is true to himself will be remembered. There will be seemingly insuperable adversity at times, but you shall overcome it. You. Not society’s picture of you. You. Not what your family wants you to be. You. Not what your friends force you to be. You. You shall overcome your struggles, for that will make you great.

Despite the fact that you must be an individual, certain guidelines can enlighten you and lead you on the proper path. These guidelines have a certain feel to them, a universality, a sense of justice. For instance, take the precepts of cura personalis and being Men for Others. These ideals are right and just; you can feel it in your bones, the truth vibrating on your heartstrings within you. But other rules are simply there so society can exert its control upon you. These rules great men ignore. Rules that stifle development, repress inspiration, and smother creativity have no hold upon great men. Yet a caveat: discernment of which rules fall under which category is a Herculean undertaking. To be great is to discern right rules from wrong rules as much as it is to discern right from wrong. Everyone makes mistakes; the good falter and sink to the ground, while the great rise up again, time after time to stand undaunted, tall as a mountain, straight as a tree.

There is a disturbing lack of greatness that is readily apparent in today’s students. Students do not care about learning, do not care about thinking, do not care about not caring. And therein lies the problem. To be great is to care. Striving for a grade is a meaningless endeavor; striving for knowledge makes one great. You will never be great if all you care



about is doing the minimum, getting by, surviving. Greatness is not in surviving, but in thriving. Go beyond what is asked of you, but do not do it because you have to; rather, do it because you want to. Is not one of the ideals of your school that of magis, being more, being the best You can be? At times life is difficult, but for every spring there must be a winter, for every dawn there must be a night, for every birth there must be a death. Dulling the pain and joy of living through drugs and alcohol does not make greatness, it breaks it. Cowards run and hide from adversity. Heroes stand tall and smite it through the chest.

Chaos in the Commons

By Andrew Kurtz

Unless you have been truant for the past month, you should have noticed the new table arrangements in the Commons; the old Academy lunch area has been relocated to the main area of the commons and, to our benefit, Ping-Pong tables have been brought back. Consequently, the increased student density has forced the tables in the commons to no longer be arranged in marvelous, long rows, but rather as crowded, disorderly stripes. This new arrangement has split once great masses of friends, into warring factions in a constant quandary over with whom to sit at lunch. To add salt to an already gaping wound, students are not supposed to sit at the ends of the tables, a valuable piece of lunch time real estate.

As the new arrangement calls for a more space efficient, yet less social-oriented table arrangement, groups of friends are either split up, crammed together, or a combination of the two. Often I have seen people not being able to sit with their friends due to a lack of table space, and having to sit at a different location. Lunch has been reduced to a dicey balancing act of deciding which friends you value most, and the chore of reconciling with friends who did not make the cut.

Even with such a muddled modification to the Commons, some positive outcomes have occurred. The Ping-Pong tables have been brought back to their original location, which gives many students a pastime during lunch, free periods, and non-school hours. In addition, being forced away from friends may help foster new relationships with other students with whom you would have never met otherwise; in order to grow, you must go outside your comfort zone. This may not seem obvious, but as the Academy sits closer to the high school at lunch, they may feel an increased sense of belonging and school spirit, which they can one day carry with them as they rise through the ranks of the academic ladder.



Where are They Now?

SJJ Alumni Represent Success

We all know that SJJ touts the success of its alumni. Cavalier Magazine decided to interview three recent grads to see how well they have done since leaving the halls of SJJ.

Brad Inman: Class of 2006

CM: What university did you attend?

Miami University

CM: What did you study and where are you in life now?

Psychology and Comparative Religion. I have a Master of Arts in Religion at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary near Boston, MA. I'll graduate in May and will be looking to be a youth pastor at a church.

CM: Who is your favorite teacher at SJJ?

Mrs. McAshlan

CM: What was your favorite SJJ club/ activity?

Varsity Swim Team for 4 years, Captain Sr year; I started the Confectionery Club my Senior year as an excuse to eat cookies.



Muneeb Rehman: Class of 2009



CM: What university did you attend?

Georgetown: class of 2013

CM: What did you study and where are you in life now?

Human Science Major, might be Theology Minor, not sure. My eventual goal is Med school. I also worked at a Pathology Lab at the University of Michigan. I am currently an intern at Congress.

CM: Who is your favorite SJF teacher?

Mrs. McAshlan

CM: What was your favorite SJF club/activity?

Social Justice Alliance

David Hochanedal: Class of 2005

CM: What university did you attend?

The University of Toledo

CM: What did you study and where are you in life now?

I majored in communication and served as Editor-in-Chief of the student-run college newspaper, The Independent Collegian. I now work in downtown Toledo as a copywriter at a firm called Interrupt Marketing

CM: Who is your favorite SJF teacher?

Three English teachers, Mr. Harms, "Doc" Demarkowski and Mr. Matt Mullan, had a profound effect on how I viewed reading and writing — namely, the realization that neither is at all boring.

CM: What was your favorite SJF club/activity?

Why, Cavalier, of course



A Day in the Life of Mr. Harold

By Raymond Antypas

8:10 to 10:56: Mr. Harold happily begins his morning by teaching one of his two sections of AP US History composed of sophomores and two sections of AP US Government composed of juniors.

11:00 to 11:46: Groaning a hungry stomach, Mr. Harold enjoys his lunch.



11:50 to 1:26: After satisfying his hunger, Mr. Harold begins his afternoon with one of his epic stories relating to AP US History. Seniors then come to throw a ton of unrealistic situational questions dealing with law in 6th period Law class.

1:30 to 3:06: Mr. Harold finishes his day with a nice free period and lastly teaches Economics to mostly seniors and some juniors.

3:06: After a day of hard work and brilliant teaching, Mr. Harold moderates meetings for student council, National Honor Society, and Mock Trial.

As a member of the SJJ Class of 1990, Mr. Harold enjoyed the old days of St. John's and was taught by some of our teachers today such as Mr. Miller and Mr. Simmons. He was voted by his class as most likely to return as a faculty member, and so he did to fulfill his destiny of teaching history when he arrived in 2005.

Above: Mr. Harold and Erik Brodin '13, ponder the First Great Awakening



SJJ Football Finishes Strong

Class of 2012 Complete Their Careers with Final SFS Win

The Titan football team's first run in the TRAC league was successful with a few stumbles along the way. Led by Coach Doug Pearson and composed of mostly veteran seniors, the football team played a skillful, fast-paced style of the game and knocked off many of its closest opponents throughout the season. Top seniors including Kent Kern as linebacker, Joe Robie as wide receiver, Justin Robinson and Miles Ashleman on the defensive line, Troy Favorite on the offensive line, and all other senior players conquered the field in their final year finishing with a strong overall record.

Overall Record: 7-3

TRAC Record: 4-3



Key

Games:

Orchard Lake St. Mary's	W 42-6
Fremont Ross	W 35-28 OT
Whitmer	L 7-35
Central Catholic.	L 14-35
Findlay	L 14-33
St. Francis	W 21-14



Key Players:

Brogan Roback
Trent Brodbeck
Nate Pearson
Chris Costa
Jamahl Jones
Cam Brickman

Shayne Rubel
Jake Wheeler
Matt Miller
Brandon Smith
Artie Mitchell
Cort Sassaman
Tony Harper



Soccer Wins Third District Title

This year the Titan soccer team succeeded in most of their matches and with a fast-paced team, the seniors of the Class of 2012 completed their SJJ soccer career with a third consecutive district title. Seniors Evan Lee, Rushil Naik, Nate Cook, Nick Diment, Joe Kelly, Ben Cornell, and Cameron Conrad all displayed excellent skills throughout their career and leave the team with experience and skill to succeed in the future.



Head Coach: Tim Concannon

Assistant Coach: Peter Schaal, Micheal Williams, and Stefan Hlabse

Overall Record: 18-3

TRAC Record: 7-0

Key Matches:

St. Ignatius L 0-6

Southview W 5-1

St. Edward W 2-0

Perrysburg W 3-1

Northview L 1-4

St. Francis W 1-0

St. Ignatius W 3-0

Southview W 3-2

District Championship

Southview W 2-1

Perrysburg W 1-0

Copley L 3-2



Golf Wins First TRAC Title

Coaches David Gigax, Mussa Orra and Kyle Ellwood led the SJJ varsity golfers to their first TRAC Championship. Not only is this the first conference championship for golf, but it is the first TRAC championship for any sport. The team was led by seniors Dennis Brown and Dominic Restivo, but also had solid contributions from the rest of the varsity squad, which included Austin Gardner '13, Topher Garzony '13, Brian Hoeflinger '13, and Jack Mancinotti '15. Of the JV team, Coach Mussa Orra claimed: "Our JV squad has had great success throughout the season winning invitational events early in the season and had outstanding play throughout the season by going undefeated in dual matches with competitive teams in the area. Our JV golfers ensure a bright future for SJJ golf. We are lead by Luke Campbell '14, Nick Graf '14, Jack Meredith '14, Parker Ernsthausen '14, and Sean Wheelock '13."

First Team All TRAC: Dennis Brown

Second Team All TRAC: Dominic Restivo, Topher Garzony, Brian Hoeflinger

TRAC Coach of the Year: David Gigax

Cross Country Races to the Finish Line

Led by Jacob Mills '12, Drew Savage '13, Tevin Brown, '15, Ryan Shields '12 and Ryan Savage '15, the Titan Cross Country team had a strong season, complete with a 3rd place finish at the inaugural TRAC championship and a 3rd place finish at the District Championships. Senior Jacob Mills represented the Titans by qualifying for the State meet. He finished 23rd with a time of 15:57.

Team Facts:

Coach: Todd Black

Years as SJJ Head Coach: 9

2010 accomplishments: runner ups in the City League, District Champions, and Regional Championships



A Tearful Experience

By Anthony Calamunci

Cavalier Staff Member Tony Calamunci Ventures to Further Explore the Social Effects of the iPad

A blind man walking into the SJJ Commons could be forgiven for mistaking it for a cemetery, or a waiting room full of ill patients. There is an eerie quiet about the room. Lunchrooms tend to be associated with talking and laughter as well as mediocre pizza. While the mediocre pizza is still firmly in place, the talking and laughter have retreated back into whatever holes they spawned from.



Looking about the room, hundreds of iPads are seen, on which about three different games are being played. I initially assumed that this would last only the first week or so, but when the third week rolled around and there was no improvement in the situation, I decided to take a journalistic approach and see what the students thought. I first approached Baylen Atkinson, a junior. “What do you think of all the iPad games in the commons?” I asked him. “Do you think that it is hurting our social interaction?” “Yes!” Baylen said, and for a moment I thought he was agreeing with me before he added, “fifty-one!” “Excuse m . . .” “Fifty-one floors!” I continued to make attempts to engage him, each of which met failure.

With even less success I tried to communicate with Dev Parikh, who has descended into an addiction to the aforementioned Extreme Road Trip that warrants a reality show. Between bouts of crying he spends his lunch periods twisting and flipping his virtual car through virtual air.

What concerns me the most is the Academy students, especially the new sixth graders. I had a hard enough time making friends at that age without something that discourages talking with people in my hand all school day. So I ventured into the Academy to talk with sixth graders about their opinions on the issue. One obstacle while walking around the Academy is the size of the Academites themselves. I tripped on about four of them walking down the main hallway. There were several of them in an English classroom at the end of the hall on the right. In the corner sat one kid who was engrossed in Angry Birds. The first thing I asked him was whether or not he had realized how boring the game was yet. He said that he hadn’t. Next, I asked if he had made any friends yet. He said that he had not. We both started to cry.



Jack and Jill: A Painful Adventure

By Anthony Calamunci

Now and then I'll see one. A trailer that takes my breath away. A trailer that truly has to be seen to be believed. A trailer that is so awful that it is practically beyond criticism. Several years ago, I saw such a trailer. It was for *Daddy Day Camp* (with an impressive 1% on Rotten Tomatoes). More recently, I saw another. This time, it was for the new wacky Adam Sandler comedy *Jack and Jill* (rated PG!).

For those unfamiliar with the premise, it is about a successful advertising executive who gets visited for Hanukkah by his *ca-RAZY* sister Jill. Hilarity ensues. What is the high concept hook, you ask? Adam Sandler plays both Jack and Jill. If you started laughing uproariously to yourself so that milk is coming out the various holes in your face (and you don't even drink milk), then *Jack and Jill* will probably entertain you.

For those of us over thirteen, hilarity does not ensue. In fact, *negative* hilarity ensues. *Jack and Jill* actually manages to make other things less funny by how unfunny it is. It is that comedically corrosive. I chuckled once when I saw this movie. There's a halfway decent gag about two-thirds through the movie involving Jill's voicemail. The rest of the jokes range from flat to painful, such as the scene where Jill attends a party hosted by a Mexican family. There is an ugly old woman in this family, and the movie decides the best way to handle this character is to have her get hit in the face several times. Jokes like this come off as painfully desperate.

Speaking of desperate, there's a scene where Jack is trying to have a conversation with Jill, but is disrupted by her incessant farting. The low point of the entire movie has to be where Jill refers to diarrhea as "chocolate squirties." You have no idea how painful that was to type.

Occasionally, the movie has the raw materials for a potentially good joke. For example, a co-worker of Jack's is an atheist, which offends everyone he comes in contact with. In that is the potential for a smart, insightful, and funny joke. But the movie has absolutely no clue what to do with it. Also, Al Pacino is in this movie, which might be the most depressing thing of all.

Verdict: *Jack and Jill* is the worst film of the year. See the new *Harold and Kumar*.

