

Candidate Bios for 2021 Election

SJC Alumni Association President-Elect

Katarina Wong A88

Katarina split her time at St. John's between the two campuses, graduating from Annapolis in 1988. Katarina has worked in corporate, academic, and non-profit sectors to build communities and elevate organizations' missions. She's currently the Associate Director of Fellowships at The OpEd Project, and prior was the Program Manager of the Arts Administration program at Teachers College, Columbia University, and was the Vice President of Curatorial and Community Engagement at Edelman. Katarina also owned her own art consultancy, is an internationally-exhibiting artist, and published author whose articles on U.S.-Cuba policy have appeared in The New York Daily News and The Miami Herald, in addition to having personal essays published in literary and academic journals.

Katarina has served two terms on the Alumni Association Board, with a term on the Executive Committee. She helped develop and lead a standing-room-only "Johnnies in the Arts" panel discussion at Homecoming in Annapolis, an equally well-attended "Johnnies in the Arts" panel discussion with the NYC Chapter and the "Johnnies in Tech+" panel discussion with the Northern California Chapter, the AAB's first virtual panel discussion. Each event was attended by alumni, students, and in the last case, prospective students. She's currently working with the Alumni Relations Office on a handbook to help alumni use JohnnieCorps to create virtual groups.

In addition to her BA from St. John's College, Katarina has a Master of Theological Studies from the Harvard Divinity School, focusing on World Religions and Buddhism, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Maryland in Visual Arts.

SJC Alumni Association Directors-At-Large

Michael Busch A00

Michael is currently Chief Operating Officer at Ween & Kozek, PLLC in Manhattan. In addition, Michael teaches political science, sociology and international studies at The City University of New York. Michael also previously served as Associate Director of the Office of Student Success at the City College of New York, 2013-2017, overseeing the college's most prominent scholarship and fellowship programs, academic support initiatives, and advising in the social sciences. Before his work in higher education, Michael was in the inaugural cohort of the New York City Teaching Fellows program, and taught elementary and middle school in the Bronx and Harlem. He currently serves as founding trustee and Vice-Chair of the Board of South Bronx Community Charter High School.

An active alum, Michael attended and led alumni chapter seminars and events in New York City, helped at high school recruitment sessions, attended Homecoming and croquet, taken part in the annual Alumni Leadership Forum gatherings in Annapolis and Santa Fe, and participated in the annual ***Banned in Boston*** croquet tournament at Homecoming. Michael joined the Alumni Association Board in 2019 and

serves as Co-Lead of the AAB's Chapters Working Group supporting Alumni Chapters, helping develop reading lists, participating in regular chapter calls with Chapter Leaders, and providing chapter assistance as needed.

Michael graduated from St. John's, Annapolis campus in 2000. He also holds a Master's of Science in Early Childhood Education from Lehman College and is currently a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Erin Croke SF04

Since graduating from St. John's, Erin has remained active in the Johnnie Community. She led the Alumni Association's Colorado Chapter from 2014-2016 and is currently an active chapter participant – attending monthly seminars and chapter events. During her time as chapter leader, the chapter doubled seminar attendance, began using online interest polling, and expanded offerings to include hikes, happy hours, and weekly art tutorials based on the College's archived art curriculum - last offered by the College in 2003. Erin attended the Alumni Leadership Forums in 2015, 2016, and 2017. She will be serving as Reunion Class Leader for her class' 20th reunion in 2024 and currently serves on the Alumni Association's Events Working Group, with a focus on homecoming fundraising and alumni involvement.

Erin is a Contract Compliance Officer for the City & County of Denver, where she manages city contracts with small, disadvantaged, minority, and women owned-businesses. She received her J.D. in 2011 from the University of New Mexico School of Law, is a member of both the Colorado and New Mexico Bar Associations, and has practiced mortgage-finance and employment law. She serves on the Colorado Women's Bar Association's Public Policy Committee, advising on proposed legislation that will disproportionately affect women and families.

David Harman SF94

David is an active member of the Johnnie alumni community. After participating in the 2017 Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF), David volunteered with the Alumni Association's Career Services Working Group. As a volunteer, David drafted a networking guide for Career Services in 2017 and received a Volunteer Service Award for his work in 2019. David co-chaired his Class Homecoming in 2019. He is also active in the online SJC alumni community.

Outside of Johnnieland, David is an assistant professor in the Department of Marketing at the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business. His research focuses on customer lifetime value and customer retention as well as bringing existing statistical methods into professional marketing analytics practice. He previously worked at AT&T Mobility, where he managed the targeting strategy for AT&T's wireless retention direct marketing campaigns. Besides his BA from St. John's (with fond memories of JF summer), David has an MBA in marketing from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a PhD in marketing from the University of Iowa.

Beth Martin A94

Real Show writer, dance party DJ, music library assistant, coxswain – Beth Martin graduated from Annapolis in 1994. Unable to leave the SJC community behind, Beth then established a Johnnie Colony

in the Twin Cities of Minnesota with 6 other classmates. There, Beth put her St. John's degree to good use working in a bowling alley, various restaurants, and a gourmet cheese shop before settling for a "real job", first in the museum field and eventually moving into her career working for an international humanitarian aid agency in Baltimore, MD.

As an alumna, Beth has supported the College by participating in career panels for current students and recent graduates, providing an alumni perspective at events for prospective students, serving as a class chair for the Class of '94 during their reunion years, and as an ongoing monthly donor for the College's annual fund. Additionally, Beth has served as the President of the Annapolis Alumni Chapter since 2001. During the COVID-19 global pandemic, Annapolis' monthly chapter seminars have switched to Zoom. Over the 20 years of her service with the Annapolis Chapter, Beth has hosted 225 seminars.

Beth's greatest accomplishment, however, is raising a future Johnnie with her husband and A94 classmate Alex Gammon. Their son Theodore plans to be a member of the class of 2028.

Melanie Santiago-Mosier A00

Melanie serves as Deputy Director of the Clean Energy Group and the Clean Energy States Alliance, supporting the organization's efforts to advance clean energy equity. Previously, she was Managing Director, Access & Equity for Vote Solar, where her work centered on implementing the organization's vision for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. In that role, Melanie managed Vote Solar's work to build partnerships with underserved communities, working with them to design and advocate for programs that spread solar's opportunities and benefits equitably.

Melanie is an attorney licensed to practice law in Maryland and has worked to advance clean energy policy for over a decade, leading regulatory and legislative affairs at a number of organizations. In 2015, she was named one of Maryland's Leading Women by The Daily Record. In 2018, she won the prestigious C3E Award for Clean Energy Advocacy. In 2019, she won a WRISE Honor for her work in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in clean energy. In 2020, she was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by The Daily Record.

Melanie received her B.A. from St. John's in 2000, a Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell in 2020, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 2005 and serves on the Maryland State Bar Association's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She has volunteered for the college for: Career Services as a mentor and on multiple College Career Forums, including the Johnnies in Non-Profit Panel in 2020; the Alumni Giving Council in 2010; as a Reunion Class Leader (2010).

Amritpal Singh A15

Amrit is a PhD student in the Department of Psychology, Cornell University. As a cognitive neuroscientist, his research interests include abstract thought, emotion, culture and cognition, and bodily relativity. An active student at St. John's, Amrit was founder and archon of several clubs and study groups, served as a senior class chair and as member of the Senior Gift committee where he helped reach a 100% class participation. Since graduating in 2015, Amrit has helped Johnnies navigate early post-grad life, advising on grad school applications and science/academia careers and sharing, with Career Services, opportunities for Johnnies in cognitive science. Since 2016, Amrit and his lab have mentored SJC interns every summer until Covid, helping them to develop skillsets useful both in and out of academia.

In addition to his mentoring work with Johnnies, Amrit also makes lasting contributions to other communities of which he is part. During a 2-year term on his department's Graduate Studies Committee, Amrit helped organize his department's annual interview weekends and other department events. He also led the committee in proposing a plan for a student-mentorship program to facilitate a sense of community and peer-engagement in his department and independently created and now maintains a database of grants and scholarships available to students in his discipline.

Amrit currently leads the Alumni Association's Students and Recent Alumni Working Group and is working with the college to develop a mentoring program linking students with alumni mentors, and focused workshops to help students prepare for post-grad life.

Alumni-Elected Representative to the Board of Visitors and Governors

Sarah Shepherd SF05

An active student, Sarah received the SJC Student Activities Award in 2005 and worked, among other roles, as the Student Activities Center outdoor activities supervisor, a resident advisor, and assistant to the Assistant Dean. Continuing her involvement as an alum, Sarah attended the 2017 Alumni Leadership Forum and subsequently joined the Association's Alumni Giving Council. In 2018, Sarah was elected as an alumni representative to the BVG. During her first term, Sarah served on the following Committees: Visiting, Investment, Audit and Compliance, Facilities, and Advancement, working on projects including Title IX compliance policies, student retention studies (leading to the formation of the Student Retention Committee), adult education community programs review, and the college President review framework. She also mentored six students in the Jobs4Johnnies program launched in summer of 2020. Sarah also works with Career Services staff to help connect student with summer internships and scholarship funds for studies in philosophy, non-profits, environmental resources/sciences, and government/non-profit management.

Professionally, Sarah co-founded the non-profit organization, IMPACT Personal Safety of Colorado in 2009, serving as its Executive Director from 2009-2017. She is currently a Board member of IMPACT Colorado. Concurrently with organizing IMPACT Colorado, Sarah served as: an officer and member for IMPACT International, a group of 15 NGO and non-profit organizations; the Board Chairperson of Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, including its finance committee and public policy/legislative committee; ESD Global/Violence Prevention Educators International as an EIDA and Board consultant; and the Board of Institute of Transactional Philosophy.