

Alumni Association Candidates for Board Nomination 2020

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Secretary:

Sabina Sulat (A92)

Treasurer:

Melissa Novotny (AGI13)

At-large Directors for Re-election:

Jim Berrettini (AGI93)

Sarah Schoedinger (A92)

At-large Directors:

Dino Anderson (A99)

Richa Bhattarai (A18)

B. Brett Heavner (A89)

D. Hardison Wood (A98)

BVG Member:

Leslie Kay (SF83)

BIOGRAPHIES

SJCAA Board Nominees

Secretary:

Sabina Sulat (A92)

After graduating from St. John's College in Annapolis in 1992, Sabina Sulat (A92) studied Industrial/Organizational Psychology through Walden University, researching the impact of internet habits on such conditions as depression, isolation, and socialization. After her studies, Sulat pursued a career in human resources (HR) and organizational design and development. She has spent the past 20 years consulting on topics including HR policy and procedure, job skills and competencies, learning and development, inclusion and diversity, and compliance in the US and abroad. Sulat currently works as a learning leader for the pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca, leading learning in locations in the US, UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

For the past decade, Sulat has used her work experience to support the students and staff of St. John's. Sulat joined the Alumni Association Board (AAB) in 2015 and has served the board as a director of the Career Services Working Group and as a co-director for the 2017 Alumni Leadership Forum in Santa Fe. Before being elected as AAB secretary, Sulat worked on the Student and Recent Alumni Working Group, which served to support AAB student representatives and as an outreach to recently graduated Johnnies. Sulat continues to support Career Services in Annapolis by working with students as they seek employment by coaching them through mock interviews and offering resume support and advice. She participates annually in the Career Services Resume Workshop. In 2017, Sulat worked as a co-chair for both the Class of 1987 and Class of 1992.

Sulat spends a portion of her time volunteering for such organizations as Taproot and Catchafire—advising nonprofit organizations on HR issues and functions; the African Well Fund; ONE.org; and other nonprofit organizations. She also is a global moderator for @U2.com, a

music fan site. In late 2020, Sulat will be launching her first book, written to help those recently unemployed navigate the complicated path of returning to work.

Treasurer:

Melissa Novotny (SFGI13)

After receiving her bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Mathematics from the University of Virginia, Melissa Novotny (SFGI13) worked for Houston nonprofit Urban Harvest as a market manager for the city's local produce markets. She discovered St. John's College via her ancient Greek tutor and moved to Santa Fe to enroll in the Graduate Institute (GI) shortly thereafter. During her time in Santa Fe, she was an active member of the AVID tutoring program in local Santa Fe schools and eventually became a full-time mathematics teacher. She also volunteered for several local Santa Fe farms and CSAs.

Upon graduation from the GI, Novotny began to self-study for the Society of Actuaries' entrance exams. After passing her first exam, Novotny took a job in the pension plan consulting space at Willis Towers Watson, where she is now a senior associate. As a retirement actuary, she uses mathematical probability models to value future pension liabilities for statutory and financial reporting purposes and provide insight into risk exposure and mitigation strategies for her clients. She served briefly as treasurer at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md., in 2017 and works as a bookkeeper for the organic skincare startup Lauren's All Purpose Salve, preparing periodic profit and loss and cash flow statements.

In addition to her technical work at Willis Towers Watson, she also takes an active role in the mentoring of junior associates, drawing on her in the classroom and Socratic experiences at St. John's, and contributes to several employee-led morale and culture-improvement initiatives. Novotny and her husband Justin (SFGI13) live in Houston, TX, with their twin toddlers. When not studying for actuarial credential exams, or playing with her twins, she enjoys cooking, gardening, writing poetry, and digital photography. She continues to be involved with local agriculture efforts in Houston and serves on the Admissions Working Group on the St. John's Alumni Association Board.

At-large Directors for Re-election:

Jim Berrettini (AGI93)

Jim Berrettini (AGI93) graduated from M.I.T. in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He received his Master of Arts in Liberal Arts from the Graduate Institute at St John's College in Annapolis in 1993. Berrettini joined the Alumni Association Board (AAB) as an At-large Director in 2018.

Prior to joining the board, Berrettini was active with the New York City St. John's Alumni Chapter and served as the ad hoc chairman of the St. John's Graduate Institute 50th Anniversary. Berrettini currently serves on the AAB as the alumni lead for the Events Working Group where he works with the college to help organize alumni engagement at events from homecoming to croquet.

Berrettini lives with his wife and fellow Johnnie Anne Schuchman (A92) and their children in Rutherford, NJ. Berrettini's son Sam is a current St. John's student (A21). Professionally, Berrettini has been active in software development in technology, media, and retail for decades. Berrettini currently serves as director of interactive development at Ralph Lauren.

Sarah Schoedinger (A92)

Sarah Schoedinger (A92) is senior program manager for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Education where she co-manages the agency's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP) and serves as a liaison to organizations whose educational missions and programs complement those of NOAA. The ELP has invested over \$35M since 2009 in projects that build climate literacy and community resilience to the impacts of climate change through formal K-12 and informal education. Since 2004, Schoedinger has been one of the leaders of a

campaign to increase ocean literacy through both formal K-12 and informal education at national and international levels. Schoedinger is a past president of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) and served on its board from 2002-2007. Prior to joining NOAA, Schoedinger was the education director of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (now the Consortium for Ocean Leadership).

Schoedinger is a 1992 graduate of St. John's College in Annapolis and holds a Master of Science degree in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware. She served on St. John's Philanthropy/Alumni Giving Council from 2002-2010 and has been co-chair of the Annapolis Class of 1992 since 2012. Since 2018, she has been an at-large director on the St. John's College Alumni Association's Board. During her 2018-2020 term on the board she has been co-lead of the alumni Chapters Working Group, a member of the board's Executive Committee, and most recently, a co-lead of Alumni Affinity Program Working Group.

Schoedinger lives in Charlotte, NC, with her husband Kurt Heckel (A93), where they take full advantage of the many mountain biking trails the area has to offer.

At-large Directors:

Dino Anderson (A99)

Dino Anderson (A99) serves as the executive director of global talent and organizational development, and inclusion and diversity at Maxim Integrated (2017-present). Maxim Integrated is a 35-year-old semiconductor company focusing on innovation for power conservation. During his tenure he has overseen the company's human and social capital portfolio to drive \$2.5b revenue, ensured inclusion into Fortune 500 list, pivotal in increasing investor relations ranking from a BBB to an A rating, and yielding positive returns on people analytics measures on performance ratings, promotions, and turnover. Maxim's strong market valuation has resulted in a \$21b acquisition by Analogue Devices, the largest acquisition of 2020 (as of July 15, 2020).

He began his career as an educator during his junior year at St. John's College in Annapolis, working closely with the Touchstone Discussion Project to lead its first-ever seminars for homeschooled elementary and high school-aged youth. After graduating from St. John's, he taught high school mathematics and physics for the Edmund Rice Schools in Tampa, FL, and New York City (1999-2001). His love of education, philosophy, and systems thinking led him to pursue doctoral studies at Teachers College, Columbia University, where his academic scholarship and publications focused on philosophy, curriculum theory, and post-colonial aesthetics. From 2004-2008, he held faculty appointments at Columbia University, Bowdoin College, John Jay College Honors Program, and Bard College.

Wanting to bridge theory and practice, Anderson transitioned out of pure scholastics and into enterprise to work on large-scale, wicked problems. He started that next phase of his career by directing multi-sectored, nonprofit programs for urban youth empowerment (2009–2011: Bard College and Broadmoor Improvement Association in New Orleans). Thereafter, he joined Mozilla Corporation's workforce as the global head of talent and culture evolution (2012-2015) to embolden their mission by coordinating their human capital efforts, policy work, and products to disrupt global market forces. After Mozilla, Anderson lead research and development at First Look Media (2015-2016) focused on aligning First Amendment scholars, practitioners, and organizations to influence policy and products.

In addition to his work at Maxim Integrated, Anderson currently serves as the diversity, equity and inclusion advisor for The Coaching Fellowship—a leadership development program for young women leaders of impact. He also volunteers as a San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected youths in foster care.

Since graduating from St. John's in 1999, Anderson has actively worked with tutors to facilitate their keynotes and lectures at renown institutions (Eva Brann at Columbia and Bowdoin; Peter Kalkavage at Columbia and New School), and has served as president of the St. John's Northern

California Chapter. Most recently, Anderson was a panelist in the March 2019 Johnnies in Tech+ Panel organized by the Alumni Association and the Northern California Alumni Chapter.

Anderson lives in San Francisco, is a Hegelian at heart, loves James Baldwin's precise prose, and hopes one day to return to composing chamber music and choral works.

Richa Bhattarai (A18)

Richa Bhattarai (A18) was born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal, and moved to the US in 2014 to attend St. John's College in Annapolis. During her time at St. John's, Bhattarai worked in the Admissions Office serving as a liaison between prospective students and the college. She was an active member of Pangaea, the international students' club, where she served as the treasurer. People who attended Pangaea's events knew Bhattarai for her love of dancing! After graduating in 2018, she served on career panels for graduating seniors as well as for parents of admitted students, and worked with Career Services to establish a Hodson Trust internship opportunity.

In August 2018, Bhattarai started working as a program coordinator for Urban Alliance, a youth development nonprofit focused on helping low-income high school students by partnering with organizations to provide paid internships. In that role, Bhattarai supported 30 high school juniors in Northern Virginia to gain better access to the professional world. She provided her students with soft skills training in addition to one-on-one coaching sessions on post-high school options, resumes, and cover letters in preparation for their senior year internships. She conducted her training sessions like a Johnnie, with opening questions and facilitated meaningful conversations among her students. Her first cohort of students have just graduated high school and are finishing their internships. She is proud of each one of them and excited to see what they'll accomplish.

One year after joining Urban Alliance, Bhattarai became the program director for Northern Virginia in October 2019. In her current role, she is responsible for fostering strong relationships with local schools and internship sponsors to provide quality experiences for her high school students. She manages the workflow of three program staff members and oversees the execution of recruitment strategies at local schools in order to reach Urban Alliance's target demographics.

Bhattarai is excited to begin her master's in Public Policy at George Mason University this fall. She is hopeful about advancing her career and continuing to increase the social capital in underrepresented communities.

B. Brett Heavner (A89)

After graduating from St. John's College in Annapolis, Brett Heavner (A89) obtained a JD and LLM from Duke University Law School. For the past 22 years, he has practiced law at the Washington, DC, office of Finnegan, Henderson. Heavner's specialty is trademark and copyright law with an emphasis on trademark infringement, counterfeiting, and false advertising litigation. He has acted as lead counsel in trademark infringement cases in federal courts throughout the country, as well as in proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Since 2011, Heavner has been consistently listed as one of the top trademark lawyers in the country for contentious and noncontentious matters in both The Legal 500 U.S. and The World Trademark Review 1000.

Since graduating, Heavner has maintained a close connection with St. John's. From 2001-2004, Heavner was on the board of Philanthropia, which was an independent college-affiliated organization tasked with fundraising among alumni. From 2004-2008, Heavner was the chair of Philanthropia. Over the past 20 years, Heavner has volunteered time with the St. John's Career Services Office, speaking with and mentoring St. John's students interested in legal careers. Over the years, his firm has provided paid and unpaid summer internships for current St. John's students and has hired St. John's graduates for two-year litigation clerkships (primarily for students considering law school). Heavner attends alumni-focused events, such as alumni seminars, homecoming festivities, and the croquet match, as often as he can. Heavner has also attended receptions in the Washington, DC, area for prospective St. John's students and has

interviewed students in his area that were referred to him by the Admissions Office. Heavner also provides pro bono legal representation for Touchstones Discussion Project in intellectual property matters. Touchstones is an organization that is run by several current St. John's tutors and whose board is populated with many St. John's graduates. Touchstones holds St. John's-type seminars for a wide variety of audiences, including prison inmates, underprivileged youth, senior citizens, business executives, diplomats, and government agencies. Heavner has served as interim director at-large on the Alumni Association Board since 2019 where he leads the Career Services Working Group. Most recently, Heavner worked with the college to organize the alumni panel: *Adaptation in the Time of COVID-19*.

Heavner and his wife Christine hit it off at the Lafayette Ball at St. John's in 1996. Two years later, they married in McDowell Hall. They currently live in Arlington, Va., with their children Graham and Tess.

D. Hardison Wood (A98)

Hardison Wood (A98) is a North Carolina crashworthiness attorney who focuses his practice on products liability, professional negligence, and other complex personal injury litigation, including appeals. Wood was born and raised in Winston-Salem, NC. He earned his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York, New York. Upon returning to North Carolina, he founded the Law Office of D. Hardison Wood and is the firm's sole shareholder.

Since passing the bar, Wood has allocated a majority of his practice to representing injured victims of negligence. He has been named to the 2017-2020 *US News & World Report* Best Law Firms Best Lawyers list based upon feedback from clients and lawyer evaluations and peer reviews, mainly in areas of expertise, integrity, responsiveness, cost effectiveness, civility, and referrals. The Law Office of D. Hardison Wood has also been named to the *US News & World Report* 2017-2020 Best Law Firms in North Carolina list.

From 2012-2014, Wood served as a member of the Board of Governors for the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ) as well as the chairman of that organization's Products Liability section. He was appointed to this position again for the 2013-2014 term. He is frequently a guest speaker and lecturer at NCAJ sponsored continuing legal education events, and he remains active on the Membership Committee for the NCAJ.

Wood is an active member of the St. John's Alumni Association (AA) where he helped found the Rusty Wickets (a booster club for the St. John's College Croquet Team). He has run an annual tournament at homecoming for the past six years featuring some of the greatest croquet has-beens versus the student teams. He was recognized by the AA for his efforts with this group. The tournament annually raises approximately \$10,000 for the college. The event is very popular with the team and alumni, and offers a chance for students to get to know alums in a friendly competitive atmosphere.

BVG Nominee

Leslie Kay (SF83)

Dr. Leslie Kay (SF83) received her PhD in Biophysics (Behavioral and Computational Neuroscience) from UC Berkeley in 1995. She was a postdoctoral scholar at Caltech from 1995-2000. In 2000, Kay joined the University of Chicago and is a full professor in Psychology with membership in graduate training programs in Neurobiology, Computational Neuroscience, and Integrative Neuroscience. Her research focuses on the neurophysiology of the olfactory system and olfactory perception and spans fields from Cognitive Psychology to Biophysics. She teaches in the college's core curriculum as well as graduate and upper division courses in neuroscience and psychology.

Kay serves as director of graduate education for the Department of Psychology and is involved with divisional efforts on equity and inclusion. She was director of the Institute for Mind and

Biology 2008-2014 and has served in leadership at her synagogue for seven of the last 10 years. She is a member of the standing National Institutes of Health grant review panel for the Chemical Senses, is an executive board member for the Association for Chemoreception Sciences and is on the editorial board for several scientific journals.

Kay began service on the St. John's Board of Visitors and Governors in 2017 as an alumni-elected member. She has been on the Visiting, Audit/Oversight, Advancement, and Facilities Committees. On the Visiting Committee, Kay started her first year pushing hard, along with Chris Denny, for hiring professionals to administrate Title IX complaints and campus life outside of supervision by the Assistant Dean's Office. This was a major and important change, along with this they drew attention to the mental health counseling deficit. Coverage on this front has been increased now on both campuses. Now that two campus life professionals have been hired, she is involved with oversight and continued efforts in reporting from both deans via the Audit Committee. Over the past two years, Kay has spent a great deal of time on the Visiting Committee working with the board and administration to set goals for student retention.

Besides her board service, Kay's service to St. John's has focused on career advising. She's been a conduit of internship placement for the Hodson Trust and Ariel fellowships; she has trained 12 St. John's students as interns in her laboratory over as many years; and matched about 15 for internships at University of Chicago, University of California, Los Angeles, Cornell University, and University of California, Berkeley—many of whom have gone on to doctoral programs. She has volunteered her time on both campuses to advise students about careers and graduate school. In Fall 2019, while on leave from the University of Chicago, she donated her time to teach a preceptorial in Santa Fe on the Foundations of Neuroscience. She received an Alumni Association Award of Merit in 2013 for her service to the college.

Kay has been married to Maryellen Begley for 24 years; they have two college-aged daughters.