

SJC Alumni Association New Directors-At-Large

Jacob Greenstine (A'10)

Since May 2018 Jacob Greenstine has been the president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the St. John's College Alumni Association. He organizes regular monthly seminars, both in person and virtually, as well as events at museums and concerts in Philadelphia. He has been awarded a St. John's College Volunteer Service Award "For innovative programming for alumni as a high energy chapter leader with creative virtual programming for the chapter members."

After graduating from St. John's College Annapolis in 2010, Jacob received a PhD in Philosophy from Duquesne University, completing his dissertation on the concept of Not-Being in Aristotle in June 2020. His research was funded by several competitive grants, including a Fulbright Research Fellowship to work at the Universität Kassel in Germany and a McAnulty Research Fellowship. His teaching surveyed diverse subjects in the humanities, with nearly forty classes, including world philosophy, logic, and great books sequences at Temple University and Villanova University. Among other academic activities, he initiated, organized, and secured funding for both the Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy and the Pittsburgh Summer Symposium in Contemporary Philosophy.

Since October 2021, Jacob has worked as a Director of Data Analytics at CCS Fundraising, the premier non-profit fundraising consulting company. In his role, he uses model-building both to assess historical fundraising and to find new fundraising opportunities. His work moves across non-profit sectors, but he has distinguished experience with education organizations and community foundations.

Hayden Pendergrass (A'14)

Hayden Pendergrass was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Despite his family's many trips to Santa Fe during his childhood, he first heard of the College in high school through one of the ubiquitous beige mail pamphlets that proclaimed: "The following teachers will be returning next year: Homer, Plato, Aristotle..." While a student, he was an active member of the Polity and served as an intramurals team captain, the Delegate Council Treasurer and President, an editor for The Gadfly, and a member of the croquet team.

After graduating from the College, Hayden worked in the Annapolis Admissions Office as a paid intern before moving overseas for several years to Cyprus and Ireland. After completing his postgraduate work in religious studies at Trinity College, Dublin, he attended the George Washington University Law School, where Hayden received his Juris Doctor with Honors. After recently finishing his term as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Hayden is now an associate attorney at Akeel & Valentine in Michigan.

As an alumnus, Hayden has always tried to be an active member of the Alumni Association and to give back to the College. During his time in the Admissions Office, he participated in Alumni Association leadership events, including on the Santa Fe campus. In subsequent years, he participated in many Croquet Weekends and Homecomings, both in-person and virtually. In

2019, Hayden served as a Class Chair to help organize the five-year reunion for the Annapolis Class of 2014.

Pari Sitaula (SF'16)

Pari Sitaula graduated from St. John's College, Santa Fe in 2016. During their time at St. John's, they were the president of Cosmopolitan, a club promoting diversity and inclusion, on the Santa Fe campus. They helped organize various events including an international student dance competition, international film festival, etc. Pari was also a recipient of an Ariel Scholarship during the summer of 2016. They used this opportunity to intern as a legal assistant at Court Appointed Special Advocates ("CASA").

After St. John's, Pari went on to earn their Juris Doctor from Tulane University and Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. Currently, they are an associate at Shearman & Sterling's Global Compensation in the Governance and ERISA practice group, with focus on all aspects of compensation related matters, including design and implementation of retention arrangements, related disclosure and regulatory compliance, and employment negotiations with senior executives. Pari frequently advises companies and boards with respect to compensation matters in mergers and acquisitions, spin-offs, SPACs, and other corporate transactions. They maintain a long standing commitment to the firm community and to pro bono activity. Pari is also a junior co-chair of Sterling Pride, an inclusive network of LGBTQIA+ lawyers. Having met their wife at St. John's College, championing diversity and inclusion matters has always been a focus of theirs.

SJC Alumni Association New Directors-At-Large, second term

Richa Bhattarai (A18)

Richa was born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal and moved to the United States in 2014 to attend St. John's College. During her time at St. John's, Richa worked in the admissions office serving as a liaison between prospective students and the college.

In August 2018, Richa 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 her role, Richa supported 30 high school juniors in 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 internship.

One year after joining Urban Alliance, Richa was promoted to the position of Program Director for Northern Virginia in October 2019. In this role, she was responsible for fostering relationships with local schools and internship sponsors to provide quality experiences for her high school students.

Richa is currently working towards a Master's in Public Policy at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. In addition, Richa works at the Pew Charitable Trusts as an Associate in the area of Student Loan Research. She is hopeful about advancing her

career and continuing to increase the social capital in underrepresented communities. Since joining the Board in 2020, Richa has served as co-lead of the Career Services Working Group and contributed to the Jobs for Johnnies Program.

Brett Heavner (A89)

After graduating from St. John's College, Brett obtained a JD and LL.M. from Duke University Law School. For the past 26 years, Brett has practiced law at the Washington D.C. office of Finnegan, Henderson. Brett's specialty is trademark and copyright law. Since graduating, Brett has maintained a close connection with St. John's College. From 2001 until 2008, Brett was on the board of Philanthopia, which was an independent college affiliated organization tasked with fundraising among alumni. Over the past 20 years, Brett 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 summer internships for current St. John's students and has hired St. John's graduates as legal assistants and law clerks. Brett 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. In 2019, Brett joined the Alumni Association Board as an interim director. He serves as co-lead of the Career Services Working Group. Among other Career Services work, Brett worked with the college to organize virtual alumni panels during the pandemic and has worked closely with the BVG on its Jobs For Johnnies initiative.

Hardison Wood (A98)

Hardison is the owner of the Law Office of D. Hardison Wood located in Cary, North Carolina. His practice is limited to products liability, professional negligence, and other complex personal injury litigation. He earned his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York, New York. Hardison's firm has been named a U.S. News & World Report Best Law Firms since 2017, and Hardison has been selected to Super Lawyers list since 2018. Hardison has been a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum since 2011.

Hardison is also an active member of the St. John's College Alumni Association where he helped found the *Rusty Wickets* and has run an annual tournament at homecoming since 2016, featuring some of the greatest croquet-has-beens versus the student teams. He was recognized by the Alumni Association for his efforts with this group. The tournament raises approximately \$10,000.00 per year for the College. Since joining the Alumni Association Board in 2020, Hardison has served as Co-lead of the Alumni Giving Council.

Alumni Association Board Secretary

Sarah Schoedinger (A'92)

Sarah 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 College's Philanthropy/Alumni Giving Council from 2002 to 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 a co-lead of Alumni Affinity Program Working Group. Sarah currently serves as the Association's Program Manager overseeing the programmatic work of the Association's Working Groups and as a member of the ad hoc SOP (standard operating procedures) committee.

Sarah is Senior Program Manager for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education where she co-manages the agency's Environmental Literacy Program and serves as a liaison to organizations whose educational missions and programs complement those of NOAA. Sarah is a past president of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) and served on its board from 2002-2007. Prior to coming to NOAA, Sarah was the Education Director of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (now the Consortium for Ocean Leadership).

Sarah lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband (Kurt Heckel, Annapolis Class of 1993) where they take full advantage of the many mountain biking trails the area has to offer.

Alumni Association Board Treasurer, second term

Melissa Novotny (SFGI13)

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Mathematics from the University of Virginia, Melissa worked for Houston non-profit Urban Harvest as a market manager for the city's local produce markets. She discovered St. John's via her ancient Greek tutor and moved to Santa Fe to enroll in the Graduate Institute 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 CSA's.

Upon graduation from the GI, Melissa took a job in the pension plan consulting space at Willis Towers Watson. She is now a manager in pension plan consulting at Ernst and Young. 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 has also served as Church treasurer and financial manager for start-up Lauren's All Purpose Salve.

Melissa and her husband Justin SFGI13 live in Houston, TX with their twin five year-olds and two-year old. When not studying for actuarial credential exams, or playing with her kids, she enjoys cooking, gardening, writing poetry and digital photography. She and her husband recently purchased a property in rural Texas that they are rehabbing and planning to turn into a

working farm. Prior to serving as Treasurer, Melissa served on the Admissions working group of the St. John's College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Alumni-Elected Representative to the Board of Visitors and Governors

Tia Pausic (A'86)

Tia Pausic is General Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary at International Medical Corps, a humanitarian and emergency relief nonprofit organization. Her portfolio includes global legal strategy and compliance covering the US and over 25 countries as well as grants & contracts regulatory practice and management. She has been with IMC since 2016. Tia previously worked at World Learning and America's Development Foundation where she held senior positions at headquarters and overseas. From 1992-2004, Tia worked for ADF and others in Croatia and Bosnia managing legal, human rights and NGO development programs benefiting refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable populations. In 1990, she co-founded a non-profit organization whose mission was to help facilitate Croatia's transition to a democratic country. Tia is a 1989 graduate of Harvard Law School and a 1986 graduate of St. John's College Annapolis. Tia served on the board of the SJC Alumni Association from 2013-2020, concluding her service with her term as Past President. While she was AA President, she served ex officio on the BVG and was a member of the ad hoc Campus Culture Committee. She is a member of the SJCAA DC Chapter. She has also served on the boards of various Washington DC-based theatre companies.