

SEPTEMBER 2023 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

New At-large Directors

Sam Collins A'15



I attended St. John's College at its Annapolis campus from 2011 until my graduation in 2015. While at the College, I was heavily involved in the intramurals program and the croquet team. I was a captain of the Spartans intramural team during my junior and senior years. I captained the croquet team as well during that time. I also made an effort to participate in other clubs and activities throughout my time at the College. The extracurricular opportunities allowed me to better engage with the College and the Program and are now an integral part of why I still feel so connected as an alumnus.

I started law school in 2016 at Temple University, Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, PA. Skills I developed at the College, such as analytical thinking and active listening, were useful tools at law school. More importantly, they provided an edge in my internships. One of these internships was at Rita's Franchise Company, LLC (Rita's Italian Ice), a frozen treat franchise concept based just outside of Philadelphia. My time at Rita's set me on my current career path as a corporate attorney. Once I finished my clerkship with a judge in Trenton, NJ, I moved down to Atlanta and started as corporate counsel at Bojangles Restaurants, Inc. After a year at Bojangles, I rejoined Rita's legal department in October 2021. I have been at Rita's since and recently negotiated a promotion to senior corporate counsel.

Since graduating from the College in 2015, I have remained active in the Alumni community and the Rusty Wickets, a network of croquet team alumni, to leverage croquet to support the College.

Joy LeCuyer, SFGI'12



I am Joy Wohl LeCuyer and I hope to gain your approval to serve on the SJC Alumni Board. There is much that could be included in a bio of a life as long as mine, but I will try to keep it relevant.

Education:

I grew up in New York City, graduated from the Bronx HS of Science with honors in 1962 and Syracuse University with a BA in psychology in 1966. Moving to Santa Fe in 1992 was the beginning of a 30-year association with St. John's College. My participation included Graduate Institute classes, Community Seminars, Summer Classics, and study groups. I completed the GILA in 2012 and the GIEC in 2023. Other certifications include Grant Proposal Writing, Facilitation, Philanthropic Fundraising, Management, and Parliamentary Procedure.

I have worked with advertising firms and legal practices; as a library assistant in the Los Angeles County Public Library system and at the Santa Fe Institute; and, as a court reporter for Special Processing Battalion, First Army Headquarters. From 1998 to 2004, I served as the Director of Development and Executive Director of the Foundation for the Santa Fe Community College.

My service on boards of directors has been at the local, regional, state, national and international levels. Positions included terms as president; vice presidents of communications, finance, fundraising, conference planning, and programs; as well as secretary and parliamentarian.

St. John's College is an important part of my life. My husband, Phil has been a tutor at the College for more than 50 years; family members and dearest friends are SJC alumni. I firmly believe in the College's mission and its method. The community SJC creates is unique and it deserves concentrated attention toward maintaining connections within it. It would be my pleasure to help with that effort.

Juniper Lovato, SFGI'13



Juniper Lovato (pronouns: she/her) is an educator and researcher in the field of complex systems and data science. Her current research focuses on data ethics, group privacy, complex systems, the science of stories, and open source ecosystems. She is the Director of partnerships and external programs at the Vermont Complex Systems Center at UVM where she organizes Complex Systems programs and thinks about data ethics. She is also a Ph.D. candidate in Complex Systems & Data Science, at the University of Vermont.

Previously, she was the Director of Education for the Santa Fe Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she was born and raised (on a rural family compound (in the Village of Tesuque) populated by hippies and Spanish/Swedish folk musicians, yup they had a dance pavilion). In her free time, she makes/supports makerspaces and open source/open science programs

She is the inaugural Vermont regional partner with Code.org and the co-founder of the Vermont CSTA and the Vermont Computer Science Alliance. She serves on the board of the Network Science Society and the NE Chapter of the Complex Systems Society. She has created over 80 STEM education programs worldwide. She is the founder of the makerspace Make Santa Fe.

My Nguyen, A'09



My Nguyen was born in the Arkansas Delta and grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas.

After graduating from St. John's College in 2009, she earned a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from The Catholic University of America in 2014.

Since 2011, My has worked for D.C. Public Library in Washington, D.C., in various roles, including senior librarian.

When not assisting patrons with reference questions or managing and encouraging staff, she engages with the citizens of Washington, D.C., by collaborating with American Purpose, as well as with authors, professors, and other community partners to design library lectures and programming.

In her role as a library professional, My founded and actively hosts community reading and discussion groups that meet regularly. These groups include The Intimidating Book Club, where participants read and discuss notoriously lengthy novels that are widely considered classics; the Shakespeare Society, which focuses on reading and discussing all of the Bard's plays; and a small but truly devoted Proust group that has made it its mission to complete all seven volumes of *In Search of Lost Time*. Her work with these reading groups has been featured in *Axios D.C.* and *The Atlantic*.

She is active in the SJC D.C. alumni chapter and the SJC Class of 1988 seminar group. She currently serves as Communications Director for District of Columbia Library Association.

My is an assistant manager for D.C. Public Library.

Matthew Pryatel, SF'97



Matthew Pryatel graduated from St. John's college in 1997, partaking in the "Great Books in Japan" program pioneered by Eva Brann along the way. In 2018, he joined Pepperdine's MBA program where he re-discovered a passion for collaboration and a flair for interdisciplinary insight. He became one of the first triple concentration graduates in the school's history, an outreach ambassador for the business school, and was influential in administrative decision-making and program implementation, especially regarding the recruitment and support of international students.

Matthew accepted a full-time research position in preparation for doctoral studies, just in time for the Covid pandemic to put everything on hold. With the encouragement of his old friend and mentor, Tutor Emeritus Charlie Fasanaro, he enrolled in the Masters of Eastern Classics Program. He found the experience so rewarding, so astonishingly unfamiliar and mind-bending, that he inquired with Admissions if he might help in recruitment. His approach was to tap the seemingly underutilized

enthusiasm of current students and alumni to communicate the value of the College. Matthew has been an interim Director of the St. John's Alumni Association Board for the past six months.

Matthew is Chief Operations Officer for Hard Connect, a digital architecture and distribution company.

At-large Directors, second term

Beth Martin, A'94



Beth graduated from the undergraduate program in Annapolis in 1994. After graduating Beth began her career working in non-profits including museums and social service agencies. She is currently Director of campaign formation and mobilization for Catholic Relief Services, an international humanitarian aid agency. In this role Beth is responsible for mobilizing supporters in the U.S. to take action through advocacy and fundraising to address major, global issues facing the most vulnerable people around the world.

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 and has hosted more than 250 seminars during her service with the Annapolis Chapter. Beth joined the Alumni Association Board in 2021, serving on the Chapters working group and as the Board's project manager.

Beth lives in Baltimore with her husband, Alex Gammon A'94 and their 17-year-old future johnnie.

Amritpal Singh, A'15



Amrit is a PhD student in the Department of Human Development, 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, 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. Amrit has served on his department's Graduate Studies Committee. Amrit helped organize his department's annual interview weekend and other department events, 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 Association's Students and Recent Alumni Working Group and has spearheaded many community seminars bringing together UG/GI students and alums. He also oversees the Board's student representatives program.

Alumni Association Board President-elect

B. Brett Heavner, A' 89



After graduating from St. John's College, Brett Heavner (he/him) obtained a JD and LL.M. from Duke University Law School. For the past 27 years, Brett has practiced law at the Washington D.C. office of Finnegan, Henderson. Brett'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, as well as in proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Since 2011, Brett has been consistently listed as one of the top trademark lawyers in the country for contentious and non-contentious matters in both *The Legal 500 U.S.* and *The World Trademark Review 1000*.

From 2001 until 2008, Brett was on the board of Philanthropia, an independent SJC- affiliated organization tasked with fundraising among alumni, including spending four years as chair. Over the past 20 years, Brett has volunteered time with the St. John's career services office, mentoring St. John's students interested in legal careers. His firm has provided paid and unpaid summer internships for current St. John's students and has hired St. John's graduates as trademark legal assistants and as law clerks. Brett also provides pro bono legal representation for [Touchstones Discussion Project](#).

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

Alumni-elected BVG member

Kelsey (Hennegen) Murray. SFGI'20 & SFEC'21



In 2018, after seven years at technology start-ups, I left Silicon Valley to pursue a Master's in Liberal Arts at St. John's College Santa Fe. While there, I started working with Dean Walter Sterling on BVG-related projects. I spent the next 2.5 years focused on student success; I compiled and analyzed data on student fit, trajectory, and persistence; attended all AAB and BVG meetings; and facilitated the launch of a freshman advisee program. I also worked with the SJC communications team to help St. John's College maintain an active and authentic online presence.

Upon completion of the Liberal Arts program, I continued my time at SJC by enrolling in the Eastern Classics program while serving as a Strategic Projects Associate to Dean Sterling. Much of my work was devoted to diversity and inclusion, plus the added complications of the pandemic, like contingency planning and rethinking student engagement and retention in the online context.

In 2021, I was awarded a poetry residency with the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, and I held a month-long exhibit in their El Zaguán gallery on Canyon Road. That summer, I moved to Idaho to enroll in the MFA writing program at Boise State University where I study and teach poetry.

This March, I married fellow Johnnie, Patrick Murray (SF20). He will begin his studies at George Washington University Law School this fall in DC, and I look forward to joining him there next spring and being closer to the Annapolis campus.