

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

4th Quarter 2018 - Volume 8 Issue 4

## A Starry Knight: Prom and Gala

Maggie Barr

As students entered the school gym at 8 p.m. on April 21st, they discovered that the gym had disappeared and been replaced by an incredible array of adornments to create a “Starry Knight” indeed. The awe of the students perfectly resembles the magical feel surrounding the annual SJCS Prom and Gala. Both the Prom and Gala shared this year’s theme, “A Starry Knight: Shining Christ’s Light for 25 years,” which reflects not only the whimsical atmosphere surrounding the events, but also the school’s annual theme.

St. Joseph’s annual Gala is the main fundraising event that raises money for tuition assistance, academic programs, athletics, fine arts, campus ministry, student life, and more for the SJCS community. This year’s Gala was held Friday, April 20th in the school gym. The Gala was co-chaired by Mary Salgado and Michelle Mullins, who worked with a group of parent volunteers to make the Gala possible. The school raises money by having various attractions at the Gala, including an art show, live and silent auctions, a “Fund the Need” portion, and more! Many students also take part in preparing and working at the Gala. Students Anna Wallace Clark (‘18) and Rachel Hall (‘19) contributed by donating pieces of their own art for the auction. Many students also volunteer to help make the Gala happen, welcoming people, holding doors and signs, and generally being available for help at any time during the night.

The theme for the Gala can be related back to

this year’s overall school theme, based on the bible verse: “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”, and the school’s 25th anniversary. “A Starry Knight” represents St. Joe’s; we are the stars that make up this incredible community that has been shining the light of Christ on all we encounter for 25 years

The school prom, available for Juniors and Seniors to attend, was no less exceptional. Students entered the gym to find a table stocked full with treats, a photobooth, a punch bar, dance floor, the far wall decorated with student yearbook pictures (to the joy of some and dismay of others), and so much more! Students began arriving at 8 p.m. and, after exploring the transformed gym, immediately began to enjoy themselves, whether it be dancing, taking goofy photo booths, or



Prom King Drew Lyons and Prom Queen Jane Cajka pose for a picture before their first dance. Photo by Mrs. Pelicano

snacking on candy and even a chocolate fountain. Some favorite songs included Africa by Toto, Mr. Brightside by The Killers, and even an inside joke among Mrs. Koon’s literature classes, Wuthering Heights by Kate Bush!

As the dance came to a close, the night didn’t end along with it. The school organizes an  
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SJCS senior Dillon Conlon went crowd surfing at Prom. Photo by Mrs. Pelicano.

# SPORTS

## Ava Dobson: A First Year Phenomenon

Maegan White



Ava Dobson. Photo from Greenville News.

In August, Ava Dobson stepped on the track to compete in her first-ever cross country meet. She crossed the finish line in first, beating the previous year's champion from Riverside. With her time at this meet, she was ranked first in the state out of all regions and divisions.

friends told me about it (cross country) and I thought that maybe I could be good at it."

She showed up to the first day of tryouts and Coach Marie Kernell knew that she would be a great addition to the team. Coach Kernell said Ava had "God-given talent" and that her attitude and academic performance was "a coach's dream".

Ava continued the rest of the season almost undefeated, even in large and very competitive races that attract runners from the southern states. She gained more fame after running the fastest time in the state at the Lake Murray Invitational.

The Greenville News called her a first-year phenomenon because this highly successful sophomore had never competed in cross country before. She used to play soccer and was introduced to cross country from her friends. As Ava explains, "A bunch of

Ava was victorious in the AA State Championship, even after suffering an injury that kept her off the course for three weeks. She also had an important role in leading the SJCS girls team to winning their 8th consecutive title.

She was recognized for her success in the state, but more recently, she was named the Gatorade South Carolina Girls runner of the year. This national honor is given to athletes that have success on the course, in the classroom, and in the community. Ava, beyond the course, has made the honor roll and volunteers at Triune Mercy center and Meal on Wheels. The school was excited to add Ava's name on the short list of Gatorade players from SJCS.

Ava's success did not end with the conclusion of her and her team's victory at the cross country state championship. Ava traded in her cross country running shoes for her track shoes and thus far in the season has been highly successful.

At the highly competitive Bojangles invitational, Ava took first in the 3200 and also ran the 6th fastest time in Bojangles history.

With Ava still only a rising junior, the school is excited to see what success and victories Ava will receive in the next two years.

## Tennis Team's Historic Season

Preston Saad

For the first time in history, the St. Joseph's Varsity Boys tennis team has posted an undefeated record for their regular season. The Knights have won ten straight matches, landing them a spot in the history books. The fight isn't over, as the overall goal is to capture the South Carolina state championship title.

"The undefeated regular season has been a lot of fun, and it's great to see the players get some recognition around school and in the upstate," said Coach Kevin Meyer.

In the past, the team has struggled against many difficult opponents, such as Christ Church and Southside Christian. This year Coach Meyer has added new players to the roster who have mixed well with the past players, giving the team the depth it needed for a successful season.

"With everyone returning from last year's team and the addition of some outstanding players, I thought we would have a very good team," added Coach Meyer.

The Knights are led by newcomer Nick Lou-

dermilk and Brandon Hodge. They are ranked first and second respectively. They have helped guide the team to victories over JL Mann and the school's rival, Christ Church.

"Beating Christ Church was a great accomplishment for the team this year. CCES has been a strong rival foe SJCS for numerous years and this is the first for the team to win. Everybody played very hard and in the end, we pulled out a strong win. We have had a good season and we just have to keep the momentum going while entering the playoffs...With healthy players and a passion to win, hopefully we can play our best and do well in the playoffs this season," said Nick Loudermilk.



Mack Self competing in a tennis match. Photo from Greenville News.

The team continued their historic season by winning the upperstate championship maintaining their undefeated record of 12-0. On Saturday May 12th, the team was defeated in the State Championship, taking the runner-up position. Even with this single defeat, the SJCS tennis team had an amazing season.

# EDITORIALS

## SJCS Testimony: Maegan White

*Maegan White*

“You have big shoes to fill.” This statement can be the most stressful sentence a person can hear, especially younger siblings. Much pressure and many questions can arise from this one sentence: What if I do not want to fill the same shoe as my sibling, or what if I feel like I cannot fill those shoes? I personally have felt this pressure.

For those who do not know me, I am a rising senior pursuing journalism, international relations, and political science. I also have an older sister who, too, attended SJCS. Her name is Hannah, or should I say Army Cadet White. In high school, she was the president of the Science National Honor Society, created the school’s lab assistant position, was an all-state cross country runner, received the Redemptoris Custos Award--the highest honor you can receive at SJCS-- and now attends the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point.

I am so proud of all that my sister has accomplished, and I take every single opportunity to brag about her to teachers, students, and administration, but I don’t aspire to do the same things as my sister. While she is seeking a career in the sciences and serving in the military, I aspire to be reporting on refugees from war-torn territories. Hannah competed in the Ironman World Championships, but I would much rather be sliding into home base for a college softball team. While she was organizing speakers for the Science National Honor Society, I was debating bills at the South Carolina Statehouse.

My point here is that we couldn’t be more different. She excelled in science and math, while I excel in history and English. In my case, while I am still extremely proud of my sister, I felt

tremendous pressure because I did not want to “fill my sister’s shoes.”

The pressure was greatly increased after my sister’s commencement speech at graduation. I was approached by multiple people after the graduation and told, “Wow, you have big shoes to fill.” One of my teachers at the time, Mrs. Fesler, approached me and said, “Maegan, you have your own shoes to fill.”

This statement really resonated with me because it was one of the first times someone outside my family had said that to me-- I must add that my mom and sister had told me this a thousand times, but it took someone outside my family for me to actually believe it.

That brings me to my next point. SJCS has designed an academic schedule so that students, whether or not they have siblings, can create a unique and personal design for their own high school curriculum. For the first two years of high school, St. Joseph’s students take a wide variety of core classes meant to expose them to all subjects and interests. I personally enjoyed and appreciated the well-rounded requirements, for they provide each person a chance to experience every single subject so that any pressures that they feel about being like a sibling ends. Such opportunity to experience everything can also correct any misconceptions or preconceived notions a student may have about a specific class or subject. Normally by junior year, student’s interests become clearer so student’s curriculum can be based of more electives in specific areas to suit their interests.

SJCS also offers a multitude of extracurricular activities, academics, and athletics to offer to

people of different passions. People who are passionate about science, like my sister, can be part of Med club and take extra classes, like forensics or astronomy. People who love to create art can take upper-level classes and submit their work to Inscape and the art shows. Writers can be part of the creative writing club and the newspaper. Those interested in politics and law can apply for Youth In Government. Others who are interested in diversity and discussing current events can be part of the Pope Francis Forum for Dialogue and Diversity.

Personally, I am involved in softball and swimming, I am part of the Youth In Government and Speech and debate programs, newspaper and creative writing, and our schools diversity group the Pope Francis Forum for Dialogue and Diversity. These groups have shaped my high school experience. I have helped organize speakers for the diversity group which has expanded my knowledge and respect for people of different beliefs and backgrounds. My Youth in Government experience has been one of my high school highlights because it has expanded beyond a weekend conference; this summer I will be competing two national Youth in Government sponsored events. My involvement in newspaper resulted in myself being named a National Youth Correspondent.

My involvement in SJCS groups and my experience has opened so many doors for myself and my sister. SJCS had a huge impact on what my sister is deciding to do with her life. It also helped me realize so many things about myself. Students, I challenge you to find a group or organization that inspires you. You too can find yourself and have doors opened for you.

### ...Continued from Page 1: Prom and Gala

official After-Prom Party every year, and this year it was located at a sports club, where students can change out of their formal wear and into comfortable clothes and swimsuits. The After-Prom Party lasted until about 2 a.m., when students finally winded down, made their ways back home, and most likely slept late into the next day.

The 2018 Prom and Gala were both mass successes. The Gala this year not only was an enjoyable time for all who attended, but raised over \$200,000 to fund so many aspects of the SJCS community, while Prom was an incredible time for students to relax and have fun as the school year begins to wind down. Both the Prom and the Gala were certainly unforgettable nights.



Prom Princess Elizabeth Poinsette and Prom Prince James Clemence

# THAT'S A WRAP

## Our Seniors

The Knightly News would like to recognize the seniors on the staff and thank them for their service.

**Patrick Alvis** has been on the Knightly News staff for three years. For the past two years he has served as the editor-in-chief of the paper. He will be attending the University of Dallas in the fall.

**Dominic Mosely** has been on the Knightly News staff for three years. For the past two years he has served as the editor-in-chief of the paper. He will be attending Christendom College in the fall.

**Sami Miller** has been on the Knightly News staff for three years as a staff reporter. Sami also has been the Editor-in-chief for the Inscape Literary Magazine for the past two years. She will be attending The American University of Paris in the fall.

**Caroline Wright** has been on the staff for one year, serving as a staff reporter. She will be attending Wake Forest University in the fall.

**Sydney Read** has been on the staff for one year, serving as a staff reporter. She will be attending University of South Carolina in the fall.

The Knightly News staff would also like to thank Mrs. Pelicano for all she has done this year. Mrs. Pelicano has helped the staff by sending pictures and uploading the papers on the school website.

## Interested in joining the Knightly News or Inscape staff?

We want you too!!!

Open to all high schoolers and no experience is required  
You can contribute articles, help design the magazine or paper, or both!  
Contact Dr. Kriegel: [jkriegel@sjcatholicschool.org](mailto:jkriegel@sjcatholicschool.org)  
or the staff: [newspaper@sjcatholicschool.org](mailto:newspaper@sjcatholicschool.org)

## Past Issues

Please check out Volume 8 Issues 1-3 on the SJCS website. Go to the search engine and type in Knightly News or newspaper.

You can also go to these links...

<http://www.sjcatholicschool.org/new-wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Volume-8-issue-2.pdf>

<http://www.sjcatholicschool.org/new-wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Volume-8-issue-1-final-draft.pdf>

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## The Knightly News Staff

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