

Saint Raphael Academy Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2018 Edition

We are so excited to bring more news and updates to you about the events and alumni happenings of Saint Raphael Academy! The mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle is alive and thriving in the heart of campus as well as living on in the lives and hearts of our alumni. If you have not been back to Walcott Street recently, we would love to welcome you back to see all the new updates and improvements, as well as reminisce about days of old. Make sure to visit our website at www.saintrays.org and "like" our page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/saintrays.org) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/saintrays).

Live Jesus in Our Hearts... Forever!



Upcoming Events

Save the Date

- *Class of 1983 35th Reunion - September 22, 2018 @ AI's Waterfront, East Providence*
- *Class of 1968 50th Reunion - October 6, 2018 @ SRA*
- *Class of 1987 30th Reunion - November 10, 2018 @ SRA*
- *Class of 2008 10th Reunion - November 17, 2018 @ SRA*
- *Class of 1969 50th Reunion - May 17-18, 2019*

Potential Alumni Events for 2018/2019

- **Young Alumni Event**
- **Mike Bryce Paint Night**
- **Flag Football**
- **Basketball Hoopfest**
- **Golf Tournament - Monday, May 13, 2019**

Alumni Notes



Fr. Anthony Iwuc '45 celebrates his 65th Anniversary

On May 27, 2018, Fr. Anthony Iwuc, a member of the SRA Class of 1945, celebrated the 65th Anniversary of his Ordination in to the Holy Priesthood. A solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was observed at St. Joseph's Church in Central Falls and followed by a wonderful banquet at the Venus De Milo in Swansea. Many wonderful stories and reflections were shared at this momentous occasion.

Fr. "Tony" was born in Sibleyville, South Attleboro, MA, and was the 7th of 10 children. He attended the Platt School, where he skipped 2nd grade, and St. Joseph's School, where he earned a highest point scholarship award to attend Saints.

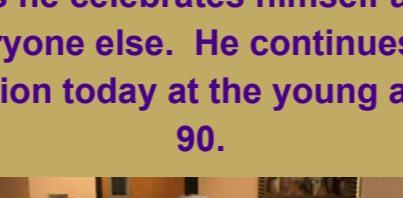
While at SRA, he received the highest in class medal for grades 10, 11 and 12 and the English medal as a sophomore and the Mathematics medal as a senior. His athletic ability in football and baseball earned him the titles of "muckler" and "Big Ant".

Father went on to Our Lady of Providence Seminary for 2 years and studied at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan, then SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary for 3 years.

He served two parishes - Our Lady of Czestochowa in Coventry, where he burned the mortgage and built a school, and St. Joseph's in Central Falls, where he renovated the church and purchased the St. Joseph's Parish Center. He presided over St. Joseph's Church for 33 years, before retiring in 2005.

Poland, his ancestral home, has always held a special place in his heart. That love encouraged him to serve as president of the Polish American Congress, R.I. branch for many years. He has worked on many causes to aid in relief during the martial law years and also served as the national president of the Polish American Priests Association.

Father has described himself as an "Alleluia" person - ever celebrating God's goodness and reverencing life as he celebrates himself and everyone else. He continues that mission today at the young age of 90.



Fr. "Tony" Iwuc '45

Around Campus



Sister Regina hosted her Explorer Program for the sophomores for the final event of the year on May 16, 2018.

The Explorer Program welcomes alumni to campus to share their experience at Saints and ventures in their career. For more information, please contact Sister Regina at rbrennan@saintrays.org.



Saints had four student delegates representing at the 71st Rhode Island State Legislature on March 24, 2018.

Pictured here are: Meryem Oldro, Danielle Lyons, Paul Pazienza, and Matt Carvalho.

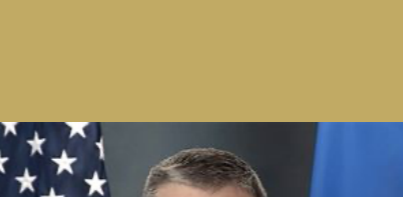
Quite a few bills were debated in both the House and the Senate. Matt served as a Senator, and all the student delegates made their school proud.



SRA Students Honored

The Pawtucket Teen Hall of Fame inducted two Saints' students on June 6, 2018.

Congratulations to Emily Gaboriault '19 (nominated by guidance counselor Leslie Hackbarth) and Theresa Wagner '19 (nominated by guidance counselor Malaina (Gennari) Murphy '85).



Military Mission

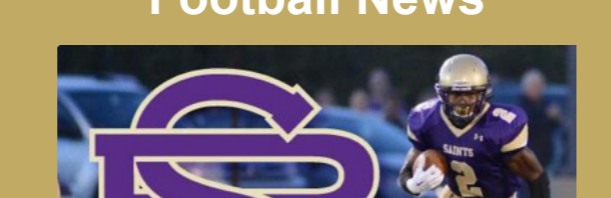
Saints Alum, Brigadier General (Doctor) John J. DeGoes, USAF '81, has been nominated for promotion to Major General by President Trump. His nomination was announced by the U.S. Department of Defense on February 7, 2018. He is the Vice Commander of the 59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, whose mission is to provide deployed and home station health care, graduate medical education and clinical research to enhance Air Force mission readiness. This is the Air Force's largest medical wing composed of six groups across the \$1.2 billion San Antonio Military Health System, Joint Base San Antonio, supporting more than 240,000 beneficiaries with more than 6,000 military and civilian personnel, residents and students.

Read the full bio: [Brigadier DeGoes](#)

Sports Notes

Check RIIL.ORG for the fall sports schedules.

Football News

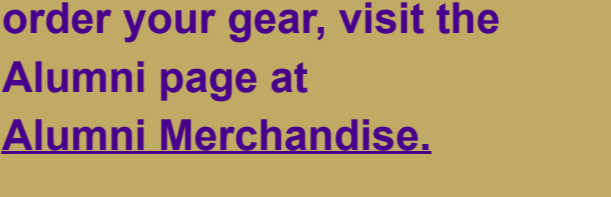


The SRA football team is selling former jerseys from teams between 1995 - 2010, including the 2007 Championship team. There are seven different styles. To contribute to this fundraiser, jerseys can be purchased below or make a direct donation. Please list a few options for jersey numbers in the box provided, and we will give every effort to accommodate. Numbers are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, please contact mferland@saintrays.org.

Alumni Merchandise

There are several Saints merchandise items for purchase on the Alumni page of the Saints web site. To order your gear, visit the Alumni page at [Alumni Merchandise](#).



SRA photographs by our own Alumni Simone Melo '86...\$20



Official SRA Alumni Hat... \$20

Alumni Board

- Ron Dalton '79 - Chairman
- Kelly Kerwin '05
- Shannon Bracken '95
- Mark McMahon '79
- Joscan Vega '01
- AJ Kizekai '85
- Ken Cartwright '85
- Steve Ormerod '75
- John Thomson '75
- Keri Kozloski '01



Get your own Saint's sportman today at... classic hassocks.

Greetings from Our Principal

Dear SRA Alumni,

The Class of 2018 ended their student careers on a very positive note on Saturday, June 9, 2018. The graduation ceremony at the Cathedral was amazing; the behavior and decorum exhibited by our students and their families were second to none! Throughout their senior year, the Class of 2018 stepped up their game. Once again, the SRA Drama Program garnered another RI state championship with the one-act play, *Antigone*. The SRA athletic teams performed superbly, with almost all of the 24 teams excelling in post-season competitions. Academically, our newest alumni amazed us with their classroom performance.

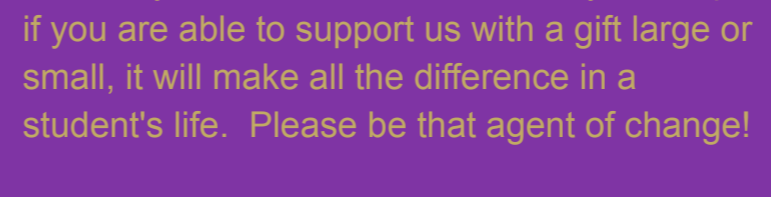
Their combined SAT scores and Advanced Placement (AP) results were the best we've seen in years at Saint Raphael Academy.

As I enter my 7th year as the principal at Saint Raphael Academy, I have wonderful news to report: since 2012, our student enrollment has increased by 50 percent! What makes this so impressive is that during the same time period, the majority of Catholic high schools in Rhode Island have seen a dramatic decrease in student enrollment. What factors led to our increased student numbers? There were several important components, and one of them is our outstanding faculty and staff. The SRA community is made up of dedicated employees who work tirelessly to make certain our students are successful in and out of the classroom. They are more than just great educators. They live the words spoken by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who said, "Pierce the hearts and minds of your students." Our SRA personnel develop the entire person, very similar to how the Christian Brothers taught their students for many years.

Another factor has been the vast improvements to the SRA campus. Since 2012, we have refurbished all of the classrooms and furniture, renovated both school cafeterias, reconfigured our IT footprint, and turned the Lynch Gym into a beautiful, state-of-the-art theater. We are now a 1:1 school and every student is issued a laptop that they use all four years. All of these impressive improvements were possible due to the kindness and generosity of SRA alumni. Since 2012, the Academy has not incurred any debt because our alumni funded every project needed to make us competitive with other Catholic high schools in Rhode Island!

As we continue the traditions started in 1924, we rely upon your support and assistance. We live our mission and charism every day at our Academy, but we can't do it without your help... if you are able to support us with a gift large or small, it will make all the difference in a student's life. Please be that agent of change!

Dan Richard



Congratulations and welcome to the newest members of our Alumni family - the Class of 2018 who received their Saints diplomas at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on June 9.

Faculty Facet



Mike Sassi '86

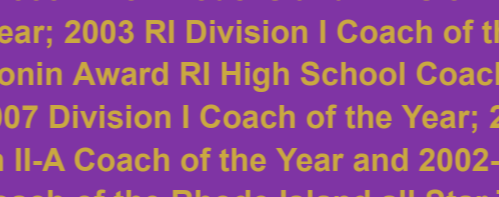
Mike Sassi '86 has had a long and successful career at Saints (29 years to be exact) and isn't going anywhere. After graduation, he played football and received his degree from Nichols College in 1990. He returned to Saints right after to teach math, which he still does today. Mike reflects on his time teaching, "I have really enjoyed my years in the classroom. I have probably taught over 2000 students in my career."

Mike has worn many hats at his alma mater - Asst. Football Coach (7 years), Asst. Athletic Director (8 years), Athletic Director (1 year), Dean of Students (1 year), Math Dept. Head (1 year), and is the longest-tenured head football coach in Saint Raphael Academy history. He begins his 21st year at the helm this fall. Mike states, "The thing I am most proud of is the amount of kids that I have sent on to play in college. There is nothing more gratifying than seeing one of our Saints players get financial assistance or a scholarship to play football and feeling like I contributed to that."

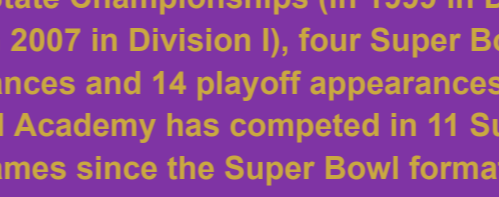
Mike briefly left Saints in 1997 to coach football at Salve Regina but returned the following year when he was named SRA Head Coach.

During his time at SRA, Coach Sassi was named 1999 Nike Rhode Island Division II Coach of the Year, 2003 RI Division I Coach of the Year, 2007 Cronin Award RI High School Coach of the Year, 2007 Division I Coach of the Year, 2015 Division I-A Coach of the Year and 2002-2003 Head Coach of the Rhode Island All Star Team. He is also in the Rhode Island Coaches Hall of Fame and has led the Saints team to two Rhode Island State Championships (in 1998 in Division II and in 2007 in Division I), four Super Bowl appearances and 14 playoff appearances. Saint Raphael Academy has competed in 11 Super Bowl games since its Super Bowl format started in 1972. Mike has participated in 10 of those Super Bowls as a player, assistant coach or head coach.

Saints hopes Mike has many more years left in him as teacher and football coach. Mike's daughter, Rachel is starting her junior year at Saints in the fall. She loves it at Saints, and her sister Stephanie will follow in the family tradition in a few years.



Alumni Notes



Future Saint

Zachary Ryan Kerwin
Born 1/13/18 at 12:09 PM
7 lbs 13 oz and 21 inches long
Zach is the son of Kelly (Dalton) Kerwin '05 and Matt Kerwin and the grandson of Ron Dalton '78 and wife Lisa. Congratulations to all!! Saints looks forward to a long family legacy!!



Alexandre '10 - Gannon '09

Lea Alexandre '10 and Patrick Gannon '09 were married on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017 at St. Mary's Church, Bristol, and had their reception at the Crowne Plaza.

Following the wedding, they honeymooned in Jamaica and reside in Pawtucket, where they purchased and renovated a home. Lea is a teacher at St. Philip School, Smithfield, and Patrick is a transportation logistics router for Stericycle. What a wonderful gathering for so many Saints Alum.



All in the Family.....

Pictured are - John J. Burns '51 (groom's grandfather), Joe Costa '73, Vin Flynn '78, John T. Burns '79 (groom's uncle), Tom Bennett '57 (groom's uncle), Justin Towler '86, Sean Gannon '86 (groom's brother), Nicholas Gaj '09, Tyler Malo '09, Dana Joseph '09, Melissa Bynum '96 (groom's stepsister), Mary Alexandre (mother of the bride - SRA Advancement Director), Lea Alexandre Gannon '10, Patrick Gannon '09, Jared Hughes '10, Junior Peralta '12, Caroline Alexandre '19 (sister of the bride), Jocelyn Alexandre (sister of the bride - SRA math teacher), Eric Beaudoin '09, Alex Microulis '10.

ATTENTION:

Class of 2018 and 2017

Please contact the Communications Office if you have not picked up your yearbook.
401-723-8100 X 146

In Memoriam

Please join all of the Saints community in mourning the loss of our own family members that have gone on to be with the Lord.

- Leo Fortier '48
- Richard McAllea '50
- Armand Larochelle '53
- Robert Lux '45
- Pasquale Sirabella '55
- Cornelius Lynch '46
- Stanley Glod '81
- Peter Fleurant '96
- William Sheehan '55
- John Mullin '54
- Paul Reynolds '57
- John McCarthy '49
- Arthur Gately '45
- Kenneth Johnston '79
- William Flanagan '65
- Robert Howe '81
- Robert Fanion '83
- Shawn McGowan '02
- Robert Bradley '56
- Michael McKendall '53
- Patrick McConaghy '64
- John Fitzgerald '51
- Raymond Hayes '49
- John Moran '64

Alumni Updates

Have you had an exciting event happen in your life? Recently get married, have a baby or career milestones? Start a new job or get a degree? Share your news with the Alumni Office. Send your news to mferland@saintrays.org.

Annual Fund Appeal

You are where you are today because someone, somewhere along the way, believed in you. Consider donating to the Annual Fund Appeal to help a student gain the same great experience that you had as a student at Saints! Click [here](#) for more information and to donate today! Thank you in advance for supporting Saint Raphael Academy!

