Br. Ronald Cairns is returning to the Math Department, he will be involved in the Math Department Chair, and will also be the moderator of the Fathers’ Club. He will also assist Mr. Fischer with scheduling.

New school year heralds administrative changes

Many changes have been made to the administration for the 2000-2001 school year. Ms. Diane Dwyer, the Director of Campus Ministry, has added the title of Providence Project Service Ministry coordinator to her credentials, and will be responsible for keeping track of the service hours of freshmen and sophomores.

Summer ‘home’ improvements include new roof on school

Dr. Brand has 5 years of teaching experience at Rutgers and Rice University. She has studied at both universities as well as doing undergraduate work at Washington University. She is teaching Spanish I and II as well as an English I course.

When asked what he thought about the upcoming year he said, “It is an exciting time to be back at St. Joe’s.”

Mr. Konapka has six years teaching experience and is a graduate of St. Peter’s. With previous experience at Don Bosco Tech, he is teaching computer classes this year. When asked for his impressions of the school he said, “It has a notable reputation for both sports and molding fine students.”

Be sure to check out the November issue of The Falcon for the second installment of New Faces.

Garth Swenson
Photography Editor

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE GOVERNED
Two St. Joe’s students attend Governor’s School

Andrew Hymas

Over the summer, a very special academic program was held in New Jersey. It was a forum for talented high school age students who excelled in various academic areas. It is called the Governor’s School. Some of the best and brightest teens in the state were there, including a few St. Joe’s students.

In order to be accepted into this school, one must get recommendations from teachers, fill out an application, write a biographical essay, and submit themselves to the mercy of a board that discusses their eligibility for the program.

The whole ordeal is tough, and few are chosen. To be specifically, only one student for each subject area can be admitted from the certain school zones, making this a true honor.

Two students from our school were selected to go to the Governor’s School. Patrick Brady attended the School on Public Issues and George Gryz attend the School of Sciences. Both, currently seniors, are in the top of their class and represented our school at this very selective event.

The two students went to college campuses for their courses where they met other equally talented students interested in the fields they were there to study.

In an exclusive interview with Mr. Brady, he told of his experiences there: “I learned a lot about myself, about interacting with other people from different backgrounds, and about the way society works and the problems that our generation are going to face,” Pat stated. “The Governor’s School was a great experience in so many ways. The dorm life, the companionship with the other scholars, the insight I gained in my intensive course, everything just added up to make it one incredible month.”

Governor’s School is, in short, a prestigious honor. For St. Joe’s to have any students go, let alone two, is a great distinction as well. It is an example of how this school still maintains a significant academic presence as well as all its other accomplishments. Hopefully, St. Joe’s students will continue to prosper in this area and become even better at what the school is already known for.

INSIDE:

Bryan Andaya took part in the 22nd annual Hugh N. Boyd Minorities Journalism workshop. See page 3.

INSIDE SPORTS:

Cross country off to a running start. See page 4

Garth Swenson
Photography Editor

Each year changes are made to our ever-expanding faculty. This year is no exception, with ten new or veteran teachers coming aboard.

This article is the first of two to give a brief background on our new faculty. The few, The Proud, The Governed

Two St. Joe’s students attend Governor’s School

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New school year heralds administrative changes

Brian Andaya
Managing Editor

Many changes have been made to the administration for the 2000-2001 school year. Ms. Dennis Wermert S.C., who has been our principal for three years, has returned to St. Joe’s as the Dean of Pastoral Life. Working with Campus Ministry, Guidance, Student Services, and the Religious Studies Department, he will use the charisma of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to improve the spiritual development of the school community. Emphasizing the concept of family, he encourages students to come to him with any special needs or problems.

Mr. Wayne Fischer, previously the Math Department Chair, has become the new Dean of Studies. He will be involved in the academic aspect of St. Joe’s, including scheduling and development of the curriculum. Ms. Linda Muratore has assumed his former position as Math Department Chair.

Mr. David Gandy has assumed the position of Director of Student Services and Admissions, formerly held by Mr. Anglim. He will also assist Mr. Fischer with scheduling.

A new addition has been made to the President’s office. Mr. John Spalding has become the Director of Alumni Relations, formerly held by Mr. John Madden, who has moved to Director of Development.

Finally, Ms. Diane Dwyer, the Director of Campus Ministry, has added the title of Providence Project Service Ministry coordinator to her credentials, and will be responsible for keeping track of the service hours of freshmen and sophomores.

Ed Kaplonski

While many St. Joe’s students spent lazy summer mornings in bed, the school campus was alive with activity.

Improvements have been made to many facets of our school, including the grounds and faculty. While the administration was hiring new faculty members, other work such as the installation of our new roof was being done.

The school’s new roof has been described by Brother Kevin as “the Cadillac of roofs.” It is basically composed of a new foam insulation, a layer of gypsum, and three layers of tarpaper used as a “shingle”. This new construction, in addition to the relining of the skylights will hopefully seal out water from entering the building. In the fight against leaks, a new drainage system has also been installed. The new pipes are made of hi-tech seamless spun aluminum with rubber gaskets. Hopefully, the school will receive all the benefits that these new pipes and this roof can provide.

Although the roof was the most major improvement done over the summer, it was far from the only one. Paving work was done near Woodburn Hall, as well as general summer maintenance of the grounds and buildings, including weeding, watering, planting, and painting.

Other improvements include the construction of a new computer lab based on the Mac platform. Even after all these improvements, the administration is always looking forward to possible future improvements. Electronic door locks and an upgraded bell system are being investigated and may be seen by students and faculty in future years. Overall, it has been a productive summer but, according to Brother Kevin, “I’m looking forward to getting back to a regular routine.”
The St. Joe's tradition

Patrick W. Higgins
Editor-In-Chief

There is a reason why each St. Joe’s student decided to pursue his high school studies here. Think about it. All of us could have attended our local public high schools, an experience complete with childhood friends, thousands of tution dollars saved, and the companionship of the opposite sex.

So why, I ask, did you tick the official school white polo shirt into those dorkier-style pants (Flynn’s for the new guys), lace up your boxers (the administration’s fantasy of the perfect student), and stroll through the front steps, being careful to avoid stepping on the seal?

For many students, that reason is probably a common one. The most prevalent justifications for attending St. Joe’s that I’ve heard for three straight years working with incoming freshmen are, “My parents made me” (Translation: I’m scared but need to look tough), “They have great sports programs,” and “The academics are supposed to be excellent.”

These are all valid answers to a seemingly easy, yet profoundly difficult question. That question is so difficult for a simple reason. St. Joe’s can’t be what you want it to be.

For the ambitious scholar, this is your library of endless knowledge. For the dedicated athlete, this is your field of dreams. For the young, immature freshman, this is your mentor, the guiding light to overcoming a refinement of man.

I challenge each and every student reading this editorial to recall your reason for choosing St. Joe’s, and then assess your personal status and the status of the school, our school.

Have you accomplished all you dreamed of when you came to Open House as a boy, eager to become a man? Is our school everything you desired it to be?

If so, dream new dreams and set new goals. If not, get involved and help create the St. Joe’s of your dreams.

As this new school year roars to life, work to achieve your goals, strive to fulfill your reason, try to make your experience here extraordinary, just like you thought it would be as a freshman.

What you put in is what you get out. Be proud. After all, you are a proud member of the St. Joe’s tradition.

Another year for Campus Ministry

Terrence Kneisel
Associate Editor

At a summer that went by too quickly, Campus Ministry is ready to jump back into another year.

Teaming with NHS, Campus Ministry began this year on August 28 with the welcome freshman picnic. Revising the mentor program a bit, it looks as if this year’s mentoring will be more beneficial to the freshman.

Following the welcome freshman picnic, Campus Ministry members were at each of the three freshman orientations to help from the Freshman Fusion Program. This program was an attempt to welcome the freshmen and make them feel more comfortable.

Following that early start to the school year, Campus Ministry is going to run many of the same programs that they have over the past few years.

Campus Ministry will continue to sponsor retreats and overnights. Dates and information on the class retreats can be obtained from the Campus Ministry office or from the school calendar.

Also, Campus Ministry will be holding their Good Samaritan Collection weeks. Please listen for announcements and check for mailings regarding these collections.

Campus Ministry will also continue to co-sponsor the annual Christmas on Campus. This year, Campus Ministry will also be in charge of the school liturgies.

If anyone is interested in helping out at any of these events during the year, or if you want to see if there are other events scheduled that were not mentioned here, please come in to the Campus Ministry office and talk to either Ms. Dwyer or any of the other members in the office.

Finally, Campus Ministry would like to welcome a new member, or maybe they would like to welcome an old member in Brother Dennis. Brother Dennis, as many know, has left his position as Principal and has taken on the title of Dean of Pastoral Life. Brother Dennis will be a part of Campus Ministry throughout the year, and his office is now located in the Campus Ministry Office.

We would like to welcome Brother Dennis back for another year in Campus Ministry.

A senior’s advice to freshmen

Paul Maurer

A unique phenomenon tends to sweep through the campus every September at St. Joe’s. Along with the typical weather, renewed flicking rampages by Mr. Bryan, and the idiocy driving some seniors who’ve failed their driver’s test at least once, there is another even more fascinating spectacle.

Armed with bad haircuts and pants too short for Webster, wielding giant book bags that look like they could have enough supplies for a few months in Siberia, standing in the middle of the seal with a baffled look are the little troopers known as freshmen.

Let’s be honest, freshmen year isn’t easy. Here are a few guidelines for the freshmen (and anyone else who might need them) to make their year easier.

When I was a freshman, other freshmen made fun of me. Now that I’m a senior, well, freshmen still make fun of me.

• Upperclassmen really don’t need your quarters as much as they claim to.
• Step foot in the parking lot after seventh period at your own risk.
• Don’t step on the seal, for your own sake.
• Go to as many sports games as you can (yes, some of this advice is serious).
• When at the sports games, don’t interrupt them with the word FALCON (go to a game and you’ll know what I mean).
• Go to the first dance.
• Be careful who you try to dance with … I know we have a lot of younger teachers this year but it’s not important.
• Above all else, “Say YES, My Lord.”

When I was a freshman, other freshmen made fun of me. Now that I’m a senior, well, freshmen still make fun of me, but that’s not important.

Each day at St. Joe’s is easier than the last. Work and play hard and your high school experience here will be well worth it.

Although this is just a smidgen of the advice important enough to make the paper, the most important and serious piece of advice for any freshman is to GET INVOLVED in St. Joe’s. You really get back what you put into this school, don’t forget that.

Interested in Writing for The Falcon?

A Journalism Workshop will be held on Tuesday Oct. 10 at 2:15 in room 106 to review newspaper-writing styles and to discuss tryouts. All prospective writers are encouraged to attend.

Listen to the morning announcements for updates or changes. Any problems see Dr. Gubernat or an editor before Oct. 10.

-Ed.
English teachers reveal their summer reading

Patrick W. Higgins
Editor-in-Chief

Every summer students are given a list of four books to read, as a way of keeping students’ brains from going soft while at school. While summer reading may seem like an eighth Amendment violation, (in case you’re won- dering, the eighth amendment is protection from cruel and unusu- al punishment. Maybe if you finished your summer reading, you’d know that.), to some students, rest assured, the very same teachers who assigned that big thing with all the words and no pictures, spent their summer reading as well. Unlike to most students however, the teachers actually enjoyed it. Here’s a list of the English teachers’ favorite summer reading titles:

Ms. Minin: Tuesdays With Morrie, by Mitch Albom. Brief summary: “A former college stu- dent reunites with his college pro- fessor who is slowly dying and schedules weekly nostalgic, altru- istic visits.” Reason for reading: “Summer reading for juniors, but extremely popular. I had heard so much I was eager to read it.”

Ms. Lew: The House of Mirth, by Edith Wharton. Brief summary: “An orphaned boy learns he’s a wizard and experiences a variety of adventures at wizardry school.” Reason for reading: “I wanted to find out what all the fuss is about. I just completed the third book in the series! They’re so creative.”

Mr. Santiago: A Widow for One Year, by John Irving. Brief summary: “A man’s journey through adulthood and the love of his life.” Reason for reading: “Love this author!”

Ms. Leyden: All Over but the Shoutin’, by Rick Bragg. Brief summary: “This book is about the life and career of New York Times reporter Rick Bragg, from his impoverished Southern childhood with an alcoholic father to loving mother to his Pulitzer Prize winning achievements as a jour- nalist.” Reason for reading: “It was recommended by Dr. Gubern- at.”

Dr. Gubernat: When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Ani- mals, Jeffrey M. Masson. Brief summary: “This ground-break- ing book proves, through scien- tific studies and anecdotes-filled field notes from Biologists, Ethol- ogists, Animal Trainers, and Ani- mal Behaviorists that animals experience a wide-range of emo- tions such as love, pain, loneliness, jealousy, disappointments, worry, curiosity, and grief.” Rea- son for reading: “It was a gift from a friend after I moved to New York.”

Ms. McGowan: The Northern Exposure Book, by Louis Chunovic. Brief summary: “A belated glance in the running television series, Northern Exposure.” Reason for reading: “This book was a big hit among the students, but I am an equally enthusiasml fan of this multi Emmy winning show. I chose this book because most teenagers don’t know about this brilliantly thought-provoking show.”

Mr. Bryner: The House of Bith, by Edith Wharton. Brief sum- mary: “An enchantingly beau- tiful, impoverished New York socialite of (ca.) the 1900’s makes choices (often in an attempt to remain true to herself), which lead to her ruin.” Reason for reading: “I LOVE Wharton’s insight, entertaining social commentary and her brutally detailed depictions of character’s psyches, especially in the areas of self-con- sciousness and self- interest.”

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Santiago

The sports teams of Saint Joseph’s weren’t the only ones wrapping up successful seasons over the summer. Keeping in sync with their reputa- tion of excellence, the College Bowl and Chess Teams both qualified for the Nationals. The Chess team took a twelve hour drive to compete in the Nationals in Charlotte, North Carol- ina. The seven-man team competed from Thursday through Sunday against the top 1000 players in the nation. Our State Cham- pion team had set their goal to be one of the top 20 teams in the nation, but after intense competition, the team surpassed their goal and placed tenth. The College Bowl team also had an impressive year. The team qualified for the Nationals at Pepper- dine University in Malibu California. The squad made it to the quarterfinals before being elimi- nated, ranking them 22nd out of 119 teams in their venue. Graduated seniors Brian Quinn, Allen Park, and Terry Thomas all performed brilliantly.

When asked about the outlook for this year’s team, Mr. Powers commented, “This year is unclear because we lost seven seniors. There is only one returning underclassman starter, William Knych. College Bowl needs the J.V. to step up and needs fresh new talent to try out for the team.”

With the new school year already underway, both teams are gearing up for yet another year of hard work, national and competition, and hours of practice.
George Gryzb  
Technology Editor  

This summer the Technology Department at St. Joe's was supervising Mr. Kevin O’Connell in upgrading several computer systems. 

The main server was upgraded to a Pentium III Xeon to keep up with the needs of the school. All networked computers were upgraded to Windows 2000 Professional and were also loaded with Windows Office 2000. 

The computers in the lab located in the main building were switched with the computers in room N12 on the top floor of the annex. The purpose of this was to have the computers in the main building to be suited with totally new Pentium Colors running at 366 mhz. This process would leave the two computer labs having a network of computers less than 1.5 years old. During the summer the school designed and configured a new laptop lab in the drafting room located under the chapel. This was done under the supervision of Mac specialist Andrew Reid to directly benefit the Fine Arts & Applied Technology programs. This lab consists of 19 Apple G4s running Mac OS 9.1. The workstations run on a 400 mhz processor with 64 megs of RAM and AGP graphic. 

These computers are connected in an isolated network using 10BaseT ethernet. The computers are also loaded with such “high tech” applications as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe PageMaker, and Adobe Photoshop. This lab will most directly benefit Mr. Fordi and Mr. Ernst who will utilize these computers in the teaching of their courses, but the lab will also improve the level of education for all students. Mr. Fordi states, “It is important for students to be exposed to an environment similar to that of professional graphic studios.” Mr. Ernst agreed that these computers will provide, “a new way of looking at things utilizing the Macintosh platform.” 

The school’s website (http://www.stjoes.org/) has also been revamped quite recently. Under the direction of Mr. Miligan the following sections have been added to the site: 

- Fathers’ Club Pages - http://www.stjoes.org/schoolin/Parentsclub> 
- Guidance Department Pages - http://www.stjoes.org/schoolin/Guide>

During the next few months the website will undergo several more changes in terms of content and graphical user interface. In other news... 

**SPORTS** 

**Varsity Club returns to boost spirit** 

Leon Wash  

The Varsity Club, an organization devoted to promoting school spirit primarily through athletics, has returned. 

The club’s goal is to support the athletic teams of the school, as well as individual athletes, and promote all athletic events and student and faculty interaction in those events. 

Mr. Cabrita, faculty member and alumnus, is the one responsible for reviving the club. As a strong supporter of St. Joe’s athletics himself, Mr. Cabrita has high expectations for the club. 

“The Varsity Club existed when I was a student here and I wanted to bring that back to our school community,” Mr. Cabrita commented. 

Members will devote much of their time and effort to the club, with the main goal of rousing school spirit and boosting fan support for all Falcon teams. 

The club members will be striving for success through such methods as verbal promotions, and collecting newspaper articles and video clips to make school wide presentations, utilizing the T.V. system and the display cases situated throughout the main building. 

There will be presentations focusing on individual athletes and games in addition to other presentations based on entire teams and seasons. 

For example, there are plans to have a player of the week, or month (depending on the season), to provide recognition for outstanding athletes. Club members will also be encouraged to volunteer to be game announcers, play music during games, and help out in any way possible. 

Pop rallies are another item on the club’s agenda for encouraging attendance and support at athletic events. Mr. Cabrita hopes to have the first pep rally during the basketball season prior to a big game. 

Other ideas include a “fan bus” to transport students to away games, “falcon shirts” that will allow the wearer to travel on the team bus, and faculty vs. student competitions beyond the annual flag football game. 

The first meeting of the Varsity Club was on Wednesday, Sept. 20 after school but the club is still open to all that are interested, whether or not you participate in any sports. Following the initial meeting, the club will meet every Wednesday. See Mr. Cabrita for further details. 

**Soccer team has something to prove** 

Jeff Flynn  
Sports Editor  

The soccer team hopes to improve on last year’s early exit from the GMC Tournament, but great rewards require hard work. 

Luckily for the 2000 Falcon squad, success will be facilitated by a strong core of returning players lead by senior captains Giacomo Berlinger, Chris Leahy, and Elia DeFrancesco. 

Berlinger’s 11-goal performance in 1999 makes him the primary offensive weapon of the Falcons this season, while Leahy and DeFrancesco constitute one of the most talented pairs of midfielders in the area. 

Mr. O'Boyle, in his third season as head coach, feels his team has sufficient talent to be very competitive in the post-season. 

Nevertheless, divisional rival and defending GMC Champions East Brunswick will be among the many teams looking to get the better of the Falcons this season. This steep level of competition requires the support of every St. Joe’s student, not just the soccer players. 

Fun support at the games may prove to be an important element of the team’s plans for success. Get out there and get loud, but plans to work at getting A+ certified in the knowledge of computer hardware and operating systems (MS-DOS and Windows). This certification would allow the students to have the resources to work professionally in the area of computer system repair. 

Mr. Wash, the club’s advisor, plans to take steps towards this goal by presenting a video series geared specifically towards the exam. The club will also actively perform service to the school by assisting teachers, repairing/upgrading PCs, and updating the school’s website.

**Cross country season off and running at St. Joe’s** 

J.J. O’Brien  
Associate Editor  

This season’s cross-country team cannot be described as anything but unpredictable. 

Ranked number four at the start by The Home News & Tribune, not much is known about this year’s Falcons. 

However, with one star and a group of veterans, the team will look to contend for the county championship once again. 

The rock of the team continues to be junior standout Jim Planer. Jim will look to capture the county cross-country title this season after dominating the mile and two mile in the spring. 

Mike Cagney, the team’s manager, said, “Although we lost many runners from last year’s team, if we work hard and set goals for ourselves we can have a very productive season.” 

The team will also need the plethora of seniors to produce in order to have a successful season. 

Team captain Justin Andrichello along with fellow seniors J.J. O’Brien, Ryan Carpenter, Pat Brady, Ed Marion, Ed Modzelewski, and Tom Perri will all look to contribute this season through their experience as cross-country contenders. 

Also in the Varsity mix will be juniors Andy Wetsel, Joe Vassallo, and Ryan Daly. 

The county championships are held on October 21 at Thompson Park. Come support the team as they battle for the GMC crown.

**The Falcon**  

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