



TOBIN

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY



SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

*CLASS OF 2024 CELEBRATES
A '2020 SENIOR PROM'*

*Banking Pioneer Trades the Suite Life for Sea Life
as a Diver, Author, and Conservationist*

*THREE GENERATIONS OF
ALUMNI IN ONE FAMILY*



INSPIRATION

In the wake of September 11th, Paul J. Mila '69CBA, '72MBA took stock and opted for an early retirement focused on finding balance and adventure, such as this one with a hawksbill sea turtle off the coast of Cozumel, Mexico. Read about Mila's journey on page 16.

READY TO DANCE

St. John’s Basketball came this close in Spring ‘24. Going into tip-off this fall, the Women’s team will celebrate their 50th season hoping to add to their four conference titles since 1983, while the Men’s team under Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino looks for its first invitation back to the Big Dance since 2019. On the academic side, Tobin introduced a new Name, Image & Likeness (NIL) minor developed in close partnership with SJ Athletics and the Collins College of Professional Studies (CCPS) to help student athletes and influencers navigate the fast-changing NIL landscape and maximize their brand. Let’s go, Red Storm!

CONTENTS

Synopsis

Three Cheers for “Mr. St. John’s”	08
Recent MBA Grad Earns Silver in Paris	10
Business Analytics Team Takes Manhattan	11
New Dean for Greenberg School	13
Big Wins at Business Plan Competition	14

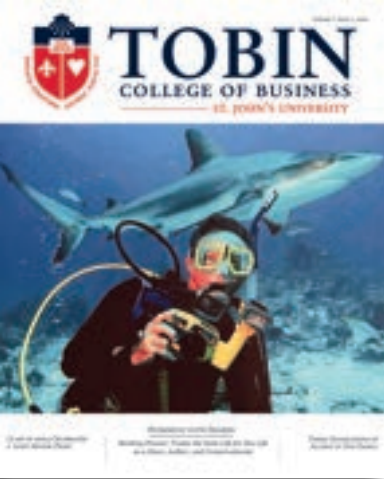
Portfolio

Swimming with Sharks <i>A deep dive into one alum’s career pivot</i>	16
Time to Shine <i>Lockdowns long gone, Class of ‘24 lets loose</i>	24
Family Business <i>Three generations of business school grads</i>	30

Network

Tobin Alumni Association (TAA)	36
Alumni Events	38
Class Notes	40
In Memoriam	60
Closing the Books: 1964	64

ON THE COVER



SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

Banking Pioneer Trades the Suite Life for Sea Life as a Diver, Author, and Photographer

The horror of September 11, 2001, changed the course of history and countless lives. When the bright blue day turned tragic, banking executive Paul Mila ’69CBA, ’72MBA was across the East River meeting with a global financial powerhouse. In the months that followed, the tide turned for Mila, eventually taking him from New York to new horizons and an ocean of book-worthy adventures.



Cover and this page courtesy of Stuart Cove, Dive Bahamas (stuartcove.com). “Inspiration” photo (previous spread) courtesy of Paul Mila ’69CBA, ’72MBA.

Creating new paths for College and community

Dear Tobin College of Business Alumni,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the first edition of the Tobin College of Business Alumni Magazine. This publication represents a new chapter in our ongoing efforts to keep our alumni connected, informed, and inspired. Whether you graduated recently or many years ago, we consider you an integral part of our community, and this magazine is dedicated to celebrating your achievements and fostering a stronger bond among us all.

Tobin College of Business has always been about more than just education; it’s about building a community of leaders and innovators who are equipped to make a significant impact in the world. Our alumni network is a testament to this mission. You are at the forefront of your respective fields, driving change and setting new standards of excellence. This magazine aims to share your stories, highlighting the diverse paths our graduates have taken and the remarkable successes you have achieved.

In this inaugural edition, we feature profiles of distinguished alumni who have made notable contributions to their industries and communities. These stories are not only a source of inspiration but also a reflection of the quality and breadth of education at Tobin. From entrepreneurial ventures to corporate leadership, our alumni are making a difference globally, and we are incredibly proud of your accomplishments. These stories are not only a source of inspiration but also a testament to the value of the education and experiences gained at Tobin College.

We also want to keep you updated on the latest developments within the College. Our efforts are coalescing around a central vision of making Tobin the first choice of every one of our students. Reasons for choosing a college vary for everyone, but the



most common include academic reputation, desired program of study, and job placement. We are working to elevate ourselves in all three areas, evolving to meet the demands of a rapidly changing business environment. Hopefully you will soon see the outcomes in the pages of this magazine and in the value of your degree.

Even the College’s logo has a fresh new look as part of our efforts to make Tobin a standout choice. You may have already noticed it on the magazine’s cover and how it places greater emphasis on the Tobin name while highlighting that we are the College of Business at St. John’s University.

Networking and community engagement are fundamental aspects of the Tobin experience. This magazine will keep you informed about upcoming events, reunions, and networking opportunities. These gatherings, both virtual and in-person, are excellent avenues to reconnect with old friends, make new connections, and expand your professional network. We encourage you to take part in these events and stay engaged with the Tobin community through the Tobin Alumni Association (read more about the TAA on page 36).

Another great way to connect with the college and other alumni is through our social media accounts, which we are in the process of re-imagining and

@stjohnstobin Instagram account August 30, 2022 - September 26, 2024 (source: Meta Business Suite)



ABOVE: Cumulative performance for Tobin’s Instagram account @stjohnstobin since Sept. 2022. The dotted line indicates where our current efforts began Oct. 2023, plateauing during summer ‘24, but resuming exponential growth with the start of 2024-2025 academic year.

growing, too. Our Instagram and TikTok accounts are geared to engage current and prospective students with organic content created by a small team of student workers from Tobin, the majority of whom are marketing majors. LinkedIn currently serves as a hub for alumni information, with Facebook being retooled to join it as a hub for alumni with another account focused on parents of current and prospective students. If you don’t already, please consider following us on social media as we expand our digital presence (<https://linktr.ee/tobincollege>).

Philanthropy plays a crucial role in the advancement of our college, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our alumni. In this magazine, we highlight the impact of your contributions, such as our graduation “prom” celebration (see story on page 24), which could not have happened without the giving of numerous alumni on the Tobin Board of Advisors and our own Professor Jack Clarke. It was wonderful to see alumni supporting this unique, special experience for our newest graduating class after they persevered through unprecedented times. Your support is vital to our mission, and we are thankful for your commitment to giving back to your alma mater.

As we launch this magazine, I invite you to actively participate in its growth. Your feedback, suggestions, and contributions are invaluable to us. We want to hear your stories, celebrate your successes, and learn from your experiences. Together, we can make this publication a vibrant and dynamic reflection of our incredible alumni community.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an essential part of the Tobin College of Business family. It is an honor to serve as your Dean, and I look forward to our shared journey as we continue to build on our legacy of excellence, innovation, and impact.

Enjoy this first edition of the Tobin College of Business Alumni Magazine. Here’s to many more to come.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maciek Nowak".

Maciek Nowak
Dean, Tobin College of Business



Official Magazine of the Peter J.

DEAN

Maciek Nowak, Ph.D.

Joseph H. and Maria C. Schwartz Distinguished Chair

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jennifer Goddard

Director, Marketing & Communications

FACULTY & ALUMNI ADVISOR

Prof. John P. "Jack" Clarke, Esq. '55CBA, '57L

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Daniel J. Napolitano

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Tia Cannady

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Emily Hernandez '24TCB, '25MS

Joella Paccione '26TCB

Amaiya Sancho '25CCPS

Adina Stancu '27TCB

TOBIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (TAA) BOARD

Carleen Kelly '83CBA, Chair

Cathy Boyle '86CBA, Vice Chair, Recruitment

Lauren Bonaventura Sorrento '13TCB, '14MS,

Vice Chair, Fundraising

Matt Piraino '13TCB, '14MBA, Vice Chair, Marketing

Jennifer Arpaia '13TCB, '14MBA, Secretary, Events

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Sara Hunt Munoz, Senior Director

Bill Schaeffer '73CBA, Dir. of Development for Tobin

Abby Ballard, Associate Dir. of Regional Engagement

Paul Lazauskas, Associate Director

Roger Maloney, Associate Dir. of Alumni Career Services

Beatriz Vera, Assistant Director

Nicole Boodhoo, Assistant Director

Spring/Summer 2024, Vol. I, No. 1

©2024 *Tobin Alumni Magazine*. All rights reserved.

Produced biannually by the Tobin College of Business,

St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens,

New York, 11439.

Telephone: 718-990-6400

Email: TobinMagazine@StJohns.edu

For alumni-related inquiries, please contact

alumni@stjohns.edu or 718-990-6232.

Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, the University, or the Tobin Alumni Association. Letters to the editor 200 words maximum; submissions for columns, unsolicited articles, and photographs will be published at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for length and clarity.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please mail to Alumni Records, St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439



FROM SEED CAPITAL TO FULL BLOOM

This inaugural issue of the revamped Tobin College of Business magazine began as a pitch introducing a fresh focus on alumni and new look that showcases their many accomplishments and adventures. It marks my third magazine redesign and second in higher education. Would prior experience make it any easier?

In short, no. Tobin's numbers rival the entirety of many schools. On campus are 2,600 student stories, 200 faculty and staff, and 45,000 alumni beyond that – all waiting to be told. Undaunted, our very lean but mighty team climbed a mountain of content to bring you this small glimpse of the vast range that lies ahead – and below, too, if our cover story is any indication.

The message after reading this issue and all that follow should be clear, regardless of alma mater: While there are many business schools in the world, Tobin is a community of hard-working, lifelong learners whose education and values help them to be difference-makers wherever they go.

So, how are we doing so far? We want to hear from you, whether it's to share your journey since graduation or your thoughts about the following pages' content. Please connect with us via the contact information listed in the column to the left or via social media (<https://linktr.ee/tobincollege>).

We look forward to hearing from you and building better communications and networks for Tobin's alumni!

Jennifer Goddard
Dir. Marketing & Communications,
Tobin College of Business



SYNOPSIS

An executive summary highlighting some of the many events and accolades that defined Spring and Summer 2024 at Tobin College of Business.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUILDON.ORG

HANDMADE

A Tobin marketing class recently raised funds to build a school in Guatamala through BuildOn.org, a non-profit working to eradicate poverty by ensuring access to quality education. Local residents in the developing countries BuildOn serves are asked to commit to helping build schools in their rural communities, enroll out-of-school children, and educate adult learners. Because many are illiterate, community members often sign this promise with a thumbprint (pictured, full story on page 13).

‘Insider’ turns out

GSRM hosts Insurance Insider conference sponsored by Vantage Risk, honors student and alum for excellence

Over 100 senior (re)insurance professionals, including 24 speakers from the C-suite, attended a day-long conference on June 20, 2024, at the Greenberg School of Risk Management (GSRM). Hosted by Insurance Insider US, the premier digital news and intelligence platform for the US P&C market, the conference discussed trends impacting the industry and celebrated the outstanding academic achievements of two newcomers.

Aaron Mann ’24MS (Enterprise Risk Management) and Cassandra Pomarico ’25BS (Risk Management and Insurance) were presented with awards by St. John’s University Board of Governors member and GSRM Board member Greg Hendrick ’87C, CEO of Vantage Risk, which sponsored the awards.

With GSRM’s support, Pomarico just completed her third summer interning at AEGIS, where she had “the amazing opportunity to be a mentee under the previous CEO,

Mr. William Cullen. I’ve also met so many GSRM graduates there.” She is currently a senior studying Quantitative Risk Management.

As a GSRM grad student, Mann attended Tobin’s CEO Seminars, where he was introduced to the University’s network at Protiviti and its CEO, University Trustee Joe Tarantino ’80CBA. (Mann is now a Risk and Compliance Consultant at Protiviti.) During a summit hosted by Dr. Paul Walker for the Center of Excellence in Risk Management (ERM) – one of just a few centers like it in the world – Mann observed “the practical application of ERM for some of the top companies.”

“The GSRM network has been incredible and continues to solidify itself as one of the top insurance programs in the country,” said Mann. GSRM is a global leader in Risk Management and Insurance, ranking 9th in the U.S. for its undergraduate Insurance program, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

The experts who comprise faculty at Tobin produce research on the leading edge of business in collaboration with their peers around the globe. Below are just two of many such examples from ’24.

Sven Horak, Ph.D., (Prof. of Management) and **Tracey Freiberg, Ph.D.** (Assistant Prof., Economics and Finance) worked in partnership with Mercer (US) LLC’s Boncho Bonchev and Michael Eger on new research analyzing how organizations are utilizing Artificial Intelligence in their Talent Acquisition strategy. Data from a survey of 500 HR leaders spanning 27 key industries offers key insights, which can be found at <https://lnkd.in/e8p6q9RW>.



A new study published in the *Journal of Marketing* by **Tim Keiningham, Ph.D.** (Prof. of Marketing) and a team of leading scholars from Texas A&M, Monash University, Fordham University, and the Norwegian School of Economics, explores how businesses who adopt a Social Profit Orientation (SPO) can drive positive change while also achieving financial success. Based on 62 in-depth interviews with executives across 21 organizations worldwide, the study reveals how embracing SPO not only benefits society but also drives innovation and strengthens business performance. For the full study visit <https://lnkd.in/eHuPSRng> and teaching guides at <https://lnkd.in/eQCb8yQS>.



IT’S GOLD FOR GREENBERG

For demonstrating top-tier commitment to preparing property and casualty actuaries through educational offerings, the Greenberg School of Risk Management (GSRM), Tobin College of Business, and St. John’s University recently qualified for the Casualty Actuarial Society’s (CAS) Gold Tier within their University Recognition Program.

“In selecting GSRM to receive their highest honor, CAS recognizes the caliber of exemplary actuarial education we provide, and the success that our alumni find in their fulfilling careers in the Property & Casualty sector,” said Tobin alum Amber Steiger ’18MS (ERM), Director of Graduate Admission for St. John’s.

The CAS is the world’s only actuarial organization focused exclusively on property and casualty risks, serving over 10,000 members worldwide. CAS members work for insurance companies, educational institutions, state insurance departments, federal government agencies, independent consulting firms, and many others that require risk management.

Cox Honors student wins 1st place at 2024 Institute of Internal Auditors Conference

The New York Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (NYIIA) sponsored four students and a faculty member from St. John’s University to participate at the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) 2024 Global Student Conference (GSC) in Orlando, FL, from April 28-30, 2024.

St. John’s is one of only 13 universities around the world recognized by the IIA as a Center for Internal Audit Excellence.

At the GSC conference, students learned about careers in internal audit, skills and tools needed for success

in the profession, networked with Chapter leaders and students from around the globe, and participated in a case competition.

Anuj Shaji was one of the four students from St. John’s on the team that won first place in the case competition.

Additionally, the NYIIA awarded each of the four students who participated in the IIA Global Student Conference with a monetary scholarship to advance their internal audit education at St. John’s. All of the students are in Tobin’s Cox Honors Program and pursuing a bachelor’s in Accounting

and a master’s in Risk and Financial Advisory as part of the College’s 5-year “Fast Track” program.

The four students were awarded their scholarships at the Annual Department of Accountancy Scholarships and Awards Gala at St.

John’s on April 25, and recognized at NYIIA’s annual Audit Conference in New York City on May 9.

“As their professor, I’m so very proud of our students and their accomplishments,” said Prof. of Accountancy David Chan 01TCB, ’04MS, “but even more so as a Tobin and St. John’s alum.”



ABOVE (L-R): Paul Flora (NY Chapter Advisory Board Member), Anuj Shaji (St. John’s student), Antonino Inglese (St. John’s student), Katherine Tan (St. John’s student), Celeria Low (St. John’s student), Nicholas DiMola (NY Chapter Advisory Board member). LEFT (L-R): Celeria Low, Min Kim (Pres., NY Chapter), Sue Mortensen (Incoming Pres., NY Chapter), Katherine Tan, Anna Walters (Incoming EVP, NY Chapter), Anuj Shaji (St. John’s student), David Chan (St. John’s faculty and Board of Governors, NY Chapter), and Antonino Inglese.



John P. “Jack” Clarke, Esq. ’55CBA, ’57L (center) being surprised at his 90th birthday celebration on June 4, 2024, with an honorary doctorate from Rev. Brian Shanley, O.P., Ph.D., President, St. John’s University (right) and William Janetschek ’84CBA, ’17HON, Chair of the Board, St. John’s University.

Three cheers for Prof. John Clarke

Few people have seasons of accolades, but there aren’t many like John P. “Jack” Clarke, Esq. ’55CBA, ’57L, the University’s longest-serving faculty member.

Spring and summer were especially busy for “Mr. St. John’s,” who was honored on April 4 by the Law School with a Special Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual Public Interest Auction – a cause close to Clarke’s heart that funds vital fellowship support for students to be compensated for otherwise unpaid summer work in legal services organizations, nonprofit advocacy groups, government agencies, DAS’ offices, and judicial chambers.

Next, the nonagenarian helped fund, plan, and attend Tobin’s Class of 2024 Senior Prom on May 3 (story on page 24). One month later, University President Shanley surprised Clarke with an honorary doctorate in law at his 90th birthday dinner, hosted by Tobin Advisory Board Chair Frank Kurre ’84CBA and attended by St. John’s luminaries and leaders, including Coach Lou Carneseca and many of Clarke’s former students. Two days later, the Catholic Lawyers Guild gave Clarke the St. Thomas More Award at their annual dinner.

Never one to miss a laugh, he jokes about his year so far, “What can I say? You stick around long enough, people will start recognizing you for something.”

Faculty Awarded Fulbright to Build Ties with Ecuador

Dr. Abraham Stefanidis, Professor of Management at Tobin College of Business, recently received the Fulbright Specialist award for cultivating ties with Universidad Católica de Cuenca in Ecuador.

The US Department of State’s “Fulbright Grant” provides US academics and professionals opportunities to engage in project-based exchanges at host institutions worldwide.

Dr. Stefanidis has extensive international experience in teaching, research, HR management, global business ethics, and disability.

His project aimed to create a strategic plan

for internationalization at an Ecuadorian university through collaboration with its International Affairs division. He’s also trained faculty and administration on research methods, funding/grants, and academic partnerships.

“Having visited Ecuador and Latin America in the past ... I derived great joy from serving as an academic ambassador of St. John’s and the U.S.,” said Dr. Stefanidis, calling it an excellent opportunity to strengthen international academic ties.



MBA grad earns Silver at 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris

Tunisian fencer and alum Fares Ferjani '23MBA earned his first Olympic medal in his third appearance during this summer's 2024 Paris Games. He is the 16th athlete from Tunisia to earn an Olympic medal in the 64 years since their first delegation competed in 1960.

After the men's individual sabre final, the 27-year-old shared on Instagram, "What an incredible feeling! Olympic silver! Thanks to everyone for the tons of messages and all the support!!!"

During his time as a student athlete at St. John's University, Ferjani competed on the Red Storm fencing team from 2017-2023 and amassed 159 victories in five seasons, scoring in the top three at the NCAA Championships twice. He was a 4x All-American athlete, including First Team honors in 2019, 2022, and 2023.

Yury Gelman, now in his 29th season as head coach of St. John's' fencing, traveled with Ferjani to Paris to coach from the sidelines and ultimately lead him to the Olympic podium.

"Fares fenced beautifully," Gelman said. "It was his best career performance. He remained calm and followed the plan. I am really happy for him."

During Ferjani's six years at St. John's, he competed in four NCAA events while earning his undergraduate degree and an MBA from Tobin College of Business.

Now just one year after graduation, his journey continues as an Olympic champion and trailblazer for the Arab world.



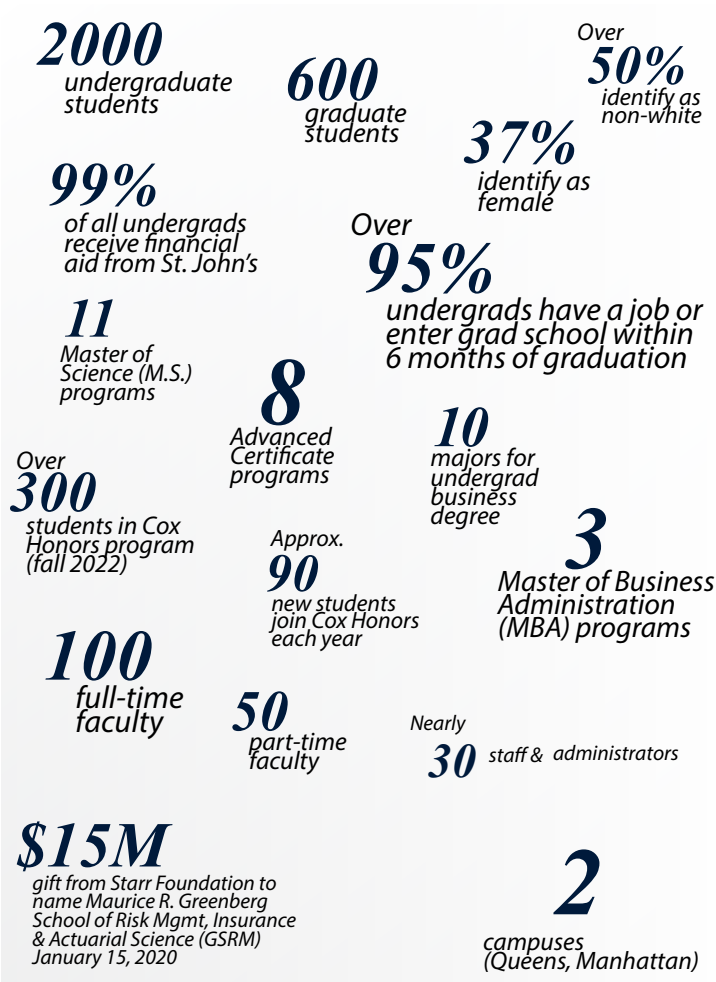
Biz Analytics team wins top prize

Tobin students take first place and \$5,000 in Manhattan University's annual competition

Tobin College of Business' winning team with their \$5,000 1st place prize, from L-R: Angad Kamboj '24TCB; Karen Beglin'24TCB; the team's advisor, Prof. Michael Herley; Christina Palmieri '24TCB; Shamarric Edwards '24TCB.



Key Takeaways: Tobin College of Business



Tobin College is comprised of 7 business departments:

- Accountancy
- Business Analytics and Information Systems (BAIS)
- Economics and Finance
- Law
- Management, Entrepreneurship, Consulting, and Operations (MECO)
- Marketing
- Greenberg School of Risk Management/Insurance/ Actuarial Science (GSRM)

We are among the **top** business schools in the US:

"Best Fintech MBA program" #7 (TechGuide, 2024)

"Best Undergraduate Business School" #50 (Poets&Quants, 2024)

"Best Undergraduate Insurance Programs" #9 (U.S. News & World Report, 2024)

"Best Online Master's in Accounting Degree Programs" #30 (Intelligent, 2023)

"Best Part-time MBA Programs" #68 (U.S. News & World Report, 2023)

"Best Part-Time MBA Programs" #33 (Fortune, 2022-23)

"Best Online MBA Programs" #17 (Fortune, 2023)

"Best Online MBA Programs" #42 (U.S. News & World Report, 2024)

"Best Online Master's in Business Programs (excluding MBA)" #52 (tie) (U.S. News & World Report, 2024)

St. John's ranked **42nd in social mobility**, tops among Catholic colleges in New York State and **5th overall in New York** (U.S. News & World Report, 2024) and in the **top 30 for campus ethnic diversity** (U.S. News & World Report, 2022-2023).

Four students from the "Business Research Methods" class taught by Prof. Michael Herley, D.B.A., won first place at Manhattan University's 9th annual Business Analytics Competition & Conference in May that hosted 21 teams representing 19 schools from around the country. Tobin's students earned top honors and \$5,000 for their compelling visualizations and intricate analysis.

Tasked with wrangling and cleaning a messy dataset on trends in Senior Care facilities and then answering research questions about viability for investors, the students prepared for almost 150 hours to ultimately win the competition, which was organized and hosted by the O'Malley School of Business at Manhattan University and sponsored by Nick Tommasino, Chairman and CEO of Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Prof. Herley's class chose which teams would represent Tobin through an internal poster board contest on the competition's subject. With further refinement and support from Prof. Herley, the two winning teams submitted their poster boards for evaluations by a panel of faculty advisors on day one. Tobin's second team with Michael Hosein '25TCB, Tushar Poddar '25TCB, Jamal Reed '25TCB, and Elwood Roberts

'25TCB, earned an honorable mention for Best Poster.

Tobin's first team, comprised of Christina Palmieri '24TCB, Karen Beglin '25TCB, Angad Kamboj '24TCB, and Shamarric Edwards '24TCB, went on to compete in the second round, with less than 12 hours to clean and analyze an expanded data set/new research question and prepare a presentation to deliver as a group the following morning.

Palmieri, now a Risk and Compliance Consultant at Protiviti, "felt a sense of achievement when the slide deck began to come together. It proved to all of us that we had the ability to take on more rigorous challenges and to create something meaningful in a restricted period of time."

Only six teams of 21 advanced through the semi-finals to deliver their 10-minute presentations before a panel of senior executives.

Beglin is a senior pursuing a B.S. in Business Analytics and knows from experience as an All-American Scholar on the Red Storm women's golf team how practice leads to results. She attributed their victory to the "countless hours outside of class in the business analytics lab," emphasizing how the long nights in Tobin proved successful in competition.

Edwards, who will be joining Deutsche Bank's New York office as a Corporate Banking Analyst after he graduates in December with his bachelor's in Business Analytics, called the victory sweet in a LinkedIn post, "but it's even sweeter when shared with an amazing team! ... Together, we crunched, analyzed, and (over) caffeinated our way to the top. Who knew data could be so fun?"

He added via email that the team's resilience "familiarized me with the initial struggle of failure yet persevering to ultimately succeed."

Kamboj agreed and added that the practical applications of their experience reach far beyond the competition. "I wouldn't use the word 'grueling' to describe this project because I did enjoy it a lot," he said, "but it was a glimpse into how demanding and convoluted real-world data could be."

"Their persistence, grit, and fortitude propelled them to proudly represent St. John's and Tobin like no other school did," said Prof. Herley, a proud alum (MBA, Finance) who also heads the school's very active and growing Applied Analytics and AI Society (Edwards is current co-president). To see photos and posters from the competition and more, follow @sjuanalytics on Instagram.

Students recognize positive business innovations, win 2024 Flourish Prizes

With the support of Management Professor Dr. Charles Wankel, six Tobin students won two categories, including the top spot, at the 2024 Flourish Prizes in July, a culminating event for AIM2Flourish initiative that inspires students to experience first-hand what good business is through the lens of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Fowler Center and Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University sponsor the contest. Organizers fielded 485 student-written essays from around the world featuring the personal stories of business leaders whose innovations promote economic prosperity while contributing to a healthy world and human wellbeing. Through their conversations with these business leaders, students’ mindsets shift about what success means and how they feel about their own potential to be positive leaders. The Flourish Prizes recognize the positive impact of today’s business leaders while changing the way tomorrow’s leaders are taught. The Tobin team that won the most competitive category, “Global Goal #1: No Poverty,” was comprised of four graduate students, Helene Diyabanza Peterson, Paul Deutschmann, Jamie Suarez, and David Sodimu for “Banking the Unbanked.” They located and interviewed the Swedish/Congolese founder of Okapi Finance, Dr. Gisele Mwepu, who, after noticing how difficult it was to transfer money in Africa, developed a platform to increase

financial inclusion for the 80% in Africa and almost 50% of people worldwide who are unbanked. The Tobin team that won for the “Global Goal #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,” was two undergraduate students, Jaden Seaman and Brianna Taveras, who researched STATE Bags founded by Scot and Jacq Tatelman in Brooklyn after they noticed lower income children bringing items to summer camp in ripped trash bags. They started STATE Bags as a for-profit to fund non-profit needs like providing families backpacks filled with school supplies for every bag bought on their website. To learn more about AIM2Flourish, see the awards and essays submitted, and view video of students’ interviews, visit AIM2Flourish.com.

GSRM hosts Climate Change conference with industry leaders

More than 100 insurance professionals, academic researchers, and policymakers gathered on June 10 for a lively exchange on risks related to climate change, efforts to mitigate climate-related losses, and making insurance more appealing to the public. “Insurance and Resilience in a Changing Climate” was hosted at St. John’s’ Manhattan campus by the Greenberg School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science (GSRM) and sponsored by RenaissanceRe, Vantage Risk Ltd., PartnerRe, KPMG US, Lloyd’s, Galway Holdings, and W. R. Berkley Corporation. It marked the first in a series of GSRM initiatives designed to equip executives for an evolving insurance environment.



Panelists (L-R) Jeffrey Czajkowski, NAIC; Benjamin Collier, Associate Professor, Fox School of Business, Temple University; Francis Annan, Assistant Professor (UC Berkeley) + Affiliated Professor (J-PAL, MIT).



TWO UNDERGRADS NAMED TOP 100 “BEST & BRIGHTEST” OF 2024 BY P&Q

Tobin College of Business ranks among the top 50 business school by Poets&Quants, who named two recent graduates, Accounting major **Nicolette Manfredi ’24TCB** and Finance major **Matthew Outar ’24TCB**, to P&Q’s Class of 2024 “Best & Brightest Undergraduate Business Majors” list that was announced in April. During her senior year, Manfredi proudly served as St. John’s University Beta Alpha Psi chapter president, successfully hosting a professional mixer for students with representatives from five major accounting firms. Manfredi recently began her career at Grant Thornton (US) as a Tax Associate. Before graduating, Outar presented his crypto investment recommendations to the University’s Board of Trustees for the Student Managed Blockchain Fund, which are executed by St. John’s’ investment office. Read more about the Top 100 list at <https://lnkd.in/gcwHtzkY>.

GSRM dean brings wealth of expertise, starts Nov 1, 2024

Henry “Hank” Watkins Jr. will be Executive Director and Associate Dean of the Maurice R. Greenberg School



of Risk Management, Insurance, and Actuarial Science (GSRM) at Tobin College of Business, effective November 1, 2024. Watkins (pictured) currently serves on GSRM’s Board of Overseers and as Lloyd’s Regional Director and President of the Americas, where more than 60 percent of the market’s premium was written in 2023. Watkins has more than 43 years of experience in the global property casualty insurance industry and is eager to apply his career expertise in this role. He succeeds Brandon W. Sweitzer, who has effectively led and shepherded GSRM as its Dean since 2011. Dean Sweitzer’s involvement with GSRM stretches back to 1998. Some of his many contributions include establishing GSRM’s Global Destination Course, the first annual Insurance Regulation Conference, and the Graduate Leadership Course. During his tenure, Dean Sweitzer raised more than \$50 million in gifts, most notably The Starr Foundation endowment of \$15 million. Even as he prepares to retire from his current position, Dean Sweitzer remains dedicated to the success of St. John’s, its students, faculty, administrators, and staff. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Students raise funds and hope

“Service Learning Marketing” class at Tobin partners to build school in Guatamala

Something extraordinary happens in Prof. Timothy Keiningham’s “Service Marketing” classes: beyond learning the basics of marketing, they put lessons to work in service to those in need. In partnership with the Office of Academic Service Learning (AS-L), students in this Tobin College of Business course brainstorm and fundraise for a nonprofit of their choosing that represents a “wholly Vincentian” cause, according to Prof. Keiningham. AS-L courses empower students to apply classroom skills to service through project management, fundraising, and business fundamentals. In fall 2023, the class chose BuildOn.org, testing their marketing skills to fundraise for a non-profit that builds schools in areas of the world most lacking in resources for education. A Connecticut-based nonprofit serving eight countries, BuildOn has built 2,688 schools worldwide serving 351,575 children and adults. After an appeal from Georgia Szulkin ’25TCB, the class selected Guatemala as the site where their funded project would be built. Georgia, whose boyfriend is Guatemalan, noted that many children there lack adequate writing tools and designated learning environments protected from the elements. In Guatemala alone, BuildOn has constructed 100 schools servicing 13,743 students with the promise of opportunity for all. Less than 50 percent of eligible Latin American women have completed high school, so at BuildOn-funded schools an equal number of boys and girls must be enrolled. Ultimately, the Tobin class raised \$6,000, and by summer 2024, ground broke on the new school’s construction in Paraje Santa Julia Sonté, a remote village of 400, according to BuildOn’s interim report. Visit <https://vimeo.com/948808347> for a tour of the old school. Johnnies have long partnered with the Office of AS-L and many such projects are available for current students. For a course to be



PHOTO BY JOELLA PACCIONE '26TCB

designated AS-L, it must require service hours and specific learning objectives, serving a real and existing need identified by a community agency; have benefits for both the students’ learning and the community site; and include time for reflection. For his dedication to service, Prof. Keiningham has earned honors from St. John’s and others, including Poets&Quants’ “Top 50 Undergrad Business Professors” in 2020. Read more about the class’ project at tinyurl.com/mvvuwmf and buildon.org.

Student entrepreneurs’ early ‘Christmas’

Alumni-funded annual competition awards big prizes to innovative student business plans

On April 11, Tobin College of Business and St. John’s University’s Office of Alumni Relations hosted the 2024 James and Eileen Christmas Business Plan Competition and Pitch Event. Students submitted business plans to win one of eight cash prizes, including a grand prize of \$5,000 — all underwritten by James W. Christmas ’70CBA, ’10HON and Eileen Christmas.

This year’s contest had over 40 entries, with three teams ultimately taking home cash prizes, according to the competition’s director, Assistant Professor of the Practice Roy Weissman. The first-place winners were Daria Stepanova’25MBA (Entrepreneurship) and Dayan C. Pita Garcia ’25MBA (Marketing Management) for their entry, Artesano, an artisanal coffee company that serves authentic Colombian coffee in tea bags.

“In the beginning, we might have been a little intimidated about entering such a competitive industry,” said Stepanova, “but we believe in the high quality of our product and the competitiveness of our pricing.”

The second-place winner was John Mussalli, a third-year Computer Science major at St. John’s. He developed an app, Bus Now, to alert parents to delays and other issues associated with local school bus routes. The third-place winner was James Bailey ’18CPS for his planned app, Bridge, designed to “bridge” financial divisions between influencers and their audiences.

Students’ 15-page business plans earned them the chance to present to judges. Any business plan not selected to be one of five finalists still had a



L-R: James Bailey ’24MBA; James Christmas ’70CBA, ’10HON; Dayan C. Pita Garcia ’25MBA; Daria Stepanova ’25MBA; Roy Weissman (competition director); and John Mussalli ’26TCB.

chance to be selected to take part in the “Pitch Event,” when contestants get three minutes to pitch their business idea and compete for other cash prizes.

During the contest, judges questioned student-presenters on capital needed to launch their businesses, potential for product growth, and their expected competitors. The annual Competition and Pitch Event is open to all undergraduate and graduate St. John’s students from all majors.

Visit <http://jecbpc.com/resources> for more info and video.

WE ARE THE LEGACY SHAPING TOMORROW

DRIVEN, VALUE-ORIENTED, VINCENTIAN
ENTREPRENEURIAL, INNOVATIVE,
WELCOMING, INVESTED,
SUPPORTIVE, INCLUSIVE,
FAIR, GENUINE, DIVERSE,
TALENTED, AMBITIOUS, FUN,
CREATIVE, RESOURCEFUL,
SUCCESSFUL, LOYAL, PRACTICAL,
RESILIENT, INTUITIVE, UNITED,
INSPIRED, SMART, UNIQUE,
BOLD, BUSINESS-MINDED.
WE ARE ST. JOHN’S.
WE ARE TOBIN.



Let us know how you would describe your time at St. John's as a business school student and now alum. Please complete a brief survey via the QR code or at <https://forms.office.com/r/quChK3jgvf>.

We appreciate your feedback, which will help inform our work to support students and alumni.

PORTFOLIO

An inspired collection of stories about the lives of Tobin College of Business alumni and their adventures beyond St. John’s University.



TIME TO SHINE

*Tobin alumni, please welcome the Class of 2024, whose high school senior year was cut short by a global pandemic, followed by a first year of college on lockdown attending class virtually. Tobin hosted a “2020 Senior Prom” as a parting gift to recognize what they powered through and one of the rites of passage they missed along the way.
(Story on page 24)*

*The horror of September 11, 2001, changed the course of history.
For banking executive Paul Mila '69CBA, '72MBA, it turned the tide from
New York to new horizons and ocean of book-worthy adventures.*

Paul Mila '69CBA, '72MBA was in a meeting for Mastercard with corporate client Citibank in a windowless conference room in Long Island City, Queens, when the first plane struck the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

The meeting would've continued oblivious to the tragic events unfolding across the East River and country if it weren't for a colleague bursting in to share the shocking news.

"We went to an office with windows and, on this crystal-clear day, could see across the East River that one of the Towers was on fire," Mila remembers. "We could see the flames and smoke. And we said, 'okay, I guess they'll put the fire out,' because we figured a small plane like a Piper Cub must have hit it by accident. It didn't occur to us that if you could see flames from across the river that they had to be huge. It just didn't compute."

It wasn't until the second plane that the reality of a terror attack sunk in and that his life might be in imminent danger based on the building's height, location, and financial significance.

"One of our guys had the presence of mind to say, 'we're in the only tall building here and it's got 'Citibank' on all four sides at the top of it.' So we evacuated, and while I was waiting on the train platform, a woman burst into tears, 'they just hit the Pentagon.' As someone who grew up in the Cold War years expecting something else, I kept thinking, 'what the hell is going on?'"

Much like that business meeting, Mila's life

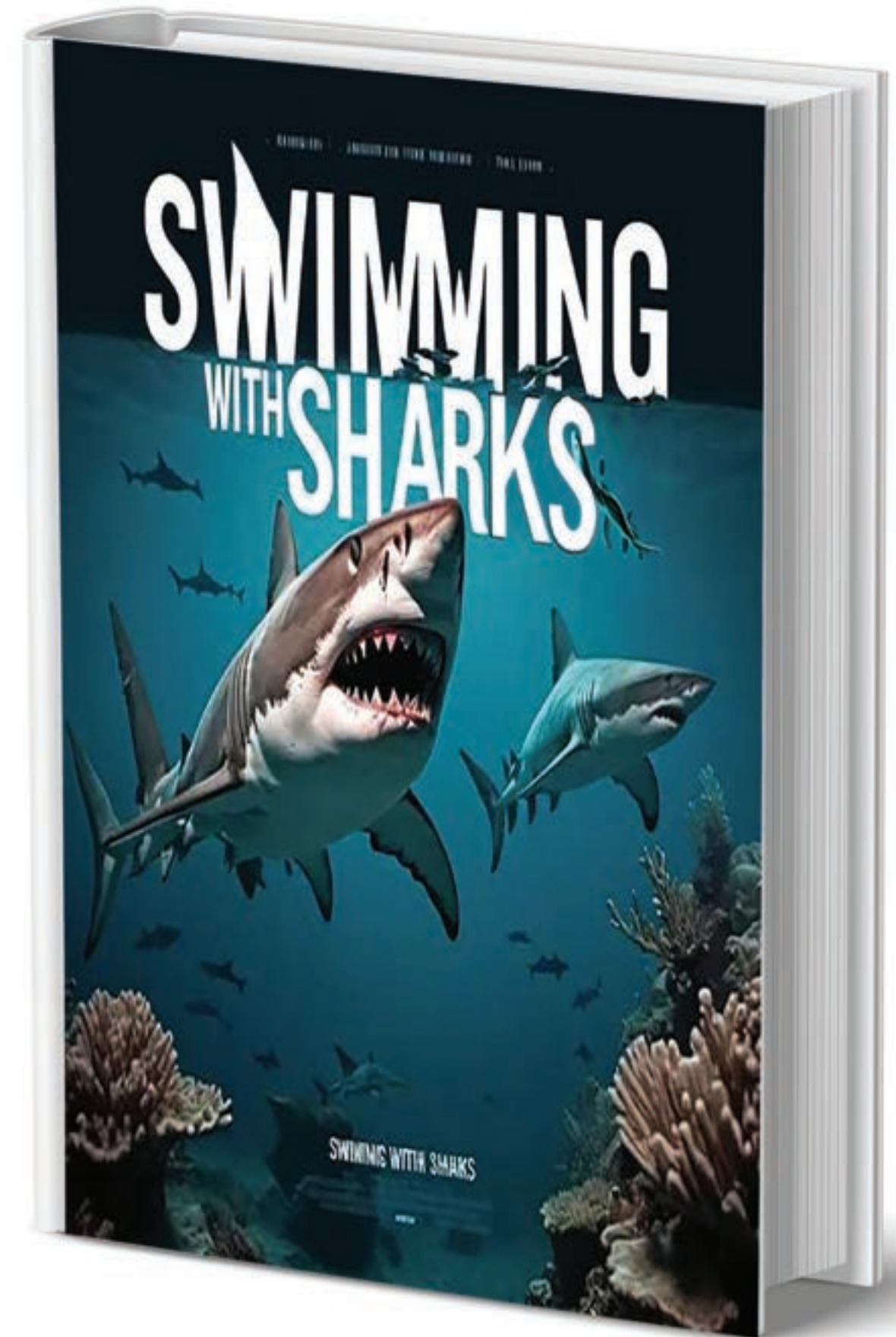
might have continued its expected course, with him as Vice President for MasterCard International's Electronic Payments Division and eventually retiring years later from a successful career that included pioneering work to help establish banking from home and the path for all future online and now mobile banking.

All might have been business as usual on September 12th, except for the unimaginable horrors of the previous day and a realization Mila started to have on the train platform while waiting for the LIRR to bring him home early to his wife, Carol, and two children in their modest home in Carle Place, a leafy suburb about 30 miles away.

"The next day, I'm looking at that 'Falling Man' photo in the paper and I'm thinking in disbelief, 'a couple hours earlier that guy was having breakfast with his family. Who could believe something like that would happen?'" says Mila about the epiphany that led to his next decision. "I did a lot of soul searching, and even though I was really happy, I took stock of what I was doing, and thought, 'my wife is a teacher in Mineola who wants to keep working, benefits are coming in, the house is paid for, money for the kids' college is put away, no other financial obligations.' That planted the seed that I want to leave corporate life. I was in my peak earning years, and yes, it would've been nice to earn more money, but I need a balance in my life. It's nice to say you're going to do this or that when you get to a certain point, but how do you know if you're gonna reach it?"

Less than a year later, Mila retired from the corporate world and submerged himself in a very

*By Jennifer Goddard
Photos courtesy of Paul Mila '69CBA, '72MBA*



different one, albeit with its own share of sharks. It synced perfectly with a different life he'd already tested a couple years before in the languid waters of a vacation resort in Cozumel, Mexico, where Mila inadvertently launched several new careers as a scuba diver, underwater photographer, published author, and environmentalist.

“The resort offered a free diving lesson by the pool” explains Mila from Jackson, NJ, where he and his wife of 50 years recently purchased a home better suited for an empty nest. “So Cozumel is where I started this little adventure and I was hooked after the first boat dive that trip, which was phenomenal. The water was totally clear with sea turtles and fish swimming around me, like being inside an aquarium. I said, ‘I have to do this.’ I was 52 in

“I’m a Brooklyn guy through and through,” Mila says of his childhood in the Bay Ridge and Mill Basin neighborhoods of the borough’s coastal extremities. “I grew up loving the water. And like many in my generation, I watched TV shows like Mike Nelson’s *Sea Hunt*, starring Lloyd Bridges, and later Jacques Cousteau’s underwater explorations. I was always into snorkeling and when I got married, we’d take the kids to do it on vacations. But I didn’t really have the time or the money to get into scuba diving until much later in life.”

At Brooklyn’s Xaverian High School, Mila admits he was “not an ‘A’ student,” so college and a successful career were not foregone conclusions. Other colleges passed on him, but because he “showed a glimmer of hope with promising test scores,”

Corporate MAI; eventually recruited to do business forecasting for Securities Industry Automation Corporation (the company that ran the ticker tapes and other systems for the NYSE and AMEX); before joining Chemical Bank to do economic forecasting.

He eventually transitioned to management and enjoyed tackling bigger projects along the way, especially the technical side of banking after he found that he was good at bridging the gap between what business owners said they need and what “the techies” could deliver or needed to develop.

“I was deep into my banking career,” he recalls about his years at Chemical Bank before its 1991 merger with Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, which represented one of the largest U.S. bank mergers up to that time. One of the development projects he was tapped for was a top-secret project code-named “Pronto” by two senior executives (Bob Lipp and John Farnsworth) because it embodied the speed at which its visionary team wanted it to work, and also because it was the restaurant where the idea first took shape on a beverage napkin (like countless other groundbreaking ideas).

“Project Pronto was one of the first consumer electronic bill payment systems in the country. This was back in the early ‘80s, long before personal computers and the Internet became household staples. We were essentially inventing the concept of online banking, allowing people to pay their bills electronically from home. It was revolutionary at the time,” Mila says about being part of a banking sea change with global implications at what was, by that time, the second-largest bank in the U.S. before it merged with the Chase Manhattan Corporation (now J.P. Morgan & Chase) to become *the* largest bank in the country.

“It was thrilling, to be honest,” he admits when reminded of the magnitude of the work he was doing. “There were a lot of challenges, like convincing companies to adopt electronic payments and fixing backend issues where payments were misapplied to multiple customers because banks didn’t have the structure to support it, creating all kinds of chaos. We gave the impression that it was seamless but one day we get a call from a user saying, ‘my payment didn’t go through electronically and my water is getting shut off - what’s gonna happen? I have a big date, I’m all sweaty, how am I gonna take a shower?!’ I don’t know what happened with his date but we called Jamaica Water Supply to resolve the problem with his payment,” he laughs, recalling the hiccups of getting what would eventually change the course of banking on planet Earth off the ground.

Like so many of his fellow St. John’s business school alumni, Mila’s strong work ethic and can-do approach made him a standout choice for recruitment. With his expertise in a field that demanded rapid development, Mila was recruited by Matt Lawlor, head of a start-up company in Virginia called Online Resources Communication Corporation that was trying to perfect home banking (he eventually sold shares in it for a condo in Cozumel) before being recruited by Mastercard “to do the same work to refine mobile banking so it actually is seamless.”



“I loved it. I became one of the few people in the country who understood the intricacies of electronic bill payments. I’ve been very lucky to get involved in many interesting, cutting-edge things,” he adds, without bragging or irony. “Once it became established, over 90% of payments went electronically, with some small merchants who couldn’t accept them, but since I left the industry, new apps evolved to fill the gap.”

He could have continued working as an expert in a fast-growing field, moving up the corporate ladder, but September 11th brought something into focus that had been there all along.

“I was an Assistant Vice President at Chemical Bank and a VP at Mastercard, but I never thought of myself as a business executive. It was a means to an end. I didn’t see it as a way to be fulfilled.”

He recalls being asked during a bank’s voice response system conversion project to work on a weekend that he had a family vacation planned. “They asked me to drop the vacation to help and I said ‘no, I just can’t do that.’ If there was ever a conflict between work and family, then family would win. Who knows if they crossed me off the list for an SVP for that? But we had a good vacation anyway.”

By that point in his career, he’d seen colleagues moved around the country like pawns on a chessboard while a company set up shop in another state, transferring people there, moving their lives and families only to lay them off. “Interesting thing about corporate life,” he observes. “So much of it is controlled by who is above you. And there’s really nothing you can do about it.”

Well, there is one thing.

“Soon after 9/11, I gave my notice,” Mila recalls, “and Mastercard was very nice about it.” His boss asked him to stay on until they found a replacement and he could train them. “I agreed and worked until June 28, 2002, which was a Friday - my last day at work. I was 55 at the time.”

L-R: Mila giving a “fins-up” salute before getting into a shark cage off the coast of Mexico’s Guadalupe Island; two photos he captured that same dive of great whites circling nearby. Opposite page: Mila in his previous “suit” at work, circa 1983; an early ‘80s ad for one of the first home banking systems, Pronto, from Chemical Bank, which allowed users to bank from home using their telephone and an Atari through their TV. While the project was one of Mila’s, he makes sure to add, “Not me in the photo!”



1999 when I got certified in diving. It was late to start, but I was ready for a new adventure. And diving offered me exactly that—a whole new world to explore.”

There was a literal ocean of difference between life under the waves and the 30 years he worked in the corporate world, and yet both had hungry predators lurking in the deep.

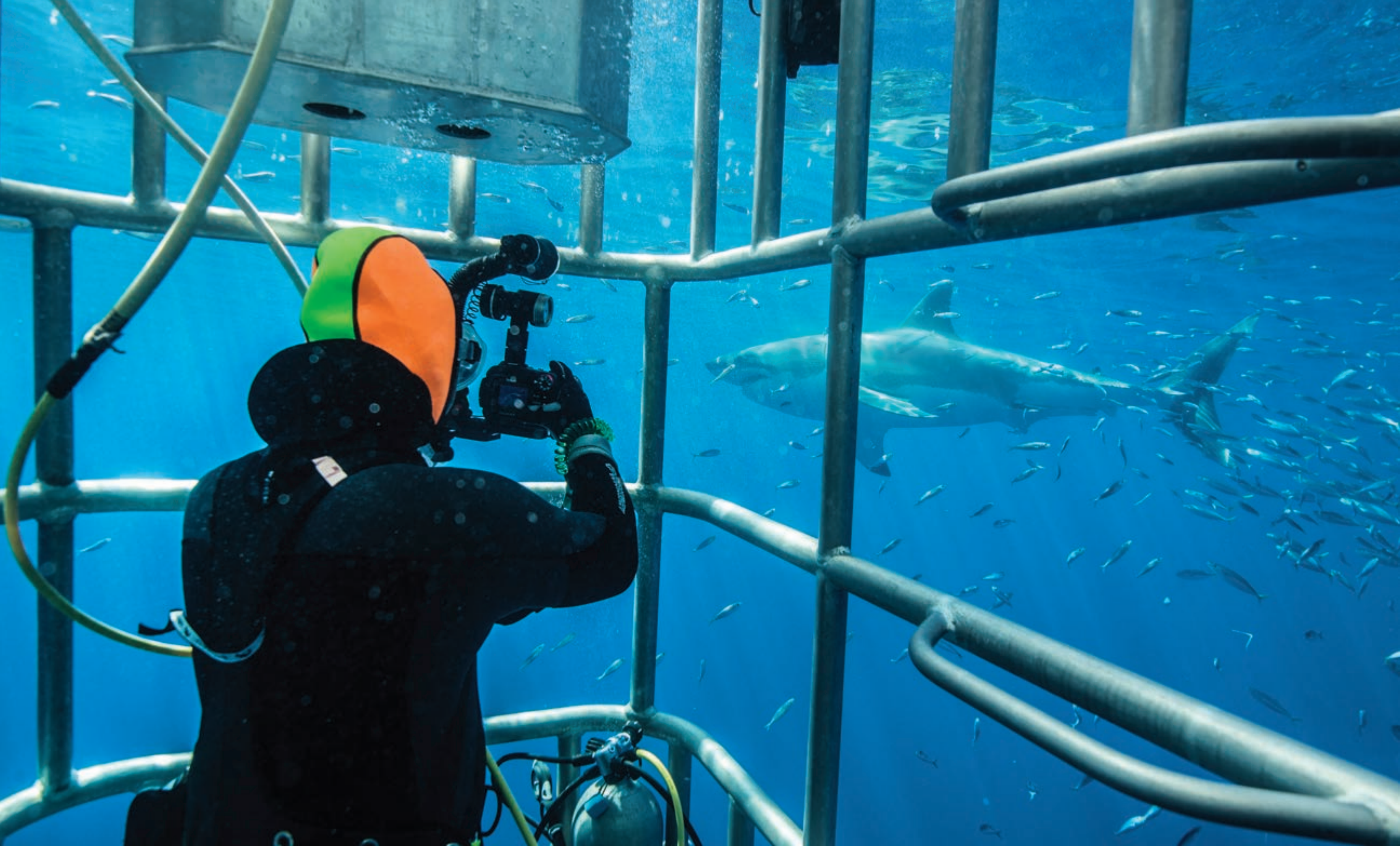
“I’ve learned that not all sharks are in the ocean,” Mila says. “And real sharks have a certain honesty that land sharks do not. In the ocean, what you see is what you get, with no hidden agendas or duplicity.”

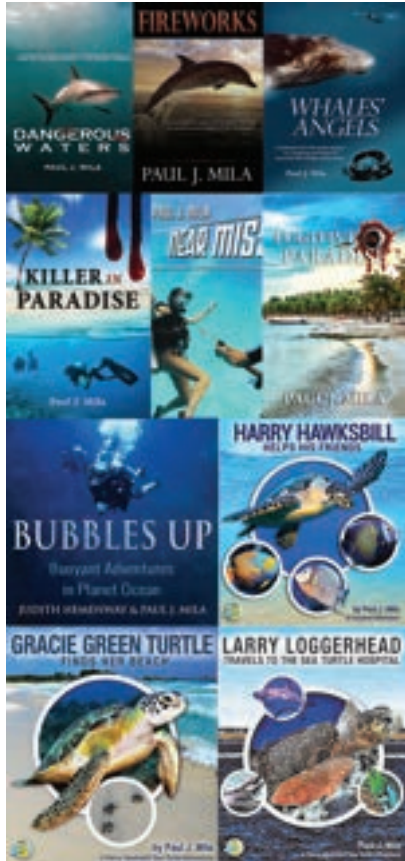
Trading a business suit for a diving suit was an easy transition for a Brooklyn native who spent his summers on beaches at Jacob Riis Park in the Rockaways, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, and Manasquan on the Jersey Shore.

St. John’s University accepted him into their newly opened Junior College (“for people like me”), where he went from the bottom of his class in high school to the top 10% of his class in college. He transferred with his associate’s degree into the College of Business Administration for his bachelor’s and was later granted a G.A. position by the dean so he could pursue his graduate degree. (CBA was named after alum Peter J. Tobin in 2000.)

“They took a chance on me, gave me that opportunity, and really turned my life around, so I always thank St. John’s for that. My whole life since then has been because of St. John’s.”

After earning a bachelor’s in Economics in 1969 and an M.B.A. in Economics & Finance in 1972, Mila started his career as a credit analyst for National Bank of North America; then as a business analyst for a company called Management Assistance





Counterclockwise L-R: Mila's 1969 St. John's graduation photo; covers of Mila's six-book adventure thriller series, three children's books, and non-fiction diving adventures book; speaking to school children about scuba diving and underwater photography; Mila with fraternity brother Mike Vecchione selling tickets for their personal fundraising dance, "The Winter Informal." ("Mike was the best man at my wedding and we're godfathers to each other's kids.")

Previous spread: Mila in a shark cage photographing a great white off of Guadalupe Island, Mexico.



How long did it take to transition from the breakneck speed of corporate life developing leading-edge banking technology to the quiet pace of time at home feet-up in Long Island?

"About three days," he laughs. "I woke up on Monday morning, put on the TV, saw the traffic report, and wiped my hands of it. I felt pretty good about it because there was a full menu of things I wanted to get done instead like more scuba diving and starting to write."

"I had always been more about writing than math, but I didn't have anything to write about until I started diving," he explains. "My dive instructor in Cozumel had started her own business, becoming successful after saying she wanted to start her life over again in Northern California, so that became the genesis of my first book, *Dangerous Waters*, fictionalizing her origin story, which I didn't want to ask her about in case my hunch turned out to be true."

In 2003 he started his imprint, MilaBooks.com, and later had several books published by Best Publishing Company in Florida. He's become an avid underwater photographer, writing and publishing two non-fiction works, *Bubbles Up* and *Basic Underwater Photography*, featuring tips on how best to capture life under the waves where lighting and equipment pose a unique set of challenges.

He's also written several works of fiction, including six adventure novels as part of his "Manetta Mystery Adventure Series," most recently *Fugitive in Paradise*, published in

February 2022. He wrote a series of three children's books, "The Harry Hawksbill Sea Turtle Adventures," published by Best Publishing Company, most recently in January 2021, featuring aquatic animal characters who help young readers understand the importance of protecting sea life and the oceans.

And while Mila admits that the book writing isn't as lucrative as corporate banking ("I'm not James Patterson"), he has other means to pay the bills and is more focused on personal fulfillment than fortune. To that end, he also writes and publishes a monthly newsletter called *The Sea-gram* to promote ocean education and environmental conservation to more than 1,000 readers around the world (sea-gram.com).

"When I was a child, environmental concerns weren't very important, but over time I've seen dramatic changes with plastic polluting the water and how it impacts the ocean," Mila says. "I'm learning first-hand that whatever happens to the ocean is going to affect us." During book readings and environmental talks with school children, he shares lived experiences that entertain and enlighten, from heart-stopping shark dives in the Bahamas to swimming with turtles hurt by plastic soda rings or straws.

"I've met a lot of interesting people on dive boats, and the more I wrote, the more people I met – that's been the big payoff for me. It's been enjoyable and branched off into other things like underwater diving, swimming with sharks, swimming with whales. I wouldn't trade this for anything. It might end tomorrow, but I can always look back without regrets." 🐠

ILLUSTRATIONS GENERATED BY JENNIFER GODDARD USING OPENART.AI (COVER ART P. 17, DIVE SIGN P. 23)

READY FOR AN AQUATIC ADVENTURE? TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH THESE **10 TIPS FROM EXPERT DIVER** (RETIRED BANKING EXEC) PAUL MILA '69CBA, '72MBA



1 Seas the day!

Visit your local dive shop to sign up for certification, which involves classroom learning, written tests, pool exercises, and open water dives.



2 Start Small

Buy basic equipment initially (mask, fins, and snorkel). Rent other gear until comfortable.

4 Surface Level, Deep Dive

Snorkeling is relatively easy and can offer spectacular views. "Some of my best adventures have been snorkeling," Mila says. Diving takes training and practice, especially advanced dives like caves or at night without visual references for spacial orientation.

3 Hidden Gems

Visibility is challenging, but there *are* dive sites off of Long Island. Mila likes the abundance of artifacts from 140 shipwrecks. (Check LI Divers Association.)

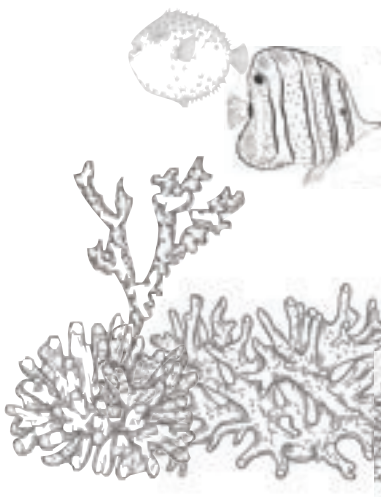


5 Start-up Costs

Lessons can cost \$200-\$300, plus \$100 for a basic wetsuit (x2 for couples because no one dives alone).

7 Deep Trouble

While they make for cool dives, be aware of extra risks when entering underwater caves and wrecks.



9 Travel Light

Rent equipment like a BCD vest and regulator when traveling. (And always rent before purchasing to test sizing, brand, fit.)



6 Top Choice

Mila's favorite place to dive and snorkel is Cozumel, Mexico, for its diverse underwater topography, clear, warm waters, and abundance of marine life.

8 Anchors Aweigh

Take advantage of all-inclusive vacations like cruises and resorts that offer snorkeling or free dive instruction to help get your feet wet. (This is how Mila got started.)

10 Vitamin Sea

Check out unique tours. Mila's snorkeling tours with humpback whales in the Dominican Republic and Tonga in the South Pacific were "life-changing." (Only specially permitted tours can enter marine sanctuaries.)

TIME TO SHINE

For the Class of 2024, rites of passage were unspoken casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut the world down just as this cohort was graduating into it. Four years later, Tobin transformed into a prom venue to celebrate their resilience and hard-won degrees.

Dominique's graduation from St. John's University in May 2024 with a bachelor's in marketing was nothing short of cinematic. "An absolutely magical day," the Tobin College of Business alum beams. Red and white confetti fluttered through brilliant sunshine and laughter, swirling down to where she hugged friends and family, holding fast to her mortar board, which bore the only reminder of how extraordinarily difficult the last four years had been: "She knows she lived through it to get to this moment," a lyric from a Phoebe Bridgers song.

Like all incoming college students in fall 2020, Dominique Sawieljew '24TCB, '25MS came from a high school experience unlike any alum before her. The 600+ graduating from Tobin in May 2024 were among 55.1 million students who were impacted by the near-total shutdown of 124,000 public and private school buildings across the U.S. in March 2020, according to *Education Week*. In just two weeks, their last year in

high school became something radically different than any seniors' before or since.

It began in early 2020 as Tobin's Class of 2024 faced a growing pandemic just as they neared the end of their senior year. Schools initially said they were closing for two weeks, and many seniors fully expected to return or at least be able to say goodbye to the place and people who had been such a big part of their lives.

"I'll never forget the day the announcement came over the loudspeaker saying we were going to have two weeks off from school and to make sure everything was clean," remembers Isabella Lovasz, who graduated in June 2020 from St. Francis Prep in nearby Fresh Meadows. "Two weeks became a month, and then the last time we ever went back was to clean our lockers, one at a time, and exit as quickly as we entered."

"The last four years have been a rollercoaster of challenges, growth, and unexpected turns," said Javance Corraya, a Finance major who made Dean's List his first year at St. John's. "There's

*By Jennifer Goddard
Photos courtesy of Tobin's Class of '24
and Jad Nammour/St. John's University*





a bittersweet nostalgia for the milestones I missed – no prom, no traditional graduation – all because of the shadow the pandemic cast. High school’s end wasn’t marked by the usual farewells, no tearful goodbyes to teachers who shaped me, no last hurrah with friends who became family. Instead, it was a quiet exit, a silent transition into a new chapter.”

Sawieljew had looked forward to prom more than anything else in her young life before the world was put on pause in 2020. A Facebook group at her school tracked prom dress styles and colors so no one would duplicate; Sawieljew’s standout choice of a simple bubblegum pink dress was waiting to be altered when news came of schools closing down. She took the prom’s cancellation hard but saw how brutal the comments were on TikTok for anyone who dared complain, so she tucked it away in her childhood home, unhemmed and seemingly frozen in time.

Once on campus, Sawieljew joined millions of other freshmen whose first year of college was spent in lockdown—confined to her dorm, a shared space with three other people, attending classes remotely, and acutely aware that the world had bigger losses to mourn than anything she and her classmates were dealing with.

And while the university had been clear that anyone coming to campus would be subject to New York’s strict guidelines and restrictions to mitigate the area’s unprecedented spread of COVID-19, Sawieljew still preferred the confines of a dorm room to her room at home.

“I was like, ‘I don’t care. I just want to leave my house and have somewhat of a normal experience and meet new people because I could not stay in my room any longer. I have to leave New Jersey. I have to go to St. John’s. I have to get somewhat of an experience after what just happened. I have to flip the page onto the next chapter and start fresh somewhat, even if it’s not necessarily open completely and a little restricted.’”

Even after clearing their two-week quarantine and negative COVID-19 tests, students in dorms were not allowed to socialize indoors. Instead, they introduced themselves in a group chat to neighbors they could only see “by accident,” coming up with excuses to meet, such as “okay, I’m going to the elevator now whoever wants to join me on the sixth floor.” But as the first year plodded on, a new set of emotional challenges set in, even when lockdowns lifted.

“My freshman year, I genuinely felt forgotten,” she explains. “I remember going into my

sophomore year and seeing how much the next class was getting in terms of attention from the school and events and activities. And I was like, ‘when does this happen for us? We just came out of the absolute madness of a global pandemic. And we were forced to stay in our dorm rooms and penalized if we left outside without permission.’ I kept thinking, ‘I want this. I wanted this. We deserve this because we didn’t get anything in our senior year of high school and this incoming class did.’

And every year after that, the activities just kept getting bigger and bigger. I was like, ‘wow, if this had happened for us, I would have some type of closure leaving high school.’”

The arrested development Sawieljew describes will be unpacked by professional and armchair therapists for years to come as the world continues to assess the pandemic’s impact.

“There’s this bucket of, like, ‘missing.’ We had an emotional setback and you see it. I feel like I can point out anyone from the Class of 2020 even though I’ve never seen you on campus or in any of my classes. And I think that’s because we’re all much more sheltered as individuals who stay inside and don’t socialize. I used to be such an extroverted person. And now I feel like I’m more introverted because of this event in time. I don’t really want to socialize that much, be friends, or have connections outside of the classroom. I just want to go back to my room and watch my TV show, eat my lunch, and do my homework.”

“I still feel like I’m 18 because of that year that I missed of my high school experience and my college experience that freshman year. And that’s why I decided to stay for another year and my master’s to finally be like, ‘okay, I feel complete now, even though I lost that first year.’ This is such a trauma that’s developed in our class specifically. And a lot of people don’t want to talk about it because it is a sensitive subject. No one wants to admit that they feel like they were held back socially with their soft skills.”

So when Tobin announced that it was hosting a senior prom on Friday, May 3, to make good on the ones that the Class

of 2024 couldn’t have four years earlier, Sawieljew’s reaction was a mix of shock, excitement, and relief.

“When I saw the Tobin post [on Instagram] about the prom at the end of my senior year of college, I thought, ‘oh my God, someone hears us. Someone sees our pain that is still trapped within us, even though it’s very quiet. Someone remembered about us. I can finally transport to that 18-year-old self, wear that prom dress, and be like, ‘okay, it’s prom day. Let’s dance the night away!’”

Worried that her dress might have been sold, Sawieljew texted her mom to make sure it still existed before driving home to New Jersey to get it. When her mom suggested hemming it first to avoid having to carry the bottom like a train, Sawieljew politely declined. “I’m going to pay tribute to high school me, when she was going to her prom and couldn’t alter her dress. So what if I have a train? I’m carrying around those memories with me anyway, so I want to wear the dress as is.”

She attended Tobin’s prom in her 2020 dress, its matching bow tie adorned on her girlfriend until they danced so much it had to be set aside. “We took some pictures with it on, though, and when I sent them to my friends from high school, they were so surprised and jealous that my school did this. We danced the night away! The food and atmosphere were amazing. Tobin’s prom gave me the 2020 closure that I needed to pay tribute to what happened four years ago, to move on, see the rest of my future, and what I want to create. I really was so appreciative!”

Many others expressed disbelief that Tobin was throwing a senior prom or recognizing how difficult it had been for the Class of 2024. Tobin’s social media accounts repeated confirmation that yes, prom was really happening across two floors of its spacious location on the Queens campus of St. John’s. In addition to a DJ, dancing, food, and keepsakes, the event promised two separate photo

booths for student portraits: “2024 Grad” and “Prom 2020.” On prom night, more than 100 students came to celebrate in a completely transformed Tobin that for four hours resembled a festive nightclub more than a business school—something special for an extraordinary class.

“When we realized we were making plans to graduate the first cohort that started after the COVID-19 pandemic began and who experienced their first year here learning remotely, we knew Tobin had to do something special for them,” said Tobin’s dean, Maciek Nowak, Ph.D. “It made sense to give them a senior prom as a parting gift to acknowledge all that they’d sacrificed and overcome in the last four years.”

“This class experienced lockdown instead of a grand finale, unable to feel excitement about milestones they’d been looking forward to so we didn’t want them to miss anything this time,” said Jennifer Goddard, Tobin’s director of marketing and communications who planned the College’s senior prom in partnership with a team of six students, half of whom graduated high school in 2020.

“I suspect because adult world was focused on survival (rightfully so), recognizing trauma meant having to relive the previous two years. Once we were out of the worst of it, we kept it moving and, in turn, Gen Z and Gen Alpha kept any feelings about how their childhood was paused in the vault. How could they process that loss when it paled in comparison to the gravity of loss around them – the 23 million Americans who lost their jobs and, most tragically, the 1.2 million whose lives were lost. We’re at a distance now where those feelings can surface. Having a prom was necessary on a deep, subconscious level, even if just to broach the conversation, recognize their loss, and help them realize how strong they are and how proud they should be. We can’t change how these remarkable students’ time in high school ended, but we could change how it ended at Tobin.”

“As hard as it was leaving my high school and never having those senior memories that I waited so long to have, I’m grateful to St. John’s for doing their best to give it back in their own way,” said Lovasz, who currently works as a swim coach while pursuing a master’s degree in Enterprise Risk Management from Tobin’s Greenberg School of Risk Management, Insurance, and Actuarial Science.

While the business school at St. John’s has a long history of hosting formal dances since its establishment in 1927, the last one occurred so long ago that not even Professor John P. Clarke, Esq., ’55CBA, ’57L, affectionately known around campus as “Mr. St. John’s,” can say when. Now 90, he still teaches business law and can readily share a lifetime of university history right up to last night’s award



dinner and today’s alumni luncheon. He was among the first to offer support for Tobin’s prom – and even attended.

Clarke remembers the dances that occurred before they faded into obscurity. “It was a big, formal occasion held at hotels like the Commodore, the Biltmore, or the Roosevelt in Manhattan,” he remembers. “It was student-run and a big deal to be on the planning committee...but things have changed.”

In the absence of an annual formal by the College, student workers who support Tobin’s marketing served as its de facto prom committee, helping to plan strategy and produce nostalgic social media content to promote the event. Emily Hernandez is one of the team’s students who graduated high school in 2020 (Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens) and is pursuing a master’s degree in Business Analytics at Tobin.

“During one of our weekly team meetings in March, it came up that it’s been four years since the pandemic started,” said Hernandez. “The conversation sparked the idea of holding a prom to try to make up for what students lost that year. It’s not just about celebrating an occasion, but about bringing closure to a graduating class who was unable to reach this milestone because of COVID. We have made it this far, and I’m incredibly appreciative that I get to share this moment and celebrate with my fellow graduates.”

To help announce the event, Hernandez created an Instagram reel for Tobin using local news reports about school closures as well as 2020 social media trends that made time away from friends feel less lonely. Another student on the team, marketing major Adina Stancu ’27TCB, suggested adding 2020’s biggest song, The Weeknd’s “Blinding Lights,” which would have been on every prom DJ’s set list, but instead inspired TikTok dance challenges during lockdown.

“I hadn’t thought about those memes and songs in so long, but I realize they’re how me and my friends stayed connected,” Hernandez said. “My school’s prom was canceled, and we had graduation in cars driving by the school, except we didn’t have a car at the time so my family rented one with a sunroof so I could wave to my teachers and friends.”

“I was supposed to be celebrating my final year in high school,” said Joniel Arias ’25TCB, a business major who graduated in 2020 from St. John’s Prep in Boston. “But instead, those times were taken from me. Because I was unsure what the future held, I deferred my acceptance to St. John’s University before committing to my next four years.” Arias also works on Tobin’s student marketing team and created a reel for Tobin’s Instagram using personal footage

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ALUMNI, STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS WHO LEPT INTO ACTION TO MAKE A “2020 SENIOR PROM” FOR THE CLASS OF ’24 HAPPEN, ESPECIALLY TOBIN’S **DEAN MACIEK NOWAK** AND MEMBERS OF **TOBIN’S BOARD OF ADVISORS, PROF. JOHN CLARKE, AND THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AT ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY.** WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO **TOBIN BOARD CHAIR FRANK KURRE & BOARD MEMBERS** ROBERT ADAMS, THERESA AHLSTROM, JOAN LACAGNINA, CRAIG MILLER, REGINA PISCAZZI, CHARLENE PROUNIS, THOMAS F. SCATURRO, AND DAVID TRICK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN FUNDING THIS MEMORABLE, LONG-DELAYED EVENT FOR TOBIN’S NEWEST ALUMNI! AND BIG THANKS TO OUR **STUDENT WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS** WHOSE CREATIVITY, PROFESSIONALISM, TIME, & ENERGY BROUGHT PROM TO LIFE: ADINA-GEORGIANA STANCU ’27TCB; EMILY HERNANDEZ ’24TCB, ’25MS; JONIEL ARIAS ’25TCB; JOELLA PACCIONE ’26TCB; AMAIYA SANCHO ’25CCPS; JASMIN MARTINS ABADÉ ’24TCB, ’25MS; HENRY GIL ’26TCB; JULIANNA LOMONTE ’25MS; AND ALEXIS QUAN ’24TCB. ALSO, FACULTY & STAFF WHO WENT ABOVE & BEYOND: PROF. DANNY RUBIN; PROF. NINA DORATA; ROSEMARY BROWN; THERESA PATANE; TIA CANNADY; JAY ROBINSON; CORINNE GENTILE; JOHN INZETTA; JIMMY SMITH; JAD NAMMOUR; PATRICK CICALA; PUBLIC & FIRE SAFETY; AND THE ENGINEER WHO TRIED EVERYTHING TO TURN LIGHTS OFF OVER DANCEFLOOR. AND FINALLY, SHOUT OUT TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO WORKED QUICKLY TO HELP US BRING PROM TOGETHER IN LESS THAN 2 MONTHS FOR OUR GRADUATES: BALLOONS BY SORIN IN JAMAICA; BELLA LULU’S IN JAMAICA CENTER (THE “BEST” MENU, TASTE & CARE FOR CATERING); COCO PRODUCTIONS IN LONG ISLAND/HUDSON VALLEY (LIGHTING, PHOTO BOOTHS, GAMES, DECOR & JOY); COUSINS CREATIONS IN LONG BEACH (YUMMY, PERSONALIZED TREATS); DJ ZRO / LGE ENTERTAINMENT (SOUNDS, SKILLZ & FUN!).

of his “graduation” (“my mom set up a surprise drive-by parade with all my friends and family congratulating me from afar”). The reel includes a report by CBS’ local affiliate WBZ about Arias’ school headmaster and staff driving to all 284 graduates’ homes to hand-deliver diplomas. “As I was gathering clips of 2020 seniors for the reel, I was surprised by how everyone’s ‘graduation’ looked and how each school did something a little different.”

While some schools set up drive-thru’s and others outdoor graduations, at least 19% of the students who attended Tobin’s prom reported having theirs canceled, and a majority saw their proms canceled, too (86%). “We ended up having a drive-thru graduation, which was just so embarrassing and heartbreaking,” remembers Sawieljew. “From that moment on, I told myself that I was going to commit to St. John’s University and do everything that I wasn’t able to do in my senior year of high school. And I did exactly that. And with the help of Tobin’s prom, I was also able to wear my prom dress, which I had not planned for at all!”

For students who had little to be certain about after March 2020, “St. John’s became more than just a place of learning,” said Corraya, who currently works as a universal banker at Citi. “It became a sanctuary, a refuge from the uncertainties of the outside world. Looking back now, I realize that while my high school experience may have been cut short, it was merely the prologue to a much grander story. Ultimately, it’s not the milestones we miss that define us but the resilience with which we face the challenges that come our way.”

“With so much uncertainty and fear doing basic tasks like grocery shopping or even leaving the house in 2020, they could have given up on a much bigger challenge like college,” said Goddard. “Leaving high school can be a difficult transition under normal circumstances, which makes what these young adults did even more impressive: they found their way here, powering through territory that was new to everyone. And with the support of family, friends, and educators, they found a way to thrive. (The fact that they made it to the start *and* the finish line is a testament to the University.) ‘Resilient’ is a commencement speech staple, but this cohort proved their resilience in unprecedented ways long before May 2024 graduation.”

“Four years and one global pandemic later, they graduated from St. John’s University and Tobin College of Business, many with honors and jobs at top firms already secured,” added Dean Nowak. “I hope the business world is ready for them because these young adults have thus far proven to be unstoppable in doing what they set out to achieve.” 📸

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNIFER GODDARD





LOWER LEFT PHOTO BY JAD NAMMOUR/ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY | ALL PERSONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM COZZA '93CBA

Family Business

It all started on Willoughby Avenue in Brooklyn, NY, where a young Pasquale J. Cozza '66CBA was deciding his next move after St. John's Prep, unaware that he was choosing an alma mater for his daughter and granddaughters, too.

When Pasquale “Pat” Cozza graduated from the College of Business Administration (CBA) in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in Marketing Management, the campus of St. John’s University had four main buildings and newly planted saplings casting thin shadows on the Great Lawn. He would watch the campus transform over the next 50+ years through the graduations of his daughter, Kim Cozza ’93CBA, and granddaughters Alexandra “Alex” Checkers ’19TCB, ’20MBA and Adrianna ’24CCPS, ’25MS (also CCPS).

Between Alex and Adrianna, everything from games to galas would continue bringing the Cozzas back to campus, thanks to activities like dance team, student ambassadors, alumni relations, and more. We spoke with Pat, Kim, and Alex about the family legacy that he began and what it means to them today.

Q: You’ve had three generations of your family attend business school at St. John’s University. How did it all begin?

Pat: I graduated in 1966 with a degree in Marketing Management from the business school. I chose St. John’s because I was looking for a school with a good business program that was well-recognized. I knew these factors would give me a good chance of beginning in my career. I eventually became a Manufacturer’s Representative for General Foods, Mars Candy, and finally Chevron Chemical. St. John’s taught me what it takes to build a business — how to maintain it, grow it, and market its product. I also was made to understand that developing a good relationship with clients is extremely important. I believe my oldest daughter Kim chose St. John’s on her own. My wife and I were very happy and supported her decision. I think my decision to attend St. John’s had an influence in her choice. I had hoped my grandchildren would attend and was

happy they did. It became a tradition after Alex graduated. Her experience and our participation in her time at St. John’s helped Adrianna to continue the tradition.

Kim: I thought my Dad would tell you because I started in 1989 that I was coming off the Chris Mullen era when St. John’s was in everybody’s mind. They were in the Final Four, and the NIT, and all that stuff. He was proud of his school, it was always in the paper, and he was always telling me he went there. We lived in a cape where I grew up, so my bedroom was upstairs, with another bedroom down the hall that my Dad used as a home office because he was a salesman. Hanging outside of his office in the hall was a gigantic diploma from St. John’s University written in Latin. Every night, when I would go to bed, I would see the diploma, and every morning when I would get ready for school, I would see the diploma. He was the only person I knew who had gone to college, so it never was even a thought in my mind. It’s the only college I applied to, because that’s where my Dad

went. I majored in marketing like my Dad and wound up going into banking and finance and a 30-year career so no regrets. But when I got *my* diploma, it was on an 8.5x11” piece of paper. And I remember telling my Dad, I feel cheated because he had this beautiful diploma. So we laugh, because he’s like, “Don’t worry, one day, I’ll leave it to you,” and I say “Oh, that’s morbid, Dad, but okay. Can I etch your name out of it or just add my name underneath it?”

Alex: When I started my college search, St. John’s was on the list at first because of my family. My mom requested that I go on a tour and if I didn’t like it she wouldn’t bring it up again. I knew I wanted to attend St. John’s immediately after



Clockwise from top: Three generations of alumni at Adrianna’s graduation in May 2024 (L-R) Pat, Kim, Alexandra, and Adrianna; Adrianna (L) and Alex at May 2024 graduation party; Johnnies Day at MSG 2023 with future son-in-law Michael Lynch, Alex, Kim, Alberta (Kim’s mom), and Pat Cozza in Penn Station next to a photo of Adrianna on a St. John’s advertisement; Adrianna, Kim and her husband, George Checkers, at UBS Arena on Senior Night last season.

that campus tour. I fell in love with the campus, its proximity to NYC, and all the incredible opportunities I could have academically, professionally and socially. Attending a school that my mother and grandfather attended was the cherry on top.

Kim: We laughed because we pulled into gate one and I didn’t even put my toe on the asphalt when she said, “this is where I want to go.”

Q: Why do you think Alex had that instant connection with the school?
Kim: She loves the city but she also loves home. I think that when she got to campus, she saw that she could have the best of both the worlds. I’m not a helicopter parent; I let them live like, “Do what you got to do but always know I’m here as a safety net,” so she knew she would have the freedom to do all the crazy stuff that college kids do. But if she wanted to come home on the weekend to do her laundry or have a homemade meal, she could hop in her car and be home in 30 minutes. Or if she wanted to go into the city and just sunbathe in Central Park while doing her homework, she could hop on the bus and the subway and be there. And she would always take advantage of the student center’s Broadway tickets and Yankee games.

Q: How do your St. John’s experiences compare?
Pat: I can’t speak for all students, but my five grandchildren have displayed excellent interest in their education. If this is any indication of who today’s student in higher education is, then I see an improvement. The age of computers has changed everything, with many new careers that have developed in the computer field.

Kim: The biggest difference is the campus itself. When I was there, the dorms didn’t exist, and neither did Belson Stadium, the parking garage, or Kaiser Stadium. The nursing program wasn’t even there when Alex went—that’s brand-spanking new. When I got accepted to St. John’s, my Dad took me to the campus to take a look around, which was the first time he’d been there

since he graduated back when there was only four buildings and the trees on the Great Lawn were just planted as saplings. So when I went for my tour, he was like, “Oh my God, I can’t believe all the buildings that were added and these trees are now fully grown!” And so now we play the game (when we go to campus), “That’s new. That’s new. That was here. That’s new.” When we take my Dad to events and walk around campus, he’s just in awe again. He’s like, where’s the priest residence? I’m like, ‘Oh, Dad, that’s been gone.’ He remembers the little chapel and so do I. Now they have big St. Thomas More church. But one thing that hasn’t changed is the hills, the staircases, the wind tunnels—they’re all still there.

Alex: The biggest differences for me were getting to experience the dorms and having the opportunity to immerse myself in extracurricular activities on and off campus. Because I had the privilege to live on campus, I was granted the opportunity to be involved with numerous clubs and extracurricular activities. Aside from being on the dance team, I was also a student ambassador and gave tours to prospective students and families, which allowed me to learn so much about the University.

Q: What connects all of your experiences at St. John’s?
Kim: The University’s mission to help others, their connection to the community, taking care of the underserved and underprivileged, and encouraging students of all backgrounds traveling from all different corners of the world to take what you’ve learned and earned here and give it back to your communities. That has never changed.

Q. The best part of being in a legacy family?
Alex: Knowing that my family understands the importance and meaning behind the mission of the University. As the older sibling it also allowed me to support my sister in her journey while encouraging her to create her own path, as I am keenly aware that St. John’s has so much to offer

their students. And attending alumni events and games with my family...

Q. Your family must have a campus store’s worth of St. John’s clothing!
Alex: There’s too many to count. If I had to guess I would say well over 100!

Q: Something you cherish from your time here?
Pat: The friends I made, socializing in the student lounge under St. John’s Hall. And, of course, the diploma I received.

Alex: The most memorable experience I have from being on the dance team was getting a standing ovation from a sold-out crowd at MSG against Duke—and the best part is we won!

Kim: When I attended St. John’s, they didn’t have dorms and I had to work to put myself through college. As soon as I was done with my classes, I would hop in the car and drive to work. I didn’t have the opportunity to be connected like a student would. But with these girls I wanted them to have the experience that I didn’t get. Sometimes I feel like I’m still a student there—I feel more involved as an alum because of how involved my daughters were and are. You don’t want to live vicariously through your children, but I feel like I’ve had the opportunity in a positive way to live vicariously through them, to be connected and feel like a student almost all over again by being involved with their activities. Not many parents get to send their kids off to college and still be involved in their extracurriculars and meet their friends.

Q. Do you think your family’s next generation will attend St. John’s?
Alex: If I become a parent myself I would, of course, love if they chose to attend St. John’s! However, I would follow in my mother’s footsteps and allow them to make the best decision for them and their future. I strongly believe one of the reasons I felt so confident choosing St. John’s was that my mother never tried to force me to go. I fell in love with the school on my own because of how remarkable it truly is! 🍷



Now celebrating our 25th year, The McCallen Society is a community of like-minded individuals who demonstrate a shared commitment to the values of St. Vincent de Paul by including St. John’s University in our estate plans. The society is named in honor of Rev. Thomas J. McCallen, C.M., whose vision helped St. John’s establish it’s foundation in Queens in 1955, through the purchase and development of our flagship campus.

Legacy gifts established by members fund academic scholarships and student-based programs and initiatives, as well as University enhancements and facility upgrades that have become critical in ensuring student success.

As a member, you will join a vibrant community that fosters a deep connection to your alma mater. St. John’s returns the generosity through various McCallen-exclusive events and activities such as social gatherings, educational programs, virtual fitness classes, international trips, museum tours, theater outings, and an annual luncheon hosted by Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., President of St. John’s University, just to name a few.

How do you want your legacy to shape the future of St. John’s University?

Consider leaving St. John’s Peter J. Tobin School of Business in your will, or let us help you make the gift that’s right for you.

To begin, visit <https://mystjohnslegacy.org> to request a confidential, no-obligation conversation.



Vanna and Harry R. Booth '67CBA, '70MBA with scholarship recipient



Jack P. Clarke, ESQ, '55CBA, '57L and Paul Gallagher '77MBA, '16TCB



“Gift planning is a valuable asset to St. John’s, and I couldn’t imagine my life without the support of the donors in our giving societies. The Office of Gift Planning enables students like myself to attend school despite financial challenges.”

-Igor Maslov '20CCPS, '21MBA, the youngest member of The McCallen Society

TAA is BACK

**You earned the degree. Now time to enjoy its perks:
Tobin Alumni Association – and we mean business!**

After a brief hiatus, the Tobin Alumni Association (TAA) is back and more dedicated than ever to promoting unity and a supportive community for all graduates* of St. John's Tobin College of Business (2000-current), the College of Business Administration (1961-1999), and the School of Commerce (1927-1960).

You may already know that the TAA hosts events throughout the year where alumni can connect with the school, students, and colleagues. But did you know that the TAA is led by an active group of proud alumni who volunteer their time and expertise to create even more opportunities for members?

In fact, the TAA invites all alumni to provide feedback, financial support, and volunteer, thus impacting everything from student education and experiences to alumni networks and careers.

Now is a great time to get involved! Please consider volunteering with the TAA to help:

- Organize events and assist in reunions and gatherings that maintain a sense of community and belonging among graduates;
- Connect alumni who lost touch or never met, fostering friendships and professional relationships that span decades;

- Guide recent graduates or current students as mentors, or facilitate student experiences such as the TAA's long-running and successful "Alumni Insider's View: A Day on Wall Street;"
- Play a crucial role in fundraising efforts, like encouraging donations for student scholarships;
- Promote and elevate Tobin's reputation and value within the business community;
- Provide career services, including job placement assistance, career counseling, and resume workshops for fellow alumni;
- Lead workshops, seminars, and webinars on topics of interest to alumni, students, and faculty;
- Facilitate volunteer opportunities that allow the TAA to give back to communities, support various causes, university events, programs, and initiatives.

We hope you'll consider being a part of TAA by joining a committee, attending an event, or supporting fundraising efforts. For more information, please contact Nicole Boodhoo at 718-990-2321 or boodhoon@stjohns.edu, or scan the QR code to learn more.

**All business school alumni of St. John's University are automatically members of the TAA.*



NETWORK

Connect with your St. John's business school classmates and community through Class Notes and Tobin Alumni Association news and events.



TAKE NOTE

Reconnect in Class Notes, where a network of 45,000 alumni with at least one shared conversation starter can meet. St. John's business school alumni from TCB, CBA, or School of Commerce, we want to hear from you at tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu or mail your news to the address on page 6. Guidelines on page 38.

Building momentum to \$1M

Dear Fellow Tobin Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well. As the newly appointed Chair of the Tobin Alumni Association (TAA), I am thrilled to be leading our esteemed Alumni and I would like to share some exciting updates about our future.

First, I extend a warm welcome to our new 2024-2026 TAA Board Members. They bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and I am confident their contributions will greatly benefit our alumni community.

We have ambitious plans to continue to strengthen the Tobin College of Business’ reputation and value. Our goals include attracting the best students, supporting our current and future students during their time at Tobin, and welcoming them into our esteemed alumni network upon graduation. We aim to raise \$1 million over the next five years to support TAA scholarship funds, finance innovative student programs, and maintain our school’s reputation for producing exceptional graduates. Our fundraising efforts are crucial in achieving these goals. Your involvement is key to the TAA’s success, and we deeply appreciate the ongoing support from those who continue to donate year after year.

Our immediate goal is to rally all 45,000 alumni to support us now more than ever. With our basketball team regaining national recognition, the spotlight is once again on St. John’s, creating enthusiasm and fond memories of our time as students. Over the past year, many Tobin alumni have been activated by a sense of gratitude and loyalty for the education and opportunities that St. John’s provided, and have reciprocated by supporting the University financially to express and maintain this bond that all Tobin alumni feel.

By tapping into your pride and gratitude for St. John’s, we are asking for your support. We will be organizing a series



of Tobin events throughout the year tailored to your interests and needs. Whether you seek to reconnect with old friends, expand your professional network, come to a basketball game at Carnesecca Arena or MSG, or gain insights from industry leaders, there will be something for everyone. Your participation, whether through attending events, volunteering, or contributing financially, makes a significant impact on continuing Tobin’s reputation as a top business school. Together, we can ensure the legacy of academic achievement and camaraderie as Tobin continues to thrive.

Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding our events and fundraising campaigns. We encourage you to update your contact information (see how on page 6) and connect with us on social media to stay informed about the latest developments.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of the TAA. I look forward to connecting with each of you and working together to create a vibrant and engaged alumni community.

Best regards,

Carleen Kelly

Carleen Kelly ’83CBA, TAA Board Chair

A member of the President’s Society when she graduated from the College of Business Administration with a B.S. in Marketing, Carleen Kelly is currently VP, Business Development for the Medical Knowledge Group, a network of 14 companies, maximizing the commercial potential of brands for biopharmaceutical companies.

“ I am grateful for being a member of the President’s Society and the networking by Fr. Cahill to a former alum at Pfizer for launching my successful career in the biopharmaceutical industry. I am committed to developing and strengthening our bond among 45,000 alumni, and to engage with us by sharing news about our successful alumni, programs to network and create new relationships, catch up with old college friends, and catch a basketball game.”

—Carleen Kelly, ’83CBA, TAA Board Chair



I am grateful to St. John’s and Tobin College of Business for my education and the career path and personal growth it afforded me. By volunteering and donating to TAA, I “pay it forward” in gratitude and hope to help others receive the same opportunities in life.

—Cathy Boyle ’86CBA, Vice Chair (Recruitment)



Attending St. John’s was one of my best decisions. The skills, friendships, memories and resources from both Tobin and St. John’s are beneficial to my life today. The TAA allows me to honor this positive experience by giving back and helping a new generation of current and future students to see all the opportunities St. John’s provides. I am very excited and honored to be a part of the new team.

—Jennifer Arpaia ’13TCB, ’14MBA, TAA Secretary



I am actively engaged with St. John’s and serve on the TAA board to give back to a school that holds deep significance for both my grandfather and me. We are both graduates of Tobin. I appreciate the education I received at St. John’s, the friendships forged during my time there, and the teachers who inspired me.

—Lauren Bonaventura Sorrento ’13TCB, ’14MS Vice Chair (Fundraising)

I am pleased to volunteer on the TAA Board as it allows me the opportunity influence current and future graduates. I am grateful for St. John’s and where it has guided me today. Donating to the TAA is a small way of showing my gratitude towards SJU and makes me feel proud to help future business professionals.

—Matthew Piraino ’13TCB, ’14MBA Vice Chair (Marketing)



TAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Ali ’15TCB
Nicholas Antaki ’07TCB, ’11MBA
Michael Capello ’05MBA
Daria Coney ’13CPS, ’15MBA

Bill Ferguson ’95CBA, ’07MBA
Demetrios Frangiskatos ’00CBA
Michael Hefferon ’10TCB
John Kinahan ’87CBA, ’04MBA
Andrew Persaud ’07TCB

Szymon Piecuch ’09TCB, ’12MBA
Andrew Piekarski ’87CBA
Peter Pisapia ’94CBA, ’97L
Michael Sroga ’04TCB

Interested in joining the TAA Board? Contact Nicole Boodhoo at 718-990-2321 or boodhoon@stjohns.edu.

Alumni events

TAA gatherings are just getting warmed up with even more chances to show your Red Storm pride

10/23/24 – TAA Golf Outing at Bethpage | See details opposite page.

10/25/24 to 10/27/24 – StormFest | Homecoming weekend with sports, games, and fun for everyone to celebrate a new season! Check social media.

11/20/24 – Alumni Insider’s View: A Day on Wall Street | This annual event for Tobin students will be followed by a networking reception with alumni 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Stout NYC, 100 John Street, NY, NY 10038.

November 2024 – Life Sciences Networking Event | Stay tuned to our social media and emails for more info about a TAA networking reunion with College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences alumni.

February 14-17, 2025 – St. John’s Alumni Cruise | Royal Caribbean from Ft. Lauderdale to Bahamas (@stjohnsalumni social media for details).

More in 2025! – Wine tastings, basketball receptions, and other social events are currently in the works – details soon! Plus, stay tuned for how you can contribute to the TAA’s Endowed Scholarship fund for students.

TOBIN TAILGATE (right) Tobin College of Business hosted nearly 400 alumni at Stout NYC in midtown Jan. 24 for an 1870 Court reception. Fans pregamed and headed to MSG to cheer the Red Storm on to a 70-50 win over Villanova. **SUMMER SOIREE** (below) On Sept. 18, 33 alumni from classes spanning decades met at the TAA’s End-of-Summer Happy Hour at 230 5th Ave Rooftop Bar in Manhattan to reminisce and network.



CLASS NOTES GUIDELINES

Please submit to tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu and include your full birth name, year you graduated, your degree and major, and the St. John’s business school you graduated from (e.g. School of Commerce 1927-1960, College of Business Administration 1961-1999, Tobin College of Business 2000-present). We recommend writing in the third person and keeping submissions succinct.

Consider sharing news that falls into one or more of the following categories: academic accomplishment (date, name of the school/institution, and the degree or honor received); birth (name of the child and the birthdate); new job/promotion/career (your job title, company name, description of the position, location, and/or previous position); career highlight or honors (date received with full title of honor and name of awarding entity or relevant information, e.g. opened new business, named to board, published new book, etc); retirement (company name and date of retirement, and brief narrative of career trajectory or latest position); wedding (date of the wedding and spouse’s name - if an alum, please include their school and class year); travel (location, dates, highlight). Submissions are subject to editing for content, grammar, style, and length and should not exceed 200 words (longer submissions may be edited for length).

Photos are welcome as email attachments. To be considered, please submit a digital, high-quality photo (jpeg, png, or tif file at 300 dpi or 1MB or higher). Files should be titled using your birth name (for example, JANE DOE.jpeg). Please include a suggested caption with relevant information in your Class Notes copy (caption will not count against submission length). For group photos of alumni gatherings, including weddings and reunions, please identify all alum/alumni (birth names, class years, and any relevant information about the date and location of the gathering). We will publish as many photos as possible, but due to space limitations and reproduction-quality requirements, we may not be able to publish every photo. By submitting a photo, you certify that you are the rights owner, and that you grant the magazine and its publisher Tobin College of Business permission to print it.

Family members or fellow alumni can submit news of an alum’s passing. Obituaries will be fact-checked for consideration and may appear in the “In Memoriam” section. Names of the deceased will appear by class year.

Tobin College of Business reserves the right to edit all submissions for the aforementioned reasons, and to edit or not publish submissions that are deemed inappropriate, including submissions that contain overt advertising or any form of commercial solicitation; unauthorized copyrighted material; content that could be confused with official communications of the University or Tobin Alumni Association; language that is vulgar or obscene, or slanders, abuses or threatens others or intends to elicit negative responses such as personal attacks or insults, hate speech, or harassment.

We’ll do our best to include all submissions. Items received after deadline will be included in the next edition.

For questions regarding Class Notes, please email tobinmagazine@stjohns.edu.

Up for a round?



Tobin Alumni Association Golf Outing at Bethpage Golf Course

The TAA invites alumni & friends to join a fantastic fall day of golf at the beautiful Bethpage Golf Course in Long Island, NY.

Whether you assemble a foursome or venture solo, get ready to mingle with fellow Johnnies.

October 23, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Not a golfer but still interested in attending? Join us in the evening for dinner, drinks, and a silent auction! Cocktail hour begins at 5 p.m.

Breakfast gets the day going at 10 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at noon. Refreshments and food will be available for purchase along the course.



To sign up, scan the QR code or contact Nicole Boodhoo at 718-990-2321 or boodhoon@stjohns.edu.



Class Notes

Share news about professional accomplishments, personal milestones, births, weddings, passings, and other noteworthy events: tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu or scan the QR code on the following pages. (Submission guidelines on page 38.)

'44 Remembering Dean and Professor Harold F. McNiece '44CBA, '45L

A decade after his untimely death in 1972, through the generosity of alumni and friends, St. John's Law established the Harold F. McNiece Professorship in honor of the longtime professor who served as the Law School's dean from 1960 to 1970. Some of those generous donors returned to



campus recently to celebrate a milestone achievement: the permanent endowment of the McNiece Professorship. The celebration was a fitting tribute to a beloved educator, leader, and friend. It was also the perfect opportunity to hear from University Trustee and Dean Emeritus Hon. Joseph W. Bellacosa '59C, '61L, '87HON,

who supported the fundraising initiative in word and deed through personal gifts, by working in partnership with the Law School, and by lending his name to a very successful effort to add to the endowment. Additional, substantial support came from the Bellacosa Law School Fund.

'54 Elaine Mary Verna '54CBA

Elaine Mary Verna passed away October 9, 2022, sadly. Elaine and her sister, Marilyn A. Verna '66Ed, '96Ed.D., both attended St. John's campus on Schermerhorn Street in downtown Brooklyn, NY, and pursued different careers after graduation. Elaine used her degree in accounting to specialize in auditing at the New York City Board of Education. (Marilyn received her Ed.D. in administration and supervision and taught at St. Francis College

as an Associate professor until retirement. She has since become a genealogist at italiangen.org.)

'61 Anthony J. Detje '61CBA

After a long career in marketing and finance for Olivetti, Vogue, American Can, and James River Corp, Anthony J. Detje's last position was with The Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, as the Assistant to the Vicar for Clergy personnel. Anthony retired in June 2013. He was ordained a Deacon in 1978 and his last parish assignment was at St. Marguerite Parish Brookfield, CT. He was Director of Deacons and Deacon Formation 1968-2013. Anthony earned a Master's Degree in Financial Accounting from C.W. Post College in 1975, and a Master's Degree in Spiritual Counseling in 1980.

In 1966, Anthony married Carol Ann Gannon, who passed away from cancer; he married Isabelle Marie Walsh in 1966 (she passed 1/18/2021 from natural causes). Isabelle and Anthony have two children, Chris and Paula. He moved to live with his son in Atoka, TN, in June 2021. While there Anthony was active as a Deacon at St. William Parish. In June 2022 he decided to move to a Del Webb active retirement community in Hoschton (Atlanta) GA, where he still resides.

Anthony plans to become active at Prince of Peace Parish as a Deacon in the near future.

'62 Richard D. Staszak '62CBA

Richard and his wife, Carol, recently moved from Rockville Centre, NY, after 54 years to Bucks County, PA. They have spent 20 winters in Bonita Springs, FL, and have five children and 12 grandchildren. Tyler will graduate from Marist college in May, Connor, a junior at Villanova, is a manager of the men's basketball team and his brother, Jack, is a sophomore. Nick is a freshman at Santa Fe College where he is a pitcher for the baseball team and granddaughter, Mireille, is a freshman at Tulane. The others range in age from 11 to 28 and include two sets of twins!

'65 James K. Tarpey '65CBA

After graduating from St. John's University (BBA, Accounting, 1965) and Fordham University (LLB, 1968), Jim started his career as a Special Agent in the FBI (1968-1972). His legal career (starting in 1972 in Colorado) primarily revolved around the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Starting as a Colorado Assistant Attorney General and later becoming a PUC

Administrative Law Judge, Jim moved to private practice in 1977 and appeared often before the PUC representing various clients.

Jim was appointed a PUC Commissioner by Governor Ritter and subsequently reappointed by Governor Hickenlooper (and confirmed both times by the Colorado Legislature). Jim served in this position from January 2009 to January 9, 2014, when he stepped down. Governor Hickenlooper issued a proclamation officially designating January 9, 2014, as James K. Tarpey Day. Now retired, Jim and his wife, Mary Ann, have been married 55 years and like biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and traveling. They have two grown children, who also live in Colorado.

Joseph John Gorman '65CBA

After getting his BBA in public accounting at St. John's and a long career at The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P), where he served as Corporate Vice President and Chief Tax Officer, Joe retired to Naples, FL.

Prior to joining A&P, he earned his MBA from the University of Connecticut and held tax and financial positions at Texas Gulf Sulphur Co. and E.F. Hutton & Co. He and his wife,



Maureen, now enjoy the Sunshine State, where he continues to hone his financial analysis and investment skills managing his family portfolio.

'66 Pasquale J. Cozza '66CBA

Now retired and living in Suffolk County, NY, Pasquale served in the military for six years after graduation. He returned to civilian life and managed the men's department at Gertz department store in Flushing, NY, and later accepted a position as a manufacturer's representative for General Foods and eventually with Mars Candy Co. Pasquale would soon join Chevron Chemical, where he worked for 15 years and later with two other chemical companies. He has been married for 56 years and has three daughters and seven grandchildren. "My wife and I are now enjoying our lives."

Theodore F. Golembiewski '66CBA

After graduation, Theodore worked for Arthur Young, then migrated to IBM where he was a tax accountant for their World Trade Corporation in NYC. Moved to Valhalla and then transferred to Tucson, AZ, in 1979 before retiring with medical disability.

Married on February 14, 1970, to Valerie, who he just celebrated 54 years with this year. Proud father



Want to share your news?
Send to tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu,
scan the QR code to submit online,
or visit bit.ly/3WYfUUE.
(Submission guidelines page 38.)

of eight great children, and at last count, 20 terrific grandchildren. He writes that he has “nothing outstanding to brag about. I have lived a rather mundane life and had an unspectacular career, but I have been happy and relatively healthy. Enjoy model railroading, especially O and G gauges. Many warm memories of my time and friends at St. John’s. The school has changed quite a bit since my time there but in my heart, it will remain as it was. Would love to hear from my fellow graduates.”

Edward F Smith ’66CBA

After earning a BBA in accounting, Edward has since retired as a partner, KPMG (formerly Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.) after spending 38 years with KPMG, including three years in the Tokyo, Japan office.

A former member of Tobin College of Business’ Board of Advisors and an adjunct professor who taught Auditing and Ethics for professionals, Edward retired as a Major US Marine Corps, Vietnam Veteran, and recipient of St. John’s Pietas medal in 2001 and Heritage Circle in 2006. Edward later funded an endowment (KPMG/Edward F. Smith Endowment) at St. John’s for Tobin’s accounting majors who have a bachelor’s in accounting and are pursuing a Master’s in Accounting or Taxation during their fifth year.

In 2022, Edward and his wife

moved to Falmouth, MA, on Cape Cod to be near their adult children and grandchildren. He is now a member of the board and finance committee for The Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center in Hyannis, MA.

’68 Cecelia Walsh Doyle ’68CBA

After graduating from St. John’s, Celia spent her entire business career in the financial services industry, including Goldman Sachs & Company, Citigroup and as a consultant with Fiserv before retiring.

Gregg Naclerio ’68CBA, ’71L

Since retiring from a 40+ year career in the practice of criminal law, Gregg wrote a book about some of the funny and strange cases he handled entitled, *You Can’t Make This Up: My Criminal Law War Stories*. Writing the book was an enjoyable experience, he says, and he happily donates half of the book’s profit to two charities helping disadvantaged kids in Cary, NC.

Edwin Robert Ward ’68CBA, ’72MBA

Edwin has been enjoying retirement since 1998 after 40 years with Brown Brothers Harriman and Co. He reports that he travels several times a year with his wonderful wife.

Vincent R. Olivieri ’68CBA

After graduating St. John’s, Vincent went to law school at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and graduated with a J.D. in 1971. He worked for Coopers & Lybrand in their DC office before moving to Virginia Beach, VA, in 1973 where practiced law for almost 50 years.

In addition to his law practice, Vincent was involved in real estate development and active in several non-profit groups, having been board chair of the Virginia Beach Forum and The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, along significant involvement with the Virginia Beach and Hampton Roads Community Foundations.

He recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary, and has two children and two grandchildren. Although he is retired from the day-to-day practice of law, Vincent remains involved with his investment and non-profit activities.

’69 Paul J. Mila ’69CBA, ’72MBA

Following his graduation from St. John’s in 1972, Paul enjoyed a successful career as an Economist for Chemical Bank and other financial institutions. After witnessing the events of 9/11 during a business meeting with a corporate client, Paul decided to retire as Vice President, Electronic Payments

Division, MasterCard International, trading in his corporate suit for a wetsuit, and has been an author and underwater photographer since 2003, when he started his imprint, MilaBooks.com.

In the course of following his passion for scuba diving, underwater photography, and writing, Paul published six adventure/thriller novels as part of his “Manetta Mystery Adventure Series” (most recently *Fugitive in Paradise* in February 2022), and two nonfiction books, *Bubbles Up* and *Basic Underwater Photography*. His series of three children’s books, “The Harry Hawksbill Sea Turtle Adventures” (pictured with his grandchildren) were published as recently as January 2021 by Best Publishing Company in Florida. Paul also writes and publishes a monthly newsletter called *The Sea-gram* to promote ocean education and environmental conservation. *Sea-gram* has over 1,000 readers located all over the world, with previous issues available at sea-gram.com.

Ralph M. Mastrangelo ’69CBA

After retiring from The Bank of



New York as President of The BNY Securities Group and an Executive VP of the Bank, Ralph served as Chair of the Ramapo College of NJ Foundation Board of Governors, as a volunteer and board member at Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach of Charleston, SC, and most recently was elected Treasurer of The Valley Hospital Foundation in Paramus, NJ. Ralph reports, “I am so enjoying my volunteer work!”

Frank Fusaro ’69CBA

Frank is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Forum Group, a NYC-based staffing and consulting firm. To celebrate, Frank and his son Chris ’01TCB and current CEO of Forum, raised \$2.6 million for the construction of Smart Homes for catastrophically injured veterans on behalf of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

’70 Prosper Bernard ’70CBA

Prosper continues to work as a professor at the University of Quebec in Montreal. He brings executives to China twice per year to share best practices for doing business there.

’71 Greg Schnitzler ’71MBA

Greg recently published *Black Capitalism*

1971-Today-2071, which is based on his 1971 MBA thesis at St. John’s University. His book discusses the progress achieved during these past 50 years, looks forward to 2071, and argues what it will take before Black Americans achieve complete economic equality in America as the world approaches the 22nd century.

Louis Venezia ’71CBA

Louis reports that he “had the good fortune of studying economics at SJU under the tutelage of Dr. George Reisman,” author of the treatise, *Capitalism*. Louis achieved Dean’s List and was inducted into the honor society in economics, Omicron Delta Epsilon, before enrolling in Hofstra School of Law where he married SJU alum Maryann DiSanto (later divorced).

Louis joined the law firm of F. Lee Bailey & Aaron J Broder (personal injury and aviation crash cases) and conducted the firm’s initial investigation into the St. Thomas air crash. He became the firm’s managing attorney at age 27 and subsequently started his own practice with a couple of partners. In September 1982, May 1984, and October 1991, his cases were featured on the front page of the *New York Law Journal*. The



law partnership dissolved in 1992, so he headed up his own firm. Other interesting cases of his also made the front page of the *NYLJ* in October 1996 and July 2005.

Louis says he's most proud of obtaining the decision on behalf of a victim of fraud in *Weitzman v. FIF Consultants, Inc.*, 468 So. 2d 1085 (Fla.,1985). Recognizing that the decision would cause the perpetrator of the fraud to lose money spent to further harm his client, the Court stated, "It is a happy event when justice under the law and poetic justice so nicely coincide."

He considers himself extremely fortunate to have found his soulmate and closest friend, Susan Lurie, a children's book editor and author. In addition to writing her own books, Susan edits the *Goosebumps* series written by R.L. Stine as well as editing books written by other authors. "We make each other laugh every day!! We were married in November 2005 in celebration of our 25-year relationship. Now at age 74, I am still practicing law and fighting for my clients in the New York courts, and still laughing with Susan."

'73 F. Barry Nelson
CFA/CBA,
'73MBA

Barry co-wrote "History of Convertible Securities" in the Spring 2024 *Financial History* magazine, the internationally

recognized source for the history of American capital markets. Barry explains how convertibles funded growth companies from steam railroads in the 19th century to five of the contemporary "Magnificent 7" companies. *Financial History* is published by the Museum of American Finance.

The article is adapted from "Convertible Securities: A Complete Guide to Investment and Corporate Financing Strategies," which Barry also co-wrote. The 540-page text, published by McGraw Hill in 2022, won acclaim from the CFA Institute.

Barry began his investing career after being referred to Value Line by a classmate at St. John's. He eventually managed five mutual funds including the Value Line Convertible Fund before joining Advent Capital Management in 1996. Advent has \$9 billion in assets under management, primarily in convertible securities.

Barry is an Army veteran and has served on the Veterans Roundtable of the CFA Society of New York.

Despite retiring in 2013, Barry continues to serve Advent as a Partner. His wife, Kathleen



Nelson on Asset TV in 2020.

Crowley Nelson (NDC BS 1969), says he has "flunked retirement."

'75 Edward Murtagh
'75CBA, '84MBA
& Barbara Staats
Murtagh '75CBA

Edward and Barbara Staats Murtagh CBA '75 (Summa Cum Laude) were married on July 30, 1977, in the Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel on campus at St. John's University. "We were blessed with two sons and lived in Stewart Manor, NY, for 17 years before moving to Boca Raton, FL, 25 years ago."

Their sons graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and Florida Atlantic University. Ed and Barbara are happily retired with five grandchildren ages 3 to 11 between NY and FL. They wish "the best to St. John's for a wonderful education."

Irene Bozzi Caccavallo
'75CBA

Irene worked in securities in banking for several years before taking some time off to raise a family. She went back to work at her alma mater in 2003. After retiring in 2022, she moved to New Jersey and



Joan Irene Dukes
'68Ed, '71G and
Norman V. Jardine
'69C, '73MBA

Husband and wife Norman and Joan (pictured) recently served as lecturers at the annual Blessing of the Couples

Mass at St. Thomas More Church. As regulars at this event, they said they felt honored that they were selected to be part of this special occasion and long-standing St. John's tradition for alumni.

To read their story of becoming friends in 1965 as members of the Glee Club during their undergraduate years ("An angel on my shoulder told me this was the man I was going to marry") and more about the event, visit <https://www.stjohns.edu/news-media/news/2024-02-15/annual-blessing-couples-ceremony-celebrates-st-johns-love-stories>.

remains active with the NJ alumni group. Irene is also the director of a Good Samaritan Group at her church.

'76 Steven Caccavallo
'76CBA

After graduating in the winter of 1976, Steven embarked on a corporate career of 26 years in revenue accounting and management for large public/private corporations in the publishing, energy, legal, computer, and staffing industries. In June 1984, he graduated from Pace University with an MBA in Finance with High Distinction.

From 2003-04, while between roles, Steven was an adjunct professor at St. John's, teaching Macroeconomics for the then

College of Professional Studies. In 2004, he ventured into the world of financial recruiting for positions ranging from bookkeepers to CFO's. Steven worked for a publicly traded staffing firm of KFORCE Inc., Marcum Search (nationwide search firm for Marcum, a top 20 public accounting firm) and finally, as owner, of Steven Caccavallo Executive Search. In 2018, he left recruiting and worked as Concierge/Front Office Specialist at a luxury condominium in Garden City, NY. He retired in March 2023.



Steven reports that he married the love of his life, Irene Bozzi, in October 1977, who he first met at St. John's as a student in the fall of 1971. "We have two beautiful daughters, Alaine, and Lauren (both graduates of St. John's). Alaine is the mother of two beautiful children, Matthew and Ava, who are my wonderful grandchildren."

After their daughters were grown, Irene went back to work at St. John's for 18 years in various administrative positions with the most recent being in the Provost's Office. Irene retired from St. John's in July 2022 and they relocated from Floral Park, NY, to Park Ridge, NJ, to be closer to their grandchildren. Irene and Steven are still connected to St. John's in many ways, including as volunteers trying to help build an alumni base in Northern New Jersey as volunteers and by becoming members in 2023 of the McCallen Society to leave a legacy to St. John's.

He says, "Being the first person in my family to graduate from college, St. John's afforded me with a great education to be successful and to live a Vincentian life. To this day, I remain a huge fan of the St. John's men's basketball program. With the recent hiring of Hall of Fame Coach, Rick Pitino, I am hoping to see St. John's return to prominence once again!!!"



Want to share your news?
Send to tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu,
scan the QR code to submit online,
or visit bit.ly/3WyfUUE.
(Submission guidelines page 38.)

John Stephen Rusak '76CBA, '80MBA

After earning accounting and finance degrees from St. John's, John obtained his CPA and worked 15 years in several major corporate entities in the corporate accounting and finance departments. With this experience, he found a career niche as a Corporate Controller with startup companies which included being part of the team that took both Metromedia Fiber Networks and Hotjobs.com public.

He worked with several other startup companies and spent the last 10 years prior to retirement as SVP, Controller with a small boutique management consulting company which partnered with Private Equity firms to acquire, improve, and ultimately divest cable companies, one which provided cable services to New York City, namely RCN. He retired in 2019 and is enjoying retirement thoroughly: "It allows me to spend more quality time with my wife, four children and three grandchildren."

'77 Anthony T. Barbera '77CBA, '87MBA

After 25 years at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury as a tenured faculty member in Accounting, Dean of the School of Business, and Assistant

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Anthony retired and relocated to Indian Land, SC. Previous to his time at Old Westbury, he was an audit manager at Price Waterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) in New York City and a faculty member in the College of Business Administration at his alma mater.

Lawrence John Menchini '77CBA

Lawrence retired in 2020 after 49 years in the work force starting with manufacturing and concluding in NYS Parks Management. He now concentrates on home improvement projects for his primary home as well as the those of his two daughters.

Lawrence enjoys assisting in any nature-related projects concerning the environment, leading historical hikes pertaining to the American Revolution, following sports, and reading fact-based articles about the economy, current events, and history.

He says, "My wife and I find great pleasure nowadays in spending time with both daughter's growing families."

'78 John Borgia '78CBA

After a long career as a CPA and Treasurer on Wall Street, John is now the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, NY.

'80 Robert H. Doud '80CBA, '88L

After 23 years of service, Robert is retiring from Farmers Insurance Exchange, where he was Senior Trial Attorney. He will continue as an Adjunct Professor of Accounting and Business Law at Adelphi University, where he has taught for 20 years.

Marcel Catafago '80CBA

Marcel retired in 2022, after nearly 40 years doing financial work. He says his first three jobs out of SJU came from their wonderful placement office: First as programmer in small software start-up, then as accountant for banking software developers, then as accountant for a trade school, then accountant for NY Chiropractic College, then SUNY Old Westbury, and finally from 1998 to 2022, SUNY College of Optometry, ending up as Associate VP Administration and Finance.

Marcel reports: "Throughout, I've been blessed with a wonderful and supporting wife, and two terrific children...a daughter and a son (who graduated from St John's and was ordained in 2021 as priest in DRVC). In 2020, I was blessed with kidney cancer – yes blessed! Why? I had kidney stone, and the cancer would not have

been found unless I had stone; and between having cancer and covid, it gave me time to contemplate important things in life and decide to retire from a good job. The kids and wife didn't wish me to stay home watching old TV re-runs, so I immediately got a job as parish business officer at church about 15 minutes from where we live (not my son's parish). Recently saw that SJU is memorializing old schoolmate of mine (and fellow SGA officer), John Bingham, who was SGA president. I was merely a representative but always marveled at his energy and optimism! His fraternity BEP was large, whereas mine only had 7-8 members. I lost contact with most of them except Ed Boes, who passed away in 2020. (Fr. Ed Boes was Franciscan priest and lived in Rome.) All this can fill a book but would not be complete with acknowledging 1) SJU, 2) parents and 3) most importantly, God, without whom nothing good is possible."

'81 John F. Keane, Jr. '81CBA

After graduating with an MBA in Executive Management, John joined Time Inc. Publishing, working in marketing, sales development, and strategic planning at *People* magazine. He then moved to Conde' Nast publishing where he held senior-level marketing

positions at *GQ*, *Gourmet*, *House & Garden*, and the Conde' Nast Media Group. John's final corporate position was as the Executive Director, Corporate Marketing and Strategy for the Bauer Media Group where he oversaw the marketing, brand strategy, sales development, and market research for the US division of the global media company.

Segueing into higher education, John served in adjunct faculty positions at Parson's School of Design/The New School, CUNY/Baruch College, and Monroe College. He was hired as a full-time professor in the Graduate Studies Department at LIM College in New York City and later assumed the role of Department Chair, Graduate Studies.

He is now a full-time professor in the Fashion Merchandising and Marketing Department at LIM, where he teaches courses in marketing, market research, and brand strategy.

Originally from Huntington, Long Island, John has lived in Manhattan for the past 40 years, where he currently resides with his wife, daughter, and dachshund. He recently visited the St. John's Queens campus for the first time



in many years and was struck by how the campus has grown and evolved. "Very impressive!"

'82 Chrysa (Sandewicz) Smith '82CBA

Chrysa credits her BS in Management with helping her immensely, as she went from promotional writing to copywriting to feature editorial to children's books in a business that involves marketing, bookkeeping, management, and lots of hours. Living in Bucks County, PA (a Philly suburb), she spends a lot of time visiting elementary schools speaking about what it's like to be an author, how they can improve their writing, and sharing

one of her eight books for kids in K-3. Chrysa also credits her spiritual upbringing for the summer 2024 release of her ninth book, *Look Up, Little Mouse*. It's her first book about faith, with a decidedly Christian message. Johnnies can reach Chrysa at wellbredbook.net.



'83 Marisel Pulido Aleman '83CBA

Since graduating

with a bachelor's in Accounting, Marisel is celebrating 20 years of owning her own business, a full-service travel agency called Cruise Elite, Inc. (cruiseelite.com). Marisel is humbled to have won 2019 ASTA Travel Advisor of the Year.



She is also "grateful to have attended St. John's!"

'84 James J. Maxwell '84CBA

James earned a bachelor's in Management and served as a Colonel, US Marine Corps (retired 1981-2014) as well as an Investigator, New York State Police (retired 1993-2017). S/F

'86 Anthony D. Yandoli '86CBA

After graduating from St. John's and becoming a CPA, Anthony later earned an MS in Taxation from Baruch College in 1996. After working in public accounting, he moved to the commercial real estate industry, with experience as de-facto controller of a wine company and two ice skating rinks.

He and his wife, Kim, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary



As Honorary Grand Marshal for St. John's at the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade (third from left).

Martin Whelan '84CBA

As President of the Stout NYC Hospitality Group (and the official bar of St. John's Athletics), Martin is happy to announce the opening of his newest restaurant/bar, The Wolfe, named for the famous author Tom Wolfe, who resided on the Upper West

Side. This is the 13th restaurant in the group's portfolio and is located at 425 Amsterdam Ave (80th St) in New York City.

Martin says all Johnnies should be on the lookout starting summer 2024 for The Splendid Sporting Club at 16 E 52nd St. The Splendid will be an elevated restaurant/cocktail bar paying homage to classic New York City and takes its name from the Walt Whitman poem, "The Splendid Silent Sun."

in 2022. The couple are frequent attendees of on-campus alumni events. Anthony is a strong supporter of several causes, including his local church, a cure for Alzheimer's, the families of Air Force service men and women, and students at Tobin College of Business.

'87 Anthony J. Tucci '87CBA

After graduating with a bachelor's in Finance, Anthony went on to graduate from Seton Hall Law School in 1990 and then started working in the tax department of one of the big eight accounting firms (Coopers & Lybrand).

In 1993 he graduated from New York University Law School with

an LLM degree in taxation. His career spans nearly 35 years, focused primarily in private practice but has also included teaching business law and tax courses as an adjunct instructor at Tobin College of Business and Wagner College.

Anthony is the proud father of a 20-year-old minimally verbal child with autism. He and his family feel "blessed with the opportunity to recognize the authentic wisdom and pure happiness that stems from fostering relationships with individuals with disabilities and the many human beings that dedicate



their lives to helping them."

Anthony has been working to advocate for the protection of the civil and human communication rights of individuals with autism. Most notably, he has argued to the National Institute of Health Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee that the scientific community should adopt a cross disciplinary integrative approach to autism research. Anthony believes "this approach will likely go a long way in protecting the human dignity of individuals by substituting research gaps often filled with bias interpretations with genuine wisdom."

'88 Bill Streifer '88MBA

Bill received an MBA with honors from St. John's and is currently on the editorial board of *Vostok* (Oriens), the leading peer-reviewed academic journal on Asian and African Studies, founded by the Russian Academy of Sciences. Over the years, he has been published numerous times by the *American Intelligence Journal* and other publications, writing mostly on topics related to U.S. Intelligence (spies), North Korea, and the Manhattan Project (nuclear weapons). He was awarded by the Library of Congress for one of his articles regarding Fritz Hansgirg, an Austrian chemist whose invention for the mass production

of heavy water was patented prior to the start of the US atomic program. Upon Hansgirg's arrival in the U.S., he was falsely accused of being a German spy (he was not), arrested, and interned for the duration of the war.

Bill's website, "The Flight of the Hog Wild," was created with a Russian journalist friend, Irek Sabitov, and appears online in the Library of Congress. The Hog Wild was a U.S. B-29 bomber that landed in Japanese-occupied North Korea, not long after the Japanese surrender at the end of WWII. During the war, Korea was occupied by Imperial Japan.

'89 Peter J. Micca '89CBA

A Senior Partner at Deloitte, Peter recently joined the Board of Directors of Springboard Enterprises and the American Red Cross.

'90 Martin Nutty '90CBA

For the last 30 years, Marty worked in the financial sector in New York City, most recently at Morgan Stanley. He's now embarking on multiple ventures that enable him to leverage his programming, spreadsheet modeling, and data analytics expertise in new startups.

Taking advantage of his Dublin-

born Irish background, he co-hosts the "Irish Stew Podcast" where, along with partner John Lee, he interviews accomplished Irish people.

Martin lives in New York City with his "talented and beautiful wife," Limor, and two dogs, Monty and JoJo. They visit Ireland regularly to spend time with Martin's family who continue to be supportive of their endeavors.



'91 Thomas L. Silvestri '91CBA

Thomas started a career in public accounting with PWC as an auditor and later moved to private accounting. For 30 years, he has led Accounting and Finance for several Technology and Healthcare Startups. Currently, he is working at SHL Telemedicine USA.

Thomas met his wife at St. John's in 1984. They live in northern NJ, have two amazing children, and are active in their community and church.





'92 William P. Corrigan '92MBA

"Ave Vincentians!"

writes Bill, who was elected to the Sigma Iota Epsilon National Honorary and Professional Management Fraternity for high academic standing while earning his MBA from St. John's, where he also completed the Executive-In-Residence program. He later earned a certification in business analysis from George Washington University, as well as certifications from IBM in Six Sigma and Data Science.



During a long, 35-year career on Wall Street and in consulting, Bill held various chief executive, vice president and director level positions in marketing, sales, relationship management, product management, and organizational development and learning. He has enjoyed success in several side gigs as a serial entrepreneur, real estate investor, realtor, and property manager.

In 2022 Bill switched over to the healthcare industry and now serves as the Organizational Development and Learning Manager at Episcopal Health Services, Inc. in Far Rockaway, NY. He has a special interest in

andragogy and social learning.

He is a former Level 3 USA Track & field & CYO Coach, donated a library to the SJU business societies, and built the world's largest peanut & butter and jelly sandwich on campus to raise money for the St. John's Bread & Life Mission with Peter J. Tobin and family.

Bill lives in North Massapequa with his wife who he fell in love with in 1989. "We have raised a wonderful daughter who is graduating from Mount Saint Mary College this spring and a magnificent son who is graduating from high school this spring and will be embarking on his college career in the fall.

I have tremendous gratitude for St. John's University for turning my passion into purpose and focusing me on the Vincentian way of life and Tobin College of Business for providing me with the skills necessary to live that lifestyle. *Educatio Christiana Animae Perfectio!*"

'93 David Trick '93CBA, '98MBA

David has been working in the banking and insurance industries since graduating St. John's with a B.S. in Finance and MBA in International Finance. He currently serves as the CFO of Ambac Financial Group, Inc. in New York City and recently



joined the Tobin Board of Advisors. David lives in northern NJ with his wife (Erin) and two sons (Collin and Carter).

Carolyn Weggeland (Weber)

Carolyn's work-life journey after St. John's has taken her many different ways over the years, from office/billing manager, administrative asst, biller, etc. "Not quite what I wanted or expected but the flexibility allowed me to be home with my two boys and watch them grow up." Her oldest graduated from Stony Brook last year and is working a full-time job now. She is extremely proud to announce that her youngest son, Eric Weggeland, is a rising senior currently attending St. John's as an accounting major in Tobin. He will be getting his master's in Taxation there as well. In addition to a 3.95 GPA, past involvement as an orientation leader and member of RedZone and Alpfa organizations, and tutoring student-athletes, Eric was chosen for the President's Society at St. John's – the University's highest honor society. "Never in a million years did I think a child of mine would attend SJU but so very happy he is!"

'95 Anton Stubbs '95CBA

In May 2023, Anton attained a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr. Stubbs is a defense acquisition professional and educator. He currently serves as Assistant Portfolio Manager - Logistics at Marine Corps Systems Command, U.S. Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. In defense of our nation, his office provides military equipment and services to U.S. Marines, enabling the accomplishment of missions worldwide. Dr. Stubbs has more than 23 years of combined active duty, reserve, and government civilian service to the Marine Corps, with service at various duty stations around the country and two deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A former Assistant to the Registrar at St. John's, Dr. Stubbs' academic achievements also include a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from St. John's, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix,



a Master of Arts degree in Educational Technology from the University of Michigan, and professional certificates from the Defense Acquisition University, the Institute for Defense and Business, and the Federal Executive Institute. Since 2006, Dr. Stubbs has served as Adjunct Professor for the business department at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, Maryland.

'96 Dr. Susana (Bertuna-) Reynoso '96MBA

After graduating from St. John's, Susana continued a successful career in business importing home furnishings and has been self-employed since 1996. She got married that same year and became a mother of twins (a boy and a girl) in 1999.

In 2014, Susana graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a Ph.D., majoring in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and "reinvented myself into a second career as a writer." She published her first book, *Transformation of the Heart: A Renewed Life* (2018), and is now in the midst of publishing a second book, *Communing with God*.

"My memories of St John's are still vivid in my mind, and I am extremely grateful for the wonderful professors, counselors, and mentors that added to my

journey while attending."

'01 Momoh Sekou Dudu '01TCB

Momoh currently lives in Minnesota, where he has been teaching business management courses full time for the Minnesota State University System since 2004. A life-long learner, he went back to school and earned a Ph.D. in Management and Public Service in 2022 from Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN.

"I still root for our beloved Red Storm sports teams from afar!"



'03 Gina Harrow '03TCB

Gina graduated with bachelor's in Finance and is now serving as an Executive Director of the Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc., which is a non-profit veteran service organization that provides transportation, housing, and caregiver and family support for severely injured, ill, and wounded post-9/11 service members from every branch of the military. Yellow Ribbon's mission is to help fill in the gaps and help families stay together. More than



Capt. Ben Harrow (Ret.), endured after Ben, while leading a team of Green Berets on an antiterrorism mission, stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) and was seriously wounded.

Alexander Prokopakis '03MBA

Since September 2023 I have been the Executive Director of the International Bunker Industry Association. As bunkers (supply of ships with fuel) are more relevant than ever to shipping, I am very happy serving my new position.



'04 Noel Crocker '04TCB

Noel is a partner at KPMG in New York City, where he has served various financial services clients over the past 18 years.

'05 Esteban Benavides '05TCB

Esteban started his career at Goldman Sachs after graduating from St. John's. During that time, he worked in various locations, often frequenting Latin America while also concurrently pursuing his graduate studies at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. After 10 years, Esteban took on different roles in the Markets businesses at Deutsche Bank and Barclays. He currently serves as a Managing Director at Citi, specializing in Business Transformation. Almost 20 years later, he is still just as excited about financial services, competitive, and efficient markets, and the evolution of business.

Esteban lives in Westchester County with his wife, Christina, and their three kids, "who keep us very busy.

Our family participates in various sports programs, enjoys traveling, trying different foods and wine, and skiing. We are active in our Catholic church and community. I am a proud alumnus and fan of our beloved Red Storm (in addition to the NY Mets, Giants and Knicks)."



'06 Laura Bartolomeo '06TCB

Laura Bartolomeo and Norman Leandro of Cartago, Costa Rica, were married July 9, 2022, at the Hacienda Belen Estate in Heredia, Costa Rica. A vow ceremony was celebrated the following week at the Glen Cove Mansion in Glen Cove, NY.



The couple met March 2018 in Cork, Ireland while on a work assignment and began their courtship in October 2020. They were engaged a year later on Christmas Day 2021.

Norman is a Certified Public Accountant and Global Compliance Lead at Pfizer, Inc., overseeing compliance practices on three continents. Laura is Global Director of Operations at Pfizer, Inc. overseeing operational execution for the Medical Affairs division.

The couple splits their time between their homes in New York and Costa Rica.

'07 Winifred Ayuk - Deeds '07MBA

A successful accounting professional, Winifred

also serves as the President of Africa Reborn from Coast to Coast, Inc., whose mission is to bring lasting solutions to sub-Saharan Africa by collaborating with religious groups and charities to provide mobility assistance to people in need. In September 2023, Africa Reborn donated exercise books to 130 school children in Cameroon. In November 2023, the alumna's charity donated 70 tricycles to physically challenged persons in Cameroon and Nigeria (cost

\$9000), which was recognized by the Catholic Bishop in Buea Diocese, Cameroon, as well as by alumni at her undergrad alma mater, the University of Lagos Chapter, Cameroon.



Ayuk (R) with donated tricycles.

As a member of Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network, she expresses her views during a "What's on Your Mind" segment on his weekly broadcast and calls on all Africans to help with creating change in Africa.

"Thanks to a growing team of five people back home who have opted to work with me, I started supporting the charity with recycles and presently with Uber food delivery during my spare time at night." To learn more or donate, visit Africareborn.org.

Ready to elevate?

Advanced degrees from your alma mater offer a competitive edge and so much more.

Tobin College of Business at St. John's University prepares students for success at every level—from the classroom to the boardroom—with **an education rooted in service, the Vincentian mission, and experiential learning.**

We produce **principled business leaders** committed to service, social justice, effecting change, and taking action. Our network of **45,000 alumni** compete *and* make a difference in today's global market every day.



To learn more about **Tobin's graduate school and rolling admissions**, contact the Office of Graduate Admission at 718-990-1345 or email tobingradnyc@stjohns.edu. To apply, please scan the QR code.



- ✓ Those admitted into the MS degrees are **automatically considered for scholarships** based on academic merit and full-time work experience.
- ✓ For more information on scholarships, please visit stjohns.edu/graduatescholarships.
- ✓ Tobin ranks among the **top graduate programs** in the U.S., including:

"Best Fintech MBA program" #7 (*TechGuide*, 2024)

"Best Online Master's in Accounting Degree Programs" #30 (*Intelligent*, 2023)

"Best Part-time MBA Programs" #68 (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2023)

"Best Part-Time MBA Programs" #33 (*Fortune*, 2022-23)

"Best Online MBA Programs" #17 (*Fortune*, 2023)

"Best Online MBA Programs" #42 (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2024)

"Best Online Master's in Business Programs" #52 (tie) (excluding MBA, *U.S. News & World Report*, 2024)

'08 Gardea Caphart '08MBA

Gardea was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration at NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development. With close to two decades of experience in city government, Gardea has served in various roles managing budgets and advising on fiscal matters.

He currently resides in Brooklyn with his wife and spends his free time volunteering with New York Cares and cheering on his favorite sports teams. "Speaking of which, things are looking up for my teams – the Knicks made the NBA playoffs last season, Arsenal finished second in the English Premier League, and the Red Storm recently welcomed the legendary Rick Pitino as a coach."



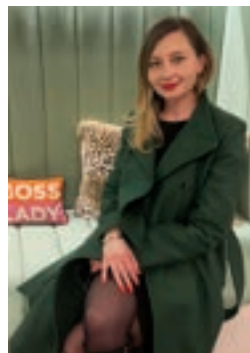
'09 Ola Parks '09MBA

Ola is Co-Founder and Executive Producer at Highlight.nyc. Her leadership and 14 years of experience in strategy, production and advertising has helped grow the team and the company. Ola oversees finance, staffing, strategy, client relations

and long-term business development.

After earning her MBA with a specialization in Marketing Management from St. John's, she completed an Executive Program for Entrepreneurs at Harvard Business School. As an active member of the community, Ola is a member of the Women Presidents' Organization in New York, proud sponsor of #SeeHer movement, and a mentor at the Accelerator Program for Media Pros.

Ola believes that the more you give, the more you get. That's why she regularly volunteers her services and expertise for organizations such as Safe Horizon, the Fresh Youth Initiative, the Community Healthcare Network, The Foreign Press Association, and supports the efforts of up-and-coming artists and entrepreneurs. In 2022, Ola founded the Blue & Yellow Foundation to support victims of war in Ukraine. Ola is happily married and has two boys, Christian (8) and Cameron (4).



'10 Christina Alcide (Caccese) '10TCB, '11MBA

Christina graduated from St. John's with a BS in Accounting

in 2010 and an MBA in 2011. She began her career at PwC, focusing on the audits of large financial services clients. After three years at PwC, she accepted a new role at New York University within financial reporting, where she also stayed for three years.

Christina moved to London, England, in 2018 and worked as a Finance Manager for Morningstar Inc., a US-based financial research company, advising them on US accounting rules and regulations.

Upon repatriation, she returned to NYU in a higher capacity as its Director of Global Financial Reporting and Technical Accounting. She is currently responsible for both the domestic and global accounting and financial reporting teams, including those for NYU, NYU Langone Hospital, and each global study-away site in their respective countries.



She and her husband welcomed a son in March 2023 and currently live in New Jersey. Christina is a member of the Young Alumni Advisory Board for St. John's and continues to support the University wherever she can. "Happy to connect with any alumni or current students on LinkedIn!"

Sherrica Davis-Hunt '10MBA

Sherrica is the Southern Illinois University (SIU) Foundation's assistant Vice Chancellor for anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) and corporate partnerships, as well as its chief diversity officer. She leads and directs ADEI initiatives to support the institution's philanthropic goals. In 2022, Sherrica became the SIU Foundation's first Development Director, focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion philanthropy. She formerly worked as the initial Director of Institutional Advancement at Bishop State Community College in Mobile, AL. She established the college's first development office and led the Foundation's operations and fundraising initiatives.

With 18 years of experience in domestic and international marketing and business development in various industries, including investment banking, information technology, human resources, nonprofit, and higher education, Sherrica has gained proficiency in fostering and sustaining business relationships and advancing initiatives across the globe in cities such as Atlanta, New York City, Rome, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and states such as Alabama, and Illinois. While serving in corporate America, she advocated for social responsibility by identifying and supporting local community initiatives through volunteerism and financial support.

Sherrica graduated from Talladega College with a BA in biology, St. John's University Tobin College of Business with an MBA in marketing and finance, New York University with a professional human resource management certification, and is pursuing a doctorate in higher education administration.



MATTHEW COUGHLIN PHOTOGRAPHY

A graduate of 2018 Leadership Mobile and 2019 Leadership Alabama Initiative, and most recently, 2022 St. Louis FOCUS Women in Leadership program, Sherrica was honored by *Mobile Bay Magazine* as a "2019 Class of 40 under 40" member and a Women's Policy Institute Fellow for the Women's Foundation of Alabama. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Illinois and the Jackson County CEO program. She also serves as a Commissioner on the Human Relations Committee for the City of Carbondale, IL.

Her book, *Networking and Lattes: 10 Steps to Effective Networking*, and info about speaking engagements can be found at sherricadhunt.com. Sherrica is a proud wife and mother of four beautiful children.

'11 Alyssa Lavelle (Tallini) '11TCB, '12MS
After graduating from Tobin undergrad in 2011 and finishing her master's in Accounting in 2012, Alyssa founded a non-profit organization, the Pat M. Tallini Foundation, incorporated in 2020, to honor her mother, Pat Tallini. The foundation publicly fundraises to provide financial assistance grants to individuals and families affected by colon cancer. In just three years, they have been awarded four grants, with total giving exceeding \$5,000. For more information about its mission, events, or to apply for a grant, visit thepatmtallinifoundation.com.

Michael Todd Smith '11TCB
Michael gained invaluable experience negotiating complex deals and fostering client relationships in the real estate business, spanning both bustling metropolises of New York and Chicago. Drawing on this background, he seamlessly transitioned into the world of private aviation, specializing in charter sales for a heavy jet operator along the East Coast. "Leveraging the knowledge and network I cultivated at St. John's, I continue to thrive and innovate in the ever-evolving realm of private air travel."

Michael F. Scott, '11TCB
Michael recently joined Aon, a

global professional services firm specializing in Risk Management, as a Managing Director in their Facultative Reinsurance group. He helps major insurance companies insulate themselves (at least in part) from major claims and losses. In short, "I provide insurance for insurance companies. I am looking forward to connecting with fellow grads of the Greenberg School of Risk Management at the annual gathering this summer!"

'12 Alexandre Dubuc '12TCB
Alexandre has been working in the Information Technology field since graduating from St. John's. "Happy to report that I am now the Chief Information Officer of the leading HUD Lending firm in the nation."



Allie Aoanan-Talavera '12TCB
Allie was promoted on January 1, 2024, to Vice President in the Tax Division at Goldman Sachs. She recently



celebrated her five-year wedding anniversary to husband, Rich Talavera '11TCB, '12MBA, with a vacation to Australia, where they enjoyed climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge and cuddling with koalas. They currently live in Honolulu, HI, with their two kids, JET (4) and Emmie (2).

'13 Ryan D. Friscia '13TCB
Ryan was promoted to Chief Financial Officer of NEON FILMS, winner of the last five Palme d'Or best picture at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France. Ryan now resides in Oak Park, CA, with his wife, Alice, and his two children, Jaxon and Dani.

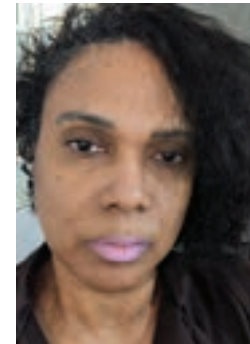
'15 Joseph Ali '15TCB
After graduation, Joseph started at Citigroup in Leveraged Finance and moved through roles at MUFG and Mizuho, focusing on diverse sectors such as Industrials and Technology, Media, and Telecom. His contributions to investment banking culminated in significant transactions worth over \$30BN. Joseph has also ventured into entrepreneurship, founding several startups, including a notable venture in technology. His passion for education and finance led to the creation of Straight Outta Wall Street, a platform

dedicated to management consulting, advisory, and professional education in advanced financial skills. This initiative has successfully trained over 200 individuals in complex financial frameworks. 2021 marked a pivotal year as Joseph assumed the role of Chief Financial Officer at InStyler Brands, further solidifying his operational expertise. Most recently, he joined Crestone Advisors, bringing his wealth of experience to the forefront of tech-enabled business services. Joseph's commitment to mentorship echoes through his involvement with St. John's University, where he chairs the Young Alumni Advisory Board and runs an annual Financial Modeling Bootcamp, guiding future generations towards success. Outside of business, Joseph enjoys high intensity training, jet skiing, and golf.



Abigail Rudder '15TCB
Abigail writes, "I'm now 58 years old and feeling retired from Fortune 500, Corporate America; however, I'm still an asset in business and enjoy working. I will return to work for NYC Administrative Services this year. Additionally, I published my first

fictional book called *Deceit*. My immediate family are doing well in FL and TX, including my great parents, who are retired; my sister and niece and nephews as well as beautiful great nieces and great nephews, who are growing up quickly. I'm very grateful for all the positive relationships along the way, especially my Roman Catholic upbringing and education. Best wishes for all St. John's University graduates. May God continue to keep us strong."



'16 Scott Eichner '16MBA
In 2022, after more than 10 years working in collegiate athletics, Scott launched The Onside Company, a consultancy that supports early-stage sports, fitness, and wellness companies to find tactical business operational efficiencies. He and his wife also recently completed a small business acquisition of Wide Eyes Paper Co. in late 2023, a boutique wedding stationery company. At the same time, he's working as a start-up generalist operator with Of All Trades, a collective that helps develop the internal structures for early-stage start-ups. He also helped to launch

Armony, a soccer technology start-up, of which he serves as a fractional COO/advisor. Scott recently moved to Providence, RI, with his wife Tracy, and dog, Zara.

Omlita Yugeshwari Harrylall '16MBA
I am currently working in Accounts Payable.



'19 Christopher T. M. Khan '19TCB
Since graduating, Christopher continued his insurance career, now with almost a decade of experience. He is currently Chief Compliance Officer for a privately held insurance company called Universal Casualty RRG. Christopher is also pursuing a Master of Science degree, majoring in Risk Management & Insurance from the Butler University - Andre B. Lacy School of Business. In addition, he is involved with various organizations, including volunteering as a leader for St. John's GOLD Alumni Committee. As a Queens, native, Christopher continues to stay engaged





Want to share your news?
Send to tobinclassnotes@stjohns.edu,
scan the QR code to submit online,
or visit bit.ly/3WYfUUE.
(Submission guidelines page 38.)

within the community and events related to St. John's. He studied abroad while at St. John's, which set the foundation for him to continue his travels, having visited a total of 24 countries around the world. Christopher is a proud St. John's alumnus.

Esther Alaran '19TCB

Since graduating from St. John's, Esther worked as an Asset Wealth Management Analyst at PNC. Then, she was selected as a



Princeton in Africa Fellow and moved to South Africa for one year to work in the finance department of an educational non-profit called the

African Leadership Academy. Currently, she is on a sabbatical. She is searching for her next career opportunity as a Business Analyst, Financial Analyst, Operation Analyst, or Program Manager. Esther's goal is to live in Germany and learn the language and culture.

Esther is the founder of NevaBroke, a company focused on promoting financial literacy for POC in their 20s and 30s. The company is still in its early stages, with Esther working on developing her first workshop and workbook. She released 17 episodes of the NevaBroke

Podcast where she talks about finances and interviews small business owners who are also POC. "For me, it is not about the money but being able to create a life you love. I am grateful for my experience at St. John's, especially the study abroad program, GLOBE, and EIRP. Happy to be a Johnnie!"

Joselyn Matamoros '19TCB

Joselyn started her career at J.P. Morgan in 2020 within the Global Finance & Business Management program, where she completed two full-year rotations across Financial Planning & Analysis, Controller, and Business Management. Jocelyn moved to the Commercial Bank in 2022 on the International Banking team supporting the company's Middle Market Banking & Specialized Industries clients. As clients seek to expand overseas, her team helps them navigate their global cash management.

Noah Powers '19TCB, '20MBA

Noah writes, "Graduating with my combined-degree MBA in 2020 put a real damper on job prospects, so I moved out of New York City back to my hometown in Massachusetts to help the family business. I have



focused my efforts in growing the service department of our heating oil delivery and maintenance business through competitive pricing, extensive marketing, and smart hiring practices." Noah recently joined the Board of Managers for his local YMCA to participate in fundraising, help guide leadership in the Y during decision-making processes, and promote the participation of small businesses in his community getting involved in the development and safety of youth.

'21 Chris Wraback '21TCB

Chris writes, "Hello Johnnies! Not too long ago, I was working full-time at a real estate investment firm during my junior and senior years at St. John's. After graduation, I moved to a real estate investment



banking firm focused on structured finance. After doing that for only a few months, I met my boss (now partner) as a prospective client of ours, who was looking for someone to help him grow his real estate investment firm to outside investors. When I joined in October 2021, the company

had \$25 million of AUM, and as of March 2024, I am now the Director of Investments and a junior partner, and the firm has grown to \$120 million of AUM!

I still love going to St. John's basketball games, especially now that we have a HOF coach, and I go to a lot of Tobin Alumni events and other events for the university where I can share my career path with students. I was grateful to be on the Tobin Young Alumni Advisory Board in Fall 2022, which focuess on helping the Tobin Board of Advisors make the business school more successful through programming and outreach to current students.

Please feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn. I hope to see you all at Tobin events this year!"

Ricardo Munoz '21MBA

Ricardo is a distinguished intelligence consultant, US Army combat veteran, and founder of the Institution of the Americas. He boasts a rich educational background with both a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and Homeland/Corporate Security and an MBA specializing in Real Estate from St. John's. Known professionally as "Rickynomics," Munoz embodies the ethos of his foundation



through his diverse and accomplished career.

Splitting his time between the U.S. and South America, Munoz applies his global experiences to pioneer holistic problem-solving and comprehensive protection strategies.

'22 Kuljit Kaur '22MBA

Kuljit reports that since graduating, "my career has seen exciting growth as I was promoted to Account Executive at Swiss WorldCargo, a division of Swiss International Airlines. I thoroughly enjoy my job, finding fulfillment in its daily challenges and the opportunity to contribute to the logistics industry.

Additionally, my passion for travel continues to be fueled as I explore new destinations frequently.

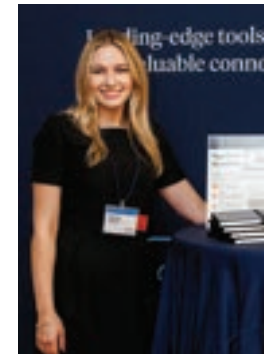
Another significant milestone in my life was getting married in December 2023, an event that has brought happiness and fulfillment to my life."

Teresa Holliday '22TCB

Teresa was recently promoted to Senior Marketing Associate at Dow Jones, where she supports the Barron's Wealth and Asset

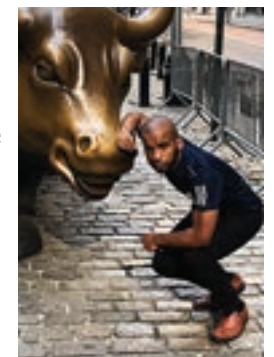


Management Group. She develops and executes marketing strategy for Barron's Advisor to promote legendary advisor summits, trusted editorial content, and advanced ranking systems. Teresa earned a BS in Hospitality Management from CCPS in 2019 and MBA in Marketing Management from Tobin College of Business.



Valentine Moseley Jr '22MBA

Since Fall 2022, Valentine has been working for Barclays Bank in New York as a Municipal Trading Senior Analyst. He loves attending St. John's basketball games after work and traveling the world.



'24 Kayla Maciel Liborio '24MBA

Kayla feels "blessed to have a job as a conflicts risk analyst at Cleary Gottlieb as well as opening my own pet care business, Pawfection Pet Care LLC. My real accomplishment is having my beautiful kids."

In Memoriam

With sympathy and prayers for our classmates and their loved ones.

'40s

Thomas Norato '49CBA
6/13/2023

'50s

Matthew C. Bracco '53CBA
1/17/2024
Blanche Brezezinski '53CBA
11/3/2023
Thomas P. Skinner '53CBA
6/17/2023
Albert A. Cardone '56CBA, '87HON
11/3/2023
Thomas J. Browne '57CBA
8/13/2023
Thomas V. Roger '58CBA
8/5/2023
Donald J. Devine '59CBA
9/19/2023
Edward Gradel '59CBA
7/26/2023
William Murray '59CBA
8/20/2023
Frances A. Shea '59CBA
9/17/2023

'60s

Paul Puletz '60CBA
11/19/2023
Anthony Gillen '61CBA
10/11/2023
Randolph Aversano '62CBA
9/24/2023
James Collins '62CBA
10/2/2023

James McGovern '62CBA
10/26/2023
Frank J. Insinga '63CBA, '79MBA
8/13/2023
Lois Vuono '63CBA
7/15/2023
William Dehler '64CBA, '71MBA
6/2/2023
James A. Lowe '65CBA
8/10/2023
Thomas F. Sullivan '65CBA
9/9/2023
Paul Bestafka '66CBA
12/27/2023
Charles P. Menges '66MBA
1/2/2024
Walter E. Malek '68CBA
6/1/2023
Anthony F. Abbruzzese '69CBA
1/15/2024
Joseph Caiazzo '69CBA
12/5/2023

'70s

Richard Caridi '70CBA, '75MBA
9/12/2023
Matthew O'Connor '70CBA
4/19/2024
Ralph A. Rodriguez '70CBA
6/6/2023
Robert T. Jones '71CBA
11/21/2023
Dennis P. McGuire '71CBA
9/12/2023
G. Dugan '73MBA
7/10/2023

Anthony E. Lagotta '73CBA
8/16/2023
Robert Lento '74MBA
1/5/2024
Henry A. Matuszewski '74MBA
10/3/2023
Roy Jeannette '76MBA
6/16/2023
Joseph G. Chiulli '77CBA, '78MBA
7/9/2023
Daniel Piccolo '78MBA
9/29/2023
Dennis Renyi '78MBA
11/6/2023
Kathryn Collins '79MBA
11/30/2023
Eugene Colucci '79MBA
10/28/2023

'80s

Matthew L. Gerber '81CBA
1/29/2024
Joyce Majid '81CBA
8/1/2023
John C. Stangel '81CBA
12/30/2023
Manuel Belaustegui '83SVC, '85CBA
6/2/2023
Joseph K. Collins '83MBA
9/21/2023
John J. Donachie '83CBA
11/22/2023
Robert F. Kalenka '84CBA, '91MBA
5/18/2024
Bryan Collins '86CBA
5/18/2024
Leo Masterson '89MBA
8/24/2023

'90s

Christopher Basso '91CBA
10/12/2023
Michael P. Kenny '94CBA
4/10/2024

Albert A. Cardone '56CBA, '87HON

From accounting major to CEO of New York's largest health insurer (1934 - 2023)

Albert Anthony Cardone of New Canaan, CT, passed away on November 3, 2023, days short of his 89th birthday, after a long battle with prostate cancer.

A Brooklyn native, Cardone attended local parochial schools before earning a bachelor's in Accounting at the College of Business Administration at St. John's University.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956 and served as USMC Second Lieutenant stationed in Okinawa, Japan, to assist with post-WWII restoration efforts.

After completing his military service, Cardone married his college sweetheart, Jeanne F. Boudreau (who passed away in 1988), and joined Haskins & Sells, which later became Deloitte & Touche LLC, a worldwide accounting and consulting firm.

At Deloitte, Cardone became Partner and National Industry Director for Health Care. In 1985, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield recruited him for the role of Deputy CEO and then CEO and Chairman of the Board soon after. Until he retired in 1993, Cardone led what was then the nation's largest nonprofit health insurer, largest Blue Cross company, and the largest insurer in New York, with 8.1 million policyholders. For his many achievements in business, St. John's awarded him an Honorary Doctorate degree.

At the time, Empire had been the subject of investigations by the New York Legislature and U.S. Congress and attributed its financial troubles to profit-making insurance companies "cherry picking" low-risk policyholders through screening practices, leaving an older, sicker policyholder base for the nonprofit, which did not screen its applicants. This claim led New York to change its insurance laws to forbid screening of applicants and require that individual or small group policyholder rates be based on the health experiences of a wide geographical area – not personal history.

"I believe that with the passage of New York State's



Community Rating and Open Enrollment Law, for which I worked so hard...I've accomplished many of my goals at Empire," Cardone said in the company's statement announcing his retirement, highlighting efforts to end discrimination in health insurance.

Cardone counted his six daughters among his greatest accomplishments. He enjoyed boating and fishing and was committed to protecting marine life and waterways, especially Long Island Sound. Family cite his faith in Padre Pio, as a son of Pietrelcina, Italy, as unwavering.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Beverly Shamas Cardone, and five daughters: Cynthia; Nancy; Jeanne Bradley (Chris); Patricia Kuehner (Paul); and Victoria Cardone (Martin Reiser); 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Cardone was predeceased by his first wife of 28 years, Jeanne Boudreau Cardone; daughter Lisa; and four of his five brothers.

Robert “Bob” F. Kalenka ’84CBA, ’91MBA, ’24HON, Board Emeritus

Benevolent mentor and friend to all in business and at St. John’s (1962 - 2024)

St. John’s University and the Tobin College of Business community mourned a great loss on May 19, 2024, when Robert “Bob” F. Kalenka ’84CBA, ’91MBA, ’24HON, Board Emeritus passed away peacefully at home, leaving a legacy of tremendous generosity and benevolence to family, friends, colleagues, and his alma mater.

A graduate of Tobin College of Business, Kalenka was a faithful friend and valued leader of the St. John’s community he committed time, resources, and passion to as a member of the University’s Board of Governors and later on its Board of Trustees from 2015 until 2023. In February 2024, the Board of Trustees conferred upon him the title of Board Emeritus. St. John’s previously honored Kalenka with the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Medal, the Pietas Medal, and the Spirit of Service Award. In early May, the University conferred upon Kalenka the honorary degree of Doctor of Commercial Science.

“St. John’s has lost a beloved member of our community,” said Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., President of St. John’s University. “Bob was a proud alumnus, valued Trustee, and generous benefactor who gave back to St. John’s in many ways. Not only did he serve the University with distinction, but he hired countless St. John’s graduates.”

Known by many at Carnesecca Arena and Madison Square Garden as a welcoming and constant presence, Kalenka enthusiastically cheered for St. John’s Athletics as a member of the Red White Club, a season ticket holder, and the proud parent of a cheerleader. His generosity and commitment to students was reflected in the establishment of the Kalenka Family Endowed Scholarship to support



students in the Tobin College of Business, where he earned a BBA and later an MBA.

His belief and dedication to Tobin’s unique Executive-in-Residence Program (EIRP) provided educational and career opportunities for countless students. Kalenka was named “Executive of the Year” in 2011 by setting the standard for what an EIRP engagement could and should be, according to the program’s executive director, Prof. Chris Long, Ph.D. “The Broadridge Financial Solutions teams that he built to work with us provided our students with world-class experiences that will serve them long into the future. Bob showed our students over many years what can happen when a St. John’s education manifests through a full, generous heart

*Clockwise from top:
St. John’s University
President Rev. Brian
J. Shanley, O.P.
honored Kalenka and
his wife, Corinne,
at the Oct. 2022
Founder’s Society
Induction Ceremony;
with Corinne at SJ
Athletics’ Sept. 2021
Carnesecca Golf
Outing; a toast at
the Executive-in-
Residence Program
Convocation on
May 16, 2024, that
honored Kalenka
for his many
contributions.*



and a firm commitment to bringing forth the best of oneself.”

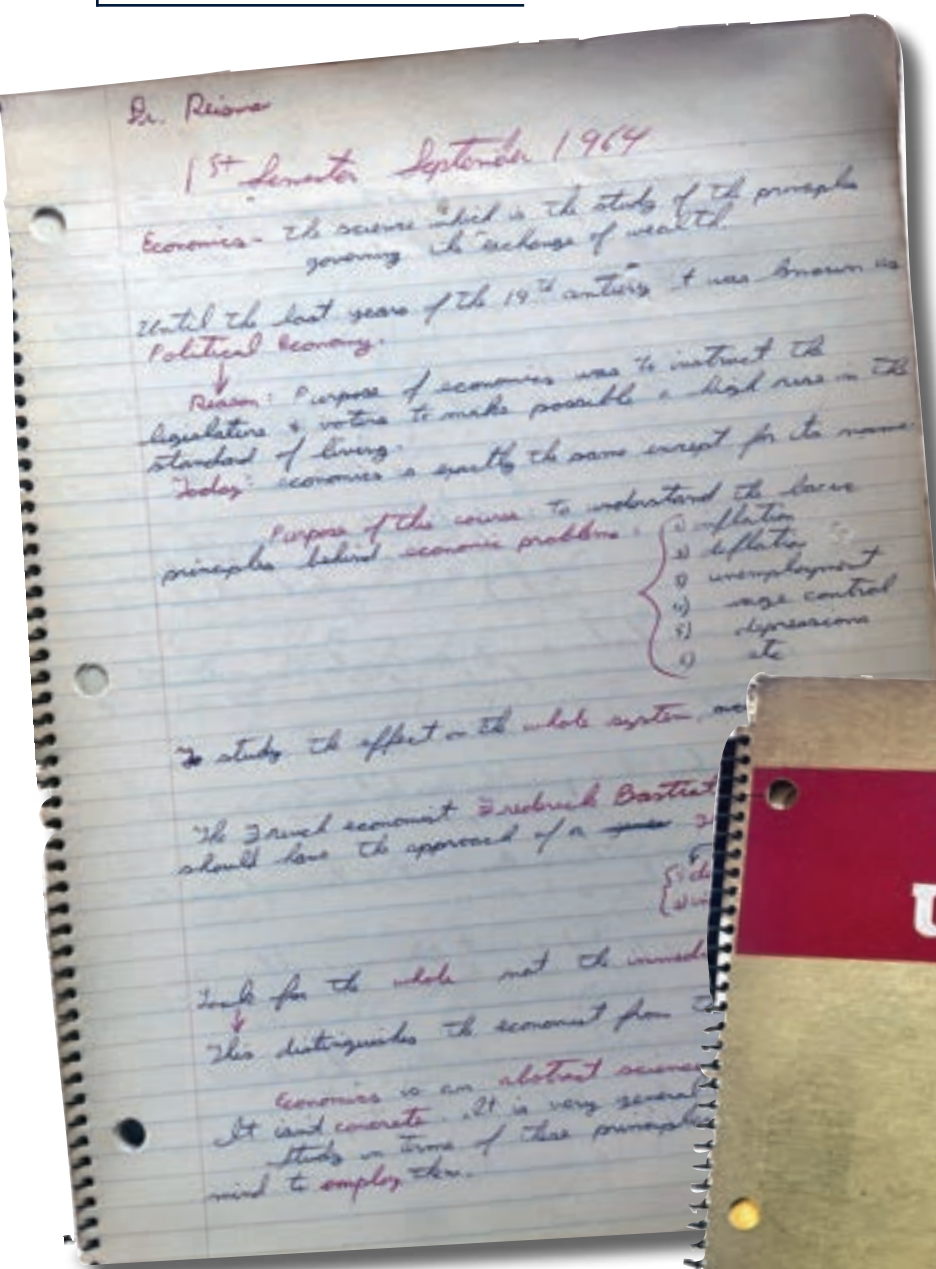
“EIRP simply would not be where it is today without Bob’s loving and caring leadership and mentorship,” Long said. “EIRP is so proud and honored to be counted as a part of his legacy. He will continue to serve as a model for us of what selfless service means and as an example of the vast goodness that a person of great character can do.”

Kalenka’s impact on the financial industry was also deeply significant in various roles during his 32 years at Broadridge. He joined ADP’s Brokerage Services Group in 1992 in the Investor Communication Services division as Director of Finance. In 2016, Bob’s responsibilities expanded

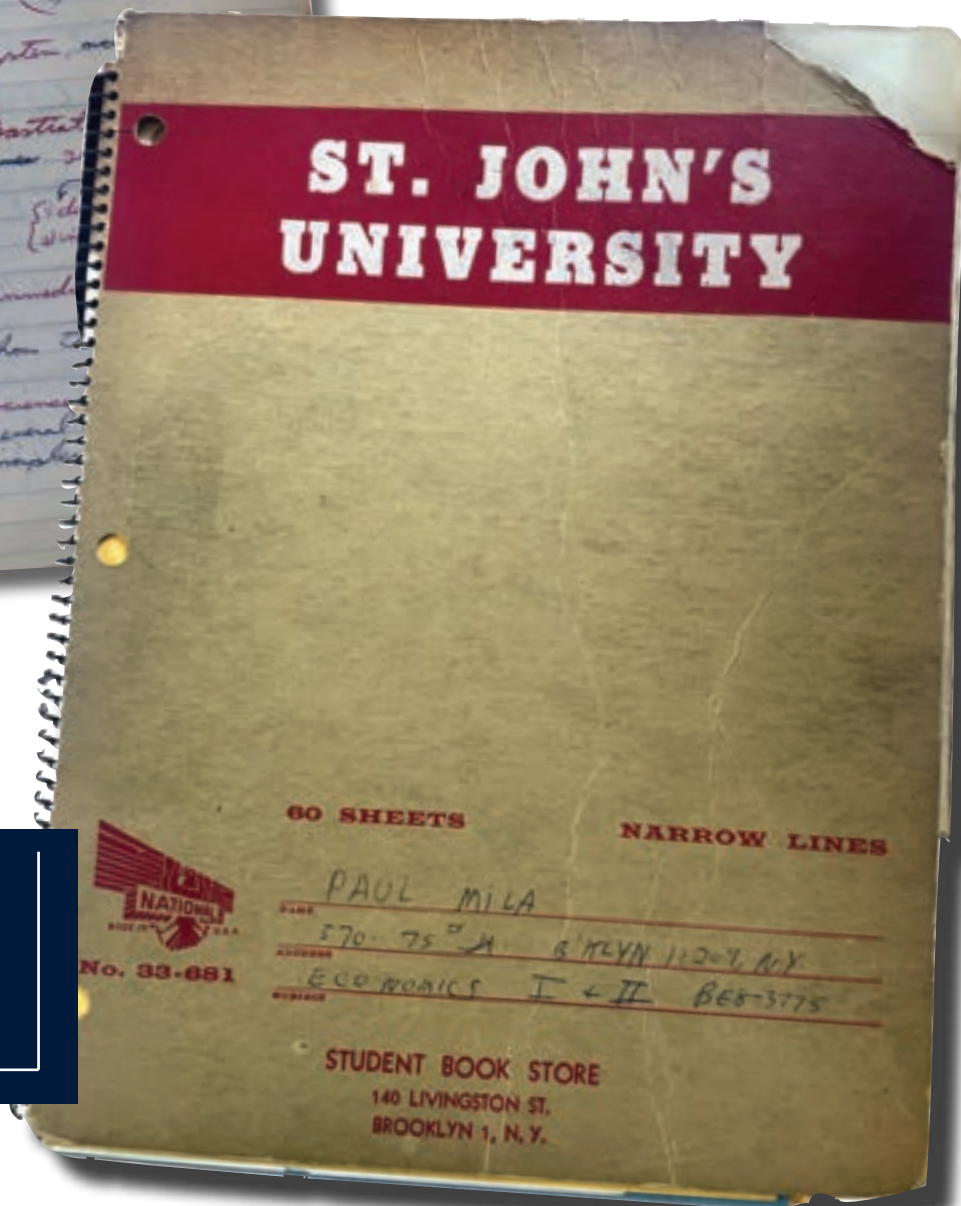
to include the role of Chief Operations Officer of the Broadridge Customer Communications business. Most recently, he served as the COO of Broadridge’s Investor Communication Solutions business and global facilities.

Kalenka is survived by his beloved wife, Corinne, who he was married to for 38 years; and his daughters, Kristie (Rick) and Kelly (Andrew). He was a proud grandfather to Aubrey and Madison, who brought immense joy to his life. He is also survived by his brothers, Rich, Ray, and Ron.

Please keep the Kalenka family in your thoughts and prayers as we honor an alum whose benevolence will be felt and remembered for years to come.



Cover subject Paul Mila '69CBA, '72MBA went for a deep dive into his files and surfaced with this notebook from his very first class at St. John's University: Economics I with Dr. George Reisman. Why different inks? "At night I transcribed the notes in two colors to emphasize key points. Imagine finding that notebook after 60 years and a recent downsizing move as empty nesters from Long Island to New Jersey!"



Want to help close the next book with an artifact from your b-school archives? Send high-resolution images to tobinmagazine@stjohns.edu along with a brief description of what you've dusted off and why it's special to you.

The Loughlin Society



Like game-at-the-Garden Red Storm fans, The Loughlin Society supports St. John's in big ways.

Named in honor of John Loughlin, the first Bishop of Brooklyn, The Loughlin Society is St. John's leadership giving society. Its members are the University's most generous donors, helping to ensure that St. John's can continue to provide deserving students with a superior, affordable education.

Loughlin Society gifts support such important priorities as student scholarships, academic programming, upgraded campus facilities, enhanced technology, and faculty research.

You can become a member of The Loughlin Society by contributing gifts totaling \$1,000* or more toward any University fund between June 1 and May 31.

You'll be joining an exclusive group of over 2,000 alumni and friends who have chosen to support St. John's in a very special way.

Giving Levels: \$50,000, \$25,000, \$10,000, \$1,000*
(* Increases to \$1,500 for the 2026 fiscal school year.)

Benefits:

- Invitations to the Summer and Winter Loughlin Receptions
- Complimentary admission to two 1870 Court pregame parties
- Preferred parking at on-campus events
- Notary service
- Concierge service
- Other exclusive event invitations

To support St. John's and join today, please scan the QR code or contact Stacey Varghese '99C, Director of Leadership Giving and Engagement, at 718-990-2982 or varghess@stjohns.edu. Thank you for your generosity!



TOBIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE
Tobin College of Business at St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, New York 11439

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY



FRESH FOR FALL



Celebrate autumn's arrival while showing your school pride in new Tobin College of Business apparel!

The Campus Store at St. John's University has a new collection just in time for fall. Exclusive, officially licensed crewnecks (XS-2XL -\$40), hooded pullover sweatshirts (XS-2XL -\$48), and Champion 1/4 zips (SM-2XL -\$62) are now available for purchase! Sure to keep you warm and looking good, they also promise to be great holiday gifts for fellow alumni, family, and friends, as well as current and accepted students. Plus, every purchase supports St. John's.

Visit <https://linktr.ee/tobincollege> or scan our QR code for where to buy online and follow us on social. (Pumpkin spice sold separately.)



OFFICIAL UNIFORMS OF SWEATA WEATHA AND WEEKEND WARRIORS