



# SAINTS SCENE



**CAST THE FIRST SNOWBALL.** There's no proof (or maybe not) that Saints faculty member and Kairos Counselor Mr. John Vignol started the first snowball fight of this year's retreat. Joining in any way are Saintsmen (left to right): Jose Carreon, Xavier Tan, Anthony Maola, Mr. Vignol, William Lewis, Jonathon Truong, and Tarrance James. For more on Kairos go to page 2.

## WHEREVER YOU GO, BE A SAINT! DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS



Principal James Horne

Getting into college is a "mania" of its own. And as news broke last week about the college admissions scandal, I was reminded of a book by Frank Bruni titled, "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be".

Bruni, a *New York Times* columnist on education, politics and culture asks the question, "Is a degree from an Ivy or other elite university crucial to your career success?". And as you likely guessed, his answer is ... of course not!

We want our Saintsmen to be aware that many things are more important than the university admission. For example, admission to Heaven, being a good son/ brother/ husband/ father, caring for others in need, and doing all things in love.

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## DIRECTOR'S PROFILE: LEADERSHIP SERIES

Rob G. Leach



Rob Leach

*Editor's note: The school is proud of the leadership provided by the St. Augustine High School Board of Directors. To thank and honor them and at the same time let the Saints Community to know them a bit more, Saints Scene has been highlighting individual Board members with a series of profiles during 2019.*

I was born and raised in San Diego, just east of downtown in South Park. I've lived in South Park my entire life within the same square mile, which must mean that I really like it, or that I have serious problems with fear of change (or perhaps both).

My brother Rick and I went to grade school at Our Lady of Angels. Rick went on to Saints, graduating in 1975, and I followed his route to Saints shortly thereafter. Getting admitted to Saints back then was a much different process than what it is today. I think Saints just checked

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO COLLEGE

As we enter April, we find greater clarity in the college admission decisions regarding our seniors. We have already seen great success with members of the Class of 2019 being accepted in schools such as Notre Dame, Michigan, Boston College, Vanderbilt, Villanova, Johns Hopkins, Cal Tech and multiple UC and Cal State schools.

Students must submit their deposit to the college of their choice by May 1st. Depositing at more than one school is prohibited and could cost the student their admission to all schools. For students ending up on a waitlist, they should opt-in and write about their strong interest if that school is still one of their top choices.

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## SENIOR EVENTS SCHEDULE

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# AUGUSTINIAN HERITAGE

## KAIROS 45 WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

There were 43 seniors and 6 adults on the most recent Kairos Retreat held once again at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center

While there, Saintsmen were treated to the biggest storm that the mountains around Julian had seen in five years. Weather watchers reported a total of 16 inches of snow.

Not many packed snowshoes for the weather, however, that did not stop them from having countless impromptu snowball fights and other snow related romps.

All in all, the attending seniors had a great week of fellowship and the opportunity to grow closer to God, themselves and their classmates.



**KAIROS 45'S:** [L-R]: Saints Seniors Steven Funk, Sal Strazzeri, Tarrance James, Evan Sprague, Anthony Maola, Daniel Miret, Matthew Beddow, Paul McDeavitt and Nick Kane hanging out in the 16 inches of snow that fell on Whispering Winds center near Julian.

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Seniors invite their mothers  
to join them for brunch at the

## Annual Mother & Senior Tribute Luncheon

held in honor of the Mothers' support,  
encouragement and love

*Sunday, April 14, 2019  
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Bahia Hotel Mission Beach*

**\$30 per person**

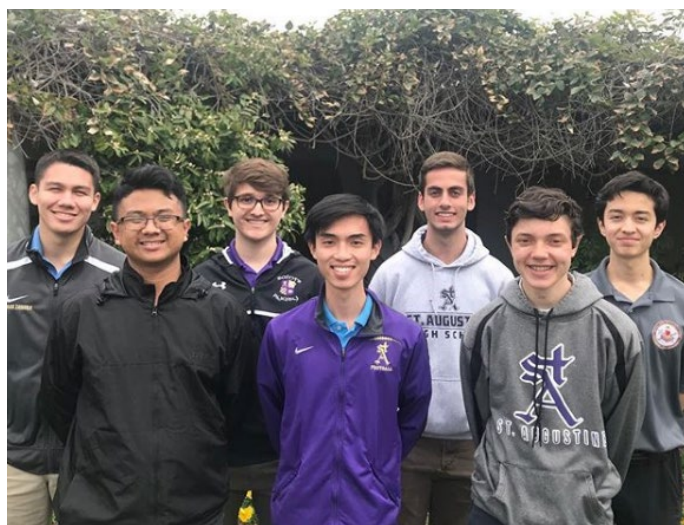
A beautiful location for pictures with your son and brunch with his friends and yours.





# AROUND CAMPUS

## SEVEN SELECTED TO SIT FOR 2019 AUSTIN EXAMS



The “Austins” are rigorous oral examinations in English, mathematics, religion, science, social studies, and visual and performing arts. The exam also assesses the participants’ understanding of the Integral Student Outcomes. News was recently released naming the 2018-2019 seniors who were invited to sit for this school year’s Austin Exams. They are Matthew Thomas Anguiano, Nicolas Ryoma Correa, Jordan Michael Geniza, Benjamin James Leach, Johnathon Firas Soro, Andrew Ta Tran, and Thomas Rodriguez Zamora

The senior with the highest weighted academic cumulative grade point average at the conclusion of the seventh semester (P.E. excluded) is automatically invited to sit for the Austins. The remaining students, normally five, are selected by the Academic Council from the top 10% of the graduating class. The chairpersons of the academic departments represented in the Austins recommend graduation with specific academic distinctions for participants. The administration ratifies these recommendations. The specific academic distinctions include: Austin Scholar Summa Cum Laude (with highest praise) Austin Scholar Magna Cum Laude (with great praise) Austin Scholar Cum Laude (with praise).

Congratulations to these Saintsman on their selection!

## COMMUNITY SERVICE SUITS SAINTS NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT



Max D’Agnese, a Saints (class year), has been involved in Scouting since the first grade in Pack 654 at St. Michael’s School in Poway. As he progressed through each Cub Scout rank, he worked alongside other scouts on service projects such as toy drives for underprivileged children and placing flags on the graves of military service members on Memorial Day.

Max bridged from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting and joined Troop 622, the Official Boy Scout Troop of the USS Midway.

It was there that Max discovered his love for teaching and leading his fellow Scouts by serving as Instructor, Troop Guide, Chaplain’s Aide and Troop Historian.

He accomplished this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA as a Freshman, and as a member of St. Augustine High School’s Concert Band, Jazz Band, a cappella group as well the junior varsity rugby team.

As an Altar Server for his church for the past five years, Max had served many Masses, Weddings and Funerals. When it came time to select an Eagle Project, Max knew exactly what he was going to do.

The Church had a set of ceremonial lanterns that are used during special masses. The oil filled lanterns are on sticks that sway back and forth with movement. When the youngest parishioners were invited by the Priest to come sit up around the altar one Christmas Eve Mass, the brightly lit lanterns proved too tempting for some.

As a Server for the mass, Max was seated very close to the altar and watched the little ones carefully to make sure no one would be tempted. When one toddler reached for the swaying oil-filled lantern, Max gently swooped in to guide her away to safety as the little girl’s mother, gasped and darted toward to altar. It was that moment, Max thought “never, again. We need something more stable and safe so the lanterns don’t sway or tip over.” Thus his Eagle Scout project was born.

Made of mahogany, he designed and finished the lantern holders to match the church’s existing architectural features. Using a 2-step locking system to secure each lantern stick and an invisible leveling system, his project was well received. The church’s head administrator remarked that she had seen a lot of Eagle projects but this one is one that will keep the church safe for years to come.

Max is hoping to use the leadership skills he has learned in Boy Scouts and his love of designing and building things to one day explore a career in mechanical engineering.



# AROUND CAMPUS



## LAURELS FOR LEADERS LUNCHEON HONORS ASB PRESIDENTS



Christopher Erpelding

Saintsman Christopher Erpelding was among 100 high school seniors saluted at the annual Washington-Lincoln Laurels for Leaders luncheon held recently at San Diego State.

The students, all Associated Student Body presidents, were recognized for being among the County's best and brightest, said Mike Boland, president of the nonprofit Laurels for Leaders program, now into its 62nd year.

The ASB-ers met with community and business leaders, and also attended a workshop sponsored by The Blanchard Foundation and U.S. Bank.

Erpelding and other students received a \$250 cash prize, a certificate and medallion from the luncheon sponsors.

"I think this is a great way to recognize ASB presidents for the work they do," said Abby Douglas, last year's president at Oceanside High School. "One of the hardest things about ASB is that you do a lot of the behind-the-scenes work and don't always get recognized."

Principal James Horne said of Chris Erpelding: ""it is gratifying to see Chris and his fellow ASB board get the credit they deserve. Chris' leadership led to dramatic changes to this year's student activities calendar and that has lifted school spirit."



**SAVE THE DATE.** Taste of Saints, our largest fundraiser of the year, is almost here. Join us on Sat, May 11 at 5:30 on the roof of The Commons for an evening with local beer & wine tasting, great food and live music. Discounted pricing for alumni. This year we are also introducing a VIP event beginning at 4:00pm. More info at: [www.sahs.org/tasteofsaints](http://www.sahs.org/tasteofsaints). Pictured is part of the live entertainment package from last year: Finnegan Blue with the 32nd Street Jazz Ban

### 2018 Saints Alumni – Parochial Football San Diego County Championship



All San Diego County Varsity Team

Front Row (L-R): ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY – Noah Reyes, Zachary Esquivel, John Scates; ST. THERESE ACADEMY - Jacob McGuire, Evan Kondon; SANTA SOPHIA ACADEMY – Matthew Hanna, Javier Paredes; ST. RITA'S – Diego Torres, Jivanti Matthews; OUR LADY of GRACE – Owen Johnston, Robert Tellez  
Middle Row (L-R): ST. MICHAEL POWAY – Michael Knapp, Elijah Cazares, Tre Lucia, Michael Tompkins, ST. GREGORY the GREAT - Harrison Quinto, Will Bond, John Doe, Patrick O'Leary  
Back Row (L-R): ST ROSE OF LIMA - Zachary Horne, Lukas Cerny, Joaquin Reynoso



**FIRST PLACE.** James Stepovich ('21) came in first place in an essay contest sponsored by Kensington/Normal Heights community. James is pictured with his English instructor Mr. Patrick Thomsen.



# AROUND CAMPUS



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Sean Coyne, a Saints Grad, is now at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, where he is a senior Kinesiology major. He's pitching for the nationally ranked (National Assn. Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA) Warriors baseball team.

In a recent Golden State Athletic Conference game vs. Oregon Tech, Sean came on in relief in the fifth for the Warriors. Coyne gave up a run in the fifth and found himself in some trouble in the sixth. With one out and runners on first and third, Coyne settled in and escaped the jam with a strikeout and a fly out.

## DETERMINED SAINTSMAN MAKING THE MOST OF FAMILY'S SECOND CHANCE

Senior Francois Ekyoci has seen hard times in his young life, but things are so much better now. He was born in a refugee camp in Tanzania after his parents fled Congo, a war torn nation in the heart of Africa. Francois' tale recalling how his family moved to the U.S. thanks to a United Nations second chance refugee program was profiled recently in the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

Freelance writer Scott Akanewich interviewed Francois to learn how Francois and his family (now happily living in San Diego) went from Africa to Nutmeg Street.

Looking back on where he came from and where he is now, Francois, a member of Saints Soccer Team said he is blessed.

"Of course, I'm thankful for the opportunity to come to the U.S. and play soccer," Francois told the UT. "Praying to God, I'm very grateful."

To read this remarkable article titled "Born in an African Refugee Camp, Saints Senior Makes Most of Family Move to the U.S." go to <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sports/high-school-preps/sd-sp-preps-saints-soccer-francois-ekyoci-20190211-story.html>



### SAINTS HOSTED ACADEMIC

**DECATHLON.** Once again the new John Sanders Gymnasium proved its versatility as it became the venue for this year's San Diego Catholic School's Academic Decathlon. Parochial schools from the Greater San Diego area sent teams to compete.





# THREE NATION EURO EXPERIENCE

## for Intersession Travelers

Another Intersession term has come and passed, and for Saints Faculty member Mr. Matt Linville's travel group that meant another trip to Europe. This year, Mr. Linville accompanied 11 Saintsmen, as they traveled to London, Canterbury, Normandy, St. Malo, Paris, and Amsterdam.

This 12-day trip was highlighted by many fun, interesting, and unique experiences. The group explored several museums and cathedrals, as well as the D-Day beaches and the American Cemetery in Normandy, three-inches of snowfall in Amsterdam, and a theatre presentation of "Les Miserables" in London. Sharing in this overall unique experience were ten Juniors and one Sophomore.



White Cliffs of Dover on the English Channel.



Mr. Linville and his group along the River Thames with Tower of London Bridge in the background.



**INTERSESSION TRAVEL.** Saintsmen at the island monastery, Le Mont Saint-Michel, in Normandy, France are Saints Faculty member Mr. Matt Linville and Junior class travelers, Ethan Kula, Nicholas Del Puerto, Matt Steinberger, Sebastian Drab, Bryce Marking, Andres Reynoso ('21), Nicholas Basinet, Gavin Flynn, Luke D'Angese, Diego Chavarin, and Brandon Rusch.



Queens Theatre in London, where the group took in a performance of "Les Miserables."



# INTERSESSION TRAVELERS

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Saintsmen in Canterbury, England after touring of the Cathedral in Canterbury.



The American Cemetery above the D-Day landing beaches is officially U.S. soil.



Among the many canals in Amsterdam.



Today along Omaha Beach in Normandy.



Saintsmen outside of the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral that was built in 1163.



Interession travelers stop for a photo in the courtyard of the Louvre Museum with pyramid installation by architect I.M. Pei in 1989.



What's Paris without a group photo of the 1887-built Eiffel Tower.



## AUGUSTINIAN HERITAGE

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"Whispering Winds did a fantastic job of keeping us all warm, well fed and they even called in the Julian Fire Department to transport us to our bus as the roads were all closed," Nicole Quirk, Saints Faculty member and Director of Retreats.

The last Kairos of the year will be April 2-5. Please see Campus Ministry if you are interested in attending.



**YES, WE HAVE NO SNOW SHOES.** It's not like it snows a lot in San Diego so our Saintsmen can be forgiven for only having Vans for snowboots and snowshoes. Fireplace in the main lodge was a perfect place to dry them out over night.



**UPDATES.** Kenny Garcia and Abraham Franco-Hernandez spend time to make entries into their Kairos retreat journals.



**FORUM.** Mr. Stephen Funk, an Augustinian Volunteer spoke recently at Kairos.



**QUORUM.** Saintsmen listened and enjoyed participating in many of the retreat's group discussions.

## DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

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my pulse and concluded I was worthy. Like so many people over the years, my family could not have afforded to send me and my brother to Saints but for the school's generous financial aid. I think of that often now, especially in light of Saints' current campaign to build the school's endowment and increase financial aid for our families.

As a student at Saints during "The Dark Years" (as my classmates and I like to call it), I had a priceless experience. Sure, I got a great education that prepared me for college, but more importantly, I became part of a wonderful community and met the group of people who would be my closest friends for life.

After graduating Saints in 1980, I attended USD, graduating in 1984. At some point, I figured out that a political science degree alone did not guarantee election to high office, so I went to law school at USD, graduating in 1987. After passing the bar, I began work as a civil litigation trial attorney, working for a law firm for a few years. In 1990, I started a private practice with a friend of mine, and I have been self-employed in private practice in one form or another ever since. In 2004, I formed a law firm with my Saints classmate, John Buchaca '80, forming Charmasson, Buchaca & Leach where I work to this day. John and I are like brothers, which means we argue all the

time and feel free to eat each other's food (and sometimes, that's what we argue about).

In 2003, I accepted an invitation to join the Saints Board of Directors. I had not been back to the campus in a long time, and at first, it was a bit strange. I couldn't shake the feeling that someone would slap a beanie on me or give me "points" for being late. Eventually, I settled in and found that the "Board of Directors Experience" is similar to the "Saints Experience" in at least one important way: the best part is the community and the friends I've met along the way.

I was lucky to meet my wonderful wife, Rachel, and we married in 1999. Our son Ben and our daughter Madelyn both went to elementary school at St. Patrick's (Go Irish!!) Madelyn is a sophomore at OLP, and she plays in the Saints band. Ben is graduating from Saints this year, and he is going to attend Notre Dame in the fall (Go Irish, yet again!!).

So I have finally seen Saints from a parent's perspective, and I am more impressed than ever at what our school gives to its students and families. I love this school, which has been enormously important in my life. I plan on doing whatever I can do to help Saints continue to educate and form Saintsmen well into the future. Go Saints!



# 2019 AP Exam Late Schedule

	Morning 8 a.m. (Local Time)	Afternoon 12 p.m. (Local Time)
<b>Wednesday, May 22</b>	<p>English Language and Composition</p> <p>Microeconomics</p> <p>Physics C: Mechanics</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Statistics</p>	<p>Chemistry</p> <p>Computer Science A</p> <p>Music Theory</p> <p>Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism</p>
<b>Thursday, May 23</b>	<p>Biology</p> <p>Environmental Science</p> <p>Physics 1: Algebra-Based</p> <p>United States History</p> <p>World History</p>	<p>French Language and Culture</p> <p>Latin</p> <p>Physics 2: Algebra-Based</p>
<b>Friday, May 24</b>	<p>Calculus AB</p> <p>Calculus BC</p> <p>English Literature and Composition</p> <p>United States Government and Politics</p>	<p>Macroeconomics</p> <p>Spanish Language and Culture</p> <p>Spanish Literature and Culture</p>



# 2019 AP Exam Schedule Week 1

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Morning 8 a.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon 12 noon</b>
<b>Monday, May 6, 2019</b>	United States Government and Politics	
<b>Tuesday, May 7, 2019</b>	Spanish Language and Culture	Physics 1: Algebra-Based
<b>Wednesday, May 8, 2019</b>	English Literature and Composition	French Language and Culture
<b>Thursday, May 9, 2019</b>	Chemistry  Spanish Literature and Culture	Psychology
<b>Friday, May 10, 2019</b>	United States History	
	<p>Studio Art- last day for coordinators to submit digital portfolios (by 8 p.m. ET) and to gather 2-D Design and Drawing students for physical assembly.</p> <p>Teachers should have forwarded students' completed digital portfolios to coordinators before this date.</p>	



# 2019 AP Exam Schedule Week 2

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Morning 8 a.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon 12 noon</b>	<b>Afternoon 2 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, May 13, 2019</b>	Biology	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
<b>Tuesday, May 14, 2019</b>	Calculus AB Calculus BC		
<b>Wednesday, May 15, 2019</b>	English Language and Composition	Macroeconomics	
<b>Thursday, May 16, 2019</b>	World History	Statistics	
<b>Friday, May 17, 2019</b>	Microeconomics Music Theory	Computer Science A Latin	



# SENIOR EVENT SCHEDULE

<b>Senior Mother / Son Brunch</b>	April 14th	12:30 pm Bahia Hotel
<b>Senior Prom</b>	May 4th	6:30 pm Westin Gaslamp Quarter – ends at 11:00 pm
<b>Senior Grad Nite</b>	May 17th	7:00 pm – Bus to California Adventure returns to Saints at 3:00 am Saturday morning May 18th
<b>Senior Ditch Day</b>	May 17th	NO SCHOOL
<b>Senior Day of Reflection</b>	May 22nd	John Sanders Gym 8:00 am
<b>Senior Awards Assembly</b>	May 24th	8:50 am
<b>Senior Graduation Practice</b>	May 24th	after Awards Assembly – MANDATORY
<b>Distinguished Students Banquet</b>	May 24th	By Invitation Only
<b>Senior Exams</b>	May 28th	8:30 am Math and 10:30 am
<b>Social Studies</b>	May 29th May 30th	8:30 am English and 10:30 am Religion 8:30 am World Language and 10:30 am Science
<b>Senior Book Return</b>	May 30th	7:00 am to 1:30 pm
<b>Baccalaureate</b>	May 31st	9:30 am in John Sanders Gym – Each Senior will receive 10 tickets Only ticket holders may be accommodated
<b>Graduation</b>	May 31st	Immediately following the end of Mass – Ticket holders only
<b>Graduation Brunch</b>	May 31st	Bali Hai Restaurant immediately following graduation reservations required by the deadline – NO EXCEPTIONS
<b>Cap and Gown Return</b>	June 3rd	7:00 am -2:30 pm

## DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS

*Continued from page 1*

Bruni captures these ideas and the values the *Saints Experience* is built upon when he writes “Where we go to college will have infinitely less bearing on our fulfillment in life than so much else: the wisdom with which we choose our romantic partners; our interactions with the communities that we inhabit; our generosity toward the families we inherit and the families that we make.”

So, when college mania strikes, resist the temptation to believe the lie that going to an elite college is crucial! Although we are creating great college and university opportunities for our students, we are after something more. We are teaching, encouraging and challenging Saints!

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,



James Horne  
Principal



## LOOKING AHEAD

*Continued from page 1*

Financial Aid offers can sometimes be confusing and difficult to understand. Please contact your son’s counselor if you have any questions or would like to discuss financial aid offers or issues

Already this spring, Saints has been proud to host the Best of the West College Fair featuring the Pac-12 universities as well as Grand Canyon University’s accepted student’s night for all San Diego county students. Currently, counselors are hosting family college planning meetings for all junior students and their parents. If you have not contacted your son’s counselor to set this appointment yet, please reach out to them soon. Juniors should also be registering to take either the ACT or SAT exam sometime this spring. Sophomore and freshman students are also being seen by their counselors one-on-one throughout the spring to make sure they are supported as we enter the last quarter of the school year.

*Get Your Tickets for Our Largest Fundraiser of the Year*



**Saturday, May 11, 2019** on the rooftop of St. Augustine Commons  
[www.sahs.org/tasteofsaints](http://www.sahs.org/tasteofsaints) *Discounted alumni pricing!*



## SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning\* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

\*Awards: Saint Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the Best Community Newsletter by an Organization, 2011. Second Place in 2006 and Third Place 2012.

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**Correction Policy:** While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err. We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator: [Thomas.Shess@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.Shess@gmail.com) for any corrections.

**Mission of St. Augustine High School** – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.