



# SAINTS SCENE

## SCHOOL UNVEILS PRAYER GARDEN FOR COMMUNITY

And, honors the memory of 144 souls lost in 1978 as a result of the midair collision over North Park between a small Cessna and PSA Flight 182.

By Edwin Hearn, President of St. Augustine High School

Photography by Saints Parent Mr. William Hill



“World class institutions do world class things. Today was a day where we were world class in front of everyone.” Father Max Villeneuve, OSA Chaplain of St. Augustine High School text message to Ed Hearn after Saints commemoration of PSA Flight 182 on September 25, 2024.

*Continued on page 8*

## Accepting Boys and Graduating Men

Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

School and learning should be synonymous. But in recent years, for boys anyway, this hasn't always been the case. Schools

around the nation, even universities, are reporting that the gender gap which favored boys not too long ago, has reversed its course, and now, girls outshine boys in just about every academic arena. Our 100+ year Augustinian tradition has prepared us well to face these challenges and our outcomes are contrary to what's being observed elsewhere.

Boys learn best when they can move around, perform hands-on activities, and interact with teachers in a lighthearted, joking manner. There's simply a tempo and a sequence to the way boys learn that is not better or worse, but different.

*Continued on page 5*

## A Thanksgiving Blessing

Fr. John Sanders OSA, Saints Principal 1988–2000

Heavenly father, we thank you for the nourishment that you give us. You uplift us with your grace and you fill us with your hope. You console us in dark times and bring us joy and appreciation at the simple. You humble us when we are proud, and you exalt us when our esteem is low.

Bless the food we are about to eat and keep us mindful of the hungry, the desperate, and those who seek justice. Direct our hearts to what we truly need to be sustained in you. We ask all of this through your spirit who reigns throughout the world.

Amen.

## Financial Aid

Now Available Online...Fast

Learn more on page 11.



## Behind the Scenes

By Edwin Hearn

President, St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

### THE PSA MEMORIAL:

It was a race against time that began ramping up last spring. The goal seemed simple enough...build a memorial to commemorate the horrific collision of PSA 182 and a small plane on September 25, 1978, that crashed in North Park. On the 45th anniversary of the catastrophe, St. Augustine High School promised to construct a memorial on the outer north wall of the Raymond Center of the Performing Arts to memorialize the triage center for the collision that became the morgue when first responders realized no one survived the crash. It was a way to preserve in our collective memories the searing loss that was experienced by the community so long ago.

To acquire the building permit required that Saints undergo a Substantial Conformance Review (SCR) of its Conditional Use Permit (CUP). This process allows the community of North Park to raise issues regarding how Saints is living within the confines of its CUP that was issued by the City of San Diego in 2003. It limits the way the school can operate and manage itself and its facilities. While it was clear Saints was living within the CUP, some neighbors voiced complaints about issues outside the document that related to unsafe driving by our students and their parents. It was a difficult issue as there was little evidence other than neighbors' eyewitness accounts of unsafe driving and when it



did occur was it a Saintsman or was it a random driver in the area?

As the process dragged on for several weeks, it was discovered that a building permit could not be issued by the city for the PSA 182 Memorial until the SCR process concluded with a sign-off from the city. This put everything in peril. Without Domus Studio, our architectural firm, Saints was not in a position to complete

this project on time. I realized that there was little trust in the neighborhood that Saints was doing enough to resolve this driving issue. To begin a process of healing, it was clear there was a need for the neighborhood and Saints to come together to address the issue of how to build a safer neighborhood. To do this I met with a key neighbor, and we began to explore what needed to be accomplished to avoid a possible future tragedy.

*Continued on page 11*

# Alum Tax Attorney & Wealth Manager Speak at Junior Career Day

Once a quarter, the junior class is given a glimpse into professional life when speakers from various careers return to campus to discuss their respective fields of expertise. For the 1st quarter this school year, two successful grad speakers were Michael Dallo and Bosco Lujan.

## MICHAEL DALLO | CLASS OF 2002

Michael (left), talked about his first experience working at his family's grocery store. How he found tax law while at University of San Diego. He earned his Masters from New York University in tax law and then launched Dallo Tax Group in 2012. Initially he was a solo practitioner but over the years his firm has 18 employees and has saved clients impressive sums of money. His biggest takeaway from Saints was how important community is for building a successful life.

## BOSCO LUJAN | CLASS OF 1993

Bosco discussed his career in wealth management. He earned his Rady School of Management Masters Degree from UCSD. Currently works at Morgan Stanley managing \$1.3 billion for families in the US and Mexico. Has had a varied career from ad agencies in New York and Los Angeles to entrepreneurship in Tijuana. Bosco's biggest takeaway from Saints was how it reinforced his moral compass, and how good decisions compound into better decisions.



Alums Michael Dallo (left) and Bosco Lujan.

## Saints Celebrates National Scholars

The Principal of St. Augustine High School, James Horne, announced today that a few Saints men have been recognized in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation commend these outstanding and scholastically talented students for their achievement.

“Those being recognized today have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” said Principal Horne. “We hope that being recognized today broadens their educational opportunities. We are grateful that these students and part of our learning community and we encourage their continued pursuit of academic success.”

### STUDENTS WHO WERE RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

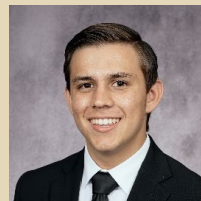
#### National Merit Commended Scholars



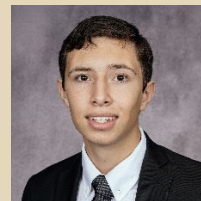
Stephen Berggren



Derek Borja



Jonah Villafana



Alexander Clem

#### National Merit First Generation Scholar

#### National Merit Hispanic Scholars



Evan Perez



Jonah Villafana

#### National Merit Indigenous Scholars



Derek Borja



Ryan Sablan

THE  
**Saint Augustine High School**  
YEARBOOK

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**3/01/2025**

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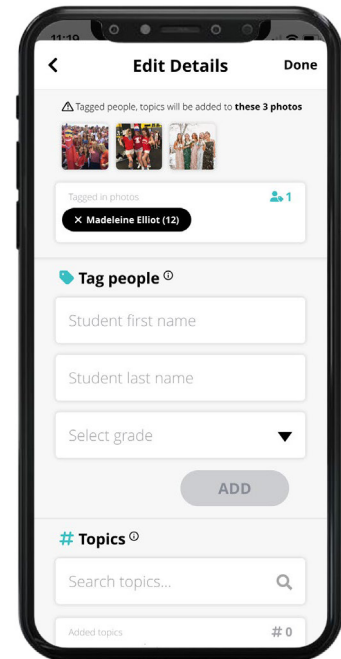
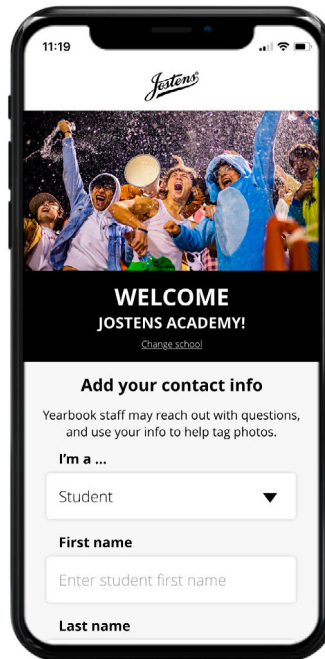
<https://photos.jostens.com/CBGXUR>

2

Upload your favorite photos from the year.

3

Tag students for the yearbook staff.



## UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS TODAY

Use Fast Tag to tag multiple photos with the same students and topics all at once. Then tell the story of your photos with captions and more.

## Accepting Boys and Graduating Men

*Continued from page 1*

At Saints, we understand boys. We tailor the classroom, curriculum, and culture to their unique needs. Our intentional approach to the all-boys' environment is to celebrate boys' strengths. We let them play, we provide opportunities to develop meaningful friendships, encourage them to engage in Christian service, create learning activities that appeal to their interests, allow the investigation of topics they want to talk about, and guide them to express humor in appropriate ways at appropriate times.

Our faculty and staff appreciate their energy, and their unique learning styles, and we believe that our dedicated, focused approach is critical to helping boys realize their full potential. St. Augustine High School is a safe and supportive place where students enter as boys and graduate as men.

In the spirit of Catholic Education,



James W. Horne

Principal



ST. AUGUSTINE DRAMA DEPT. PRESENTS

# TRAP

A HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

WRITTEN BY STEPHEN GREGG

DIRECTED BY TRAVIS BLUMER & GOLDEN LAMB



NOVEMBER 15TH AT 7PM

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NOVEMBER 21ST, 22ND & 23RD AT 7PM

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SAVE THE DATE:  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025



2025 Augustinian Achievement Award Ceremony

# AROUND CAMPUS



**POD SQUAD.** Jameson Grohman, Devin Manns, Frank Buncom IV, Tommy Battaglia with school President Ed Hearn.

Since the beginning of the school year three ASB students (Tommy Battaglia, Devin Manns, and Jameson Grohman) have organized a campus podcast, which features one guest per month.

A recent guest was Frank Buncom IV from the Class of 2015.

Frank discussed his time at Saints including how he gave an inspirational speech to Saints Varsity basketball team at the CIF championship game after injuring his knee.

He spoke about how Saints prepared him for life at Stanford. How he wanted to play in the NFL and then become a doctor, only for that to be derailed by a spine injury.

A few years later, he then discovered his passion for ecological conservation and now works on his family's ranch (SS Friendly Ranch 2105 Hollister St. in San Ysidro).

Aired on the podcast, Frank mentioned there are plans to have Saints boys come help on the ranch and learn about sustainable farming and ecological conservation.



Episodes for the "Full Saints Podcast" can be found at the Saints News Network on Youtube (@SaintsASB).

## Where Are They Now? Catching up with Saints Alums

Saintsman Ethan McVeigh Class of '18 has become an accomplished Rugby athlete.

- Team USA rugby member.
- \*1st Saintsman to appear on US national team for rugby.
- Was a captain while on Saints rugby team. Won several league titles. Was featured as a HS All-American.
- Played college rugby at the University of Cardiff in Wales.
- Currently plays in the professional Major League Rugby for Old Glory DC Rugby Club.



THEN



NOW



# AROUND CAMPUS



**ATHLETE/SCHOLAR.**  
Senior Saintsman Jonathan Chavez and his family, including parents Jonathan and Erica and little cousin Valentina are pictured as young Jonathan is presented the 2024 US Armed Forces Bowl Scholar Athlete of the Year award by a U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant for having the highest GPA on the Saints football team.



## A Day Well Spent

The Purple Gang outing is an alum golf event made up of mostly school grads, retired faculty and Saintsman parents from the 60s -70s. About 20 teed-off on a recent warm summer day in Fallbrook.

Afterwards beverages of all flavors were enjoyed on the patio as the smell of jasmine wafted through the air. Eruption of laughter creating the soundtrack for the scene. Indeed, a day well spent.

**Want to join in?**

Contact: [Tomgraciano68@gmail.com](mailto:Tomgraciano68@gmail.com) for more information.



Recent Purple Gang outing at the Golf Club of California in Fallbrook.

## School Unveils Prayer Garden for Community

*Continued from page 1*

Unlike the clear day of the horrific crash of PSA 182 and a small plane, the recent gathering of the Saints Community, neighbors from the surrounding North Park community, and those who suffered loss so many years ago were greeted by a cool cloud cover to commemorate the newly completed prayer garden on the north side of the Raymond Center of the Performing Arts.

At 8:55 AM the assemblage was called to order. With the entire student body present and standing behind neighbors and guests who were seated in chairs in front of the podium on Palm Street, Fr. Max Villeneuve offered a sober invocation setting the tone for the presentation to follow. As the President, I then explained the nature of the gathering.

After finishing my remarks, the Associated Student Body President, Jack Parada '25 read the inscription etched on the basalt stone slab of the memorial to our assemblage.

He read:

*"In an air catastrophe witnessed by Saints on our campus and in the surrounding neighborhood on September 25, 1978, at 9:01 AM, there was a collision between a small airplane and PSA Flight 182 that led to a crash at nearby Dwight and Nile Streets. A total of 144 people died, both in the air and on the ground. The victims were first transported to this location, then to Dougherty Gymnasium, until being moved to their final resting places.*

*"St. Augustine High School is forever grateful for the heroism and faithful service of the First Responders, the Augustinians, and the North Park and San Diego communities. May the memory of the deceased, and all who served that day and the days that followed, be eternal."*

*"This memorial was inspired by the class of 1980 with an initial gift in gratitude to the Augustinian Friars."*

When Jack finished his task, it was precisely 9:01 AM the time of the crash 46 years ago. We paused in prayer and reflection for a 2-minute moment of silence. Tubular Bells were used for this expression of remembrance. A music student rang the bells every 10 seconds denoting the loss of 12 victims ON THE GROUND who perished that day just a few blocks northeast of the school.

When this reverently concluded, Fr. Jim Clifford, OSA, who witnessed the collision of these two planes, spoke next. He traveled from Oregon to be with the Saints Community and offered his experience of heartache as he realized the two planes were too close and then the terror of the planes colliding. As he shared his remembrance he stated in horror that the commuter plane looked as if it was now heading directly at St. Augustine High School. Students who were between classes were running to escape in all different directions as it also appeared to them the final destination of this flight was directly at the campus. It was at this moment the nose of the plane shifted down and crashed in the neighborhood blocks away at Nile and Dwight.





Fr. Jim along with two other priests immediately drove to the crash site and arrived just before the Fire Department. They were told to leave the area and by the time they returned to Saints, it had been determined Dougherty Gymnasium would be used as the triage center for the crash. As human remains began arriving at this location it became obvious no one survived the crash, and UNCERIMONIOUSLY the gym OUT OF PRACTICAL NECESSITY FOR RESPONDERS AND THE COMMUNITY became the morgue. Fr. Jim Clifford, OSA, along with Fr. Patrick Keane, OSA, and Fr. Tom Bonica, OSA did the only thing they could do—they anointed each of the dead in a “Catholic way.”

It should be noted that two weeks before the commemoration, John O’Beirne ’84, the Assistant Principal for Student Services organized an assembly for the students to prep them for this gathering. He invited Ben Smith and Steve Chipp, ’68, both Saints administrators at the time who experienced this horrific day.

The student’s seriousness on the day of the commemoration was noticed by everyone in attendance. They understood as young men the gravity of what they were witnessing. From the beginning to the end of the ceremony, they stood riveted with the remarks of the various speakers. In a thank you note, received a few days after the event, Fr. Clifford wrote, “I want to commend the students of Saints. They were incredibly well-behaved. There was no pushing or talking or any other normal behavior for that age group. They were silent, listening, and respectful. Thank them for me.”

Mayor Todd Gloria followed Fr. Clifford with a brief speech commending Saints great response in San Diego’s darkest hour and the need for this new memorial to give victims of this accident a place to mourn their horrific losses.

The Provincial, the Very Reverend Barnaby Johns, OSA concluded this gathering with a prayer and blessing of the memorial.

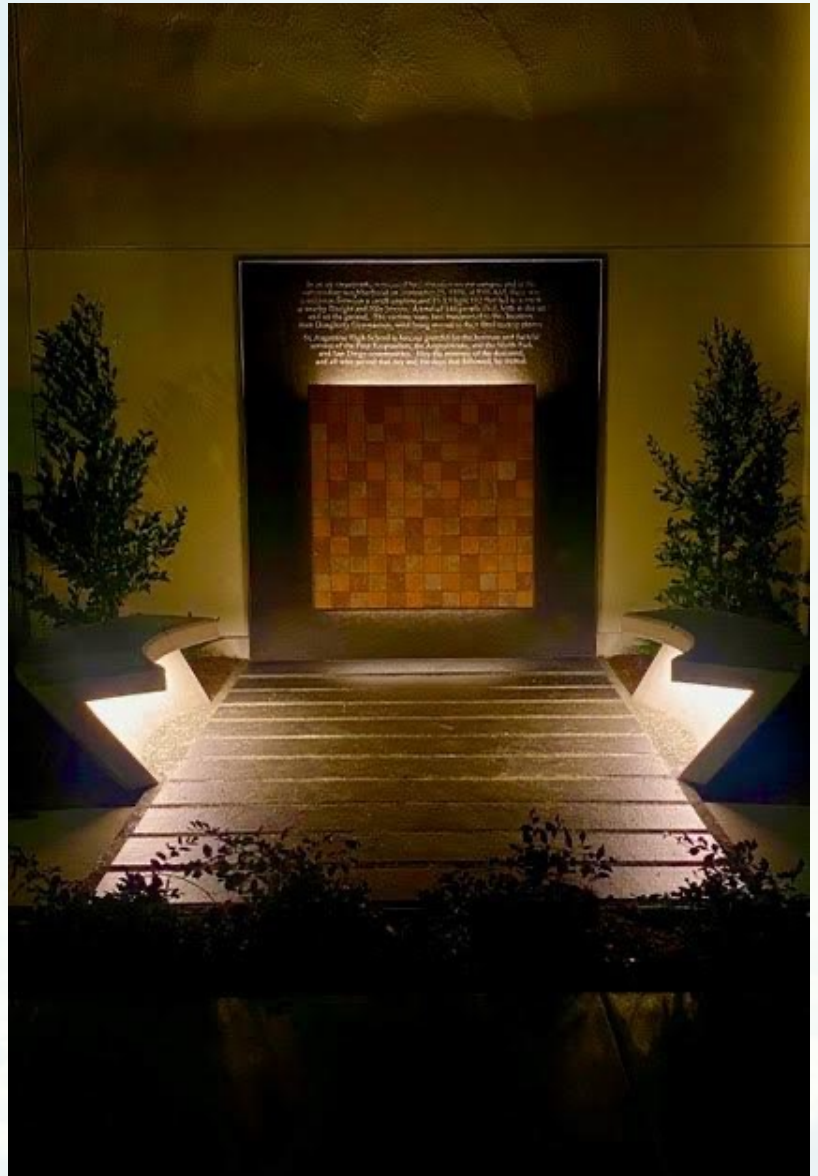
When the commemoration concluded, those in attendance were encouraged to move closer to the Memorial to witness the craftsmanship and the art displayed in this beautiful prayer garden. Some in the crowd milled around speaking in hushed tones but others came forward to see and feel the monument.

That evening, I asked Holly Ferrari, a co-worker who lives a block away from Saints to take a photo of the memorial at night when the lights would be highlighting the various elements of the tribute.

When she arrived, she texted me that she would have to come back as people from the community were present who had taped photos of some of the deceased to the memorial and had placed flowers between the two benches. The next morning, I drove down Palm Street past the memorial. There were a few women from the neighborhood sitting on the benches in the garden in front of the memorial. Later the next evening we were able to take the photo.

***Finally, after 46 years, North Park had a place to pray and reflect upon the loss of 144 souls in this tragic episode.***

See Page 2 for a behind the scenes article on the new Prayer Garden/PSA Memorial.





**Halo Joe's  
Holiday Sale**

**Enjoy 20% off  
Nov 19 – Dec 12  
Store Hours  
T/Th 730-830am  
W 130-330pm**



**Student Intersession Preview Day  
Thursday, December 5th  
7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.**



**On this special day, students will report at 7:45 a.m., on campus, to their Intersession course classroom.**

**Instructors will review course details, expectations, and facilitate the completion of any necessary paperwork (if applicable).**

**As this will be the ONLY day of its kind in advance of the start of Intersession, it is imperative that students are in attendance and on time to their designated course location on campus.**

**We look forward to another remarkable Intersession come January!**



# Financial Aid

## Now Available Online...Fast

*Continued from page 1*

The St. Augustine High School financial aid process for the 2025-26 school year is now open. Should you wish to apply, the application deadline for all grades is **January 15th, 2025**. The application can be access at <https://apply.ismfast.com>.

All questions related to the application process should be directed to FAST. The 24/7 Parent Support Hotline is 877-326-3278 or you can email their support team at [familysupport@ismfast.com](mailto:familysupport@ismfast.com).

You can also access FAST tutorial videos using the links provided below.



Joe Cool applying for financial aid.

*Illustration: Thanks, Mr. Schulz*



FAST Video Tutorial 001

**A Guide to Completing the  
FAST Family Application**



FAST Video Tutorial 002

**How to Upload  
Additional Documents to  
Your FAST Application**



FAST Video Tutorial 003

**How to Authorize  
Your Taxes**

# Behind the Scenes

*Continued from page 2*

We spoke before the North Park Planning Committee's (NPPC) monthly meeting and explained that we were successfully dialoging about a more respectful relationship between both parties and Saints needed a favorable recommendation from NPPC to complete the SCR process. Saints received unanimous support and a few weeks later the city concluded the SCR process with their sign-off.

With the building permit issued by the city, the race was on. There was a mere five weeks to construct the memorial and to secure a Special Event Permit from the city to allow the Saints Community and guests to attend the ceremony. Given the permitting process is an eight-week process, it seemed a daunting task. Saints had a remote chance to keep its promise to the community.

The construction process had to be flawless for the memorial to be finished by the 46th anniversary on September 25th. As we made our best attempt, Fr. Max and I came together to write the program for that day that might not happen. After weeks of back and forth between Saints and the City of San Diego our Special Event Permit was finally issued, and the construction project was completed less than 24 hours before our ceremony on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.



# Let's Get Started!

## 1 YOU'RE APPROVED! EMAIL

Receive an email from your school giving you access to get started at [sahs.carpooltoschool.com](http://sahs.carpooltoschool.com)

## 2 CREATE PROFILE & LOGIN

Create a profile to ensure you get matched perfectly!

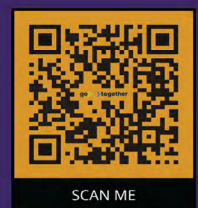
## 3 GET MATCHED

Based on distance, your student's grade, schedule, and exclusively with your school.

## 4 CREATE A POOL

Get started creating your first trip today!

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LiveChat and 800-514-3808  
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# Sign Up Now for the One and Only, Original St. Augustine High Turkey Trot



Attention: Students, Faculty, Administrators, Alums it's that time of year again to run in St. Augustine High's annual: TURKEY TROT.

**Registration:** [www.sahs.org](http://www.sahs.org) to join in this year's Turkey Trot

**Date:** Tuesday, November 26

**Time:** 11:40am

**Price:** \$30 (shirt, pot pie and Gatorade)



**Student Schedule for the day:**

7:45am Mass

8:40–9:20am Blk. 1

9:25–10:05am Blk. 2

10:10–10:50am Blk. 3

10:55–11:35am Blk. 4

11:35am–12:35pm TT, Lunch

12:35–1:15pm Blk. 5

1:20–2:00pm Blk. 6

Be kind to one another and compassionate,  
and forgive one another as God has  
forgiven you in Christ.

– Ephesians 4:32

Now accepting applications for the 2025 school year.

- Financial Aid Application Opens: October 1, 2024
- Open House: November 3, 2024 @11am-2pm
- High School Placement Test: January 11, 2025



For more information visit [www.sahs.org/admissions](http://www.sahs.org/admissions)



Accepting boys and graduating  
men who change the world.

Unitas ▪ Veritas ▪ Caritas



## SAINTS SCENE

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

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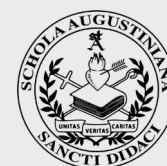
**Staff Photographer:** Bill Hill, Saints Parent

**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.

**\*Awards:** Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.



**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.**