92%

OF JOHNNIES IN THE CLASS OF 2023 RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID FROM THE COLLEGE.

Even with the tuition reduction, most incoming freshmen still required some form of aid in order to afford St. John’s. Through the Freeing Minds campaign, your generosity is helping to meet this need.
“I’ve been here a month and I’ve said, ’I’m wrong’ more than I had in the last eighteen years.”
— Isabel McDonald (SF23)

“The small discussion-based classes have been freeing...thank you...”
— Jessica Peterson (AN21)

“I didn’t expect that the St. John’s education would translate so much into my own life, my personal life. It’s changed how I talk to people. It’s changed me.”
— Cintia Osario (SF21)

“I have been challenged, startled, dismayed, inspired, confounded, and elated, year after year...”
— Rachel Marie Goad (AN19)

“The Program is more than an education to me—it’s a lifestyle.”
— Doug Spurlock (SF20)

“There is something truly magical about St. John’s and I will cherish every moment I have here.”
— Esme DeCoster (AN22)

“The person I was at the beginning of freshman year is so different from who I am now...”
— Zhansaya Kuatzhan (SF22)

“Having this scholarship...allows me the opportunity to follow my dreams and make my grandmother proud.”
— Nihya Davis (AN22)

“I truly believe I would not be the person I am today without this school, and that gift is priceless.”
— Georgia Foster-Cooper (SF20)

“I hold the books we read very close to my heart and I feel transformed after every new reading.”
— Tom Balding (AN20)
BRINGING MORE JOHNNIES TO THE SEMINAR TABLE

The word is getting out: St. John’s offers the most rigorous education in America at an affordable price. Ben Baum, vice president of enrollment, says domestic applications to St. John’s surged 17% in one year. Last year, the average increase in applications at colleges and universities in the US was only 4%.

COLLEGE WIDE

Thanks to an anonymous alumni gift in 2019, students who come to St. John’s through the Davis United World College Scholars Program are guaranteed a full-tuition scholarship. Having already earned an International Baccalaureate diploma at select high schools, Davis Scholars are as comfortable with discussion-based classes as they are with intellectual adventure. “I hear people’s ideas and how they’ve interpreted the text and, suddenly, it’s like a whole world’s come to life,” says Thato Kgalema (SF20), pictured right, a native of South Africa and one of 17 Davis Scholars currently enrolled at St. John’s.

ANNAPOLIS, MD

To engage with the Great Books is to enter a world of shapes, colors, and textures as well as words. As the first students from St. John’s to receive a Garden of Great Ideas fellowship, Anna Seban (AN20) and Julia Cooper (AN20), pictured left, spent the summer in New York City and Paris, conceptualizing and crafting bronze-cast sculptures inspired by history’s great ideas.

Julia says the experience has helped her to personally connect with important themes. “I was able to put them into my visual memory and have them in another part of my life.”

The fellowship is generously funded through the Newington-Cropsey Foundation.

SANTA FE, NM

“As parents, we saw how much our daughter, Jennifer, benefitted from her education at St. John’s, which gave her a sense of direction after a difficult time in her life. St. John’s offered her a generous grant, but the tuition was higher in those days, so it was still a challenge for us financially. We created our scholarship in gratitude to St. John’s and to enable future students from the southwest to attend.”

John and Isabel Campbell, pictured left, generously established the John and Isabel Campbell Endowed Scholarship as part of the Southwest Scholars program.
The Great Books are thrilling, moving, disquieting, but can they shape a career? A family? A life? The college responds with a resounding “yes.” Bolstered by an anonymous gift, the Office of Personal and Professional Development reflects St. John’s commitment to helping students extend the lessons of the Great Conversation beyond their college years. Eve Admasu (SF20), pictured left, who worked with the office to secure a summer internship with the Ethiopian Red Cross, says that of her many accomplishments at St. John’s, “clarity of my post-graduation goals is perhaps one of the biggest.”

Her enthusiasm has been so irresistible that Eve’s cousin, Milka Hiruy, has now joined her at St. John’s as a member of the Class of 2023.

A college education should not require a second mortgage,” said President Pano Kanelos, pictured above, during a luncheon in Annapolis, where he thanked guests for “reversing a trend that too few colleges dare to face.” Both campuses hosted donor appreciation lunches during Homecoming, giving presidents Mark Roosevelt and Pano Kanelos the opportunity to join students in thanking donors who have given $500 or more to the campaign.

The Freeing Minds campaign brought to fruition a gift built on 15 years of generosity – and centuries of thought. The Class of 2004 and friends recently unveiled a one-of-a-kind gift to St. John’s: a functioning armillary sphere, modeled after designs by sixteenth century astronomer Tycho Brahe. Tutor Emeritus Bill Donahue, pictured left, says the sphere, an early predecessor to the telescope, “fits so beautifully with what we do at St. John’s. … We’re not just trying to read old astronomy books, we’re trying to understand their view of the world.”
“A couple of years ago, we decided to establish a scholarship. We did this because we love the college and want to see it thrive. We also want to support the student who can most benefit from a St. John’s education regardless of that student’s ability to pay. It’s a small way of expressing our gratitude for the experience, education, and opportunities that St. John’s has provided us.”

Sheila (AN88) and Steve Virgil (AN88), pictured left, have supported St. John’s for the past 30 years and have also included the college in their estate plans.

COLLEGE WIDE

When two alumnae were looking to stretch beyond their comfort zones, Freeing Minds inspired an answer. Together, Tia Pausic (AN86) and Elisabeth Long (AN86), pictured above, established the Class of 1986 Endowed Scholarship, generously pledging $25,000 each. The effort has raised more than $140,000 from alumni and friends, and the pair hopes to reach $200,000 by 2021, the year of their 35th homecoming. “The college changed me,” says Long. “And I want to be sure that many more students can have that same experience, long into the future.”

sjc.edu/1986-scholarship

KEEPING ST. JOHN’S ACCESSIBLE

The Freeing Minds campaign is ensuring that the St. John’s experience remains accessible to students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

First generation students: 14%

Students of color: 29%

ANNAPOLIS, MD

Why do surgeons love Diet Coke so much? Will a low-oxygen environment affect fish gonads? What does it mean for a thing to be “ugly?” These are some of the characteristically Johnnie questions – inventive, a bit irreverent, definitely interesting – that eight Annapolis students explored this summer through internships made possible by a gift from fellow Johnnie Dr. Stephen Forman (AN70).

Jared Bassman (AN20), pictured left, says the St. John’s Program helped him cultivate the mindset needed for an internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. “The most crucial part of doing research was holding myself accountable and, of course, asking questions.”

So why do surgeons love Diet Coke? That mystery, says Jared, remains unsolved.