

St. John's College Alumni Association Board Annual Report

2023-24



A message from the St. John's College Alumni Association President

Dear St. John's Alumni Community,

I am very pleased to share the first Annual Report of the St. John's College Alumni Association Board. The goal of this report is two-fold.

First, to provide greater transparency around the Alumni Association Board's (AAB) work. This report provides a short history, mission, and vision of the Association; information about the Board and our work; and the strategic plan that will guide us for the next two years.

Second, to provide opportunities for connection, engagement, and contribution. Though the board is made up of elected representatives from the undergraduate and graduate programs, my hope is that our work will inspire you to join us. There are many opportunities to contribute your expertise and experience by volunteering (short-term or longer) on our Working Groups, and we welcome alumni from all SJC programs—undergraduate, Graduate Institute Liberal Art and Eastern Classics programs—more recent graduates to those further out, national and international alumni, and our honorary alumni.

The work of the Alumni Association is the result of the efforts and collaboration of many to whom I owe great gratitude. This is but a short list:

- The 2023-24 Board of Directors: Richa Bhattarai A18, Su Bradford SF89, Sam Collins A10, Jacob Greenstine A10, Allan Hoffman A49, Joy LeCuyer SFGI12/EC23, Juniper Lovato SFGI12, Beth Martin A94, My Nguyen A09, Melissa Novotny SFGI13, Hayden Pendergrass A14, Matthew Pryatel SF97, Sarah Schoedinger A92, Amritpal Singh A15, Pari Sitaula SF16, Hardison Wood A98
- My fellow Alumni Association presidents: Past President Josephine "Gigi" Escalante A92 and President-Elect Brett Heavner A89
- Kira Howard, Senior Director, Office of Alumni & Constituent Engagement
- Pier Quintana, Director, Office of Personal and Professional Development (Santa Fe)
- Jamie Dunn, Director, Office of Career Development (Annapolis)
- And of course, to you, the alumni, who give so generously of your time and treasure to support our cherished alma mater.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of our programs or if you have any questions about our work, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at sjcaa@sjc.edu.

St. John's Forever!
Katarina Wong A88
President, St. John's College Alumni Association

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A Brief History of the Alumni Association

1827: Alumni Association founded (Francis Scott Key was one of the founders)

1934: Alumni Association (AA) incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization supporting alumni and the College

1937: Introduction of the New Program, which splits alumni into Old and New Program segments

1951: SJC President Richard Weigle increases fundraising pressure on alumni

1967: Founding of the Graduate Institute

1980: SJC President Edward Delattre inaugurated. Expansion of Chapters network beyond the East Coast. Decision to limit fundraising efforts to alumni. By-Laws rewritten, SF alumni formally recognized as part of the AA

2010: By-Laws updated

- Board Restructure:
 - AAB president position divided into 3 consecutive 2-year positions: president-elect, president, and past-president
 - Decreased board size from 30+ members to current size (max 20)
 - Chapter leads no longer de facto board members
 - Incorporated separate fundraising group Philanthropia into the AA
 - Established the following Working Groups: Alumni Giving Council (formerly Philanthropia), Chapters, Career Services, Strategic Communications, Events, Student and Recent Alumni, & the Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF), which brought ~100 alumni together (alternating campus yearly) to learn about AA initiatives and foster volunteerism
 - Cessation of AA member dues; funding of association now provided by the College

2017: ALF reimagined as a series of AA-organized events throughout the year at different locations & eventually online, in collaboration with SJC and alumni Chapters

2019: A philanthropy-based, financial model adopted by the college to make SJC accessible to more students; closer partnership between SJC and the AA to support the new model

2027: 200th Anniversary of the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association Now

Vision: A fully engaged alumni community that supports the College and contributes to the intellectual, professional, and personal development of its members.

Mission: To support alumni and the college by fostering fellowship and mutually beneficial connections among alumni, current students, faculty, and other members of the college community.

Who is a member of the Alumni Association?

The association includes all SJC alumni as defined in the association's by-laws:

Completion of one semester as an undergrad, one segment of GI, or those designated as honorary alumni

The Alumni Association Now

The Alumni Association consists of **19,096** alumni

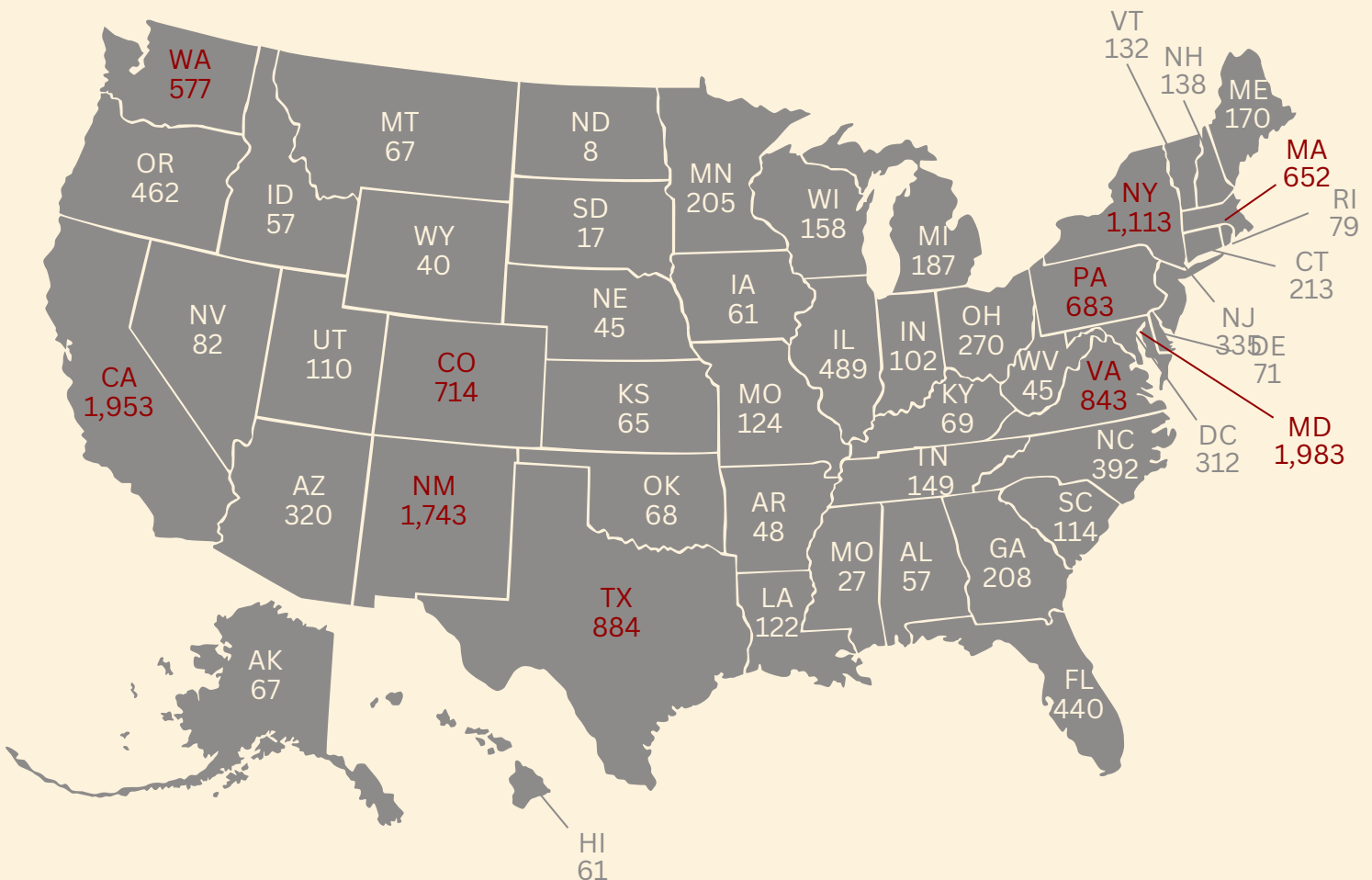
17,745 U.S.-based

792 International

859 Unknown

Distribution of alumni in the U.S.

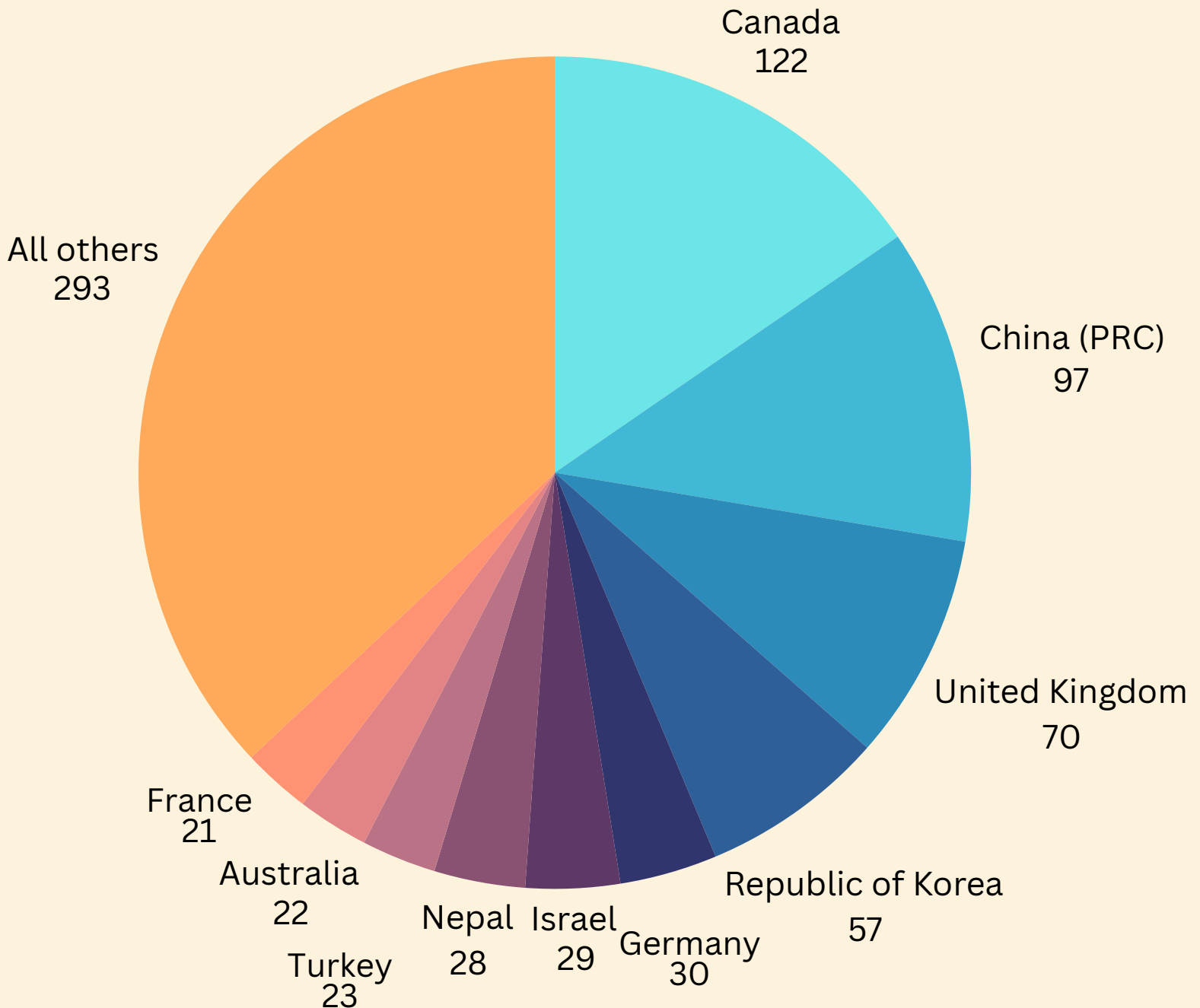
Top ten states with most alumni in **red**



The Alumni Association Now

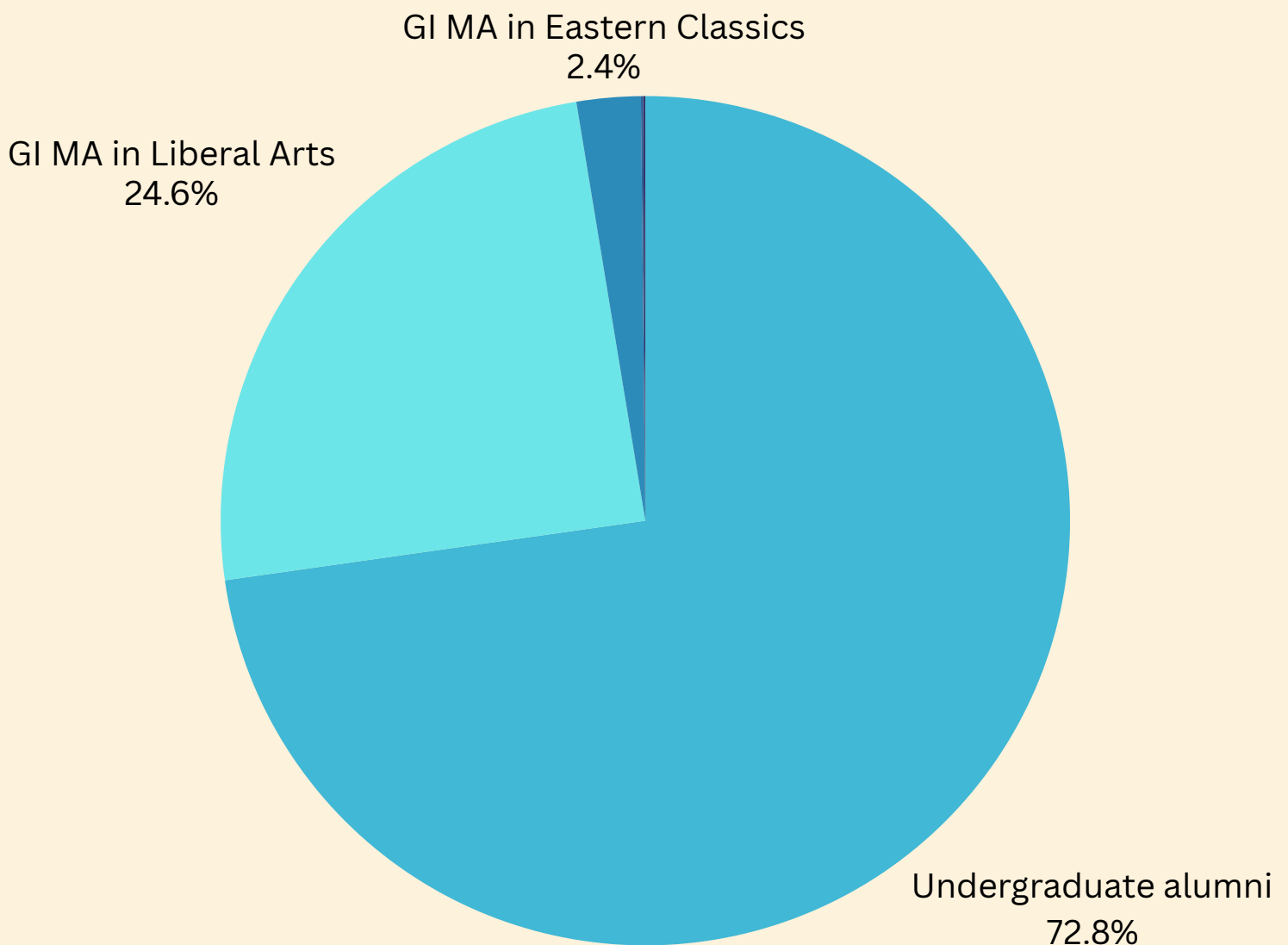
SJC alumni are in **98 countries**, in addition to the U.S.

Top ten countries with most alumni



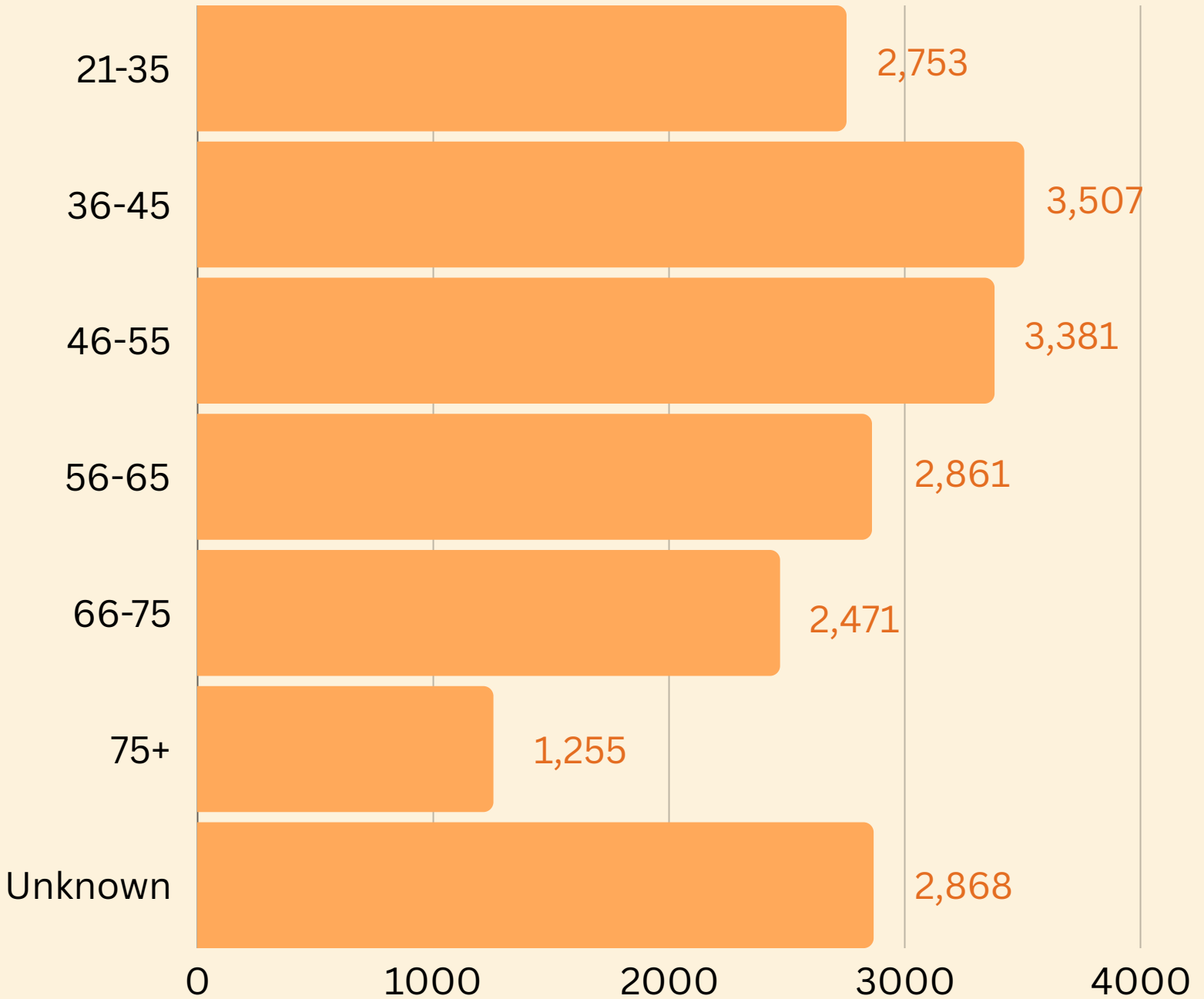
The Alumni Association Now

Percentage of degreed undergraduate, Graduate Institute MA in Liberal Arts, and Graduate Institute MA in Eastern Classics alumni



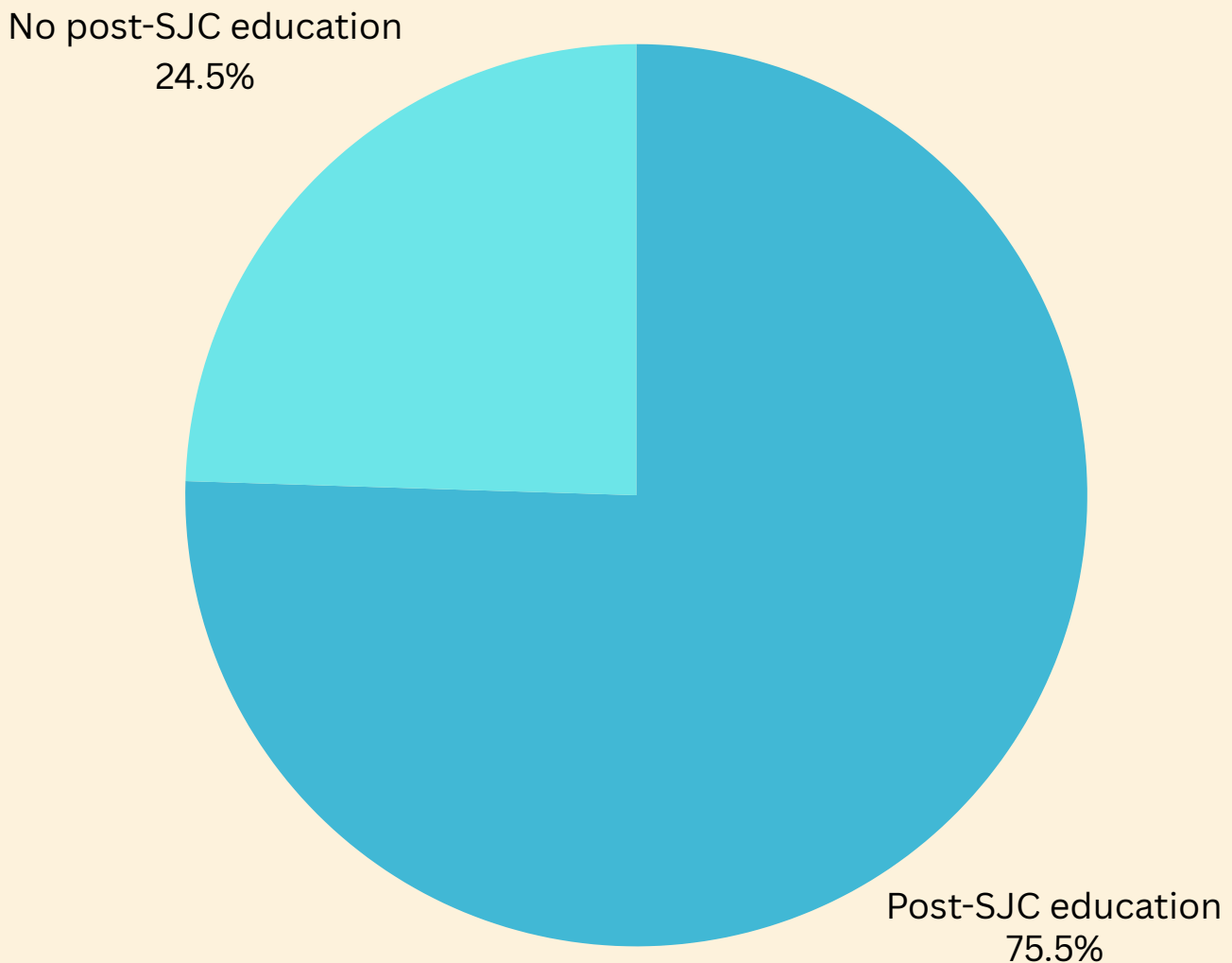
The Alumni Association Now

Age ranges of SJC alumni



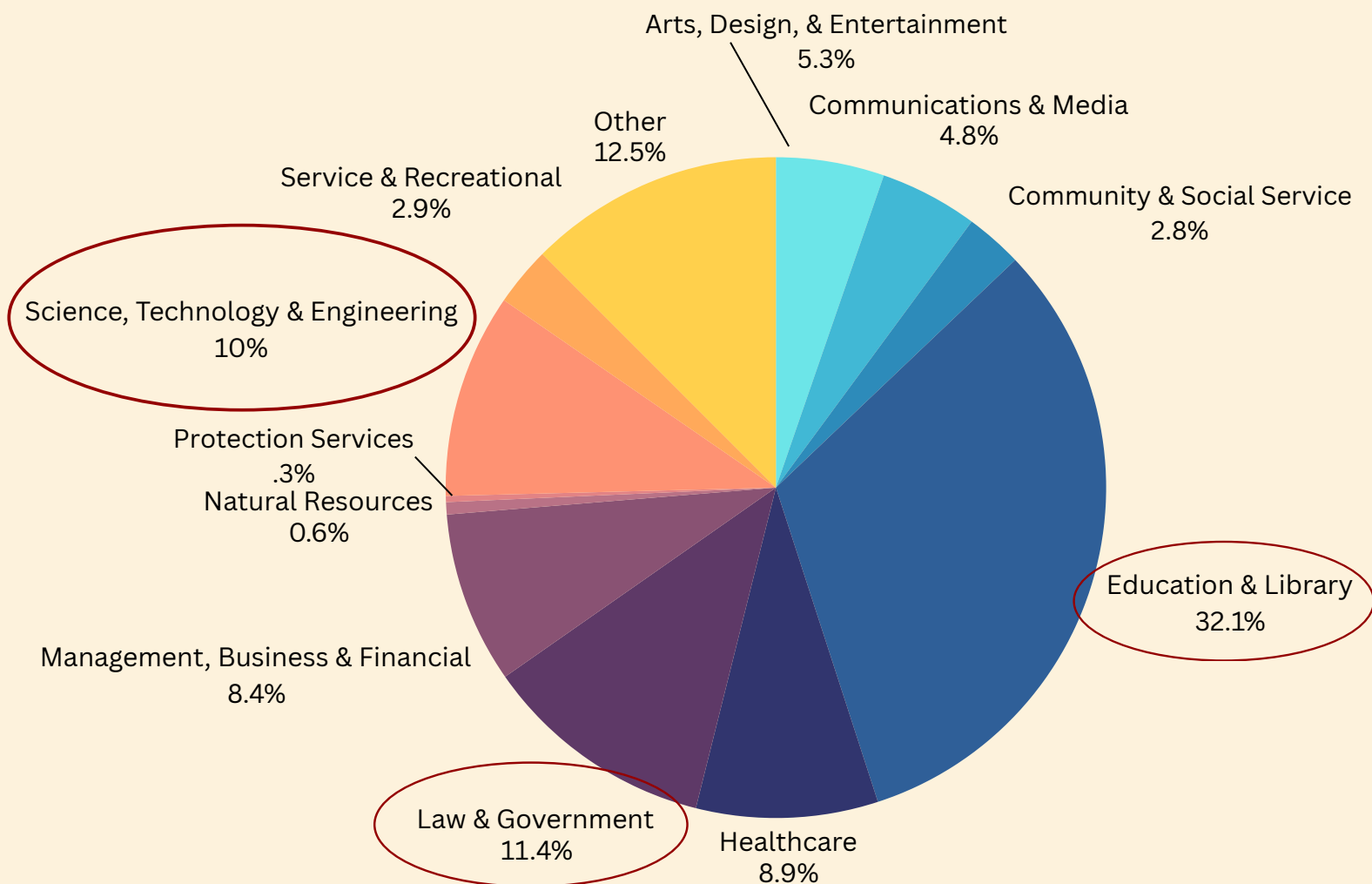
The Alumni Association Now

Degreed alumni who attended graduate, professional school or another institution of higher education after earning their degree at St. John's*



*Based on a 2020 survey of 9,124 alumni with valid email addresses, of whom 2,100 responded to this question

Top professional sectors for alumni*



*Based on a 2020 survey of 9,124 alumni with valid email addresses, of whom 1,533 responded to this question

The Alumni Association Board

Duties

- **Maintain** the by-laws, policies, financial, and strategic plan
- **Lead** Working Groups and Committees to success
- **Communicate** with SJC staff, BVG, and alumni
- **Donate** to the college and encourage others to do so
- **Cultivate** alumni as advocates and volunteers
- **Collaborate** with the college & BVG on SJC-focused initiatives

Governing Documents

- [By-Laws](#)
- [Code of Operating Resolutions \(COR\)](#)
- [Articles of Incorporation](#)

Structure

- **5 officers:** president (who also sits as ex officio on the Board of Visitors & Governors during their term), president-elect, past-president, secretary and treasurer
- **12 directors-at-large** (non-officers)
- **1 college staff member** (ex officio)
- **4-6 student reps** split between both campuses
- **Up to 3 directors emeriti**

The Alumni Association Board



Katarina Wong A88
President



Brett Heavner A89
President-Elect



Josephine Escalante A92
Past President



Beth Martin A94
Secretary



Richa Bhattarai A18
Treasurer



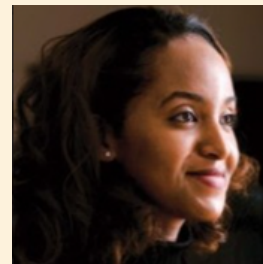
Charles Bieneman SF89
Director-At-Large



Su Bradford SF89
Director Emerita



Sam Collins A10
Director-At-Large



Nani Detti SF20
Director-At-Large



Jacob Greenstine A10
Director-At-Large



Allan Hoffman A49
Director Emeritus



Joseph Larson A90
Director-At-Large



Joy LeCuyer SFG12/EC23
Director-At-Large



Shannon Lynch Albritton
SF20, Director-At-Large



My Nguyen A09
Director-At-Large



Hayden Pendergrass A14
Director-At-Large



Aishwarya Sharma A20
Director-At-Large



Amritpal Singh A15
Director-At-Large



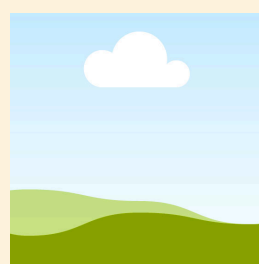
Hannah Stires Ard A92
Director-At-Large



Kira Howard, Sr Dir.
Alumni & Constituent
Engagement (Ex Officio)



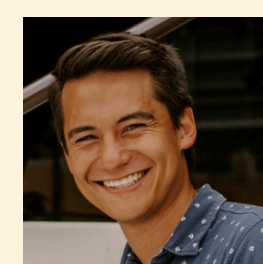
Delaney Costello A27
Student Representative



Marie Claire Fagan SF26
Student Representative



Helen Felbek A25
Student Representative



Daniel Levy AGI25
Student Representative



Stafford Wood SFGI25
Student Representative

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

The work of the Alumni Association Board is accomplished primarily through our Working Groups and Committees.

Working Groups work closely with college staff. Committees focus more on internal operations of the association and function with less coordination needed from college staff.

Working Groups

- Alumni Giving Council
- Career Services Working Group
- Chapters Working Group
- Communications Working Group
- Events Working Group
- Student & Recent Alumni Working Group

Committees

- Nominations Committee
- Awards Committee
- Governance Committee

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Alumni Giving Council

The Alumni Giving Council (AGC) **cultivates a culture of philanthropy among alumni by encouraging financial support for the Fund for St. John's College.** In 2023-24, the AGC helped the college exceed goals on its two major fundraising activities and supported additional fundraising opportunities.

FY24: 393 first-time donors to the College, 114 (~30%) from AGC-supported activities

Giving Tuesday 2023

489 Gifts (goal was 400)

\$121,011 Total raised

St. John's Day of Giving 2024

789 Gifts (goal was 500)

\$204,738 Total raised

Croquet Giving Tent 2024

175 Gifts

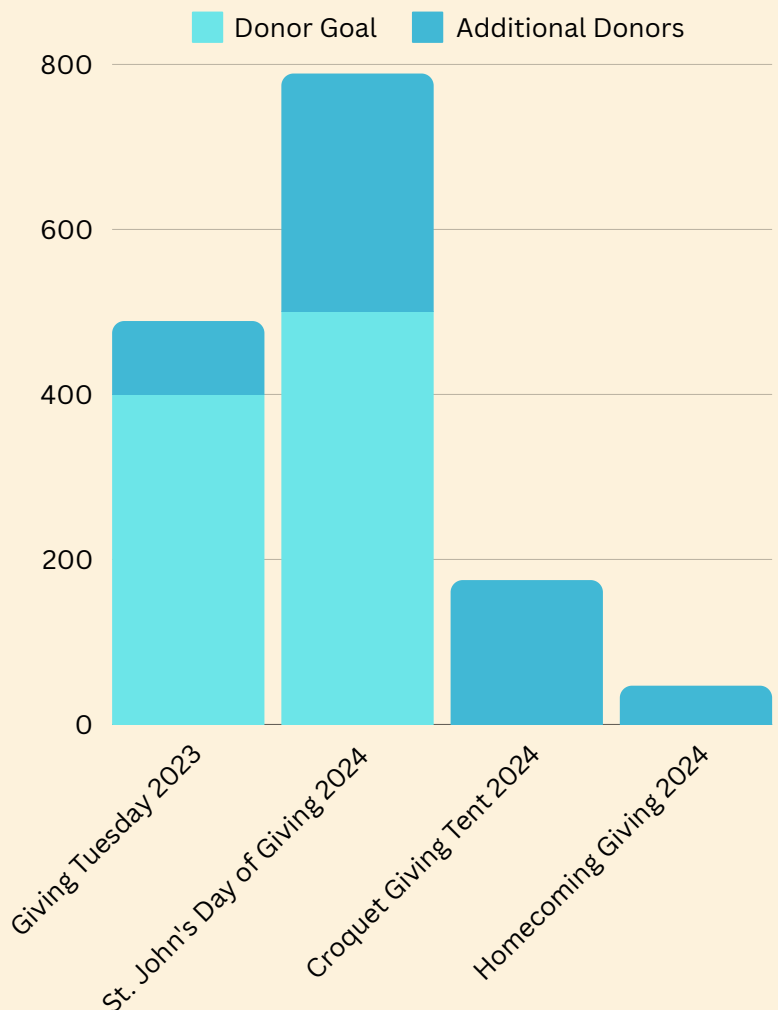
\$4,685 Total raised

Homecoming Giving 2024

47 Gifts (12% of attendees)

\$25,339 Total raised*

includes \$20K pledge payment



Career Services Working Group

The Odyssey Program originated during the pandemic as the “Jobs for Johnnies” BVG initiative. It has evolved into a mentorship program that **provides opportunities for students to learn about potential careers and gain valuable interview and networking skills**. The Office of Career Development in Annapolis and the Office of Personal and Professional Development in Santa Fe identify advisees on their respective campuses, while the AAB’s Career Services Working Group recruits alumni advisors who meet with these students over several months.

2023-24 Odyssey Program

- One-to-one model of mentorship for undergraduate seniors
- ~20 different fields covered
- 30 Total volunteers
- 39 Total students matched

2024-25 New Mentorship Model is expanding to include sophomores, juniors, seniors, and GI students. Alumni advisors will work in teams, meeting with groups of students, focusing on 8 professional sectors:

- Business, Entrepreneurship & Leadership
- International Relations, Public Policy & Service
- Law & Government
- Philosophy, Academics & Education
- Psychology & The Mind
- Public Health & Medicine
- STEM, Data Science and Sustainability
- Writing, Arts & Media

Chapters Working Group

Alumni from undergraduate and Graduate Institute programs have the opportunity to engage with each other through the alumni Chapter network. The Chapters Working Group helps support and connect Chapters across the U.S. and increasingly across the world.

- Contact info for 45 chapters, 15 known active. Directory of active chapters was launched this year on the SJC website: <https://www.sjc.edu/alumni/connect>
- Interest for new chapters or leads in Lansing, MI; Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio, TX; as well as in Korea, Belgium, and Germany
- Coming up
 - Regular calls with Chapter leaders to share best practices
 - FAQs for starting and leading a local Chapter
 - Touchstones training for Chapter leads, which is part of this year's Alumni Association's LifeLongLearning (L3) series

Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group was revitalized this past year to ensure **24-hour response to all incoming email** to the Alumni Association mailbox (sjcaa@sjc.edu) and **implemented internal communications procedures** for greater efficiency among the working groups.

This working group is central to the success of our 2024-26 Strategic Plan, as it will **become the hub of how we hear directly from alumni, foster engagement among them, and share our work with the greater SJC community**. To that end, we invite alumni with social media management and communications experience to get involved with this working group.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group was established in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. The Alumni Association Board realized it could better reflect the rich diversity of the Alumni Association, especially as our alumni community becomes more diverse demographically, financially, and geographically.

Since then, the Alumni Association Board has created a provision in the Code of Operating Resolution codifying the AAB's commitment to diversity and representation of the alumni community. We have held several community seminars on readings by BIPOC authors, including a DuBois seminar during Alumni Week in 2022, and a month-long virtual summer reading group led by alumni that brought Annapolis and Santa Fe students together.

As we move forward, we remain committed to infusing diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of our work.

Events Working Group

The Events Working Group **hosts events for alumni and the greater SJC community** throughout the year, often collaborating with other working groups, and **provides important support for college-wide events:**

- Croquet
- Homecoming
- Graduate Institute Convening Weekend

Coming up

- “L3: On Seminar” - a three-part Alumni Association LifeLong Learning Series, examining the dynamics of seminar and good conversation
- SJC Alumni Association 200th Anniversary Planning Committee

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Student & Recent Alumni Working Group

The Student & Recent Alumni Working Group (SARA) **provides support to undergraduate and graduate students** as they begin their time at St. John's and also as they transition to their post-college experience. Our student representatives play a vital part in informing SARA and also executing this group's work

Last year the SARA Working Group:

- Provided diploma tubes to graduating students with contact information for alumni Chapters
- Held a Community Seminar in Fall 2023 on Seamus Heaney poems
- Held an Earth Day Community Seminar in Spring 2024 on Aldo Leopold (collaboration with the college)
- Led "Spirit of Seminar" workshop during Santa Fe orientation on best practices for participating in SJC classes
- Welcomed graduates to the Alumni Association at Commencement ceremonies on both campuses
- Represented Alumni Association at the Santa Fe Convocation

Committees

From the Alumni Association By-Laws:

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES: SECTION 1. NOMINATING

COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President-Elect, who shall act as chair, the President, the Past President, the Director of Alumni Relations, and five appointed members of the Association in good standing, who may not be current members of the Board. The five appointed members of the Association shall be appointed annually by the President-Elect. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall include submitting nominations to the Board for officers of the Association, At-Large Directors, Alumni-elected BVG members, Directors Emeriti, and such other positions and honors as the Board shall direct. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for nomination or election to any position nominated by the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 2. OTHER COMMITTEES. Other committees and working or advisory groups as required from time to time to carry out the business of the Association may be established as provided by the Board.

Reports from Working Groups & Committees

Committees

The 2024 Nominating Committee:

- Included Seth Appelbaum A09, Rachel Darrow AGI04, Michael Dink A75, Josephine Escalante A92, John Gibson SF88, Leland Giovannelli A78, Kira Howard (Ex Officio), Katarina Wong A88, and was led by President-Elect Brett Heavner A89
- Nominated Honorary membership in the Alumni Association to the following members of the SJC community:
 - Annapolis: **retired Director of Alumni Relations Victoria (“Torii”) Campbell** and **retired Tutor Henry Higuera**
 - Santa Fe: **Registrar Julie Romero** and **retired Tutor John Cornell**
- Received nominations and vetted this year’s slate of incoming board members: **Charles Bieneman SF89, Nani Detti SF20, Joseph Larson A90, Shannon Lynch Albritton SF20, Aishwarya Sharma A20, Hannah Stires Ard A92, and the Alumni Association-elected BVG Board Member Ginger Kinney A67**

Committees

The 2024 Awards Committee:

- Included George Dolan SF92, Chris Liu A22, Lisa Padilla SF92, Richard Smith A90, Steve Steinbach AGI13, and Kira Howard (Ex Officio) and was led by Past President Josephine Escalante
- Nominated the following alumni for the Award of Merit. These alumni will be honored at the Alumni Association Award of Merit Luncheon at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC, on January 26, 2025
 - **Malik Gillani A92**
 - **Thomas More Donnelly SF83**
 - **Tia Pausic A86**
 - **Rose Carmen Goldberg SF06**
- The following alumni received the Volunteer Service Award:
 - **Brian Becker AGI08**
 - **Leslie Kay SF83**
 - **Steve Virgil A88**

Committees

The Governance Committee:

- Ensures changes are aligned with the Alumni Association's Bylaws and Code of Operating Resolutions (COR)
- The 2023-24 Committee included Lee Katherine Goldstein SF90, Ginger Kinney A67, Sabina Sulat A92, Babak Zarin A11, led by FY24 AAB Secretary Sarah Schoedinger A92
- Updated current practices of the Alumni Association Board in the Guide to Practices (G2P)*, which is the operating manual for the AAB and record of past practices

*last updated in 2018

A View Ahead: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

Introduction

As is customary, the SJC Alumni Association Board creates and implements a Strategic Plan to guide its work on behalf of the Alumni Association. The following plan is informed by conversations the three Alumni Association Presidents and Project Manager conducted with AAB Working Groups and Directors Emeriti in May 2024, as well as feedback from past AA Presidents, the College-wide President, and the SJC Senior Director of Alumni & Constituent Engagement.

This current Strategic Plan is effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026, though as a living document, programs may be tweaked based on data and input from our stakeholders (i.e., AAB directors, our partners at St. John's College, the Alumni Association, students, and faculty).

The plan's main objective is to build on the successes of the previous strategic plan by **identifying five major, interconnected initiative areas**, deepening current programs and introducing new ones within them, and eliminating projects that were not effective or did not deliver an appropriate return on time and monetary investment.

A View Ahead: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

A more connected model: 5 Initiatives



OBJECTIVE: Support alumni at all stages of their post-SJC lives, including immediately upon graduation to ensure they become engaged members of the AA.

OBJECTIVE: Support students of the undergraduate and GI programs before they transition out of SJC and after graduation.

OBJECTIVE: Support the wider SJC community, including faculty and staff. Where appropriate, support closer ties between the college and their towns.

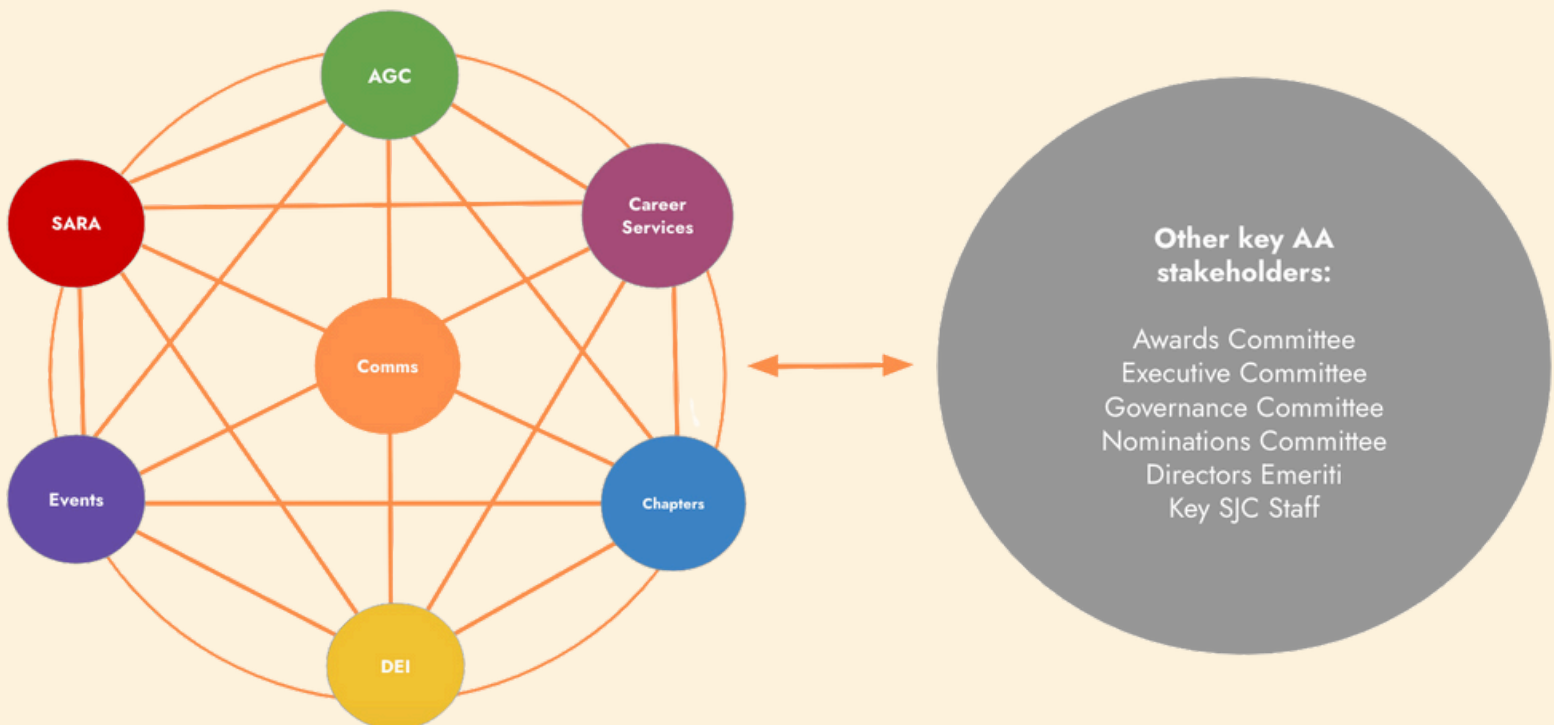
OBJECTIVE: Successful fundraising in support of the college's philanthropy-centered financial model.

OBJECTIVE: Improve AA governance, procedures, & systems for efficiency among the working groups, seamless member transition, & stronger comms with the AA.

A View Ahead: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

A more connected model: Working Groups

The Strategic Plan endeavors to create **a more integrated, less siloed model for the AAB Working Groups, with the Communications Working group taking a central role** in spreading the AAB's work further among SJC alumni in order to better share opportunities for engagement with each other, with the Alumni Association, and with the college.



A View Ahead: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

AT A GLANCE: Ongoing Programs by Initiative Area

1) Alumni Support

- All Alumni Meeting
- Alumni Merit Award & Annual Reception
- Chapter Leader Connection
- Diverse Communications Avenues, including email blasts, AAB email monitoring, social media
- Homecoming, including the In Memoriam ceremony and the Alumni Homecoming Breakfast/Brunch
- LifeLongLearning Series (L3)
- Regional “Johnnies in [Profession]” Panels
- Volunteer Service Awards

2) Student Support

- Graduating Senior support
- Graduation Day representation
- Odyssey Program
- Orientation
- Student Leadership (AAB Student Reps)
- Convocation representation

3) Community Support

- Community Conversations Series
- Croquet
- Earth Day
- Honorary Alumni Recognition
- Community Seminars

4) Fundraising Support

- Giving Tuesday
- St. John’s Day of Giving
- Croquet Giving Tent

5) Systems & Governance

- AAB mailbox monitoring
- Asana project management system
- Communications Content Submissions Form
- AAB Director on- & off-boarding
- Governance Documents Update
- AA New Program Proposal System
- President on- & off-boarding

A View Ahead: The 2024-26 Strategic Plan

AT A GLANCE: **New Programs** by Initiative Area

1) Alumni Support

- Alumni Association 200th Anniversary
- Annual Meet & Greet Cross-Chapter Event
- Annual Report
- Chapter Leader Education
- New Chapter Leader Support
- Triannual President Comms to Alumni Association

2) Student Support

- International student and alumni support
- Senior Writing Period support

3) Community Support

- Virtual Volunteer Day

4) Fundraising Support

- Homecoming Giving Tent
- Training for AAB members on how to become fundraising advocates

5) Systems & Governance

- AAB Training: How to be fundraising advocates
- Communications Calendar
- Communications WG Capacity Building
- Events WG Capacity Building

Join us!

Please reach out to us with your questions, comments, or to learn more about how you can get involved with the work of the Alumni Association Board.

sjcaa@sjc.edu

