

# SJS Alumni News

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



## St. Joseph School

### BECCA MYERS '09 WINS ESPY AWARD

SERENA WILLIAMS.  
PEYTON MANNING.  
BECCA MYERS, SJS '09.



On July 15, St. Joseph School alumnae **Becca Myers** joined the list of the elite names of the athletic world when she won the ESPY Award for Best Female Athlete with a Disability. Paralympic swimmer Myers, who was born deaf, is in college at Franklin & Marshall. She also set two world records in 2014 and won six medals at the Pan Pacific Para-Swimming Championships.

Becca, who is shown in the photo with her new seeing eye dog named Birdie and her shiny new ESPY award, says, "Thanks to everyone at SJS for all their support throughout my years there. I wouldn't be where I am today without you guys!"



### The Stars of Baltimore's Planit

As founders of Planit, one of Baltimore's top advertising agencies, Matt Doud and Ed Callahan represent national and global clients such as DeWALT, Marriott International, and DICK'S Sporting Goods. Planit, which prides itself on offering digitally minded work that is both creative and smart, was selected EY (Ernst & Young) Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Maryland region in June and was a finalist in November for the national award in Palm Springs, California. Earlier this year, the company also was honored by *Ad Age* magazine as one of the best places to work.

As *Mad Men* glamorous as this high level of success seems, the secret behind the continued fortune of Planit may be based on a simpler principle that began nearly forty years ago. The two men, both graduates of SJS Class of 1982, stay grounded by a friendship built within the classrooms of the school — and by a spirit that remains unchanged.

### Q&A with Matt Doud, SJS Class of 1982

**Q.** When did you and Ed meet at SJS?

**MD:** Ed and I were classmates starting in second grade.

**Q.** Did you have a drive or ambition when you were younger that may have been the seeds to creating such a place as Planit?

**MD:** We were always creative...we would have the most creative binders, the best parties... we found ways to gravitate to the "fun" more than to the "serious" without taking it too far. Perhaps that was the initial impetus for creating an ad agency so focused on culture and creativity. Building a successful company in an innovative and creative field lets us work hard and play hard, too.

**Q.** What do you remember about your class then or about the times?

**MD:** Believe it or not, I remain friends with many former classmates...even now, some 35+ years later. We were a tight knit group. We grew up together. And now, having two sons entering middle school, it reminds me of those years. I recall the fun and the laughs most of all.

**Anything else?**

**MD:** More than anything, I look back on my friendship with Ed with great appreciation. Having a business partner that I trust, that I can rely on, that brings a different perspective than mine is a big part of Planit's success. Because we have similar goals, both personally and professionally, we push each other. We challenge each other to be better. We complement each other's skills and talents.

# News & Notes

## • Faculty Retirement

– **Mrs. Debbie Swiss**, art and PE teacher, and **Ms. Isabel Blevins**, middle school faculty, retired in June. Mrs. Swiss, who was known for her many “wacky hat” costumes over the years, was surprised by an All-School Wacky Hat day in May. Both of these long-time faculty members will be greatly missed!



• **Pre-K Addition** – Beginning in the fall of 2016, St. Joseph School will begin offering a Pre-K for four-year-old children.

## • Thank You to our Annual Fund Donors!

– In the Spring/Summer issue of *SJS Alumni News*, we included an envelope for those who may like to contribute to the school’s Annual Fund. We very much appreciate the gifts from the following donors:

- Keith W. Heagey
- Carl R. Hellwig Jr.
- Mark and Catherine Kellermann
- Gerard and Marla Lynch
- Rita Oehrl

## • Congratulations to Katie Nunn ('09),

who recently interned in the SJS marketing department, for her new job as assistant marketing director for Pandora. She will be based in the downtown Baltimore location.

• **Samantha Paetow ('06)**, who keeps busy as a freelance production assistant in film and television, most recently worked as a base camp assistant on the film *Impreium* starring actor Daniel Radcliffe. “My job changes depending on the project,” she says, “but it typically includes making sure the talent are ready by taking them through hair, make-up and wardrobe, making sure they have everything they need, going through paperwork, and helping out in any way possible.”

## • Celebrating the Kihn Way!

In September 2015, the **Kihn family**, which boasts two generations of SJS graduates, celebrated the 85th birthday of their father, **Dr. Francis Kihn**, with “special guest” Pete the Cat. **Mrs. Ann Kihn**, who teaches kindergarten at St. Joseph School and is married to **Eric Kihn**, brought the popular stuffed character to spend the day with the family. In June, SJS 8th graders and twins **Molly** and **Joey Kihn** will join the family tradition when they graduate.



Pictured left to right: Dani Kihn ('71); Jerry Kihn ('73); Ed Kihn ('74); Jeff Kihn ('76); John ('78); Eric ('81); and Ben (2013)

## Check Out New School Video:

If you haven't yet caught the debut of the new school video, produced by **Richard Anderson productions**, please visit the school website at [sjpmd.org](http://sjpmd.org) or the school's Facebook page, [St.JosephSchoolCockeysvilleMD](https://www.facebook.com/St.JosephSchoolCockeysvilleMD).



• **Kudos to Kerry Leonard ('10)** for being named ECAC Division III South Region Defensive Player of the Week for her skills as a soccer goalie at Juniata College in Pennsylvania for the second time in September. At that time, she had 101 career saves and seven career shutouts.

• **Current Needs:** If you would like to make a donation today, the Fund for St. Joseph School envelope in this issue will be used for many school needs including:

### 1. New Blinds for the Main Building that includes the newly revamped Middle School Wing – Cost: \$10,043

While not the most glamorous of projects, the current blinds have definitely seen their day. New blinds will greatly improve the aesthetics of the main building that includes grades 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

### 2. The Mustard Seed Match for Endowed Scholarships,

where the Archdiocese of Baltimore awards \$1 for every \$2 for tuition assistance for families who seek a Catholic education, is expected to end December 31, 2015. However, if you'd like to contribute toward this effort after this date, please indicate your wish. Thank you!

## In Memoriam †

**Mr. Albin J. Blazucki**, father of Laura Blazucki Saoud, '87, Cara Blazucki, '92, and Marya Blazucki DeLuna '95, passed away on June 13, 2015.

**Mr. Robert W. Cannon**, a longtime communicant of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church and the father of eight children who all attended St. Joseph School as well as many grandchildren, passed away on September 22, 2015. His sons are Rob Cannon, Brian Cannon, Terry Cannon, Tim Cannon, and Mike Cannon, and his daughters are Mary Freirchs, Maureen Geary, and Trish Ewachiw.

## Sisters of Mercy Add Beauty to Day

**Sister Joan Dunn, RSM**, religion teacher for 42 years at SJS, enjoyed sharing the First Eucharist celebration with some of her former students in May. **Molly Smith**, daughter of **Kathy Blair Smith ('87)** and **Billy Smith**, was joined by her uncle **Michael Blair ('86)** for the special day, which was made even more so with the presence of **Sister Anne O'Donnell, RSM**, former SJS Principal.



# Welcome:

## School Board Alumni Relations Reps Make Perfect Fit for New Posts

If you had any doubt that the SJS Alumni Relations positions would be filled by candidates who possessed less than stellar qualifications for the school board's vacancies, you now can rest easy by the addition of **Mrs. Libby Bryant** and **Ms. Maria Palmer** ('09). In late fall 2015, the St. Joseph School Board announced that the two women had been appointed and would quickly begin acclimating to their new advisory roles.

Mrs. Bryant, who recently retired from the Arc Baltimore, plans to use her many years of experience in fundraising and event planning to benefit her new position. "I'm very excited to join the St. Joseph School Board," she says, "Maria and I will be reaching out to the alumni for their support as we begin the New Year."

An alumna of SJS, Ms. Palmer went to Notre Dame Preparatory for high school and recently graduated from the Culinary Institute of Hyde Park in New York; she is now studying dietetics at the University of Maryland College Park. "St. Joseph School has always been a big part of my family with my father, aunt and brother also being alumni. I had a great experience and want to give back to the students and families to help give them the same opportunities and love for SJS that I have!" she says.

One of the first events where they women hope to meet alumni and school parents is at the Alumni & Special Friends Spirit Night, which will be held May 5, 6-9:30 pm at the school. If you have ideas for the event or would like to join their Spirit team, please email Mrs. Bryant at [libby.bryant@verizon.net](mailto:libby.bryant@verizon.net).



Mrs. Libby Bryant (left) and Ms. Maria Palmer (right)

## By the Numbers

@SJPM.D.ORG

**90**

The number of years since the Sisters of Mercy founded SJS

**150**

Gallons of paint were used to paint the Multipurpose Room in new shades of light beige — with a 4-ft stripe of navy blue!

**\$200,000**

The amount of grants and scholarships offered to the SJS Graduation Class of 2015

**225**

The number of uniforms with the school's former triangle logo donated to St. Joseph School in the Philippine Diocese of St. Carlos, a school in the remote mountains of the Philippines.

**ONE**  
**3D**  
**PRINTER**



**ONE** parishioner has donated 100 reams of paper since beginning of the school year (August 2015).



**1,600**  
Facebook Views of new school video as of mid-November!



# St. Joseph School

## SJS Alumni News

105 Church Lane  
Cockeysville, MD 21030  
410-683-0600, option 3

### The Mission of St. Joseph School

St. Joseph School embraces the whole child in a Catholic, faith-filled learning environment of academic excellence. In partnership with the student's family and the parish community, our school helps each student to grow spiritually, intellectually, morally, and socially in pursuit of his or her individual potential.

For tour information, call 410-683-0600, option 3  
or email [ksmith@sjpmd.org](mailto:ksmith@sjpmd.org).

WWW.SJPM.D.ORG



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**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 6-9:30 PM**  
**ALUMNI & SPECIAL FRIENDS**  
**SPIRIT NIGHT!**

Thanks to everyone who helped  
make the 2015 Alumni & Special  
Friends Spirit Night so fun.

*Here are a few photos  
from our photo booth!*



Top to bottom:

1. Kathy Marciniak, Kathy Noppinger, Kathy Smith, and Kathy Schaub
2. Bob and Kathy Noppinger
3. Kiara Cook, Kathy Smith, Erin Hays
4. Butch and Eileen Connor