

## **SJPS Foundation Announces 2017 Distinguished Alumni**

**The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation has selected Dr. William K Emery (Posthumous), Class of 1942; Rob Fredrickson, Class of 1989; and Nina Davuluri, Class of 2007, as recipients of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. The honorees will be recognized at a special ceremony on June 4 and at the annual high school commencement.**

### **William K. Emery, M.D. (Posthumous) - Class of 1942**

William Kerr Emery was a third generation family physician in St. Joseph. He died in January, 2015 at the age of 90. Born in Ohio, Bill graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1942. He earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1949 and served two years as a physician for the U.S. Army in Germany. In 1955, he returned to St. Joseph and practiced family medicine in the office he first shared with his father above the former Uptown Drugs, until his retirement. It is estimated that Bill delivered 2,000 babies over the course of his career. He was the director of corporate health affairs for Whirlpool Corporation and served the company for 37 years. As an advocate for public health, he served 15 years on the Berrien County Board of Health. He also served on the Lake Michigan College Foundation board for 12 years, worked with the Whirlpool Foundation, and served on the board of directors and as president of Sarett Nature Center. In 2011 he was awarded the Bernard C. Radde Distinguished Service Award by Lake Michigan College for his contributions to the community. Bill was married to his SJHS sweetheart, Arlene Hetler, for 68 years. Arlene died in 2016. They are survived by 3 children.



### **Rob Fredrickson - Class of 1989**

Rob Fredrickson was born and raised in St. Joseph, the son of Judy and Don Fredrickson. His father was a wood shop teacher in the St. Joseph District. Rob was a 3-sport standout athlete at St. Joseph, graduating in 1989, and earned an athletic scholarship to Michigan State University to play football. At MSU, Rob was an All American selection at linebacker, graduating in 1993 with a degree in business administration. He was awarded the Chester Brewer Award, which recognizes distinguished performance in athletics and scholarship and the highest degree of character, personality, competitive spirit and leadership qualities. Rob was drafted in the first round of the NFL draft by the then Los Angeles Raiders in 1994 and played 9 seasons with the Raiders, Detroit Lions, and Arizona Cardinals until his retirement in 2003. In 2008 he joined the radio broadcast team for the Arizona Cardinals and is also an Account Manager for Bonneville International



in Phoenix. Rob is an active member of a Phoenix volunteer group, The Thunderbirds, which has donated over 100 million dollars to Arizona charities. He resides in Scottsdale with his wife and 3 boys.

### **Nina Davuluri - Class of 2007**

Nina Davuluri graduated from St. Joseph High School in 2007 and the University of Michigan in 2011. She gained international acclaim by becoming the first contestant of Indian descent to win the Miss America Competition in 2014. An active motivational speaker and advocate for civil rights and humanitarian causes, Nina has traveled across the country and internationally to address an array of audiences on topics of diversity and inclusion. Using her platform "Celebrating Diversity Through Cultural Competency," she also launched a social media campaign to encourage civil dialogue on diversity issues. In addition to her personal platform, Nina also has a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Education promoting women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related fields. She has collaborated with tech companies, including Google, Facebook, Dell and Texas Instruments, to advance their STEM initiatives, and has worked with many charities and organizations in the U.S. and India advocating for equality and education.



## **Team 3620, The Average Joes, Wins Districts!**

Forty FIRST Robotics Teams from Michigan attended the SJ District Competition this past weekend. Teams traveled from as far away as Sutton's Bay & Ypsilanti to compete in the St. Joseph District even though there was a robotic event in Ann Arbor. They attend St. Joe's event because of the quality facilities, strength of competitive robots and support of SW MI volunteers.



After 80 qualification matches, the Average Joes achieved a first place ranking. They selected team 2767 Stryke Force out of Kalamazoo and 5567 Code Red Robotics from Milan to participate in their alliance. This first place alliance defeated the eighth place alliance in the first two matches of the quarter-finals and defeated the fourth place alliance in the first two matches of the semi-finals. In the finals, the Average Joes alliance won the first match, with a world record high score (which was broken later in the day at the Orlando competition). They lost the second match of the finals, forcing a tie-breaker. The Joes alliance pulled out all the stops and won the competition.



In addition, the Average Joes won the Industrial Design Award which celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed robot that effectively addresses the game challenge. This win places the Joes in 7th place in the state, with three teams ranked above of the Joes having already competed in their two required matches. They head to the West Michigan Regional Competition at Grand Valley on March 23-25 and the Midwest Regional Event at University of Illinois Chicago on March 30 - April 1.

### **Hear what some of the Joes had to say about last weekend's competition**

#### **Rodrigo Azevedo, Senior**

"Learning to use tools and build a robot was a lot of fun, but to win the St. Joseph District competition is one of the most exciting things to happen in my high school career."

#### **Heather Leany, Junior**

"It was really cool to see all the Average Joes' hard work pay off and to see so many people with a common passion come together."

#### **Collin Rutz, Sophomore**

"We are lucky to have so many quality mentors take time out of their day to help us with marketing, design / CAD and engineering, with the end result being a quality and award winning robot."

#### **Amelia Ostdiek, Senior**

"Winning the district competition, Industrial Design Award, and receiving a FIRST Robotics Scholarship from Kettering University was a great way to begin my last competition season."

#### **Graham Strzynski, Sophomore**

"Robotics is an invaluable experience."



#### **What is FIRST Robotics?**

Under strict rules, limited resources, and the guidance of volunteer mentors including engineers, teachers, business professionals, parents, alumni and more, teams of 25+ students have just six weeks to build and program robots to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. They must also raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills, and perform community outreach.

## **Class of 1967 Class Reunion**

The Class of 1967 will hold its 50th reunion on Saturday, August 12th.  
For additional information, visit our website's alumni page.



<http://www.sjpsfoundation.org/SJHS-Alumni.html>

## Photo Contest Entries Due Friday!

### Prizes Awarded to Top Ten Finishers

### EASY TO ENTER

### Your photo could be featured in the SJPS school calendar

[Click here for contest details](#)

**TAKE A SHOT AT IT!**  
Enter the 2017 SJPS Foundation Photo Contest  
The winner makes the cover of the 2017-2018 SJPS Calendar!

2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

"Class of 2017 Saffie" submitted by Helen Shukley 1st place SJPS Foundation Photo Contest, 2016 made the cover of the 2016-2017 SJPS Calendar!

St. Joseph PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Great schools in a Great Community

The contest is open to all SJPS students and their families, teachers and advisors.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Take photos of your life at school, academics, arts, athletics & extra-curricular activities between April 2016 & March 2017.
- Photos MUST be high resolution (at least 10" x 8" horizontal format at 300dpi, or 2500 x 3500 at 300ppi). **SOBER - PHOTOS THAT DON'T MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS, CAN'T BE CONSIDERED.**
- Only one entry per person, so give us your best shot!

**HOW TO ENTER:**

- Email your entry to [sjpsfoundation@sjpschools.org](mailto:sjpsfoundation@sjpschools.org)
- All entries due by 10 p.m., March 17, 2017

**HOW TO WIN:**

We will post the top 30 entries Mar. 24-April 8, 2017 at these businesses and on our website:

- Dairy Queen, Niles Ave. St. Joseph
- Peter True Value Hardware, W. 139 St. Joseph

**VOTING WILL BE ONLINE ONLY.** The top 10 vote-getting photos will be the winners!

*Winners will be announced April 19, 2017!*

All photos become the property of St. Joseph Public Schools and may be used for St. Joseph Public Schools and St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation promotions.

**GREAT PRIZES!**

- Winner - Cover photo on the 2017/2018 SJPS Calendar, Season Sports Pass, and \$25 gift certificate to Silver Beach Pizza
- Top 10 Photos: Season Sports Pass awarded to the 10 pictures that get the most votes

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION  
Enriching the education of students  
[www.sjpspublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.sjpspublicschoolsfoundation.org)



## Memorials



**In Memory of Steve Harmon**  
Todd and Kathie Adams  
Dennis and Lynn Bowen

### In Memory of Ed Ross

Rick and Pam Dyer	Bob and Kathy Peirce
Bill and Kathy Hanley	Amy Porritt-Peirce and Mike Peirce
James and Janet Luty	Roy H. Liskey Insurance

## Thank You February Donors!

Sean and Kris Ebbert  
Barclay and Lori Johnson  
Nancy Schroeder  
Tom Starks  
Jack and Susan Sukup

**SJPS Staff Giving**  
Ann Cardon  
Kelly Gaideski  
Kathleen Hamilton  
Susan Hunnell  
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SJPS Foundation | 269-926-3252 | [sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org](mailto:sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org) |  
[www.sjpsfoundation.org](http://www.sjpsfoundation.org)



SJPS Foundation, 3275 Lincoln Avenue, Saint Joseph, MI 49085

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