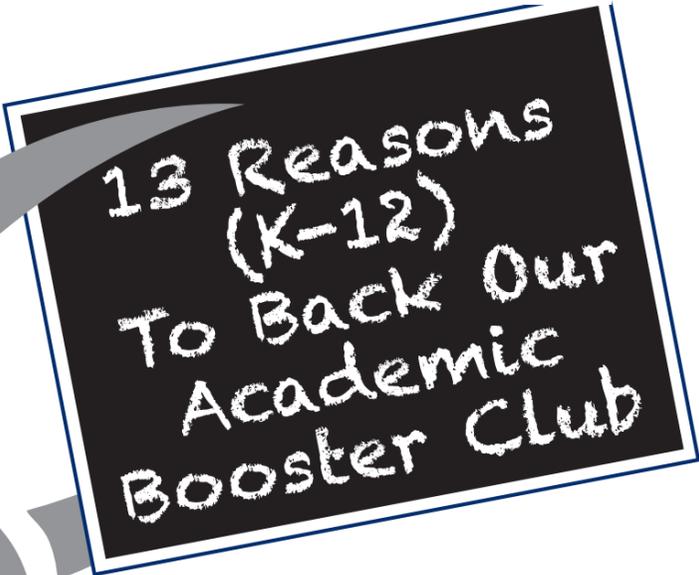


HELP KEEP ST. JOSEPH THE COMMUNITY OF CHOICE



Make a difference by:

- K - helping to make good programs great.
- 1 - providing our teachers with additional resources and training.
- 2 - creating opportunities for our students that the school budget can no longer accommodate.
- 3 - funding innovation in the classroom through teacher grants.
- 4 - supporting the only organization that funds broad-based enrichment for SJPS students.
- 5 - helping our area businesses to attract top professionals to locate in our community.
- 6 - encouraging students' success.
- 7 - providing important educational opportunities that students normally would not experience without your help.
- 8 - providing additional resources required by higher academic curriculum.
- 9 - funding technology upgrades necessary to stay current with standards expected of schools of excellence.
- 10 - supplementing curriculum which is no longer adequately supported by state funding.
- 11 - investing in the future - SJPS students ARE the future.
- 12 - being involved.

STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITY = ST. JOSEPH



www.stjosephpublicschoolsfoundation.org



Distinguished Alumni

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The award was established by the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation to honor alumni who have excelled in their profession and/or made significant contributions to their community. A Foundation committee, headed by Bill Benner, selected the recipients from the public-nominated candidates based on the following criteria:

- 1) Graduate of St. Joseph Public Schools for ten or more years
- 2) Demonstrates a high level of achievement in his/her category and has made significant contributions
- 3) Exhibits inspirational leadership, character and service.

The four recipients were honored at a reception prior to the SJHS Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, June 7, and will be seated with the graduates to be recognized during the ceremony.

This is the fourth year of an annual award that recognizes SJHS graduates. Those wishing to nominate a worthy individual for the 2016 award may obtain information from the Foundation's website www.stjosephpublicschoolsfoundation.org or call Sue Riemland at 926-3252.

PAST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

2012:

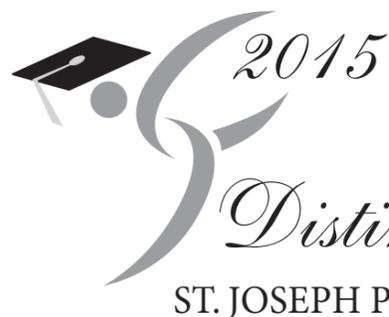
- William Gillespie (class of 1942)
- Dr. Verne R. Schneider (class of 1959)
- R.L. "Van" VanAntwerp LTG (Ret) (class of 1968)

2013:

- Robert L. Gerbel (class of 1953)
- James Menchinger (class of 1958)
- Jay Schadler (class of 1970)

2014:

- Edward I. Schalon (class of 1938)
- Vice Admiral David M. Bennett (class of 1952)
- Mary Liskey Goff (class of 1959)
- Donna J. Tinberg (class of 1974)



2015
Distinguished Alumni
ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award, which honors St. Joseph High School alumni who have excelled in their professions and/or made significant contributions to their community.



Melvyn D. Remus
Class of 1950

Mel Remus was born in St. Joseph and lived here during the 1930s and 1940s. He credits excellent schools, especially St. Joseph High School, for preparing him well to attend and successfully complete the curriculum at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. After his marriage to Frieda F. Fugate, a SJHS classmate, he attended Airborne School for his jump wings and with his new wife, headed to West Germany in 1955 to serve with the 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

After three years of increasingly responsible jobs and having two children, the couple returned to the United States where Mel attended Iowa State University and received a Master's of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Over the years, his assignments would take him to South Korea, South Vietnam and many posts in the Northeastern quadrant of the United States, working on many

important projects. He served as a platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander and staff officer for larger organizations.

In addition to the military commands, Remus led several combined military and civilian military organizations including the US Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory. His final assignment was the senior US Forces Engineer in South Korea, where he maintained close official and social contacts with senior United States officials and Republic of Korea Army staff.

Following retirement from the Army, the Remus' returned to their home state of Michigan where Mel joined the administrative staff of Central Michigan University and was Director of Plant Operations. For the last of his almost twenty years with CMU he became the Director of Engineering and Planning, taking on facilities planning, major building construction, renovation and major maintenance. He also led the Business Division Safety Committee and the Americans with Disabilities Act Steering Committee. He retired from the University, as Emeritus, in 2003.

Following his retirement he continued to serve his community via the First United Methodist Church, International Lions and International Gideons of Isabella County. Earlier this year, Colonel Remus moved to Washington State where he resides with his wife, Marvel.



Richard E. Dyer
Class of 1976

Rick Dyer is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Edgewater Bank. Born and raised in St. Joseph, he believes strongly in giving back to his community. With his return to St. Joseph in 2008, Rick immediately engaged in volunteer work and has been in leadership positions with the Michigan Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council, Krasl Center for the Arts, Lakeland Health Foundation, and St. Joseph Today. He also lends his time and talents as a Board Member for Cornerstone Alliance, Child and Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, the St. Joseph Lighthouse Forever Campaign, the Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance (SMEGA), Berrien Community Foundation, and the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Club. Rick is always willing to lend a hand to local non-profits, even participating as a contestant in the inaugural Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra's Dancing with the Stars event last year.

Rick graduated from Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in Economics, and Grand Valley State University with a Master's in Business Administration. He also attended the

Stonier Graduate School of Banking/University of Delaware where he earned an Advanced Banking Degree with honors.

Dyer says St. Joseph High School prepared him well for a 35-year ongoing career as a community banker, a career he says has required much of him, yet rewarded him in many ways.

"St. Joseph High School taught me a lot, not just in the classroom, but also in the locker room, wood shop, and through involvement in many student activities. I learned how to work hard. I learned the meaning of teamwork and shared goals. I learned that making something with your own hands can be rewarding. I learned that little of value can be accomplished without the help of others, or the helping of others. I saw my teachers and coaches giving of their time and caring for those around them. I experienced their mentoring and guidance, but not always in a comfortable manner. I clearly remember those conversations; those test results, and those athletic contests that did not go as planned. I remember the lessons learned from those experiences about preparation, commitment, dedication, focus, and persistence. Those lessons have helped to guide me through my many post-SJHS years."

Dyer says he has always believed in giving back and paying forward. "To whom much is given, much is expected is a belief I learned early from my parents and all those who influenced me during my high school years. I've realized many people in my life gave to me. It has been my goal to give back, as a banker, as a community member, as a father, husband, son, and brother. Giving back has allowed me to grow as a person. I'm most proud of being able to shepherd an organization or people through difficult times. Three times I've taken over problem banks and turned them around, including Edgewater. It has been a joy to be back in town, to serve this community. Rick was inducted in the St. Joseph High School Athletic Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Rick and his wife Pam have been married 33 years. They have two grown sons, Andrew and Tim, and a black lab named, Wrigley. A message to the graduates from Mr. Dyer is to challenge yourself, educate yourself, listen, observe, give, thank, and always remember where you came from.



Michael D. Swanson
Class of 1987

Mike describes himself as a dedicated lifelong learner and an insufferable collector of hobbies. As Mike states, "The vast majority of my post-high-school education has been self-inflicted. My daily lunch breaks feature DVD lectures by many top college professors (www.thegreatcourses.com). Mike's unconventional path to success as a technologist began with a job in retail computer sales locally as a middle school student. He developed excellent skills as a teacher to young people and adults alike, and began leading other instructors in offering summer computer day camps for students. As his reputation grew, so did the requests for his time and he started his own company called Anyware Software at the age of 17.

During the next seven years, Mike began to develop software programs and utilities including his first commercial software release, Entree, which built and displayed menus of installed software on DOS computers. Orders for his program Uninstall, the first uninstall application for the Window O/S, surged following an article in PC Magazine.

His early work on connectivity and the internet helped establish St. Joseph's place on the internet in many ways. He was an integral part of the earliest internet presence for the St. Joseph Public Schools, mentoring a group of Upton Middle School students competing in a Berrien ISD contest to develop web sites for their schools. The Upton students won first place. For many years, he taught technology-related community education classes at SJHS. He also built one of the first internet webcams featuring views of

downtown St. Joseph, the lighthouse, and Silver Beach, establishing partnerships with Quantum Connections and WNDU.

In 2005, Mike moved to the Pacific Northwest to achieve a lifelong dream of working for Microsoft Corporation at their headquarters in Redmond, Washington. For 11½ years he participated in hundreds of challenging projects while earning high accolades from peers and colleagues around the world. In fact, early in his tenure at Microsoft, Mike was one of only seven employees (out of approximately 90,000 worldwide), to receive a perfect 5.0 score in his annual review.

Mike continued his philanthropic endeavors on the west coast with his work with the Washington State Student Science (WSSA) organization to promote interest in STEM, and was a featured conference speaker. He also served as mentor to the FIRST Robotics team in Sammamish, Washington.

In September of 2011, Mike resigned from Microsoft to return to his first love of creating software, and the techy side of the computer world. Juicy Bits, Mike's latest venture, is his sole and full-time avocation, and is well known for its award-winning app, Halftone.

According to Swanson, "The teachers and staff at St. Joseph High School inspired me to become an active lifelong learner, and that is an immeasurable gift. It is one thing to educate yourself about situations that happen to come your way, but it is another thing entirely to actively seek out uncomfortable situations that compel you to adapt and to learn. Discomfort and trepidation are signals that you're heading into unfamiliar and new territory, and that is where you should go. In other words, seek discomfort. Along the way, if you can discover your passion (i.e. that thing that you can't not do), do everything you can to follow that passion and ignore anyone who tells you that it's a waste of time. Finally, whenever possible, align your goals with your passion, and I guarantee that good things will happen."

Mike is married to Elizabeth Sample Swanson, a 1987 St. Joseph High School grad. They reside in Sammamish, Washington.