

# MEET SOME OF OUR FACULTY



**Sebastian Bufalino** brings to his classroom 33 years of work in finance and accounting. As part of his experience with Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC), he spent two years in Italy as an audit manager. Combined with work for pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle and Baxter Healthcare, Sebastian gained broad and valuable international exposure to business practices and complex business processes. As the teacher of economics, accounting, marketing and business law, he ties textbooks to lived experience. He also provides students with out-of-school experiences through field trips, such as to an advertising agency, investment bank and a medical device manufacturing and pharmaceutical firm. As moderator of the Future Business Leaders of America, he brings in speakers on a variety of topics, including opportunities in accounting presented by members of the Illinois CPA Society. ***“I am never more excited as a teacher than when I see our Chargers perform when we get into some kind of hands-on forum – field trips, mock trials, competing in business and stock market simulations. Their curiosity and spirit can really be infectious.”***



**Alex Janco**, English teacher, preaches what he has practiced for 20 years. As a staff writer for the Suburban Life newspaper, Alex was in charge of the sports coverage for what was known as the Central Cook and East Cook County beat. Alex wrote, on the average, 20 articles per week covering high school sports, reporting on St. Joseph, Lyons Township, Morton, Nazareth, Proviso West, and Riverside-Brookfield high schools. Besides prep athletics, Alex also covered professional golf events, including the Western Open, U.S. Open and PGA Championship, when they were held locally. Since he arrived at St Joes in 2012, Alex continues to emphasize the importance of writing in terms of basic communication and articulation, preparing reports, creating persuasive arguments, summarizing research and demonstrating comprehension of what one reads. As moderator of the school’s digital newspaper, Alex adds to his reservoir of teaching tools by making his writers more relaxed and confident since they are not writing for a grade. The high expectations are there, but the motivation is less stressful. ***“I genuinely see a drive in our students that they want to succeed in life. They all have a goal of where they want to end up and understand what it takes to get there. They are respectful and engaging at the same time, embrace our diversity and our differences and comprehend how St. Joseph is truly a microcosm of the real world.”***



**DeAndre McCamey**, SJHS Class of 2010, began teaching mathematics at his alma mater in 2017. His return to St. Joes and how he lives and works were influenced by his relationship with the late, legendary St. Joes basketball coach Gene Pingatore. Having played under Gene and then having pursued teaching and coaching, DeAndre learned that playing basketball was more than just about the sport itself. DeAndre met Coach Ping when he was 11 years old. In his freshman year, he was instructed by Gene on how to tie his necktie. He was to learn much more about

responsibility, teamwork, leadership and making smart decisions. ***“He helped me grow into a man. He taught me that it’s not always about how much you know and accomplish individually, but how you can inspire and influence everyone else around you in the world. The thing I like most about teaching is developing relationships with my students. I love interacting with them. I love learning from them. I love helping them understand the content of any course, and I love when they see the connection between what they are learning and their lives.”***



**Diane Palumbo** brings a rich experience from the business world and from counseling. Diane has worked in property management and investment banking. Before coming to St. Joes in 2007 as a counselor, she served as the patrons program director for the Big Shoulders Fund. Diane is trained and experienced in academic counseling, social and emotional counseling, and college/career counseling. Besides individual counseling, Diane coordinates the school testing programs, facilitates resources from the public school districts, hosts the college planning

night and guides the career readiness program. ***“I am reminded daily how resourceful and resilient our students are as they navigate the high school experience. On top of that, many are juggling jobs and caring for siblings after school, in addition to their schoolwork and sports/clubs. Every year at graduation I am bursting with pride because I am able to reflect back when each student started as an eager yet anxious and awkward freshman and leave more prepared to step into their future.”***



**Victor Zitzer**, SJHS Class of 1972, has been a pillar of the Social Studies Department since 1991. While known predominantly as *the* senior history teacher, “Mr. Z.” has also taught History of Chicago, World Geography, Current Events and Psychology. Among the many ways he brings social studies into the classroom is through guest speakers, which have included Cook County Clerk David Orr, State Senator Roland Burris and Congressman Luis Gutierrez. He’s also taken students to the First Division Museum (Cantigny Park), Field Museum, Chicago Mayor’s Office and

Elmhurst College for their guest lecturer program. Awarded the Lasallian Educator of the Year in 1998, Vic is an extremely dedicated teacher, with only one example being a single day of absence due to illness during his three-decade tenure at his alma mater. His “On This Day” opening of each class reminds students of where we were last year, a decade before or a century or two before that, and is long remembered by his students. ***“I have never said I was going to work. I go to school! There is something about our school culture that gets into your skin and not under it. It really is magic in a bottle.”***