

St. John's College Alumni Association
Report on Chapters – January 2007 through December 2007

Prepared by the Chapters Committee
Carol Freeman (Twin Cities Chapter), Chair
January 24, 2008

Summary

2007 has been a very successful year for chapters and reading groups.

2007 Statistics:

Active Chapters = 17	Chapters completing reports = 11	Inactive chapters = 2
Reading groups = 7	Reading groups reporting = 5	

Alumni covered by active chapters = 7048; by reading groups = 712; inactive chapters = 428
Estimated participation: Approximately 900 alumni attended at least one chapter or reading group event
(for chapter that did not report, last year's numbers participating were used)

Number of events held by chapters/reading groups:

Twice monthly seminars (16) and 33 young alumni events (total=49 events) = Washington, D. C.
Ten to 13 = 8 chapters, 1 reading group
Five to 9 = 6 chapters, 5 reading groups
One to two = 2 chapters, 1 reading group

New chapter presidents for 2007 = (Austin/San Antonio, Northern California, Southern California)

New reading group presidents for 2007 = (Houston; Madison, WI)

Presidents (or representative) attending at least one AA meeting in 2007 = 12 chapters

Anything the Chapters Committee, AA Board, or Alumni Office can do to assist your chapter:

Conference calls (new this year) for chapter presidents were appreciated – some suggested the time be changed

Chapters were interested in the college mass e-mailing

Some felt they needed more information on what the alumni office can do (and pay for) to help chapters

Some would like recommendations of tutors

One suggested that tutors be available to help chapters select readings and develop opening questions

Well attended events: tutor-led seminars, presidential (from either campus) visits, parties/social events

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Chapter	Contact Pres=president Rep=representative to AA	Events	Total Alumni possible	At least one event	Average per event	Notes
Albuquerque	Robert Morgan, Pres Joseph Pluchinota, Rep	7 Seminars/ potlucks	358			Cards contain web addresses for the readings
Annapolis	Beth Martin Gammon, Pres; Sam Kutler, Rep	12 seminars, 1 luncheon	460			Annapolis tutor Jon Tuck
Austin/San Antonio	Toni Wilkinson, Pres Paul Martin, Rep	6 seminars (one with organizational mtg)	173	6	2-6	Reactivated in September 2007.
Boston	Dianne Cowan, Pres	9 seminars followed by optional food and drink, 4 events	458	25	6-14,	Cards include a few notes about the reading Annapolis tutor Thomas May Events included summer party & potluck, dinner cruise, Team Trivia with free pizza, and candlepin bowling Magic Mountain read every other month for 4 seminars
Chicago	Rick Lightburn, Pres	4 seminars, 1 theater/sem, 1 movie/ seminar, 3 events	361	25	10-20	Annapolis tutors William Braithwaite and Richard Druecker; Events were picnic at Grant Park Music Festival, tour of Charnley-Persky House, & holiday party
Denver/Boulder	Tom Byrnes, Pres Liz Jenny, Rep (and incoming 2008 Pres)	10 seminars (1 with picnic and play and 1 with potluck)	297	25	5-12	Card sometimes helps alumni find readings, College President Mike Peters came for the October seminar
New York	Daniel Van Doren, Pres	10 seminars, 1 recent graduate reception	800	100	25-30	Cards contain notes on the readings One seminar followed a play, four seminars with tutors
North Carolina	Richard and Elizabeth Ross, Pres	3 seminars, and 1 museum exhibit tour	116			Temples & Tombs: Treasures from the British Museum
Northern California	Renaldo Miranda, Pres	10 events w/seminars (2 on films, 2 with potluck), 1 potluck, 1 lecture/concert; semi-regular Happy Hours (HH) every 2 weeks	710	120 Doesn't include spouses	3-120 HH= 12-20	Stag's Leap Winery event included picnic and 9 seminar options for adults and one for kids Card contains notes about the readings A local young alumna organized happy hours - location different each time, alternating between San Francisco and Berkeley/Oakland across the Bay.
Philadelphia	Helen Zartarian, Pres	4 seminar events	451			Cards help alumni find readings, 2 tutors for picnic/seminar even
Pittsburgh	Joanne Murray, Pres	11 seminars, 1 winter party	82	20	@6	Special event with Eva Brann with seminar about paintings and with dinner
Portland	Jennifer Rychlik, Pres	6 seminars (one with tutor Frank Pagano)	228	Lots	5-14	Lots...recent grads to alumni from 70's, 80's, and 90's, plus a wife and even people who didn't finish St. John's.

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Santa Fe	Richard Cowles, Pres	4 seminars, 9 monthly brunches at restaurant	647	30	5-15	Three seminars with Santa Fe tutors Walter Sterling, Krishman Venkatesh, & Basia Miller
Seattle	James Doherty, Pres	8 seminars, 1 w/concert	294			Santa Fe tutor Peter Pesic concert and seminar
Southern California	Elizabeth Eastman, Pres '07; Jan Conlin, Pres '08	7 seminars, 1 special event	412			Dinner with Jim Osterholt, Jo Ann Mattson and Michael Bales at the Luxe Hotel's Café Bel Air and Patio
Twin Cities	Carol Freeman, Pres	12 seminars (1 with brunch with Nelson)	152	25	8-15	Annapolis President Chris Nelson led seminar on <i>The Man that Corrupted Haddleyburg</i> by Mark Twain
Washington DC	Deborah Papier, Pres '07 Ed Grandi, Pres '08	16 seminars (1 with Pres. Peters), holiday party & book exchange; 33 happy hours, etc.	1049	195	12-15	Quarterly newsletter gives details including notes on readings and where to find them Happy hours (gatherings, theater, and pool parties) for recent graduate on impromptu basis
Inactive						
Baltimore			336			
San Diego	Stephanie Rico, Pres		92			
Reading groups						
Dallas/Ft Worth	Paula Fulks, Pres	5 seminars, 1 potluck dinner	134			
Houston	Norman Ewart, Pres	7 seminars, 1 play	91			Exploratory meeting in February and monthly seminars/events thereafter
Madison, WI	Consuelo Sanudo, Pres	5 seminars	60	10	2-8	Started seminars in July 2007
Phoenix	Donna Kurgan, Pres	8 seminars, 1 planning mtg, & 1 Chekhov play	148	17	2-12	
Salt Lake City	Erin Hanlon, Pres	6 seminars	47	18	5-16	Two seminars with tutors: Cary Stickney and Robert Sacks. Though Erin doesn't live in the area, she continues to coordinate the group.
South Florida	Peter Lamar, Pres Jon Sackson, Rep	8 seminars, 1 special event	99	25+	6-15,	One seminar with tutor George Doskow, special even with Jo Ann Mattson, alumni director
Western New England	Peter Weis, Pres		133			

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Chapter	Planning session
Albuquerque	
Annapolis	November 2007 – planning for readings for 2008.
Austin/San Antonio	Organizational meeting in September 2007 at Larry Davis' home where Larry led a short seminar. Toni Wilkinson is chapter president, I am the chapter president, Paul Martin is the chapter vice president in charge of San Antonio affairs as well as serving as the Austin/San Antonio chapter representative to the AA board. Larry is the chapter secretary/treasurer, and also in charge of reading choices in Austin.
Boston	Business meeting in April 2007. We had a planning session, but there's still a good deal of short-term planning because people are not always able to commit to dates months in advance.
Chicago	We did a survey. I feel it's a good idea to schedule events for a broad horizon. I'm not always able to do that, but I try.
Denver/Boulder	Planning session one hour before start of the seminar in October to choose the readings and events for the coming year; elections in December for president and secretary. The main planning meeting for 2008 will be in February.
New York	I [President] did most of the planning myself this year, bouncing ideas off of other chapter officers. In other years, we've held an annual meeting and come up with suggestions for what could be done in the following year. Many of our activities in 2007 arose out of suggestions made at previous chapter business meetings.
Northern California	Planning occurred at the annual meeting during Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Picnic/Seminars event.
North Carolina	
Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	When we run out of readings, we put our heads together – some by email.
Portland	No [planning session], but I really want to so it's not always in the back of my mind. Otherwise we pick the next two books after a seminar.
Santa Fe	No planning session this year; implemented plans from last year's planning session.
Seattle	
So. California	
Twin Cities	We plan 2-3 months ahead at each meeting and sometimes exchange ideas by email.
Washington DC	
<i>Inactive Chapters</i>	
Baltimore	
San Diego	
<i>Reading groups</i>	
Dallas/Ft Worth	
Houston	Exploratory and organizing meeting in February 2007.
Madison, WI	Exploratory and organizing meeting in July 2007.
Phoenix	Tea and planning for the year in September.
Salt Lake City	
South Florida	

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Chapter	Meeting Venues and Times, any Collection of Dues
Albuquerque	Homes of three different alumni; Saturdays every other month 4 to 8 p.m. for seminar and potluck supper; web addresses for readings on the cards.
Annapolis	Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon; private dining room at Randall Hall, Annapolis campus; coffee, doughnuts, and bagels provided; readings were available in the St. John's College Bookstore.
Austin/San Antonio	Sundays 4 to 6 p.m.; McCord Community Center, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary classroom (do not pay) with option to convene at local restaurant for dinner; homes of alumni. The host provides light refreshments. Paul Martin has the San Antonio seminars in his home.
Boston	Sundays 2:30; Watertown Free Library, homes, boat, restaurant, and bowling alley. No dues; our seminar room is free; for other events that cost something, we ask alumni to pay their own way. (We try to keep events cheap.)
Chicago	Sunday 2:30; Great Books Foundation (were one alumnus works) with optional dinner at nearby restaurant. Occasionally ask for dues but haven't had to in 2007 (president covers need for "working funds").
Denver/Boulder	Usually Saturdays from 4 to 6 p.m.; usually alternating between Boulder Main Library and University of Denver community room or at alumni homes.
New York	Usually Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. Up until July, we held seminars at Bear Stearns. We hold our Recent Graduate Reception and Holiday Party at the same place every year. We held our October Seminar in a law firm board room, November seminar in an alumnus' apartment and the December Seminar at a non-profit corporation board room. We collect dues, but we don't solicit for them actively anymore. Most of our funds come in as suggested fees at seminars (\$5 for most recent graduates, \$10 for others).
Northern California	Times varied from Thurs & Friday evenings to Sat & Sun afternoons; mostly at alumni homes or offices or St. Mary's College of California thanks to tutors of Integral Program, with special event at Stag's Leap Winery. Do not presently collect dues - costs are covered from residual of dues collecting days and out-of-pocket, for example, our host provided lunch and wine on 11/18, I provided refreshments and pastries on 1/11, or pot-luck.
North Carolina	Saturdays beginning varying times from 3:30 to 5:00 at alumni home or restaurant.
Philadelphia	Usually Saturday 3 to 5 p.m. at Chestnut Hill Library, seminar/picnic at alumnae home.
Pittsburgh	Usually second Monday, 6:45 p.m. Seminars at City Books, Ed Gelblum, A '55, proprietor. Socials often at Khalil's restaurant, John Newell A7?, proprietor.
Portland	Alternates Saturdays and Sundays afternoons starting at 12:30 to 3 p.m.; mostly libraries.
Santa Fe	Brunches on Saturdays 9:30-11:30 at Mission Cafe; seminars Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m. Darkey Common Room, St. John's College or alumni homes.
Seattle	Usually second Monday 7:30 at office buildings.
So. California	Sundays 2 to 4 p.m. at alumnae apartment building social room.
Twin Cities	Sundays 3 to 5 p.m. at rented office building conference room; social events at a restaurant with a private room.
Washington DC	Seminars were biweekly on Tuesdays starting 6:45 p.m. at Cleveland Park Library and going to nearby restaurant after, summers off. Happy Hours were in downtown DC bars. Dues were \$20 in 2007.
Reading groups	
Dallas/Ft Worth	Saturdays 7:30 p.m. in an alumnae's home.
Houston	Usually Thursdays 6:30 p.m. at Shade Restaurant; Holiday Party at alumnae home on Saturday 4:30-6:30.
Madison, WI	Sundays 6 to 8 p.m. at Warren Buckles' house; no dues, no costs.
Phoenix	Usually Sundays 2 to 4 or 3 to 5 p.m. at a member's home.
Salt Lake City	Saturdays at 2 p.m.; usually alumni homes, also library for seminar with tutor Mr. Sacks.
South Florida	Usually Saturdays with 1 p.m. Used to meet in office conference rooms but alum left the area and now they meet in alumni homes. Whoever hosts provides drinks and snacks.

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Chapter	Particularly well attended events
Albuquerque	
Annapolis	
Austin/San Antonio	Attendance has been disappointing so far. The chapter is hoping to attract more people to an event featuring Mike Peters, President of the College.
Boston	The Klein reading brought out 14 people; I think Faulkner brought out 10.
Chicago	Tutors have a draw, as do social events.
Denver/Boulder	Mike Peters came up for our seminar in October. Many of us were at the Philanthropia event in June, but that was not our event.
New York	We had 35 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Seminar, 30 at the Picasso/Jung Seminar, 28 at the Declaration of Independence Seminar, and 23 at the Moliere Seminar. We had 40 at the Recent Graduate Reception and 35 at the Holiday Party.
No. California	It is always the Stags Leap event thanks to Winiarki generosity and support; followed by tutor led seminars; followed by some alumni led seminars.
North Carolina	
Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	Lots came to Eva's seminar.
Portland	Both the "Symposium" at a coffee house and the tutor led discussion were well attended.
Santa Fe	Seminars were better attended than brunches, probably due to tutors.
Seattle	
So. California	
Twin Cities	The brunch with the Annapolis President Nelson was very well attended including new people.
Washington DC	Holiday Party (@78 attendees); seminar visit from Mr. Peters (about 27); and pool parties and a couple of regular Tuesday seminars drew over 20.
Reading groups	
Dallas/Ft Worth	
Houston	
Madison, WI	Readings of <i>Billy Budd</i> and <i>Oedipus</i> .
Phoenix	The most attended seminar was with Eva Brann. I think people would attend more if they didn't feel like they had to be TOTALLY prepared like a class.
Salt Lake City	Seminars with tutors were well attended.
South Florida	Tutor-led seminars are particularly well-attended (12 attended George Doskow's seminar on the Tao te Ching), but we also had high attendance at our Aristotle seminars (12 for Politics and 15 for Ethics) and our Shakespeare seminar (14 for Henry IV). Although I did not do a head count for the alumni dinner "special event," I recall that there were around 25 attendees. We realized that most members prefer to read Western as opposed to Eastern works. Although the Tao te Ching seminar led by Mr Doskow was well-attended, feedback from our members indicated a strong preference for keeping non-Western works to a minimum, if not zero. Greek authors, Shakespeare, and political works seem to be what our group enjoys most.

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Chapter	How 2007 went for your chapter/reading group
Albuquerque	
Annapolis	
Austin/San Antonio	
Boston	A good year; it was nice to have such a full schedule.
Chicago	
Denver/Boulder	Attendance was disappointing for some excellent readings. It is hard to have a good seminar with five people.
New York	Ups and downs. We are very active and most things went off very well. Low points were the loss of our regular meeting space for seminars (we haven't found a permanent space we can afford yet) and the theater series whose plays turned out to be too unusual to be entertaining, all being modern takes on classical plays. We developed a form that can be used for transmitting information to the alumni office about upcoming events (See one of them below). We are also working on a manual to tell others running the NYC chapter how to do it themselves.
No. California	Good with room for improvement.
North Carolina	
Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	We are steady. I am thinking that we might branch out to some different events. Perhaps I will host a potluck come spring. Would like to get the young couples involved,
Portland	This is the first year where we've held regular meetings every other month - seemed to work well.
Santa Fe	Unable to develop a support "cadre"
Seattle	
So. California	
Twin Cities	We had more alumni for each seminar this year; the numbers keep building. We select readings as a group and have excellent seminars.
Washington DC	From the perspective of local alumni, it was a very good year. From the perspective of the chapter leadership, the year was extremely difficult. Relations with the Alumni Office became strained over the issue of whether young alumni events were to be run independently of the chapter. This disagreement resulted in the chapter president's decision to resign.
Reading groups	
Dallas/Ft Worth	
Houston	
Madison, WI	Varied. Attendance varied like crazy.
Phoenix	The reading group went very well. Having Miss Brann come to visit was excellent. Everyone enjoyed the paintings. We are planning to ask that another tutor come for the spring.
Salt Lake City	2007 seemed to go well for the group. It was the first year where I was not in town and was thus doing all the coordinating from a distance. I was only able to travel back for one seminar - the one with Mr. Stickney, but things have seemed to go smoothly regardless.
South Florida	

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[Sample form for transmitting information to the Alumni office]

SEMINAR 'LINCOLN AND CIVIL LIBERTIES'

Event:	Seminar
Date:	Tuesday February 12, 2008
Text:	Selections from Lincoln's speeches and writings, Roger Taney's <i>ex parte</i> Merryman
Notes:	In the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln pushed the limits of executive power, and restricted civil liberties, far beyond any previous president. Join us to discuss his justifications and what his actions imply about the limits of our Constitution.
Leader	Peter Squitieri (A73)
Time:	7:00 – 9:00
Selections	Alien and Sedition Act Address to Congress July 4, 1861 <i>Ex parte</i> Merryman Response to Horace Greeley Gettysburg Address Second Inaugural Address And Others All selections can be downloaded in a single PDF from our website.
Location:	the board room of the Theatre Communications Group, 520 8 th Ave, 24 th floor, NYC 10018 (212) 609-5900 (between 36 th & 37 th streets). (You must bring a photo ID).
Dinner	The Market Cafe, 496 Ninth Ave. (Between 37 th and 38 th streets) following the seminar
Suggested Fee:	\$10.00 (\$5.00 for the five most recent graduating classes)
RSVP	Please use our website registration form at www.sjcalums.com/nyc , or call Daniel Van Doren at (212) 757-9523. Reservations must be received 24 hours before the seminar is to begin. You must register or call to be admitted to the building

Chapter	Anything the Chapters Committee, Alumni Association Board, or Alumni Office can do to assist your chapter
Albuquerque	
Annapolis	
Austin/San Antonio	
Boston	I love the idea of the conference calls, but the timing is terrible (and I can't believe it's better for very many other people - dinnertime in the Eastern and Central time zones, commute time in the Mountain zone, and "still at work" in the Pacific! on a weeknight!). Has any thought been given to having them on weekends instead?
Chicago	
Denver/Boulder	
New York	Help us move our website and email list from our proprietary system to the Online Community and Alumni Office system, with allowances made for non-St. Johnnies who want to be a part of chapter activities.
No. California	The current plan for Victoria Smith to do mass e-mailings on a one-month time frame seems like a wonderful help in reaching people!

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North Carolina	
Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	<p>Recommend tutors. I am an old fogie and don't know the younger ones, or the Santa Fe tutors.</p> <p>I like the idea of the conference calls, but I hate having to actually call in. Would like to do a lot of this via email.</p>
Portland	<p>It helped to bring a tutor in. I'd like to know more about what sort of things the college is willing to pay or help to pay for besides tutor visits (picnics, social gatherings, etc). And what events other chapters are holding so we can get more people to attend (things that don't always involve reading and seminars).</p>
Santa Fe	<p>Continue supporting email communication initiatives (much appreciated)</p>
Seattle	
So. California	
Twin Cities	
Washington DC	<p>Be mindful of how much work is involved in running a chapter, and respect and support the people who are willing to do the heavy lifting.</p>
<i>Reading groups</i>	
Dallas/Ft Worth	
Houston	
Madison, WI	<p>Reading suggestions would be welcome. I think we haven't figured out the right mix. I don't have the energy to be on the conference calls, alas, and I tend to have evening rehearsals or teaching or just dinner... I am glad minutes and reports tend to turn up.</p>
Phoenix	<p>It would be interesting to know how many alumni are in the area considering the number of alum who have responded to mailings. I'll talk to JoAnn.</p> <p>The reading group would like the College to sponsor another dinner (have mentioned to Jo Ann) except we think that it would be good to have a seminar before the dinner.</p>
Salt Lake City	<p>Keep letting us know what sorts of help groups can get from the alumni office. I had not known that there was any financial help possible beyond sending tutors.</p>
South Florida	<p>Having a tutor visit once a year is great, but it would be useful to have access to specific tutors (by email or phone) when tackling large or complicated works by ourselves. For example, we'd like to read something from Thucydides at our next seminar but NOT the whole work. Suggestions on smaller, more manageable selections would be appreciated given the limited time many people have available for reading. The reading lists posted on the SJC website can often provide useful information, but not always.</p> <p>The new 7-8 week deadline to submit seminar information to the alumni office prior to mailing postcard invitations will make scheduling our meetings a bit more challenging this year.</p>

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Sample month for chapter meetings – using January 2008. Those placed within the calendar have a scheduled event.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <u>Houston</u> (1st Thurs) <u>South Florida</u> (Saturdays)	4	5 <u>Dallas/Ft. Worth</u> (1st or 2nd Sat)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <u>Annapolis</u> (2nd Sat) <u>Philadelphia</u> (Saturdays) <u>Salt Lake City</u> (2nd/3rd Sat)
13 <u>Austin</u> (not regular) <u>Boston</u> (often 3rd Sun) <u>Phoenix</u> (Sundays) <u>Portland</u> (2nd Sat or Sun) <u>Twin Cities</u> (2nd Sun)	14 <u>Pittsburgh</u> (2nd Mon) <u>Seattle</u> (2nd Mon)	15 <u>New York</u> <u>City</u> (usually Tuesdays) <u>Wash DC</u> (Tuesdays, biweekly)	16	17	18	19 <u>Denver/Boulder</u> (3rd Saturday) <u>Santa Fe</u> (brunch 3rd Sat) <u>So. California</u> (2nd/3rd Sat or Sunday)
20 <u>Madison</u> (3rd Sunday)	21	22	23	24	25	26 <u>Albuquerque</u> (any Sat every other month)
27 <u>Chicago</u> (often last Sunday)	28	29 <u>Wash DC</u> (Tuesdays)	30	31		

These chapters did not have a scheduled event when this calendar was prepared.

Northern California: no regular meeting date or time

Santa Fe: seminars on Sunday

North Carolina (Triangle Circle) - Saturdays