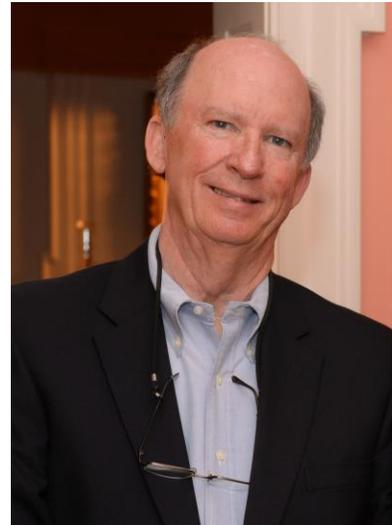


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2017 Alumnus of the Year Randy St. John '17h to Speak at Commencement

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Harrisburg Academy's 2017 Alumnus of the Year, Randy St. John '17h, will be the featured Commencement speaker at the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony on Friday, June 9. Before being recognized as Alumnus of the Year, St. John will be presented with an honorary Harrisburg Academy degree.



“Randy has taught at Harrisburg Academy for 46 years and has been a steadfast supporter of the school,” said Jim Newman, head of school. “He has been a meaningful instructor for so many students and has always been able to see things through the eyes of his students. After serving our school for so long and in so many ways, I think he might actually **be** a student here — he truly embodies the knowledge and spirit of this 233-year-old institution and its graduates,” Newman said.

It's true: there is little St. John hasn't influenced in his four-plus decades of teaching at the Academy. During his fulltime tenure, from 1971 to 1989, he served as English teacher, English department head, curriculum coordinator, dean of students, director of college guidance, director of summer school, head of Upper School, and soccer coach. Outside of school, he was repeatedly selected by Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey to read for the Advance Placement English examination and the English Composition test.

St. John left his fulltime role at Harrisburg Academy in 1989 to serve as a lobbyist, at the state and federal levels, for the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association. This trade organization advocates the views of convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers, and consumer product vendors. St. John retired 25 years later, in 2014, as a senior vice president. Concurrently, he continued to moonlight at the Academy, teaching philosophy (1989-2006) and later, International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge (2006-2017), part-time in the evening.

In 1991, St. John joined Harrisburg Academy's Board of Trustees. He served as a trustee for eight years, most notably as vice president from 1992-1994 and president from 1994-1997 before ending his term as past-president in 1999. Under his Board leadership, St. John is most proud of supporting facility and classroom upgrades, including capital expansion projects and the addition of internet access to the school building and its classrooms.

In addition to St. John, his family is connected to the Academy. His wife, Cindy, was the school's Middle School / Upper School library for 36 years until retiring in 2014. Their children, Will '99 and Alexandra '04, attended the Academy from their Early Childhood years through graduation. The St. Johns are also charter members of the Academy's leadership giving society, The John Harris Circle.

St. John earned a bachelor's degree in English from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Subsequently, he earned two master's degrees: a degree in English from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York and later, a degree in liberal education from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. He is an avid fly fisherman and golfer in his spare time.

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All members of the Academy community are invited to the Class of 2017 Commencement ceremonies on Friday, June 9 at 3 p.m. at Messiah College's Parmer Hall.

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12th grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org.

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