



KNIGHTLINES

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June 2021

Alumni Spotlight - Chris Cabanski '04, Helping to find a viable cure for cancer

When Chris Cabanski, '04, was a student at St. Francis there was one thing he knew for sure; he had a strong passion for mathematics. What he didn't know was how his passion would allow him to be involved in the cutting edge of innovative cancer research.

When Chris graduated from St. Francis, he attended the University of Dayton where a professor encouraged him to become involved in math research. He became hooked on how logic and mathematics were so intertwined. While pursuing a Ph.D. in Statistics and Operations Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chris became interested in cancer research through his advisor. This flowed easily into his post-doctoral training at The Genome Institute and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis where he began to research subtypes of cancers and the genetic makeups of people with cancer.



Following his educational years, Chris went to work as a Biostatistician at the pharmaceutical company Genentech in South San Francisco, CA for four years. At Genentech, Chris helped design clinical trials and analyze the data to assess whether new drugs were both safe and effective. His main focus was on developing drugs for diseases including severe asthma, skin diseases, and lung fibrosis. Although Chris found his work at Genentech fulfilling, he realized that his passion was to work for a start-up company where he could build a group of quantitative scientists focused on innovative trial designs, smarter trials, and learning as much as we could from each patient, whether they ultimately responded to the treatment being tested or not. This desire lead Chris to the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI).

Chris is currently the Senior Director of Biometrics at PICI. In this role, Chris leads a group of 10 scientists who are in charge of everything data-related for PICI's clinical trials, from trial design to data collection, analysis, and interpretation. PICI is a 5-year old non-profit based in San Francisco that focuses on developing

drugs to harness a patient's own immune system to fight cancer. PICI's goal is to accelerate cancer research by bringing together some of the best researchers from around the country in an open atmosphere to collaborate in an effort to push their best and most novel ideas forward while also eliminating any barriers that may be in their way. PICI focuses its work on developing cures for the toughest-to-treat cancers that are typically not as highly funded such as metastatic pancreatic and prostate cancers. Chris truly believes that the work being done at PICI gets us closer each day to finding a viable cure to cancer.

With the new Center for Advanced Scientific Exploration opening this Fall, when asking Chris what advice he would give to students using this lab, he said, "Take the initiative to learn about what you are interested in any way you can. Combine your passions and always look for opportunities to learn, even if outside the classroom. For example, I spend a large part of my workday thinking about cancer and immunology, but my last biology class was freshman year at SFS with Mr. Walton. I've learned everything I know in these fields from talking with experts and online research. And don't be afraid to ask questions and get curious."



St. Francis Names New Football and Basketball Coaches

St. Francis de Sales School is excited to announce that Bruce Gradkowski has been named the interim Head Football Coach.

Bruce is a former University of Toledo quarterback breaking 27 school records and leading the Rockets to a 2004 MAC Championship. He is a



member of the UT Hall of Fame being inducted in 2012! He has also been on five different NFL teams; with Cincinnati, Tampa Bay, Oakland, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland.

Upon his hire, Bruce said, "I am fired up. It's such a great opportunity to be part of St. Francis."

After an extensive interview process, St. Francis has named Jamie Kachmarik as Head Basketball Coach. Jamie is ready to build on a program of excellence.



Kachmarik comes to St. Francis de Sales after spending the past 7 years as the Head Boys Basketball Coach where he led the Cardinals to a 132-41 record while also serving as the Assistant Athletic Director. Prior to coaching at the high school level, Kachmarik spent 16 years coaching Division I college basketball at The Ohio State University, College of William & Mary, Coastal Carolina University, Appalachian State University, and University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

On being named head basketball coach, Kachmarik said, "My family and I are honored to be joining St. Francis de Sales School and the Knight family. St. Francis is rich with tradition and has a high standard of excellence academically, spiritually, and athletically."

***1st Class of SFS Students
from 7th thru 12th***



St. Francis de Sales is proud to recognize the first class of graduating seniors who attended St. Francis from grades 7 thru 12. These Knights have truly transformed from boys to Christian Gentlemen. The photo at the top was taken during their 7th-grade year and the photo below was taken during the last week of their senior year.



The students include Matthew Jules Boutros, Jacob Ryan Brandon, Joal Andrew Clark "Drew", Collin, Christopher James Crawford, Connor Jacob Forrester "CJ", Connor Stephen Gray, William James Heller "Will", Cole Edward Johns, Kyle Jeffrey Kasper, Adam Mitchell Maibach, Grant Michael McCoy, Andrew Joseph Nieset, Matthew Charles Noble, and Connor Thomas Szymkowiak

SFS Connect...
Connect with Fellow Knights Today



IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE **A KNIGHT**

AND THE PERFECT TIME TO RECONNECT
WITH YOUR KNIGHT BROTHERS AS WELL AS
St. Francis de Sales School

When was the last time you welcomed anyone to The Pit, chanted "BC," walked up the Senior Steps, or tried to convince a teacher not to give you a JUG because you forgot your tie, again? While it's been quite a while for most of us, the spirit and the experience of St. Francis de Sales School has continued to live in our hearts and souls.

Now you can reconnect with classmates and St. Francis de Sales School through **SFS Connect**. It's a comprehensive online platform where you can:

- Engage with your SFS Brothers to share what's new and re-experience with each other the times you had as a student
- Network with Knight Alumni and Mentor current Knight students
- Stay up to date on the ways St. Francis de Sales School continues to provide an unequalled academic, spiritual, social, and physical foundation for young men

Visit sfsconnect.org to find out more and register to be part of this exciting program. If you have any questions or comments, please contact sfsconnect@sfsknights.org.



Go Knights!

Register at SFS Connect Today!

2020-2021 Annual Fund



July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Make your gift today

When you Give From the Heart...

The Annual Appeal 3 benefits **Tuition Assistance**.

Over 65% of our students receive a form of tuition assistance.

The gift you make today will help ensure that a young man receives a transformative Knight education based on the values of St. Francis de Sales, the Gentleman Saint, to become a leader of tomorrow.

There are still a few days left to help make a difference!

**...You help provide a transformative experience
for a Knight!**

Upcoming Events



St. Francis de Sales School **KNIGHT WEEKEND**



October 1-2, 2021

Friday, Oct. 1st

Knight Open

Ottawa Park Golf Course

Saturday, Oct. 2nd

Bancroft Bash

St. Francis de Sales Parking Lot

Look for more
details soon!

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All Alums, Knight
Parents, & Friends are
Welcome!