Greetings from the Head of School

To the Saint Mary's Hall Community:

Issues Day 2018
Why has the “Take a Knee” movement followed by some athletes become so controversial?

Welcome to Issues Day! This is an annual Saint Mary’s Hall tradition to conduct an in-depth discussion of an intellectual and timely topic. Allowing open and direct study of difficult subjects provides a wonderful compliment to the students and faculty of our school. To encourage such dialogue on the toughest questions of our time shows respect for our students’ intellect and maturity while highlighting our faculty’s professionalism and abilities in working with our students to help them develop their own beliefs and opinions regarding difficult topics. As in the past, this year’s topic is not one which yields an easy answer or simple consensus. However, our students’ active participation will help them view opposing opinions as they solidify their own thoughts and beliefs. We are encouraging our community to examine the topic with openness and respect for self and others. I want to thank the Junior Class Issues Day Committee. The speaker line-up alone serves as excellent evidence of the Committee’s success and dedication. I also want to express particular and deep gratitude to the faculty leadership on the Issues Day Committee: Barb Bertoldo, Jill Severe, Gerri Walls, Kimberly Casillas, Ivan Martinez, Allyson Allen, and Jeff Hebert. Enjoy the discourse!

Jonathan Eades
Head of School
SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

8:45AM OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTION
9AM SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS
10:15AM BREAK
10:30AM CROSSFIRE
11:15AM STUDENT PARTICIPATION
12PM CLOSING REMARKS
12:25PM TWITTER SURVEY
12:30PM DISMISSAL

The 2018 Issues Day Committee

Sarah Allen  Tanzil Mohamed*
Sebastian Astran  Isabella Papay*
Emily Averyt  Claire Ramos
Kaitlyn Cooper*  Claudia Rodriguez
Lucie Englehardt*  Laura Roldan
Emlyn Harris  Katherine Sheridan*
Alex Jimenez*  Sydney Smith*
Myles Jonas  Mahdavi Subramanian*
Laura Kayata  Sydney Swider
Cristi Madero  Tate Taylor
Frank Martinez  Will Tucker
Nicole McCormick  Kobe Vo*
Matt Miller*  Ben Zeller*
Rachel Miller*  Emily Zeller

*Bolded names denote members of the Speaker Team.

THE CLASS OF 2019 THANKS YOU FOR ATTENDING ISSUES DAY 2018

Moderator
David Henderson, Associate Attorney, Cowen | Mask | Blanchard

David Henderson is an Associate Attorney at Cowen | Mask | Blanchard. He was born and raised in San Antonio. He is a proud longhorn with both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Since starting his legal career over a decade ago, David has worked at respected law firms in Houston and Dallas, as well as the Bexar County District Attorney’s office. His experience at the DA’s office as an Assistant District Attorney and as the former Chief of the DWI Task Force has helped David sincerely understand and respect the emotions associated with cases involving death or serious injury.

David also takes pride in calling himself a trial lawyer with experience trying over 70 jury trials throughout the state of Texas. This experience coupled with his years with Toastmasters, who crowned him the World Champion of Public Speaking in 2010, numerous awards such as the UT Presidential Leadership Award, and public speaking engagements, have helped him develop a passion for creating a strong connection with a jury, as well as his clients.

Commander John L. Futrell  
Founding Veteran, National Association for Black Veterans

Comm. Futrell served 24 years of military service - 15 years Active Duty, 5 years in the Indiana Army National Guard, and 4 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. His military awards include Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Accommodation Awards, Army Achievement Awards, Good Conduct Medals, Overseas Service Ribbon, Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, and Iraqi Campaign Medal with Bronze Star. He served a tour in Iraq from 2006 to 2007 as the Baghdad Night Operations Officer in charge of coalition forces and movement, ensuring aircraft were able to assist in any disaster and using Quick Reactionary Force in recoveries of Service Members and equipment. He worked for the State of Indiana as a computer system analyst and as adjunct faculty at Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis. He is also the inventor and patent holder of the Highway Alert Safety Kit (HASK and HASK Jr.). He has an MS from Oakland City University and a BS from the University of Indianapolis. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and has served as alpha commander of the National Association for Black Veterans, of which he is a Founding Veteran, Indianapolis Metropolitan Chapter 133, since its inception in 2016.

Courtesy of John L. Futrell

Prof. Robert William “Bill” Platt  
St. Mary’s University

Specializing in Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility, and Catholic Perspectives, Professor Platt has served as assistant attorney general in New Mexico and later as assistant public defender. He has taught and practiced law in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois, and Texas, in addition to teaching and lecturing internationally. He has published and been cited on a broad range of subjects including minority rights, constitutional law, and equal protection. From 1998 to 2007 he served as Dean of St. Mary’s University where he currently teaches courses in constitutional law, professional responsibility, Catholic legal perspectives, family law, business ethics, trial advocacy, and attorney ethics. Expertly versed in the laws that govern First Amendment rights and minority rights, he recognizes that the issues surrounding the "Take-A-Knee" movement are complicated, and that while the First Amendment protects against government intrusion on the right to free speech, private employers like the NFL could impose restrictions including termination.

Courtesy of Professor Platt

Rev. Dr. Fredricc Gerard Brock, DMin  
Co-Founder/CEO of Fredricc Gerard Brock Ministries, LLC

Dr. Brock is Lead Pastor and Co-Founder of The Message Church and Co-Founder/CEO of Fredricc Gerard Brock Ministries. In 2006, he graduated from Texas Southern University with Cum Laude honors, receiving a BSc degree in Healthcare Administration. After a decorated collegiate football career, he was a member of the NFL’s Houston Texans and the Arena FL’s Lubbock Renegades. In 2010, he graduated from Baylor University’s Truett Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in Theology. He became the first doctoral graduate of the Sankofs Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership at the Oblate School of Theology. His dissertation was entitled “I Became: Black Church Identity and Violence in the Community.”

Dr. Brock is a Chaplain, Major in the United States Air Force Reserves and has served our country for 8 years (4 as Active Duty), being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He ministers weekly to 1,000+ basic military trainees, families, and staff. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, supporter of the National Urban League, and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is husband to Pastor Kan’Dace “Lady K” Brock, and father to daughter Zoë Aaliyah.

Courtesy of https://www.fgbministries.com/dr.-brock.html
Jack Riccardi
Journalist, Talk Show Host for KTSA Radio, San Antonio

Mr. Riccardi has hosted midday, nighttime and special events talk shows for 550 KTSA since July 1999. He is currently the host of “The Jack Riccardi Show” for KTSA Radio. Previously, he was midday talk host on WOAI-AM from 1994 to 1999, and afternoon drive talk host on WGY Albany, New York from 1991 to 1994.

Mr. Riccardi is a native of Boston, and a magna cum laude graduate of Boston University’s College of Communications with a degree in journalism. He worked in music radio in Boston and New England throughout the ’80s. “Talkers” magazine annually lists him as one of “America’s Most Influential Talk Show Hosts.” When he’s not on the radio he’s an avid reader and a classic car buff. He lives in San Antonio with one daughter and one German Shepherd. He is quoted as saying “When I got into radio, and especially talk radio, my idea was to hold nothing back, be completely honest and real, and whether I’m being serious or fooling around, that’s what you will hear from me every day.”

Courtesy of Mr. Jack Riccardi and https://www.facebook.com/pg/Jack-Riccardi-Show-155053257898978/about/?ref=page_internal

David Swanson
Author, Activist, Journalist, Radio Host

Mr. Swanson is an author, activist, journalist, and radio host. He is the director of World Beyond War, a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace, and the campaign coordinator for RootsAction.org. His books include War Is A Lie, War Is Never Just, and When the World Outlawed War. He also co-authored A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.

Mr. Swanson blogs at DavidSwanson.org and WarIsACrime.org and hosts a weekly radio show called Talk Nation Radio. He speaks frequently on the topic of war and peace, and engages in all kinds of nonviolent activism. He recently drafted a resolution urging Congress to move money from the military to human and environmental needs, rather than the reverse. Versions of the resolution were passed by several cities and by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mr. Swanson is a 2015, 2016, and 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. He holds a Master’s degree in philosophy from UVA and has long lived and worked in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Courtesy of Mr. David Swanson and davidswanson.org