

*The Alpha Sigma NEWS fourth edition brings us "back-to-school."*



E-newsletter of Alpha Sigma Nu

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Cool breezes cutting through the heavy summer air, the burst of energy that accompanies students arriving back on campus, a renewed focus on tasks and agendas - these are some of the hallmarks of "back-to-school" season. Whether you have school-age children, are a student yourself, are a teacher or administrator in a school, or you are simply taking in the barrage of back-to-school commercials, this season seems to come with a certain nostalgia and call to action. With summer vacations behind us, autumn is a time for refocusing our attention and our efforts.

Here at Alpha Sigma Nu, our Alumni Clubs are back in full swing filling the fall calendar with events. The student Chapters are springing to life with new leadership. And in our ASN office, we are welcoming our new interns, scheduling this fall's Summits and meetings, and putting on our trainer hats to get everyone up to speed for the new schoolyear.



## 6 Back-to-School Lessons for Finding God

A blogpost by Denise Gorss of Loyola Press on [IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://IgnatianSpirituality.com)

Back-to-school season has lessons in finding God for all of us, not just those with children heading back after summer vacation. Here are six lessons I'm reflecting on this year.

### 1. Have your supplies ready.

With school, it's backpacks, notebooks (spiral or computer kind), pencils, and crayons. For finding

God, it might be a notebook for reflective journaling, a helpful website for theological information, or a favorite prayer book. We can meet God with nothing, but sometimes it helps to have a few guides on the journey.

## **2. Do your homework.**

We can get by in faith life with going to church once a week, but that's the minimum in a relationship with God. For maximum understanding, we need to do some work between "classes"—daily prayer being the most important. A relationship with God also grows from time spent in learning more about our faith, whether in a formal parish setting, informal conversations with other people of faith, or private time in reading and conversation with God.

## **3. Meet new people.**

The new school year was always a great chance to make new friends. As adults, we should take the time this autumn to consider our community of faith. Do you know the people who sit around you in church? What can you do to make new friends in faith?

## **4. Dedicate time in your day.**

The school day is marked by a schedule. God doesn't require a strict schedule from us, but we have to make the time for God in the midst of our overcrowded days if we want to recognize God more easily in the everyday.

## **5. Take a break for recess.**

Educators know that children need breaks in the day for their minds to work most fully when it is time to focus. Retreats are one adult version of recess, allowing us to step back from the everyday tasks and reflect on what's most important. Even if you don't have time or resources to go away on a retreat, there are ways to step away from the ordinary to get a fresh perspective.

## **6. Pay attention.**

To recognize God's presence, we have to pay attention to the ways—both big and small—that God is working in our lives and calling us to be our best selves and people for others.

What lessons does back-to-school season offer you?

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## **Don Kojis (Marquette '61)**

After graduating from Marquette University in 1961 as a Philosophy major with minors in English and History, I was hired by Phillips Petroleum Co. in the Sales Department and invited to join their AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) basketball team. The NBA made me their 12th draft choice, but seeing there were only 9 NBA teams, that amounted to a 2nd round draft choice with no

guarantees. Besides, I always dreamed of playing for the USA Olympic Basketball Team, and you had to be an amateur for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

The Phillips 66ers was the best amateur team in the U.S., including the colleges. The 66ers team was asked to play Good Will Basketball Games all over the world - including places like Italy, Greece, France, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Hawaii, Philippines, China, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, etc. I was named captain of the Pan American Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where we won a Gold Medal. I was also named captain of the World Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

When I returned to the States, the NBA offered me a contract I couldn't refuse, and after a nice 12-year career, I settled in San Diego, CA. I married and had 3 boys and now have 5 grandkids. They all live here in San Diego, and life is good.

In 1978 I co-founded a Catholic Family Camp in Julian, CA, one hour from San Diego in the forested mountains. About four years ago, a new board member pushed the camp to add special needs programming. This requires a lot of planning, infrastructure, and therefore, money. We were blessed to receive a generous donation of over \$6 million to complete the project! The remaining buildings and improvements to pave the way for these special needs camps will be completed in 2018. Read more about the camp and the recent work at our website

<http://www.whisperingwinds.org/>. *Photo credit to favslist.com*

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{ Write for AΣN }

We want to hear your voice. What's your story?

Interested in sharing your story with your Jesuit honor society? We're looking for alumni to guest write a blog or article, to simply share your journey since induction, or to quote for future newsletters. [Contact us!](#)



## LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

### Member-exclusive Resource

Alpha Sigma Nu is happy to promote the third webinar in our lunchtime webinar series exclusively for ASN alumni. We look forward to hosting speakers on topics of importance to Jesuit-educated alumni, and we are very pleased to welcome Chris Kerr as our speaker this fall. This webinar series is part of ASN's ongoing mission to keep members rooted in the traditions of their Jesuit education.

**{ SAVE THE DATE }**

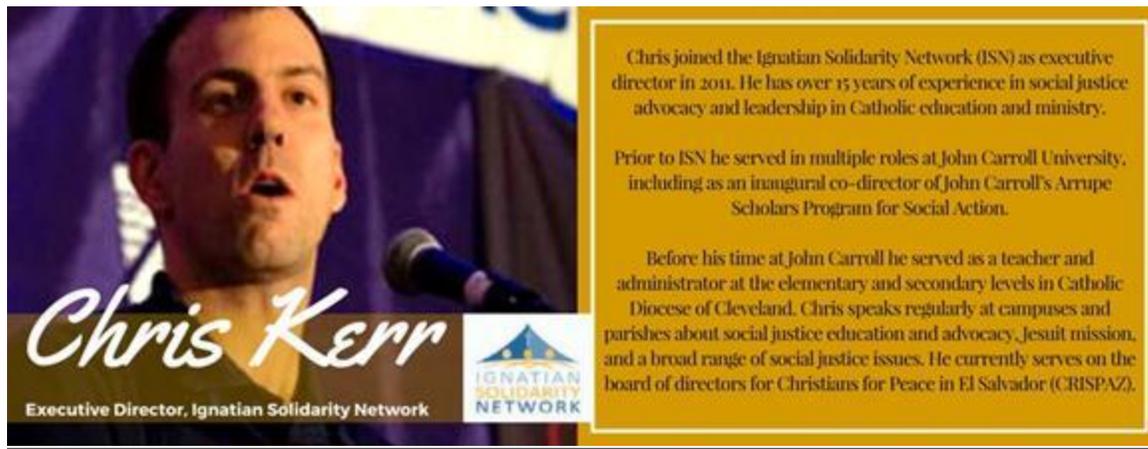
**Thursday, October 24th**

**Featured Speaker: Chris Kerr, Executive Director, Ignatian Solidarity Network**

**Topic: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

**Watch your inboxes for a registration email with more details in the coming days!**

Space is limited. Register early to reserve your spot.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Alumni Clubs are back in swing. Find events near you.**

The [Alpha Sigma Nu website](#) is a wonderful hub for our members to stay up-to-date on Alumni Club and other Ignatian events. Check back often for the latest events!

**September 27th** - [NYC Alumni Club Fall Service Event at The Dwelling Place, a women's shelter with 15 residents](#)

**October 9th** - [San Francisco Bay Area Alumni Club Inaugural Event - ASN reception following speaker Muhammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace prize](#)

**October 10th** - [Danihy Club of SE Wisconsin invites you to a demonstration of Marquette's Visualization Lab \(MARVL\)](#)

**October 13th** - [Detroit's ASN Alumni Club is hosting a table at the Detroit Jesuit Alumni and Friends Luncheon featuring Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ](#)

**October 21st** - [Greater Denver Alumni Club tour of historical Fairmount Cemetery followed by lunch](#)

November 18th - [Greater Denver Alumni Club Advent Morning of Reflection on St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises](#)

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## Chapters are springing to life!

Included in the back-to-school frenzy for ASN student leaders is meeting with Faculty Advisers to plan the Chapters's events for the coming semester and arranging travel to one of the Regional Leadership Summits hosted by Alpha Sigma Nu. Student officers will be gathering in either Chicago or New York this fall for a weekend of networking, training, and orienting to get them prepared to be successful Alpha Sigma Nu Chapter leaders. Chapter presidents take part in monthly webconferences to share ideas and address questions. Already Chapters have reported projects underway from organizing a new scholarship for DACA students on campus to organizing a Chapter service trip to help those in need. We look forward to the year ahead with another wonderful group of student members!



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**November 28, 2017**

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