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### The company you keep....

Michael Hemesath

*College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, [mhemesath@csbsju.edu](mailto:mhemesath@csbsju.edu)*

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## Quad 136

The Company You Keep....

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

### The Company You Keep....



There are 2244 bachelor's degree granting institutions in the country (according to our data guru Jon McGee). Each one has its own unique character and personality, and each is the right fit for a certain group of students. But one thing every undergraduate college tries hard to do is provide opportunities for its students to achieve their full potential, to discover how good they can be. Often these successes are unique to institutions. Saint John's, through the Abbey, offers the Benedictine Volunteer Corps, for example.

But there are also opportunities for undergraduates to compete for **national awards** like Rhodes, Marshall or Gates Scholarships. Saint Ben's and Saint John's students have had recent success in winning Truman Scholarships, with **Rachel Mullin** winning one in 2013 and **Tyler Brown** winning one in 2014. Additionally, we have two Truman finalists this year who will be interviewing later this month.

This year was an exceptional one for CSB and SJU students who applied for Fulbright Scholarships to research or teach abroad after graduation. **Five Bennies and three Johnnies** won these very competitive scholarships. With 8 total winners, CSB and SJU had the most Fulbright Scholars in the state of Minnesota, after the University of Minnesota, and were in the **very elite company** of some of the best liberal arts colleges in the country:

Pitzer College	19
Smith College	15
Amherst College	13
Oberlin College	13
Occidental College	13
Middlebury College	12
Scripps College	11
Williams College	11
Bates College	10
Pomona College	10
College of the Holy Cross	9
Grinnell College	9
Hamilton College	9

Lewis & Clark College	9
Wheaton College (Mass.)	9
Claremont McKenna College	8
CSB/SJU	8

The recipe for success at the national level is one that most schools work to discern. Our success is surely due in significant part to great faculty who undertake these very time and labor intensive applications in support of our students. The Fulbright success is also linked to great study abroad options and our highly globalized campuses.

There is also a bit of luck involved whenever one applies for such competitive national scholarships and while we have had a number of Fulbright winners in the past, eight in a single year is truly exceptional.

It is great to know that the educational experience at CSB and SJU, our great faculty and our talented, ambitious students combine to provide these wonderful opportunities for students to pursue their dreams of living and working abroad.

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By [Michael Hemesath](#) | March 3rd, 2015 | Categories: [Higher Education](#) | [0 Comments](#)

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## About the Author: [Michael Hemesath](#)

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Michael Hemesath is the 13th president of Saint John's University. A 1981 SJU graduate, Hemesath is the first layperson appointed to a full presidential term at SJU. You can find him on Twitter [at] [PrezHemesath](#).