

Jason Thomas – Class of 2019

Jason is currently a junior at The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, where he is studying Civil Engineering. He just finished a summer internship at HRI, Inc., a diversified construction company with expertise in highway, airport, water, sewer, treatment plants, bridges, and paving here in State College. Jason relayed that he learned about project management and estimating specifically in this internship. He is excited to be heading to Dublin, Ireland in September to do a semester long study abroad program at the University College Dublin where he will take three engineering classes and an art history course. This program is part of Notre Dame's Global Gateway Program. A total of 49 Notre Dame students will be in Ireland this semester completing their study abroad program at three different universities. Jason and fellow ND students will be staying in college residence halls and will travel 3-4 weekends across Ireland as part of the program. While Jason has taken a family trip to Ireland in the past, he is very excited to be spending a whole semester abroad and experience all the Irish culture he can in the time he is there.

Spending all four years of high school at Saint Joseph's, Jason had high praise for the faculty and how the curriculum set him up perfectly to be successful at Notre Dame. Jason relayed that Dr. Mazur's Calculus II class prepared him exceptionally well for the math and engineering classes he has taken at ND. He also had high praise for the Theology curriculum here at Saint Joe's paving the way for an easy transition into the required theology coursework at Notre Dame. Jason spoke about how the math and science classes he has had to take in college were easier because of the Chemistry and Physics courses at SJCA. With some courses at Notre Dame, it seemed as if he was taking them for a second time. As he mentioned, he really couldn't have been more prepared for success at Notre Dame than through the education he received here at Saint Joe's.

It was great to hear how extra-curricular opportunities at Saint Joe's prepared and encouraged him to get involved in campus life at Notre Dame. As a Saint Joe's student, Jason was a member of Student Council serving as vice-president his junior year and co-president his senior year. He was a member of our National Honor Society serving as its president his senior year. For his NHS service project, Jason organized a book drive, "Books for Africa", in his junior year. Through this drive, our students led by Jason were able to donate over 300 books. Jason also discussed being on the golf team at SJCA, how he "was not good at all" in his sophomore year when he joined the team, how he improved, and that the team made it to states in his senior year. He enjoyed his experience as a golfer and is proud of the improvement and accomplishments they were able to make. Through all the leadership and involvement opportunities as SJCA, Jason felt he was well prepared to get involved and have a positive

Jason in 2021



impact at Notre Dame. Jason has been serving in Student Government as a Senator in his residence hall while at ND. As a Senator, Jason attended weekly meetings to discuss and vote on orders and resolutions pertaining to student issues. The Senators at ND seek to improve student relations with one another and the university. In this role, they are also charged with making funding decisions regarding clubs at Notre Dame.

As mentioned previously, Jason is our only National Merit Finalist so far in the history of Saint Joe's. While Jason is obviously a talented and dedicated student, it was awesome to hear how he credits the academic preparation he received at SJCA and the people of Saint Joe's in setting him up for success at Notre Dame. Jason pinpointed how each of the Four Pillars of Faith, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service are all important in his life as a student at Notre Dame.

Jason attends mass at ND every Sunday and each residence hall at the university has its own priest. Jason has made the Dean's List at Notre Dame for the past three semesters and his involvement in leadership and service positions with student government have been key to his overall experience at ND.

After completing his study abroad program this upcoming semester, Jason will return to Notre Dame. He is on track to graduate in the Spring of 2023. He is currently applying for other internships in the summer of 2022. While Jason, is not certain on his ideal job or where he wants to go in the immediate future, he mentioned how maybe he will eventually settle in the State College area. He likes to travel, read, play golf, and fish in his free time. He plans on doing those things in addition to working toward a successful Civil Engineering career while positively impacting the world around him.

Any family updates or other updates you want to include? *My brother, John, just started freshmen year at Alabama. My sister, Audrey, is in her final year of PA school at RIT.*

Tell a little more about the things you are most passionate about. *I'm very passionate about reading. I credit most of my academic success to reading nonstop throughout my childhood.*

One of your favorite quotes or Bible verses?
"This too shall pass"

Advice you would give to current Saint Joe's students?
My advice would be to obviously study hard and get good grades but to also enjoy all the times with your friends before you go your separate ways and enter college or the real world.