



STEVE GILLIS '92

Some 27 years ago, Steve Gillis '92 was preparing to graduate from Jesuit High School.

The passage of time since then – 60% of his life has been lived after high school graduation – hasn't diminished his positive feelings about those four years on Himes Avenue.

"I am still close with over 20 friends made at Jesuit – that is something that I just don't see from friends who attended other high schools," Gillis said. "It still feels like a brotherhood in my professional career."

The Jesuit brotherhood has remained intact for Gillis, and so has the formation he received at the school.

"Being 'Men for Others' continues to be a guiding principal for me in my adult life, and I would say that is the most impactful part of my experience at Jesuit," Gillis said. "Service to the community continues to be an important part of my life and my family's."

As such, Gillis has been compelled to give back to Jesuit, and he joined the school's 1899 Bequest Society. Bequest Society members are those who have indicated in writing that they have made provisions for Jesuit in their will or estate plans. Gillis said he has named Jesuit as part of his estate.

"I was in the process of updating my estate planning, and wanted to make sure Jesuit is part of this plan," Gillis said. "I feel I have gained so much from Jesuit and I wanted to be able to give back."

Because of Gillis and others who have given back, the school is able to provide a Jesuit education to more students than ever before. In the 2018-19 school year, Jesuit's enrollment surpassed 800 for the first time and financial aid distribution eclipsed \$2 million for the first time, to 30% of the student body.

"I hope this donation can help improve the campus, and give families who may not have the financial means the capability to attend Jesuit through scholarships and financial aid," Gillis said.



Gillis earned a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Florida, with a focus in Transportation Engineering. He worked for several engineering firms before joining his father's company, Transportation Control Systems, Inc. in Tampa, a manufacturer and distributor of traffic control products, which is now a second generation company.

Gillis also is the chair of the Tampa Advisory Board for Make A Wish Southern Florida, and he enjoys golfing, boating, and spending time with his wife Natalie and son Tyler.

"My fondest memories are the brotherhood ingrained in students

at Jesuit, and the great education," Gillis said. "The ultimate goal is to make Jesuit an even better experience for future generations. I gained so much from Jesuit, and I want to ensure that future generations can have this experience."

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