

SACRED HEART



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Earl Hartman, SHA66, Editor Paulette Andres Green, SHA64, Newsletter Chairperson

HOMECOMING 2016



Friday September 30th is the date for the 2016 Homecoming and we hope to see you all there! The parade happens at 4 p.m., and the Irish take on the Ashley Bears at 7 p.m. at Community Memorial Stadium. At 8 p.m. doors open at the Parish Center for the Annual Alumni Reception hosted by the Alumni Association and the SHA Foundation. The classes of 1961, 1966, 1976, 1980 and 1986 are all having reunions that weekend.

GRAND MARSHAL NAMED

Our Grand Marshal for the 2016 Homecoming will be Bryan Neyer '86. Bryan and his wife, Yvonne Audretsch Neyer '88, have put three sons through the Academy, all SHA "lifers": Josh'12, Dustin'14 and Austin (Dave)'16.

The Neyers have been active in athletic programs throughout the years, providing sponsorship dollars and charter busses for events, along with organizing parent efforts like tailgates and celebrations. A few years ago, they organized a "We Believe" spirit wear effort which energized Irish fans of all ages. They generously support every effort along the way: donating to the annual Soup/Supper event, giving time, prizes and energy to the SHAgala event, donating to the football stadium project and much more.

Bryan chaired the SHAgala dinner/auction event for seven years, and continues to be the Advisor for the event, leading the school's number one fundraiser to its all-time high proceeds. He spends days up on a ladder

or down on the floor connecting wires and putting pieces together for each dinner/auction event. Bryan has not only chaired the event, but has solicited gifts, sold cash raffle tickets, been on the advertising committee, and organized set-up and tear-down each year. Bryan and Yvonne also introduced the SHAgala "Giving Tree" several years ago and the concept has really taken off to benefit the bottom line of the event.



Grand Marshal Bryan Never (second from right) is pictured with his family: On the left are Austin '16, wife Yvonne Audretsch '88, and Josh '12. At right, Dustin '14.

Bryan recently volunteered to participate in Career Day at the Academy, and continues to welcome class field trips at the family farm.

HALL OF FAME

The 2016 Hall of Fame honorees are Chris Wood '86, Andrea Campbell Tuttle '91 and John Hunter '97. The three will be inducted during half time of the Homecoming game on September 30, 2016 and will bring the total number of enshrined athletes to 101.



Chris Wood, circa 1986

Chris earned 8 varsity letters and received All State honors as a sophomore running back when he scored 15 touchdowns and gained 286 yards in one game. Although injuries slowed him down he was the team's second leading scorer in his final 2 seasons. Chris was also MVP and leading hitter of the baseball team. Chris and his wife Carmen live at Lake Isabella and he is an electrician for Edmore electric.

Andrea was twice MVP of both basketball and softball. receiving All State honors in both sports. She was the leading scorer on the 1990 basketball team and scored 513 career points including a 27 point game. In softball she was the first Irish pitcher to collect 20 wins in a season. Andrea has a Doctorate in Education Leadership and is currently Superintendent of Schools at Owosso Public Schools. She and husband John have 2 children.

John earned All State honors in baseball where he played in 2 State Championship games. He was the MVP and leading scorer on the 1997 basketball team and totaled 585 career points. John also quarterbacked the football team into the playoffs in 1996. He is co-owner of Hunter Family Restaurants. John and his wife Denae have two children at Sacred Heart.



Andrea Campbell, circa 1991



John Hunter, circa 1997

WELCOME CLASS OF 2016

Thirty nine new members were added to the Alumni roster during graduation ceremonies on May 27, 2016. Among the graduates were Alumni offspring Casey Ervin (mom Suzy Fountain '90, grandparents Ron '63 and Kathy Anton Ervin '63), Lauren Fox (Linda Epple Gould '90, Jim Epple '59, Alphonse Epple '27), Kelly Hovey (granddaughter of Mary Bayer Hovey' 62 and Alice Miller Reihl '47, great granddaughter of Julia Burch Hovey '38), Matt Kornexl (Dale '82), Kylie McGinnis (Christina Cook Sheppard '81), Logan Moyle (Leann Schafer Ellis '94), Austin Neyer (Bryan '86 and Yvonne Audretsch Neyer '88, Dave '61), Sam Neyer (Jerry '83, Dave '61), Alex Schafer (Patti Ahlers Schafer '83, Phyllis Theisen Ahlers '53, Clarence Theisen '23) and Nate Thering (James '89, great grandma Anna Louise McDonald Thering '26).

The Class of 2016 was the first ever to make a Class Gift to the SHA Foundation (see story on page 5). They also had the benefit of an all-new Science Lab for hands-on laboratory experiences, and were among the first students at SHA to receive Chromebook computers as learning tools.

The Alumni Association welcomes the Class of 2016. As with all of our graduates, we look forward to hearing about their future endeavors. Following is a complete list of the class members, along with their imminent plans. Congratulations, Class of 2016!



Brendin Becker (Central Michigan University) Brianna Becker (Butler University) Kimberly Boulier (Lansing Community College) Dominic Chomchai (University of Michigan) Riley Edwards (Central Michigan University) Katelyn Eidenberger (Michigan State University) Megan English (University of Michigan) Casey Ervin (Central Michigan University) Charles Evans (Michigan State University) Lauren Fox (Central Michigan University) Averi Gamble (Central Michigan University) Kristian Gostomski (United States Marine Corps) Rachel Hauck (Michigan State University) Julie Hopp (Michigan State University) Mason Houston (Ferris State University) Rafael Hubbard (Mid Michigan Community College) Lauren Janes (University of Michigan) Mark Johnston (Central Michigan University) Samuel Kindermann (Mid Michigan Community College) Matthew Kornexl (Central Michigan University) Zackery Kujat (Central Michigan University) Megan MacDonald (Oakland University) Kylie McGinnis (Michigan State University) Ayush Mohan (Emory University) Ashley Moreno (Central Michigan University) Logan Moyle (Central Michigan University) Austin Neyer (Mid Michigan Community College) Samuel Never (Michigan State University) James Norlander (Central Michigan University) John Obeid (University of Michigan) Luis Perez Sepulveda (University of Michigan) Jackson Reetz (Michigan State University) Alexander Schafer (Central Michigan University) Jacob Starry (Michigan Technological University) Emma Struble (University of Toldeo) Kyle Szymanski (United States Coast Guard) Nathan Thering (Central Michigan University) Sophia Tucker (Central Michigan University)

ALUMNI FEATURE

FINDING HUMOR IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Ask him, he will tell you: **Hedlun Walton '92** has a great life. He has a good job. He has fantastic kids and a wonderful wife. He is busy every minute of every day. He is involved in coaching and other community activities. He barely has time to walk the family dog. But occasionally--and not as often anymore, he admits--Hedlun does stand-up comedy just for fun.

Hedlun, a guidance counselor at Okemos High School (near Lansing, Michigan) says what he enjoys most about his job is balance. He previously worked in child welfare with severely abused and neglected youth. "It was hard core and pretty intense," he said. "With this counseling position, I still feel like I can make a difference for at-risk youth, but I also get to help students get into great colleges and

celebrate their successes with

them."

After graduation from Sacred Heart, Hedlun studied psychology and English at Alma College, where he also played basketball. After graduation from Alma, he worked for Eagle Village and Listening Ear while he earned his Master's Degree in Counseling from Central Michigan University. He got married and moved to Lansing in 2000, where he worked for Catholic Social Services before taking the job with Okemos High School. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three children, daughter Audrey who is 12 and twin boys Brennan and Colin who are 10.

But does he seriously do standup comedy performances?
The answer is yes. It started years
ago, when he began writing
a self-described "tongue-in-cheek
Christmas letter" that his friends
and family enjoyed. Hedlun and
his wife are known among their

friends for their very animated stories. The Women's Center of Greater Lansing was hosting a comedy fundraiser and invited Stephanie to an amateur performance. Hedlun coached her, and later, they asked him to be part of another event. After that, there were two years where he was doing maybe two shows a month. Open mics, fundraisers, house

parties. Hedlun graciously helped SHA as the entertainment portion of a SHAgala Ultimate Night Out package, raising money for the Academy. Although he says he is pretty much retired now, he has fans.

"I've seen Hedlun perform a couple of times. I went to a show in Lansing and he was hilarious," said Jill Simons, wife of **Dan '70**, and mom of **Jake '00**, **Zack '02** and **Caleb '07**. "He had the audience in stitches over everyday situations so we could really relate. I knew him when my husband coached him in high school. He was a quiet, respectful young man. As an adult he is very comfortable standing in front of an audience and making them laugh. His routines are a lot of fun."

Hedlun says he was never the class clown in high school,

and people didn't know about his interest in Saturday Night Live or how he would imitate Billy Crystal or Eddie Murphy tapes. He certainly does enough public speaking in his job so he is not fearful of the part which seems to scare other people the most. He only gets nervous about whether his jokes are actually funny. "Even on my worst night, I figure I can survive 15 uncomfortable minutes and move on to the next show," he says. "At open mics, there is usually someone WAY worse than me, so I take a little solace in that." His material, he says, comes from everyday life. "Mostly from marriage or from parenting, or weird things that happened with our friends.

I embellish, of course, but sometimes the things people think are made up are completely

true,"he said, adding that one time his son asked him if JC Penney was a bank and he could not stop laughing. "When you have kids, you have to have a completely new perspective on things. I am as confused by the world as anyone. I try to do my best, but I often second-guess myself and I am willing to admit it. Like, how many times should you re-use a bathroom towel before it goes in the wash? No one has been able to give me a straight answer on things like that."



Hedlun Walton '92 is "truly a class act", says **Dan Simons'70**. Hedlun recently provided stand-up entertainment as part of an "Ultimate Night Out" package for the SHAgala fundraiser, netting over \$3,000 for the Academy.



Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director



New Web Site Beneficial For All

In April of 2015, after conducting a local and national search and reviewing many proposals, SHA hired a marketing consulting firm from St. Petersburg, Florida to create a new brand message and website design for Sacred Heart Academy. Cherry & Company was chosen due to their vast experience in the marketing of educational institutions, specifically parochial and non-parochial K-12 schools throughout the United States. They came highly recommended by prior customers and have many years of experience working with School Site, the content management system (CMS) provider integrated with RenWeb, our on line school system.

After completing an assessment, researching our local market, and gathering data during an investigative visit, Liz Cherry, president of Cherry & Company delivered as promised. This past April marked the completion of entering the new data content for both the Academy and Sacred Heart Parish websites. Combined with our new brand message and impressive web design, the new website went live on April 23rd. Take a minute to peruse our new website at www.sha.net and see for yourself the greatly improved look and functionality.

You will find a completely responsive site, where all the pages look great on any device from smart phones to smart TVs. By using School Site as the CMS, we have eliminated the need for duplicate data entry of common information. Our parents have quick and easy access to commonly sought information such as newsletters, lunch menus, school calendars, faculty listings, and daily announcements. With the new website comes the ability to create forms for data collection and add image galleries and video clips. As alum, I invite you to visit http://academy.sha.net/alumni/ and see for yourself the plethora of information including reunion updates, alumni newsletters, yearbooks and the ability to enter updated information for our alumni database. We have already received several contacts via the online-form and look forward to receiving many more.

Plans are already underway for additional functionality including on-line enrollment and on-line payments. If you're looking for something and can't find it, or just want to share some feedback, please email me at mkreetz@sha.net. I would enjoy hearing from you.



The new sha.net website features bright, bold graphics and easy-to-access drop-down menus, offering instant access for parents, alumni, prospective families and other site visitors.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

Appreciating the Past and Welcoming the Future

Summer can be a bittersweet time at Sacred Heart Academy. This is one of those years as we say thank you to five teachers who have given so much to our students and school community. They are both friends and family, and we will miss our daily interactions with them.

From the elementary school, the following teachers are retiring: Mary Beth Roberts, Marla Schneider, and Susan White. In addition, Rick Roberts is retiring from the high school and Lori Smith has resigned from the high school to move back to her hometown of Manistee. Together, these teachers worked at SHA for 99 years! They have put their heart and soul into our students and the Academy.



Rick and Mary Beth Roberts were among the SHA retirees this year.

have given selflessly and served well. They have fulfilled a vocation. We will miss them, and we wish them much happiness and good health in their retirements and relocation.

have done just

that. They

We have hired three new teachers and an athletic director and are very excited about what they bring to the table. Julie Flannery Theisen SHA'78 will teach first grade this fall. Whitney Thering SHA '05 will teach fifth grade. Katie Hausbeck (a Saginaw native) will teach math and religion in the secondary building. Ray Miesch (father of alumni Matthew Miesch '07 and Rebecca Miesch Hammerle '10, and father-in-law of Alex Hammerle '08) has assumed the role of athletic director.

Sacred Heart Academy is blessed to have such talented individuals joining our team. One of my favorite Mother Teresa quotes is "Serve with compassion." I know our new faculty will follow in the footsteps of their predecessors and make a difference by serving with compassion.

I hope you will join us for the Homecoming festivities on Friday, September 30. I look forward to seeing you at the Alumni & Friends Reception in the Parish Center following the football game that night. This is a great time to reconnect with old friends and make some new friends. This wonderful celebration is one of the many things which makes Sacred Heart special. Enjoy the rest of your summer and, as Mr. Roberts always told his football players, "Remember the Irish!"

Very truly yours,

Mary Kay Yonker, Principal



Katelyn Eidenberger'16 makes her personal donation to the SHA Foundation as part of a Senior Class gift.

SENIOR GIFT

Just as reunion classes and individual alumni are encouraged to give back to the Academy, the Class of 2016 made a class gift to the SHA Foundation before graduation. Members were challenged by Principal Mary Kay Yonker to fill a beverage cup of their choice from vendors around town with the amount of money it would cost to purchase a beverage every day for a week, or to "round off" a donation. The total investment to the Foundation was almost \$100, and the average gift was \$5. Mrs. Yonker said she was very proud of the effort and especially the class members who participated. "We take great pride in graduating students who become good citizens of the community and the world around them. Each time a student gave me their donation I was reminded what makes SHA special," she said.

Class Notes

CLASS OF 1940: Patricia Fitzgerald Campbell passed away on May 10, 2016. Pat was employed by CMU for over 20 years. Pat is the daughter of Edwin Fitzgerald '16, sister of Bill Fitzgerald '44, wife of Joseph Arden Campbell '40, the mother of 6 Campbell alums: Joe '65, Bill '70, Mike '73, Tom '77, Katy '80 and Kevin '85 and grandmother of Steve '99, Maureen Karbowski '02 and Aaron '05 Campbell. Patricia is also the great-grandmother of Caitlin Campbell, a first grader at SHA, and Claire Campbell, enrolled in the Pre-K program for the Fall.

CLASS OF 1942: Rosetta Corcoran Jensen passed away on April 25, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Rosetta worked as a telephone operator and clerk for Evenknit. She is the mother of Dianne Morey '64 and Lou Jensen '74.

CLASS OF 1943: Mary O'Brien Graham passed away in Kalamazoo on June 7, 2016. Mary was the oldest of 13 siblings, 7 of whom graduated from Sacred Heart including Jean Voisin '44, Lois Goulet '47, Theresa Gross '52, Barb Ley '55 and Gerald O'Brien '59. Mary graduated as a registered Nurse from St Mary's in Saginaw. After serving as a member of the United States Nurses Cadet Corp in WWII, she returned to Mt Pleasant as a surgical nurse where she met State Trooper John Graham one evening as he transported a wounded suspect into the emergency room. After their marriage his job took them to a few different places ending up in the Kalamazoo area.

CLASS OF 1944: Angeline Cascarelli Fredrick died on March 30, 2016 in Tennessee. Angeline was a nurse for 50 years. Her brothers, Joe '46 and Andy '43, and her sister Mary Blubaugh with the class of '48, each passed away earlier this year.

CLASS OF 1953: Mike McKenna died on July 13, 2016 in Shepherd. Mike was a pipefitter after serving in the US Marines. He was married to Verna Mattonen '54 for 43 years before her passing in 2001. He is the brother of Jim McKenna '52, Kathryn Stuefan '55 and Carolyn Mills '60.

CLASS OF 1956: The Class met at Cheers in Mt Pleasant on July 30, 2016 to celebrate 60 years! See the photo included at right.

CLASS OF 1961: REUNION NEWS! Class is having lunch at Camille's on the River on Friday September 30, 2016 at 11 a.m. Plans after that are open for joining in the parade, game or the Alumni Reception in the evening.

CLASS OF 1966: REUNION NEWS! The class is meeting over Homecoming weekend with plans to ride in the parade, meet at Marty's bar, attend the game and attend the Alumni Reception on Friday, tour the school, attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass and have dinner in the Cask Room at Hunter's Ale House on Saturday.

Dick and Carolyn McGuire Reihl celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 23, 2016. Carolyn's parents are Joe '39 and Margaret Brondstetter McGuire '46.

Colleen Hart passed away on April 26, 2016 in Ann Arbor. She is the daughter of **Philomene Lawler Hart Shoen '32** and the sister of **Carol Belloli '62, Janet Spain '64** and **Tim Hart '68**. Colleen had retired as a Call Center Supervisor for University of Michigan Hospital.

CLASS OF 1967: George Milligan died on May 9, 2016 in Clare, Michigan. George served in the US Army and then worked as a truck driver for Arrow Energy for 20 years. George's siblings are Mary Ann Rehnberg '69, Ed '70, Jim '71, Janet Chapman '77 and Kathleen '80.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

The Sacred Heart Academy Class of 1956 gathered July 29 through 31 to celebrate a 60th reunion. On Friday members met at Hunter's Ale House for a casual gathering. On Saturday, classmates and guests enjoyed dinner and many memories in a private room at Cheers Restaurant. Pictured at that gathering are: Seated, from left to right: Tom Cashen, Kay Kane Stieg, Sue Harrigan, Phyllis Brock Williams, Kay Breidenstein Harris, and Bud Percha. Standing, from left to right: Jim Graham, Roger Gutka, Jim Wilmot, John Gabrysiak, Terry Coughlin, and Gerry Farnan.



Throughout the weekend, memories were shared of school years, including Sister "Hawkeye" Richards, a principal and math teacher who classmates said "never missed a thing!".

CLASS OF 1971: *REUNION NEWS!* The class is meeting on August 27, 2016 at the home of **Betsy Pollard Rau** (and husband Ron) on Eight Point Lake. Festivities start around 1 p.m. with a dish-to-pass dinner at 6 p.m. This is a combined reunion with the Beal City class of 1971. The Sacred Heart group hopes to have a second get-together at Homecoming.

CLASS OF 1973: Mike Scully passed away on May 25, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Mike was employed by Quality Farm and Fleet in Mt Pleasant. He is the grandson of Anna O'Hara Scully 1919 and the brother of Sue Sandy '66, Diane McConnell '68, Kay Pieratt '70, Tom Scully '72 and Dan Scully '84.

CLASS OF 1976: REUNION NEWS! The class is meeting at Homecoming. Letters have been sent to all classmates detailing plans for a Homecoming Weekend celebration.

CLASS OF 1981: *REUNION NEWS!* As this newsletter heads to press, the Class prepares to gather on August 13, 2016 at Hunter's Ale House. Look for photos on the class Facebook page (Sacred Heart Academy Class of 1981) or in the next issue.

CLASS OF 1986: REUNION NEWS Class plans to ride in the parade and attend the Annual Alumni & Friends Reception on Friday September 30, 2016. On Saturday, they will attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass as a group and enjoy dinner on the patio at Hunter's Ale House. For information, contact Bryan Neyer at bryanneyer@yahoo.com or (989) 330-0572.



REUNION WARM UP

Girlfriends from the Class of 2006 had a mini 10-year reunion in Nashville April 28 through May 1. From left, Laurel Bennett Doherty, Cassie Schulte Cary, Stephanie Beltinck Parrish, Danielle Ahlers, and Jessica Gepford gathered as a warm-up to a full class get-together, which is hopefully in the works for Fall of this year. Class members should watch for information about a possible reunion in the coming months.

CLASS OF 1993: Jeremy MacDonald and his wife Katie welcomed their third son, Alexander Owen, on July 27, 2016. Alexander joins Walter and Hank in a Hall of Fame lineup! Jeremy is President of Mid-Michigan Agency.

CLASS OF 2005: Norman Francis Curtis IV (Okay, Bubba!) and wife Ashley welcomed their son Norman (aka NFC5) on June 17, 2016.

Rich Swindlehurst married Leah Hetherington on July 21, 2016 in California. Rich owns Midori Sushi and Martini Lounge and also operates the Blue Gator Sports Pub and Encore the Nightclub all located in downtown Mt Pleasant.

CLASS OF 2006: Stephanie DeNoyelles became Mrs. Alex Brajak on July 23, 2016 in Traverse City. This fall Stephanie will be teaching 4th grade at Immaculate Conception Elementary School, part of the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools. She will also be in her second year as an assistant coach for St Francis High School. The couple bought a home on the Old Mission Peninsula and is busy renovating the entire house.

Lauren Hasler married Dave Leslie July 23, 2016 at the Sweetest Heart of Mary Catholic Cathedral in Detroit. The newlyweds are both graduates of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following an Alaskan Cruise honeymoon, they will reside in Lansing, where Lauren starts her third year of residency in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (Neuromuscular and Skeletal Medicine) at the MSU Sports Clinic and Sparrow Hospital, and her husband enters his third year of Family Practice residency at McLaren Hospital in Lansing.

CLASS OF 2007: Jack Burdick graduated from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in May of 2016 and is now beginning his medical career as a resident at Henry Ford Hospital.

CLASS OF 2009: Sigourney Seybert continues her missionary work in El Salvador. Sigourney is hoping to start an English Institute and dreams of starting an orphanage also. Anyone wishing to find out more about Sigourney's work or to help her in her efforts can visit www.reliant.org/sigourney.seybert or email her at sigourney.seybert@reliant.org.



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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Forty years ago, a group made up of SHA parents, parishioners and community leaders came together with a common goal. Ahead of their time in many ways, these people had incredible vision. They created the Sacred Heart Academy Foundation, an endowment fund which has supported the Academy ever since, covering operational expenses including—and specifically—teachers' salaries each year. With the support of SHA Foundation and the vision of those leaders, our school has thrived when others have failed. Sacred Heart Academy takes great pride in being the only remaining Kindergarten through 12th Grade school in our Diocese, and one of a select few in the state of Michigan. The SHA Foundation and its hardworking Trustees do not rest on the laurels of those who came before. They work harder than ever to boost the endowment balance to ensure Sacred Heart can pay competitive wages to teachers and make much-needed facility improvements.

In this 40th Anniversary year, please consider how you might help the Foundation. Your gift to the annual campaign this year, a legacy gift of life insurance, or an amount in your trust or estate, will greatly benefit the work of the SHA Foundation

and its mission to support the fine tradition of Catholic education at SHA. Contact Connie McCann, Sacred Heart Development Director, at (989) 772-1385 or cmccann@sha.net for information on how you can help make the SHA Foundation stronger and, in turn, help Sacred Heart Academy.

The SHA Foundation lost a champion May 21, 2016 when Margaret "Tat" Heintz died. Tat was involved with the Foundation since its inception in February of 1976, and served as a Trustee of the organization until April of 2016, including 19 years as chairperson. Although not a graduate herself, she outlived husband Robert '40, and is survived by SHA graduate - children Bob'62, Jeff'65 (Jackie Thering'73), Mike'66, Joe'68, Kathleen Fountain'69, Dan'72 (Cheryl McNamara'72), and Pat'73, and grandchildren Joe Jr'98, Julie Wright'94, Karen Allmen'92, Todd'00 and Michael'99.



Margaret "Tat" Heintz 1919-2016