



ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



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Homecoming 2018

MAKING MEMORIES AND HISTORY

Sacred Heart Academy welcomed Alumni home, hosted many reunions, and celebrated Homecoming 2018 with a lot of firsts:

- The football homecoming game was played in an eight-man format, which the Irish won handily, beating International Academy Flint 49-0. The eight-player division has been a good move for SHA, says Head Coach **John Ruggles '89**. John and athletic director Dan Haggart agree that 8-man football not only allows us to compete with schools our size as we begin a new football tradition, but it allows SHA to showcase athletes against some of the best programs in the 8-player divisions. "Eight-player football is also an exciting brand of football, as witnessed by those who attended games this fall," says Haggart.
- Both the Homecoming King and Queen were football players: Seniors Jacob Fritz (offensive/defensive line) and Erikah Cudjoe (special teams) were elected to the top honors. This is the first time the homecoming queen has been a football player.
- Erikah Cudjoe also kicked an extra point in the homecoming game and became the first female athlete to score a point in a Sacred Heart football game.
- At the Class of 1968 reunion, Mark Simons attended via Skype from Barcelona. We are not sure if he won the award for "traveled the farthest", but he sure made an effort, making a connection at 3 a.m., a full day ahead in Spain to catch up with his classmates in Michigan.
- The Class of 1993 opened what we believe to be—unless someone corrects us—the first class time capsule. Several have been put away by classes over the years, but this is the first we have heard of one being opened. Members re-discovered cassette tapes, newspapers, senior photos and other artifacts. Today, classes lock their time capsules at the school. The Class of 1993 said the hardest part was storing their capsule all these years.

Read on for details and photos of class reunions and visit the Alumni Tab at the Academy web site (www.sha.net) for additional homecoming photos and information.



Homecoming Grand Marshal Frank Deni '54 sported his Varsity sweater for his ride in the parade.



CLASS OF 1993 CELEBRATES 25 YEARS - They were a small but mighty group! Members gathered to watch classmate **Jeff Tyler's** induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame and enjoyed the SHA Foundation & Alumni Association reception on Friday night. They also opened their class time capsule. Pictured from left are: **Bridget Conde Ervin, Jeremy "Rit" MacDonald, Rachel Sheppard Hazelton, Jeff Tyler and Theresa Hackett Judge.**



(From left) Jeff Tyler '93, Keith Seybert '88, and Patty Goenner Bednarz '78 were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Their profiles can be found under the Alumni Tab on the Academy web site at www.sha.net. The nomination form is also available on line.

CLASS OF 1968 CELEBRATES A GOLDEN REUNION



The Class of 1968 hosted a 50th reunion in conjunction with Homecoming. Class members participated in the parade with classmate **Larry Campbell** as Alumnus of the Year. They also enjoyed the homecoming game and the Alumni & Friends Reception on Friday, then gathered Saturday for a tour of the Academy and a dinner program at the Soaring Eagle Resort. The class went over-and-above to ensure a fantastic celebration, producing a keepsake booklet, providing an entertaining program including classmate **Mark Simons** Skyping-in from Barcelona, Spain, and lots of photo opportunities. Check the Alumni Tab at the sha.net website for details about the 50-Year Celebration. Special thanks to the Class of 1968 for their group donations to the SHA Foundation and the Safety & Security Initiative at the Academy. Pictured in the class photo at the evening event are:

Front row, from left: **Pat Schafer, Patty Swetz Maeder, Cathy Neff Thielen, Sharon Reihl Brown, Diane Scully McConnell, Sue Duffy Onstott, Sara Lyle Pistro, Maureen Murphy Rondy, Pauline Theisen Thomas, JoAnn Swetz Bingham, Yvonne Lobsinger Jackson, Rita Hackett Maddox, Linda Jones Dorman, Kathleen Pollard Boyd and Mary Rinehart Bentley.** Second row, from left: **Sue Sweeney Steele, Jean Theisen Goheski, Sue Harris Moeggenberg, Glen Stiff, Donna Peltier Judd, Barb Hackett Derby and Larry Campbell.** Third row, from left: **Jim Rondy, Maxine Klumpp Kent, Irene Dent Livingston, Barb Breidenstein Elmore, Charlie Pollard, Steve Doerr, and Steve Voisin.** Fourth row, from left: **Mike Kostrzewa, Joe Heintz, Jim Breidenstein, Dave Heintz, Terry Lucas and Tim Hart.** Top row, from left: **Bob Johnson, Steve Tilmann, Tim Cotter, Mike Funnell, Ron Verleger, and Tom Conners.**

40-YEAR REUNION



The Class of 1978 celebrated a 40-year reunion at Homecoming. Members congratulated classmate **Patty Goenner Bednarz** on her induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame, attended the Alumni & Friends Reception, toured the school, and enjoyed a get-together at Hunter's Ale House. The group also made a "Wish List" donation to the teachers at the Academy. Pictured at the 40-year gathering are:

Seated, left to right: **Michele Farnan Henry, Sue Mankowski Peffer, Deanna Phelps Curtiss, Patty Goenner Bednarz, John Bigard, Shelli Lannen Sias, and Julie Flannery Theisen.** Row two, left to right: **Jean Marie Lawrence, Cathy Henry Vanells, Nancy Theisen Klumpp, Diana Murphy Jones, Lori Sheppard Trainor, Jean Myler Beaudet, Amy Kostrzewa, Patty Thering Rydahl, Mary Beth McGuire Thompson, and Joe Horan.** Row three, from left: **Terry Bauman, Pat Sheahan, Rob Utterback, Tom Pasche, Tim McNamara, Andy Theisen Sr, Gary McDonald, and Pete Reed.** Top, from left: **Joe Fox and Chris Schafer.**

60TH REUNION FOR CLASS OF 1958



The Class of 1958 took advantage of Homecoming weekend to gather at different locations and times which made it possible for classmates to meet throughout the weekend.

Pictured at Mountain Town Station on Friday at lunch are, back row, from left: **Julie Hartman Klein, John Wejrowski, Pat Codden, and Jo McCracken Funk.** Front row, from left: **Ruth Landwehr Smolinski, Sue Hovey Schafer, Pat Wentworth Brown, Elaine Hackett Salisbury and Sue McQuaid Graham.** Also attending weekend activities, but not pictured were **Larry Dalrymple and Margie Thering Gaudard.**

CLASS OF 1973 CELEBRATES 45-YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1973 gathered during Homecoming weekend for a 45th high school reunion. Pictured at the evening get-together hosted at the home of **Pattie McCann Baderschneider** are, from left: **Jerry Thering, Ellen Myler, Linda Cluley, Mary Trainor Page, Cindy Doneth, Gary Henry, Lisa Pollard, Tim Neyer, Pattie McCann Baderschneider, Randy Leonard and Joe Wohlscheid.**



CLASS OF 1988 REUNION



Pictured at the Class of 1988 reunion are, from left: **Pat McDonald, Keith Seybert, Christy Purtil Vernon, Ron Neyer, Jill Potter Bourland, Andrea Balogh Palka, Chris Gray, Shelley Schafer Campbell, Mark McCann and Mike Wood.** The group celebrated at homecoming. Classmate **Keith Seybert** was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame during halftime of Friday night's football game. Several members toured the

Academy on Saturday, and then gathered at the home of **Pat McDonald** to enjoy conversation and memories.



ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director



THE IMPACT OF HANDS-ON LEARNING

As Admissions Director at Sacred Heart Academy for the past 13 years, I've had the privilege of sharing with the parents of prospective students the opportunities available at SHA which make us the best choice for their child's education. Lately, I've been highlighting the many hands-on learning experiences and service opportunities. A few that come to mind include the various STEM lab activities that all students in Kinder-prep to 12th grade get to experience. For example, the second graders recently learned about the different states of matter and explored the ideas of condensation and evaporation by changing water from a gas to a liquid and vice versa using their beakers, balloons and other lab equipment. Fifth graders had fun learning about freezing and melting temperatures by adding different substances to water such as salt, vinegar, and sugar. High school physics students built pendulum waves using strings and weights made of washers.

We also provide hands-on experiences that extend beyond the STEM subjects. The Spanish department takes regular trips to downtown businesses to facilitate an environment more conducive to conversation. Students break in to small groups, each led by a high level Spanish speaker, and enjoy a scoop of ice cream or a hot chocolate while discussing various aspects of their lives, all in Spanish! Students may enroll as early as 8th grade to begin earning high school Spanish credits. In addition, the department coordinator, April Dice, offers her room for weekly Spanish Club conversation meetings and organizes mission trips to Spanish-speaking countries. The past two years SHA students have traveled to Costa Rica to put their speaking skills to the test while serving members of the community of Alejuelita. These service learning trips are impactful for students, many of whom have graduated and continued to study the language in college.

At the elementary level, our sixth graders have made a tradition of participating in The Big Dig, an event which brings their social studies to life. Volunteer parents meet at a lot in downtown Mt. Pleasant to bury various artifacts in large garden boxes. Later in the day, the "archaeologists" take on a variety of roles as they excavate the cultures of the opposite class. The students return to their classrooms for "reconstruction" -- hypothesizing about the themes and functions of the uncovered artifacts.

SHA has had a service learning component for many years which requires students in grades 7 to 12 to earn a minimum of 100 community service hours by the time they graduate. Students earn those hours on their own time and many earn well over 200 hours. Our students also perform many service projects as a school or a class. Elementary classes walk each month to local assisted living homes or the county Medical Care Facility where they spend time interacting with the residents playing games and visiting. They also pick up trash on the school and church grounds. Other student activities include painting pumpkins for the Commission on Aging, making cards for veterans and volunteering at the Strickler Non-Profit Center and the Foster Closet. Service learning provides many benefits for our students including becoming more involved in their communities, developing better communication and leadership skills, and becoming more aware of social issues.

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Sixth graders at SHA participate in "The Big Dig", a hands-on experience where students are assigned archeological roles to uncover, identify, and classify items from history. The learning continues in the classroom when students hypothesize about the cultures of the people and the era they "uncovered".



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, *Principal*

SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is very important in the world in which we live. Our students do so many things well—academics, extra-curricular activities, service learning, and leadership; however, none of this would be possible without first keeping them safe.

Earlier this year, we asked for the help of current families, alumni, and friends of Sacred Heart Academy to enhance our school safety measures. A fundraising effort was led by involved parent Rick McGuirk. We had an amazing task force headed up by SHA alum and parent **Andy Theisen Jr. '02**, who became our project manager. The task force also included fellow alum and parent **Jim Goenner '87**, police officers and parents Andy Latham and Mike Morrow, and parent and technology expert Jeremy Sheets. They each provided valuable input and expertise, helping to ensure no stone was left unturned when it came to the safety of our students and that we were working with the most up-to-date options for school safety.

No fundraising at SHA takes place without the leadership of SHA Alum and Development Director, **Connie Veit McCann '81**, and we couldn't do any of this without her talents. **Jim Fabiano Sr. '61** invested and issued a fundraising challenge to our Alumni to keep the Safety & Security Initiative moving forward and we thank him for coming forward to help. His \$20,000 challenge raised more than \$30,000 from Alumni across the country. Altogether, including in-kind gifts, Sacred

Heart received nearly \$280,000 in contributions to pay for all the security improvements.

We now have a state-of-the-art “boot” system installed in every classroom, new lighting, enhanced security cameras, phones in every classroom, fencing improvements, and we will have advanced “smart” technology, door shields and room identification placards installed during Christmas break. Card access readers and final pieces of the safety plan are also in the works.

When I think about how much we were able to accomplish in a short period of time, I am humbled. We could not have done this without the very generous support of our stakeholders—alumni, parents, and friends. When we ask, you come forward to support Sacred Heart Academy, and we are extremely grateful.

One of my favorite quotes is by Margaret Mead and it says, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

At this time of year when we stop to count our blessings, I'd like to extend my gratitude to all of you who give so generously of your time, talent, and treasure to change the world for our students. May you have a blessed Christmas season.

Impact of hands-on learning, continued from pg. 4

Our class offerings are frequently evaluated and adjusted when necessary. Starting with the Class of 2018, students are required to complete a one-semester communications class where they explore the world of public speaking by writing and delivering several types of speeches as well as researching, writing, memorizing and delivering an oration. In the modern era of social media, there is a lack of effective communication skills. This course helps our students become more comfortable with face to face communication. Financial Algebra, another newly-required course, teaches students about investing, banking, credit, income taxes, insurance and household budgeting. Family Living is another hands-on

course where students learn to cook, bake, knit, hem pants, sew on buttons, tie a neck tie, care for a baby (or egg in this case), and conflict resolution. By offering and/or requiring these types of courses, our students are set apart from their peers regardless of which career path they choose.

These are just a few examples of the many unique activities Sacred Heart students can participate in throughout their academic careers. Our small class sizes and family-like atmosphere allow us to offer experiences to help grow and nourish our students into well-rounded and compassionate citizens of the future.

Class Notes

CLASS OF 1943: **Monica Dole Barrett** passed away in Mt. Pleasant October 10, 2018. Monica was the recipient of several awards for her volunteer work including United Way Volunteer of the Year in 2012. She was a member of the Catholic daughters and was named Grandmother of the Year in 2011.

CLASS OF 1947: The Class of 1947 gathered with friends August 16, 2018 at Cheers in Mt. Pleasant to catch up and reminisce. The group included classmates and friends. Pictured are: front, from left: **Alice Carey Paisley, Rose Ann Scully Forton, Colleen Campbell (MPHS '47), Darcy Lapham '51**. Back row, from left: **Don Paisley (BCHS '51), Ron Smith, Doris Landwehr Kinsman, Betty Honeywell Elder, Gladys Walker (MPHS '47) Zita and Paul Lapham**.



CLASS OF 1949: **Bob Hovey** died on August 2, 2018. Bob was a life long farmer in Rosebush and also worked for Dow Chemical for 35 years as a refrigeration technician. Bob was also a Supervisor and Assessor for Isabella Township for over 20 years. Bob is the brother of **Mary Ann Prokopp '34, Harold '38, Coreen Minott '43, Noreen Wright '43 and Bill '51**.

CLASS OF 1950: **Jean Marie Beltinck Bieske** died on November 15, 2018. Jean taught third grade at St Louis for over 20 years and served as case manager for Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Gratiot County. Jean is the sister of **Roy '29, Ray '32, Myles '34, John '36, Geraldine Zeneberg '39 and Betty Rich '47**.

CLASS OF 1953: Received word that **Mary Connors Bower** passed away on September 25, 2018. Mary is the sister of **Jim '37, Frank '39, Tom '41, Lloyd '43 and Dorothy '57**.

CLASS OF 1957: **Mary Delores Welniak Bower** passed away on October 7, 2018 in Midland. Mary was a first grade teacher at Coleman for 32 years. She is the sister of **Vicki Faber '51, John '54, Richard '59, and Patricia Faber '61**.

John Dart died on November 21, 2018 in Mt. Pleasant. He was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and served two tours in Vietnam. He also worked for Rowe Engineering and Ruddell Engineering as a surveyor and was a long-long supporter of the SHA Foundation, always in memory of Sr. Petronila who was

the "kindest most caring person he ever met." John was preceded in death by his sisters **Betty Vogel '49 and Delores "Dodie" Shepard '52**.

CLASSES OF 1957-60: Philip Marazita, a football, basketball, and track coach at the Academy who also taught Math and advised the Varsity Club, passed away peacefully on October 9 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Gerard Church in Lansing, MI, where he raised his family and was a beloved athletic director, assistant principal, and math teacher for both Waverly High School and Lansing Catholic Central. At SHA, Philip was admired for his commitment to student athletes. **Conrad English '54**, was an assistant coach alongside him. In later years, one of Philip's daughters married a Sacred Heart boy, **Keith Milan '79**.

CLASS OF 1961: **Lucinda Fletcher Peterson** died on August 4, 2018. Cindy worked as an LPN for Doctors Chapin, Vu and Pohani in Millington. She is the daughter of **Dorothy Kane Fletcher '35** and sister of **Kay Francis '63, Kane '65 and Tom '67**.

CLASS OF 1963: The class of 1963 met at the Metevier Inn on Mackinac Island in October for their 55th class reunion. Pictured are (left to right) **Kathy Anton Ervin, Jackie Campbell Fitzsimmons, Ken Neyer, Mary Peltier Paisley, Jessica Hartman Janego, Mary St. Germain, Sandy Duffy Schafer, Jim Cain, and Jim Youngs**. A good time was had by all!!



CLASS OF 1964: **Evelyn McDonald Schmidt** passed away in Jackson on August 12, 2018. Evelyn worked as a surgical nurse at Mercy Hospital and W.A. Foote Hospital. She is the daughter of **Fred McDonald '18** and the sister of **Jerry '50, John '51, Mary Worley '52, Margie Stickney '56, Kathleen Kearney '58, Bob '59, Ruth Johnson '60 and Bill '67**.

CLASS OF 1978: **Carol Huber Konwinski** died August 28, 2018 in Mt Pleasant. Carol served as office manager at Central Plumbing for 36 years. She is the daughter of **Anna Marie Fox Huber '42** and the sister of **Jay '75, Sue Beaver '77, Tom '81 and Tim '81**, and the stepmother of **Melissa Konwinski Huitnik '92**.

CLASS OF 1987: **Charlie Lux** and wife Minde have the 4400 square foot Lincoln Reception Center, attached to the Charles R. Lux Family Funeral Home, open for business. While it is used primarily for funeral luncheons, it also caters to weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, conferences, or any event in need of that type of space. It also features an outdoor area for parties. The address is 2300 South Lincoln Road, Mt Pleasant.

CLASS OF 1991: Physical Therapist **Betsy Balogh O'Malley** has opened a business called Balanced Pilates and Wellness Boutique in Midland where she and husband **Sean '89** call home. Betsy is the grand daughter of **John Hackett '31** and the daughter of **Sharon Hackett Balogh '61**.

CLASS OF 2001: **Callie Burkholder Meyer** and her husband Jason welcomed daughter Hattie James on August 20, 2018. Baby Hattie was welcomed by big brother Cash, who is a first grader at SHA.

CLASS OF 2009: **Jim Cardon** accepted a role as a Product Data Analyst on the Price and Product Presentation team at Steelcase In Grand Rapids in October. Prior to accepting the position, he was a teaching assistant at SHA. During his three

years at the Academy, he also worked as a substitute and a coach. He is missed by lots of little people - and the big people, too!

Jenna Fox has been accepted into the Physician's Assistant program at CMU and will begin classes in May of 2019. Jenna is the granddaughter of **Harold Fox '39** and **Vada Simmer '44** and the daughter of **Joe '78** and **Deb McDonald Fox '81**.

CLASS OF 2013: **Lizzie Albaugh** (grandmother **Sonya McGuirk Albaugh '57**) graduated from Cornerstone University in May and works for GPM Investments as a District Auditor. On August 25 she married Lee Antvelink. **Danielle Courser** and **Leah Hauck** served as bridesmaids at the Grand Rapids wedding. The newlyweds reside in Otsego, Michigan. Lizzie's mom, Jill Albaugh, is now teaching science at Sacred Heart Academy.

CLASS OF 2016: **Emma Struble** and **Samuel Kindermann** were married October 6, 2018 at St. Athanasius in Harrison. The Kindermanns have been raising their new son, Jay, in Harrison but will be moving to a yet-to-be-determined Air Force base, as Sam is a new Airman!

STATE CHAMPIONS... AGAIN!



Congratulations to the Sacred Heart Girls Cross Country Team for their impressive fourth-straight State Championship win. The 2018 team includes, front row, from left: Head Coach **Mark Zitzelsberger** (holding granddaughter Emery Robke, daughter of **Lisa Zitzelsberger Robke '99**), Scout Nelson, Cammie McConnell, Sara Peltier, Desiree McConnell, Lauren MacDonald (**Keith '85**), Michele Reinke (**Michele Pacholka Reinke '84**), Riley Hacker, Brooklyn Bigard (**Paul '85**) and Assistant Coach Rob McConnell. Back Row, from left: Assistant Coach Adam Grifka, Christine Evans, Natalie Jones, Katie McDonald, Natalie Ruiz, Rebecca Collins-Pfeiffer, and Assistant Coach Luanne Goffnett. Also pictured in front are Coach Z's granddaughters Avery (left) and Henley (right) Robke, daughters of **Lisa Zitzelsberger Robke '99**.

Congratulations are also in order for the Boys Cross Country Team. Coming off their State Championship year in 2017, the boys earned runner-up honors at the 2018 State meet. Members of the team include: Brock Lynch (great grandmother **Mabel McCormick Lynch 1914**), Luke Predum, Brennan Moore, Matthew Nowak, Lesley Armah, Josh Lynch (great grandmother **Mabel McCormick Lynch 1914**), Zach Partlo, Luke Pramuka (**Caroline Thering Pramuka '84**, great grandmother **Ann McDonald Thering '26**), Xavier Addison, Zach Ervin (**Marty '89**, **Lisa Hauck Williams '89**, grandparents **Ron '63** and **Kathy Anton Ervin '63** and **Diane Scully McConnell '68**), T.J. Moore, Charlie Morton, and Chase Nelson.



Alumni News For:



FOOTBALL TEAM HOSTS A CHAMPION

The 2018 Sacred Heart football team rolled out the red carpet when 101-year-old graduate **Frank Courter '35**, visited the Academy in October. Frank wanted to visit the school, see Championship Hallway, the showcase of trophies, the Athletic Hall of Fame, and the gymnasiums. When he attended school, there was not one gymnasium, he said, let alone two! Frank was especially interested in the football representing the 1933 championship team, which he played on as a junior. He is pictured holding that football trophy, surrounded by the football players and coaches **Mike Ervin '85** and **John Ruggles '89**. In a note back to the school, Frank said his visit to the Hall of Fame was something he will remember as one of the highlights of his life. "To have the football team and the principal and the athletic director take the time to visit with an old man speaks well for the school," he wrote. "It is



something I will always remember." Also present at the school visit were Frank's niece and nephew, **Dorothy (Naumes) '67** and **Mick Natzel '67**.

25TH ANNIVERSARY SHAGALA

The Academy's number one fundraiser, the SHAgala dinner/auction, happens Saturday, February 9, 2019. Volunteers are making special plans for the Silver Jubilee, celebrating 25 years of the premier event. Visit the Academy website for details. Tickets for the event are available starting December 26. Contact (989) 772-1385 or shagala@sha.net for information. **Sarah (Groves) '95** and **Scott Pieratt '96** are leading the SHAgala cash raffle this year. For ticket information, contact Sarah at pierattse@gmail.com or (989) 772-1385. Cash raffle volunteers will be hosting the "100 TICKETS IN 100 MINUTES" sale on January 17 this year between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. EST. Watch your email for details or contact the SHAgala office. All proceeds benefit Catholic education and help with operations, primarily teachers' salaries.

ROBOTICS AT SHA

Sacred Heart Academy is proud to announce the creation of a robotics team! The value of SHA's incredible STEM Lab has led to the expansion of the science and math curriculum, resulting in more and more engagement from students. Robotics is a natural spin-off activity, involving secondary students who can not only learn the science and math behind building the robots, but they can enter regional competitions, hopefully qualifying for higher levels. There are also opportunities to engage in marketing activities, expand the program to lower levels (LEGO competitions for elementary students) and build a successful program at Sacred Heart. For more information about the newly-created SHAbotics team, contact Advisor Andrew Doerr at adoerr@sha.net, Development Director **Connie Veit McCann '81** at cmccann@sha.net, or contact the school at (989) 772-1457.