



# ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



August 2024 • Vol. 43 • No. 2

James Thering '89, Alumni Director Earl Hartman '66, Assistant Director

## Three to join Athletic Hall of Fame

Three notable Sacred Heart athletes will be inducted into the SHA Athletic Hall of Fame during halftime of the October 11, 2024 Homecoming game. **Norman "Bubba" Curtiss '05, Pat Theisen '06, and Kelsey (DeNoyelles '08) Baker** are the 2024 honorees. The induction of these three high school stand-outs brings the total number of Hall of Famers to 124.

Throughout his high school career, **Norman "Bubba" Curtiss IV '05** earned 12 letters in football, basketball,



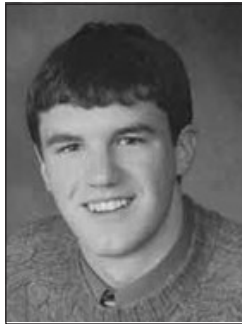
**NORMAN "BUBBA" CURTISS '05**

baseball and track. He was the leading basketball scorer for two years and was a member of the IRISH basketball team that finished their season 25-1 with a two-point loss in quarterfinals.

Bubba established a school track & field record in the discus throw and led the baseball team in hitting. He remains a football kicker who ranks among the school's best in extra points and field goals.

Bubba is a Physicians Assistant. He and his wife Ashley have two children, Norman V and Olivia who are students at SHA.

**Pat Theisen '06 (Julie (Flannery '78) & Andy Theisen Sr '78)** was an All-State player and the leading scorer



**PAT THEISEN '06**

on the basketball team which brought home a state runner-up banner his senior year. On the football field, Pat established game and season school passing records for completions

and yardage during his senior season.

Pat returned to the Academy as the head coach of the IRISH boys basketball team for 11 seasons from 2011 to 2021, establishing a school record of 156 wins.

Pat works for Inizio Engage Pharmaceuticals and resides in Lansing.

During her four years on the Lady IRISH basketball team, **Kelsey (DeNoyelles '08) Baker** was a three-



**KELSEY DENOYELLES BAKER '08**

time All-State Basketball Player who was named the Associated Press Class D Player of the Year.

Kelsey led the team in scoring for three seasons and finished her career

as the school's all-time leading scorer. The IRISH recorded an 86-11 overall record during her four years and made a first-ever appearance in a State Championship game, along with a school record 25 single-season wins.

Kelsey attended Ferris State University. She and her husband Dan reside in Traverse City with their three children, Noah, Isabelle, and Emma.

2024 Grand Marshal Fr. Loren Kalinowski  2024 Alumnus of the Year Michele Pacholka '84 Reinke

## Homecoming Schedule | Friday, October 11

4:00 p.m.

**Parade**

Downtown Mt. Pleasant

7:00 p.m. & Halftime of the Game

**Football Game | Hall of Fame | Queen's Court**

Community Memorial Stadium

8:00 p.m. to Midnight

**Alumni & Friends Reception**

Sacred Heart Parish Center

# Faith in the Future

## Over the years

Whenever Sacred Heart Academy needs help, our parish, parents, and alumni lend a hand. As far back as 1906 when the original school building was constructed, moving the teachers and students out of the church basement and into new spaces, the community offered support. The same was true of the 1955 addition, the elementary building construction & renovation projects, an all-new Sacred Heart Church in 1968, the school gymnasium in 2001, and recent improvement efforts such as the STEM Lab and our Safety & Security Initiative.

## Faith in the Future campaign

The time has come for another round of improvements to our buildings & facilities. With increased enrollment, and our school holding strong as one of the last remaining Pre-K through 12th grade, one-campus Catholic schools in Michigan, we are dedicated to offering a quality physical environment to enhance our educational offerings.

The campaign's full case for support tells the story of Sacred Heart Academy's academic value. Improvements to our elementary and secondary buildings are long-overdue. The project list, identified by administration and staff in recent years, includes items which will positively impact all students, teachers, support staff, and visitors to the Academy.

The entire list is printed at right, and adds up to a \$1.5 million campaign goal. The goal includes \$250,000 to be added to the SHA Foundation endowment for teachers' salaries, which is always a focus of fundraising efforts.

## Campaign leadership

There are no two people more passionate about Sacred Heart Academy and the value of Catholic education than **Megan (Spence) & Andy Theisen Jr.**

Megan, a 2003 SHA graduate, has been involved in home & school activities and was one of the creative geniuses behind the online school store which provides a selection of wearables for all seasons and sports. She has helped lead teacher appreciation week efforts, planned classroom events, and for several years lovingly decorated the elementary "birthday" board with clever new themes each month. Megan continues to dedicate countless hours and limitless creativity to promote and support the Academy in any way she can, even though she does most of it behind-the-scenes.

Andy, a co-owner of Konwinski Construction, Inc, and a 2002 SHA graduate, has been intricately involved in strategic planning for Sacred Heart buildings and grounds. A member of the Sacred Heart Development Committee and an SHA Foundation Trustee, Andy has led countless improvements for Sacred Heart Academy, paying attention to every detail along the way. He is brilliant, practical, and conservative, making him an incredible resource from planning through execution and beyond. Andy is one of the few people who know every square



**MEGAN & ANDY THEISEN JR.**

inch of the facilities—above and below ground. He is also an assistant coach of the Boys Varsity Basketball Team.

The Theisens were willing to lead the Faith in the Future campaign because they truly believe in the outcome. "This campaign has tangible improvements for the future viability of our facilities which will help continue to deliver a high quality Catholic education while improving the student experience," they said.

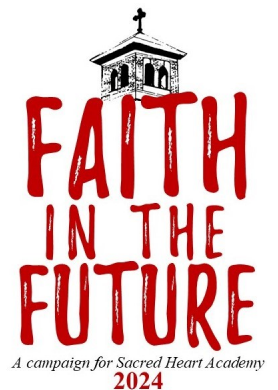
"We are so fortunate to have a Pre-K through 12th grade school which allows students of all ages to thrive together," Andy says. "That close-knit, family-like atmosphere is 100 percent worth your investment."

## Campaign project list

This campaign will enhance our beloved buildings, have a positive and immediate impact on students currently attending the Academy, and position the school for long-term success.

Listening closely to our students, teachers, and staff, planners set a campaign goal of \$1.5 million to achieve the following:

- *Replacement of elementary school windows*
- *Addition of security glazing to first-floor elementary windows and lower-level secondary windows*
- *Renovation of all school restrooms (elementary & secondary) to no-touch technology fixtures, new flooring, and wall coverings*
- *New bleacher seating for the Alumni gymnasium*
- *Upgrade of hallway light fixtures, finishes, and furniture in the secondary building, including water bottle filling stations*
- *Construction of a prayer Grotto on the church campus, within walking distance of the schools*
- *Additional security cameras on the school campus*
- *Boost the SHA Foundation general fund endowment by \$250,000 which will enhance teachers' salaries*



## For information

Contact Lindsay Ley, Sacred Heart Development Director, at (989) 772-1385 or [Lley@sha.net](mailto:Lley@sha.net).

# Welcome to the Alumni Association

## Class of 2024



The SHA Class of 2024 is pictured at graduation on May 25. Front row, gowned in white, from left: **Molly Siler, Hadley Grant** (grandfather **Bob Henry '65**), **Kate Liscomb** (**Lauri Myers '90 Liscomb**, grandmother **JoAnn Campbell '67 McManus**), **Jacqueline Morton, Grace Boulis, Toby Morton, Bridget Ruiz, Ella McDonnell, Jordan Hosking** (**Marcy McDonald '90 Hosking & Edan Hosking '91**) **Makayla Hyde, and Leah Smith** (**Stephanie Straight '93 Smith**, grandparents **Mary Campbell '68 & John Straight '67**). Back row, gowned in red, from left: **Corbin Black, Sergey Collings, Luke Taylor, Evan Holton, Alex Latham, Walker Owen** (**Sue Ellen Deni '85 Owen**, grandfather **Frank Deni '53**), **Nikolas Moore, Brady Hoeve** (**Danae Jacque '99**), **Jacob Reid, Aidan Halliday, Kadenn Rose, and Connor Stempky.**

Photo courtesy of Sue Ellen Deni '85 Owen

## Small in number, big in heart

At 23 members, the Class of 2024 is the second smallest class (22 graduated in 2021) in 17 years, however, the classmates posted some pretty big accomplishments.

Assistant Principal & Academic Advisor Kay Hauck says this class accepted \$157,850 in college scholarships. "This is what was reported to us," Mrs. Hauck said. "Some of the students were offered scholarships from colleges and universities they chose not to attend, but we did not track those amounts."

The 23 members of the class accumulated 3,048 service hours throughout their high school years, with 4 members performing more than 200 hours on their own, achieving service awards and silver cords to wear at graduation.

Class member Jacob Reid, one of the 12 "SHA Lifers", wrote a song which described the group's experiences at Sacred Heart

Academy which he performed at graduation. The song was titled "Where Did All The Time Go?".

Plans for the class members:

- Central Michigan University — 7
- Delta College — 1
- Disc Golf Pro Tour — 1
- Electrical Trade/Work Force — 1
- Grand Valley State University — 1
- Michigan State University — 5
- Mid Michigan College — 1
- Northwood University — 2
- University of Michigan — 3
- Western Michigan University — 1

**Welcome to the SHA Alumni Association, Class of 2024!**



# ACADEMY NEWS

Lisa Roach, Admissions Director



## Why choose Catholic education today?

### Academics, family, and more

This world is changing. Education has evolved to a model where we are teaching more and introducing it sooner than ever before. Our methods are also evolving, in this technology-driven world, and we are ever thankful for the support of our SHA Foundation (and many alumni) for helping us maintain the edge on technology. While many things are changing in society, especially related to morals and values, we draw the line at Sacred Heart Academy, where we maintain our rigorous academics in addition to teaching and modeling morals and values every day. This, coupled with a safe and wholesome learning environment, that truly has formed a family of lifelong relationships, allows us to develop leadership traits and a strong ethical character in our students, who will surely become our future leaders.

The impact on our world as a result of this structured, yet loving, environment is immeasurable. As I reflect, a particular student comes to mind. Joseph (Joe) Likavec transferred to Sacred Heart Academy as a freshman student in 2021. He wasted no time in getting involved and was even elected to represent his freshman class on the Homecoming Court, just a few weeks into the school year. And so began the journey of Joe's conversion. He was welcomed into the Catholic Church with Baptism in June, 2022, and he received his First Communion and was Confirmed at the Easter vigil in 2023. Shortly thereafter, Joe became a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion and began delivering communion to the homebound. Joe is also involved in our Youth Ministry, is a great friend to those in his grade and underclassmen alike, and he is a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Choir. Hallelujah! God is good!

Joe is a great example of the positive impact SHA has on all our students. As education evolves, we can confidently say, in today's world there is no better choice than Sacred Heart Academy.

### Senior retreat

On May 23, I had the extreme pleasure of helping with my first Senior Retreat. In completing my third school year at Sacred Heart Academy, I have had a greater opportunity to form some incredible relationships with our newest alumni. Students had the opportunity to pray together, reflect, sing praise and worship together, and they even got to open their time capsules. Oh, so much fun!

It was great to be a fly on the wall as the seniors shared memories from kindergarten all the way to the week before the retreat. The Class of 2024 certainly has a bond, and it includes those "lifers" and all those who have joined the class along the way. They're a great example of what it means to be family. They share a variety of interests and talents, but they do a great job of focusing on their commonalities, and they make me proud to be part of the same family – the Sacred Heart family.

*RIGHT: Joe Likavec is a sharp-dressed representative of Sacred Heart as he prepared to deliver communion to the homebound at a local nursing home for the first time.*



*BELOW: The Class of 2024 gathered at St. Mary's on the CMU campus for their senior retreat. Here, students shared fond memories of their school days.*





# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, *Principal*

## Faith in the Future is necessary

Many exciting things are happening at Sacred Heart Academy this summer! A fundraising campaign called ***Faith in the Future*** is underway which will greatly benefit our physical buildings. Our school is a very important place, and while the students and teachers will always be the heart of the school, keeping our physical space current has a positive impact and makes a difference each and every school day for our students.

Adding and upgrading safety features each year is vital for the times in which we live. When students feel safe, they have improved mental health, well being, and experience increased learning. As part of this campaign, our first floor windows in both buildings will get an additional safety glazing; the number of security cameras will be increased; and pipe bollards will be added to the athletic entrance (they already exist at the front entrance of both buildings).

Our maintenance team does a fantastic job cleaning and maintaining our school buildings, something frequently pointed out by alumni and other visitors. It is time for a few updates which have been sorely needed and will have an immediate and direct impact on current and future students.

New red bleachers have been installed in the alumni gym. They are ergonomically-designed and can be opened and closed with the turn of a key. Student bathrooms on the first and second floors of both the elementary and the high school buildings are being renovated and will have no-touch fixtures, which will improve health and cleanliness, plus all-new lighting, flooring, and wall-coverings.

Elementary first floor windows have already been replaced and in the high school there we are planning upgraded light fixtures in the hallways and a renovated, more welcoming entry area. In addition, the remaining drinking fountains will be replaced with water bottle-filling stations.

One of our biggest challenges at Sacred Heart Academy is teacher recruitment and retention. There is a teacher shortage in our country and we must be competitive in order to retain our quality teachers; they care so very much for our students. The ***Faith in the Future*** campaign includes an amount to boost the

Sacred Heart Academy Foundation endowment which will help increase teacher salaries, assisting us with this goal.

While all of these upgrades and improvements are important for our students, there is one last item that is very near and dear to me. As part of this campaign, an outside prayer grotto will be constructed on the church grounds which can be used by students, parishioners, and the community. We received approval from the Worship Commission of the Diocese, and they encouraged us to consider several prayer elements. This outdoor prayer space provides another place for our students to pray, encouraging them to evangelize to others who are not part of our parish and school community.

The prayer grotto at Notre Dame is one of my favorite places to speak to God, and to listen to Him as well. When I come across a grotto in any of my travels, whether it be the Shrine of Our Lady of the Woods in Mio (including statues depicting Marian appearances at Lourdes, Fatima, La Salette, and Guadalupe), the Arranmore Grotto on Beaver Island, or the Valentia Island Grotto in County Kerry, Ireland I visited last summer, I am filled with the joy of my faith. It is my hope when our prayer grotto is constructed and available, others will share this same joy.

We cannot do any of these projects without the support of alumni and friends. Believe me, the teachers and staff greatly appreciate everything you do to support us and our students.

The ***Faith in the Future*** campaign is currently in what organizers call the “quiet phase.” when lead gifts are secured from major donors. Although the summer break has allowed us to move forward on many of the projects, we still need financial gifts to meet the \$1.5 million goal and “win” the campaign. Please don’t think that because we now have renovated restrooms and new windows that our fundraiser is complete.

When you are contacted to help, please prayerfully consider contributing to this important project. I thank you in advance for your generosity! Sacred Heart

Academy would not exist today without the kindness of those who truly know the value of Catholic education.

May God always bless you.



Artist's rendering of high school entrance renovation.

# Class Notes

**1947**—**Ann (Powell) Walters** passed away peacefully April 4, 2024, with her family by her side, just three weeks shy of her 95th birthday. After graduating from the Academy, Ann earned a bachelor's degree in English from Central Michigan University. She drove with a girlfriend to Colorado to teach high school English. It was there she met her future husband, eventually settling in Kansas City, Missouri where they raised their four children and started a book and magazine publishing company called Acres U.S.A. Ann always strived to help others and thought it important to "keep the faith." Her ties to Michigan remained strong throughout her life, especially with her siblings, **Margaret Matthieu '28**, **Frank Powell '33**, **Gertrude "Trude" Powell '34**, **Mary Barton '38**, and **Eddie Powell**.

**1953**—On April 26, 2024, **Rosilyn (Rosy) Theisen Buschle** passed away in the loving presence of her family and caregivers. Rosy was the daughter of **Walter Theisen '26**, and sister of **Richard '56**, **Jodi Hura '63**, and **Larry '69**. After graduation from SHA, she started dating her husband-to-be, **Bill Buschle '50**, when they enrolled in the same class at CMU, one entitled "Commitment and Marriage." They were married in 1956, raised five children, and enjoyed 66 years together until Bill passed in 2023. The two were honored as SHA's "Alumni of the Year" in 2020. Rosy taught elemen-

tary school in Muskegon, Owosso, Alma, and Ithaca. She was a woman of many talents who enjoyed involvement in her grandchildren's school, sporting, and dancing events. Rosy was a ready volunteer for many organizations, including her church and the local nature center. She was also a coach for little league baseball and a teacher of migrant workers in the summer.

**1956**—**Roger Gutka** passed away May 29, 2024 in Mt. Pleasant. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on June 3, what would have been his 87th birthday. Roger obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Delta College and Central Michigan University. He worked as an accountant for Alma Products, retiring after 35 years. He enjoyed traveling throughout Michigan and playing golf, especially at the most challenging courses. He was a caregiver for his only sister, **Nancy Pitock '60**, prior to her passing.

**1964**—**Sharon Stangle Tilmann** passed away July 5, 2024. Sharon was the daughter of **Marie (Judge '28) Stangle** and sister of **Patty Krcmarik '67**. She was a graduate of CMU and held Masters degrees in Counseling and Public Administration. Sharon devoted her life to helping others through her skills as a counselor and mediator, and also through her community involvement. She was a Mt. Pleasant City Commissioner, serving two terms as Mayor. She was also elected to the Isabella County Commission where she served as Vice-Chairperson. She volunteered for United Way, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, and the Isabella

Child Protection Council. Sharon loved to travel, adored her family, and always strived to make a positive impact. In 2014 Sharon was honored as the SHA Homecoming Grand Marshal.

**1969**—**REUNION NEWS**—The Class of 1969 will celebrate a 55th Reunion at Homecoming, October 11, 2024. Plans are to meet at The Green Spot at 4 pm for socializing/dinner. All are welcome to attend the after game festivities in Parish Center where we will have an opportunity for visiting and reminiscing. Hope to see you there! Any questions, call or text **Cathy Mac Brindle** 231-499-3049 or **Kathy (Heintz) Fountain** 517-353-7510.

**1974**—**REUNION NEWS**—The Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on Homecoming Weekend, October 11, 2024. A page on Facebook has been created to list details. Questions? Call or text **Nancy (Deibel) Arseneault** at (310) 714-3304.

**1979**—**REUNION NEWS**—The Class will gather during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 11 & 12 to celebrate their 45th class reunion. Check the Facebook page for updates and plan to attend! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178337672279823/>

**1984**—**REUNION NEWS**—The SHA Class of 1984 is planning a 40<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Homecoming Weekend. The reunion is 6 pm Saturday, October 12th at **Kelli (Pulver) McCann's home**, 295 S Bamber Rd, Mt. Pleasant. We will have a dinner and appetizers. Please bring a dish to pass. For information, contact Jim Beltinck at [jmbeltinck@gmail.com](mailto:jmbeltinck@gmail.com) or join the Facebook group: Sacred Heart Class of 1984.

## In Memory of Sister Mary Jo Beckett

Mary Josephine Beckett was born March 4, 1939, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan to Floyd and Velma (McKnight) Beckett. When she was five, her brother Don joined the family. Tragically, their mother died two years later leaving behind a bereft and lonely daughter and a little boy too young to understand. After a series of housekeepers helped with the children, their father married Marie Esch who was Catholic. Marie was a loving and understanding stepmother. The children converted to Catholicism much to the dismay of the extended Beckett family.

Mary Jo's first six years of schooling were at the University Lab school connected to the education department of Central Michigan University. In grade seven she enrolled in Sacred Heart Academy, where she met the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters. She was attracted to the life of the Sisters and to the study of religion. The idea of a religious vocation brought her to seek advice from a local priest. Following his counsel, she applied to enter the community.

In 1961 she was assigned to teach second grade at St. Michael's, Maple Grove, initiating a 23-year career in primary education. Her teaching career took her to St. Mary Magdalen, Melvindale; St. Joseph the Worker, Beal City; Our Lady, Chesaning; and ended full circle at Sacred Heart in Mt. Pleasant.



**Sr. Mary Jo Beckett**  
1939-2024

# Class Notes

**1995**—Mike Seestedt died unexpectedly on May 30, 2024, at the age of 46. According to Coach Earl Hartman, Mike was the most accomplished baseball player to graduate from Sacred Heart during his coaching years. Mike played four years at the University of Michigan and was drafted into the Baltimore Orioles program, progressing to AAA baseball after five years. A Sacred Heart Hall of Famer, Mike earned 10 varsity letters and a spot on the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Dream Team. His professional position as Chief Information Officer at Heathtrust Performance Group moved his family from Florida to Nashville in 2021. He leaves behind a devoted wife, three children and many family members across the nation, including sister **Ellyn Seestedt '99**.

**1999**—Anthony James (T.J.) Kulik successfully defended his thesis to complete the requirements for a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from Oakland University. T.J. currently teaches at Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac, Michigan. He and his wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Sloane, live in Grosse Pointe Farms.

**REUNION NEWS**—The Class of 1999 will celebrate their 25th reunion the Saturday of Homecoming weekend, October 12. Details are yet to be ironed out, but members can check the class Facebook page created by Ryan Szostek or contact Ben Szelag at [bhszelag@gmail.com](mailto:bhszelag@gmail.com).

**2004**—Taren (Fabiano) & David Barberi welcomed their fourth child, a daughter they named Catherine Sophia, on June 12, 2024. Catherine was welcomed at home by her three older siblings, Emilia, Grant, and Teddy. The family resides in Mt. Pleasant. Grandparents include **Jim Fabiano II '85**, **Kristen (Aschenbach '85) Fabiano**, and **Barbara (Fox '66) Barberi**. Great-grandparents include **Jim Fabiano '61** and **Vada (Simmer '44) & Harold Fox '39**.

**2005**—Whitney (Thering) Smith and her husband Nick welcomed their first child, a baby boy they named Wilson Thomas, on April 11, 2024. The family resides in Cedar Springs, where Wilson's

mom works for DTE. Wilson's grandpa is **Jerry Thering '73**, and great-grandpa is **Russell Thering '38**. Many alumni will remember baby Wilson's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Lori Smith, who taught at SHA from 2000 to 2016.

**2006**-- **Corey Ley** married Britni Buesking July 1, 2024, on Bois Blanc Island, located in Lake Huron near Cheboygan. They reside in Mt. Pleasant. Corey is the co-owner of Be Green Lawn Maintenance, a central Michigan company providing year-round services.



**2008**-- **Nickolas Roslund** and his wife Kristara welcomed their third child, Maverick, in February 2024. Maverick is loved by his siblings, Theo, age 5, who attends Sacred Heart Academy, and Sanabelle, age 2. The family resides in St. Louis.

**2009**—Elizabeth (Ebright) Finn and her husband Derrick welcomed their second son, Westin Scott, on March 12, 2024. Westin joins big brother Casin Wayne, age 2, at home. The family resides in Coupland, Texas. Elizabeth works for Riot Platforms in Rockdale, Texas.

**Alexa (Holtgreive) Doerr** and her husband Andrew welcomed their second child, a boy named Logan James, on May 15, 2024, in Mt. Pleasant. Logan and his big brother Luca are "getting along great". Their dad is a math teacher at SHA and the Varsity Girls Basketball Coach.

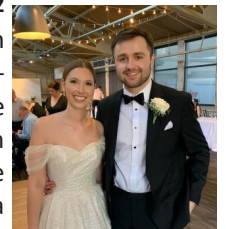
**2010**—Amelia & Billy Myler welcomed their second child, a boy they named Cassel Clay, on May 9, 2024. He was welcomed at home by big sister Emmie Lou, age 2. The family resides in Mt. Pleasant. Proud grandfather is **Bill Myler '76**.

*(2010 continues)*

**Garrett Schafer** and his wife Abby welcomed a new baby girl February 12, 2024. Tenley Elizabeth joins big sister, Josie Mae, age 2, at home. The family recently relocated to Shepherd. Legacy includes grandmother **Patty (Ahlers '83) Schafer**, great grandmother **Phyllis (Theisen '53) Ahlers**, and great, great grandfather **Clarence Theisen '23**.



**2014**—Matt Motz married Claire Kinloch April 27, 2024, in Holland, Michigan. The newlyweds reside in Grand Rapids, where Matt is employed as a civil engineer with Rowe Engineering, Inc.



## Singing with the Angels

**Mrs. Colleen Campbell**  
1931—2024



Colleen Campbell, SHA Elementary school teacher of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders from 1957 to 1960 and again from 1967 to 1972, passed away with family at her side at the age of 93 on April 11, 2024.

Colleen is survived by her children, **Valerie Thompson '70**, **Lynette Bailey '72**, **Mark Campbell '74**, and **Caryn Manning '79**.

Colleen and her husband Robert were lifelong Sacred Heart parishioners having married in 1951 at Sacred Heart Church.

Colleen's funeral was filled with former students from SHA and Beal City who fondly remembered her love of singing and music. The family requested memorial contributions in her memory to benefit the SHA Foundation.



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## Alumni News For:



# Athletic News

## Coming soon!

You've seen them at the college level and other prep schools. Now, Sacred Heart Academy has one, too! The final details are being ironed out for the **IRISH CLUB**, a way for individuals to support Sacred Heart Athletics on an annual basis. This program, available Fall 2024, helps SHA continue to avoid per-athlete fees, and builds pride among IRISH supporters.



The SHA Athletic Association has always wanted to avoid 'pay to play' when it comes to sports. This is an impressive goal for a school which does not receive state funding like many of those we compete against. Every year, the Association looks at how we can meet the continually-rising costs of athletics.

While we have great support from businesses and others in the community, there has not been an avenue for individuals to contribute to the program. The Association sees this as a way to engage more fans, while building a bit of a reserve for expenses teams have as they compete year to year. You do not have to be an alum, you do not have to have a family member playing a sport, just a simple desire to support our student athletes. Watch for exciting details about the new **IRISH CLUB!**

## For the record

Sacred Heart athletic records have been updated through the 2023-24 school year, including expanded information about girls basketball, soccer, cross country, and track. Some sites are "under construction". Alumni are welcome to submit any data they might have to help complete those histories by emailing [alumni@sha.net](mailto:alumni@sha.net). To view the records visit <https://academy.sha.net/athletics>. They are located under the "Athletic Records" tab on the school website.

The information presented is the result of six decades of research by **Earl Hartman '66**. Early searching through back rooms of newspaper offices throughout Michigan has been greatly improved by digital access on line, but Isabella County newspapers were only available up to 1937. At this time the newspapers (Daily Times News through 1958) have become—or will soon be available—on the Clarke Historical Library website at CMU. Phase one of this digital effort was made possible by the generous funding of community-minded people including some Sacred Heart alumni and their families: **Jim Fabiano '61, Bill Myler '76, Mike Voisin '79, John Hunter '97 and Earl Hartman '66**.

A next phase of newspaper scanning is planned for 2025 and should bring digital access to sports information through the mid-1960s.