



# ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



December 2016 • Vol. 35 No. 3

Earl Hartman, SHA66, Editor

Paulette Andres Green, SHA64, Newsletter Chairperson

## HERE COMES 2017!

*Mark your calendar!*

**SATURDAY, FEB. 11**

SHAgala 2017

*Fire & Ice*

This dinner/auction event is the number one fundraiser for Sacred Heart Academy.

Check the Academy web site at [www.sha.net](http://www.sha.net) for information about the

"Fire & Ice"-themed event, including the main event and the on-line auction. See Page 7 of this newsletter for information about Cash Raffle tickets—a great way to support your alma mater and a fantastic chance to win!



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**



VS Beal City

Opening home football game versus rival Beal City! You won't want to miss the Irish action!

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 22**

**HOMECOMING!**

Plan ahead to join us for Homecoming and the annual Alumni & Friends Reception!

## OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

The annual Sacred Heart Homecoming celebration never disappoints, even when it rains! Alumni & friends gathered for the parade, the football game (featuring the Hall of Fame inductions), and the Alumni & Friends reception hosted by the SHA Foundation and the Alumni Association. Take a look at some of the snapshots from the afternoon and evening, and be sure to visit the Alumni page at [www.sha.net](http://www.sha.net) for more photos of the homecoming festivities.



## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR PUTS SERVICE AHEAD OF SELF

**Paul Bigard** says he has no idea how he got named Alumnus of the Year. "There are so many amazing, deserving people who help make SHA what it is," he says. However, the nominating committee had no trouble awarding the 2016 honor to Bigard, a 1985 graduate, who exemplifies the spirit of the award in his everyday actions. Paul serves on the Sacred Heart Parish Finance Committee and the Development Committee. He is the Chairman of the SHA School Board, and is also a Trustee of the SHA Foundation. He has served on the Home and School Association and on the Academy's ad hoc Marketing Committee. He and his wife Michelle were part of the donor-led STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) effort last year, and they are long-time SHAgala volunteers, in addition to Hospitality and pre-Canva volunteers at Church. Outside of the Sacred Heart community, he volunteers for Junior Achievement, Make-A-Wish and other worthy organizations. But Paul doesn't think of himself as deserving. "I feel honored to be part of something which means so much to so many," he says. "I was blessed to be raised within the Sacred Heart community, and to have this opportunity available for my daughters. It is a privilege to be associated with all the great people at SHA."



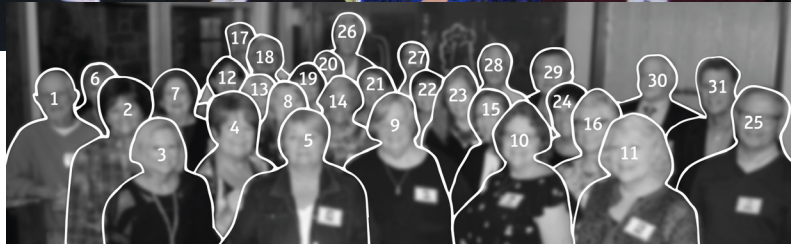
# REUNION NEWS

## CLASS OF 1966 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



The Class of 1966 rode in style in the parade, using a school bus to transport their reunion group through the rainy parade. They joined up at the Alumni & Friends Reception, and shared memories through a leisurely tour of the Academy on Saturday. The group celebrated Mass together, and enjoyed dinner and a program at Hunter's Ale House. This class can show you how a reunion is done! They graciously sent a generous gift back to

the SHA Foundation with a note: "Please accept this [donation] in gratitude for the education we received at Sacred Heart, in honor of our parents who made it possible for us to attend SHA, and also in memory of Tat Heintz. She was a big part of our lives when we were in school and she set such a good example for us all in how to give back to your community." Well done, Class of 1966. The group photo got a little crazy, so we are hoping the picture-by-number helps a bit. Here goes: SHA Class of 1966 Reunion Photo: (1) Mike Heintz, (2) Sally McCormick Davis, (3) Barb Fox Barberi, (4) Roxanne Endres Gruss, (5) Carol Foreman Ervin, (6) Connie Bollman Lybeer (or at least half of her face!), (7) Sue Carroll Wender, (8) Marlene Lobsinger Clare, (9) Kay Grubaugh Gugala, (10) Martha Pollard Burke, (11) Anne Swift, (12) Diane Murphy Paul, (13) Diane Arnold Quinn, (14) Patty Milan Taber, (15) Marilyn Goenner Hicks, (16) Carol Simon, (17) Jerry Martin, (18) Steve Galgoczi, (19) Joyce Jourdain Pety, (20) Jane Neyer Bacon (yes, those are her eyebrows), (21) Marilyn Courtright Schafer, (22) Judy Bunting Murawski, (23) Vicki Moegggenberg Curtis, (24) Sue Scully Sandy, (25) Jerry Courtright, (26) Dick Horgan, (27) Marty Naumes, (28) Gene Pety, (29) Frank Sytek, (30) Pat Neff, and (31) Earl Hartman.



## CLASS OF '86 GATHERS

Classmate **Bryan Neyer** was the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade. Classmate **Chris Wood** was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The Class of 1986 had lots to celebrate during their 30th reunion weekend, and celebrate they did. The class took a tour of the Academy, attended Mass together and joined for dinner at Hunters Ale House. Pictured at the evening celebration are, from left, **Mike Doyle, Bernie Vogel, Bryan Neyer, Jeff Sandy, Gayle LoPiccolo Sklar, Steve Morgenstern, Doug Kunik, Nancy Didion Bordo, Lisa Epple Rensberger, Jennifer McNerney Elkow, Melissa Smith Cotton and Amy Walton Vogel**. The class also made a gift to the Academy's "Wish List", purchasing a new bottle filling retrofit station to replace one of the old water fountains in the school.

## CLASS OF '71

Thirteen members of the SHA Class of 1971 and 19 members of the Beal City Class of 1971 came to a joint 45th reunion celebration at the home of **Betsy Pollard Rau** (SHA 71) and **Ron Rau** (Beal City 71) on August 27. Add the three Beal City teachers who attended, plus spouses, the total number in attendance was 52. While the two classes will host separate reunions for the 50th in five years, they agreed to continue the joint reunions in "off" years. "Three members also attended the Alumni Reception at Homecoming."



After the rain subsided on August 27, the group enjoyed cocktails on the deck before doing dinner and a program inside the Rau's pole barn across the road.



# REUNION NEWS



## 40-YEAR REUNION CELEBRATION CLASS OF 1976

The Class of 1976 gathered at Homecoming to celebrate a 40-year reunion. Many members braved the parade and homecoming game, attended the Alumni & Friends reception, and participated in a tour of the Academy. The largest group gathered at the home of Bill and Pam Myler for cocktails and dinner on Saturday, October 1. Pictured at the reunion are: Seated, in front, from left, **Dave Klumpp** and **Lorraine Strauss Malone**. Standing in middle, from left: **Dan Pollard**, **Steve Yurik**, **Bill Myler**, **Mike Grinzinger**, **Jim LaLonde**, **Mary Jane Knight Nelson**, **Mary Kipfmuehler Kattreh**, **Chris Rocheleau**, **Deb Ervans Lukens**, **Nancy Frick Zuker**, **Mindy Bernard**, **Judy McDonald Simons**, **Sr. Diane**, **Dick Forton**, **Mimi Schall**, **Chuck Gepford**, **Joe Brandell**, **Robin Greene Stressman**, **Bob Thering** and **Dave Vogel**. Top, in back, along fireplace, from left: **Sue McDonald Boyer** and **Therese Cotter**.

## WHY NOT CELEBRATE 36?

Let's give the Class of 1980 extra credit! They took it upon themselves to gather for a 36th Class reunion and it is fair to say a good time was had by all. Several classmates gathered at the Alumni & Friends Friday Night Reception, and took a tour of the Academy Saturday morning. The biggest number met for a backyard potluck at the Mt. Pleasant home of Steve Wentworth on Saturday evening. Pictured at that gathering are: Sporting his Varsity jacket on the ground: **Jerry McDonald**. Standing, middle, from left: **Jim Hire**, **Liz Hall Gonzalez**, **Krista Newman Pohl**, **Margie Sweeney Fellingner**, **Julie Wentworth Sanders**, **Luanne Frick Harte**, **Jeff Grinzinger**, **Peri Puhlman Fausett**, **Kelly Richardson Browne**, **Steve Wentworth**, **Laura Fettig**, and **Karen Cotter Lamb**. Standing in the back row, from left: **Pat Richmond**, **Russell Schafer**, **Dave McCoy**, **Scot Wentworth**, **Craig Thelen**, **Mike Mills**, and a barely visible **Dave Ahlers**. Missing at photo time were **Kathy Milligan** and **Heidi Quillen**.



## CLASS OF 1981

*"We are great and lots of fun, we're the Class of '81!"*

The class gathered to celebrate a 35th Reunion in August but this issue of the **NEWS** is too packed to run the photo without jeopardizing the size of others.

See it online at [www.sha.net](http://www.sha.net) under the alumni tab, and watch for it in the Spring Issue of the **NEWS**.





# ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director

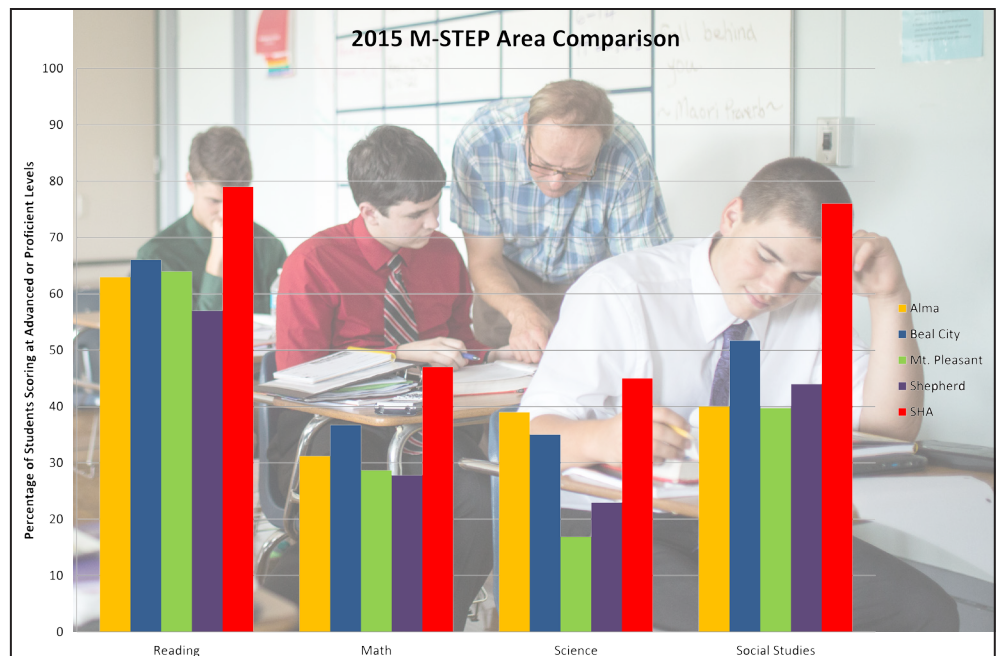


## WHAT OUR ALUMNI ARE SAYING

In the past couple of years, I have noticed an increase in the number of alumni who are enrolling their children at Sacred Heart Academy. As I give tours to prospective families, I enjoy learning that one or both parents are former students of SHA. As we talk about what SHA offers, the alumni tell me they want the same experience for their child (big family feeling and sense of community) that they had as a student here at Sacred Heart many years prior. They are happy to find out that our students still attend Mass on a weekly basis, that we still offer hot lunches in a shared cafeteria in the elementary school (and yes our 4th – 6th grade students still take turns doing the dishes for a week two times a year in exchange for free lunch), and that our students are still out-performing their peers on standardized tests at both the local and national levels. As we wander through the buildings during our tour they are quite impressed with the condition and cleanliness of the facilities, the upgraded technology, and are happy to meet a familiar face or two when they run into certain staff (i.e. kindergarten teacher Mrs. Janet Maddocks and high school government teacher Mr. Phil Durocher). The new cubbies recently provided and installed by Konwinski Construction in the elementary building and the state-of-the-art digital locks in the secondary building have significantly improved the overall neatness and cleanliness of both buildings.

Our alumni not only are sending their children here but they are reaching out to us in so many ways. We have been blessed with their support and participation in last year's first-ever Career Day and this year's first-ever, student initiated Cultural Diversity Day and Mock Interview Day. October was designated as Early College Application month. Many special activities were held for our seniors that assisted them in completing at least one college application by the end of October. An alumni panel consisting of **Steve Rudoni '92**, **Jessica MacDonald '15**, **Elizabeth Ervin '15**, **Jim Cardon '09**, **Skylar Nelson '15** and **Andy Theisen '78** came in and answered questions from our seniors about their college

experiences. Several other alumni participated in the Mock Interview Day by conducting mock interviews with our seniors. The support of our alumni is a key resource which enables us to enhance our students' education and for that we are very grateful.







# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

## POINTS OF PRIDE AT SHA

It's hard to believe that January 5 is my two-year anniversary at SHA. On a regular basis someone asks me if I am glad that I came to Sacred Heart Academy. My answer is always a resounding, "YES!" The next question they ask is, "Why?" There are the obvious reasons – we are unapologetically Catholic, we have strong academics, our class sizes are small, SHA extra-curricular programs are recognized both locally and state-wide, our families support each other when we need it (and even when we don't), our teachers are dedicated, our alumni are successful and very supportive, we have rich traditions, and the list goes on.

Here are some additional reasons to be proud of Sacred Heart Academy. This fall we were accredited by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools, after a year of self-study. Our technology surpasses that of our local public schools; each of our students in grades seven through twelve has a Chrome book, thanks to our generous donors. Over 99% of our high school students are involved in some type of extra-curricular activity (athletics, Model UN, Quiz Bowl, forensics, etc.)

Our students meet or exceed all state of Michigan standards on standardized tests. We have a rigorous curriculum. In addition to the required English, math, science and social studies classes, our students also must take 4 years of religion, one semester of communications, and one semester of financial literacy.

This fall during homecoming week we had a wonderful cultural diversity day, initiated by our student senate. Each of our Students for Students groups raked leaves for elderly and needy families in our parish in November.

Sacred Heart Academy requires one hundred community service hours in order to graduate. Many of our students have well more than this on graduation day. Our current students in grades 7 through 12 have volunteered over 13,000 hours! The service includes experiences in our local community, state-wide, nation-wide, and even in third-world countries! Students are preparing to lead on many levels after they leave SHA.

You may remember a few years ago that a Sacred Heart Academy student (**Shubha Vedula '13**) was a contender for American Idol. One of our current students, junior Isabella Kostrzewa (daughter of **Mike Kostrzewa '68**) is participating in Project Runway: Junior, a fashion design show on Lifetime. Teenage contestants compete by creating designs based on the material and time they are given each week. A team of judges decides who will move on to the next week and who will return home. The first show airs on December 22 at 10:00 p.m. Tune in to see how Izzy does! Our SHA students have no shortage of talent. We wish Izzy and her parents much success.

Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate each of you more than you know. And now, here is my shameless plug if you are wondering how you can help. On the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Academy Foundation, please consider making an end-of-the-year donation. This is a gift that lives on in perpetuity, as only the interest is spent each year. Your generosity is another of the many reasons I am proud to be part of the SHA family. Have a blessed Christmas season.



SHA Third Graders dress as their patron saints.

**CLASS OF 1939:** Rose Hackett Nanzig died on September 24, 2016 in Grand Rapids. Rose is the sister of **James '29, John '31, Ed '33, Tom '37** and **Pat Hackett '43** and **Mary Valliere '29, Kathleen Rainer '48** and **Anne O'Brien '46**. Rose taught school in Grand Rapids for many years.

**CLASS OF 1940:** Patricia Fitzgerald Campbell passed away on May 10, 2016 as reported in the August 2016 NEWS. But we somehow left **Tim Campbell '78** off the family list. Pat is the mother of 7, not 6, Campbell alums. 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 7 Campbell alums: **Joe '65, Bill '70, Mike '73, Tom '77, Tim '78, Katy '80** and **Kevin '85** and grandmother of **Steve '99, Maureen '02** and **Aaron '05 Campbell**. Patricia's great granddaughter, Caitlin Campbell, is in first grade at Sacred Heart this fall and great granddaughter Claire has started DK at the Academy.

**CLASS OF 1946:** Chuck Deibel passed away on August 12, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. He was the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Mt Pleasant for 32 years. Chuck is the father of **Mary Lou Eyman '72** and **Nancy Arseneault '74** and the brother of **Henrietta Trick '47** and **Walt Deibel '44**. In September 1954 Chuck and wife Marge attended the Gary Moore Variety Show in New York City and Marge was picked out of the audience as Mr. Moore put the Deibel's address on the screen and "just for fun" appealed to everyone to send a nickel to the Deibels. After several weeks over \$10,000 in nickels (200,000 nickels) arrived at the Deibels home. News media including look and Life magazines as well as the Gary Moore show itself provided updates.

**CLASS OF 1947:** Bill Gepford died on October 21, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Bill is the brother of **John '47** and **Jim '54** and father **Lisa Jourdain '83**.

**CLASS OF 1950:** Patricia Lowther Murphy passed away on September 18, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Pat was the sister of **Peggy Richmond '48** and the mother of **Tim '74, David '81** and **Sandy Harnick '86**. Pat was secretary at the Academy in the 60s.

**CLASS OF 1950, 1953:** Bill and Rosy Theisen Buschle celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 22, 2016. The couple resides in Alma where Bill enjoyed a long career with General Telephone and Rosy taught school.

**CLASS OF 1956:** Nancy Theisen Roethlisberger passed away on November 27, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Nancy was a child care provider for over 30 years. Nancy is the daughter of **Gerald Theisen '26** and the sister of **James '49, Robert '50, Kay Veit '55, Barb (Toni) Little '57, Bernard '60** and **Margaret Kirkey '62**.

**CLASS OF 1958:** Virginia (Ginger) Lapham Krabbenhoft, passed away on October 24, 2016, at the Collier Hospice Center in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Ginger had been a resident of Colorado for 45 years. She met her husband John while she was working for the Kennedy Administration at the Pentagon in Virginia and John was in the US Army working on renovations at the White House. She was a florist all her life, first working in her family's summer flower garden, Christmas wreath and tree farm and then as a Floral Manager before becoming self-employed with a small shop in Colorado. Ginger is the sister of **Paul '47, Darcy '51, Clare, David '66, Larry '55** and **Sandra Lapham '58, Jean Cauwenbergh '53, Lorena Szumski '62, and Rita Poston '65**.

**CLASS OF 1960:** Bob Neyer passed away on November 19, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Bob was a member of the class of 1960 but actually graduated from Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois and then attended Kendall School of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. He spent most of his career as an independent oil and gas producer. Bob is the son of **Kathleen Judge Neyer '31** and the brother of **Rose McFarlane '56, Ken '63, Jane Bacon '66** and **Patty Gostola '70**.

**CLASS OF 1969:** Janet Thering died August 10, 2016 in Grand Rapids. Janet taught in the Grand Rapids Public School system for over 30 years. She is the daughter of **Russ Thering '38** and the sister of **Barb Proos '70, Dick '66, Jackie Heintz '73, Jerry '73, Mike '75, Patty Rydahl '78, Phil '68** and **Bob '76**.

**CLASS OF 1975:** Beth Quillen Judge passed away on October 23, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. Beth was a real estate agent for 10 years and drove a bus in the Shepherd school system for many years. She enjoyed restoring old houses, raising horses and was an artist. Beth's dad was **Pat '38** and her siblings are **Barb Crandell '72, Brian '78, Carol '67, Connie Miller '68, Dan '78, Debbie Predmesky '74, Heidi '80, Julie Gross '84, Mark '70** and **Mike '68**.

**CLASS OF 1978:** Jean Marie Lawrence received the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University on October 15 in Cleveland. This is the highest honor awarded by the school, and is given to extraordinary alumni who best demonstrate



extraordinary professional success and achievement over the span of their career. After graduation from SHA, Jean Marie attended the University of Michigan, where she received her bachelor's degree in psychology. She then went on the Case Western University and earned her Master's Degree in Social Work, followed by a Master's in Public health at the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. She is currently working for Kaiser Permanente performing juvenile diabetes research, and living near Pasadena, California.

**CLASS OF 1988:** Mark McCann and wife Christine welcomed their son Cooper Noah on October 3, 2016 in Rockford, Michigan. Mark works in the Department of Campus Safety at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Siblings Mark Jr, Madisen, and Morgan also welcomed baby Noah home.

**CLASS OF 2004:** Dave and Taren Fabiano Barberi welcomed their second child, Grant James, on September 29, 2016. Grant joins big sister Emilia at home in Mt Pleasant where dad is an attorney at Barberi Law. Grandparents include Barb Fox Barberi '66, Kristin Aschenbach Fabiano '85 and Jim Fabiano II '85 and great grandparents are Jim Fabiano '61, Harold "Mutt" Fox '39 and Vada Simmer Fox '44.



**\$10,000 CASH Raffle**

**SHAGALA 2017**

**Fire & Ice**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

**Only 1,000 Tickets Available**  
**Tickets are \$100**

**\$10,000 Grand Prize**  
**\$5,000 Second Prize**  
**15 \$1,000 prizes**

*Odds are great!*

Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Academy,  
keeping Catholic Education affordable in  
Central Michigan.

**SHAGALA**

**To purchase tickets, or for information, contact:**  
**Nick McConnell, SHA '97**  
**(989) 621-7918 • nick@mcconnellfarmssupply.com**

**THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT---** The SHA web page at [www.sha.net](http://www.sha.net) has a wealth of information including athletic records dating back to the 1920s. The research began 4 decades ago when the editor, his wife **Sharon Campbell Hartman '65** and brother **Jim '75** spent hours searching through newspaper archives and scorebooks found at school for football and basketball information. I've been in the backrooms of the Marion Press, Shepherd Argus, Bay City Times, Saginaw News to name a few. I've even gotten data from opposing coach's scorebooks. The statistics accumulated not only provide an historical record but are helpful to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to honor worthy athletes.

Since that time other sports have been added to the record lists. Some scoring has been forever lost as coaches in the early years didn't keep statistic sheets, scorebooks or report to newspapers. Volleyball began in 1975 but as of this time there is very little information recorded about the sport. I have created a matrix and researched all the former coaches and whatever else can be gleaned from yearbooks but there is a great amount of information missing regarding team records, team accomplishments, individual honors (MVP, MIP, All Conference, etc.) or statistical leaders. I am unsure if aces, blocks, kills and digs were even recorded in the early years and the data is probably lost forever even if they were.

The volleyball team has had great success in recent years including winning 8 consecutive conference championships and advancing to the state semifinals 4 years in a row. I've reached out to the 3 coaches who have directed the program in the past 10 years for any information they might have but would appreciate any input from former players or followers. Please contact us at [alumni@sha.net](mailto:alumni@sha.net) if you can provide any statistical information or honors earned, especially from 1975 to 2006.

Thanks for your help. The ball is in your court. Please volley it back if you can!

**PILLARS SUPPORT** - Last year we celebrated the first football victory in the Community Memorial Stadium along with the 50th anniversary of the facility and the new synthetic turf provided through fund raising by the Pillars of the Community. The Pillars Board includes **Frank Hackett '65**, **Andy Theisen '78** and **Joe Fox '78** and the group is still raising funds for further improvements. If you are interested in supporting the effort you can contact any of these men or visit [www.pillarsforturf.com](http://www.pillarsforturf.com) for more information.

**DOROTHY A. JOHNSON**, of Mt. Pleasant, passed away August 12, 2016 in Midland. Dorothy was not a Sacred Heart graduate but mother of 8 alums and lived more than 70 years in Mt Pleasant. She was also a founding member of Sacred Heart Academy Foundation. She was active in her community, serving on the City Parks and Recreation Commission, volunteering at the hospital, her church and her children's school. Dorothy is survived by her children, **Philip Johnson '60**, **Anne Avery '61**, **John Johnson '63**, **Janet Patrick '64**, **Robert Johnson '68**, **Mary Maness '71**, **Margaret Covington '74** and **Helen Hackett '77**.



# ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS

Sacred Heart Parish  
302 S. Kinney  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
www.sha.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Ithaca, MI  
Permit #35

## *Alumni News For:*



## BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the Sacred Heart Academy Girls Cross Country Team for winning the Division 4 State Championship for the second straight year! They set a record for the Division 4 lowest team score with 34 points, shattering the previous record (set by SHA last year!) of 52 points. Running for the varsity team were: Bailey McConnell (2nd place overall), Alexis McConnell, (4th place overall), Cammie McConnell (5th overall), Lauren MacDonald (11th overall), Scout Nelson (20th overall), Desiree' McConnell (26th overall) and Rowan Fitzpatrick (31st overall). The top 30 finishers earned all-state honors. The team was coached by Mark Zitzelsberger. Assistant Coaches were **Chad Zitzelsberger '02**, Rob McConnell and Luanne Goffnett.

Pictured at the trophy presentation were: Front row, from left: Coach Mark, holding granddaughter Henley Roebke (daughter of **Lisa Zitzelsberger Robke SHA '99**) Scout Nelson, Rowan Fitzpatrick, Cammie McConnell, Bailey McConnell, Alexis McConnell, Lauren MacDonald (daughter of **Keith '85**), Desiree' McConnell, and Coach Rob. Back row, from left: Coach **Chad SHA'02** who is holding niece Avery Robke (daughter of **Lisa Zitzelsberger Robke SHA '99**), Megan Nowak, Michele Reinke (daughter of **Michele Pacholka Reinke '84**), Sara Peltier, Brooklyn Bigard (daughter of **Paul '85**), Rebecca Collins-Pfeiffer, Cristina Guytingco and Coach Luanne.

