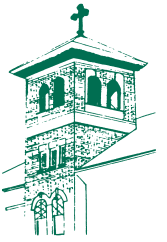




ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



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2014 HOMECOMING

HOMECOMING FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 2014... Homecoming and the Annual Alumni and Friends Reception in the evening at the Parish Hall will be Friday October 3, 2014. Parade will be in the afternoon and doors to the Hall will open at 8:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and come join us! 1959 and 1964 are planning reunions that weekend as is 1957 meeting for a "57 after 57"!

HALL OF FAME



Hall of Fame inductees **Tim Groves '98**, **Diana Wood Martinez '95**, **Jim Youngs '63** and **T. J. Horgan '63** ride in the parade during Homecoming 2013.

PASS IT ON

We're proud of our newsletters and alumni stories and distributed copies to 2221 alumni last fall. With the assistance provided by **Connie Veit McCann '81** and the Sacred Heart Development office, recent newsletters have been full color and last fall's was 12 pages. We'd love to have more people share in the NEWS and would like to appeal to you to pass along if you can. If your place of work has a waiting room like a dentist, doctor, car dealership or the like, could you please consider leaving it on a table or with the magazine rack when you are finished reading it?

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

From our notice in the fall newsletter, we've had just a small number of alumni contact us about electronically receiving the news. We'll continue to keep that option open so if you would prefer an electronic mailing rather than receiving the NEWS in the mail, please send us your email in a note to alumni@sha.net.

WHO ARE YOU?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about **Bill Kirkey '49** having his name on the Lunar Scroll and **Margeret Schrot Barnes '40** and her husband developing Belle Tire into a successful business. Last summer's edition included details of **Don Sowle's '33** work for Department of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, a note about **Ann Louise Bechtel's '46** employment at the Log Cabin located "way south of town" (at the corner of Mission and Broomfield!) and news of **John Murphy '53** being a licensed New York state Hiking Guide. The common thread in each of those stories is that the information was taken from their obituaries!

Next year will be the celebration of 125 years of the Academy and each of the over 3,700 graduates from Sacred Heart Academy have had dreams and adventures. We'd like to share yours. Please drop us a note and let us know about the adventures and accomplishments you and your family have had since leaving SHA.

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Alumni In Action

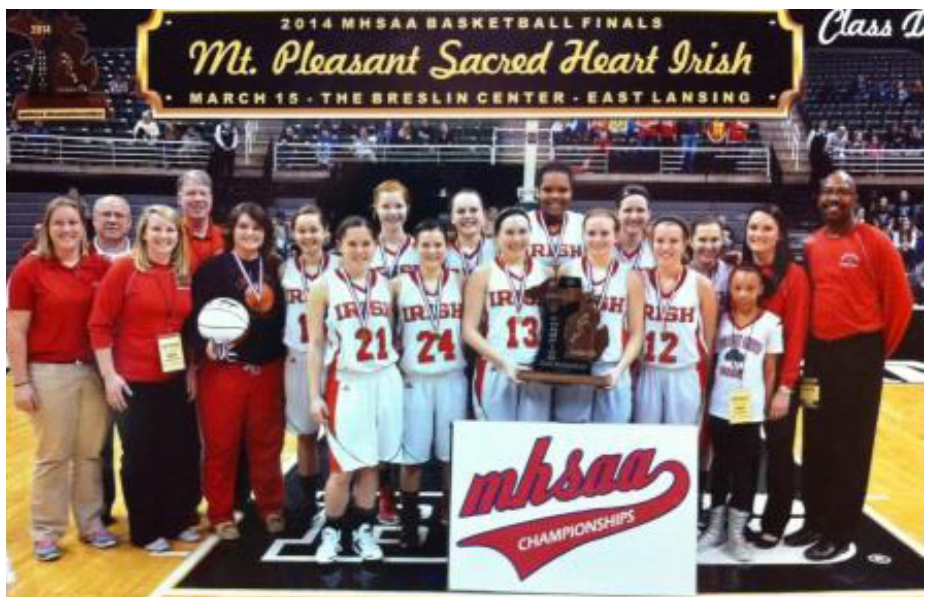
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STATE CHAMPS!

On March 15, 2014 the Sacred Heart girls captured the school's first State Championship in girls basketball. The girls finished with a 22-5 record as they recorded the sixth regional championship and the second trip to the state championship game (2007-08). The team was led by first team All-State selection Sara Hansen (**Kelly Epple Hansen '82, Jim Epple '59, Alphonso Epple '27**). Sara became the school's all-time leading scorer during the season. The team has additional Alumni connections. Pictured at the Breslin Center following the Class D championship trophy presentation are, from left: Athletic Director Amy Gaudard, Statisticians Tony Voisin, Katie Rinke and Shaun Holtgrieve, Lauren Fox (**Linda Epple Gould '90, Jim Epple '59, Alphonso Epple '27**), Meredith Predum, Rachel Hauck, Skylar Nelson, Kimi Boulrier, Bairy Scully (**Dan '84, great grandmother is Anna O'Hara Scully '15**), Riley Terwilliger, Averi Gamble, Sara Hansen, Lexie Methner, Megan English, Julie Hopp, Angel Brown, Assistant Coach **Kristina Lilly '03**, and Head Coach Damon Brown.



LADY IRISH - Several former Lady Irish stars gathered at the Breslin Center to support the 2014 team at the state championship game. Pictured from left are **Catherine Newman '07, Sara Myler '07, Kelsey DeNoyelles '08, Rachel Jaksa '08, and Stephanie DeNoyelles '06**.



SPORTS CENTER #1 PLAY

The boys basketball team also enjoyed success this season as they won the regional title but the highlight of the season was how they won the regional title game on a last second acrobatic shot by Dustin Neyer (**Bryan '86, Dave '61**) that made the national news as ESPN's Top Play of the day. The video went viral on the internet and can be found easily by searching "Dustin Neyer"! Dustin's teammates include Ben Goenner (**Jim '87**), Justin Cowell (**Craig Lobsinger '92**) and Cole Younger (**Judy Wentworth Younger '84**). Head coach **Pat Theisen '06 (Andy '78, Julie Flannery Theisen '78** great grandfather is **Bob Theisen '50**, great-great grandfather is **Tom Carey '23** and great-great-great grandmother is **Nellie Garvin Carey 1897**) was honored with the Class D Coach of the Year Award, and Senior Books Hyble made All-State Team honorable mention. In addition, Senior Kevin Gamble Jr made 1st Team All-State. The name might be familiar to Alumni who are basketball fans as his dad, Kevin Gamble Sr, played 11 years in the NBA, six with the Boston Celtics.

MORE B-BALL SUCCESS

Jeff McDonald '79 coached the Cadillac (Michigan) High School team which also made an impressive run for the 2014 Finals. Jeff's team won district and regional honors, then achieved a quarterfinal win to proceed to the Class B Final Four at The Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University. His Cadillac Vikings were defeated in semi-final action, recording a 20-7 season. Look for more news on Jeff

and his coaching career and connections to family in the Fall Issue of the Alumni News.

VEDULA, VEDULA

Nearly a year after her appearance on the TV show "American Idol", **Shubha Vedula '13** is pursuing her musical career and has released her first original single entitled "Off My Mind". Shubha plans to attend the University of Chicago in the fall. She has performed at Disney World, at a Jamaican resort and a Las Vegas Park since "Idol". Her work is available on iTunes and SoundCloud. And, while Shubha is busy with her music, her older sister, **Priya '10** auditioned for season 13 of "American Idol" this past fall and made it to the top 80 contestants nationwide. Priya earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and is now studying for the exam to enter Medical School.

YEARBOOKS

The yearbook scanning project is now complete and you can view any of the books on line at www.sha.net under the "Alumni & Friends" tab, including the 1916 and 1917 "Echoes from the Mount". We've also completed the basketball scoring histories for both boys and girls. You can look up all of the scoring the editor did (both baskets...January 12, 1965 and February 15, 1965!) or anyone else that has played for the Irish. Although the first seven or eight years of girl's basketball was not very well recorded for posterity, all scoring from 1977 is located on the web site. And every point scored back to 1950 is recorded for the boys.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL AT ITS BEST

Sacred Heart hosted long-time rival Beal City for a series of Alumni Basketball games December 28, 2013. The Lady Irish bested the Aggies in a real barn-burner, followed by a big win for the even-years men. The odd-year graduate Irishmen showed a little mercy on Beal City, letting the Aggies take home one win for the night. Team photos are shown below. Special appreciation goes to **Dan Simons '70** for game management, to Beal City Athletics for helping us revive the Alumni game tradition, to the SHA Athletic Association for hosting such a great event, and to the following for offering their services singing the national anthem for the games: **Dave Verwey '74**, **Amanda '95** and **Marge Schafer**, and **Ciara Lowe '13**.



LADY IRISH (LEFT) - From left: **Kristina Lilly '03**, **Julia Wagner '11**, **Sara Myler '07**, Coach **Damon Brown**, **Margo Predum '13**, **Annie Love '00**, **Andrea Guytingco '11**, **Maureen Riley '09**, **Amrita Pawar '10**, and **Anne Carson '98**.



MENS TEAM (RIGHT) (EVEN YEAR GRADUATES) - From left: Coach **Dan Simons '70**, **Zach Simons '02**, **Pat Theisen '06**, **Jake Thering '06**, **Billy Myler '10**, **Jake Simons '00**, **Nate Whitford '06**, **Andy Theisen Jr '02**, **Tyler White '10**, **Mike Lilly '10**, **Billy Hilliard '08**, and **Zipo Goduka '92**.



MENS TEAM (LEFT) (ODD YEAR GRADUATES) - From left: Coach **Matt Predum**, **Thadd Levine '11**, **Ethan Howard '09**, **Ryan Grinzinger '11**, **Michael Heller '13**, **Alex Wood '09**, **Chad Lilly '09**, **Mitch Myler '13**, **Nick Hire '13**, **Bennett Myler '11**, **Jimmy Cardon '09**, and **Matt Mills '09**.

Class Notes

1937: **Cathryn McConnell Higgins** died on January 10, 2014, four days before her 94th birthday. Cathryn is the sister of **Paul '33**, **Virginia Cotter '34**, **Joanne Maxbauer '40**, **Florence Kraft '45** and **Dick '49**.

1940: Noted that **Margaret Emma (Schrot) Barnes** passed away on April 23, 2012 in Savannah, Georgia. She was married to the late Donald Hartley Barnes for 58 years. She and Don met at Michigan State University and married in 1952. In the early years of marriage they both attended Wayne State University

Law School while working full time and subsequently started their family of three children. In time, they purchased and developed Belle Tire into one of the most successful family businesses in Michigan. Margaret was the valedictorian of the class, and prior to law school, she earned degrees from Central Michigan University and Michigan State University. Margaret's primary passion was nurturing her children, spending time with her family and friends at their homes in Beverly Hills, Michigan, weekends boating on "Suzy Too" on Spider Lake, and playing

(continued on page 10)

REUNIONS CELEBRATED

The **Class of 1958** gathered for a 55th reunion at Homecoming 2013.

Activities featured parade-watching, dinner at Cheers Restaurant, and the Alumni Reception on Friday; then breakfast together Saturday morning.

Pictured at breakfast are (seated, from left) **Elaine Hackett Salisbury, Tom Theisen and Sue McQuaid Graham**. Standing, from left, are: **Margie Thering Gaudard, Julie Hartman Klein, Larry Dalrymple and Pat Cadden**. Also attending the festivities, but not at breakfast, was **Ruth Landwehr Smolinski**.



Celebrating their 45th class reunion during Homecoming weekend, the **Class of 1968** had a team photo taken at Cheers Restaurant. Seated, from left are: **Barb Breidenstein Elmore, Sue Sweeney Steele, Kathleen Pollard Boyd, Diane Scully McConnell, Pauline Theisen Thomas, Sharon Reihl Brown and Jean Theisen Goheski**. Standing, from left are: **Mary Rinehart Bentley, Jon Collins, Maureen Murphy Rondy, Walter VonDoloski, Susan Duffy Onstott, Steve Doerr, Bob Johnson, Joann Swetz Bingham, Mike Kostrzewa, Donna Peltier Judd, Mike Funnell, Steve Voisin, Mark Simons, Joe Heintz, Linda Stankwitz Glover and Larry Campbell**. The Class made donations to Sacred Heart to purchase items off the SHA Wish List benefitting elementary and high school science classes in honor of their reunion and their appreciation of the Academy.

The **Class of 1973** celebrated their 40th class reunion at The PohlCat.

Pictured are (front row from left) **Kim Sheppard-Allen, Jackie Thering-Heintz, Lisa Pollard, Marie Pollard, Mike Scully, Cindy Doneth**, (back row from left) **John Brehm, Lynette Hall, Pat Heintz, Linda Cluley-Cotter, Ellen Myler, Hedy Frick, Jerry Thering, Mary Anker, Bob Fox, Kim Marzke-Jung, Gary Henry, Ray Rzepecki and Jim Cole**.



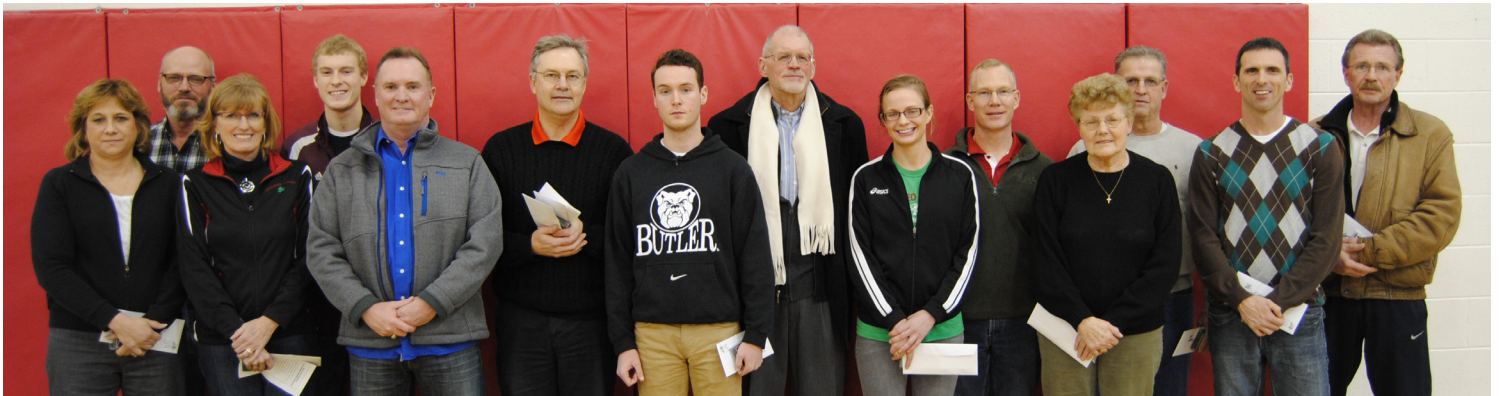
Homecoming Honor



State Champion Debate team members **John Johnson '63**, **Janet Johnson Patrick '64**, and **Kathleen Gallagher Mellon '64** were honored as Grand Marshalls at Homecoming 2013. Although Kathleen was unable to attend, their coach from 1962 and 1963, local attorney Loren Gray, joined in the celebration. Pictured during the football game halftime recognition are, from left, Johnson, Patrick and Gray. JOHN JOHNSON had the honor of opening the students' homecoming assembly earlier that day. John, who worked at the U.S. Treasury before beginning a 27-year career with the World Bank, has also been a professor at two universities, including Georgetown. Being fluent in three languages allowed him success in his financial work and travel on five continents. In brilliant fashion—and in less than five minutes—he offered valuable words of wisdom, which serve as a message to all youth. He told the

student body they should pride themselves on solid writing, foreign languages and speaking skills. "In the business world today, there are several keys to success," he said. "If you are unable to communicate, to articulate your message, your success in life will be limited." About WRITING, he said, a surprising number of students are not capable of basic writing skills. "This carries into the professional world. It is a skill you need and will use." Regarding LANGUAGES, John reminded: "We no longer live in a mono-cultural world. We should know the common language, but it is not the only language. Learn Spanish, learn French. It will help." The value of SPEAKING SKILLS, he said, cannot be understated. "In face-to-face context over the years, I cannot tell you how many times I have seen where those who can speak 'on their feet' have the advantage," he told the group. A former State Champion debater and coach of the 1964 team, John encouraged the students to participate in classroom debates and forensics opportunities to make themselves better presenters. "It will pay off," he promised.

Individual State Champions Honored



On January 31, 2014, the athletic department acknowledged past individual state champions at the Academy. Research uncovered a total of 19 former athletes that were honored for 29 individual championships. If there are any other athletes that were overlooked, please contact the Association so we may honor them amongst the group.

Pictured at the January 31, 2014 ceremony are **Penny Zeneberg McDonald '79** (1979 track -100 meter champ), **Jim Pohl '79** (1978 -440 and 880 and 1979 -800 meter), **Shelli Lannen Sias '78** representing her brother **Bill '76** (1975 -cross country and 1976 -mile), **Casey Voisin '12** (2011 -3200 meter), **Jeff Jackson '76** (1974 and 1976 -long jump), **Mike Kostrzewa '68** (1968 -golf medalist), **Kevin Oblinger '09** (2007 -cross country and 2008 -3200 meter), Casey Fitzpatrick representing his father **Jack Fitzpatrick '42** (1942 -shot put), **Laurel Bennett '06** (2004 and 2005 -800 meter), **Jim Goenner '87** representing his sisters **Carol Goenner Gerbensky '77** and **Patty Goenner Bednarz '78** (for their part in the 1977 -mile relay team), **Bethel Berg Schafer '52** representing her son **Rusty Schafer '80** (1979 -cross country), Dave Jackson representing his son in law **Kip Hartman '99** (1999 -high jump), **Keith Seybert '88** (1988 -400 meter) and Larry Bennett, father of **Bridget Bennett '10** (2008 to 2010 -cross country and -1600 and -3200 meters...FIVE individual championships altogether!!!). Also honored during the evening were **Mick Schmalbach '57** (1957 -high jump), **Barb Pohl Majewski '79** (1977 -mile relay), **Amy Kostrzewa Roth '80** (1977 -mile relay team) and **Jodi Watters Block '84** (1982 -3200 meter run).



Pictured above are many of the 29 plaques which now hang on the gym wall honoring the individual state champions.



ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions Director



My elevator speech is too long...It's true. I learned in business years ago to always have a sharp "elevator speech". This 30-second-to-two-minute summary about your company or organization should be compelling, passionate and - more than anything - concise. I have the passionate and compelling part down. No problem. The opportunity to discuss faith-based education in today's world, where an investment in your child's future is the most important decision you will make? Very compelling. In a position like mine, with my own children enrolled at Sacred Heart, how could I not be passionate about encouraging others to attend? Check. Concise is the hard part for me. With all the advantages Sacred Heart Academy has to offer, it is hard to narrow down the list.

See if you can help me:

- **Safe, caring, family-oriented community** - it warms my heart when I see an Alum bring their child in for registration, wanting the same experience they had. The sense of family here is very real with DK through 12 on the same campus. Students have opportunities to collaborate together; and younger kids connect with the older kids in a positive manner.
- **Catholic school, welcoming all faiths** - Although Catholic faith is the foundation of our school, nearly 30 percent of our student population is comprised of families of many faiths. We offer a community where belief in God is part of the every-day environment, not only part of religion class.
- **Specials! Spanish, Art, Music, Physical Education, American Sign Language (ASL) and Computers** - SHA is the only local school with elementary Spanish. Our youngsters recently experienced a virtual Spanish trip, staging every aspect of the travel, including applying for a passport and filling out customs paperwork, with high school students serving as custom officials, pilots and airport security. American Sign Language exists in DK through 6 classrooms. The ukulele program in our elementary school is also one-of-a-kind in the area, not only building music appreciation, but interest in instrumental music as well.
- **iPad integration** - The positive impact of this iPad classroom program is yet to be discovered. The Apple education consultant invited to our school told us we have the perfect environment for iPad integration for learning due to our class sizes and focus on academics. We are fortunate to have these types of opportunities thanks to parent-donor investments.
- **High academic standards** - Teachers know what each student is capable of and hold students accountable. Small class sizes lend themselves well to collaboration between the students and people know each other on a personal level, whether student-to-student or teacher-to-student.
- **Strong parent/teacher communication** - Size is an advantage when it comes to communication with parents. Expectations are outlined and concerns are addressed when needed. Teachers are

able to spend more time teaching because they have less disruptions in class and students work toward a common goal.

- **Moral and faith development** - Similar values are shared at home and at school. In a mildly conservative environment, where dress code, manners and respect are prevalent, students can capitalize on spiritual opportunities provided through retreats, weekly Mass, field trips, service learning and community involvement.
- **Academic Resource Center (ACR)** - This tutoring service, available after school, is staffed by SHA faculty and National Honor Society students. Its purpose is to provide students with extra help in all subjects. It is remarkable to see older students helping younger students and assisting their peers. The ARC is another way older students build bridges with younger students and become leaders.
- **Career counseling** - The SHA Academic Advisor meets individually with each student to review his/her test scores and make sure the student is taking appropriate classes based on abilities and plans for the future. This individualized service begins in middle school and continues (at a minimum) on a semester basis throughout high school.
- **Involvement** - At Sacred Heart, everyone knows and cares about each other. There is a sense of pride which comes with the comfort of a family environment. Our school depends on parental support and involvement. Parents and alumni graciously bring the real world to life through their involvement in the classroom; donors invest in the Academy's annual SHAgala dinner auction or purchase items off the teachers' Wish Lists; and the Academy is supported by the SHA Foundation.

The term "elevator speech" comes from the scenario of an accidental meeting with someone important in the elevator. If the conversation inside the elevator is interesting and value-adding, the conversation will continue after the elevator ride, or end in the exchange of a business card or scheduled meeting. Every day I meet with important people: Alumni and friends, current parents and co-workers, prospective parents and community contacts. It is my privilege to represent Sacred Heart Academy and you can see the challenge I have keeping my bragging - my elevator speech - to a minimum.

(Mary Kay Reetz has served as Admissions Director at Sacred Heart Academy since 2005. Prior to that she was a systems analyst at Central Michigan University where she earned her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Business Administration. She attended a small, Catholic primary school and larger public secondary schools. She and her husband, Dave, have four children who all attend(ed) SHA--- two alums, and a current 8th and 10th grader. Her passion for the Academy comes naturally. To her, in addition to the religious foundation, the added benefit in the education her children are receiving at Sacred Heart is that students are held accountable for what they are capable of achieving. This is due, in large part, to the small class sizes which enable teachers to monitor each student's progress. The expectations are high and the teacher support is phenomenal.)



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Denny Starnes, Principal

Dear Alumni and Friends,
Every day, students at Sacred Heart Academy learn about God's love. The Gospel values of love, respect and compassion are taught and practiced at our school. Our students are given the opportunity to put faith into action through community service and their behaviors. This is why I am especially proud, not only of the achievements of our students, but of the longevity and commitment of our teachers and staff, who set a fine example for our young people.

Student-for-Student program

I am happy to share with you the success of the Student-for-Student program designed and introduced last year. Now in its second year, this student mentoring program has brought about an obvious positive change in our environment. Junior and Senior students greet seventh and eighth graders in the hallways by name. Younger students are willing and ready to learn from their older student leaders. Opportunities exist to match personality interests, but also for acceptance of differences and, more importantly, understanding of the unique and individual characteristics people have.



In society today, middle and high school students tend to be judgmental as a group. As a result, students feel they have to be "tough" or behave in ways they normally wouldn't, just to fit in. Our Student-for-Student program, which offers opportunities for 12-

to 18-year olds to interact in positive ways, is an ideal way to model leadership behaviors and let everyone be part of something good. For example, something bigger than the drama of 7th grade. When younger students are accepted by their older peers, the values of respect, love and compassion become real.

The goals of the Student-for-Student program, supported by a grant from the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, have been successful thus far:

- Teach older students to be leaders
- Students experience a sense of community
- Welcome younger students and show acceptance of individuality

The program was student-initiated and remains student-led. Students are strategically assigned to multi-grade-level small

groups, separating certain similarities and life circumstances, which allows students to gain awareness and respect for individual qualities. Activities sponsored at least every-other-month have promoted the success of program, the size of the school gives us an advantage, and the support of the teachers and staff is key. "Choose kindness" is the slogan students remember and exemplify - and it works!

Staff Recognition

In May, 12 employees will receive service awards for their years of dedication to Sacred Heart Academy. Again, our size gives us an advantage: We have 44 full time teachers and staff members; 32 have 5 or more years invested, and 23 have over 10 years longevity. (By the way, I'm in that group now. Fr. Don tells me I have served longer than any other Principal in school history.) In addition, 11 have over 20 years of service. I am proud to work with this team. Following are this year's award winners:

5 Years

Amy Gaudard (Athletic Director) Jennie Clark (Middle School Language Arts), Mercia Foster, (Spanish--all grades), Terri Methner (Elementary Secretary)

10 Years

Josh Taylor (High School Science), Shelli Sias (Middle/High School Secretary)

15 Years

Tracey Natke (Cafeteria), Larry Haddon (Maintenance)

20 Years

Marla Schneider (1st Grade)

30 Years

Edna Konwinski (High School Science), Sally Wood (Cafeteria)

Sally Wood, a wonderful cook, SHA graduate from the Class of '59, and mother of eight Academy graduates, has announced her retirement in May. The dedication, caring and passion Sally has shown every day as she lovingly prepares and serves meals with a smile has been appreciated. She has served generations of SHA students and will be greatly missed.

As a reminder, you are always welcome to visit the Academy, either in person, or via our website at www.sha.net where you will find a wealth of information about your alma mater. We are proud to be **Sacred Heart Academy ---**

One Community, One Spirit, One Heart.

Blessings,
Denny Starnes, Principal

WHAT HE ENJOYS MOST

When it comes to Sacred Heart, **Terry Coughlin** is like the Energizer Bunny. He keeps going, and going, and going. Named 2013 "Alumnus of the Year" for his never-ending commitment to the Academy, Terry downplayed the honor, saying he only does what anyone would do: help the school any way he can. And Terry's way is with his whole heart. He fries the fish at the Friday Night Fish Fry, he fixes the softball scoreboard, he does maintenance behind-the-scenes, and countless other good acts to benefit the school auction, the parish festivals and golf outings.

"My dad has always been generous with his time to the community, his friends and especially Sacred Heart," says daughter **Cindy Jacobs '89**. "SHA is part of him and he would do anything for the school or church. I am proud and blessed to have him as a dad. He is the greatest man I know!"

A graduate of the Class of 1956, Terry has lived his life with God, family, country and community in mind. He served in the U.S. Army, returning home to marry Evelyn Clare, a local girl. They have three children, all graduates of SHA, **Terry Jr, 83**, **Scott '86** and **Cindy Jacobs '89**, in addition to five grandchildren. Over the years, Terry served on the SHA School Board and the SHA Athletic Association, in addition to other volunteer committees and work crews.

He fondly remembers hooking up the electrical connection for a fryer in Nancy Fitzpatrick's classroom for one of the original fund raising fish dinners in the early '80s. The Fish Fry idea outgrew the classroom, moved to the cafeteria and then to the Parish Center, where the Lenten Friday Night Fish Fry was made famous. Terry continues to work tirelessly each year to ensure success of the program, shopping for the best-tasting, top-grade fish at the best price, and putting in his time on the prep team and the fry team.

As SHA nears its 125th anniversary, Terry says the quality education, the class sizes and the sense of community are the most important aspects of the school. Those features were important when he was in school, he said, and they are still of value today.

Terry farms 80 acres northwest of Mt. Pleasant, enjoys deer hunting at a Chippewa Lake camp, and plays a "little bit of golf", but says what he most enjoys is helping Sacred Heart. "I like doing it," he says. "I wanted to be involved with my kids and then I just kept doing it."



Terry Coughlin '56 pictured with his grandson, Colton Jacobs.

GOD, DREAMS, PASSION

"If you don't at least try, dreams become regrets." **Forrest "Jim" Youngs**, from the SHA Class of 1963, made this message clear to the Class of 2017 when he spoke in the classroom as part of the "Alumni in Action" program last fall. Coming back to Sacred Heart after 50 years away, Jim told the ninth graders he was privileged to attend SHA and will never forget his school years.

"When I was in high school, Disneyland opened," Jim told the group. "The Cold War was underway, and the polio vaccine was introduced. These were significant happenings of the time. Not to mention Elvis Presley was all the rage. He could not be shown on television below the waist because of his swiveling hips."

The life Jim described to the current prep students was much different. From the price of gas to the weekend activities to the

music and more, Jim made references to the world—especially the school life—which made him what he is today. But some things don't change, he said. "You need to keep God in your life. This is very important," Jim said.



Forrest "Jim" Youngs '63 and wife Theah

Dreams are also important. "Everyone has

dreams," Jim said. "Along with your passion, this will take you wherever you want to go."

Jim's passion took him from Sacred Heart, where he played football, basketball and baseball (now a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame) to Central Michigan University, where he played college football. From there he went on to Northern Arizona, playing football and graduating with an engineering degree in 1968. Jim also played football for the Army, and said he dreamed of playing in the NFL. "Sports were definitely my passion." After two years with the Army in Germany, he returned to Arizona and worked for the City of Flagstaff managing an ice arena. He moved to California and started a 38-year engineering career which included owning his own company.

Jim, who shares his time between California and Arizona with his wife, Theah, says he always remembers "GDP". "God. Dreams. Passion. They will take you anywhere. Be true to them and you will be okay," he said.

1985 GRAD SHARES LESSONS HE LEARNED

He is a 1985 SHA graduate, as are his two younger brothers, **Brad '88** and **Jeremy '93**. He has three children currently enrolled at the Academy, and currently coaches middle school football for the Irish. He is a former SHA School Board member and a current Sacred Heart Parishioner. To say alumnus **Keith MacDonald** is connected to his alma mater is probably an understatement.

"There are many things I appreciate about SHA," he told the ninth grade classes as a guest speaker last fall. "Faith is a priority in the classroom, and it's small enough that no one gets lost in the crowd." Keith, who respects the pride and tradition of SHA, shared his career path, along with three pieces of career advice when he spoke with the students, giving examples from his life and sharing anecdotal stories.



Keith MacDonald '85

First, he told them: All things down the road are driven by what you want to do with your career or life, so it is never too early to start planning.

Second: Nearly every career is attainable, you just need to work hard and talk to the right people. It won't fall in your lap. Third: At some point, there will be consideration for others (besides you) in your career decisions.

Keith has put these lessons to the test. A finance graduate of Central Michigan University, he worked as a plastics salesman gaining valuable experience. He received his MBA from the Eli Broad School at Michigan State University, then performed an internship with the U.S. Treasury during the Clinton Administration. He took a job with The Dow Chemical Company and progressed to his current position as Manager, Liability/Joint Ventures/Mergers and Acquisitions Insurance Programs.

When the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) offered him a position in 1999, Keith passed on the "dream opportunity" out of consideration for his wife, family and the Dow role, saying he has no regrets. Keith says his faith becomes more important to him every day, and his family and hobbies keep him fulfilled. Keith is a reserve deputy for the Midland County Sheriff's Department, a professional ski instructor (Level 2 Alpine Certification) and a certified strength and conditioning specialist.

In his classroom presentation he told the ninth graders, "don't discount anyone along the way" [in your life], and "try never to be in a hurry". This is good advice for any age, courtesy of Keith MacDonald.

2009 GRADUATE CALLED TO SERVE

A self-described "old soul" and "off-the-beaten-path-kind-of-person", 2009 SHA Graduate **Sigourney Seybert** has experienced a lot of life in her young years. She has been fortunate enough to travel and learn extensively in Europe, Spain, Mexico and South America. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she was a member of the Varsity Rowing Team. She feels a deep connection to her parents and siblings, including sister Kelly, brothers Garrett, and **Aaron '99**, and their families.

Her true passion, though, is what she does. Sigourney is a full-time missionary with Great Commission Ministries (GCM). GCM is a non-profit organization which represents 100 Christian churches and has over 400 missionaries in 14 countries, including El Salvador, where Sigourney spends six months each year. Her mission trips are 100 percent support-based. In the off months, Sigourney is responsible for personal fundraising for the opportunity to return.

Originally planning for a career in medicine, Sigourney took a Mission trip as a freshman at U of M and said she felt like she left part of her heart there. She has returned four times since, and is currently there on her first GCM assignment. "I have a connection with El Salvador which puts me at peace," she says. "I feel rewarded bringing the word of God to people through my convictions and actions."

A poor farming country, El Salvador welcomes missionary help in the form of disaster relief (when necessary), on-going child care and education and nutrition assistance. Sigourney has also been involved with teaching computer and English skills, which better prepare the locals for jobs.

Sigourney says Sacred Heart Academy is an important chapter of her life which prepared her for the role she now leads. She spoke in the ninth grade classes last October and said the service hours she performed in high school not only forged relationships she would treasure, but also helped her college admission. Sigourney is especially thankful for the teachers at SHA, saying, "It is a rare blessing to have teachers who care so much about you as a person."

For information about Sigourney's full-time mission work, or to connect with her, contact her at sigourney.seybert@gcmweb.org.



Sigourney Seybert '09
pictured in
El Salvador.

SIX DECADES OF INVOLVEMENT

By EARL HARTMAN, Newsletter Editor

My involvement with Sacred Heart Academy has spanned nearly six decades and I believe it to be a very special place.

Like most teenagers, I was oblivious to the benefits I was enjoying while at high school at Sacred Heart but I was being prepared for success at the University of Notre Dame and in an engineering career that spanned 36 years, all while being instilled with Christian values that have directed my life. Although I realize my life is not compared to any of the saints, I am proud that I can count on my fingers the number of times I've missed weekend Mass no matter where we may be traveling or the degree of difficulty getting there.

From the fall of 1947 to the spring of 2001 there was a Hartman enrolled at the Academy for all but two years. My sisters **Julie Klein '58**, **Linda Hartman '60**, **Jessica Janego '63** and **Marge Kik '73** along with my brother **Jim '75** and me '66, covered the first half of that period. Then it continued with my own children when my wife **Sharon (Campbell '65)** and I decided to enroll our eldest son **Kevin '88** in the fall of 1977 and **Ken '90**, **Kassandra Lichota '94**, **Kirt '97**, **Kip '99** and **Korey '01** followed.

Sharon and I were both raised in good Catholic families and we wanted our children to be schooled where the day could start with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance could include "Under God" and Masses were planned and attended and a Nativity Scene could be displayed at Christmas.

But beyond that, the dedicated staff and educational philosophies at the Academy prepared the kids for success with the rigors and challenges of college and life thereafter, just as they had me several years earlier. Four of our children earned degrees from Notre Dame, one from Tennessee and one from Alma College. All have enjoyed success in their chosen business careers and their families.

I will admit that our daughter Kasey is really sharp (and I realize that every dad might say the same!!!) but Sacred Heart prepared her so well that she graduated from college in four years while working part time in the food service department AND obtained enough credits to receive TWO undergraduate degrees....from Notre Dame ...in four years! From Janet Maddocks in kindergarten to Sr. Thaddeus and all the staff, Kasey and all her siblings had benefited from the love and caring and educational challenges at Sacred Heart.

I love the school and have thoroughly enjoyed editing the ALUMNI NEWS since 1976. I have a passion for the sport of baseball and have loved being the baseball coach at the Academy for 31 years. I enjoyed time spent on the School Board and Athletic Association. I even served as the Athletic Director for six years and taught a computer class for two years.

In short, I love the school and appreciate all it has done for me and my family over the years.



Seven winters "working" for Disney in Outdoor Foods at Hollywood Studios!

CLASS NOTES... (continued from page 3)

golf, boating, enjoying outings with their antique car club, as well as the cultural offerings in Savannah, Georgia. Throughout her life Margaret had a passion for travel as she traveled the world extensively always with her husband Don at her side.

Victor Wezensky passed away on January 26, 2014 at his home in Leaton, Michigan. Vic spent his entire 93 years living on the same land settled by his family from Poland. Vic's children include **Dennis '66**, **Victor '74**, **Donna Peterson '69** and **Virginia Collins '71**.

1943: **Paul Fortino** passed away on August 16, 2013. Paul was president of Fortino Beverage until he retired in 1966. He is the brother of **Lillian Falsetta '47**, **Paul '43** and **Margaret Walker '42**.

1944: **Marguerite McDonald Rice** died on December 6, 2013. Rice owned Rice's Party Store and the Barn Door south of Mt Pleasant as well as Rice's Adult Foster Care. Her children are **Mark '72**, **Carol Shaw '77**, **Teresa Hansen '69**, **Gary '71** and **Dave '67**.

1946: **Ron and Lois Doerr** celebrated their 65th anniversary on August 5, 2013. Their children include **Steve '68**, **Lynette Barker '70**, **Charlene Letson '72**, **Kevin '76** and **Holly Verwey '84**.

1947: **Lillian Fortino Falsetta** died on September 19, 2013 in Mt. Pleasant. Lillian and her husband Tom owned and operated Falsetta's Casa Nova on south Mission Street (now the site of La Senorita) from 1945 to 1985. Lillian is the sister of **Harry '37**, **Paul '43** and **Margaret Walker '42**.

1948: Received an update that **Patrica McCann Zwicker** had passed away three years ago on March 11, 2011. She is the daughter of **Al '11** and **Eleanor Marthy McCann '13** and the elder sister of **Peter '50**, **Tom '53**, **Mary Jo '54**, and **Bill '57**.

1949: **Bill Kirkey** passed away on November 16, 2013 near his home in Longneck, Delaware. Bill was an electrical engineer with Westinghouse for 25 years including many years working as a NASA contractor. His name is on the Lunar Scroll on the moon for his contributions to putting a man on the moon.

1952: **James Michael Fleming** passed away on January 23, 2014 at Greenwood Village, Colorado. Mick was the son of **Ann Quinlan Fleming '28** and sibling to **Joan Kneisler '53** and **Jack '58**.

Mary Corcoran Gupchik passed away on December 31, 2013 in Westland, Michigan. Mary's siblings are **Jean Hartshorn '54**, **Joan Sell '54** and **Pat '55**.

1955: **Robert Lee McEvoy** of Naples, FL, passed away on November 11, 2013. He and his wife, Lucy, lived in Miami, Marco Island, and finally made their home in Naples, FL. Bob started his career at Dow Chemical but decided he preferred working for himself and ventured into real estate development until his retirement in 2006. He is survived by his sister **Jeanne Perkins '65** and his brother and sister in law **Tom '52** and **Juyn Radey McEvoy '54**.

1956: Terry Coughlin and his wife Evelyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 5, 2014. They are the parents of Terry '83, Scott '86, and Cindy Jacobs '89. Terry's mother is Mae Grisdale Coughlin '27.

1957: **REUNION NEWS** Received a note from Kay Kisby Ernst about a "57 at 57" reunion at Homecoming weekend, October 3-4, 2014. The class is collecting addresses and making plans to ride in the parade and attend other events during the weekend.

1959: Bob McDonald and his wife Gail celebrated their 50th anniversary on February 8, 2014.

REUNION NEWS Initial planning for a 55th Reunion during Homecoming weekend is getting underway and class members are welcomed to send their thoughts to Sue Collin Fuller via the Class web site or they can call 989-772-0606.

1961: Not a graduate but former teacher and head coach Jim Lewicki passed away in Fort Atkinson, Kansas on December 24, 2013. Jim was from Bay City and a 1959 CMU graduate.

1962: Esther Huber Haupt and husband John celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 19, 2013.

1964: Sharon Stangle Tilmann has been selected as mayor of Mt Pleasant for the second time. Sharon has served on the City and County Commissions for several years.

REUNION NEWS Gathering is being planned for Homecoming weekend, October 3-4, 2014. Please save the date! More information will be sent out this summer but basically it would be the parade, the alumni reception, with something in between, a Saturday dinner event and possibly a Sunday morning brunch. Please e-mail paulettegreen@hotmail.com with SHA as subject with a "no," "maybe", or "yes" to help us make plans.

1969: Dennis Collin passed away on October 4, 2013 in Mt. Pleasant. Dennis worked in Mt Pleasant as a sand blaster and painter. He is the son of Dorothy McNerney Collin '29 and sibling to Patty Veit '55, Virginia Finch '56, Sue Fuller '59, Bill '59, Dave '66, Marie Fussman '71 and Casey Nelson '73.

1971: Marty McGuire has retired as Director of Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan. Marty had been in the position for nearly seven years after spending 30 years with the city of Midland as Director of Parks and Recreation and director of Public Services.

1973: Karen Forton Gumbert of Kentwood, Michigan passed away March 24, 2014. Karen is the granddaughter of Anna O'Hara Scully '15, the daughter of Rose Scully Forton '47 and a sibling to Mary Kennedy '61, Kathryn Lemanek '64, Toni Raymond '65, Bob '71, Dick '76 and Tom '84.

1974: Marcia Doneth Richards of Mt Pleasant died on September 26, 2013. Marcia spent most of her working career employed by Central Michigan Community Hospital. She is the sister of Richard '70, Anita '71, Cindy '73, Patrick '76, and Jeannette Rau '68.

1976: Laurie Walker Dumdei died in Grand Rapids on February 8, 2014. Laurie is the daughter of John Walker '42 and sister to Bruce '77, Scott '84 and Sharon Johnson '82.

1979: **REUNION ANYONE?** 35 years is definitely worth celebrating! Class members are invited to contact Judy Murphy Lannen with their ideas or support for a Class Reunion this year. Options include a summer get-together or a Homecoming gathering. Please e-mail Judy at judy.lannen@cmich.edu and share your thoughts.

1984: **REUNION** this year?—Members of the Class of 1984 who are interested in a 30-year reunion should contact Michele Pacholka Reinke at mreinke@sha.net or 989.430.4342 or friend Julie McDonald Forrester to access the Sacred Heart Class 1984 Facebook page. Homecoming 2014 is a wonderful time for a get-together if other class members are interested. Please share your ideas.

1988: Paul Fox passed away on February 13, 2014 after a long battle with lymphatic cancer. Paul is the son of Jim '59 and brother of Jennifer Garry '85, Steve '87 and Sarah Amos '89. Paul worked in moving and storage in Bay City and Alaska before becoming ill.

1998: Chad Verwey married Pamela Rankin on November 29, 2013 in Grand Rapids. Chad is the son of Dave '74 and grandson of John '49. Chad is employed by the Intersection, a live music lounge in Grand Rapids.

1999: Carmen Chippeway Fox and her husband Tony welcomed their second child, Emerson Anthony on August 30, 2013. Emerson joins sister Ella at home. Jordan Clark Moore and her husband Marc announced the birth of their fourth son, Max Dane, on August 31, 2013. Max joins Spencer, Andrew and Jaxon.

2003: Kate Schneider Meixner and her husband John welcomed their first child, Benjamin Oliver, into the world on June 6, 2013. After living and teaching high school Science in Chicago for six years, Kate and John moved to Baltimore, MD where John is working as a law clerk for a federal appellate court judge. Kate is a stay-at-home mom this year and an Educational consultant. Kate and John plan to return to Ann Arbor Michigan in August 2014 where Kate plans to begin Medical School at the University of Michigan.

2005: Brandon and Shannon McCormick Ley welcomed their son Lukas Martin Ley on October 31, 2013. Lukas joins siblings Brayden and Connor. Grandmother is Rose Martin Beebe '79.



ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS

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CLASS OF 1963 REUNION

More Class Reunion Photos Inside
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The **Class of 1963** celebrated their 50th reunion during Homecoming 2013 weekend.

Pictured are (seated from left) **Les Messersmith, Sandy Duffy Schafer, Mary Peltier Paisley, Jackie Campbell Fitzsimmons, Eileen Gillis Straus, T. J. Horgan, Ken Neyer** and (standing from left) **Kathy Anton Ervin, Jim Cain, Diane Myshock Thering, Sandy Fortino Falsetta, Jessica Hartman Janego, Jim Youngs, Marilyn Rzepecki, John Johnson, Diane Wezensky Prebble, Ron Ervin, Chuck Grisdale, Jim Sweeney, Ginger Scheid Judge, Denise Theisen Carroll and Helen Fox Ciszecy.**



Individual members of the class made donations to the SHA Foundation in honor of The Class of 1963 and its 50th Reunion activities, which included a tour of the Academy, riding in the Homecoming Parade, attending the Homecoming game and Alumni reception, and a Saturday evening dinner at the Soaring Eagle Resort.