



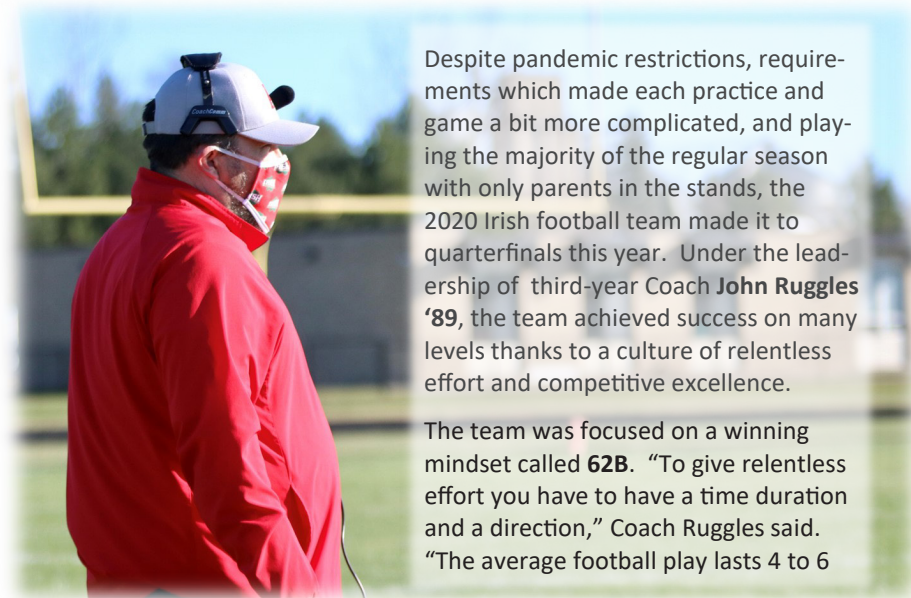
ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



December 2020 • Vol. 39 No. 3

Earl Hartman, SHA '66, Alumni Association Director
Paulette Andres Green, SHA '64, Newsletter Chairperson

62B mindset powers a successful football season



Coach John Ruggles '89 does a daily live eSports broadcast for Pilot TV in Minnesota. He serves as a tournament host, producer, and gameday football analyst for the Minnesota Vikings.

continue to be the culture moving forward, Ruggles said.

"I am truly grateful our players got to have their season. We had some additional hoops we had to jump through daily/weekly but the athletes, coaches, and parents never complained; they were focused on doing whatever it took to compete," Ruggles said, adding that for an undersized team, with many of the players new to football or underclassman, making it to state quarterfinals was rewarding. "We have a bright future moving forward if players work in the weight room and in skill

Despite pandemic restrictions, requirements which made each practice and game a bit more complicated, and playing the majority of the regular season with only parents in the stands, the 2020 Irish football team made it to quarterfinals this year. Under the leadership of third-year Coach John Ruggles '89, the team achieved success on many levels thanks to a culture of relentless effort and competitive excellence.

The team was focused on a winning mindset called **62B**. "To give relentless effort you have to have a time duration and a direction," Coach Ruggles said. "The average football play lasts 4 to 6

seconds and we ask our players to get from point A to point B, so it is a relentless effort for 6 seconds getting to point B. In addition, we ask for competitive excellence which is encapsulated by a plus 2 yards mentality." This will

The Alumni News needs your help!

Mailing the *SHA Alumni News* three times each year is getting costly, and mail service has not been very dependable. The newsletter is mailed FIRST CLASS, PRE-SORT, but it still looks a lot like bulk mail / junk mail.

In recent years we have been getting large numbers of undeliverable newsletters returned to the Alumni Office. We depend on services like the National Change of Address software and other tools, but still, newsletters are denied across the country and routed back, meaning our valued Alums are not getting the *News*.

Your help is needed. Please make sure your address, phone, and e-mail are current in the SHA Alumni database. That way, if a newsletter comes back to us, we have another way of contacting you. You can do this by e-mailing your information to alumni@sha.net or visiting the Academy website under "lost alumni" to complete our [Alumni update form](#).

You might also consider signing up for e-mail distribution of the newsletter. The e-mail version is available sooner, features crisp and engaging photos, and saves the mailing expense. To receive The Alumni News by e-mail, please send your request to alumni@sha.net.

Please pass the word to your family and class members. They could be missing the *News* and they don't even know it!

(Continued on page 3)



FOOTBALL LEGACY—The 2020 IRISH football team included freshman Walker Owen (#53) and senior Wyatt Owen (#10), sons of Sue Ellen Deni-Owen '85. Uncle Frank D. Deni '87 (left) and grandfather Frank R. Deni '53 also played football for SHA.

Pandemic Thoughts

Alums in health care talk about effects of COVID

Meredith Predum, RN, BSN '15

Could you imagine traveling to Abu Dhabi (located in the United Arab Emirates) during a world-wide health crisis?

Meredith Predum '15 can, and did! Meredith, a 2015 SHA graduate, is a nurse who works at The Mayo Clinic's St. Mary's Hospital on the Rochester, Minnesota campus.

"Early in the pandemic, I wasn't working a lot because of decreased hospital admissions," Meredith said. "More recently, with the increase in cases in the public and among health care providers, we are now understaffed, so it is a difficult time to be in the health care industry."

The Mayo Clinic began a joint venture in Abu Dhabi a few years ago. Meredith said a brand new hospital opened there in January 2020. Once the pandemic hit, non-emergent admissions were greatly reduced and nurses at Mayo locations in the U.S. were being furloughed. At the same time, the Abu Dhabi location was handling a surge of COVID-19 cases.

"Mayo recruited volunteers from all of their campuses. I was selected and flown overseas within a couple of weeks," Meredith recalls, adding that it was her "first big trip out of the U.S."

"I worked in a 700-bed inpatient hospital in Abu Dhabi and was originally placed on a COVID-positive general care floor taking care of patients from different cultures, races, and religious backgrounds, who spoke a variety of languages," Meredith said. "I had to find creative ways to communicate!"

Overall, she said, the assignment was rewarding and eye-opening. "I learned

so much personally and was working with team members from many other countries. It was good for my career," Meredith said.

Back in Minnesota after her two-month assignment, Meredith says she enjoys her role in an internal medicine/general medicine unit. "I work in an area where health is valued," she says, adding that her Sacred Heart Academy education helps her every day. "Attending SHA rooted my life in my Catholic Christian faith, which impacts my career. Humans are not merely physical, bodily beings, but they have souls which need to be tended with much compassion and care. I always want to help people heal not only physically, but spiritually, mentally, and emotionally as well."

Margo Predum, RN, BSN '13

For as long as she can remember, **Margo Predum '13** wanted to be a nurse. Her grandmother was a nurse, as well as two uncles. In addition, other family members have health care careers.

"I always thought that knowing a patient would die, or having them die and then comforting the family through a loss, would be my biggest challenge," she said. While that is still true, Margo says currently it is scary to see COVID taking healthy people, not just sick people. "Our aunt recently died of COVID very unexpectedly and that has been hard for our family," Margo said. "I don't

see it going away anytime soon, so learning to live with [the virus] in our personal and professional lives is a real challenge."

When graduating from nursing school,

Margo applied to hospitals which had a nurse residency program. She was encouraged by SHA Principal Mary Kay Yonker to "apply to the best place", The Mayo Clinic. Margo ended up accepting Mayo's offer and has worked on the neurology floor for over two years. "I chose Mayo for two reasons," she said. "First, they have been rated the number one hospital for several years. Second, Mayo is magnet-certified, which is an accreditation received as the result of high job satisfaction specifically related to nurses."

Margo says it will be "very difficult to ever leave. I love the diversity of taking care of patients from all over the United States, as well as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China."

In high school at SHA, Margo said Coach Damon Brown always said that teamwork and basketball skills were things you could use when you graduate. "At the time, I did not appreciate the full effect of his words," she said. "In my profession, being a great communicator is key, as well as having a positive attitude and being a team player."

Jennifer Zeien, RN, MSN, PhD, ACNS-BC '91

Jenny Zeien '91 not only works as a specialist supporting electronic medical records, but she is also a clinical nursing instructor. She is currently living in Houston and works at a large hospital there.

For Jenny, the social restrictions of COVID have impacted her the most. "Trying to find ways to stay connected when being distant is difficult," she said. "It was especially hard when my father died. Since family members were not all in the same household, we could not be in close contact when it was needed the most."

In general, the biggest challenge for nurses right now is keeping themselves and their families healthy, Jenny said. "As a clinical nursing instructor, I see more nurses learning online because hands-on



Margo Predum '13 (left) and her sister Meredith Predum '15 both work at The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

(Continued on page 3)

Sacred Heart Royalty 2020



HOMECOMING 2020—Although many traditional events could not happen and the public was not allowed to participate at all, Sacred Heart Academy hosted limited homecoming activities for the student body. The football team scored 80 points (a school homecoming record!) in their shutout win over Caseville. The 2020 Homecoming court members pictured above, from left to right, are: Sophomore attendants Dennis Egan and Angel Brown; Senior attendants Spencer Moore (**Jordan Clark Moore '99**,

grandmother **Barbara Breidenstein Elmore '68**), Brooklyn Chomchai, and Zach Wentworth (**Joe '90**); Queen Emma Stempky and King Luke Predum; Seniors Isabella Fritz, Andrew Courtright (**Ben '91**, grandfather **Jerry '66**), and Allison Hauck; Juniors Brady Gruss (grandmother **Roxanne Endres Gruss '66**) and Paige McGuirk (**Jennifer Bingham McGuirk '93**, grandmother **Joann Swetz Bingham '68**); and Freshman attendants Brady Hoeve (**Denae Jacque '99**) and Jordan Hosking (**Marcy McDonald Hosking '90** and **Edan Hosking '91**).

(COVID, continued from page 2)

training is not available,” Jenny said. “Training in an actual health facility is important in building critical thinking skills. Those opportunities remain limited, unfortunately, and it will have an impact for years to come.”

Elena Sias, MLS '05

At a large hospital in Portland, Oregon, **Elena Sias '05** works as a medical laboratory scientist running diagnostic tests in a very busy laboratory. “Before COVID, the biggest challenge was being short-staffed. Now the biggest challenge in the lab is definitely supply issues,” Elena wrote. “We had to reuse gloves as much as possible and were running out of

gowns. We were also wearing our masks for a week at a time. Finally personal protective equipment was available again, but still the reagents we use for testing are on backorder across the country.”

“In the first few weeks of COVID I found myself randomly crying. . . Everyone was so shut off from one another. People were scared. I wanted my happy and friendly city back,” she said. “I finally saw people coming together for the greater good during a Black Lives Matter march; it was very powerful.”

Elena is quick to remind people that healthcare workers are doing their best

and working hard. “Everyone needs to do their part by staying masked and socially-distanced so we don’t overwhelm the system,” she said.

Emily (Sias) Wilson, PT, DPT '03

The only thing making the pandemic easier is knowing the whole world is going through it together, says **Dr. Emily Wilson '03**, a board certified physical therapist specializing in women’s health. Her practice is located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and when the pandemic hit she worked extra-hard to develop a virtual course to prepare couples for childbirth. “The in-person courses were not available due to COVID, and people needed them,” Emily said, adding that she also had to help clients using telehealth, which she will continue to do even when the pandemic is over.

“Virtual appointments are efficient and open up access. You could be in Mt. Pleasant and connect with a board certified therapist across the state to help you with urine leaks, constipation or pelvic pain. How cool is that?”

(Football, continued from page 1)

development in the off-season.”

Coach Ruggles is committed to the tradition of Irish football. “One of the ways we have tried to honor Sacred Heart’s rich football tradition is to name team awards after Sacred Heart football greats,” he said. “The **Mick Natzel (SHA '67)** and **Jack Fitzpatrick (SHA '42)** Awards are given to players who stand out in their playing excellence. The **Rick Roberts Award** is given to a player who leads by example on and off the field. The **Phil Durocher Award** is given to the scout/unsung/prep team player of the year. These awards mean a lot to the coaching staff and players.”



ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director



Handling COVID with class (pun intended!)

Some of you may be wondering what it is like to have school during a national pandemic. Well, at Sacred Heart Academy we were one of the few schools in our area offering both face-to-face, five full days per week, and a virtual learning option called **SHA Connect**. With an enrollment of 400 students, one eighth (or 48 students) opted to continue their schooling via **SHA Connect**. Our teachers graciously agreed to teach both versions and while it has been very challenging to say the least, they have continued to deliver the SHA difference, both in the classroom and online. We could not be prouder of the support they have shown to all the students. Here are a few of the work-arounds which allowed us to accommodate the COVID-19 restrictions.

Rather than staggered lunch hours in the cafeteria, which is housed in the elementary building, the cafeteria staff has done a phenomenal job delivering the meals to various locations. The prep is still done in the cafeteria kitchen; however, elementary lunches are delivered to the classrooms. Middle school and high school students have their lunches served in the parish center. This larger space allows for the necessary social distancing and the students eating while all facing the same

direction. Like the teachers, the cafeteria staff moved seamlessly into this new format of serving, even while implementing an online order-at-home system. Way to go SHA Café Staff!

With a maximum allowed count of 25 students on the playground, recesses took a bit of tweaking. Previously, grade levels went outside together for their 15-minute morning recess, then had some outside time after they were finished eating lunch. Now, the half hour breaks may or may not line up with lunch periods, as recesses begin at 8:30 a.m. and run every half hour until 2 p.m., with only one classroom (or in some cases one grade level) outside at a time. While it is not the ideal situation, it works.

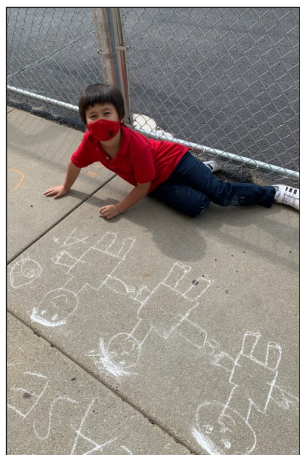
COVID restrictions do not allow students to participate in any off-campus field trips and getting full elementary classes to the STEM Lab has been challenging. However, our STEM lab coordinator, Mrs. Jennie Queen-Baker, came up with a creative way to meet both needs by offering an in-house field trip to our STEM lab for a three-day exhibit called "Let's Look at Animals." The kindergarten through 5th grade students received an introduction to the basic

types of animals (BRAMF: birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and fish). Mrs. Queen-Baker set up 17 different one- to two-minute stations where students were able to touch and/or view specimens on a rotation basis. Some of the animals displayed include: frog, perch, huge earthworms, rat, pigeon, squid, jellyfish, fetal pig, sheep heart, sheep brain, cow eyeballs, cow tongue, cow bones, dried lizards, and Amazonian rainbow beetles! All animals are real but are preserved specimens (used for dissections). Thank you, Mrs. Jenni Queen-Baker, for making science fun for all students.

Lastly, our weekly all-school Mass has been divided into two separate Masses. The elementary attend on Tuesday mornings and secondary students on Thursday mornings. This way we can abide by the church social distance restrictions. Students still do the readings and intentions, however, there are no cantors or choir, and staff serve as Eucharistic ministers. Although parents and other special guests are not allowed to share in our school Mass celebrations, we feel blessed to continue with our weekly services.

All in all, we continue to make adjustments (sometimes on a daily basis) but with less than eight cases thus far, we feel the restrictions being followed and the work of our dedicated custodial staff are making a difference as we continue to deliver a high-quality Catholic education both in person and via **SHA Connect**.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Sacred Heart Academy and the hands-on, quality Catholic education we offer, (in-person or virtually), please contact me, Mary Kay Reetz, at 989.772.1457 or mkreetz@gafe.sha.net.



(Left) Individual class recess times allow more room for students to spread out. (Right) Mrs. Queen-Baker shows Brandon McGuirk (Jennifer Bingham McGuirk '93, grandmother Joann Swetz Bingham '68) where the mouth of a jellyfish is located during one of the "Let's Look at Animals" sessions.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, *Principal*

The Year 2020

20 things I have learned—or re-learned

Please note: these “20 things” are listed in no particular order.

1

Nothing takes the place of quality family time and family dinners. My family was able to eat meals and be together more in 2020 than in the prior 10 years.

2

SHA students and parents are resilient. The Class of 2020 is an amazing example—at every detour, there was no complaining, just acceptance.

3

A little change can be good. In general, students got more sleep, ate better food, and had more time to relax in 2020.

4

More time at home equals more time to pray and reflect.

5

I’ve learned lots of new vocabulary: “flatten the curve”, “social distancing”, and the difference between isolation and quarantine.

6

With a little creativity, activities can be adjusted and milestones celebrated.

7

Working from home can be positive: Comfy clothes, your own schedule, and ready snacks boost productivity. It can also be negative: I really missed seeing the students and my colleagues.

8

Anger doesn’t help.

9

Flexibility is a life skill.

10

I re-learned the health benefits of a daily

walk, both mental and physical.

11

I was reminded how important and beneficial it is to attend weekly Mass.

12

The importance of connecting with older friends and family—especially shut-ins—even if only by phone.

13

The word “zoom” took on a completely new definition. What used to mean “move very quickly” or “close up camera view” became the daily norm—and a savior—for many of us, whether at work, at home, or for a family happy hour.

14

In times of crisis, our SHA families stick together. I have personally felt and appreciated SHA support more than ever this year.

15

Our students want to be at school. Although they would prefer not to wear a mask, if it means they can stay in school, they are more than willing to comply.

16

Never underestimate the value and importance of a dependable maintenance/cleaning crew. Our SHA team is amazing. They give their all—and more—and are a key reason we can even be in school.

17

SHA teachers are the absolute best. They, too, want to be in school. When we talk about the *SHA Difference*, we are talking about our teachers and their dedication to student success. Current-

ly, teachers are handling both in-school and virtual instruction with grace. Not to mention the responsibility of washing desks (and all surfaces!) at the change of every class. SHA teachers and staff are truly the backbone of our school.

18

Our administrative team is the best definition of team I have ever known. It took long hours, including working on weekends throughout the summer to create and implement a plan for SHA students to be physically in school this year. There was never any complaining, because we know face-to-face, same room instruction is the best possible learning experience.

19

The importance of connections. Technology has effectively changed the way we connect, even when we can’t be with each other in person. We can see each other, laugh, and be together via a Zoom or Facetime call. I also value the connection with our vendor partners and donors. Without the support of our vendors getting us supplies and our donors going above-and-beyond to help us, SHA could not exist in “normal” conditions. During a national pandemic, this support is both necessary and priceless.

20

I chose the perfect career 32 years ago. This spring, while working from home in my basement, I missed the students and our staff every single day. I realized I would not want to be doing anything other than education, and I would not want to be anywhere other than SHA. The Academy is truly a special place to work and learn.

What did you learn—or re-learn—this year?

Class Notes

1945—**Bob Lawens** died October 21 at the Isabella County Medical Care Facility in Mt. Pleasant. Bob lived his entire life in Mt. Pleasant, graduating from Sacred Heart Academy, then serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. He worked at Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, then enjoyed lots of activities in retirement, including making cookies. He had two sisters, **Ruth (Lawens) Dalrymple '38**, and Vada Lawens.

1948—**Betty (Moore) Richmond** passed away October 18 in Mt. Pleasant. She was a life-long member of Sacred Heart Parish. Her siblings are **John Moore '35**, Marie Kinney, and **Charlotte Lauer '47**. Betty's children are Daniel Richmond, **Cynthia Raymond '77**, and **Patrick Richmond '80**.

1954—**Conrad English** died September 12, 2020 at The Villages, Florida. Conrad, the brother of **Joann French '56**, **Molly Lixey '59** and **Camille Carter '67**, achieved a teaching degree from Central Michigan University, served two years in the U.S. Army during peace time, then became a high school business teacher and football coach. He later became a State Farm Insurance agent and found his professional calling in the role for 35 years. Conrad twice served as Mayor of Mt. Pleasant. Con's father was **Joseph English**, a 1928 graduate of the Academy. His children are **Matt English '78**, **Tim English '79**, **Julia (English '80) Muscott**, and **Doug English '86**.

1957—**Dorothy Ann (McDonald) Angus** died September 22, 2020. She grew up as part of a close-knit, faith-filled family in Rosebush. She married in 1958 and moved to Midland where she lived the rest of her life. Dorothy worked as a building secretary for Midland Public Schools at three different locations over 28 years. Her siblings are **John McDonald '51**, Angus McDonald, **Charles McDonald '61**, **Elizabeth Branigan '61**, Alma Wentworth, Donald McDonald, Monica Hooper, and Mary Brickner.

Barbara "Toni" (Theisen) Little died November 21 at her Mt. Pleasant home. She was a local childcare provider for more than 40 years. Her father was **Gerald Theisen '26**, and her siblings are **Jim Theisen '49**, **Bob Theisen '50**, **Mary Catherine "Kay" Veit '55**, **Nancy Roethlisberger '56**, **Barney Theisen '60**, and **Margaret "Myrt" Kirkey '62**.

1959—**John Hesch** died in Apopka, Florida on August 9, 2020. He worked as an engineer at General Motors for his entire career. His siblings are **Barbara Schnoes '52** and **Russell Hesch '55**.

Please note this correction: **Frank Eppe** died Friday, May 15, 2020 in Bay City. He grew up in Leaton on the family farm, living there until 2000 when he built a home in Mt. Pleasant.

Frank attended St. Henry's Catholic School in Rosebush to the 8th grade, and then Sacred Heart Academy for 9th to 12th grades. He attended Ferris State University and Michigan State University, then served his country in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers from 1968 to 1970 during the Vietnam War. He was employed as a civil engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation, retiring in 1977. Frank's siblings are **M. Catherine Eppe '61**, **Susan Eppe '64**, **John Eppe '65**, and **Jean Eppe '67**.

1964—**Robert (Bob) Rzepecki** died unexpectedly September 5, 2020 in Harrison, Michigan. He was a lifetime member of Sacred Heart Parish in Mt. Pleasant, and a three-sport athlete in high school. Bob served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969, during the Vietnam War. After discharge from the Army he finished his education and taught at Chippewa Hills High School until retirement. His mom was **Marylouise (Campbell '34) Rzepecki**. **Marilyn Rzepecki '63**, **Frances Baker '69**, and **Raymond Rzepecki '73** are his siblings.

Susan (Fox) Voisin died September 30, 2020 in Omaha, Nebraska. She met the love of her life, **Michael "Mick" Voisin '63** in middle school at Sacred Heart. They married after graduation and enjoyed 55 years together. She worked in retail until her retirement. Her siblings are **Ruth Anne Walker '56**, **Jean Taylor '57**, **Jim Fox '69**, and **Bob Fox '73**.

1966—On October 18, 2020, the Tuscarora Township Parks Commission located in Indian River, Michigan, honored **Jim Purtill** for transforming the [parks system] "into a beautiful, accessible, and enjoyable destination for residents and visitors alike" during his tenure as parks and maintenance supervisor. The commission named a Purtill Pavilion in his honor and wished Jim well in his retirement, adding "sincere gratitude for his commitment to the community".

1975—In September 2020, **Mary Beth (Brandell) Curtiss** retired from her position as the administrative liaison to the Bishop of the Saginaw Diocese after serving 11 years in the role. She was a key resource to priests, parishes, and community leaders across mid-Michigan. Bishop Robert Gruss said she was "an invaluable gift" to the Diocese and "her ministry has made an impact that will last for years to come". Mary Beth and her husband, **Tim Curtiss '73**, have moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where three of their four daughters currently reside.

1992—**Eddie and Cesre (Kimbrel '93) McQuaid** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2020. They reside in Haines, Alaska.

2006—**Dr. Lauren (Hasler) Leslie** and her husband Dr. David Leslie welcomed a second child, Margaret Susan, born October 6, 2020 in New Orleans. The newest family member joins big sister Caroline, age 19 months, at home. Lauren is an osteo-

Class Notes

pathic physician and sports medicine doctor who specializes in neuromusculoskeletal and manipulative sports medicine at a clinic in New Orleans.

2007—**Sara (Myler) Brown** and her husband Ben welcomed their fourth child on October 24, 2020. Baby girl Briar Shannon joins siblings Callum, age 5, Emmett, age 3, and Hollyn, age 1, at home. The family resides in Oxford, Michigan. Proud grandpa is **Bill Myler '76**.

2009—**Jackie (Olson) Geiling** recently accepted a new position as the Permian Basin Regional Director of Development for IDEA Public Schools. Prior to that she served seven years with the Midland Memorial Foundation. She and her husband reside in Midland, Texas. They are expecting their third child in January 2021.

Alexa Holtgrieve married Andrew Doerr (a Sacred Heart Academy math teacher) September 19, 2020 at Sacred Heart Church. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant. Alexa works at the Edward Jones—Greg & Maureen Starry office.

Nick Krepostman was married on September 19, 2020 to Krandall Williams at Boyne Valley Vineyards in Petoskey. Nick is a physician currently serving his residency at Loyola Medicine in Chicago.

Sigourney (Seybert) Rivas and her husband Samuel welcomed baby girl Winora Grace on July 21, 2020. Sig and her husband are missionaries working with children and families in La Libertad, El Salvador. Their sponsor organization is Reliant Mission.

2010—**Mitchell Reetz** married Anna Smith August 22, 2020 at Sacred Heart Church. The couple lives in Mt. Pleasant. Mitch works at TumbTrak, an international company located in central Michigan owned by **Stacy (Larrance) Finnerty '91**.

Alison (Thering) Trybe and her husband Scott welcomed their first child on September 27, 2020, a girl named Vivian Dawn. The family resides in New Baltimore, Michigan, where Alison is a professional nanny. **Bob Thering '76** is Vivian's proud grandpa.

2011—**Bennett Myler** married Kylee Theisen October 24, 2020 at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Beal City. The couple resides in Mt. Pleasant, where Bennett works as an engineer for Muskegon Development Company. You may have noticed the earlier 2007 announcement that Bennett's sister Sara had a baby the same day he was married. Baby Briar arrived at 1:29 p.m. and the wedding started at 1:30 p.m. Within a matter of minutes, the Myler Family welcomed two new family members. Father and grandfather, **Bill Myler '76**, couldn't be happier.

Hannah (Hovey) Maness and her husband Sam welcomed their first child, a daughter named Josephine Louise. The bundle of joy arrived August 26, 2020 in Ann Arbor where Hannah works as a pharmacist. Great grandmother is **Mary (Bayer) Hovey '62**.

2013—**Kaylee Fermoye** married Joe Gerow at Buck's Run in Mt. Pleasant on August 15. The Gerows reside in Sterling Heights. Kaylee is a speech language pathologist at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores.

2015—**Riley Terwilliger** married Nick Fletcher November 13, 2020 at the Tobacco Ranch in Clare. Riley recently graduated from Alma College and is working in the financial industry. The newlyweds will reside in Essexville.

2017—**Amanda Campbell** and **Ryan Ervin** tied the knot November 7 at St. Mary's University Parish in Mt. Pleasant. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant, where Ryan works at Mercantile Bank as a credit analyst intern and Amanda is a nurse at McLaren—Central Michigan.

2018—**Zachary Squires** graduated from Eastern Gateway Community College and then completed an electrical program at the Greater Michigan Construction Academy. He resides in Lansing and is enrolled in Lansing Community College's aviation program for airline mechanics.

In other news . . .

Sister Marie Benedict O'Toole died October 25, 2020 at Marywood in Grand Rapids at the age of 95. She was a Dominican sister for 73 years. Her teaching career included assignments throughout Michigan, and several years at SHA Elementary in the '70s. In 2003, Sister Marie Benedict was inducted into the Saginaw Catholic Schools Hall of Fame in honor of her contributions to Catholic education over the years. At that time, she wrote: "My life as a Grand Rapids Dominican has been one of joy and life-giving, but also full of challenges. I have enjoyed each location where I served, the sisters I lived with, the parents I worked with, and all the children."

Another Sacred Heart & Beal City match?

How many times has this happened over the years? A Beal City boy marries a Sacred Heart girl, or a Sacred Heart girl marries a Beal City boy? If you are one of these couples, please contact the Alumni News at alumni@sha.net for a short question list. There will be a story in an upcoming issue of the Alumni News and you could be featured!



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Alumni News For:



SHAgala goes virtual; all are invited to participate

On behalf of Sacred Heart Academy, and the entire team of parent and community volunteers, SHAgala Chairperson **Wendy (McConnell) Endres '91** invites all SHA alumni, parents, and parishioners to join in the fun of our first-ever virtual SHAgala event. SHAgala in its traditional form is simply not possible, so the Saturday, February 13, 2021 event will be hosted in a virtual format with a fun new theme: *"SHAgala With a Twist"*.

"The virtual format means anyone can participate from anywhere at minimal or no cost,"

Wendy says. "There are new options for participating in the category auctions, the main event auction, games of chance, and our annual fund-a-need program, which is a collection for the teachers."

Those who have e-mails in their alumni records will be sent information when registration opens after Christmas. You can also visit the academy.sha.net web site for information and updates.

There are many ways alumni can support SHAgala:

- Donate an auction item or package
- Make a contribution to the SHAgala "Giving Tree"
- Purchase a cash raffle ticket—the ticket sale-a-thon date will be scheduled soon
- Participate in the online auctions

For information on how to give, or additional information about the virtual SHAgala event, contact **Connie (Veit) McCann '81** or **Marcy (McDonald) Hosking '90** at 989-772-1385 or shagala@sha.net

SHA gala

with a twist

A season of giving

If the Christmas season or end-of-the-calendar year are motivating you to think about charitable giving, perhaps you would consider one of the following options to benefit Sacred Heart Academy:

- A contribution to the SHA Foundation endowment fund to benefit Sacred Heart Academy and its teachers
- A donation to SHA Athletics for the benefit of student athletes
- Items from the Sacred Heart Academy "Wish List" for teachers and staff
- A donation to tuition assistance at the Academy

For information on these and other end-of-the-year giving opportunities plus information about how to give, please contact **Connie (Veit) McCann '81**, Sacred Heart Development Director at 989-289-0924 or cmccann@sha.net.

Special thanks

Thank you to the alumni and friends who contributed to the baseball fencing project for Sacred Heart. The project is now complete and the field will be ready to welcome Coach **Earl Hartman '66** and the 2021 baseball team, along with family and friends.