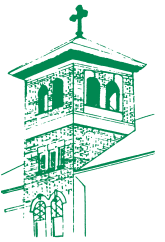




# ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



August 2020 • Vol. 39 No. 2

Earl Hartman, SHA '66, Editor

Paulette Andres Green, SHA '64, Newsletter Chairperson

## SHA Homecoming

Friday, Sept. 25, 2020

If possible, Homecoming will proceed, although precautions will be mandatory: mask-wearing and social distancing are planned. Please visit the school web site at [academy.sha.net](http://academy.sha.net) for announcements or updates.

4:00 p.m.

**Homecoming Parade**  
through downtown  
Mt. Pleasant

7:00 p.m.

**Football Game**  
vs. Caseville at Community  
Memorial Stadium

**Grand Marshals**  
**Rick & Mary Beth**  
**Roberts**

**Alumni of the Year**  
**Rosie (Theisen '53)**  
**& Bill '50 Buschle**



## Three lady Irish to join Hall of Fame

Three former lady Irish athletes will be added to the Sacred Heart Athletic Hall of Fame this fall, bringing the total number of honorees to 113. The Hall began in 1980 as a means to honor former athletes for their contributions to the history and tradition of Sacred Heart athletics. To be eligible an athlete must be at least 15 years out of high school. Nomination forms are available on the school web site at [www.sha.net](http://www.sha.net).



Jolee Wright Throop  
(circa 1995)

Scheduled for halftime of the Homecoming football game, Friday September 25, 2020, the inductions will include **Jolee (Wright ) Throop '95** and two members of the class of 2000, **Margo (Lewandos) Kermion** and **Kacey (Neyer) Marshall**.

Jolee earned all-state honors in softball while establishing career records in RBIs, home runs, triples and runs scored. She was selected to play in the State of Michigan all-star game. Her teams won three district and two regional championships and advanced to the state semifinals in 1994. Her cheerleading squads won two regionals and a state runner-up title. Jolee lives in Mt Pleasant with her husband Tim and two children. She has been a Special Education teacher at Weidman Elementary for 18 years.



Margo Lewandos  
Kermion (circa 2000)

Margo was a two time all-state shortstop who established single season and career softball records for runs, hits, and stolen bases while helping her teams win three conference, two district, and a regional title. She also lettered in basketball. Margo is a nurse living in Jacksonville, North Carolina with her Marine Corps husband Michael and son Maddox.



Kacey Neyer Marshall  
(circa 2000)

Kacey earned nine letters in basketball, track, and cross country. She was the basketball team's leading scorer as a sophomore and finished her career at #4 on the all-time scoring list with 657 points. She was a scoring runner on the 2000 state cross country championship team, and earned several medals during her four-year track career. Kacey and her husband Bill live in Petoskey with their two sons. Kacey spent 10 years in Human Resources as a nurse recruiter for McLaren Northern Michigan.



# Welcome Class of 2020 !

## 32 graduates join the Alumni Association this year



**LADIES OF THE CLASS OF 2020 (above)**—From left, Michele Reinke (**Michele Pacholka Reinke '84**), Maca Peralta, Alexis Horak, Desiree' McConnell, Morgan Filhart, Angeline Petras-Gourlay, Lauren Rookard (grandmother Kathy Murphy Parks '71) Madelon Humphreys, Sara Peltier, Brooklyn Bigard (**Paul '85**), Paige McGuirk (**Jennifer Bingham McGuirk '93, grandmother Joann Swetz Bingham '68, great-grandfather John Swetz '43**), Allison Rawson (**Marie West Rawson '93**), Sammy McDonald (**Pat '88, grandfather Jerry '50, great-grandfather Fred 1918**), Jordyn Henning, Sabrina Rudoni (**Steve '92**), Molly Yonker, and Lauren Munley. Missing from photo: Haily Davis and Natalie Ruiz. **MEN OF THE CLASS OF 2020 (below)**—Kneeling, from left: Zach Partlo, Nick Cataldo, Elson Willsey, Austin Lobsinger (**Craig '92, grandfather Dave '70**), Luke Pramuka (**Caroline Thering Pramuka '84, great grandmother Ann McDonald Thering '26**), and Lesley Armah. Standing, from left: Matthew Szymczak, Drew Neyer (**Jerry '83, grandfather Dave '61**), Josh Lynch (**great grandmother Mable McCormick Lynch 1914**), Jayden Oldenburg, Michael Hopp, Nate Gruss (**grandmother Roxie Endres Gruss '66**), and Ben Ruggles (**John '89**).



### Class

#### Accomplishments:

- Half of the class members (16 students) had grade point averages of 3.9 and above
- More than \$1.6 million offered to these graduates in college scholarships
- One National Merit scholar
- One perfect ACT score

## Overcoming obstacles

# 2014 graduate endured more than a pandemic

People around the world have endured restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year. Weddings have been rescheduled; college and high school graduations were forfeited; conventions, concerts, and sporting events were canceled; and world travel came to a screeching halt. People have suffered disappointments in many ways. No matter what is happening in the world, there are always people who endure situations better than others. **Michelle Kujat '14**, is one of those people.

Michelle has spent years overcoming obstacles and having her life change track. These days, she takes everything in stride. "Things could always be worse," she says. But Michelle endured many, many "worse" times.

When she graduated from SHA in 2014, Michelle was headed to the University of Michigan, planning to major in Biology. "I was most excited about living in a big city and being on my own," she said.

Some issues she was having with exhaustion, joint aches and pains, along with vitamin deficiencies started to escalate. In July of that summer, a wheezing cough resulted in her coughing up blood, which led her to many doctors and many diagnoses: mononucleosis, pneumonia, then double-lung pneumonia. Antibiotic treatments did not help, and her situation kept getting worse. She was referred to a pulmonologist who admitted her to the local hospital, and she seemed to stabilize. After she was discharged, it was only three days before she was re-admitted. Something was still wrong.

The night before she had planned to move to Ann Arbor and start her independent college life, she had a scary episode which led to her doctor putting her in a medically-induced coma. The plan was to keep her out for three to four days, which would give her body a chance to recover. The few days turned into two weeks in a coma. The local doctor decided she should be sent to a larger hospital with more resources. One night, in the middle of a terrible thunderstorm, she was transported by Survival Flight to the U of M Medical Center.

While still in a coma, she was being tested by virtually every department in the hospital, from infectious diseases to rheumatology to neurology. In less than 24 hours, the rheumatology specialists took over, knowing it was something in their wheelhouse. Soon after, Michelle was diagnosed with severe, life-threatening systemic lupus which was attacking her brain, lungs and kidneys. At this point, her family was told she was the sickest person in the Critical Intensive Care Unit, meaning she was literally the sickest person in the hospital.

Once the diagnosis was confirmed, Michelle received numerous treatments, including blood transfusions and a form of chemotherapy (to suppress her immune system). At one point she spiked a fever of 106 degrees. When she came out of the coma at U of M after 14 days, her life had completely changed. She was too weak to get up on her own. She was still getting transfusion and infusion treatments. "But things did start looking up," she said. "My doctor said if my oxygen levels stayed good for three days, I could go home." On the

third day, less than two minutes after her doctor said she could be discharged, Michelle had her first seizure, and was back to square one. The lupus activity in the brain had triggered a seizure and she needed anti-seizure medication which kept things under control enough for her to go home. Michelle had a central line (port) in her neck which had served its purpose for treatments. The line was removed, but a few moments later, she blacked out. A crash team was called and she was going into septic shock from an infection in the central line.

Soon, Michelle was placed on ECMO, an artificial way of drawing blood out of the body, filtering it, oxygenating it, and putting it back in the body, bypassing the heart and lungs to give those organs a chance to heal. Although ECMO is typically not an option for lupus patients, Michelle had been healthy before the lupus acted up, so her doctor ordered it. "Without ECMO, my chances of survival were around 20 percent. With it, I had a 50-50 chance," she said.

She was on ECMO for just four days, then recovered beautifully, getting physical therapy and medications. After two weeks, it was time to go home. She was discharged, and that night, she

woke up with what she described as a "terrible headache, the worst of my life, with a throbbing pain in the back of [my] head." She went back to sleep, awakening at 3 a.m. completely blind.

The blindness meant an ambulance trip to Midland, and a transfer back to U of M. She was re-admitted less than 18 hours after her original discharge. She began having seizures again, and at one point lost all cognition. Michelle could not remember her own name. Doctors said a blood pressure spike caused swelling in her head which pressed on her optic nerve. The official diagnosis was posterior reversible encephalopathy. However, Michelle's eye damage was not reversible. She has since regained 50 percent of her vision, but does not have lower or peripheral sight.

Michelle was discharged home after 83 total days in the hospital at U of M. College was on hold while she managed her medications and new lifestyle modifications, learning to live with her disability. Through it all, she noticed much more clearly how people with disabilities are overlooked, and how uncomfortable people are with discussing disabilities. "My family helped me immensely," Michelle says. "They were—and continue to be—the most supportive people in my life."

She started her undergraduate work at U of M in August of 2015, adjusting to her limitations while staying focused on her goal to graduate. Michelle found she was enjoying her history classes most, which resulted in changing her major to history, with a minor in law, justice and social change. She graduated from U of M and is currently enrolled in the University of Dayton School of Law Class of 2022. She wants to have a positive impact on the disabled community. Michelle learned much about herself through her medical experience, and believes everything happens for a reason. "Something that could have completely derailed my plans gave me an opportunity to do

*Continued on page 7*



Michelle Kujat '14 at her U of M graduation





# ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director



## The Sacred Heart Advantage

As Admissions Director for the past 15 years at Sacred Heart Academy, I've had the honor and privilege of sharing with prospective families what I call "The Sacred Heart Advantage." Each year it seems the list gets longer and more impressive. It is becoming more apparent in today's world the importance and need for students to develop and uphold morals and values and have strong character, something SHA does well. With our Catholic church teachings and personal commitment to helping students reach their potential, we end up graduating students who are kind, driven, dedicated, and hard-working. The Class of 2020 was no exception as half of the members had a GPA of 3.9 and above. One student even scored a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. Small classes allow our teachers and staff to know our students and challenge them to be the best they can be.

With the impact of social media, many youth today lack effective communication skills. At SHA, students begin developing strong oral and written communication skills right from the start. The fact that cursive writing is still being taught makes us different from most other area schools. Our students learn to become critical thinkers by reading and sharing their perspectives both in writing and orally, in small groups, and in front of the class. Our weekly school masses offer opportunities for our students to lead the various ministries and as a result they build public speaking skills and confidence in their communication skills which serve as building blocks for life.

While our classes may be small in number, the world is our classroom. Our students find themselves in learning environments they only dreamed about. Each year our seniors get to experience a job shadow day in a field of their choice. Students have been in operating rooms, board rooms, airplanes, classrooms, huge farms, healthcare settings, and many, many other workplaces. They also participate in a career day where they dress professionally, create a resume, and interview with at least two individuals (many times SHA alum) from their choice of professions. They receive immediate feedback on their resume and interviewing skills. Some students have even received job offers during the process. Positive comments about their ability to communicate effectively and conduct themselves in a professional manner are heard year after year. Our students have the opportunity to participate in a program called Close Up where they travel to New York and Washington D.C. or Hawaii to learn about history and government. The program is designed to empower students to become active participants in our democracy. Students have participated in mission trips to Costa Rica where they are immersed into Spanish speaking communities to help share the word of God and "love" on the children through fun activities and neighborhood

events. These types of trips have helped some of our students discover what it is God is calling them to be and do.

Part of the Sacred Heart Advantage is acceptance, inclusion, and the value of diversity. Varied opinions and cultures are welcome and respected. Our high school AP Literature and Composition students traveled by Amtrak to Chicago for a wonderful cultural immersion experience. Teacher Alex Gandy planned the excursion so the students could relate what was happening hundreds of years ago with what they are reading in class and connect both to current events. In the short time they were there, they not only attended one of the last performances of the Broadway musical Hamilton at the CIBC theatre, they also skated on the ice at Millennium Park, visited the Shedd Aquarium, and saw the Andy Warhol exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute. They visited the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) and attended Mass at the Holy Name Cathedral with the Archbishop of Chicago and Pastor, Cardinal Blasé Cupich.

At the elementary level, six years ago, SHA parent Mark Szymczak started a tradition of having the 6<sup>th</sup> graders prepare a time capsule which is "buried" in an un-used locked locker until graduation time. Mr. Szymczak invites all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to complete a questionnaire which includes simple questions like what

is your favorite food? He also asks them to write a letter to their future selves sharing their thoughts, fears, and dreams. Parents are invited to participate by answering a short questionnaire, and former teachers can submit letters as well. Mr. Szymczak comes into the classroom each spring to measure the height of each 6<sup>th</sup> grader and cuts a matching piece of survey tape. He writes the child's name and measurement on the tape and seals it in their individual envelope. The students can choose to get weighed as well.



Savannah Jones, Class of 2026

Sixth graders are welcome to submit a design for the time capsule and the class votes to determine the winning design. This year, Savannah Jones was the talented artist who got to paint her design on the locker door. The time capsule project is one example of the relationship building and inclusion opportunities that our families get to experience at SHA. There are

*Continued on page 7*



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Mary Kay Yonker, Principal*

## 2020—What a year!

To say this was a year like no other is an understatement! When our schools closed at the end of the day on Friday, March 13, we had no idea it would be our last day of face-to-face instruction for the 2019-20 school year. The great news was that our Sacred Heart Academy teachers were ready to teach virtually and provide distance learning to our students. Thanks to the very generous donors who have contributed to our STEM Fund and helped provide 1:1 Chromebooks for students in grades 7-12, we were a step (or two) ahead of the rest! Our teachers stepped up in a big way to do what was best for our kids. They were learning while teaching and caring for their own children. While many schools provided 160 days of instruction this year, we were able to provide 175 days of instruction. We used ZOOM meetings, Google Classroom, and other virtual platforms to continue learning. While virtual learning will never take the place of our teachers and students in the classroom, we did our best in a unique situation.

The Class of 2020 had an unprecedented end to their senior year. While we were not in school to celebrate in the traditional ways, we found other ways to honor them. We had yard signs made with their pictures then delivered across five counties to let our students know we were thinking about them. Our College Decision Day was done virtually, with help from a grant to create a video. We held a “Last ride around the school” where our seniors, in their caps and gowns, rode in convertibles and Jeeps on what would have been their graduation day. Sacred Heart also created the “Adopt-a-Senior” program where the seniors received inspirational notes, gift cards, and gifts, thanks to alumni, parents, and friends. We held our senior awards day in the parish center, honoring just a few students at a time. Graduation was held in the church parking lot July 24. I am certain these students will never forget this time in their lives, and they will be better for it.

I missed the students like crazy! The day the elementary parents picked up supplies on the lawn and when our secondary students dropped off their textbooks and Chromebooks were such happy days! It’s a good thing I was wearing a mask, so the tears didn’t show.

There were blessings which came as a result of the shut-down, too. We had Zoom rosaries and we live-streamed Masses on Facebook and YouTube. We all learned new

technology skills and the value of a teacher. We traded team dinners for family dinners and learned to slow down, play games, and pray more. Students caught up on their sleep and ate less fast food. We learned that things don’t always go as planned, but that’s part of life.

Our hope is to be back at school in-person this fall. We may be wearing masks and sitting six feet apart, but it will be worth it if we can all be together. Sacred Heart Academy must follow executive orders and changes to state law, so for now we plan to be together, but we won’t know for sure until August.

As we enter our 131st year this fall, whether we are in-person or providing distance learning, Sacred Heart Academy is still the best choice for education. My second daughter graduated as part of the class of 2020, and I couldn’t be prouder. The character, morals, and values she and all of our students learn will last a lifetime. The connections and experiences from Sacred Heart Academy are lifelong, and the education has prepared them for the future, whatever path they choose to follow.



*SHA senior class members take one “last ride” around the Academy during a special event featuring each person in a separate vehicle.*



# Class Notes

**1939**—Alice (Windel) D'Hulster died March 22, 2020 at age 98. She had been living in the Detroit area. Alice is a sister of Helen Johnson '40, Laura Windel Pohl '43, Leona Halfmann '44, Rosemarie Robinson '47, and Anna Halfmann '47.

It was recently reported the Class of '39 lost two additional members several years ago. Mary Jane (Hickey) MacIntosh died in August of 2015 in Grand Rapids. Jacqueline Gruss '38 was her sister.

In December of 2015 Mary (Spagnuolo) Fabiano passed away in Stanton, Michigan. Mary's siblings were Dr. Alfred Spagnuolo '36, Betty Wickelman '44, and Paul Spagnuolo '48.

**1947**—Paul Lapham died May 8, 2020 at his home in Clare, Michigan. After graduation from SHA, Paul attended the University of Detroit, then worked in California and Florida before returning to Michigan. He was a land surveyor, owning and operating Lapham & Associates for more than 50 years. Paul was the first of 10 children in his family, which included Darcy '51, Clair, Jean Cauwenbergh '53, Larry '55, Sandra Lapham '58, Virginia (Ginger) Krabbenhoft '58, Lorena Lapham Szumski '62, Rita Poston '65, and David '66.

**1951**—Marinus (Bill) Verwey '51 and his Sacred Heart bride, Mary Ann (Sheahan) '52 celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 10, 2020. Congratulations to them and their family members!

**1959**—Frank Eppele passed away May 15 in a Bay City Hospital during the coronavirus pandemic. He was a Rosebush boy who came to SHA in 7<sup>th</sup> grade after attending St. Henry's School. Frank served in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers during the Vietnam War. After discharge, he worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation for almost 40 years. His siblings are Susan Eppele '64, John Eppele '65, and Jean Eppele '67.

**1960**—Nancy (Gutka) Pitock of Davison passed away June 26, 2020. She was a teacher in the Davison School System. Prior to her death she lived in Mt. Pleasant, where her brother, Roger Gutka '56, cared for her.

**1965**—55<sup>th</sup> CLASS REUNION UPDATE—Due to the coronavirus challenges which are both unprecedented and unpredictable, planning a reunion this year is troublesome for the Class of '65. Janet (Campbell) Cappel says, "Let's hope next year will allow us to rejoice as we celebrate our 56<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion during Homecoming 2021. Stay safe!"

Rev. John Cotter celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination as a Catholic priest on July 18, 2020 in Maple Grove, Michigan where he currently serves as the pastor of St. Michael's Church. Following a celebration Mass, family members gathered for an outdoor, socially distanced BBQ. John was ordained on July 18, 1980 at Sacred Heart Church in Mt. Pleasant. Fr.

John is one of the eight children of Dave '32 and Virginia (McConnell) '34 Cotter. His siblings are Jim Cotter '67, Tim Cotter '68, Rev. Ray Cotter '69, Margaret Crawford '70, Pete Cotter '75, Therese Cotter '76, and Karen Lamb '80.

**1966**—David Collin died October 26, 2018 in La Porte, Indiana. David served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 and was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. Dorothy McNerney Collin '29 was his mother. Siblings are Patty Veit '55, Virginia Finch '56, Susan Fuller '59, William Collin '59, Jon Collin '68, Dennis Collin '69, Marie Fussman '71, and Casey Nelson '73.

Jerry Courtright passed away June 12 on the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his marriage to his wife, Marcia. Jerry was a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve, serving in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He was a dental lab tech who owned and operated Courtright Dental Lab in Mt. Pleasant for 49 years. Jerry led the men's bible study at Sacred Heart Church, sang in the choir, and served as a parish sacristan, assisting with Masses, funerals, and other liturgies. His children are Ben '91, and Peter '96, and his siblings are Susanne Fanning '58, Nancy Sloss '60, Bill Courtright '64, and Marilyn Shafer '66.

On June 29, 2020, Frank Sytek died unexpectedly at home. He was a member of Sacred Heart Parish most of his life. He worked for Central Michigan University for 42 years, retiring in 2010. Frank had one sister, Irene Beltinck '68.

**1967**—Edward McQuaid died at his home in Mt. Pleasant on May 24, 2020, after a battle with cancer. Ed was a proud member of the 1967 Sacred Heart Academy Class C Basketball State Championship team. He enlisted in the Army from 1969 to 1971 during the Vietnam War, and was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division "Wolfhounds", the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade "Goldenhawks" and the 282<sup>nd</sup> Assault Helicopter Company "Blackcats". Ed flew in the largest assault in the Vietnam War, and 30 days before he was leaving for home, Ed and his crew were force-landed, but safely retrieved. Following his return to Mt. Pleasant, Ed worked for General Telephone as a technician, retiring after 38 years. His children are Eddie '92, Eric '01, Michelle '02, and Stephanie. His siblings are Susan Graham '58, Cecilia McQuaid, Alice "Annie" McQuaid, and Thurman "Fred" McQuaid '57.

**1970—REUNION NEWS!** The Class of 1970 is in the process of planning a class reunion to coincide with the SHA homecoming festivities on September 25, 2020. We will be communicating via Facebook in the coming weeks. Please connect with Kay (Scully) Pieratt at [rpieratt71@gmail.com](mailto:rpieratt71@gmail.com) or Patty (Neyer) Gostola at [estatepatg@gmail.com](mailto:estatepatg@gmail.com) if you have questions, are not on Facebook, or wish to help with the planning.

**1979**—Bob Sullivan passed away June 10, 2020 at a nursing home in Mt. Pleasant. Bob graduated from Central Michigan University and was a teacher in the Montabella School District for 16 years. He loved baseball and played in and coached

# Class Notes

adult leagues for more than 30 years. He returned to SHA after his retirement, serving for a short time as the Athletic Director and a middle school basketball coach. Terry Sullivan, Michelle Sullivan, and **Jim Sullivan '81** were his siblings.

**1980—REUNION NEWS!** The 40th reunion of the Class of 1980 has been postponed. Classmates are reminded to watch the Alumni News for information, or connect with **Karen (Cotter) Lamb** at [klamb@dcds.edu](mailto:klamb@dcds.edu).

**1990—REUNION NEWS!** The Class of 1990 will celebrate at the homecoming parade and football game, plus there are plans to tour the school, attend Mass and enjoy an outdoor evening event on Saturday the 26th. For information, contact **Marcy** at (734) 883-8180 or **Leslie** at (810) 358-0871.

**1997—John Maddocks** passed away May 8, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was living in Bothell, Washington for 10 years, where he proudly worked, and made a lot of kids' days as a city garbage man for Recology. John's mom, Janet, is a beloved kindergarten teacher who taught at SHA for more than 40 years. He has two sisters, **Jessica Simon '95** and **Jeannette Read '03**.

**2002—Katie (Schilling) Hebert** and her husband Lucas welcomed their first child, a boy named Cannon Morris Hebert, on May 9, 2020 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Katie is employed as a program manager for Clinton Health Access Initiative.

**2007—Dr. Matthew Miesch** and his wife Cristina welcomed their first child into the world on February 12, 2020, a girl they named Madelyn Claire. Matt and his wife are both resident physicians in Harford, Connecticut.

**Lindsey Sprague** passed away unexpectedly at home on June 21, 2020. Lindsey was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa

## Overcoming obstacles

*Continued from page 3*

something meaningful," Michelle said. "I never imagined my life would change so drastically, but it did. I look forward to being a successful attorney and, who knows? Maybe a Supreme Court judge one day."

The current pandemic? She can handle it. "I survived much worse," she says.

## The SHA Advantage

*Continued from page 4*

many other SHA Advantages I would be happy to share with you, given the opportunity. We are currently offering SHA Welcome Scholarships to new students from new families so if you or anyone you know is interested in learning more please contact me at 989.560.6185 or [mkreetz@sha.net](mailto:mkreetz@sha.net). I'd be delighted to share all the SHA advantages with you. Have a safe summer and stay well!

Indian Tribe. She was very artistic and created many logo images for tribal community events.

**2009—Megan (Olivieri) Stephens** and her husband Matt welcomed baby girl Sofia Renee March 4, 2020 in Lansing. Sofia joins four-year-old sister Claire and two-year-old brother Jack at home. Megan is a registered nurse who works at Sparrow Health System. She and Matt reside in St. Johns, Michigan.

**Garett Chapin** and his fiancé Samantha Swanson welcomed daughter Elianna Grace Chapin to the family on July 3, 2020. Baby Elianna arrived one month earlier than expected, but her dad says she is "absolutely perfect" and he "couldn't be more thankful for the life God has given [him] and for [his] family." Garett is a technician for Neat and Green Lawncare in Mt Pleasant and Midland.

**2011—Kristin Fracassi** married Austin Freeseaman November 9, 2019 in Holland, Iowa. Kristin is an executive at the Hotel Renovo in Grimes, Iowa. She graduated from Iowa State University in 2011. She met her husband at the university when they both attended an archery club practice. Cupid must have hit the mark that day!

**2013—Michael Heller** graduated from CMU in 2018 and began a career with Amazon in Minneapolis shortly thereafter. In June 2020, after his girlfriend Jenna Hamming accepted an offer with 3M to be their lead financial analyst for the Monrovia and Irvine, California plants, Mike accepted an offer to help launch a brand-new Amazon fulfillment center in Beaumont, California as an Operations Manager. The couple moved in June into a new townhome in Rancho Cucamonga, California just off Route 66.

## "The Boss" retires after nearly 40 years

Mr. Phil Durocher, affectionately known to many grads as "The Boss," retired this year. Mr. Durocher taught at SHA for 37 years. He also coached football, advised Model UN, and Key Club, and led Close Up trips to Washington, D.C. and Hawaii. We are grateful for his commitment to Sacred Heart Academy for almost four decades, and we wish him well in his retirement.



## 10-year football gathering postponed

The reunion event for the 2010 football state champions, originally scheduled for October 10, 2020, has been postponed. Coach Rick Roberts says it will be re-scheduled at a time "when the health crisis is in our rear-view mirror and we can really celebrate."



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## Alumni News For:



### Swing for the Fences

## Donors help SHA with baseball fencing project

The SHA baseball field will have new fencing thanks to the generosity of the “Swing for the Fences” campaign donors listed below. Enough money was raised to have the fencing installed this year. The field will be ready-and-waiting for the 2021 baseball season! Additional donations toward baseball will benefit other field improvements.

#### Major Donors

- **Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation**, courtesy of the Connor J. Puhlman Memorial Fund for Youth, the Hersee Family Fund, and the Kellogg Youth Fund
- **Knights of Columbus Council 1497** (Sacred Heart Chapter)
- **The SHA Athletic Association**

#### Individual Donors

In honor of Don Bissell by  
Geraldine (Epple '56) Bissell  
Dick '65 & Ruth Beltinck  
Bill '50 & Rosilyn (Theisen '53)  
Buschle  
Janet (Campbell '65) Cappel  
In honor of Frank Deni by  
Frank Deni '87, and  
Sue Ellen (Deni '85), Scott, Wyatt  
and Walker Owen  
John '65 & Pam Epple  
The Fabiano Family:  
Jim '61, Jim II '85, and Joe '90  
Jim '87 & Theresa (Audretsch '89)  
Goenner  
Roger Gutka '56  
Earl '66 & Sharon (Campbell '65)  
Hartman

Kevin '88 & Sandra Hartman  
Kirt Hartman '97  
Jim '61 & Rita (Wezensky '61) Hovey  
Mike Hovey '65  
J. Ken Hubbell '67  
John '97 & Danae Hunter  
Mike '75 & Kathy Hutchins  
The Kornexl Family: Mary Ann,  
Dale '82, Trevor '12, and Matt '16  
Mike Kostrzewa '68  
Jeremy '93 & Katie MacDonald  
Keith '85 & Christine MacDonald  
Gerry Martin '66  
Chris '81 & Connie (Veit '81) McCann  
In honor of Joe Methner '18 by  
The Methner Family  
Greg '67 and Ryan '94 Moeggenberg  
The Myler Family:  
Bill '76, Billy '10, Bennett '11,  
and Mitchell '13  
The Mills Family:  
Mark '79, Mike '80 and Tim  
Marty Naumes '66  
Ken Neyer '63  
Rick & Kay (Scully '70) Pieratt  
Scott '96 & Sarah (Groves '95) Pieratt  
Paul Powell '84  
Gabe Sheppard '90  
James Siefker '96

Jim '63 & Marilyn Sweeney  
Mark & Michelle Szymczak  
Andy '78 & Julie (Flannery '78)  
Theisen  
Andy '02 & Megan (Spence '03)  
Theisen  
Jim & Sara Thering  
Dave & Mary Kay Reetz and Family  
Drew Reetz '12  
In honor of Mitch Reetz '10 by  
VTL, Inc. / Stacy (Larrance '91)  
Finnerty  
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