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James Thering '89, Alumni Director Earl Hartman '66, Assistant Director Paulette Andres Green, SHA '64, Newsletter Chairperson

"Remembered forever and ever and ever"



CHAMPIONS—The Sacred Heart Irish are pictured after their Class D state championship volleyball win on November 19 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Front row, from left, Assistant Coach Samantha McDonald '20 (Pat '88, grandfather Jerry '50, great-grandfather Fred 1919), Bridget Ruiz, Sophie Hauck, Eliza Pieratt (Sarah Groves '95 & Scott Pieratt '96, grandmother Kay Scully '70 Pieratt, great grandmother Anna O'Hara 1915 Scully), Kate Liscomb (Laurie Myers '90 Liscomb, grandmother JoAnne Campbell '67 McManus), Makayla Hyde, and Team Manager Mara Davis. Back row, from left: Head Coach Krista Davis, Leah Smith (Stephany Straight '93 Smith, grandparents Mary Campbell '68 & John Straight '67), Chelsea Lynch (great–grandmother Mabel McCormick 1914 Lynch) Lillie Laney (grandmother Cathie McCann '74 Cluley, great-grandfather Tom McCann '50, great-great-grandparents Eleanor Marthey 1913 & Al McCann 1911), Ella McDonnell, Angel Brown, Isabel Rookard (grandmother Kathy Murphy '71 Parks), Team Manager Erin Judge, and Assistant Coach Leah VanOrman.

In recent years, Coach Krista Davis and the SHA Volleyball Team found themselves in the excitement of Final Four competition, but not quite able to get to the "last dance". This year was a different story. Expecting a rebuilding year with a team which had graduated some senior power, the Irish started gaining attention pretty early in the season. They continued to show their might, cruising through District, Regional, and Semi-Final play. In the finals, the Irish revealed incredible dedication, fighting back from a 2-0 deficit to win the final three sets of a five-game match over third-ranked Athens to claim the D-4 state championship. The first-ever volleyball state championship win is one the local newspaper reported will "be remembered forever and ever and ever".

In addition to the state trophy, the IRISH set a school record for 44 winning matches in the 2022 season, and two team members—Angel Brown and Lillie Laney—were named to the Division 1 All State First Team. What a season!

Homecoming 2022



2022 ROYALTY—The Sacred Heart Homecoming Court is shown here. From left, Seniors Angel Brown, Dylan Montross, Anna Plum, David Hunter (John '97), Alexys Zeien (Danielle Radawski '89 Zeien), Roman Addison, Queen Eliza Pieratt (Sarah Groves '95 & Scott Pieratt '96, grandmother Kay Scully '70 Pieratt, great grandmother Anna O'Hara 1915 Scully), King Daniel Kostrzewa (Mike '68), Juniors Makayla Hyde and Connor Stempky, Sophomores Sophie Hauck and James Struble, and Freshmen Savannah Jones and Kingsley Gu.

20-YEAR REUNION—The Class of 2002 celebrated their 20-year reunion in conjunction with Homecoming. The group toured the Academy then enjoyed dinner & drinks at Wood Shop From left: Joe Collin, Tim Social. Smith, Chad Zitzelsberger, Chris Miller, Brian Borland, Steve Martin, Maureen Campbell Karbowski, Lisa Abraham Plumley, Andy Theisen Jr., Jessica Wojciechowski Morales, Ryan Ley, Vicki Krcmarik Wakeman, Matt Golden, and Ogo Okonkwo. In front: Angela Trainor, Jen Hedrich Barancik and Shannon McDonald Putra.





Homecoming 2022



THE CLASS OF 1972 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS—What a weekend! Classmates enjoyed the parade, a tour of the Academy, their traditional Scavenger Hunt, and attended 5 o'clock Mass together. Their dinner celebration was hosted at the Soaring Eagle Resort and featured a fantastic turnout. Pictured at the reunion are: Front row, from left: Mary Deibel Eyman, Rita Webster Ackerman, Charlene Doerr Letson, and Margaret Simons Wood. Second row, from left: Barb Quillen Crandall, Mary Baker Chick, Cheryl McNamara Heintz, Cathy Stahl Oakhill, Gayla Bunting Inosencio, and Jean Bollman Atkin. Third row, from left: Pat Bush, Dan Kane, Mike Smith, Kathy McCormick Assmann, Laurie Goodrich O'Brien, and Kathie Grinzinger. Fourth row, from left: Dan Bollman, Tim Bunting, Dan Zeneberg, Dana Shepard, Darlyn Swetz Curtiss, and Sandy Cascarelli Leftwich. Fifth row, from left: Tom Scully, Bob Wohlscheid, Dan Heintz, Dan Milan and Pat Lannen. Sixth (top) row, from left: Pat McNerney, Henry "Hank" Binkowski, Bill Johnston, and Sam Cascarelli.



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE— Left: Alumni of the Year Sarah Groves '95 & Scott Pieratt '96 enjoyed a ride in the parade. Right: Bill Myler '76, welcomes three new members to the SHA Athletic Hall of Fame. From left, John Roberts '06, Bill Myler, Stephanie DeNoyelles '06 Brajak, and Kirt Hartman '97.











Lisa Roach, Admissions Director

What it means to be a family

With a full school year now under my belt, I find myself becoming more and more a part of the wonderful SHA community I now call "home". My school "kids" brighten each day when they stop to just say hi, need a little help, or decide to bring me a plate of cookies from their classroom party (so I didn't miss out on the fun). Recently, as I sat in the stands at the volleyball quarterfinals, I was simply in awe of the community support from alumni, parents of alumni, students, SHA families, and the general Mt. Pleasant community. This is the epitome of what it means to be a family!

In the excitement of the game, what really got me choked up wasn't the seamless teamwork, amazing plays, or how great it was to see the girls having fun as they played a game they loved. Instead, it was the display of student, SHA family, and community support! *Our SHA family!* During tours with prospective students and parents, I talk about the family feeling which is our culture at SHA. During volleyball finals week, I felt that sense of family more than ever.

As you know, the volleyball team made school history when they claimed our first Volleyball State Champion title, joining the other 23 SHA teams to have achieved this incredible feat. Again, I was amazed by the community support, and so proud cent increase in enrollment, growing from 397 students in fall of 2020 to a starting enrollment of 479 this past fall. Thanks to our alumni and current school families, the word is out: Sacred Heart Academy is THE place to be for a Catholic education which embodies a rigorous curriculum with moral and ethical teachings and provides the opportunity to participate in award winning extra-curricular activities. From quiz bowl to volleyball to student senate, we are a school of leaders.

Although we have realized a significant growth in enrollment, I think it's important to recognize that our average class-size holds steady at just 17 students, so our teachers and administrators are still able to get to know our students on a personal level, allowing us to help them flourish!

All Saints Day

We have many long-standing traditions at Sacred Heart Academy, one of which is the All-Saints ceremony, where third grade students dress up as their favorite saint, then recite a brief history on that saint to the congregation. As always, our students executed their parts impressively this year, and were excited to share their facts about the saints. This is just one of the many special "extras" SHA students get to experience.

of "our" girls! Congratulations and thank you to our 2022 volleyball coach and the entire team on a job well done!

Enrollment update

While the pandemic was to blame for many terrible circumstances, this time also proved there was much that could still be accomplished, especially when creative minds think outside the box. Now, while life continues to return to prepandemic "normal," one change which continues is our flourishing enrollment at Sacred Heart Academy. In the past two years, Sacred Heart Academy has realized a 20 per-



Pictured is the Class of 2032 at the All Saints Ceremony on November 1, 2022. Every year at Sacred Heart Academy, each third grader researches a saint, dresses as that saint did, and delivers a short speech about the life of their chosen saint in a special program following the Holy Day Mass.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

Well-rounded = successful in life

Our Sacred Heart Academy students are pretty amazing! They excel academically and in extracurricular activities, participating in some of the 14 varsity sports we offer, completing service projects, competing in one or more of our Mid-State Activities academic contests, taking AP and Honors classes, dual enrollment, band, choir, and participating in many leadership opportunities like Student Senate, Key Club, and National Honor Society.

As if our students aren't busy enough, many of them participate in activities outside of school, too. Just this week, senior Kiera Chapman was one of the DuHadaway Dancers featured in the Nutcracker performance for our students. She has been dancing since she was very young. Freshman Jeremy Diepstra belongs to a fencing club in Freeland, and is the only fencer I have ever known. Many of our students participate in 4H and show animals at the fair, including champion swine showmen

James and Joey Endres (sons of Wendy McConnell Endres, SHA'91). Elementary students Molly and Elena Sharma host lemonade stands in warm weather months, and at Shop for SHAgala they sell painted rocks, handcrafted slime, and other items, donating all their profits to help furry friends at the local animal shelter.

Two high school students I would like to talk about in column are Lillie Laney (grandmother Cathie McCann '74

great-grandfather Cluley, Tom McCann '50, greatgreat-grandparents Eleanor Marthey 1913 & Al McCann 1911) and Luke Taylor.

Lillie is a senior at Sacred Heart Academy. In addition to being a state champion volleyball player, Lillie has been riding and showing horses her entire life, and has been offered an eques- Lillie Laney is a member of the Class of trian scholarship in col- 2023. lege. Her grandfather and



her mom grew up with horses, making Lillie part of a thirdgeneration horse farm. She began doing open circuits with her mom, Andrea Laney, when she was eight years old. When Lillie was around 12, she started competing at higher levels in Oklahoma, Ohio, Florida, and the general midwest. There is a big show in Ohio called The Congress, where Lillie ranked third out of over 70 competitors. She competes in Western horsemanship, English equitation and showmanship. In these competitions, Lillie performs different patterns and performances, and in her words, "Whoever does it best, wins!"

learned how to control her nerves both on the horse and off. This transferred well to the state championship volleyball game! Lillie says that she hasn't decided if she will compete on an equestrian team or a volleyball team in college, but whichever she chooses, she will continue riding horses. Lillie is very appreciative of the opportunities she has been given by her parents, saying horses are not an easy sport to get into, and that she has always had her parents' support. Her mom drives at all hours of the night to take Lillie around the country to compete, and she is grateful. Lillie's passion, competitiveness, and ability to calm her nerves are skills that will last a lifetime.

Luke Taylor, a Sacred Heart Academy junior, says he was "born into disc golf." His dad, SHA Math Teacher Josh Taylor, has always played. Luke watched him, then made up his own courses when he was young. He liked watching the pros and his dad, and he practiced a lot to try to get better. Luke's mom,



SHA Band & Music Teacher Nikki Taylor, plays disc golf as well, and fills role the of Luke's scheduler, entering him in tournaments and planning transporta-

Luke Taylor is a member of the Class of 2024.

tion and lodging when they travel.

Luke competed in his first tournament in 2014, when he was eight years old, but says he didn't take it seriously until 2019, when he was 13. He played amateur disc golf for a while, and won the world championships in 2021! He then went pro to earn a little money. Luke has placed well at some big events, made some good money (his words), and has traveled pretty far out of state for competitions. Like Lillie, Luke credits his parents as being super supportive, and says that he is very grateful for the countless opportunities they have provided to him. After high school Luke would like to tour as a professional disc golfer. Disc golf has taught him that to have success doesn't come easy, that it takes a strong work ethic, which transfers to every area of life. A big aspect is mental and disc golf has taught Luke to control his emotions, which works well in all areas of life. At school, he can be found singing at Mass and playing varsity basketball. Being a nationally-ranked disc golfer does not keep him from participating in other activities he enjoys.

Keep up the great work, Lillie and Luke! You are inspirations to us all!

Lillie says horses can feel when a rider is nervous, and she has

Class Notes

1945—Maureen (McConnell) Wardrop passed away October 14, 2022. She was the last surviving member of the Class of 1945. Maureen attended Central Michigan University, married, raised five children, then returned to CMU 25 years later to receive a business degree. She was immediately hired by the State of Michigan as a hearing officer in the Treasury Department, working in Lansing, Midland, and Escanaba. Being the first female ever to hold such a position, she often faced discrimination, however, Maureen persevered and opened the door for the many female hearing officers who followed. Her brothers Dan '44, Larry '50, and Ty McConnell '59 also graduated from SHA.

1953—Mary Jane (Prior) Simmons passed away September 28, 2022 in Grand Rapids. For most of her life, Mary Jane was a teacher's aide at several schools, filling in wherever she was most needed. She and her husband were snowbirds, frequently spending their winters in Florida. Mary Jane had a big heart and lots of love to give, evidenced in her efforts to invite anyone without a companion to spend the holidays with her family, making sure no one was left alone. Her sister Virginia Beck '48 also attended SHA.

1959—On August 22, 2022, **Raymond "Butch" Elliott** passed away in Mt. Pleasant. He worked for the Isabella County Road Commission for 33 years, retiring in 1997. Butch enjoyed working, so he started his own company, Elliott Excavating. Butch had several siblings, including **Bob '61**, **Mick '61**, and **Wayne '67**.

1960—Melvin A. Gillis passed away August 22 following an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Mel was born in Nova Scotia and immigrated to the United States with his family in the late 1940s. He married Sharon Sponseller at Sacred Heart Church in 1963 and together they raised their family and moved throughout Michigan following his career. Mel worked nearly six decades

in the grocery industry, starting with a position at Giant Supermarket in Mt. Pleasant, then continuing to receive promotions which took him to Petoskey and Midland. He was always an active member of the communities where he lived, and his Catholic faith was essential to his life. His sister **Eileen Strauss** graduated from SHA in 1963.

1961—Gerald "Jerry" Huber passed away at his home in Shepherd September 4, 2022. He married Dorothy Epple '62 in 1963 and worked for Dow Chemical, retiring after 30 years of service. After his retirement, Jerry served as an Isabella County Commissioner for six years. He and Dorothy wintered in Dade County, Florida for 23 years, where he became a dedicated usher for the Detroit Tigers spring league baseball organization. Several of his siblings graduated from the Academy, including Esther Haupt '62, Ken Huber '68, and Bob Huber '69.

Robert "Rob" Witte passed away September 30 surrounded by his family. After his college graduation from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rob married his high school sweetheart, **Joanne Thering '61**, started a career with Mobil Oil, and was drafted into the service. Rob served in the U.S. Army, completed Officer Candidate School, and became a First Lieutenant stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. After completing his military service, Rob continued working for Mobil Oil for several years before joining Koch Industries in 1976. Through hard work and dedication, he became president of Koch Industries. Upon retirement, he and Joanne lived on Lake Leelanau in Northern Michigan until they relocated to the Kansas City area in 2017. Football season and March Madness were Rob's favorite times of the year. Rob was the third of nine siblings; brother **Rick Witte** graduated from SHA in 1962.

1970—Jeanette (McCoy) Haggart passed away September 6, 2022, at her home in Rosebush, Michigan. Jeanette, the daughter of Kathleen & Jess McCoy, worked for the Social Security Administration for 35 years, retiring in 2005. She and her husband enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, wintering in Gulf

40-YEAR REUNION-The Class of 1982 celebrated their 40-year reunion August 6, 2022. The reunion started with 5 o'clock Mass at Sacred Heart Church, then classmates enjoyed dinner and drinks at Hunter's Ale House, along with a bonus musical performance from classmate Dana Croll. Pictured at the reunion are, seated from left: Tim Strauss, Mabel (Wentworth) Wanink, Mary (McDonald) Srodluski, Diane (Hire) Bedard, and Julie (Kostrzewa) Staudacher. Standing, from left: David McGuire, David Phelps, Dana Croll, Steve Hartman, Libby (Pohl) Murch, Kelly (Epple) Hansen, Maureen (Fabiano) Guzman, Paul Rocheleau, Vicki (Theisen) Begres, John McCann, Brian Wohlscheid, Warren Farnan, and Jeff Gorbett.



Shores, Alabama, and camping in the summer. Jeanette was the second oldest of nine McCoy siblings: Rick McCoy '69, Shelly Wilson '71, Debbie Falsetta, Mark McCoy '75, Julie Cole '77, David McCoy '80, Alan McCoy '83, and Jim McCoy '84.

1973—On October 22, 2022 during halftime of the Notre Dame football game, **Ellen Myler** was honored as one of the *"Pioneers of Notre Dame"* in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. Ellen, who was in the second class at Notre Dame to accept women (therefore, the second class to ever *graduate* women from Notre Dame), played on the first-ever women's basketball team for the Fighting Irish. As one of the "Pioneers", she was honored with a varsity letter and a varsity jacket. Congratulations to Ellen and all those recognized in conjunction with Title IX ceremonies this year.

1995—**Meighan Fitzpatrick** married Dre Enriquez October 14, 2022, at The Little Flower Barn at Lake Isabella in Weidman, Michigan. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant, where Meighan works as the operations manager for New Titan Equipment.

2004—On August 15, 2022, **Thomas Sullivan Jr.** passed away unexpectedly, with his canine companion "Frank" by his side. Tommy was an incredibly loyal person and had many friends. He was fun-loving and could easily make people laugh. He had many hobbies, and especially enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Blue Lake. Tommy spent his career at Mercantile Bank, most recently as a commercial lender. He was very close to his sister **Shannon Sullivan '07**, and her husband, Nick Kilpela.

Matt McCoy married Teresa Field September 1, 2022, on Lake Tahoe. The newlyweds recently purchased a home in Marina Del Ray, California. Matt is assistant general counsel at Open Gate Capital in Los Angeles.

2005—**Troy Zitzelsberger** and his wife Dong Hee Kim welcomed daughter Aria Haesuk Zitzelsberger on November 17, 2022 in Grand Rapids. Troy is the master brewer at the Third Nature Brewing Company in Rockford jointly owned by him and his siblings, **Chad '02** and **Lisa Roebke '99**.

2007—**Shannon Sullivan** married Nick Kilpela July 23, 2022, at Tullymore Resort. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant.

Chris Fitzpatrick and his wife Haley welcomed a baby girl, Leila Josephine, on October 30, 2022 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Leila's SHA legacy is strong: Her grandparents are **Nonie (Natzel) Fitzpatrick '82**, and **Mike Fitzpatrick '82**. Great-great-grandfather is **Joseph Fitzpatrick '31**.

2009—Ethan Howard and his wife Kaitlyn welcomed baby Nolan

Class Notes

Ray Howard on August 4, 2022. The family resides in Plymouth. Nolan's dad is a senior consultant at Ernst & Young in Detroit.

Jimmy Cardon married Taylor Schumacher November 26, 2022 at the Leona Road event venue in Grand Rapids. The newlyweds reside in Grand Rapids where Jimmy works for Steelcase.

2011—Aubry Hire married Raymond Schuh October 15, 2022 in Mt. Pleasant. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant. Aubry is a nurse working at MyMichigan Health/University of Michigan Medical Center in Midland.

2012—On October 15, 2022, **Willi Sheahan-Stahl** married Emily Thorpe in Clare, Michigan. The newlyweds reside in Mt. Pleasant. Willi is a lead teacher/coach/mentor in the child Development and Learning Lab at Central Michigan University.

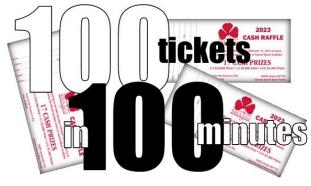
2013—Margo (Predum) & Nick Hire welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Henry David Hire, on September 19, 2022. The family resides in Eyota, outside of Rochester, Minnesota, where Margo and Nick both work within the Mayo Health System. Henry was welcomed by grandparents Kim (Epple '83) & Dave Hire '81, and great-grandfather Jim Epple '59. Great-great-grandfather is Alphonso Epple '27.

2014—**Erika Campbell** married Sean Tobin July 9, 2022 at The Bear Creek Farm in Laingsburg, Michigan. The two met at Michigan State and currently live in the metro Detroit area. Erika, who received her bachelor's degree from MSU, and her master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan, works as a private mental health therapist.

On September 24, 2022, **Justin Cowell** married Kaitlyn Lemasters at The Little Flower Barn in Lake Isabella, Michigan. The couple resides in Mt. Pleasant, where Justin works for Northwestern Mutual.

2018—**Zachary Squires** graduated from Lansing Community College with a degree in aviation maintenance technology. He is now attending Southern Illinois University working on a bachelor's degree with a specialization in avionics.

In May 2022, **Maggie Yonker** graduated from Central Michigan University's College of Education and Human Services with a bachelor's degree in Family Studies and Spanish. She is now the program director at The Learning Experience in Grand Rapids and working on a masters-level social work degree at Grand Valley State University.



Mark your calendar!

These tickets are hot! The cash raffle which runs in conjunction with the Academy's SHAgala fundraiser, features 17 cash prizes, including the top prizes of \$10,000 and \$5,000. **The 100 Tickets in 100 Minutes** sale hosted by chairpersons **Sarah Groves '95 & Scott Pieratt '96** happens Monday, January 17, 2023 starting at 4:00 p.m. EST. Watch for information via Facebook, email, or text (if the alumni office has your contact information!). Check the SHAgala Facebook page for updates anytime.





ALUMNI SACRED NEWS

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Alumni News For:





Alumni Association changing of the guard

What Earl Hartman '66 did to organize and then maintain the Sacred Heart

Academy Alumni Association for nearly 50 years is pretty amazing. It is even more incredible when you realize there are some schools-both private and public-that don't have alumni associations and are not able to host the quality activities SHA does every year to keep graduates engaged.

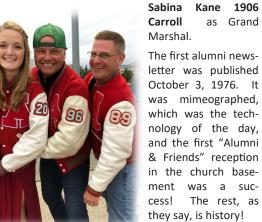
It was recently announced that James Thering '89 was selected as the new Director of the Alumni Association. as James transitions into the role. The Association SHA Alumni Association. refers to all SHA graduates,

however, there is a core group of alums spanning the decades who assist by reviewing materials, lending a hand at events, and collecting information to share in the Alumni News.

The Sacred Heart Alumni Association was rejuvenated in 1976 when Earl rounded up a group of interested people to research class lists for addresses of graduates. He spent that spring and summer lining up former queens and football captains from each year since the first queen in 1947 to have all 30 classes represented at halftime of the 1976 homecoming game. The 1933 state football champions were also honored, along with

as Grand

The rest, as



At this time the Alum-Earl Hartman will James Thering '89, pictured at right in ni Association plans serve as Assistant Director this photo from Homecoming 2019 (along with Molly Yonker '20 and Scott and organizes the Pieratt '96), is now the Director of the following events and presentations:

- Alumni NEWS published three • times each year
- Annual Alumni & Friends Reception —hosted at Homecoming
- Hall of Fame originated in 1980, recognizes athletes and coaches
- Alumnus of the Year-honors dedi-• cated and successful alumni to be recognized at Homecoming
- Grand Marshal—Homecoming honoree(s) selected each year
- Historical records (alumni data-• base) updated and maintained—to

assist classes planning reunions and keep track of address changes, etc.

Senior class welcome-short presentation to the graduating class each year welcoming them to the Alumni Association and gathering their contact information

"The work Earl has done, the time he has dedicated, is nothing short of phenomenal," says Bill Myler '76, who has teamed up with Earl on many Alumni projects, including selection of Grand Marshals, Athletic Hall of Fame, and Alumni of the Year. "People don't realize all he has done, and all the sports records he keeps. There should be an 'EARL HART-MAN DAY'!"

Earl says he has enjoyed every minute of the work. He also says his replacement is no slouch. As a former Alumnus of the Year honoree, Sacred Heart Academy school board member, parish, athletic, and fish fry volunteer, James is the perfect person to continue all the good work of the Alumni Association. The Thering legacy at Sacred Heart is strong. James boasts countless Thering and McDonald cousins who are proud SHA grads. His grandmother is Ann McDonald '26 Thering.

"You've heard the reference 'big shoes to fill'? Well, Earl is leaving me with a pair probably as big as ones Wilt Chamberlain would wear," James says. "Thankfully, he has mentored me for years and he will continue to help, too."