

## 2022 Alumni of the Year

They give back because it's important, and, they say, it's "their turn". Over the years at Sacred Heart Academy, Sarah (Groves '95) & Scott Pieratt '96 saw a lot of people put in a lot of volunteer time and effort and make many donations to keep SHA running smoothly. Since they enrolled their children at the Academy, the Pieratts have been active school and parish volunteers themselves, earning the honor of the 2022 Alumni of the Year award.

Their award was presented by Alumni Association Director Earl Hartman '66, at a home basketball game in March, and will be officially acknowledged at Homecoming on October 7, 2022. "SHA gave us a strong foundation of service and the school is doing the same for our children," Sarah says. "As teachers, we understand what it takes to provide a solid education for students. As Catholics, we understand what it takes to create a life with God in the center. The SHA staff is amazing and they work tirelessly day in and day out to create a faith-filled, academically-challenging environment for students. Any way Scott and I can support them in their efforts, we are happy to do it."



*Sarah (Groves '95) & Scott Pieratt '96 are pictured with their Sacred Heart Academy students, daughter Eliza (left), a junior, and son Grady (right), who is a freshman.*

Sarah is a Eucharistic Minister and a Sacristan at church. She also serves on the Parish Council and the Revitalization Committee. On the school side, she is currently the president of the School Board, works both the gate and concessions at athletic events, and has been a parent volunteer for numerous class field trips. Scott (mom Kay (Scully) Pieratt '72, great grandmother Anna (O'Hara) Scully '15) is the current Athletic Association vice president and has coached boys and girls basketball over the years, including his current role as assistant girls varsity basketball coach. He is also an assistant varsity baseball coach, has chaperoned 5th & 6th grade camp, and helps with Christmas decorations at the church each year.

Together, the Pieratts chair the cash raffle for SHAgala, work the Lenten fish fries, serve as parent ambassadors for the Academy, and volunteer for the Warm & Welcoming Committee at the church. To say they are "involved" is an understatement. "Being involved and active is a great way to socialize and give back at the same time," Scott says. "Getting to coach with Damon Brown and Andrew Doerr has been amazing. To see the passion they exhibit as coaches and see how the girls work as hard as they do on a daily basis is inspiring." Sarah and Scott both indicated how much they enjoy working the fish fry each year. "The fish fry brings generations of parish members, alumni, parents, and students together to serve the community. It is fast-paced, high-energy, and just plain fun to catch up with friends and parish members who come out to support SHA athletics and eat the best fish," Sarah said, adding that she enjoys seeing current students using skills they have learned at the Academy, interacting with and serving community members.

Sarah and Scott both have fond memories of their school years. Sarah says although her favorites, Fr. Don Henkes, Sr. Thaddeus, Mr. Durocher, Mrs. Konwinski, and others are gone, the "Heart of the Academy" has not changed. "It still feels like home when I walk through the doors," she said. "There is a new gym where a parking lot used to be, an Incredible new STEM Lab upstairs, and a prayer room near the office which is

a great addition.” Scott also gives credit to Fr. Don and Mr. Durocher, and his former coaches Earl Hartman and Dan Simons ‘72. “Now my kids are coached by people like Krista Davis, Damon Brown, and Josh Wheaton, who are wonderful, knowledgeable coaches that are passionate about their sport. Grady gets to learn from Justin Sherlock and Earl Hartman who have a wealth of knowledge about the sports they coach,” he said.