

# Pirates' Treasure



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Cover: : Athletic Hall of Fame Inaugural Class Inductees (clockwise from bottom) Coach Bob Otto, Kaitlyn Burkett '06, Liz Kritza '95, Robert Stecklein '59, Kathy Dowling Cunha '87 at the induction ceremony. (fellow members of the class not picture include: Larry Ash '50, Henry "Butch" Pniak '59, John O'Connell '63, and Fr. Rawley Myers).

*The Pirates' Treasure* magazine is published three times a year. Letters, comments, and article submissions are always welcome. The SMHS Development Office may be contacted by mail at 2501 East Yampa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909, by phone at 719-635-7540 ext. 38, or by email at [mwalter@smhscs.org](mailto:mwalter@smhscs.org). Alumni notes and class notes may also be posted at the SMHS website [www.smhscs.org](http://www.smhscs.org).

You can also find St. Mary's High School on Facebook. Become a fan by going to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Colorado-Springs-CO/St-Marys-High-School/58877258635> or Google "St. Mary's High School Colorado Springs+Facebook. To follow St. Mary's on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/SMHSColorado>.

## Letter from the Board of Directors

It is hard to believe that it is almost Christmas. At this time of year, I reflect and give thanks for all the blessings God has showered on the St. Mary's High School community. We have a talented, large freshman class. Our faculty is second to none, and reflects a wonderful combination of veteran and new teachers who are tops in their field. Our student body is the best in the city, if not the state. Our students give



thousands of hours of service to the community each year. In fact, we had several of our students named to the Mayor's Top 100 Teens list which honors high school students who have demonstrated a commitment to serving others and who are positive role models. Our fall sports teams enjoyed successful seasons. Our parents and alumni have consistently and unselfishly supported St. Mary's with their time, treasure, and talent. All of these components work together to ensure that every student receives the great education for which St. Mary's is known. Yes, St. Mary's is truly blessed.

However, as good as St. Mary's is, it cannot remain stagnant. It must also innovate and evolve. Steve Jobs, who was president of Apple Computer, was never content to rest and reflect on past successes. Rather, he relentlessly pursued innovation in the quest to transform Apple into one of the greatest computer companies in the world.

Your Board of Directors recognizes that in order for St. Mary's to become even better, it cannot maintain the status quo. Rather, it must pursue innovation and change so as to give each student the tools necessary for a successful life. Change and innovation do not come easily and quickly. In order to achieve such change and innovation, the Board of Directors is actively searching for a new president. We have been blessed with numerous candidates who have the credentials, vision, and acumen to bring St. Mary's to the next level of greatness. A decision as to who will be the next president should be made within the next few months.

There will be lots of work in the months and years ahead. However, if the entire St. Mary's community helps, there is no goal that is unattainable. St. Augustine said, "Work like it all depends on you and pray like it all depends on God." With the combination of hard work and regular prayer, there is nothing that St. Mary's cannot achieve.

Yours in Christ,

Gordon J. Heuser



Gordon Heuser and his daughter **Lindsey '05** enjoy hiking the Colorado mountains.

## Features

# Father Roeseler Is New SMHS Campus Chaplain



**Fr. Brian awaits the beginning of Mass at SMHS.**

For the first time in almost twenty years, a diocesan priest is a regular presence at St. Mary's High School. Ordained this past June, Fr. Brian Roeseler is the Parochial Vicar at Divine Redeemer parish. With the support of Bishop Michael Sheridan and DR pastor Jim Klein, he was also asked to devote some of his time to St. Mary's High School.

"Young people don't get to know priests as people," said Msgr. Don Dunn. "The blessing of having Fr. Brian on campus is that the students will get to know him as a person and not just someone who says Mass."

SMHS Theology Department Chairman Michael Dillon agrees, "Aside from schools that are run by religious orders, most Catholic schools don't have faculty members who have chosen a religious vocation as a brother, sister, or priest. Seeing a young man living out his calling as a priest is important for high school students," Dillon said.

Father Brian, a St. Louis native, entered Kenrick-Glennon Seminary after completing high school. The seminary sent him to St. Louis University where he graduated with a degree in Philosophy and a Business Certificate. After that he continued his studies at Kenrick.

Fr. Brian is glad to be at SMHS. "I told [the Bishop] before I was ordained that I would love to help out at St. Mary's. When he and the Vicar General asked me to spend some of my time at

**"... students will get to know [Fr. Brian] as a person and not just someone who says Mass." Msgr. Don. Dunn**

SMHS, I was extremely excited. I want students to see how much I love being a priest, and yet still enjoy doing normal things," Father Brian said.

Fr. Brian first thought about a vocation as a priest when he was in fourth grade at Queen of All Saints, his parish elementary school. But it was during his first years of high school that the call became stronger. Then one day he answered a phone call that turned out to be a wrong number. The person on the other end was calling to ask another young man to check out the seminary. Fr. Brian decided that perhaps he should inquiry about the seminary. He did, and it was the start of his journey to becoming a priest.

Dillon sees Fr Brian's contribution to the school as multifaceted. "He serves a very obvious sacramental need. He will celebrate a majority of our masses," Dillon explained. That is an enormous help to Dillon, who in addition to his teaching and department chair duties, schedules already over-scheduled diocesan priests for school Masses. "Father Brian has also enabled us to schedule Thursday morning Mass, and he makes himself available at certain times for confessions," Dillon said.

"I appreciate his willingness to collaborate without a sense of trying to impose an agenda," he added. "He also relates well with students and has already attended many athletic events."



**Theology Department Chair Michael Dillon appreciates having Fr. Brian available for Mass on a regular basis.**

## Jelinek Completes Journey

SMHS Theology Instructor Tena Jelinek completed her five-year quest this fall when she received her Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Regis University. Her professors at Regis were so impressed with her dissertation, "The Wisdom of Awe and Wonder Involving Religious Imagination for High School Students," they placed it in the Dayton, Ohio, library data base.



It has not been an easy journey for Jelinek. Last year she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy. Throughout her treatment,

**Freshman Theology teacher Tena Jelinek knows she may not see the fruits of her labor, but she knows she has planted seeds of understanding.**

she continued to be in her classroom as much as her energy allowed, she completed the last graduate classes for her degree, and she wrote her thesis. Jelinek credits Sr. Peg Maloney and Regis professor Dr. Robert Collins for their inspiration. "They were so caring and supportive," Jelinek said. "I couldn't have done it without them." She also found solace and comfort in the Biblical and theological readings she did in her graduate studies. "They helped me maintain perspective," she explained.

Jelinek joined the theology department in 2007 fulfilling her original college career goal to be a teacher. "I'm so glad to be here," she said. She especially enjoys watching students discover a whole new culture and all the history it takes to understand scripture, especially the Old Testament." Jelinek feels she also benefits from teaching. "I've grown so much in my faith and spirituality during my time as a youth minister and teacher."

# Nine Pirates Inducted Into St. Mary's Athletic Hall of Fame

**INDUCTEES' FEATS SPAN SIX DECADES** *Pirate Pride*—a phrase coined by Fr. Rawley Myers—as well as tradition, memories, honor, and gratitude filled St. Mary's gym on November 4, 2011, when the SMHS Athletic Hall of Fame inaugural class was inducted.

"It's the people—the teachers and coaches. We go out into the world to do what you taught us to do: be successful," said Inductee **Robert Steklein '59**. "I'm most proud of being a part of this St. Mary's family." Steklein is retired from a coaching and teaching career.

**Kathy Dowling Cunha '87**, who lives in Boston and works in financial services, echoed Steklein's thoughts about her alma mater and added, "some of my high school teammates are still my best friends."

**Kaityln Burkett '06** agreed, too. "The St. Mary's community shaped the person I am today," she said in her acceptance remarks. "I'm grateful to call SMHS my home."

After graduating from St. Mary's Cunha ran track and played volleyball at Harvard. Burkett played volleyball at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was coached by **Liz Kritza '95**, CU's head volleyball coach. She is now in graduate school at UCCS for a Masters degree in education.

**Larry Ash '50** attended Notre Dame on a football scholarship and died in a Navy plane crash in 1956. He was remembered by his brother **Ken Ash '55** who accepted his award.

**Henry "Butch" Pniak '59** was recognized for his feats on the football field. SMHS Athletic Director Ed Latimer, master of ceremonies for the induction, recalled that *The Gazette* called Butch Pniak's senior season "one of the finest years a high school athlete had around here." Pniak became an accomplished artist, but he was most proud of The Bay Street Boxers, an organization he founded to help at-risk high school boys. Pniak died in 1997. His daughter accepted his hall of fame award.

**John O'Connell '63**, who lives in Albuquerque, NM, was unable to attend the ceremony due to health concerns. His award was accepted by his classmate **Mickey Elliot '63**. O'Connell's skill on the basketball court made him the most decorated St. Mary's basketball player.

Bob Otto, the only coach in the inaugural class, was lauded with the words of former player **David Grenardo '95**. "He told us that our priorities should be, after God and family, first school, then sports, and last social life. If we strayed from that, things would go wrong."

**Major Zach Ziron USAF '96** also remembers Coach Otto with respect and admiration. "He made a colossal impact on hundreds of student athletes. Mr. Otto was instrumental in students' character development—instilling the ideal of sustained excellence through discipline and hard work," Ziron said.

Father Rawley Myers was an ardent Pirate fan. His prayers with the football team, presence on the sidelines, and spiritual contributions made him a beloved St. Mary's figure. Fr. Myers passed away in 2009. His hall of fame award was accepted by his niece **Jane Myers Bloise '74**.

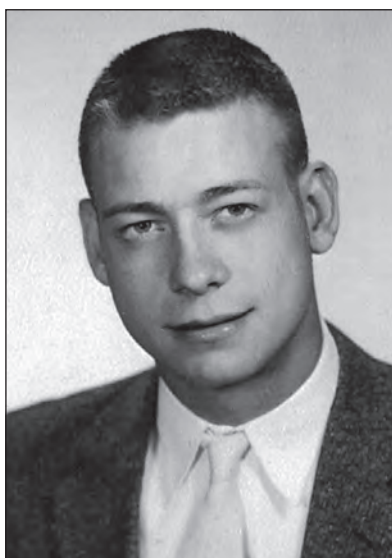
Long a dream of Athletic Director Latimer, the Hall of Fame honors Pirate athletes for their extraordinary achievements. They will be memorialized with plaques on the walls of the gymnasium.

*Nominations for the next Hall of Fame Class can be made by going to the school web site.*



**FATHER RAWLEY MYERS**  
**FRIEND OF PIRATE ATHLETICS**  
**1968-2009**

12th Man for football program



**HENRY PNIAK '59**  
**FOOTBALL 1956-58**

1958 All-State-1st Team  
1958 All-League & All-City 1st Team  
1958 First St. Mary's player to rush for over 1000 yards in a season.



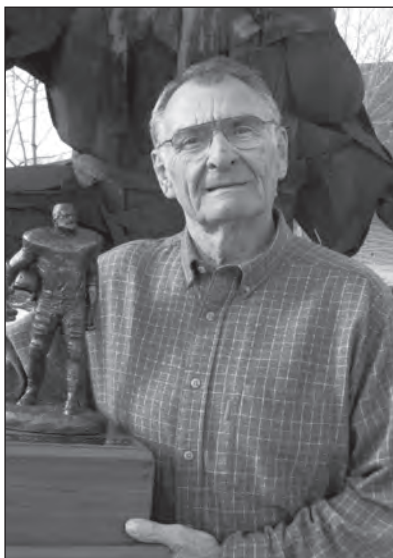
**KATHERINE DOWLING CUNHA '87**  
**TRACK 1985-87**

1985, 1986, 1987 2A State Champion 100 & 200 Meters  
1985, 1986, 1987-2A State Champion-400 Meter Relay  
1985-2A State Record holder in 100 & 200 meters  
1987-Gazette-Telegraph Track Athlete of the Year  
1985, 1986, 1987 Gazette All-Area 1st Team in 100 & 200 meters  
Holds school records for 100, 200 and 400 meter Relay



# Mary's Athletic Hall Of Fame

Friends, family, teammates, students, and former coaches gathered to recognize these outstanding Pirate athletes. A common theme of their acceptance remarks was appreciation for the excellent education and faith foundation they each gained at the school.



**ROBERT OTTO**  
**FOOTBALL COACH**  
**1980-84, 1991-2003**

95 Wins  
3 Conference Championships  
8 State Playoff Appearances  
1 State Championship Appearance  
1994 Gazette Coach of the Year



**KAITLYN BURKETT '06**  
**VOLLEYBALL 2002-05**

Top 25 in Nation (Volleyball Magazine)  
Prep Volleyball Top 50 player in the nation  
2005 All-Colorado Team (Top 6 Players)  
2005 3A-State Player of the Year  
3-Time All State-1st Team (Rocky Mountain News & Denver Post)  
3-Time 3A-State All-Tournament Team  
4-Time All-League-1st Team  
Held 3 School Records



**ELIZABETH KRITZA '95**  
**VOLLEYBALL 1991-94**

1994 Denver Post & Rocky Mountain News 3A Player of the Year  
1994 All-Colorado State Team (Top 6 players)  
1994 Denver Post & Rocky Mountain News 3A All-State 1st Team  
1993-1994 Gazette All-Area-1st Team  
1994 Gazette All-Area Player of the Year and 1st Team  
1994 Metro League 1st Team and Player of the Year



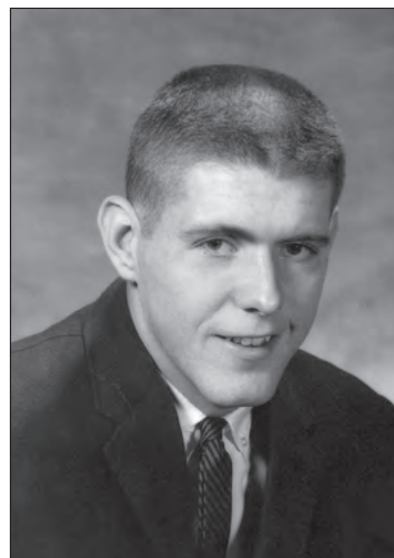
**LARRY ASH '50**  
**FOOTBALL, HOCKEY 1946-49**

1949 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ALL-AMERICAN  
1948, 1949 Southern Parochial Football 1st Team  
1949 All-League Hockey 1st Team  
1949 Hockey League MVP



**ROBERT STECKLEIN '59**

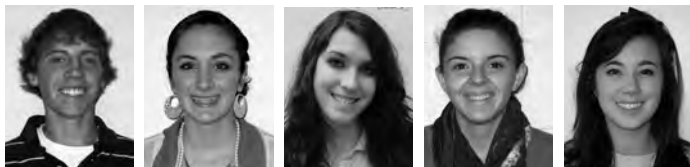
1958 All-State Honorable Mention  
1957 All-Southern Parochial League & All-City-1st Team  
1957 held school records for most touchdowns and rushing yards in a season.  
Longest punt return & rushing yards in a game.



**JOHN O'CONNELL '63**  
**BASKETBALL 1960-63**

1963 Parade All-American-3rd Team  
1962, 1963 All-State All-League, All-City-1st Team  
1963 held records for scoring & rebounding in career/season

## On Campus



Hickert

Heery

Fish

Sheehy

Kurata

### Seniors Ace Tests

**Cameron Hickert '12** and **Micaela Heery '12** earned perfect scores on several portions of the SAT and ACT tests. Hickert scored an 800 on the SAT Critical Reading and Chemistry tests and 36 on the ACT Reading, English, and Science exams. Heery also garnered an 800 on the Critical Reading portion of the SAT and a 36 on the Critical Reading ACT exam.

**Hickert** and **Alica Fish '12** were named National Merit Semi-finalists for their scores on the PSAT exams they took as juniors. Semi-finalists scores are in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 1.5 million students who take the exam. Heery and **Rachel Sheehy '12**, and **Elizabeth Kurata '12** have been recognized as Commended Scholars. They scored in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of all students who took the PSAT exam.

### Wackerman Named Generation Wow! Girl Scout



Juliet Scout **Eliana Wackerman '14** was recognized for accomplishments at the Girls Scout fall breakfast.

**Eliana Wackerman '14** was honored by the Girl Scouts in September as one of 100 Colorado Girl Scouts recognized for their individual achievements in Girl Scouts, their schools, and their communities that set them apart as leaders. Of the three million active Girl Scouts, one hundred girls from each state were chosen as Generation Wow! Girl Scouts, leaders of tomorrow. Generation Wow! Honor Program is a part of the Girl Scouts' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Wackerman joined girl scouts in kindergarten at Holy Trinity Elementary School and has been active since then. She has completed her work for her Bronze and Sliver Awards and is working on her Gold Award, the equivalent to a boy scout Eagle Award. Currently she is a Juliet girl scout and is active in the G-power program (girl power). In that program she mentors younger scouts and plans and manages activities for them.

At SMHS Wackerman is a Lincoln-Douglas Debater on the forensics team, a student ambassador, and a member of the swimming and tennis teams. She is an altar server at St. Francis of Assisi Church and volunteers as a living history interpreter at Rockledge Ranch.

### 5 Pirates Named Mayor's 100 TEENS

**Adam Avant '12**, **Alicia Fish '12**, **Alexa Jakusovszky '12**, **Bailey Rainey '12**, and **Eric Sanguenza '13** are members of the Mayors 100 Teens, an honor given to young people with outstanding accomplishments or who have overcome challenges.

### NAHS Uses Art to Connect

A wall-sized jungle mural, painted by three of the twenty members of the SMHS National Art Honor Society, was unveiled last summer at the Marian House Life Support Center downtown. **Alica Fish '12**, **Aleah Erenberger '13**, and **Megan Harder '13** spent forty hours on the project as a part of their NAHS volunteer activities.

During the second week in November NAHS took part in the Vessels for Charity. For eight dollars, they



**Alexandra Stefanec** glazes her vessel for charity.

taught people how to make either a clay vessel or Christmas ornament. One dollar covered the cost of supplies. Of the seven remaining dollars, twenty percent went to the group's charity of choice, the Life Support Center, and eighty percent went to Vessels for Charity for victims of natural disasters.



At the unveiling of the mural they painted, **Alicia Fish '12** (left), **Aleah Erenberger '13**, and Art Instructor Karen Simkiss received certificates of appreciation from the Life Support Center.

## Pirate Sports Update



### BERANEK IS NEW BASKETBALL COACH

Mark Beranek brings a wealth of coaching experience to the SMHS basketball program. Beranek played forward on his high school team at Centaurus as well as running track and playing golf. He was also on the basketball team for two years at Adams State College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business. During his sixteen-year tenure as the head basketball coach at Sierra High School, his team qualified for state ten times.

Beranek likes the sense of community at St. Mary's, and he appreciates the vision and mission of the school. "I like that faith is a part of every school day," Beranek said. "I love the kids. They work hard and seem to give their best effort."

## FALL 2011 ATHLETIC SEASON SUMMARY

### CROSS COUNTRY

- Tri-Peaks Championships  
Boys - 2<sup>nd</sup>, Girl's - 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Elena Slavoski '14

- Tri-Peaks 5K Champion
- Tri-Peaks Female Runner of the Year
- Tri-Peaks All-League 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- State Qualifier- Placed 20<sup>th</sup> at 3A State Meet
- Set a new school sophomore record in the 5K of 19:32.0

#### Morgan Baldwin '14

- Tri-Peaks All-League Honorable Mention

#### Sam Van Gampleare '13

- Tri-Peaks All-League 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- State Qualifier-Placed 93<sup>rd</sup> at 3A State Meet

#### John Kater '13

- Tri-Peaks All-League Honorable Mention

### FOOTBALL

- Overall Record: 6-4  
(1<sup>st</sup> winning season since 2007)
- League Record: 3-3

#### Tri-Peaks All-League:

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

Nathan Germano '12  
Erick Lindquist '12  
Casey Smith '12  
Cannon Wille '13

##### Honorable Mention

Logan Elliott '13  
Sean Scally '12  
Colten Wolf '13

#### Nathan Germano '12

- Tri-Peaks Defensive Back of the Year
- Selected for Colorado State All-Star Game
- Set School single-season record for interceptions (9)

### BOYS' SOCCER

- Season Record: 13-5
- League record: 4-0
- Region 1 Conference Champions for second year in a row
- Reached Quarter-Finals of the 3A State Playoffs (lost to Faith Christian 3-1)

#### Region 1 All-Conference Selection:

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

Joe Morales '12  
Ben Fetter '12  
Herb Klopenstein '12  
Jacob Calhoun '13  
Jacob Morales '13  
Tommy King '14

##### Honorable Mention

Alex Thomas '13  
McKenzie Prantl '12

##### Player of The Year

Joe Morales '12

### SOFTBALL

- Season Record: 11-9
- League record: 3-3

#### Tri-Peaks All-Conference:

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

Dawn Reachard '12  
Teaja Rivera '13  
Brianna Medina-Martinez '14

##### Honorable Mention

Laina Salani '13  
Taylor Boyer '13

#### Dawn Reachard '12

- played in the senior All-City All-Star game

### VOLLEYBALL

- Season Record: 18-4
- Conference Record: 9-0  
Conference Champions
- 3A Districts: 2nd Place
- Regionals: 3rd Place

#### Tri-Peaks All-Conference:

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

Hanna Stockelman '13  
Bria Sweeney '13  
Sarah Tentschert '13  
Laura Broerman '13  
Emily Whitelaw '13

##### Player of The Year

Bria Sweeney '13

### BOYS' GOLF

- Team Placed 10th out of 14 teams in the at the Tri-Peaks Golf Championships





# Biondini Takes the Helm at St. Mary's

"Never in my wildest dreams, when I tossed that green cap and gown in the backseat of my 1960 VW Bug, did I think that someday I'd be the principal of St. Mary's High School," said **Mike Biondini '66**, who stepped into that role last summer. "And I doubt Sister Patrick Marie, or Sister Valerie, thought I'd be sitting in this chair either," he chuckled. "Father Jepson and Father Kennedy would probably be surprised, too." He laughed, but then becomes serious. "I'm so glad to be here. It's an incredible school—spiritually, academically and athletically strong. I'm blessed to be here."

## Nine New Staff Members Join the Team



**Greg Biondi** teaches world geography and advanced placement history. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Southern Colorado and earned his masters at the University of Colorado.

Biondi previously taught in the Academy and Ellicott school districts. He enjoys traveling around the United States visiting the places he covers in class.



**Elizabeth Perdue** brings her love of math to the three levels of algebra she is teaching. Perdue earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and her Master

of Arts degree at the University of Texas at Austin. She taught middle school math in San Antonio, Texas, and college algebra at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. She also taught math at Woodland Park High School.



**Rebecca Keith '99** returned to her alma mater to teach chemistry, geometry, and statistics. While a student at SMHS, Keith was elected president of Girls State and attended Girls Nation. She also

placed first in Original Oratory at the State Forensics Meet. Keith received her BA in Kinesiology and MS in Integrative Physiology from CU Boulder and her MA in Curriculum and Instruction from UCCS. She taught Exercise Physiology at CU while earning her first master's degree. She was a graduate research assistant in the cardiac endothelial laboratory and was a named author on eleven research articles published in professional medical research journals. She taught for five years at Mesa Ridge High School. While there she was named a CU adjunct biology instructor, coordinating her curriculum with the university, which meant her AP biology students automatically received CU biology credit.



**Doug Dalman** brings myriad life experiences to his classroom. After graduating from Colorado State University, Dalman joined the Peace Corps and taught math in

Malaysia. He returned to the States and taught math in Iowa and Wisconsin and earned his Master of Arts degree in Education from the University of Iowa. He spent the 1991-1992 school term as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher in Great Britain at South Essex VltH Form College in Benfleet, Essex. Dalman returned to his teaching job in Beloit, Wisconsin, and in 2001 he attained National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Mathematics. In 2008 Dalman began graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was a graduate teaching assistant and earned his Master of Science in 2010.



Principal Mike Biondini is very supportive of the new staff. Back row: Kelly Stockelman, Elena Slavoski, Rosie VltH. Front row: Sarah Tafolla, Charlie Coghlin, Mr. Biondini, Peter Gohl, Natasha Ar



**Michelle Bills** attended St. Mary's Elementary School in Littleton kindergarten through eighth grade. Bills received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and her



# His Alma Mater

Biondini, who had a long career as a teacher, coach, and counselor in public school, was drawn back to his alma mater nine years ago when a counselor opening occurred. “From my first day as a counselor here, I was impressed with the warm, respectful environment of the school. The accomplishments of these kids are amazing. My job now is to help the faculty continue helping students, and our newest faculty members are fitting in well and already appreciating the attributes of this special place. They are a talented group of experienced educators, and they all share a passion for teaching.”

## s Join the SMHS Family



Executive of student senate. Back row from left: Josie Wayne, Ben Cloud, Alexa Jakusovsky. Front row: Colton Calandrella, Rachael Hemann, Mia Archuleta, Jon Hyink, Amy Resman

l Master’s degree from CU Boulder. She taught elementary and middle school in District 20 and high school in Cheyenne Wells and District 20. For twenty years she has also taught a weekly class at Regis University. At SMHS Wells teaches English and Journalism and is the adviser for the school newspaper. Bills loves skiing and bungee jumping.



**Don Castle** works in the Counseling Department with Pat Davis. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in History from Southern Colorado State College and his Masters in Guidance and Counseling from UCCS. He also has a Type D certificate in Public School Administration from the University of Colorado-Boulder. He has taught or been a counselor in Falcon, Colorado Springs District 11, and Widefield school districts.



**Tita Ford**, who was raised in Panama and attended high school at a boarding school in Jamaica, teaches Spanish at SMHS. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Languages from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her Masters degree is in Bilingual Education, and Psycholinguistics. Ford has taught in Spain, the Marianna Islands, Puerto Rico, and here in Colorado Springs at Corpus Christi Elementary. Ford, whose world traveling began during childhood, has traveled extensively and lived in several countries as a military wife. Ford spends her summers in Thailand, visiting her brother who is Panama’s ambassador to that country, and Granada, Spain, where her nieces reside.



**Nic Olney** teaches physical education and is the head Pirate football coach. A Colorado Springs native, Nic did his undergraduate work at Colorado College and the University of Northern Colorado where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Exercise Science. He has Master of Arts degrees in Education from Grand Canyon University and in Human Performance and Physical Education with an emphasis in coaching from Adams State College. Olney has taught physical education and coached football at Ellicott and Harrison.



**Mike Miaurro**, a Colorado Springs native, is the instructor in the Academic Support Center. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in rehabilitation services and a Masters degree in counseling at the University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary social studies education at the University of Wyoming. Miaurro worked in Wyoming as the director of juvenile programs for Campbell County for six years before moving back to the Pikes Peak region to teach history courses at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. He has coached football, basketball, baseball, and golf.

## Class Notes

**Chuck Murphy '54** was selected by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak region as the 2011 Business Leader in the Arts.

**Tom McCarthy '65** retired from the Ventura [California] County Probation Agency after 31 years and is currently a Court Liaison for the Ventura Police Department. His wife Mary is a Juvenile Hall probation officer, their daughter Erin is a dispatcher at the Ventura Police Department, and their son Kyle is a senior chemistry major at UCLA.

Steve and Diane Baggs and her mother Connie Paglia had lunch and a tour of state offices with Colorado Attorney General

**John Suthers '70**. The Baggs had the winning bid at the SMHS April auction for the lunch.

**Greg Lowery '70** is working for CH2M Hill in Panama on the Panama Canal Expansion. Greg is a resident structural engineer representing the owner on this \$5.25 million project.



You can look for him as your cruise ship goes through the Gatun Locks.

**Dave Pettinari '70** started teaching for Regis University 37 years after he graduated from Regis College in 1974. He is now in a mentorship program prior to taking on his own online class load. He is assisting in facilitating MSCR\*660, Cyber Criminology. Dave is in his third year teaching law enforcement and security management classes at University of Phoenix Online, and teaches two speech classes in-seat at Pueblo Community College. He also operates his own computer forensics and private investigations business, TAC Forensics LLC, and works part-time as an armed security guard, securing federal credit unions in Pueblo.

**Kyle Davis '83** is a coach in Guymon, Oklahoma. **David O'Sullivan '82** teaches at the same school.

**Pam '87** and **Scott '85 Miller** have returned to United States and are living in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. They moved after Scott finished his assignment at the US Embassy in Oslo Norway.

**Pat O'Rourke '88** was one of three attorneys nominated in October to fill a vacancy on the Colorado State Supreme Court. He is a graduate of Creighton University and Georgetown Law School. Since 2005 Pat has been the University of Colorado's Senior Managing Associate University Counsel, Litigation. He is responsible for the management of the university's litigation office, include the supervision of University attorneys and outside counsel. He is also responsible for the university's litigation practice before trial and appellate courts in the state and federal courts. Pat served on the St. Mary's High School Board of Directors in the early 2000s. He and his wife Robin live in Highlands Ranch, CO.

**Barbara Heupel '90** graduated from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine with a D.D.S. She is now a dentist at Downtown Denver Dental.

Kevin and **Jenny Atha Suchey '95** welcomed their son Xavier James on September 6, 2011. They live in Aurora, CO.



Steve and **Rachel Schneider '97**

**DiVito** welcomed their second son, Nicholas Joseph, on June 15, 2011. He joins older brother Jackson, who is three. The DiVitos live in Broomfield, CO.

**Jena Ward '97** and CW Roe are the parents of Lane Mateo Roe, who was born April 20, 1911. They reside in Colorado Springs.

Judd and **Sarah Keith Bryarly '97** are proud to announce the birth of their first son, Easton William. Easton was born on June 3, 2011.

**Michael Levi '98** and his wife Michelle welcomed daughter Skylar on August 24, 2011. They live in Aurora, CO.

**John Lewis '98** and **Lisa Runyan '02** exchanged wedding vows August 6, 2011, in an outdoor ceremony. The couple lives in Colorado Springs.



## Class Reunions



2001



2001



2006



## Class Notes

**Rachel Fox '00** lives in Denver where she is a school social worker with Aurora Public Schools.

**Karl Haase '01** earned his PhD in Chemistry and now works as a research chemist for the US Geological Survey. He and his wife Aimee live in Herndon, VA.

**Brandon Loring '01** and Stephanie Hoffman were married in Boulder, CO, October 15, 2011. They live in Broomfield where Brandon is a project manager for SDL.

**Michelle Skalski Englert '02** is teaching and coaching cheerleading at Ramstein American High School on Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. Her husband is an USAF pilot.

**Alex Venzor '02** placed third in his age group (25-29) and 27<sup>th</sup> overall out of 833 participants in the American Discovery Trail Marathon on Labor Day with a time of 3:14:37, a personal best. It was his fourth marathon. He lives in Colorado Springs.



**CPT Hayden**

**Piscal '04** and CPT Andrew Howell were married Sunday, September 4, 2011 in Warrenton, VA. Hayden and Andrew are Army helicopter pilots preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. Previously they were stationed in Hawaii. At the wedding **Lt Kevin Garcia '05** (left) was the Commander of the Saber Arch.



**Molly Ross Pautzke '04** and her husband Tyler welcomed their third child, Heidi Ann, on October 9, 2011. They live in Colorado Springs.



**Alex Jung '04** graduated from Loyola University in Chicago with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, passed his boards in May, and is a nurse on the medical-

## 100 Miles and Counting



**Brendan Trimboli '06** completed the Leadville Trail "race across the sky" on 20 August, covering the grueling 100 mile course on foot—including two ascents of 12,600 ft Hope Pass—in 20 hours, 8 minutes and 17 seconds, averaging an astonishing 12 minutes per mile. He placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall out of 345 finishers, and 3rd in the men's 20-29 age group. Sisters **Jillian Trimboli Conrad '03** and **Wendy Trimboli Roberts '01** provided motivation and logistical support throughout the race, supplying gear, snacks, and John Denver tunes at strategic points along the course. All three siblings competed on Pirate cross-country and track teams. The Leadville Trail 100 event also held a special meaning for the Trimboli clan: 20 years ago in 1991 their mother and former

St. Mary's cross-country coach ('01-'02) Lillian Trimboli completed her second Leadville Trail 100 race in 26 hours and 35 minutes. She passed away in 2004 from ocular melanoma. "We reflected on Mom awhile" said Brendan, recalling the last few uphill miles toward the finish, paced by sister Wendy, "I realized how damn tough she really was .... It might sound silly but I could feel her presence hiking up the Boulevard — she was hiking along with us. I'd run from Leadville to Winfield and back, and I'd done it for her."

**You can read Brendan's full race report on his blog at:**

<http://www.solarweasel.com/?p=1380> By: Wendy Trimboli Roberts

surgical floor at St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs.

**Amanda '04** and **Patrick '04 Ralston's** daughter Delaney Lucille was born August 25, 2011. Amanda and Patrick operate three YoYogurt stores in Colorado Springs and one in Fountain.



**Lauren Lujan '05** is a state park ranger. She is attending the police academy in Denver and awaiting her next assignment.

**Jamie Hilligrass '06** and Ryan Rogl, a 2011 USAF graduate, were married June 11, 2011. In May Jamie graduated from UCCS with a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Sciences.



They reside in Oklahoma where Ryan is in pilot training.

**LeeAnn Maton '06**

and Andrew Shelton were married July 23, 2011 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Joliet, Illinois, the same church where Lee Ann's parents **Larry '75** and Judy Maton were married in 1980, and her maternal grandparents and great grandparents were also married. LeeAnn and Andrew reside in Chicago. LeeAnn works at the *Chicago Sun-Times* media wire desk and Andrew is the youth minister at St. Viator Catholic Church.



**Julia Mulligan '06** and Jacob Flatz were married September 10, 2011 in Estes Park, CO. They reside in North Pole, Alaska.

## Class Notes (continued)

### Alena Laput

#### Sutherland '06

and her husband Kevin are the parents of David Gabriel

born September 18, 2011.

They reside in Colorado Springs where Kevin works in mineral engineering.

**Lauren Billing '07** graduated magna cum laude with degrees in psychology and religions from Gonzaga University in May.

She and **Amanda Morales '07** spent a month

last summer traveling in Ecuador.

Lauren is living in North Dakota, writing for a local paper. She will begin a sports psychology graduate program next fall.

**Casey Ritt '07** graduated from Colgate University in May with degrees in political science and environmental sciences. She received the Colgate Director of Athletics Award. Casey lives in Denver where she is a political analyst for Environment Colorado. She will attend law school next fall.

**Rex Schull '09** was one of the ROTC members selected as the honor guard for former Soviet President



### Mikail

Gorbachev when he spoke at the University of Wyoming.

Last summer Shull completed Air Borne School at Fort Benning and was awarded his Air Borne wings.

**Alex Rysavy '10** spent fall semester studying in Italy. Alex is a student at Benedictine College.

**Georden West '11** was elected freshmen class president at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA. She is on the swim team and specializes in backstroke.

### Former Faculty

**Don Lupton**, former SMHS social studies instructor, is currently the dean of students at Pope John XXIII High School, an independent Catholic school, in Katy, Texas. This is his eighth year at the school, where he has taught social studies and served for a year as interim principal. Pope John XXIII, the newest Catholic high school in the Houston area, graduated its fourth class last spring.

**Mary Williams** is teaching high school chemistry, physics, and physical science in Boulder, Montana, which is near Helena. The school of 200 students has a four-day week schedule.



### ■ In Memoriam ■

#### Alice Lenore Giesing Rockers '39

passed away October 4, 2011 in Colorado Springs.

**Jean Bishop '44** passed away April 19, 2011.

**Joseph E. Nolan '52** passed away July 25, 2011 in Colorado Springs. He was a funeral director and owned Nolan Funeral Home. His father commissioned the Lady of Fatima marble statue that sits in front of St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Dr. Ed McCabe '59** passed away in January, 2011.

**Father John Wind '59** passed away September 15, 2011. He taught at St. Francis High School in Denver.

#### Stephen Kent Rome '63

of Denver passed away December 12, 2010.

#### Judy Walters '63

passed away July 24, 2011. She worked at Colorado Interstate Gas for 30 years as a vice president's administrative assistant.

**Rick LaRue '63** passed away September 30, 2011 in Denver.

**Richard Ferguson '65** passed away in Colorado Springs on September 24, 2011. He was a US Navy veteran and for 31 years worked at TRW as an Engineering Skill Center Manager. His wife **Kaye Jeness '66**, four children, and eleven grandchildren survive.

**Steven Kron '67** passed away October 30, 2011 in Colorado Springs. He was the General Manager of Bozart Oldsmobile before it closed. He also owned several restaurants in Colorado Springs, including Sheldon's and Canyon Coffee and Cafe.

**Jim Shields '71** passed away September 13, 2011 in Colorado Springs.

**Matthew Davis '90** passed away November 4, 2011.



### From the Archives



### Don't toss those photos!

Do you have pictures in your scrapbooks or files from your years at SMHS that we could add to our picture archive? Please send them to us. We'd like to add them to our files.

Can you identify the people in this picture and the year in which it was taken? If so, please send us an email: [mwalter@smhscs.org](mailto:mwalter@smhscs.org) or [lcance@smhscs.org](mailto:lcance@smhscs.org).



# THE GRACE CENTER FOR ATHLETICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE MARKS 5 YEARS



## “If only we had our own home field,”

was the lament of SMHS Pirates for decades. Football and soccer teams practiced in parks or borrowed fields or anyplace with enough grass and dirt. Every coach dreamed of playing at a real home field. Five years ago those dreams came true with the dedication of Grace Center on land donated by LeRoy Landhuis. For the first time the St. Mary’s homecoming game was actually played at home.

“The Grace Center for Athletics and Community Service has proven to be a tremendous benefit to St. Mary’s High School and the Colorado Springs community as a whole during its first five years,” said Matt Walter, SMHS Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

It was Landhuis’ wish that Grace Center, named for his mother Grace, would be a place many athletic groups could use, and it has been. His vision that it be used for nonprofit organizations as well as community and school groups has been fulfilled.

“It’s busy almost every day,” said Grace Center Manager Jim Cristelli. From Pirate soccer, football, and baseball to Catholic elementary school field days, Pop Warner football games, USA Blind Athletes track meets, American Cancer Society fundraisers, Club Soccer to adult summer baseball, and Triple Crown Baseball tournaments, the athletes playing at the Grace Center are diverse.

“Whether it has been SMHS sports teams, community youth programs, or local non-profits such as the American Cancer Society, the Grace Center has provided a much-needed venue for the

good work that these organizations provide. We are especially grateful on this anniversary for the generosity of the individuals, corporations and foundation who helped make the complex a reality five years ago and are looking forward to the next five years with equal enthusiasm,” Walter said.



## SMHS Art Students Paint Stations of the Cross

Last spring during Lent, SMHS Art Instructor Karen Simkiss, gave her Art II class an unusual assignment that challenged and inspired them. Each of the fourteen students looked at a 2" X 3" realistic painting of one of the fourteen stations. They read the story of the stations and discussed the way the mood changes with each station. Then Simkiss asked the students to paint one station. However, she instructed them for their first portion of the project, "Your pictures are not to be realistic but rather



**Sean Scally '12**  
painted his  
interpretation of  
the Resurrection.

non-objective. In other words, paint the emotions and feelings you have about that station."

After sharing their first pictures, the class discussed them and prepared for the final part of the project. They chose a color palette—brown for the cross, gold leaf for Jesus, purple, blue, green, maroon, white, black. The results are fourteen colorful interpretative pictures of the Stations of the Cross that represent the emotions and feelings each station evoked in the artist.



**Emily Tait '12** painted  
her interpretation  
of Jesus dying  
on the cross.

It was a deeply meaningful experience for the students. "While painting [my station], I had a feeling of sadness mixed with a sense of love," said **Laina Salani '13**.

Students liked sharing their own personal insight while keeping a central theme. "[I liked that] my art, school, and faith were combined with my classmates," **Megan Harder '14** said of the collaborative effort.

Simkiss didn't know when she began the project how much it would inspire the class, but is extremely pleased with the results. "Each painting is a very personal expression of faith," she said. "The class achieved something together

they would not have been able to do individually. They are justly proud of what they did."

Simkiss is pursuing funding to frame the fourteen stations and the resurrection so they may be hung on campus in St. Leo's Chapel.

## SMHS Adds Academic Support Center

At St. Mary's High School providing an environment in which every student can be successful is a goal of the administration, faculty, and staff. Recognizing the need some students have for additional help so they may meet the school's high academic expectations, St. Mary's added an academic support center this year.

Academic Support Center Instructor Mike Maiurro sees a variety of student needs. "Some students lack

organization, some lack focus, some have bad study habits, and some have not yet developed self-responsibility," Maiurro said.

Maiurro works individually with each of the more than thirty students who are in the ASC for one class period three days each week.

Students receive weekly progress reports from their teachers and confer with Maiurro, noting if grades have gone up, remained the same, or fallen. Reasons for changes are discussed.

"We're trying to model what kids need to do when they get to college to succeed. If they can learn here how to ask an instructor for help if they're struggling, how organize their time, how to study efficiently, and how to get assignments turned in on time, their chances of succeeding in high school and college is much greater."

"I get my work done without distractions and I can work at my own pace," said Dennis, a junior. "My grades have improved."

"Mr. Moe [Maiurro] has helped me with my study notes and grades," another student commented.

"The Academic Support Center has exceeded our expectations," said

SMHS Counselor Pat Davis. "We have students in all four grade levels enrolled in the program, and they are finding success in organizational skills and time management."

*"We're trying to model what kids need to do when they get to college to succeed."*



**The individual help ASC Director Mike Maiurro in the ASC is helping students in their more difficult classes.**

Davis and Maiurro agree that freshmen, whose study habits are not yet firmly established, seem to benefit the most. "Freshmen, as they adjust to the new pressures and demands of St. Mary's rigorous curriculum and extracurricular activities, are getting support in managing the workload," Davis stated.

First quarter grades were encouraging. "We have fewer low grades," Davis said. "I think the ASC is doing what we had hoped it would. She gives much of the credit for the success of the ASC to Maiurro. "We were fortunate to find just the right person. He's the perfect mix of coach, teacher, and mentor."



## Development

### Annual Golf Classic Still Strong At 35

It was a blustery autumn day at the Kissing Camels Club for the 35th Annual St. Mary's High School Golf Classic held Friday, October 7th. This year's tournament fielded a healthy flight of golfers, including St. Mary's parents, alums, and friends, as well as local business supporters all eager to prove themselves in the best ball format.

Following 18 holes of golf, a delicious dinner was served at the Garden of the Gods Club. Interim President Ky McCarty and Principal **Mike Biondini '66** emceed the awards ceremony. Special recognition was given to Roy Clennan and Freedom Financial Services for their long-time support of the tournament as its main underwriters.

The Best Team prize was awarded to 1st Place Team of Bartold, Coats, Hughes, & Kyester followed by the team of Cafasso, Delich, Hettich, & Hettich. The team of Jaeger, Madden, Nagl, & Papineau finished 3rd overall. A new prize this year, the Best Alumni Team, was won by the team of Ernster, Faricy, Faricy & Fleming. The Wells Fargo team took home the Best Business Team, and the Best Family Team award went to the O'Donnell family.

In the specialty prize category, Ben Hettich and Kris Sprehe won the longest



**From L to R on the photo: Bartold, Hughes, Coats, Kyester.**

drive competition for men and women respectively. Janice Kollath earned the closest-to-the-pin award for the women, while Jim Hughes took home that honor for the men. Greg Ernster and George Tracy won the coveted putting contest.

Special thanks goes to Tournament and Dinner underwriters Roy Clennan and Freedom Financial, Dinner sponsor Chuck Murphy, Tee Favor sponsors Merrill Lynch and Peak Vista Family Dentistry, and Awards sponsors Richard and Anne Stockelman. Thanks to their support along with the Tee Sponsors and Gift Donors listed here, the tournament raised over \$25,000 for tuition assistance.

Please make plans to join us for next year's tournament in September of 2012.

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### ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL 2011-2012 ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund at St. Mary's High School is the endorsement of the School's mission by people who value the importance of affordable Catholic, college preparatory education for Southern Colorado.

The Annual Fund supports all facets of student life at St. Mary's, from academics, to athletics, to the arts. Our goal for the 2010-2011 Annual Fund is to generate **\$350,000 by June 30, 2012.**

Your Annual Fund gift will make a difference in the lives of 335 current St. Mary's students and their families, and it will honor our rich tradition, helping secure the future for generations of Pirates to come.

**Make your gift to St. Mary's today by using the remittance envelope in this magazine or by giving online at [www.smshcs.org](http://www.smshcs.org).**

### DEUS PROVIDEBIT

For more information about the Annual Fund, visit [www.smshcs.org](http://www.smshcs.org) or contact Director of Development Matt Walter at [mwalter@smshcs.org](mailto:mwalter@smshcs.org) or 719-635-7540, ext. 38.



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December 23 ..... Alumni Christmas Social

January 30 ..... Catholic Schools Week

April 21 ..... Annual Gala

May 21 ..... Graduation

May 25-27 ..... Reunions Weekend



**Hall Of Fame Inductees  
are presented with their  
Awards.** (see pg 4-5)



## Address Corrections

*Your address is important to us! Please send your address and e-mail changes to Matt Walter in the St. Mary's High School Development & Alumni Relations Office by e-mail to [mwalter@smhscs.org](mailto:mwalter@smhscs.org), so we can send publications to you in a timely manner. Thanks for your help!*