



Pastor

'Go for broke' and trust in the Lord

We are blessed with great facilities, faculty, and administration

"Do the kids know what they have?" This is a question I hear quite often on Sundays after Mass as an alumnus or even a visitor to our parish will make a comment about the beautiful campus we have at Our Lady of Lourdes.

My response is an immediate "Yes, we are truly blessed."

Am I sure that our students and families understand what we have here?

In many cases, yes, and in some cases it will take time before they begin to really appreciate the blessings we have. These comments from you



Fr. Tom Stroot

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113 years of service

End of an era: Sisters of St. Joseph return to Motherhouse



From left, Sisters Patrice, Paula Marie, and Charlotte returned to the Mt. Saint Mary's Motherhouse in Wichita in September.

With the leaving of the Sisters, so leaves the tradition of singing "Good Night Irene." Go to krps.org to listen to an NPR feature on this tradition. (Click the archives link on the left and scroll down to Sept. 5.)

The Sisters of St. Joseph were an intimate part of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary's-Colgan schools from 1895 until September 2008 when the last three – Sisters Patrice, Charlotte, and Paula Marie – returned to the Mt. Saint Mary's Motherhouse in Wichita.

When Father Pompenny arrived in Pittsburg to serve as pastor, he made arrangements in about 1895 for the Sisters of St. Joseph to come to Pittsburg to teach at the growing school. More than 150 Sisters served in the schools through the ensuing 113 years.

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New Foundation Support for SMC

Alumni appeal to make it happen; donations get match

The Kansas Health Foundation has blessed St. Mary's School with a Matching Grant Opportunity. Our school recently established an endowment through the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, which is hosted in Pittsburg.

Donations given to this endowment prior to May 31, 2009 will receive a 50% match from the Kansas Health Foundation. The purpose of this match is to encourage

schools like ours to create endowments used to build long-term support and sustainability. The name of this new endowment is The SMC Community Endowment.

Your Support

The primary funding vehicle for this new endowment is you—the alumni of SMC. This is your opportunity now to help

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Progress Always

The center of our school is and always will be faith

While there is no major physical construction taking place on campus this year, our schools continue to build upon the layers of success left by each previous class of students.

Our goals for this school year include creating a Professional Learning Community—a place where only the best teaching styles are prevalent, where all students are challenged to their ability, where mediocrity is eliminated, and where teachers collaborate on the learning needs of students and take responsibility not just for teaching but for student learning. Only in committing every one of our faculty members and their expertise to the greatest benefit of each student can we fully live our mission.

For this school year we have added



John Kraus

a new computer lab and modified two existing labs, increased elective choices to expand Art, Debate, Foreign Studies, Technology Communications, Business, and Accounting, expanded the Math department with the

hiring of an additional teacher, and initiated meeting with all school parents on "What it means to be an SMC family".

In the climate of education where so many schools are overly burdened with red-tape bureaucracy, with power struggles, with destructive social viruses, and with status quo, we at SMC are blessed to be in a position where we can continue to grow in what we offer to students in

order to best prepare them to be leaders in college, in business, in the community, and in the faith.

This year began with our largest Booster Club picnic in recent memory, hosted on our campus. This year began with a family gift to the Community Foundation which took us past Stage 1 of a matching funds program.

And this year began as it should every year, with an all-school Mass packing the church, standing-room only. The center of our school is our faith, the support of our school is our family, alumni, and friends, and the joy of our school is our community gathered in support of our children. ■

— John Kraus, President of Schools/Director of Administration

Foundation *Continued from page 1*

establish a long-lasting funding stream for the school that helped to form your school experience. Our school will appeal to many in our community to help fund this endowment, but the primary group of supporters from which we want to hear are our out-of-town alumni, those who receive our newsletters, have benefited from their time at SMC, and who believe we have something great to offer our students. Alumni living in Pittsburg and attending Our Lady of Lourdes are encouraged to give to the Memorial Fund.

What Is the Timeline and Goal?

- **Stage 1:** Establish endowment and raise at least \$10,000 by Oct. 31, 2008 to be eligible for extended matching program (completed summer 2008).
- **Stage 2:** Schools completing Phase 1 are eligible for an extension of 50% matching funds through May 31, 2009. SMC's goal is to receive \$50,000 of matching funds by raising \$100,000 by May 31, 2009.
- **Stage 3:** Use interest from the endowment for school projects—academics, fine arts, student government, cocurricular activities, field trips, and technology.
- **Stage 4:** Build this endowment through appeals to alumni, businesses, and nonparish-based supporters of SMC Schools to secure annual funding for decades to come. Parish supporters donate to the Memorial Fund.

Where Does My Donation Go?

Because this endowment is hosted and managed by the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK), donations are to be made to CFSEK and noted for The SMC Community Endowment. CFSEK will deposit donations into our school's endowment fund and will report to school administration and the school's Fund Advisory Board all activities of the fund. School administration and the Fund Advisory Board will annu-

ally determine what aspect of school life the interest payments will help fund.

Donations may be sent to: Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, The SMC Community Endowment, P.O. Box 1115, Pittsburg, KS 66762-8897

Tax Benefit and Giving Other Than Cash

All donations made to CFSEK and The SMC Community Endowment are tax deductible. Upon receiving gifts, donors will be mailed a receipt and an annual giving statement in January.

Irrevocable planned gifts to The SMC Community Endowment which name the CFSEK as the irrevocable remainderman may be counted at the present value of the remainder interest for this matching opportunity. Also, life insurance policies—cash surrender value—are eligible for the school endowment; the CFSEK must be the owner and beneficiary. Additionally, any grant distribution from a private foundation to the school endowment will be matched based on its five-percent distribution. For more information on any of these non-cash gifts, please contact President of Schools John Kraus, 620-231-2135 or kraus@smcschools.org.

Does This Replace the Memorial Fund?

This new endowment does not take the place of, or take away from, the Memorial Fund. Each year, our parish and school receive interest revenue from the Memorial Fund and also each year some of the principal funds from the Memorial Fund are used to support ministries. Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes give generously to this fund and the parish asks each family to remember the Memorial Fund during estate planning.

The SMC Community Endowment differs in that only the interest revenue will be used and exclusively to fund school projects. ■

New bus means fewer problems and less worry!

The SMC Booster Club has purchased a 2008 school bus that is rated for 78 passengers with three to a seat. It will comfortably seat 52 adults or high school students, two to a seat. "The Booster Club has been working toward this goal for many years," Booster Club President Elaine Castagno wrote.

The cost of the bus was \$90,000. Fund raising has been done in the form of club memberships, concession stands, the annual winter dance and silent auction, and hosting basketball tournaments. "Many years of payments remain," Elaine said.

The new bus is a welcome addition as many alums and coaches can recall "broken bus stories." Pat Forbes related several of his favorites. "My first football practice at St. Mary's in 1964 entailed pushing the bus to get it started to go to practice and again pushing it to return to the gym. Needless to say, the players didn't groan too much since it seemed to be an everyday occurrence. We should have had the physically stron-

gest team in Southeast Kansas. The bus never seemed to run out of gas since the motor wasn't all that important."

"In my later years, regardless the age of the bus, whenever we went to play Erie, Roy Bishop would meet me and say, 'we have a mechanic on duty.' It appeared that whenever we played at their



site we always had a bus that malfunctioned. It wasn't until after the game that we discovered our plight, so we either left the bus or they called a serviceman to come to our assistance. I won't go into the number of times I was called to take a bus and drive to pick up a group of forensic students or athletic teams who had suffered breakdowns somewhere on various highways."

"Few people know that after we received our first new bus Frank Crespino and I drove a route to pick up students in Mulberry, Arma, and Frontenac in the mornings. Another driver took them home in the evenings since we were at practice. That lasted a couple of years for us."

Mike Watt (1978), coach and PE teacher, recalled that after stopping at a railroad crossing with a group of junior high tracksters, the clutch came loose from the motor. He had to drive several miles in first gear. Another time, as the baseball team was returning home late at night from the

state tournament, the headlights went off completely as he switched from low beam to high – at 55 mph.

If you have a bus story that you would like to share, send it to ctflood@ckt.net or Chris Flood, 6664 NE Liberty Rd., Weir, KS 66781. Also, a donation from each alum who has experienced a broken down bus would probably pay for the new bus. ■

Fr. Tom *Continued from page 1*

and other visitors will have an impact on their appreciation and understanding as time goes on.

A visiting alumnus will additionally make reference to their days in school and what they had to endure and what they did without but always with a sense of "it would have been nice to have what they have now, but we managed and just did without or compensated in some way." And then they go on to tell a story or tale of years gone by. There isn't a tone of jealousy in their voice because they are very happy for the students of today. They just want them to be thankful and make good use of the available opportunities.

I can truly tell you that I am very conscious of what and who we have. We are blessed with great facilities and we are blessed with great faculty and administration, ancillary help, volunteers, parental support, and students. We are blessed with a great tradition which *you* had a hand in. You took what was given to you, cherished and enhanced it during your days here and passed it on. Thank you! I challenge the students of today to respectfully appreciate the tradition and spirit that was given to them and ask them to gratefully nurture it and pass it on to those who will follow.

We are blessed with many faculty who have been here for years. The commitment, dedication, and generous spirit of our teachers, coaches, and staff ensure the vitality and spirit of our

schools. I remember distinctly in 1990 when we were at a crossroads. We had more and more parents wanting to send their children to SMC. Our choice was to have one classroom per grade with a large number of students and turn some away, or go to two classrooms per grade with a more reasonable number of students per class for the best educational environment.

If we moved toward two classrooms per grade, the danger was to sacrifice and cut corners because of the additional costs. We made the decision and commitment: if we were going to have Catholic schools, then we were going to provide a quality education and have a school with a "Catholic identity."

The choice we faced was to "maintain the status quo" and ultimately lose in the long run or "go for broke" and trust in the Lord, the people of our parish, and friends like yourselves. We chose the right course. We believe that if we take care of the "poor" – the spiritually poor, socially poor, intellectually poor, physically poor, and the financially poor, the Lord will bless our efforts.

We are a PARISH SCHOOL, not a private school. We have no tuition since we operate as a stewardship parish and community. We continue to provide Catholic Education for any child in our parish if their parents desire that for them. Thank you for being a part of this great story and tradition. ■

- Fr. Tom Stroot, Pastor and Administrator

Looking Back

Compiled by Chris Flood

... 10 years

Johnna (Pesavento) Schremmer (1998) continued her education at Pittsburg State University. In January 2003, while a student, she attained a Real Estate Salesperson license and began selling real estate with Coldwell Banker Jim Bishop and Associates in Pittsburg. She continued to sell real estate until 2007. Johnna graduated Summa Cum Laude from PSU with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2002. She earned her Master's in Business Administration in 2003.

In October of 2003, Johnna married Tony Schremmer (1990). In May 2004, she started a new position at PSU as the Major Gift officer for the College of Arts and Sciences and Education. Then in January 2007, she became the director of the PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations and Executive Director of the PSU Alumni Association.

In January 2008, Johnna and Tony were blessed with their first child, Anthony Leonardo. Johnna finds time to be very active in the Pittsburg community. She is currently president of the Pittsburg Sunrise Rotary as well as on the Board of Directors of the Crawford County United Way; and the Elm Acres Foundation Board.

Tony is an Independent Contractor for the *USA Today*.

Johnna writes, "I have not moved away from Pittsburg, as it is where we want to raise our family." ■

... 20 years

Steve Stockard (1988) continued his education at Benedictine College where he also played basketball and baseball for four years. Steve earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy. He went on to earn his law degree from Washburn School of Law. Currently, Steve has a general law practice with Wilbert and Towner, P.A. in Pittsburg.

Steve is married to Beth Huerter (1991). Beth is a school psychologist working for the Southeast Kansas Interlocal #637. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from PSU and currently provides services to students at Pittsburg High School and Frontenac schools. She also teaches part time in the psychology department at PSU.

Steve and Beth have two daughters, five-year-old Millie and eight-year-old Cecelia. The girls attend St. Mary's Elementary School.

Steve is also a singer and songwriter for the Team Jesus Band with two other attorneys, Mike Gayoso and Lori Fleming. The band was formed at the request of a group of SMC students who were wanting to have Praise and Worship services similar to what they had experienced at Steubenville youth conference. The Team Jesus Band performs at youth and parish events. ■

... 30 years

Kathleen (Mitchelson) Colebank (1978) took to heart the encouragement of her high school science teacher and pursued a career in nursing. Kathleen attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence for two years and then completed her nursing degree in Kansas City at KU Med Center in 1982. She worked at KU Med until 1990 in the surgery-trauma intensive care unit. She married Scott Colebank of Prairie Village, Kansas, in 1990. They moved to Springfield, Missouri, where Kathleen worked in the recovery room at Cox South Medical Center. In late 1991, they returned to Prairie Village, where she took a job in the recovery room at Research Medical Center, and Scott took a job at what is now American Century Investments.

Kathleen and Scott have two children, Daniel and Emily, and live in Prairie Village. Daniel is a sophomore at Shawnee Mission East High School and plays soccer, baseball, and clarinet in the band. Emily is an eighth grader at Indian Hills Middle School and plays softball and violin, studies voice, and participates in theater. Kathleen currently works at Kansas City Orthopaedic Institute in Leawood, Kansas, as a pre-op and recovery room nurse.

"My family and I enjoyed traveling to see the Colgan football and basketball teams play over the years at home and away games, as my nephews have played on these teams." Kathleen writes. "I will never forget my instructor Mr. Martin's encouragement to become a nurse. Twenty-six years later, I am still very happy with this career choice and consider this a great blessing!" ■



... 40 years

Fr. Bob Wachter (1968) wanted to become a man of service. "I was thinking maybe the Peace Corps or something like that," Fr Bob said. But, just prior to Easter his senior year, God helped him realize that his service would be to the Church.

Fr. Bob is one of 10 children (6 boys followed by 4 girls) born to Paul and Rosemary Wachter. Two of the boys died in childhood. The remaining eight Wachtors all graduated from St. Mary's-Colgan High School. Upon graduation, Fr. Bob was assigned by Bishop Maloney to attend St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, for four years. The next four years were at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

Following his ordination, Fr. Wachter was assigned to All Saints in Wichita, located near St. Joseph's hospital. His pastor was Monsignor Herbert Hurtel, who had been in Pittsburg many years before. After one year, Fr. Bob became the Assistant Chancellor

■ ■ ■

If you graduated from SMC in 1949, '59, '69, '79, '89, or '99 and would like to be featured in the "Looking Back" section, or if you want to suggest a classmate to be featured, contact Chris Flood at ctflood@ckt.net or 6664 NE Liberty Road, Weir, KS 66781.

under Bishop Maloney. One and a half years later, he became chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Again, after one and a half years, Fr. Bob was moved and became a teacher at Bishop Carol High School. For the next three years, he taught and was the Administrator to St. Martin's Parish in Caldwell.

Fr. Bob's next assignment was his first as a Pastor. He became Pastor to Holy Savior in Wichita, an all-black parish. Coming from Pittsburg and St. Mary's-Colgan schools, Fr. Bob said that this was a new experience for him. This was the first of five parishes he would pastor that had a Catholic Grade School. Four years each were spent at Holy Savior, St. Mary's-Newton, St. Joseph's-Conway Springs, Christ the King-Wichita, and St. Patrick's-Parsons.

"Each parish has its own flavor and challenges," Fr. Bob said. "Conway is primarily a farming community. Where Christ the King was more of a big city parish. St. Mary's Newton is similar to Our Lady of Lourdes."

Fr. Bob currently is pastor at St. John's in Iola and has St. Joseph's in Yates Center and St. Martin's in Piqua. He has been there for the past three years. But, Fr. Bob is a frequent traveler to Pittsburg and can often be found in the crowd of SMC football and basketball games. ■

... 50 years

Andrew Johnson (1958) followed in his father's footsteps and became certified as a journeyman carpenter in 1961. However, Andrew's career path took him far beyond that of a carpenter. He continued his formal education at Pittsburg State University where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry in 1963. As an active member of the ROTC program, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. This began a much-decorated career in the military. Andrew was assigned by the Army to spend the next couple of years in Germany. He returned to the States where he earned a Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Virginia in 1969.

Next came a tour in Vietnam. In 1970, following his return to the States, he served two years as the project manager for nuclear and nonnuclear weapon tests at the Nevada Test Site. Next, the Army brought him back to Kansas where he completed Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth in 1973. Andrew then served as the Chief of Nuclear Weapons Test Branch.

Andrew returned to Germany in 1977, working as a nuclear weapons inspector then as commander of the 197th Ordnance Battalion. Beginning in 1981, he worked under the Joint Chiefs of Staff, followed by the Office of the Assistants to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy. In 1988, Andrew became Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Nuclear and Chemical Agency at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

After 26-1/2 years of service and achieving the rank of Colonel, Andrew transitioned out of the Army in 1989. However, retirement was not in the plans, as Andrew moved his knowledge

to the private sector. He worked from 1989-1999 as a member of Analytical Systems Engineering Corporation. In part, Andrew worked with technology to improve the safety, security, and survivability of nuclear and other sensitive cargo in storage and transit. From 1997-2001, Andrew supported various Cooperative Threat Reduction projects in Ukraine and Kazakhstan including the elimination of SS-19 and SS-24 missile systems and infrastructures associated with nuclear weapons delivery systems. From 2001-2007, Andrew served in leadership positions for the Threat Reduction Support Center. Andrew retired in 2007.

Andrew is married to Annette Goslee of Wethersfield, Connecticut. They live in Gainesville, Virginia. Andrew and Annette have three children: Tracey, who is married and has two daughters, lives in Agawam, Massachusetts; Philip, who is married and has a son, lives in Des Moines, Iowa; and Wendy, who is married and has two daughters, lives in nearby Ashburn, Virginia. ■

... 60 years

Shirley (Farris) Orender (1948) went to work after graduation and has never really stopped. Kress in Pittsburg, the Army Munitions plant at Parsons, and the Census Bureau in Pittsburg were her first jobs. Then, in 1955, she married Don Orender. Shirley stayed home for the next 23 years raising nine kids.

When their youngest child started kindergarten, Shirley went back to work – outside of the home. She spent one year at Anshire's Garment Factory. Then, in 1980, Shirley became a cook for the St. Mary's-Colgan Schools. For the next 20 years, Shirley prepared and served food for hungry grade school and high school students. Shirley retired from full time work in 2000 and spent the next couple of years working part time in the kitchen. Currently, Shirley helps her sister-in-law as cashier on the weekends at Harry's café. "Some people still come through and ask me to punch their lunch ticket," Shirley said with a laugh.

September 24 marked Don and Shirley's 53rd wedding anniversary. Forty-two of those years have been spent at the house just a block from the St. Mary's-Colgan campus. That proved to be very convenient as all nine of their children graduated from Colgan and most have stayed fairly close to home. Bonnie (1974), Charlotte (1976), Donna (1982), Donald (1985), and Pat (1987) all live in Pittsburg. Susie (1977) lives in Ft. Scott, Flo (1979) lives in Topeka, and Kathy (1981) is in Wichita. Mary (1990) died in a car accident in 1991.

The Orenders have been blessed with 20 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren on the way. Six of their grandkids have already graduated from SMC with more currently in the school. They also have three great-grandkids in the Elementary. They represent the fifth generation of Shirley's family who have attended St. Mary's as Shirley's mom, Flora Murry, also graduated from St. Mary's 8th grade. "We have been really blessed," Shirley said. ■

Sisters

Continued from page 1

Since the high school opened in 1936, the Sisters of St. Joseph were active there. They served as principals of the high school from the beginning in 1936 until 1973. Sister Linus was the first principal (1936-1949), followed by Sister Edwina (1949-1950), Sister Paula (1950-1958), Sister Linus again (1958-1960), then Sister de Chantal (1960-1963), Sister Veronica (1963-1966), Sister Mary Patrick (1966-1972), and finally Sister Laura (1972-1973).

The Sisters were always active in school life from teaching, to coaching, to directing musicals, and more. The presence and prayers of the sisters were felt daily, though they gradually passed their teaching duties to lay teachers.

The faith-filled contributions to our education and daily life are forever remembered and appreciated. The Sisters who served at the high school:

Sister Ferdinand	Sister Walburga
Sister Luke	Sister Justina
Sister Paula	Sister Cleophas
Sister Linus	Sister Veronica
Sister Martin	Sister Edward
Sister Euphrasia	Sister de Chantal
Sister Victorine	Sister Assumpta
Sister Florence	Sister Sara
Sister Elizabeth	Sister Leocritia
Sister Berchmans	Sister Eustasia
Sister Flavia	Sister Clare Louise
Sister Athanasius	Sister Immaculata
Sister Clarissa	Sister Lynda
Sister Eva	Sister Mary Patrick
Sister Vincentia	Sister Eda Marie
Sister Agnesina	Sister Prudentia
Sister Edwina	Sister Helen
Sister Ignatius	Joseph
Sister Rosaria	Sister Laura
Sister Lucille	Sister Suzanne
Sister Lucianna	Sister Harriet
Sister de Pazzi	Sister Gabriella
Sister Simeon	Sister Rebecca
Sister Isabel	Sister Mary John
Sister Teresa	Sister Helene
Marie	Sister Teresa
Sister James	Sister Lucille
Sister Teresita	Sister Denise
Sister Cyrilia	Sister Patrice

The Sisters will be dearly missed

By Former Principal Pat Forbes

It is a pleasure to write about the Sisters of St. Joseph since they have been inextricably connected to my life – from grade school through college and even career. Many of us here at St. Mary's have been beneficiaries of their selfless ministry, although guided sometimes reluctantly to understand the zeal of that ministry.

Ministry means service and service is the key to some of the deepest meanings of life since it opens the door to possible happiness. This is my memory of the Sisters, their perseverance in leading students to acquire the knowledge necessary for a sometimes uncertain future.

Our lives were influenced by the devoted efforts of Sisters Quentin Ryan, Cecilia Bush, Mary Patrick O'Conner, and of course Sister Patrice Joyce and Sister Charlotte. The names of those who have served here and across the Diocese are a litany of selfless ladies intent on serving God and the church.

Every student that passed through our school in the days of the Sisters has a

story to describe their journey. Later years mercifully explained the experiences of those halcyon days as we realized the logic of their efforts.

My journey traveled from St. Patrick's in Parsons where in the 40s Sister Mary Patrick was principal at Our Lady of Victory, the Hispanic school. I would later work for her at St. Teresa in Hutchinson. Finally I would teach under her guidance here at St. Mary's, and she did her utmost to lead me to the proper procedures for a principal. OK, so she missed.

One of my last memories of her was the hour I spent at her coffin in Wichita prior to her interment. Just her and me, it was a time to pray her well and say thanks for a lifetime of well intentioned lessons, some missed but many absorbed.

We who benefited from our relationships with the Sisters of St. Joseph deeply regret their total departure from the parish and the schools. It is our desire that in their future ministry at Mount St. Mary's they are able to enjoy the holy rest they richly deserve. ■

Alumni news in brief

Class of 1959 reunion

Members of the SMC Cass of 1959 are working on their 50th reunion. For more information, contact Joyce Sanko at j.sanko@hotmail.com or Sue Biggs at msbiggs123@yahoo.com.

Pep band in the works

Plans are in motion for the formation of a band at SMC. Tony Sanchez of the Fine Arts Committee said that a Pep Band should be in place for basketball season. What a great addition that will be to the Fieldhouse! Through the Fine Arts Committee, plans are being made to introduce band into the curriculum at the elementary, junior high, and high school. Look for announcements on the school web page in late December as plans unfold to bring more music into the school.

Parish Seminarians

Three recent SMC graduates are attending the seminary to discern the vocation to the priesthood. Letters of support are greatly appreciated.

Zac Compton (2007)

University of St. Thomas
Mail 7037
2115 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Josh Evans (2006)

University of St. Thomas
Mail 1791
2115 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Gabe Greer (2008)

University of St. Thomas
Mail 3161
2115 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Alumni in the military

Please support our alumni in the military with a card or letter.

PFC Bullard, Nicholas B.

Lightning 3/3 ACR
FOB MAREZ, APO AE 09334

Robert Gerant (1941): I, too, was a member of SMC's second graduating high school class of 1941 and read with interest the "after graduation" of Dorothy (Spangler) Hoff in the December 2007 newsletter. As I remember her, she was a sweet and quiet girl with high ambitions. As for me, I spent 32 months in the U.S. Navy, graduated from Pittsburg State in 1950, and worked for 34 years with the Santa Fe Railway. I married Kathleen Potocnik of Cherokee, Kansas, in St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Scammon, Kansas, Jan. 8, 1949. We have four children: a daughter (Mary) in Omaha, a daughter (Connie) in Lawrence, and a son (Robert) and a daughter (Patricia) in Topeka.

Mary Kay (Bertone) Scalet (1955) attended nursing school at St. Mary's Hospital school of nursing in Kansas City and graduated in 1958. While at school, her roommate was another 1955 graduate of St. Mary's, **Joyce Decastro**. Joyce married and has three boys. She worked in Public Health in Washington D.C., then moved to Topeka and continued in Public Health. She eventually became a doctor. Mary Kay married Bob Scalet and moved to Jefferson City, Mo. They had two children, Michael born in 1961 and Stacy in 1962. Mary Kay's family moved several times until landing in New Jersey. Michael graduated from Rutgers University and now lives in San Francisco. Stacy continued her education at the University of Arkansas, where she now makes her home. Mary Kay worked part time in nursing when her children were young. Her career then took her into private education where she taught nursing and then became a director at the Star Technical Institute. She and Bob retired to Georgia. After 47 years of marriage, Bob passed away last January. Mary Kay plans to relocate to the Kansas City area where she has family and friends.

Angie Lyons (1957) passed away February 18, 2008 in Cleveland, Ohio, as a result of lung cancer. Angie taught grade school at St. Mary's while she was working on her education degree. Monsignor Stremel allowed her to "teach on his certificate." Angie always spoke

highly of the experience and knowledge she gained from teaching at St. Mary's and the immense assistance she received from the Sisters of St. Joseph. Angie completed her BS in Education from Kansas State Teacher's College (PSU) in 1962 and her Master's in Special Education in 1963.

Congratulations to **Nancy (Walker) Daugherty** (1967) who won the "Realtors Idol" contest in Baltimore, Maryland in August 2008, and also received the only standing ovation. Nancy was terrific as she represented the Owings Mills office. Even "Simon" was complimentary to her. Nancy competed statewide at the Maryland Association of Realtors Convention on September 7 at Ocean City, Maryland. Her coworkers and supporters are hoping to have her performance on You Tube in the near future.

Leo Brown (1983) has taught Moral Theology for the past 10 years at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kansas. It has been a winding road that brought him to the classroom. Leo attended Pittsburg State University where he received a Bachelor's of Art with a double major in history and communications. From 1989-1992 Leo was active duty with the U.S. Air Force. During that time, he volunteered at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Darmemora N.Y., where he conducted religious education programs for the 3,000 inmates. Leo was honorably discharged as a senior airman. He spent the next five years (1993-1998) in the seminary. During that time, he worked with AIDS victims in Patterson, N.J., inmates in a county jail in Morristown, N.J., parishioners of an inner-city church in Washington, D.C. and patients at a hospital in East St. Louis, Ill. Leo's teaching career began in 1990. He teaches sophomore theology. In 2001, Leo joined the Air Force Reserve. Through that association, he became acquainted with a handful of WWII veterans who were shot down by the Germans and interred at Stalag Luft III. In 2007, he interviewed several of these heroes and wrote a four-part series of articles that were published in the *Air Force Reserve Magazine*. Leo was awarded

the Thomas Jefferson Award for Best Series for the Department of Defense. These amazing articles can be found at www.442fw.afrc.mil.

Kevin Decker (1984) spent several years in the seminary after graduation before returning to Pittsburg State University. While at Pitt, Kevin joined the USMC and was augmented to active duty during Desert Storm where he served four years. Kevin then completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering and began a career in sales. He has spent most of his career working with international companies developing national sales networks in the U.S. and abroad. Kevin recently accepted a partnership with a company in Scottsdale, Arizona, and splits his time between Arizona and Lawrence, Kansas. He and his wife Rosie recently formed another company, Decker Power LLC, that is a Manufacturers Representative Organization. Kevin has two daughters, Jordan, who is a 2008 graduate of SMC and Caity who is a junior at SMC.

Noelle (Moodie) Fox (1992) and her husband Mark have announced the birth of their daughter Emilia Louise on September 18, 2007. She is their first child. Noelle is a PSU graduate and Mark serves in the U.S. Air Force. They are stationed in Madison, Wisconsin, at Truax Air Base.

In March 2007, **Kirk Duncan** (1997) earned his Green Beret at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He is currently stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Kirk deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in October 2007 with the 5th Special Forces Group. He served as the Executive Officer and managed the operational planning, logistical support, personnel, and equipment necessary for supporting the missions of 60+ Special Forces soldiers. Kirk was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since Kirk's return home in June 2008, he and his wife **Becky (Hogue) Duncan** ('96) are awaiting the birth of twins in late February 2009. ■

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The SMC State Basketball Championship team of 2008 could be called a legacy team. Ten of the 12 boys on the varsity team had at least one parent who is a Colgan graduate. Team members with alumni parents are Michael Mitchelson, John (1976); Adam McCormick, Karen (Wilbert) (1983); Kenny and Joe Wachter, Bill and Mary Kay (Grimaldi) (1977); Willie and Jessie Watt, Mike (1978); Stu Jeck, Dave (1969); and Jake Edwards, Susie (Walker) (1977). (The remaining two players were Charlie Sloan and Josh Garrison.) Talk about good recruiting! Pictured above are seniors on the team.



State Champs!

The 2008 SMC baseball team, above, captured the Class 2-1A state championship in Emporia, and the softball team finished third. The girls 4x800 relay team, left, captured a state title in school-record time, 9:55. Members of the team were, from left, Faith Miller (so), Chelsea Duncan (jr), Grace Miller (sr), and Hillary Dickey (jr).

Mazurek competes in NFL in Las Vegas

Ben Mazurek, SMC Junior, competed in the National Forensic League tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, in June of 2008. Under the direction of SMC teacher Liz Hilt (1992), Ben competed against 264 students in Humorous Interpretation and more than 500 students in Prose.

His Humorous selection was "The

Censored Play" by David J. Lemastra and Prose was "Aladdin and the Lamp" by A.J. Jacobs.

To qualify for the tournament, Ben had to finish in the top two in regionals and have attained a high number of NFL points. Although Ben did not break into the finals, he said the experience was awesome.

St. Mary's-Colgan Alumni

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