



# St. Mary's Colgan



## Longing For Faith

### Recent graduate from China receives more than an education at SMC

by Tom Farmer

Sometimes, our plans aren't the same as God's, and that's when we face a choice: either forge ahead on our own in a void of uncertainty and doubt, or we trust God and allow Him to guide our moves according to faith, hope, love, and charity.

Fortunately for St. Mary's Colgan High School students, faculty, and staff – and anyone else who has had the privilege to encounter him – Long Xiao and his family followed God's plan instead of their own in 2013. They did so unintentionally, however, because Long at that point didn't know God, didn't particularly care about God, and didn't know Dr. Mickey Xun or the students and staff at Colgan.

Only God could be responsible for the rapid series of events that led Long from his home in Shen Zhen, China (population 18 million), to tiny Pittsburg, Kansas (population 23,000).

Originally, Long had plans to leave his homeland to spend the last two years of high school near Toronto, Canada, but instead Dr. Mickey, an oncologist at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg and a lifelong friend of Long's mother, Yan, entered the picture.

Dr. Mickey had not spoken with Yan for several years. "It was God's calling," she said, that prompted her to contact Yan out of the blue. A universal Christian at that time, Dr. Mickey exchanged pleasantries with her old friend and then asked about her son. Informed that Long was preparing to transfer in a few weeks to a school in Canada

to have a new life experience, Dr. Mickey asked, "Why not America?" Yan said it was too difficult for Long to get into the US, so Dr. Mickey said she would look into it, though she had no idea where to begin and no experience raising children.

She soon learned that Long's only hope was to get into a non-public school because of visa restrictions for exchange students. Looking first at a nonreligious private school in

Joplin, Missouri, Dr. Mickey felt it wasn't the right fit. She noticed something was missing during her visit there. She felt the need to find a school closer to her home in Pittsburg and more importantly to help Long find God, which led her to call Fr. Chad Arnold to learn more about St. Mary's Colgan High School.



A Promising Future 2

Welcome Dennis Burke 3

Looking Back 4-5

Ringling The Bells 8

Inside

[See Longing Pg 2](#)

## Congratulations SMC Grads!

Congratulations to SMC graduates Fr. Josh Evans (06), ordained Saturday, May 23, 2015, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate



Conception in Wichita, and Sister Maria Gianna (Anna) Wishall (02), who

professed her first vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to God and to her congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Congregation of

Saint Rose of Lima, Sept. 14, 2015 in Hawthorne, New York.

## Longing continued from pg 1

In addition to his position as Associate Pastor at the time, Fr. Chad was serving as President of Schools, so who better to speak with authority about the power of a Catholic education? Perhaps he knew that Long's presence would be as much a benefit to Colgan students as theirs would be to him. Whatever the reason, Fr. Chad and Dr. Mickey arranged for Long to enroll at Colgan in fall 2013, and a life-changing U-turn was underway.

Fr. Chad's work was only beginning. Enrolling Long in school was one thing. Enlisting him into a life of faith was another. Tack on the fact that Long was, in his own words, "horribly disobedient" and "not respectful" at the time, and the challenge was even greater.

Dr. Mickey was afraid at first because she had no children of her own, and she had no idea how significant a challenge it would be to take on such a responsibility. Long lived during the week with a coworker to Dr. Mickey, and on the weekends he stayed with Dr. Mickey, her parents, and her husband, John. It was primarily during those weekends with Dr. Mickey and her family that Long felt a change occurring. He experienced the unmistakable pull of Christian faith and an unconditional

love from those around him. Thanks to Dr. Mickey and her family – as well as the influence of SMC students strong in their faith – Long gradually opened himself to the opportunity to grow closer to God.

When asked to explain what brought about this change, he didn't hesitate: "Mostly it was God." How else to explain the odd series of events that brought him to Pittsburg and SMC? His first year, 2013-14, was a time of acclimation, observation, and contemplation. After that, he pronounced he was ready to join the Church because "I want Jesus inside of me." That sincere yearning was evident to anyone who spent time around Long, and because he decided on his own to join the Catholic Church, his peers, teachers, and family members witnessed a beautiful conversion that forever has changed their lives as well as Long's.

"Before I was baptized I just did everything out of my own thoughts. I just said, 'Well, no one's going to watch me, so I'm not going to worry about it,'" he explained. "After I was baptized, I thought that someone was watching so I have to watch my words and actions."

This new, spiritual accountability has inspired Long to put the needs

of others before his own, though he says he's still trying to figure out exactly why God decided to work through him. He remains in search of the answers to: Why me? Why now? Why here?

Long might not be aware of the impact he had during his two years at SMC. He introduced a different culture into the school, causing others to pause and consider his situation, his way of life, his simple joy in things they might occasionally take for granted, including faith.

Last spring Long became the first Chinese student to graduate from SMC, and he has moved on to Pittsburg State University where he is contemplating a career in business or music (he is an avid and gifted singer in the Our Lady of Lourdes Choir). Dr. Mickey also joined the Catholic Church with Long and is growing stronger in her faith. She asks a couple simple questions of Long when she feels he needs a reminder of his new commitment: "Are you doing God's work? Are you glorifying Him?"

Long's answer comes in the form of another question – one that we should all occasionally stop and ask ourselves: "As long as I am following what God is telling me, why should I worry?"

## Chain Gang



On the sidelines of SMC football games you will find a dedicated chain gang. Members include Ron Wilbert (58), Dean Crager, Richard Gilmore (78), Tim Collar (75) and John Keller (73). They also run the chains for the PSU home football games. They were selected by the NCAA to run the chains at the Oklahoma State University vs Kansas University game this season.

## Pilgrimage to St. Maria Goretti

At 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning, November 11, 2015, three SMC school busses, five school vans, and 16 private vehicles left Pittsburg carrying the entire St. Mary's Colgan student body, Grades 7-12. In all, 220 SMC High School and Junior High School students, two priests, 28 staff members, and 11 volunteers traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, on a pilgrimage to venerate the relics of St. Maria Goretti. The trip was coordinated by SMC School Chaplain Fr. Rick Kotrba, in cooperation with Bishop Kelly High School in Tulsa. Bishop Kelly hosted the relics on the final day of a 16-state tour.

# A Prosperous Fall And A Promising Future That Includes You

**Dennis Burke, Director of School Advancement**

Greetings, Alumni and Friends!

What an amazing fall we've had here at St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools. Our high school girls volleyball team took third place at the state tournament in Emporia, and we are very proud of them. They had an amazing season with lots of great support from parents, students and fans. Our football team had an amazing run as well before falling in the quarterfinals to defending Class 3A state champion Rossville!

Noteworthy is the trip our 7-12 graders took recently to Tulsa to view and venerate the relics of St. Maria Goretti. This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to see for themselves why we Catholics feel a strong spiritual bond with those who have gone before us and continue to come to our assistance in our time of need.

If you happen to receive something from St. Mary's Colgan Schools in the mail, it's probably a note from me asking if you might have some time to visit with me about your SMC experience and what a second-to-none Catholic school system looks like in your opinion. As I get out and about visiting with friends and alumni of SMC, this will give me a unique perspective about how you feel about our school in general and specifically what suggestions you have to make that experience even better.

If you are in the Pittsburg area, it might be a cup of coffee or lunch (my treat, of course). Or if you are in the Wichita, Kansas City, NW Arkansas or SW Missouri area, it might be you and one or two others to share a meal and visit. The good news for me is I get to put a face with a name with those of you who have been so generous to the school.

The good news for you is there will be no solicitation of a donation! Now that's a "win-win" for both of us.

Please continue to keep our students and staff in your prayers. It is greatly appreciated and much needed to keep our mission of making each and every one of our students true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

## ***The St. Mary's Colgan Family Welcomes Dennis Burke Director of School Advancement***

***Let's meet Mr. Burke...***



### *Education*

- Oswego High School 1978
- Pittsburg State University
- BS in Education 1982
- MS in Administration 1988
- Specialists in Administration 1990

### *Family*

Married to Mary Martin (Weir) since 1981

### *Three Children*

- Martin is the K-12 Principal at Howard-West Elk School District. His wife Kathie is a stay at home Mom. They have 3 children Dennis (3), Regina (22 Months) and Donovan (4 months)
- Molly is a student at Wichita State University. Her husband Zachary is a Religion teacher and coach at Kapaun-Mt Carmel High School.
- Evan is a student at Wichita State University

### *Career*

- Coach and Social Studies Teacher at Riverton High School
- Principal, Riverton High School
- Superintendent of Schools, Riverton, Kansas
- Superintendent of Schools, Baxter Springs, Kansas
- Principal, Lincoln Elementary, Baxter Springs, Kansas

# Looking Back... compiled by Chris Flood

## ...10 Years

### CRISTINA (BEVILACQUA) HAMILTON

Cristina (Bevilacqua) Hamilton began attending St. Mary's Colgan in the eighth grade when her family moved to Pittsburg from Wichita. After graduating from St. Mary's Colgan in 2005, she continued her education by studying Business Marketing at Pittsburg State University for two years before transferring to Wichita State University. Cristina graduated from WSU in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Integrated Marketing Communication. She moved back to Pittsburg just prior to getting married to Brian Hamilton (96). Although they both graduated from SMC, they did not know each other in school. Cristina's friendship with

Anna Marietta (04) and the Marietta family, owners of Jakes fireworks, brought the two SMC graduates together. Brian has worked for Jakes Fireworks for the past 23 years. They have a one-year-old daughter, Clara. Cristina works part time for Salon 9 doing marketing. She said, "I am grateful for the spiritual and academic experiences I had at St. Mary's Colgan. They will allow me to instill those same values and beliefs in my own family. I look forward to my children getting the same faith-filled education at St. Mary's Colgan as I did."

## ...20 Years

### BRIAN KEEGAN

Brian Keegan graduated from St. Mary's Colgan High School in 1995 and eventually went on to Pittsburg State University where he earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Developmental Disabilities before graduating in 2004 with an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology. Currently, Brian is a school psychologist for the East Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative in Paola, Kansas, which serves schools in Louisburg and Osawatomie. Brian has been the head middle school football coach for Louisburg Middle School for the past five years. He has also coached junior varsity and freshman basketball for Louisburg High School and will take on a new sport this spring as an assistant coach for the Louisburg High School girls' softball

team. Brian got married on November 21, 2015, in Tonganoxie, Kansas, to Courtney Edmonds. Courtney is a former collegiate athlete who ran for the University of Kansas track program and played basketball at Benedictine College. Courtney is a media specialist for the Kennedy Brownrigg Group, a strategic marketing firm specializing in Catholic media services. The couple resides in Atchison, Kansas. Brian says that now more than ever before, he is seeing the importance of his Catholic education. "I am benefitting from what my parents sacrificed in order for me to receive a Catholic education." Brian said. "Now that I am entering the sacrament of marriage and discussions about having kids take place, I now understand and I'm grateful for the gifts that my parents gave me of a Catholic education."

## ...30 Years

### MITZI (RADELL) SAUNDERS

Mitzi (Radell) Saunders graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 1985. Since graduating from high school, her life has been about family, nursing, a little golf and lots of gardening. Since 1992, Mitzi has lived in the Detroit area in Plymouth, Michigan, with her husband, Jeff. They have two sons, Andrew, 18, and Adam, 16, and Star, 6, a mini-labradoodle. Andrew is a math major with a four-year academic scholarship at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Adam is captain of the varsity soccer team, a member of National Honor Society and class representative on the Leadership Council. Jeff is an Estate Planning Attorney and Certified Financial Planner. Mitzi earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Kansas in 1989 and then her Master's in 1995. She is both a Nurse Practitioner and a Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist. Since 1999, Mitzi has been a member of the nursing faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy and maintains

a clinical practice in older adult care and conducts research. In 2007, she earned her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. Mitzi wrote, "I love teaching nursing at both basic and advanced levels. I enjoy working with and mentoring junior faculty." Because the University of Detroit Mercy is Catholic (Jesuit and Mercy), Mitzi gets to do what she loves every day and attend Mass over her lunch hour. "I have also completed the spiritual exercises developed by St. Ignatius Loyola and practice Ignatian spirituality because of that experience." About going to school at SMC she wrote, "It is hard to put into words what attending Colgan meant to me. It was experiencing "a spirit," something very, very special and unique that bonds to you for life. The parish was also very dear to my late father and alum, Jim Radell (57), and through him, and my mother, Mollie, I have learned that faith and family come first, as well as the need to work hard and serve one's community."

## ...40 Years

### KEVIN MITCHELSON

Kevin Mitchelson graduated from Colgan High School with the class of 1975. He attended the University of Kansas and received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting in 1979. During his senior year, Kevin took and passed the CPA exam. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas Law School in 1982. While in law school, Kevin worked as a summer intern at Stinson, Mag & Fizzell. That internship turned into Kevin's first job after graduation. In 1985, Kevin returned to Pittsburg to join his father, Fred, and brother, John (76), at Wheeler & Mitchelson. They are a business, corporations, estate planning and tax law firm that has been in business since 1935. "We are lucky to represent the second and third generation of family businesses," Kevin said. Kevin married Frances Dobernick on April 25, 1992. Frances, originally from Louisiana, was working at Pittsburg State University as the Director of Student Life. The two were married at Our Lady of Lourdes and have made their home in Pittsburg. Their son, William, was born in December of 1993. William is a 2012 graduate of SMC. He is currently a senior in the Business and Political Economy program in the Stern School of Business at New York University. As part of the program, William spent a year in London, a semester in Shanghai and a January term in Abu Dhabi. When Kevin moved back to Pittsburg in 1985, he was asked to serve on the Boy Scouts' District Committee. An Eagle Scout himself,

Kevin remained active at the District and Council level, serving on the Executive Board of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and added the role of Tiger Cub leader when William was in first grade. He led the boys through the Cub Scouts ranks, then helped found Boy Scout Troop 81, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. He has led High Adventures to Philmont Scout Ranch, the Florida Sea Base, and the Northern Tier Canoe Base and attended the 2010 National Jamboree. Kevin was involved in the organization of the Community Foundation of SEK, facilitating people's charitable giving. He serves on the National Board of Phi Gamma Delta and previously served as its General Counsel. Kevin, John, their dad and all the Mitchelson grandsons are members of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. Kevin has also served on the Finance Council at Our Lady of Lourdes. Frances is currently serving the parish as the Director of Parish Advancement. When talking about going to Colgan, Kevin said, "I write and speak every day. It is what I do for a living. Our English and speech and drama classes at Colgan were phenomenal. I left Colgan with a great education and close friends who supported me." More importantly, his Catholic roots and values instilled by wonderful teachers such as Sister Victorine made for an easy transition from CHS to the St. Lawrence Center at KU.

## ...50 Years

## KATHLEEN BROWN-CECORA

Kathleen Brown-Cecora of Pittsburg graduated with the St. Mary's Class of 1965, lived six months in Maryland, two years in Germany, and owned a Yamaha motorcycle dealership in Pittsburg for 13 years. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1979 and Master's degree in Special Education/Learning Disabilities in 1983, both from Pittsburg State University. Kathleen taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade at McCune, KS, for 19 years. Summer courses and study trips kept her learning more about the world, a desire she attributes to Sister Eustasia. In 1993 and 1999, Kathleen studied with National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. From 1994-2003, she worked with the Kansas Board of Education, Kansas Geographic Alliance and school districts on geography standards and curriculum. She earned her PhD in Curriculum with Emphasis in Geography from Kansas State University in 2008 and taught at PSU and KSU. Kathleen has been married, divorced and is now married to Reno Cecora. She has five children and 12 grandchildren. Her children living in Pittsburg are: Roger Lomshek (86), with wife Rebecca, owner of Tailwinds Cyclists; Eddie Lomshek (87), with wife Amy, Sports Director for KKOW Radio; and Debbie Lomshek, employed at Dillon's Grocery. Karen Lomshek Whetzell (89), with husband Kelly,

is the owner of a catering service and lives in Franklin, KS, and Lt. Col. Doug Lomshek (90), with wife Jamie, is assigned to Ft. Knox, KY, with the Army Medical Corp. Now retired, Kathleen remembers, as a second grader, hearing the angelic high school choir at school Masses. "I'll always be grateful to the nuns for drafting me and other sixth grade pianists as organists," Kathleen wrote. "This remains one of my joys after all these years. You'll find me at the organ each weekend for 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses, so come say hello." Kathleen has accompanied Our Lady of Lourdes Choir on four European trips to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and other churches in Italy, Slovenia and Austria for Mass and concerts. She accompanies the SMC band and vocal music and trains young cantors and organists. Her mother, Ethel (Sullivan) Brown, graduated in 1941, making Kathleen's grandchildren fourth-generation Panthers. Kathleen says, "I thank God for St. Mary's Colgan through the years. Religious debates with Sister Eustasia and Fr. Colgan strengthened my Catholic faith to this day." She remains close with her classmates and noted, "Near or far, whether attending for one year or generations, SMC connects us with bonds of education, friendship, ethics and appreciation for this school."

## ...60 Years

## LEO MARTINOUS

Leo Martinous graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1955, and his life has been filled with family, flowers and faith. Leo has been married to Jolene (Peel) of Cherokee for 53 years. The two were married at St. Barbara's in Chicopee, Kansas, on June 30, 1962. Leo and Jolene have two daughters, Cheryl (81) and Carol (82). Cheryl and her husband, Jeff Brooks, live in Pittsburg where they own Brooks Plumbing and Rentals. Carol and her husband, Mark Haworth, (83) live in Oklahoma City where Mark is the President of Blastrac, NA as well as ISPC headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario. Blastrac is a global leader in surface preparation for asphalt roads and runways, concrete, steel, brick, stone and other substrates. Leo and Jolene have been blessed with five grandchildren. Cheryl's two daughters live in Pittsburg, Erica (07), married to Corey Pulliam and Jordan (10), married to Andy Phillips. Carol has three children; Kyle lives in Kansas City, Kevin and his wife Avery live in Oklahoma City, and daughter Kelly attends Oklahoma State University. Leo very proudly said that his youngest grandchild is a freshman in college and the older four are college graduates. "That makes me a rich man." After high school, Leo attended Votech at Kansas State Teacher's College (now Pittsburg State University), where he earned his degree in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. Leo worked at Home

and Structures for several years making prefabricated homes. Jolene worked at Newman's Department Store on the Mall. But, Leo found his true calling when he started a small greenhouse in Pittsburg on Broadway in an empty lot owned by the Townner family. When the Kerr McGee station came up for sale at 719 S Broadway, Leo bought the property and opened the Yard Cart. For 20 years, Leo sold flowers, shrubs and did landscaping, and Jolene did the bookkeeping. Leo loved what he did. He compared the landscaping to a child's artwork. "When a child traces their hand on paper, they made that, no one else. That's the way I felt about my work, good or bad, I did it. It was mine." Although he still owns the Yard Cart, Leo has been retired for 12 years. About 25 years ago, Leo had several bouts with severe, nauseating dizziness, coupled with hearing loss. He was eventually diagnosed with Meniere's disease. Although the dizziness is gone, the severe hearing loss was permanent. However, Leo has become very adept at reading lips and managed to run a very good business despite his hearing loss. Leo is a very positive and humble man. Leo has very fond memories of his classmates. Although Leo said he and Jolene are on cruise control going down life's highway, they are very active and always on the go. "Please say a prayer for all who are deceased from the class of 1955," Leo said.

## ...70 Years

## PAT (SCALET) STUCKEY

Pat (Scalet) Stuckey is a 1945 graduate of St. Mary's High School. She then graduated from Kansas State Teacher's College (now Pittsburg State University) in 1949 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary education. Pat taught fourth grade in Joplin for two years and in Pittsburg for another two years. Then, she married LeRoy Stuckey at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on June 25, 1950 – the same day that the Korean War started. They added a son to their young family in 1953 with the birth of Kent. He was followed by Scott in 1954 and Doug in 1957. LeRoy worked for the General Adjustment Bureau and in 1957 they transferred the family to Junction City, Kansas. They were transferred to Topeka, then to Pratt, then back to Junction City in 1962, where they remained, as LeRoy became the Manager of General Adjustment Bureau. They also added a daughter, Gail, to their clan in 1959. In 1966, LeRoy bought the Cardinal Insurance Agency, which is still in the family. Pat was an officer for the company and worked for 30 years in the agency before retiring. Sadly, LeRoy passed away in 1988. Their oldest son, Kent, is retired from

Skelly Gas Company in Houston, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Lynn. Scott took over Cardinal Insurance for his dad, and he and his wife, Alice, live in Junction City. Doug and his wife, Kathy, live in Pittsburg, where Doug is the CFO of SEK Community Health Center. Gail is a CPA and she and her husband, Chris, live in Evansville, Indiana. Pat has 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. "They are good kids," she said. "They call their grandma!" Although technically retired, Pat's level of involvement in church and community is amazing. She is a member of the Community Theatre, Hospital Auxiliary, Friends of the Library, Blood Mobile, Garden Club, and just retired after 35 years in the church choir. She still loves to play bridge! Pat was recently treated to a trip to Chicago with all four of her kids. "Attending St. Mary's had a tremendous effect on my life," Pat said. She started in the third grade at St. Mary's and said it was a wonderful experience with great educators and lifelong friends.

## We would like to thank all those who made donations to the 2014-2015 SMC Annual Appeal..

### A

Anderson, Mel & Joyce  
Anderson, Mary Jo  
Arnold, Rev. Chad

### B

Balthazor, Jo  
Barley, Midge  
Barone, Sharon (56) & Patrick  
Barone, Michele (78)  
Barone, James & Donita  
Bartelli, Joe (57)  
Bath-Naylor Funeral Home & Crematory  
Beauchamp, Joe  
Benedict, Frances  
Bettega, Van & Betty  
Bicknell, Bill (62) & Victoria  
Bishop, Margaret  
Blessant, Lewis (71) & Mary  
Bolton, June  
Bolton, Mark & Brinda  
Boman, Joe (98) & Christy (98)  
Bray, JoAnn (53) & Bob  
Bresnick, Mary  
Brown, Donald & Joanne  
Bryant, Tom & Koeta  
Buche, Jim (52) & Carolyn  
Buche, Francis (70)  
Buche, Steve (77) & Michele

### C

Caldwell, Lorey (68) & Paula (66)  
Castagno, Harvey (48)  
Cook, Lori (97)  
Cook, Susan & Troy  
Coomes, Dale & Bernadette  
Cooper, Kent & Leona  
Crandon, Tom (57)  
Cukjati, Frank (62) & Roberta (62)  
Cumiskey, Kevin (93)  
Cumiskey, Margaret  
Dalrymple, Jana (72) & Roland

### D

Dawson, Ed & Beth  
Dayton, Ken (73)  
Dean, Harvey & Sharon  
Dellasega, Betty (41)  
Dellasega, Mark (68) & Margie (69)  
Dellasega, Joe (79) & Janice (77)  
Dellasega, Annie (10)  
Dittmann, Elizabeth (60)  
Doherty, Paula (64) & Charles  
Doue, Michael  
Dunlap, James (52) & Barbara  
Dunn, Karen (60) & William

### E

Eck, Rev. Ivan  
Eichhorn, Kathleen (49) & David  
Eichhorn, Margie (55)  
Elder, Denise & Michael  
Ellis, Carolyn (53)  
Endicott, Adam  
Esch, Jerry (65) & Peggy  
Esch, John  
Evans, Nancy (79) & Jim

Evans, Phil & Neely

### F

Feder, Joyce (75)  
Finkeldei, Jamie & Nina Lopez  
Firquain, Kiersten (86)  
Fleming, Kyle (91) & Lori  
Flood, Chris (85) & Tim  
Forbes, PJ (86) & Stephanie (91)  
Forbes, Pat & Carolyn  
Forbes, Melissa  
Forsyth, Margaret (53) & Gene  
Freeman, Virginia (53)  
Frisby, Loretta (62)  
Friskel, Alice (54) & David

### G

Galetti, Gesena (52) & Walter  
Gariglietti, Don (66) & Donna  
George, Bill (66)  
Gill, Christie (66) & Bill  
Gill, Amy (96)  
Grisolano, Maxine (59) & Jack

### H

Habjan, Joe (65) & Virginia  
Hallacy, Kathy (63)  
Harper, Jim  
Heffernan, David (64) & Catherine (64)  
Henry, Chelsea (10) & Kyle  
Horgan, Mike (53) & Mary

### I

Ison, Rosalie

### J

Jacquinet, Ray & Becky  
James, Barbara (61)  
Javni, Ivan & Marijana  
Jeck, Richard (56) & Marilyn  
Jim Radell Construction  
Johnson, Andrew (58) & Annette  
Jones, Ches (82) & Holly  
Jones, John & Dana

### K

Keller, John (73) & Sara  
Kelly, Elizabeth (48)  
Kelly, William & Theresa  
Kemme, Most Rev. Carl  
Krall, Charles

### L

Lakeman, Michael & Sherry  
Lickteig, Roy & Joyce  
Lomshek, Stephen  
Lorimer, Lee

### M

Main, David (80)  
Manning, Jim (54) & Joan  
Martinous, Marla (90) & Douglas  
deWeese  
Massmann, Patrick (44)  
Mathews, Babbie (70)  
McCall, Pat (47) & Linda  
Merrell, Frances  
Meyer, Sister Ann (56)  
Miller, Jeanne (51)  
Miller Family Foundation  
Minton, Phil & Shelly  
Mitchelson, Kevin (75) & Frances

Mitchelson, Fred

Mobley, Tom (69) & Shirley  
Monsour, Della  
Moore, Carla (72)  
Moorehouse, John (64) & Pat  
Moorhead, Frances (59) & Allan  
Murphy, Joseph (66) & Linda

### N

Naylor, Joe & Sally  
Nelson, Marilyn (69) & Mike  
Nettels, George & Josie  
Newcomb, David & Carol  
Nixon, Sandy (60) & Bill  
Noll, Ed  
Norton, Johnna (98) & Will

### O

O'Brien, Sue  
O'Connell, Thomas (41)

### P

Paterni, Melissa (82) & George  
Patterson, Rosemary  
Patton, Ellen (44)  
Payne, Mike (66) & Kay (67)  
Payne, Marla (75) & James  
Payne, Lala  
Peak, Leo (52) & Billie  
Perry, Carolyn & Bill  
Pesavento, Frank & Joann  
Pfannenstiel, William & Cynthia  
Phillips, Sarah (02) & Shane  
Piccini, Rinaldo & Sharon  
Pinsart, Arthur (47) & Alice  
Pintar, Carl & Mary  
Polfer, Mary (62) & Neil  
Potusek, Mike & Patricia

### R

Radell, Jimmie (81) & Debra  
Reals, Mary (64) & Bill  
Reda, Barb (61) & Sam  
Reed, Mary  
Robertson, Ken & Brenda  
Rogers, Susan (68) & Dennis

### S

Scalet, Jim (48) & Mary  
Schlee, Marsha (65)  
Schoene, Norberta (61)  
Scripsick, Chris & Kim  
Sesso, Don (44) & Mary  
Shaw, Dick (56) & Daffy  
Shields, Louie (61) & Patricia (62)  
Simon, Gerald & Rosemary  
Simone, Steve & Mary  
Sloan, Steve & Becky  
Smerchek, Laurence & Judith  
Smith, Mark (04) & Lindsay  
Smith, Jeff (06)  
Steinmiller, Jeffrey & Kathleen  
Flannery  
Stemmann, Preston & Connie  
Story, Julie (84) & Doug  
Stuckey, Pat (45)  
Sunnenberg, Kathy (66) & Frank  
Sutton, Doris (68)  
Swearingen, Eileen (59) & Jim

**T**

Taylor, Francie (68) & Blaine  
Taylor, William & Catherine  
Thomas, Tom (57) & Ann (57)  
Thomas, James (64)  
Towner, J.B. (49) & Dolores (49)  
Treiber, Sarah (02) & Dustin

**U**

Ukena, Mary (86) & David

**V**

Van Becelaere, James (53) & Wava  
Van Becelaere, Vince (78) & Theresa  
Vanderhoofven, Scott (84) & Kodie  
Vogel, Lothar & Evainda

**W**

Wachter, Mike (62)  
Wachter, John (66) & Susan  
Wachter, Kenny (08)  
Waltrip, Vickie (67) & Ken  
Webb, Kaye Lynne  
Westhoff, Alberta  
Whiteside, Mary (70) & Larry  
Wilbert, Irene (46)  
Wilbert, Jeff (71)  
Wilbert, Virginia  
Willis, Linda (66)  
Wilson, Ann (78) & W. Wallace  
Wood, Richard & Laura

**X**

Xun, Mickey & John Hartman

**Y**

Yaghmour, Talaat & Marie  
Yaghmour, Kamal & Laila  
Yartz, Lee Ann (74) & Ron  
Yoakam, Ted (47) & Doloros (48)  
Yost, Mary (47) & Charles  
Younger, Richard (76) & Cathy  
Younger, LeRoy & Anna

**Z**

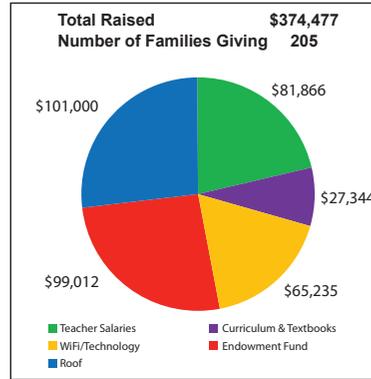
Zeb, Abby (03) & Jahan

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in the reporting of the Annual Appeal. These names and numbers reflect donations made to the SMC Annual Appeal from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

*Thank you* to the SMC classes with the highest donation totals given to the 2014-2015 Annual Appeal.

- 1978 \$10,100
- 1977 \$ 5,100
- 1979 \$ 5,100
- 1947 \$ 2,950
- 1966 \$ 1,750

Here is how your money donated to the 2014-2015 was distributed.



**2015-2016 Annual Appeal**

*Please consider being a part of the 2015-2016 SMC Annual Appeal.* Thank you to the 146 Alumni and Friends who, as of November 23, have donated \$144,285. There are several ways to make your donation.

*Go to [ollsmc.com](http://ollsmc.com) and click Donate Now.*

*Scan the QR code and click Donate Now.*



*Mail your donation to:*  
SMC Annual Appeal  
P.O. Box 214  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

*Contact the parish office at 620-231-2135 to have an Annual Appeal mailed to you.*

If you would like to make an unrestricted gift, please make your check payable to St. Mary's Colgan Schools. These gifts will be directed toward:

- Additional technology in the classrooms
- Retaining quality teachers
- Updating older facilities

If you would like to donate to the SMC Endowment, please make your check payable to Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Fund SMC Endowment.

*Thank You* for your continued support of St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools!

**Denim & Diamonds Parish/All-School Auction**

**By Frances Mitchelson, Director of Parish Advancement**

What a great first-annual event! A packed house of 425 people gathered at the SMC Fieldhouse on Saturday, November 14. The crowd included a good mix of parishioners, alumni, school parents and friends from the community. Alumni and friends received a "Save the Date" postcard in early fall; but the official invitations were never mailed because the event sold out very quickly with sponsors and advance ticket sales. We are grateful for the alumni and friends who attended and supported us with donations. What a nice problem to have outgrown our space the first year – we will look for a larger venue next year. We also hope to incorporate online bidding so those not able to join us can be a part of the fun. Hopefully, you were able to check out our SMC Parish/School Auction Facebook and #BlingItOLL. If not, check it out and see all the fun you missed.

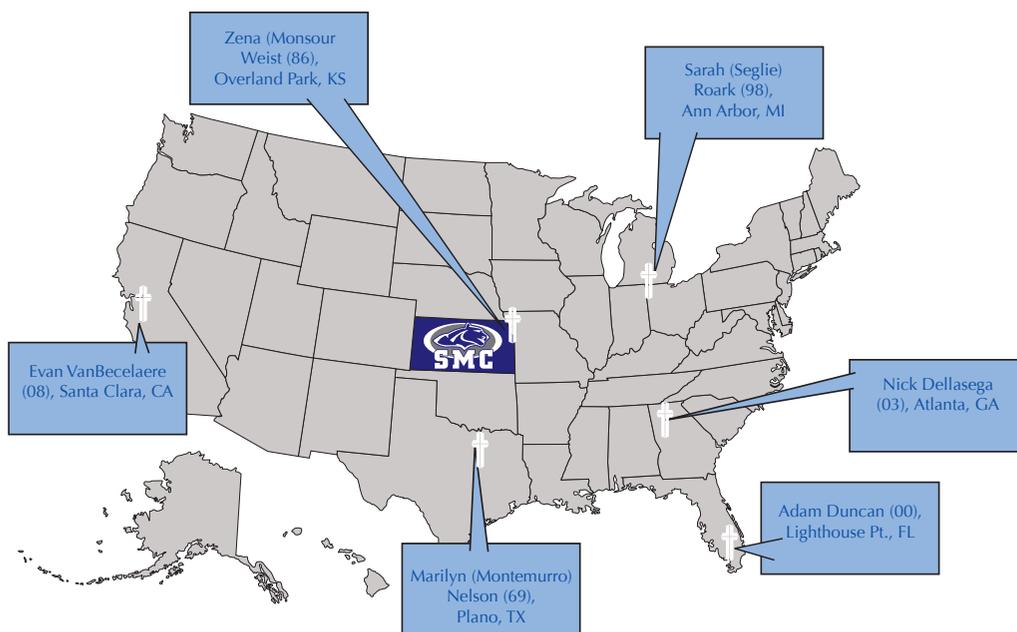
The evening consisted of good food and drinks as well as lots of fun activities. The Live Auction featured a Westie puppy; a week's vacation in Amelia Island, Florida; a trip to Las Vegas; two guns; a custom-made knife; Pitt State basketball package; dinner hosted by the Priests; a Madonna and Child 3D print embellished with jewels; and "Christ on the Cross," a one-of-a-kind steel crucifix. The Silent Auction had more than 250 items or packages in all price ranges and of varied interests. Other activities included a cash raffle with over \$1,500 given away; a prize raffle featuring a television, FitBit, power tools and Beats headphones; Putt Putt contest with a \$200 cash prize; Diamond Pull for jewelry; restaurant pull for gift cards; and a Dessert Dash for homemade sweet treats. Thanks to the awesome generosity of our parishioners, alumni and friends, we were able to raise more than \$75,000 after expenses for great causes: our schools and

**See Auction Pg 9**

## Ringing the Bells for SMC graduates Shore to Shore

### Zena (Monsour) Weist (86)

Zena is the Marketing and Media Relations Director for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, which reports to the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. Since December of 2014, Zena has managed a traditional and online media team who develop marketing strategies, communication programs and advertising campaigns that support fundraising and awareness for 25 nonprofit programs. Zena says it is a blessing that her faith and career are so intertwined. She lives in Overland Park, Kansas, with her husband of 22 years, John, and their four children, Logan, 17; Michaela, 16; Landon, 11; and Aviana, 10.



### Sarah (Seglie) Roark (98)

For the past two years, Sarah has worked at the University of Michigan Hospital where she is in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care. She is a physician and works in a clinic setting as well as with lung transplant patients in the hospital ICU. Sarah lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with her husband, Christopher, and two children, five-year-old Madelyn and 2½-year-old Maxwell. Christopher is a neurosurgeon at the University of Michigan. Madelyn goes to school at St. Thomas the Apostle, which reminds Sarah of St. Mary's.

### Nick Dellasega (03)

Nick is an Account Manager for Flint Hills Resources, which is a subsidiary of Koch Industries. Since February of 2015, Nick has lived in Atlanta, Georgia. Flint Hills Resources supplies gasoline and diesel fuel to customers in the southeast region of the United States. Their customer base is primarily comprised of retailers such as gas stations where you fill up on a regular basis. Nick works with the existing customers to ensure their needs are met as well as establish relationships with new customers.

### Adam Duncan (00)

Adam is a Senior Associate for Marcus and Millichap selling commercial real estate. His team focuses primarily on multifamily assets, selling apartment buildings and complexes in Southeast Florida. Adam has been with the company for four years and lives in Lighthouse Point, Florida, just north of Fort Lauderdale. Adam and his wife, Karina, have been married for almost three years and have a baby boy, Marcus Jose, born August 18.

### Marilyn (Montemurro) Nelson (69)

Marilyn lives in Plano, Texas, with her husband of 45 years, Mike. Marilyn is retired after working for 15 years with Fossil Watches. She spent 22 years working in the watch field and was a regional merchandiser for the central states. Her job was to make sure stores were in contract with corporate requirements. She was an executive manager with Gucci watches and retired from Tissot watches as well. Marilyn and Mike have three children, David, Kelly and Kimberly, and six grandchildren.

### Evan VanBecelaere (08)

Evan is the Director of Strength and Conditioning for the Athletic Department at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. He oversees all the teams' performance needs, but works directly with the men's and women's basketball teams. Evan's responsibilities include making sure athletes increase their performances and stay injury free and educating them on proper nutrition and recovery between competitions. He also manages the Strength and Conditioning staff, budget and weight room. Evan and his wife, Emily, have a two-month-old son, Grayson Paul.



See Ringing Bells on Pg 9

## Ringling Bells continued from Pg 8

One of the treasured traditions at St Mary's Colgan is ringing the church bells after a football victory. The town of Pittsburg has heard those bells ringing on Thursday and Friday nights for nearly 50 years. We thought ringing the bells was a great metaphor for the great work our alumni have been doing for decades across the country and around the world. The good lives our alumni are leading make our work at SMC heard and felt every day all across the globe. In our newest feature in the Newsletter, we will be figuratively "Ringling the Bells" to celebrate SMC. We invite you to nominate yourself or other SMC graduates you feel should be featured in future newsletters. Email Alumni@ollsmc.com or call 620-231-2135. Let's shout to the mountain top about St. Mary's Colgan graduates while we are Ringling the Bells!

## Alumni Wedding Announcements

### And Two Shall Become One

**Stacy Berry** (03) and **Cody Hager**

June 6, 2015

**Lindsay Collar** (09) and **James Ford**

June 7, 2015

**Chas Smith** (09) and **Emily Lehman**

June 20, 2015

**Jacob Hughes** (07) and **Kathryn Otto**

June 27, 2015

**Alex Evans** (10) and **Taylor Brown**

July 18, 2015

**Bridget Hughes** (12) and **Toby Ulery**

July 25, 2015

**Katie Hayes** (10) and **TJ Wallace**

August 1, 2015

**Matt O'Malley** (02) and **Lacy Walden**

September 26, 2015

**Joe Wachter** (08) and **Erin Hignight**

October 10, 2015

**Wes Keller** (08) and **Brittany Dailey**

November 14, 2015

**Brian Keegan** (95) and **Courtney Edmonds**

November 21, 2015

**Jake Edwards** (08) and **Jordan Lepoglow**

November 21, 2015

**Caleb Dellasega** (11) and **Lainey Koch**

November 28, 2015

## Wedding Anniversaries

### 25th Anniversary

**Randy** (83) and **Wendi (Wilbert)** (85) **Piccini**

June 2, 1990

**Tim** and **Chris (Wilbert)** (85) **Flood**

July 21, 1990

## Recently Deceased Alumni

May their souls and the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

**Jonelle (Hawkins) McMurry** (71) April 22, 2015

**Lula (Nogel) Jouras** (41) June 1, 2015

**Mary (McNally) Aubert** (46) July 7, 2015

**John B. Towner** (49) July 28, 2015

**Catherine (McNeill) Gibson** (32) July 31, 2015

**Ann (Rinehart) Thomas** (57) September 9, 2015

**John R. McMahon** (59) November 1, 2015

**Matt Richardson** (90) November 10, 2015

**Pete Monsour** (91) November 20, 2015

## Alumni Birth Announcements

### Welcome to the Baby Panthers

**Patrick and Niki (Schiefelbein)** (00) **Jordan**

Announce the birth of a son, Sullivan Kurtis, February 16, 2015

**Zachary** (06) and **Carlie Caldwell**

Announce the birth of a daughter, Genevieve Ann, May 18, 2015

**Jesus** (02) and **Priscila Castaneda**

Announce the birth of a daughter, Lourdes Miranda, May 18, 2015

**Zach** (07) and **Megan Compton**

Announce the birth of a son, Augustine, June 19, 2015

**Adam** (00) and **Karina Duncan**

Announce the birth of a son, Marcus Jose, August 18, 2015

**Tyler** (06) and **Kayla Riggs**

Announce the birth of daughter, Adalynn Dee, September 12, 2015

**Adam** (10) and **Hannah Barnes**

Announce the birth of a son, Maverick Todd, September 23, 2015

**Evan** (08) and **Emily VanBecelaere**

Announce the birth of a son, Grayson Paul, October 1, 2015

Keep your fellow alumni updated on your life. Send in announcements of births, weddings, career changes and advancements or other life updates. We will publish them in our next SMC Alumni Newsletter.

Mail this Form to: SMC Alumni, PO BOX 214, Pittsburg KS 66762  
or email the information to: Alumni@OLLsmc.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Announcement: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Auction Continued from pg 7

our parish. Proceeds from this event will support St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools, Our Lady of Lourdes parish, SME Parent/Teacher Organization, SMC Fine Arts, SMC Booster Club, Project Graduation and the Altar Society.

Pastor Mike Baldwin summed up the evening with, "I think our first-annual auction was a tremendous success. It will only get bigger and more exciting in the years to come. Thanks so much to all who contributed to this new fundraising effort. You are so good!!!"



SMC is now on Facebook - search for St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools. You will find up-dates on activities, pictures and we will post links to watch SMC football and basketball games on line.

Members of the class of 1985 pose for a picture at the All School



Reunion in July 2015. Do you have "mini-reunions" with a group of SMC Alumni?? Send us your pictures for the next Newsletter. You can mail them to SMC Alumni, PO Box 214, Pittsburg, KS 66762, or email them to alumni@ollsmc.com.



Next time you are in the St. Mary's Colgan High School office, you should take notice of a beautiful stain glassed cabinet that sits in the corner. The story behind the cabinet is interesting. In 1999, the Diocese of Wichita asked each school to create a piece of religious art to celebrate the second millennium.

Through the efforts of Jeff Locke, Luke Wenzl and SMC art students, the art work was commissioned to Pittsburg artist Betty Scripsick. The symbolism used in the art was chosen to represent the relationship between the school and parish. The millennium symbol is shown in the upper right corner. At the base of the work is the school, where the foundation of the faith is taught and practiced. Rising from this is Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The people who make up the Church are nourished by word and sacrament, symbolized by the lectionary and chalice. The lighting in the cabinet represents the vitality we receive through Christ shining in and through his people. The cabinet was crafted by parishioner Kipp Riddle and installed by Dwight Boman.

## DANCE CREW!

Make sure to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the Annual Dance Crew on January 30, 2016 at the SMC Fieldhouse at 7pm. In the past this event has been the closing act of Catholic Schools Week but this year we will kick it off with a bang! You won't want to miss the excitement!

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 ✓
31						



SMC 3rd grade students made blankets and donated them to Baby4Baby group in Pittsburg.



The SMC theatre department presented *Cheaper by the Dozen*.



Eight Junior High students bought food and toys for two families in need this Christmas. Every student in the Junior High, along with some generous adults, donated money to make these gifts possible.



Members of the SMC band performed a winter concert. A special appearance was made by Fr. Mike Baldwin and the SMC faculty. Pictured with Fr. Mike is junior high science teacher Cathy Oplotnik.

## Remember When?



Address Service Requested

Visit Us On the Web @ [ollsmc.com](http://ollsmc.com)

**Class of 1966 Reunion**

Plans for a 50-year class reunion for the class of 1966 are underway. Members of the class are asked to contact Kathy (Quinn) Sunnenberg at [sunny-kq@hotmail.com](mailto:sunny-kq@hotmail.com) or 417-766-0572, or Paula (Fleming) Caldwell at [pfcaldwell@aol.com](mailto:pfcaldwell@aol.com) or 330-540-2428. If you have questions or did not receive an email or letter in the mail in July, please contact Kathy or Paula.

**Are you having a class reunion?**

Email us at [alumni@ollsmc.com](mailto:alumni@ollsmc.com) or call the parish office 620-231-2135 and let us know. Fill out the reunion form at [ollsmc.com/alumni/reunions](http://ollsmc.com/alumni/reunions) for more information about how we can help you.

**Congratulations to the 2015 SMC State Championship Baseball Team!**



Alumni pause for a picture after the All School Reunion Mass.

**2015 All-School Reunion Reaction & Survey**

*Please help us plan for future all-school reunions by completing and mailing the following survey to SMC Alumni, P.O. Box 214, Pittsburg, KS, 66762.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SMC Grad year: \_\_\_\_\_

How often should we have all-school reunions? \_\_\_\_\_

Attended 2015 Reunion: Yes or No

What did you enjoy most at the reunion? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see changed for the next reunion? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we increase the number of alumni who attend all-school reunions? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments about all-school reunions: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor | Chris Wilbert Flood (85)  
 Pastor | Fr. Mike Baldwin  
 Printing | Tim Collar, Tom Dayton,  
 Gene Dayton - PITTCRAFT Printing  
 Art/Design | MattWilbert.com