



St. Mary's Colgan

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Volume 1, 2019



St. Mary's



Colgan



St. Mary's Colgan

TO THE FAITH Through SMC



Long Xiao ('15)

"Faith is nothing!" This was the thought that I had been holding dearly for years as a result of me being brought up in China and its education system, and it was one of the key components of my world view. However, after coming to the United States in 2013, as a young foreign student in the age of 16, this attitude was soon challenged. During my time of confusion and distress, it was St. Mary's Colgan's wonderful faculty members and caring classmates that were always by my side and encouraging me. My path of becoming a Catholic and finding faith is not a straight one, but I am truly blessed to have God and SMC as my greatest companions in this journey.

Before I came to America, I admit, I was far from being a "good student". In China, throughout my early teenage years, bluntly put, I was a "naughty kid", with grades that were less than mediocre and a wandering mind. After my first year of high school in 2013, my parents decided to send me abroad so that I could escape from the competitive education system in China, where I seemed already destined to fail. Thus, I came to the U.S. alone at the age of 16 to live with Dr. Mickey Xun and her husband John, both whom I had never met, but have been very close to my family and later became my guidance in Christian faith. Then, I started to attend school in English, which I had studied with the same lack of commitment that I had taken to all my other classes in China.

In my first semester, I could be described as struggling as a "headless chicken", both academically and spiritually. I had very little social interaction because I could only understand half of what people said to me; and I constantly missed assignments because I could not read the deadline instructions. Thanks to my rigorous math and science curriculum in China, I was able to pass them because of my relatively solid foundation, but in my English classes, I could barely do my homework without others' help.

Troubles did not only come for my courses. As a newly arrived 11th grader in the SMC high school, I did not know who I was. In other words, I was confused about what my calling was and what I should be doing. After observing that everybody around me was Christian, it made me think, for the first time, about faith. My old world view and the emerging one started to conflict with each other. "Is faith really just nothing?" Desperately, I asked myself.

Luckily, the incredibly amazing SMC faculty members gave me a home-like warmth at the school. Many teachers were willing to go extra miles to help me adjust to the new academic and social environment. I can still remember when Mrs. Farmer, my instructor for Finance class, after assisting me with homework long after the end of school one day, invited me to have dinner with her family. I was shocked, in a good way of course, because I had never experienced such hospitality from my teachers back home. After the dinner, the Farmer family took me to attend an evening mass at Our Lady of Lourdes church. I have long forgotten the occasion for that night, but I felt a sense of belonging and closeness to faith. Besides all of my teachers and classmates, other church members, such as Janice and Joe Dellasega, had also helped me in countless means. "What made them so heartfelt to lend me a hand?" I asked, "Is it faith?" Thus, I started to seek for faith and learn how to pray, as an attempt to resolve the confusion in my heart.

All of this could not be complete without the presence of Dr. Mickey and her family, who truly accepted me as their spiritual son and gave me a family here in Kansas. As devoted Christians themselves, they constantly answered my questions about faith and encouraged me to go seek: "If you truly want to know, you should release yourself completely to God." I obviously took their kind advice and in the Easter Vigil of 2014, after a long period of deliberate prayers and readings, I was baptized and converted to Catholicism. Thankfully, my parents back home were very supportive of this decision, and I could truly say that I never regretted my decision to become a child of God.

My gratitude and joy can never be expressed enough through this short article. Although I am still seeking and learning, I can never forget when Fr. Chad Arnold poured the holy water on me, a new comer in faith, and how full of joy I am. The experience here in Pittsburg, Kansas, in SMC, had truly transformed me and changed my life.

Would you be willing to share your story of how SMC brought you or a member of your family to the Catholic Church? Please contact Chris Flood at alumni@OLLSmc.com or 620-231-2135.

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WE ARE A FAMILY...SOMETIMES LITERALLY!

Three Normand sisters & three Askins sisters teach at St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools

The Normand Sisters

Teaching was not what Donna (Normand '80) Maus, Lisa (Normand '82) Farmer or Jill (Normand '89) VanWey set out to do. But, these three sisters of the five daughters of Richard and Nancy Normand, have taught a combined 50 years at St. Mary's Colgan. Although they miss seeing sisters Eve (Normand '85) and Amy (Christman '86) daily, they are grateful for the opportunity to teach together at SMC. All three agree that the best part of being at SMC is bringing God into classroom, although, Jill said, having two of her sisters near was a "benefitting factor." Jill is the preschool teacher with her classroom in the St. Mary's Elementary building, across the street from the junior/high school where Donna and Lisa teach. "I don't know if they know this," Jill said, "but when I'm over there, I think, if I left right now I could get a hug from one of them in two minutes."

But the perks of seeing each other daily, or being able to sit together at in-service, was not why each feel blessed to teach at SMC. Lisa was the first of the three to be hired at St. Mary's. When she and her husband, Tom, moved back to the area from Kansas City, she applied at SMC, but there were not any openings. Luckily, elementary principal Frank Crespino hung on to her resume and called Lisa when the 6th grade position came open. She jumped at the opportunity and was hired in 1993. Lisa left SMC in 2000 when she found out she was pregnant with Cathy, their fifth child. She chose to stay home with their kids for a few years and returned to teaching at SMC in 2004. Lisa has been a utility player by teaching a wide variety of subjects and classes – she has a file on her computer with all that she has taught and it has more than a dozen different classes. Lisa loves being able to teach in a Catholic school in the shadow of the steeple. She recalls, "John Kraus used to say that we are on Holy Ground, and he was right."

To be able to do something for God and talk about Him in the classroom, is the main reason Donna took over as the Biology teacher in 2004. Donna taught at Uniontown and Fort Scott Community College prior to SMC and said it was terrible to not be able to talk about God when teaching about life and biology. "But, I snuck it in any way!" she laughs.

Jill's career began in the speech therapy field in public schools where she eventually found herself working with the preschool students. It seemed fitting as she recalls that a friend in college told her she explained things like a preschool teacher. A couple of years after receiving her Master's from PSU in Early Childhood/Special Education, SMC completed its new elementary school building, which included our first preschool. Jill was hired in 2006. Just like Donna, when Jill had taught in the public preschool she had struggled with not being able to talk about God. Now, Jill loves teaching about God, but says the preschoolers teach her as well. She recalled taking a preschool class into the church and explained, in preschool terms, about Christ in the tabernacle. As they were leaving the church, one little boy who was not Catholic, said in an amazed voice, "Guys, that was the coolest king's castle I have ever seen!"

A Catholic education is not something any of them take for granted. They want to thank the parents, families and benefactors who have sacrificed to pass on the Catholic faith and give them the opportunity to teach at SMC.

Although none of them had planned to become teachers, the love for teaching and SMC is apparent. As the biology teacher, Donna has loved watching the students grow in their appreciation and enjoyment of nature and outdoors. She has introduced the students to Kansas Eco-meet competitions, and has gone to State many times and won State in 2012. She loves to witness the "aha" moments when students learn to see things in new light. Lisa says one of the best parts of teaching at SMC is the people, especially teachers like Sister Patrice, Frank Crespino and Chuck Smith. The sisters laughed at Jill's stories of preschoolers' antics and then how funny it is when Donna and Lisa have them as older students. They have had fun with students, and sometimes adults, not realizing they are sisters. Lisa had a student come through her door complaining loudly about Mrs. Maus. After she quietly said, "you know she's my sister," the student asked if she could go out in the hall and come back in again. Yet another student always calls them by the other one's name.

Although the sisters are similar, all three agree that they have different perspectives and outlooks. Many times teachers will dread in-service days, but they love them. If you observe the three of them at an in-service, you most likely will see them all sitting together. Lisa will be feverishly taking notes, Donna will be trying to stay awake as she prays her rosary and Jill will be trying to stay focused and wondering why she even brought paper and pen – she will just ask Lisa later what she needs to know. "I look around at in-service, and feel sorry for everyone who doesn't have their sisters with them," Lisa said. But all three say that the best part of working at SMC is the opportunity to go to Mass, visit the Blessed Sacrament and be with the amazing priests who have led our school.

As parents, as well as teachers, they have been a part of their own children's educational experience. All four of Donna and Henry Maus' kids are SMC graduates (Kenny '05, Emily '06, Danny '08, Hannah '16), four of Lisa and Tom Farmer's kids have graduated (Erin '09, Andy '11, Rachel '13, Mary '15), and youngest Cathy will graduate in May, and Jill and Craig VanWey's oldest daughter, Megan graduated in 2014 and youngest Alyssa is a junior. The next generation has already begun at SMC as one of Donna's two granddaughters, Rowen, is in Jill's preschool. Lisa also has three granddaughters who live in Kansas City. With several of Lisa's children living in the Kansas City area, and three granddaughters there, the Farmers will be moving to Kansas City this summer.

Donna, Lisa and Jill all feel great peace at having taught together at SMC and feel they are doing what God wants them to do, too. One of the sisters summed it up when she said, "Every minute I'm here, I have got to be the best I can be because there are people counting on me to bring Jesus to the kids. I need to let Jesus shine through me and get out of the way so all can see Him."

Thank you to Donna, Lisa and Jill and good luck to Lisa in new adventures in Kansas City!

The Askins Sisters

"I felt called to move to teaching at SMC," Kathy (Askins '82) Wilbert said. She had a teaching job she loved at Frontenac Elementary with great colleagues. "I couldn't see the future to know that Julie and Amy would teach here too." But there was a strong pull inside her to apply for the 4th grade position. And so it began in the fall of 2007. The first of the Askins sisters, daughters of Jim and Mary (Keegan '60) Askins, was hired to teach in the SMC Elementary. Little did Kathy know that her co-4th grade teacher would leave during the following summer, leaving little time to find a replacement. Her sister, Julie (Askins '85) Cedeño was working at a job she loved at Greenbush Education Service Center, near Girard, but she felt a desire to get back into the classroom. The timing was perfect. Julie was hired in the fall of 2008 as Kathy's co-4th grade teacher. The following year, a 6th grade position came open. Their youngest sister, Amy (Askins '89) Kannarr was now ready to return to teaching and return to teaching at St. Mary's. Amy had taught 4th grade at St. Mary's from 1994-1996, during which time she got married. In 2009, Amy was hired to teach 6th grade at St. Mary's Elementary...in the same hallway as Kathy and Julie.

Teaching is most definitely in their blood as the three of them followed in their Mom's footsteps, literally. Mary retired from teaching at St. Mary's Elementary in May 2007, right before Kathy was hired. Since 1986, Mary had taught 2nd and 3rd grades. Two of those years were when Amy was teaching 4th grade. So, for the past 33 years, St. Mary's has been blessed to have Askins teaching here.

After graduating from SMC, each of the Askins' sisters pursued their elementary teaching degrees, Kathy and Amy from Pittsburg State University and Julie from Wichita State University. Each married and moved away from Pittsburg. Kathy and Craig Wilbert moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, Julie and Pat Cedeño to Wichita, then to Charlotte, North Carolina, and Amy and Shane Kannarr to St. Louis, then to Joplin, Springfield area and Blue Springs. As their families grew, so did their desire to move closer to home. "We all have very supportive husbands," they all laughed. Kathy had taught five years in Catholic schools in Indianapolis and when they moved back found a job at Frontenac. Julie had taught at Catholic schools in both Wichita and Charlotte, and found a job at Greenbush when they moved home. Amy taught at both Catholic and public schools before moving home. Her experience included a 3-year stint in the St. Louis area Ferguson-Florissant school district, which was an entirely new experience. "Teaching at a Catholic school is a vocation," she said. "It's a way of life." Her sisters agreed and added that they feel like they are where God wants them to be.

Six years ago, Amy's oldest daughter, Payton, was diagnosed with leukemia. Kathy and Julie were there every step of the way to support Amy and particularly for Amy's twins who were in the second grade. They are quick to point out that the entire St. Mary's Elementary staff is a family. "We just got a head start," Amy said. In February 2019, Amy and Shane lost Payton to leukemia. She was a junior at SMC. "I think we know why God put all three of us together, in the same hall," Julie said. "I don't know how we would have gotten through if we hadn't been all together," Kathy added. The entire SMC family, staff, school and parish, mourn with them.

Moving around with their families, helped them realize what a special place we have at SMC and Our Lady of Lourdes. "We belonged to a lot of different parishes, and they were very nice, but there was a definite pull to move back and be a part of this parish and school and to raise our families here." Julie said. Kathy and Craig's three children have all graduated from SMC, Ashley ('09), Shelby ('13) and Connor ('17). Julie and Pat's youngest daughter, Delaney is a senior this year, and their older three have graduated, Taylor ('10), Christian ('14), and Ryan ('16). Amy and Shane's twins, Sydney and Brody, are in the eighth grade.

Teaching at SMC has also brought them closer to their Catholic faith. "We have learned more and deepened our faith journey by being teachers at St. Mary's," Julie said. By teaching the faith to their students, they have learned it more deeply themselves. They love their teacher retreat each year, where SMC teachers are treated to a day that is devoted to them and their spiritual development. The attendance of weekday Mass with their students, teaching in the school's atrium, working with other Catholic teachers and getting to work with our amazing priests as colleagues, have all been important in their faith journey.

'It is such a blessing to be together to support each other,' Julie said. With their busy lives and families, they don't actually see each other that much outside of school, so they cherish when they can steal a 20 minute lunch and catch up with each other. "We don't take for granted being able to spend time together. We are lucky that we are sisters, but also very good friends." Amy added. Their friendship and love for each other is obvious, but also their genuine love for St. Mary's Colgan and Our Lady of Lourdes. All three say they would not want to teach anywhere else. Their mom has often said "Where else would we want to be?"

Thank you for teaching at SMC!



*Normand Sister (far left to center):
Donna (Normand '80) Maus, Jill (Normand '89) VanWey, and
Lisa (Normand '82) Farmer*

*Askin sisters (center to far right): Kathy (Askins '82) Wilbert,
Julie (Askins '85) Cedeño, and Amy (Askins '89) Kannarr*

Looking Back...

compiled by **Chris Flood**

...10 Years

STU JECK

Stu Jeck graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 2009. He continued his education at Rockhurst University in Kansas City where he received a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science in 2014. He then received his Master's degree from Pittsburg State University in Health, Human Performance and Recreation in 2016. While attending PSU, Stu was an instructor for two years. In July of 2017, Stu married Kara Hoisington, from Kansas City. Kara is a middle school 8th grade math teacher at Pittsburg Community Middle School. They have two Siberian husky "children" Echo and Everest. For the past five years Stu coached at St. Mary's Colgan in both football and baseball. He was also the St. Mary's Elementary

technology teacher, the junior high Athletic Director, and taught high school strength and conditioning classes. Stu and his wife are moving to Colorado Springs, CO where they have both taken teaching jobs. About his time as a student at SMC, Stu wrote, "My best memory of Colgan is the quality time spent with my friends within my class. They shaped me to be who I am today and I will never be able to thank them enough for that. They were always there for me whenever I needed it and I hope and pray that they would all say the same about me. They are and always will be the best people in my life."

...20 Years

AARON CEDEÑO

Aaron Cedeño graduated with the class of 1999, but his experience at St. Mary's Colgan was a little different than most of his classmates. The Cedeño family moved into town just a few days before the start of his junior year, in the fall of 1997. Aaron wrote, "For a socially awkward dude to whom Pittsburg, Kansas, looked like a sprawling metropolis, this could have been a real nightmare." But it wasn't. Aaron found his friends right away and, "an ability to express my faith comfortably and openly that I hadn't experienced at my previous school. It was refreshing." After graduation, life took Aaron on a winding path; first to the University of Kansas, where he, "took the scenic route through five years of school - plus some time off," before finally graduating in 2005. From there he went to the University of Arkansas, where he spent two more years and finished with a Master's Degree in mass media communications. "Then the really important stuff happened," he wrote. He married his wife, Katlin, and they moved to Kansas City. Aaron worked in the newspaper industry for a long time, as everything from a reporter to managing editor. Then they had their

daughter Eloise. "Wow. Parenthood. Am I Right? Most amazing and scariest thing ever." Aaron was a writer for Fox Sports at the time, covering the University of Kansas. Then he opted to take a leap into the world of banking. It was not a great fit. But, fortunately, Aaron had been building his true passion the whole time. "I'd built a love of photography since graduate school, and as a newsman, I frequently had to take my own photos for stories," he wrote. He had taught himself the basics of portrait photography and wanted to learn more. He is now in his third year of doing photography full time, as Lumos Images. "The honest to God truth is I couldn't have done this without the St. Mary's community believing in me and offering support not just at the start, but all the way through. They've always trusted me to take their photos - family, newborns, seniors, weddings, you name it - and it has made me so proud to be a part of this group. Proud and grateful. No matter what, I'll always be a Panther."

...30 Years

WAYNE GILMORE

After graduating from St. Mary's Colgan in 1989, Wayne Gilmore attended Pittsburg State University, and graduated in May of 1993 with a BS in Biology. Wayne married Tracy (Hines) in June of 1994. They moved to St. Louis in August of 1994 where Wayne attended the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry, graduating in 1998. The couple moved to Kansas City, Missouri, while Wayne completed his residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation at the KC Veteran's Affairs Medical Center. While in his residency, Tracy gave birth to 25 week triplet boys; Nathan, Luke and Zachary. Nathan passed away at the age of three months in June of 1999. In July of that year the family moved to Parsons, where Wayne joined Eyecare Associates of Parsons, and became a full partner the next year. In 2009, Wayne and Tracy welcomed Bridgette to their family through adoption. Bridgette is just four days older than Luke and Zachary. In 2013, Tracy gave birth to Avery. Wayne has been deeply involved in his community with many organizations, while serving over 10 years on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Parsons Educational Foundation, and Parsons Babe Ruth Baseball. He served six years on

the Board of Trustees of Labette Community College, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Labette Health. Their older children are in college and Avery will begin Kindergarten in August. Wayne is an avid runner. This past December he qualified for the 2020 Boston Marathon. To this day, he is quick to tell anyone who will listen that the teachers and coaches of SMC made him who is today. He says, "The words of Fr. Eck, 'With discipline a man can determine his own destiny,' led me into my adult life. The discipline, the tradition, and religious foundation all make Colgan special. I am guided today by these principles and while my children were not able to attend SMC, we have raised them with these in mind." He went on to say, "I hold all my years at SMC very special. Our teachers really did prepare us well for life after high school. For me, they turned an average student who was a dreamer, into a man who learned how to fulfill his dreams. For this I am grateful and proud to be a graduate of SMC. Finally, I am so thankful my parents made the sacrifice to enroll me into St. Mary's when I was in the 3rd grade!"

...40 Years

LINDA (MARSCHALLINGER) COLLAR

Linda (Marschallinger) Collar graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 1979. She attended Pittsburg State University for two years and then moved to Kansas City where she was employed at Wallace and Saunders law firm in Overland Park. It was during this time, Linda became interested in the field of law and decided to attend Johnson County Community College. There she obtained her Associate of Arts Degree in the field of Paralegal Studies in 1983. She married Tim Collar (75) in 1982. In 1985, Tim and Linda

moved back to Pittsburg to enable Tim to start his career at Pittcraft Printing. Linda then attended Pittsburg State University and graduated in 1988 with a BBA in Finance and Economics. After moving home, Linda worked for Wheeler & Mitchelson and White, O'Connor and Werner law firms. After having their first born in 1991, Lindsay, she decided to devote herself at being a stay-at-home mom. Their second daughter, Erin, was born in 1994. Both daughters attended SMC and graduated in 2009 and 2013. Lindsay recently

40 Years Continued

moved to Phoenix and is a stay-at-home mother of daughter, Adrienne and son, Joey. Erin is a nurse at St. Luke's Medical Center in Kansas City. Currently Linda is working as a paralegal for the law office of Mark Werner. She is a past member of the school board for St. Mary's Colgan and a former board of director of Safehouse, a women's crisis center. Also, she is a founding member of the Craig Crespino Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in conjunction with the Crespino family in 2006 after Craig's

untimely death. Linda said, "The prominent word that comes to mind when reminiscing about St. Mary's Colgan is tradition. So many of the traditions we have at our school have brought me many great memories and influenced my life in a positive way, from being involved in fabulous productions directed by Bob Tindel to the sense of community while singing Good Night Irene after football games and praying together in our beautiful church. Our school is truly a diamond in the rough and a great treasure."

...50 Years

ANNA (PECNIK) LOMSHEK

Anna (Pecnik) Lomshek graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 1969; attending from kindergarten through high school. Following graduation, she attended the Mt. Carmel Hospital School of Nursing, graduating with her sister Francie ('68) in the school's last class in 1973. That summer, after passing her RN state boards, she began her nursing career at the coronary care unit at St. John's Hospital, Joplin. In 1974, she married Jerry Lomshek at St. Barbara's Catholic Church in Chicopee and has lived at Chicopee thereafter. Their three children all attended and graduated from St. Mary's Colgan. They are: Janez ('93), who lives in Overland Park with his wife Ali and three children, Jasna (Lomshek) Kalan ('95) who lives in Chicopee with her husband Gregor and four children, and Jurij ('97) who lives in Kirkwood with his wife Melissa and daughter. Anna and Jerry have eight

grandchildren, ages 16 to 6. Those living around Pittsburg, all attend St. Mary's Colgan; those in Overland Park attend Ascension Schools. While raising their children, Anna worked for Dr. Joseph Galichia at his Pittsburg and Girard clinics. Beginning in 1989, she worked as an area nurse for Head Start. In 2002, she began work at Home Health, Girard Medical Center, where she is currently employed. Anna has fond memories of her years at St. Mary's Colgan with Mr. Pat Forbes, principal, and the excellent teachers she knew there. From this experience she values the importance of a solid Catholic education. Learning the value of stewardship as a way of life, she has endeavored to pass this valuable concept on to her children and grandchildren.

...60 Years

JOHN HAMILTON

John Hamilton graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1959. After graduation he attended trade school at Kansas State College of Pittsburg where he received a certificate in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. He went to work for Sears, as a repairman, in Pittsburg and later transferred to Parsons, where he had a thirteen year career in repairs and sales. John received many awards for being the top salesman for the district. John's favorite teacher at St. Mary's was Sister Paula and he had many conversations with her. One time, Sister told him, "If you don't straighten up, you will just be a ditch digger." In 1974, John started Hamilton Trenching Service in Parsons, Kansas. He buried telephone cable for Southwestern Bell in southeast Kansas and installed water lines and repaired gas lines in the surrounding area. He continued his work until his retirement in 2004. He said,

"I often thought of Sister Paula. She was right. I did turn out to be a ditch digger." In 1964, he and Claire Uttley were married at Our Lady of Lourdes in Pittsburg and will celebrate fifty-five years of marriage this fall. Claire is a 1960 Pittsburg High graduate and received her BS in education from PSU in 1964. Claire taught for 30 years in Pittsburg, Altamont and Parsons, Kansas. John and Claire have two children, John Robert who is a postman in Lawrence, Kansas and Michelle is an accountant for Freeman hospital in Joplin. They have been blessed with four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Claire and John retired to Grand Lake in Grove, Oklahoma, in 2004 where they enjoy family, boating and watching beautiful sunsets.

...70 Years

ROSEMARY (SIMONCIC) RYAN

After Rosemary (Simoncic) Ryan graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1949, she went to college for one year at Kansas State Teacher's College in Pittsburg. She was then offered a job as the bookkeeper for the Crowell-Ash Drugstores where she worked until 1953. On April 25, 1953, at Our Lady of Lourdes, Rosemary married her high school sweetheart, Jimmie Ryan ('50) who had joined the Navy in 1951. After boot camp, Jimmie was told that he was being shipped to Japan because of the Korean War. Wanting to get married, Rosemary had three weeks to plan their wedding. After the wedding she went to California with Jimmie for a month, then he went to Japan and she returned to Pittsburg, a young pregnant bride. Their son, Lonnie was born in February of 1954, and he was two weeks old before Jimmie returned. During the next three years came two more babies, Dennis, in 1955 in Coronado, California, and Tim, in 1956 in Great Lake, Illinois. When Tim was just a couple of weeks old, the young family moved back to Pittsburg and lived in Rosemary's grandparents' house. They had both died. Rosemary settled in as a mom and housewife and Jimmie went to college. He earned his business degree from Pittsburg State University in 1959 while working part time for his dad, Raymond, at Ryan's Cleaners, which he had started in 1946. Their fourth son, Jon, was born in 1962. In 1970, Jimmie took over Ryan's Cleaners when his father died. As their four sons got older, and opening two pick up shops in town, Rosemary began to help out at the Cleaners. At one point, Lonnie and Dennis joined the cleaners. Eventually, Lonnie's son Chris also went to the work at the cleaners. Because of business growth, a new building was built for the cleaners. Rosemary and Jimmie loved to travel, with the last big trip to the Holy Land in

1997. Sadly, shortly after, Jimmie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. For the next ten years, Rosemary cared for Jimmie at their home, until he died in 2007. The following year, Rosemary published her book "Married to a Stranger," based on her journal writings during Jimmie's illness. Ryan's Cleaner's continued until 2013. Rosemary has been a strong advocate for Alzheimer's awareness and support for families of dementia patients. Rosemary and Jimmie's family continues to grow and thrive. Son, Lonnie (72) and his wife, Linda, live in Pittsburg. After working at Ryan's Cleaners from 1987-2013, Lonnie now works for Radell Construction. They have three sons, Chris ('95), Shaun ('97) and James ('99). Dennis (73) and his wife Maggie (McNeil) also live in Pittsburg, and own Ryan's Cleaners in Joplin. Dennis has a daughter, Janelle, and step children Kristen ('92) and Ryan ('96). Tim ('74), and his wife, Mary (Aubert '74), live in Overland Park. Tim is retired from working for the City of Overland Park. They have four daughters, Courtney, and triplets, Ashley, Amanda and Alana. Jon ('80) and his wife, Cindy, also live in Overland Park with their family, daughters Kacie and Jill, and sons Drew and Derek. Jon works for H and K International. Although Rosemary now relies on a wheel chair for her mobility, she is still an active member of our Lady of Lourdes and recently was involved in starting the Angel Ministry. Their mission is to visit and befriend homebound adult and seniors of our parish. In 1988 and 1991, Rosemary was responsible for revising Msgr. Stremel's Passion Play with 130 parish members. The role of Christ was played by Jeff Wilbert (71) and Peter was played by Rosemary's husband, Jimmie. Rosemary said, "I am forever grateful that God has allowed me to have St. Mary's Colgan School and Our Lady of Lourdes parish in my life."

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alumni Wedding Announcements



And Two Shall Become One

Jesse Newcomb ('12) and Swetha Gondi March 16, 2019



Recently Deceased Alumni
*May their souls and the souls of
 all the faithfully departed rest in peace.*

Marilyn (Swartz) Beasley ('66) January 5, 2019

Alumni Birth Announcements: *Welcome to the Baby Panthers*

Devon ('96) and Alisha Krusich

Announce the birth of a son, **Joseph Holland**, June 17, 2018

Michael ('12) and Taylor Hudiburg

Announce the birth of a daughter, **Macy Lynn**, August 29, 2018

Caleb ('04) and Abby Farabi

Announce the birth of a daughter, **Ryann Jo**, September 24, 2018

Matt ('97) and Jennifer Gilmore

Announce the birth of a daughter, **Juliette Irene**, September 28, 2018

Jake ('02) and Kelly (Meredith '03) VanBecelaere

Announce the birth of son, **Liam Robert**, October 7, 2018



Toby and Bridget (Hughes '12) Ulery

Announce the birth of a daughter, **Ellie Marie**, December 21, 2018

Eric ('02) and Whitney Clawson

Announce the birth of son, **Leo Martin**, March 4, 2019

Jacob ('07) and Katy Hughes

Announce the birth of a daughter, **Maisie Ann**, March 19, 2019

Alumni NEWSBlasts

Fr. Bob Wachter Going To Prisons

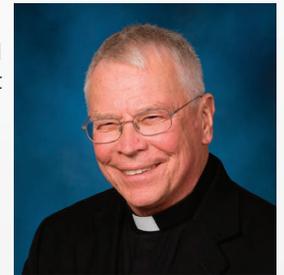
Fr. Bob Wachter ('68) is the new chaplain for the Diocese of Wichita's St. Dismas Ministry to the Incarcerated. He travels to the 10 correctional facilities within the Diocese. Father Bob says his new assignment is what the Holy Spirit wants him to do.

Paterni Receives Award

Lisa (Forbes) Paterni ('82) was awarded the Kay Lynne Webb Influential Women in Business Award. The award was presented during the December Women in Business Breakfast, posted by the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Freeman Health and Watco Companies. Lisa is the President of Pitsco Education.

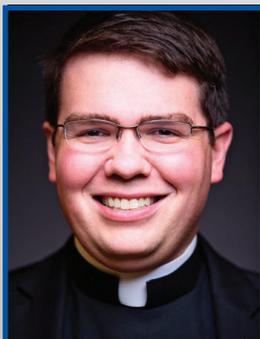
MSGR. CARR PASSES AWAY 1987-1989 Pastor Our Lady of Lourdes

Monsignor William M. Carr, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for seven years, died Sunday, March 24. He was 86 and had been a priest of the Diocese of Wichita for 60 years.



PANTHER AT DISNEY

Kathryn Wolfe ('10) currently serves as the physical therapist for Disney's The Lion King on Broadway! She works for Neuro Tour, an Atlanta, GA based company that coordinates PT services for Broadway and touring companies. As the physical therapist for Lion King, she manages the PT care for the entire cast, crew, and orchestra. Her duties include providing treatment sessions before and during each performance, working with stage management to accommodate performance and rehearsal schedules, arranging additional treatment as needed with the NYC office, and reporting all of this to NYC and Atlanta headquarters. A treatment session typically includes the use of manual soft tissue mobilization, stretching, prescribing exercise, and patient education. Kathryn graduated from SMC in 2010 and received her B.S. in Exercise Science in 2014 from Pittsburg State. In the spring of 2018 she graduated as a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) from Long Island University-Brooklyn (NY). After graduating, Kathryn worked with Neurosport as an independent contractor. She was charged with treating casts that include King Kong, Smokey Joe's Café, Sleep No More, and School of Rock, and the touring companies of Hello Dolly! and Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. Kathryn continues to be involved in various young adult groups in the Archdiocese of New York and Diocese of Brooklyn. As her career continues, Kathryn hopes to bring the same passion for faith, life, and love of learning that was displayed by her teachers at SMC!



*We are pleased to announce the Ordination of
 REVEREND MR. ANDREW DELASEGA
 to the Priesthood on Sat, May 25 at 10am at the
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, KS*

*He will offer his first Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving on
 Sun, May 26 at Our Lady of Lourdes at 4pm*



**save
 the date**

**St. Mary's Colgan
 All-School Reunion
 June 26-28, 2020**

NEW PANTHER PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools is pleased to announce the hiring of Wes Streeter as the new 7-12 principal.

Mr. Streeter was kind enough to answer a few questions for us so that we could get to know him a little better:

What is your educational background? I graduated from Pittsburg State University in 2003 with a Bachelor's of Science in Plastics Engineering Technology. I later completed my Masters of Science in Education in 2006 from PSU as well. Since then, I've completed an additional 45 graduate hours in education courses and most recently have worked to complete a Specialist in Educational Leadership Certification from Pittsburg State University.

What is your professional experience? I worked in the plastics industry briefly before heading back to Pitt State to pursue my passion in education. In my time as a classroom teacher I've taught both middle and high school aged students. I have taught classes ranging from pre-engineering, woodworking, construction, manufacturing, computer technology applications as well as gifted and talented program classes. Outside of the classroom I was also actively involved as a coach in the school's football, basketball, baseball and soccer programs. For the past 4 years I have worked at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School, outside of San Antonio, Texas, in administration as the Dean of Students and Vice-Principal.

Tell us about your family: I am originally from Carl Junction, Missouri, where my parents David and Debbie Streeter still live. I have two older siblings, Angela (Pittsburg) and Nick (Carl Junction). I have been married to my amazing wife Brooklyn for almost 15 years. We met while in school at Pitt State in the Plastics Engineering program. We have two daughters, Addilyn (10) and Audrina (7). They both enjoy reading, music and being active in their dance studio. We also have a 1 year old dog, Gus (named after the infamous Gorilla) #OAGAAG.

Why did you want to become the St. Mary's Colgan principal? I wanted to be a part of the Faith, Tradition and Excellence of Colgan! My wife and I feel blessed to have been able to provide both of our children with a Catholic education since pre-school and are thrilled they will continue their education at St. Mary's Colgan. We are excited to return and be a part of Our Lady of Lourdes parish and the St. Mary's Colgan school community. Pope Benedict XVI once said, "No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." I will strive to be a humble, Christ-centered servant who walks the halls and playing fields, knowing every student by name and leading by example.



LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERS

I imagine everyone is as anxious as I am to see spring POP as soon as possible after this long, cold, and occasionally white winter! New growth, warmer temperatures, and lively outdoor activities always warm the body and soul. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes we can also see so much growth and activity in our school and parish. One of these changes of "new life" will occur with our four Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters who are currently teaching in our schools. For the past year they have been living in a house west of Pittsburg State University, but if all goes well, they will be moving into the "convent" on campus. The St. Joseph sisters, who had taught in our schools beginning in 1895, had left in 2008 to go back to Wichita. For years after, the building had been used to house diocesan seminarians in the summers to study Spanish. It then became known as the "St. Joseph Suites" and simultaneously among our Hispanic brothers and sisters, as the "Hispanic Center." Periodically it's also been utilized to house out-of-town guests and a couple offices. We're currently exploring ways to situate these in other areas. When I inquired with the IHM superior, Mother Mary Magdalene, whether or not she was interested in her sisters moving into the convent, she said, "Yes, splendid!!!" We all are very excited about having their permanent presence on campus. This would bring forth a great Catholic witness. But there are also numerous practical benefits for them as well, including: having more freedom to attend evening activities, stay with a student and parent after school, make visits to the church, and not have to make the constant trip together in their one vehicle.

I also wanted to share some good news regarding a recent survey conducted in our school. While the survey revealed a few areas of growth on which we should focus, the twelfth grade class reported several wonderful results. When asked about their friendships in the school, they reported in the 90th percent range that they have both the support of adults and peers to turn to. They honestly reported 100% that following Jesus is not always easy and so must be aware that being a disciple in today's world will be a challenge. But close to 90% also reported that they "feel that God loves [them] personally." That means we are doing something, many things actually, very well here. Our parents, staff, and AGAIN, Sisters, are all a big part of this wonderful parish campus we call St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools. What a privilege and joy it is to be a part of and to see such fruits spring forth!

Fr. Jerome Spexarth, Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes

Keeping in touch with alumni is always a rewarding yet challenging task for St. Mary's Colgan. But it's because of our alumni that the school can benefit from those relationships. It's been an ongoing effort to offer band for our students at SMC. One of the ways to build and sustain a band program is to expose our elementary students to the joy of playing a musical instrument. The challenges of doing so have always been there. We've either had to ask parents to rent or purchase beginning band instruments or try to provide for those unable to do so. So when Susan (Corry '68) Rogers let Nancy Hicks, our elementary principal, know of a program that could help put instruments into the hands of every 6th grader for little or no cost, Nancy went to work. Through a charitable organization called "Jeremy's Cherubs" we were able to do just that.

Jeremy's Cherubs was started by Dr. Harold Frye, a professor at Baker University, in memory of his son, Jeremy, who was studying to be a music teacher and tragically lost his life. To honor Jeremy, Dr. Frye wanted to provide quality musical instruments for schools who might otherwise have difficulty providing them due to size, cost, or other factors. Because Susan knew of this program, she was the bridge in connecting Jeremy's Cherubs with St. Mary's Elementary. To date, we have received a variety of over 20 musical instruments. This contribution, along with a grant from the Prichett Trust has enabled us to equip a band for up to 40 students. While the high school band program has never had the numbers as neighboring schools, it has been mighty in spirit if not in numbers. Currently, Fr. David Voss, the chaplain of St. Pius X Catholic Student Center at Pittsburg State University, is serving as band instructor for grades 6-12. Fr. David received his music education degree from Kansas State University. Bethany Elder ('17), a music major at PSU, has assisted Fr. David in working with the band members. SMC is blessed to provide this opportunity to explore the beauty of music for our youth. Through ongoing support of our alumni, like Susan, we can continue to enhance our students' experience at SMC.

Dennis Burke, Director of School Advancement at St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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Visit us on the web at **OLLsmc.com**

RINGING THE BELLS FOR SMC GRADUATES SHORE TO SHORE

To nominate SMC Alumni please 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 Ringing the Bells!

Scott Price ('93)

Scott Price works for J. Edward Knight insurance in Bath, Maine. Scott is a Certified Insurance Counselor and Insurance Agent. His job is to provide risk management and insurance products to commercial businesses. Scott has been with J. Edward Knight for fifteen years and makes his home in Bath. He lives in Bath with his 9-year-old son Peyton.

CJ Russell ('13)

CJ Russell is a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps stationed in Pensacola, Florida. He works at the Naval Air Station (NAS). He has been in Pensacola for the past year and is currently in flight school learning the basics of flying military aircraft. CJ is married to Second Lieutenant Kimberly Karleen Russell. Kimberly just graduated from The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia and is getting stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as a Manpower officer.



✂ **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: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Announcement: _____

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