

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

ALUMNI WELCOMED HOME IN 90th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

As part of the school's 90th anniversary celebrations, the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation welcomed home alumni and friends of the school at a "Come Home for the 90th" event on Nov. 29, 2019. Current students who are members of the school's Student Ambassadors group were on hand to show off their school. Alumni and their families had fun touring the school and pointing out what was different and what was the same. Alumni also enjoyed having refreshments in Zwisler Hall, where many of them ate countless lunches during their school days.



The visit sparked many memories, some of which our alumni shared with our current students, including having nuns as most of their teachers, going ice skating at Forest Lodge, trudging through snow drifts in Schneider Park to get to school, and eating lunch in Zwisler Hall, where there used to be a window with a sliding door that overlooked the cafeteria through which the principal would look down to search for troublemakers!

Alumni will be happy to know that today's St. Sebastian Parish School is thriving, with about 330 students in K-8 and two classes per grade level. As in the past, students attend Mass together as a whole school every Thursday, and they regularly receive the sacrament of reconciliation. During Lent they attend Stations of the Cross every Friday, and in the spring they participate in the May Crowning ceremony. Students and families still enjoy the time-honored St. Sebastian traditions of attending the International Festival, receiving chocolate arrows on the Feast Day of St. Sebastian, receiving candy canes on the Feast of St. Nicholas, wearing uniforms, marching in the Halloween parade, and singing in school programs.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event and to all those who helped everything run smoothly. If you missed the event but would like to have a tour of the school, we are always happy to welcome home our alumni, even when school is not in session. Please contact Kathy Holaday at HoladayK@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113 to discuss a time to meet.

Sr. Maureen Carney, Micki McCool Trenta, and Mary Helen Penrod Fox, all members of the Class of 1956, gather in front of the newly-installed statue of St. Sebastian in the school's first-floor hallway.



(From left to right) Mary and Charlie Crowley '74 and Mary Ellen Crowley Huesken '78 and her husband Rich traveled up to the balcony (formerly the choir loft) in Zwisler Hall to get a picture with Msgr. Zwisler's portrait.



ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1959

Steve Hetey and his wife Cindy Tarrant retired to live in Greer, SC in 2018. Steve is a retired pharmacy administrator who was employed by Duke University Hospital.

CLASS OF 1961

Jim Hyland contacted the Foundation after reading about the school's 90th Anniversary activities in the Alumni Arrow. He ordered a copy of Fr. Valencheck's parish history book,

"The Cross and Arrow" (limited copies are still available, contact the rectory at 330-836-2233). Jim also shared some memorabilia of the school's early days, including a picture of the school's first graduating class from 1930. The photo (above) includes his Aunt Margaret Gemind Mosher, the third girl from the right. She is "the only one swiveled in her seat with her legs to the right. She always was independent," comments Jim. When the school opened in 1929, Jim's mother, Dorothy Gemind Hyland (Class of 1935), started 3rd grade while his aunt Margaret started 8th grade. Jim's Uncle Edward graduated in 1939. Jim noted that his grandmother, Mrs. Helen Gemind, was a very active volunteer in the Akron area, and especially for the St. Sebastian Sanctuary Society, helping with Sanctuary events such as parish parties, bridge parties and flower shows. Jim says Fr. Valencheck's book reminded him of many stories from the early days of the parish, including Schneider Park and its connection to the troubling history of the Summit County Infirmary; Bob Kraus, who Jim knew as "young Bob Kraus" (Chapters 2 and 3); Elm Court and Our Lady of The Elms; the pastor of St. Vincent Parish, Fr. Scullen (Chapter 2); the two sons of Bob Humphrey (Chapter 9) and their role in Troop 96 in the 1950s/60s; and classmate Bill McCool '61, who became Rev. J. William McCool and is listed in the book's "Ordinandi of St. Sebastian Parish." Jim also shared photos of lunch tokens from back in the day, "Good for 1 Lunch" at St. Sebastian School.



The Class of 1930, the first graduating class from St. Sebastian Parish School.



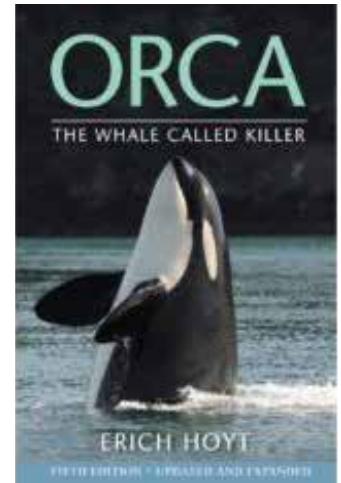
CLASS OF 1962

Kathy Henson sent in this wonderful picture of her graduating class of 1962 along with a list of everyone pictured. The complete list can be found at stsebastian.org/school/alumni-photo-gallery.



CLASS OF 1964

Erich Hoyt and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Wedden live in Dorset, England. They raised four children who are now ages 20-30: Moses, Magdalen, Jasmine, and Max. Erich is an author, scientist, and conservationist who is self-employed but also works with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation charity. His latest book is "Orca: The Whale Called Killer," which was just published in a 5th expanded edition (available at erichhoytbooks.com and on Amazon). His website's biography notes, "Erich has researched and written numerous conservation and scientific reports as a consultant and advisor for international conservation groups and governments and is considered an authority on whales and dolphins, marine-protected areas and marine conservation, whale watching and ecotourism. He has lectured and worked on conservation and scientific projects in Japan, Russia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Iceland, Mexico, Chile, and the Caribbean. He has also taught as a visiting lecturer at the Ohio State University, the University of Edinburgh, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)."



CLASS OF 1967

Ryan Wise saw mention of Sr. Laurel Smith in an alumni newsletter article about the Class of 1968 reunion. He was a student in Sr. Laurel's classes in his years at St. Sebastian and says he has thought of her hundreds of times. The article motivated him to track her down and reconnect. Ryan writes, "My wife Marie and I have lived in Tampa, FL for 16 years, and as luck would have it, Sr. Laurel and Sr. Loretta, who also taught at St.



Sebastian, were going to be in Sarasota in November. I retired in May of this year as a Corporate V.P. at TBC Corporation, so getting together was pretty easy. We met for coffee in Sun City and spent two hours revisiting and getting reacquainted. I shared pictures of our 3 children and 4 grandchildren and listened to Sr. Laurel share her life accomplishments, which were many. We both have always had a love for music. I play guitar and sing in a 60s-70s classic rock band in Tampa, and Sr. Laurel shared her experiences touring internationally with a choir. I could have stayed for another two hours. It was a wonderful time, and we will stay connected going forward. Thanks for publishing the Alumni Updates. Without that being sent to me, I would have missed this opportunity to reconnect with this wonderful woman who never left my thoughts and to meet Sr. Loretta."

CLASS OF 1967

Richard Zodrow is retired and lives in Boca Raton, FL. He has two daughters, Kristina and Kathryn. Dick shared this note for his fellow alumni "have motorcycle, will travel."

CLASS OF 1966

Mary Beth Spalding Torre emailed to say she enjoys reading the Alumni Arrow, adding "I have nothing but good memories from my eight years at St. Sebastian class of '66. I was so happy to see Sr. Mary Seamus in the last newsletter. Her voice was so beautiful it made me cry. She pushed our class to be the best choir. Congratulations on the 90th Anniversary celebration."

CLASS OF 1986

Daniel Cotter recently started work as a Field Services Engineer for an IT consulting company, Zones LLS, doing work at the Cleveland Clinic.

Send us your Alumni Updates!

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at alumni@stsebastian.org or fill out the on-line form at stsebastian.org/school/alumni/contact.

CLASS OF 1990

Mike Bertsch was hired as Communications Manager for the Pittsburgh Steelers in August of 2019. Prior to that, Mike worked as Director of Notre Dame Football Media Relations at Notre Dame University. You can follow him on Twitter at @SteelersPRMike.

CLASS OF 1996

Annie Ochsenhirt-McFadden is Deputy Chief of Staff for the City of Akron. Prior to that, she worked as assistant to the mayor/deputy chief of staff and as Mayor Dan Horrigan's campaign manager. Annie is also principal and owner of 5Eleven Consulting.

CLASS OF 2006

Jessica Contrera was named the Best Feature Writer for 2019 in a special report by the Poynter Institute called "The Year in Media." In the write up, it says, "If the Washington Post's Jessica Contrera writes it, you should read it. Incredibly gifted, she can write about anything — from the heartbreaking Parkland school shootings to the troubling case of four high school kids accused of hate crimes to the injustice involving a sex trafficker's murder to the hilarious absurdity of a dog park controversy." Jessica has been a feature writer with the Washington Post since 2014.

CLASS OF 2015

Three graduates from the Class of 2015 were debutantes in the 2019 Charity Ball for The Woman's Board of Akron Children's Hospital. The event was held December 27, 2019 at E.J. Thomas Hall. Pictured from left to right are: Caroline Hummel, Charlotte Wilt, and Anne Hanlon.



CLASS OF 2015

Alex Phillip was named the 2019 Ohio Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year for Cross Country as a student-athlete competing for John Carroll University. Alex capped off a tremendous freshman season by placing 15th overall in the 2019 NCAA Division III Championships, the only freshman to finish in the top 15. Alex was also named a 2019 All-American, the first male runner at JCU to earn this honor since 2005.

CLASS OF 2017

Nine members of the St. Sebastian Class of 2017 were inducted into the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School chapter of the National Honor Society this fall: Matthew Dennée, Luke Dobson, Theresa Hagey, Virginia Hunt, Mary Jewell, Brian Kelley, Andrew McSteen, Abigail Minear, and Emily Steel. Congratulations to these NHS scholars, most of whom are pictured here along with their fellow St. Sebastian alumni who were inducted into NHS last year.



CLASSES OF 2016-19

Eight alumni were members of the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School cross country teams that competed in the state championships for Division II. Theresa Hagey '17, Olivia Kindbom '19 and Natalie Tobin '16 were members of the girls team, which won 4th place. Andy Thomas '19, Andrew McSteen '17, Jake Pentasuglio '16, Kevin Rybka '16, and Nick Steel '16 were members of the boys team, which placed 8th.



178 DONATIONS TOTALING \$59,986 AS OF JAN. 31, 2020

Thank you to everyone who has generously supported Project Spruce Up, a campaign to refurbish the school's hallways and stairwells in honor of the school's 90th anniversary.

Phase 1 of the project included the installation of polymer epoxy coating on all 7,150 square feet of the hallway flooring in the school. Phase 2 included repairs and upgrades to the stairwells and the painted portions of the hallway walls.

Project work was completed last summer so the school could start its anniversary celebrations with a splash by welcoming students back to school with shiny new floors, beautifully refurbished stairwells, and fresh paint in the hallways.

As of January 31, 2020 we are more than half way to the \$100,000 goal for funding this project! Donations are still being gratefully accepted. Please visit: stsebastian.org/foundation/current-needs to donate on-line or to learn more about the project. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Holaday at holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

COME HOME FOR THE 90TH PHOTO GALLERY

The Come Home for the 90th event was a great night for reminiscing and re-connecting for our alumni and families. Row 1 (left to right): Karen McCusker Spangler '78, Marcy Smith '82, Melissa Neman Simmons '82, and Fr. Christopher Trenta '89; Denise Labut '75 and her friend Steve. Row 2: Louisa Dennée (daughter of Anne Morgan Dennée '85) and her cousin Hazel Morgan (daughter of Chris Morgan '87); Patty Zachardy Van Pelt '69 and Carole Zachardy '66. Row 3: Ray Hellwig '64, Nick Vitale and his wife Barb Kelley Vitale '64, Meg Witt Lee '74, Beth Munka Vass '74, and Theresa Munka '76. Row 4: Mary Madigan Conti '72, Jeff Spangler, and Marguerite Coffield Gebhart '72; Chris Eitman (alum parent), Katelyn Holaday '09, and Abby Eitman '09.

✦✦ *We Will Remember ...* ✦✦

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (Oct. 2019-Jan. 2020). If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

Gerald F. Bowling '45, November 29, 2019
 Mary Jo Seikel Mellody '45, December 9, 2019
 Janet Roelle Sandmann '46, December 19, 2019
 Stephen J. Kraus '52, October 28, 2019

Beth Koehler Irvin '69, January 22, 2020
 James P. Riccardi '69, November 25, 2019
 James B. Markel '71, December 8, 2019
 Maura Seib Brown '97, November 16, 2019

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The Alumni Scholarship Endowment was established by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation in 2013 to provide financial assistance to students attending St. Sebastian Parish School. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the St. Sebastian community, in 2016 the fund received enough donations to become an endowment that provides tuition assistance on a yearly basis. What a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution for the benefit of St. Sebastian Parish School! Listed below are donors who gave to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment from January, 2019 to January, 2020. The St. Sebastian Foundation – and the parish school families who benefit from this fund – are deeply appreciative of their generosity!

Anonymous, in memory of Elizabeth Helmkamp
Anonymous, in memory of Mrs. Angelina Lobello
Stephen and Tracy Hamilton
Emerson and Katie Marshall, in memory of Emily
Marshall

1940 Jeanne Ott, in memory of Conrad C. Ott
1941 Jane Kovacic
1943 Lawrence Halter, in honor of Sandra J. Halter
1946 Jimmie Leib, in memory of Mary Kay Luby
1946 J. Philip and Mary Karen O'Neil
1947 Roland and Sara Bertolini, in memory of Joseph,
Louise, and Raymond Bertolini
1948 Paul Slaven, in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Paul D.
Slaven
1949 Toni Schapansky, in memory of Stanley and
Bertha Augustyn
1951 Janet and Richard McGuckin
1951 Charlotte Hummel Reymann, in memory of
Edwin and Christopher Reymann
1951 Tim Scanlon
1953 William Fanelly, in memory of Michael and
Virginia Glenn Fanelly
1954 Lawrence Placanica
1957 John Reichart, in memory of Marie J. Lynch
1958 Dennis McAleese, in memory of the deceased
classmates of 1958
1961 Michael McGuckin
1961 Bill and Linda Wiandt, in memory of Suzanne
Peacock
1962 David L. Osborne, in memory of David Osborne
1964 Peggy McMullen Cogar
1964 Susan Korosa, in celebration of the Humility of
Mary sisters who taught at St. Sebastian

1964 Kathleen Messing
1964 Mary Kalial Pullekens, in honor of Leo & Julia
Kalial
1965 Anne Lynett Clark
1965 Michael Collett, in memory of the Collett Family
1967 John Jost, in memory of Eileen and Hank
Hudson
1967 Paul Murrow
1969 Deborah A. Roesel Culver, in celebration of the
marriage of Olivia and William Culver
1969 Chuck Maroon
1970 Thomas Bray Jr., in celebration of Marion Bray
1970 Patty Harrison
1972 Patty Abdenour, in memory of Geraldine Rote
1973 David and Teresa Brostowitz
1975 Patty Royer Belch, in memory of Dick and Jackie
Royer
1975 Kevin and Cindy Hackett, in memory of Eugene
and Carolyn Ventresca
1977 Jacqueline Savage
1982 Elizabeth Pinkerton
1986 Paul and Dianne Hergenrother
2001 Max Bedell, in honor of Mike and Pat Bedell
2008 Sholar, **2009** Madison, and **2013** Olivia Petit, in
memory of Denise Finley
2009 Katelyn Holaday

*Thank
you!*