



Newsletter

Winter 2015

Mark Your Calendar

Grandparents day will be *Thursday, April 30, 2015*. The day will begin with the 8:15 am Mass followed by coffee and pastries in Zhall and then grandparents can visit their grandchildren's classrooms!

Welcome to Fr. Peter Kovacina!



We would like to welcome an additional parochial vicar to St. Sebastian Parish, the Rev. Peter Kovacina. He will become the 39th parochial vicar of the Parish. Fr. Kovacina was ordained in 2012. He will be with us until this summer, after which time he will be assigned to another parish. Please keep Father in your prayers.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or other mailings from us, please let us know: 330-836-2233 x119 or alumni@stsebastian.org

Alumni Update from Ben Musci '06



Although I ended 2014 in good ol' Akron, Ohio, I was fortunate enough to spend half of the past year in Europe.

Through the DAAD RISE and Think-Swiss programs I was able to obtain a research internship and fellowship, respectively, to spend three months in Germany and then Switzerland and take a break from studying Mechanical Engineering at Ohio State. In Germany I worked with a team of engineers to develop a novel reactor capable of capturing waste heat from a myriad of industrial processes and repurposing its energy for other applications. In Switzerland I worked with a research group to design and optimize a solar-powered water pump that will allow small-scale farmers in India to better care for their crops while reducing costs. There are currently 200 of these pumps being manufactured, tested, and used in India.

I was also able to travel quite extensively on holidays (Germany has quite a few Catholic holidays) and weekends. I used Europe's phenomenal public transportation system to take trains, trams, funiculars, boats, buses, and bikes to visit eight different countries including Belgium, France, Austria, and Den-

mark. I would often travel alone, many times staying with complete strangers in their homes using the online platform Couchsurfing, meeting people with very different cultural backgrounds but all with the same caring generosity. Other times I traveled with European friends, Akron friends (John Bashor, St. Sebs 2007), and my brother (Vince Musci, St. Sebs 2009) who visited me in Switzerland for two weeks. Overall, I was most impressed with Germany as the Germans seemed to constantly be filled with joy, as well as great beer and sausage, yet fully lived up to their reputed work ethic. I was also blown away by how a country home to one of man's greatest travesties has grown to become one of the most welcoming and tolerant nations on Earth.



Looking back, some of the best highlights of my trip included partying in the streets after the German World Cup win, attending Oktoberfest with some Akron friends, being a Boheme in Berlin, eating every kind of melted cheese in Switzerland, and hiking up 10,000 feet in the Alps.

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con't Ben Musci

After a whirlwind six months, two main realizations emerged to the forefront of my mind, the first being that behind many minor differences (like minor social rules, foods, and a penchant for scarves) every person I encountered, no matter their nationality, had a strikingly fundamental sameness. Second, I've come to the realization, although perhaps incredibly biased, that Akron is truly an amazing place to have grown up.



CONGRATULATIONS to...

Congratulations to **Mary Lou Frohnafel '50**, the winner of the commemorative brick contest. She gave us her email address during the alumni reunion. Thank you to everyone who participated!

If you are interested in purchasing a brick for yourself or as a gift, please visit:
<http://foundation.stsebastian.org/memorial-tribute-gifts>



Our Missing Alumni

The missing alumni list has moved online. Please visit <http://foundation.stsebastian.org/alumni/missing>

If you know of a missing alumni, please send us their contact information to alumni@stsebastian.org or call 330.836.2233 x119.

Thank you for your help!

We Have Reached Our Scholarship Goal!

The *St. Sebastian Alumni Scholarship Endowment* has reached its goal of \$7,500! Thank You! The scholarship will be able to start distributing funds next school year.

We especially wish to thank **Paul Baldacci, Jr. '47** for his generous donation. His gift brought the balance of the scholarship to over our \$7,500 goal!

Again, **thank you** to all alumni who recently gave to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment! Below are alumni who gave September - November 2014.

- 1944 John Schumacher, Jr.
- 1946 Richard Keeney
- 1947 Paul Baldacci, Jr.
- 1952 John & Julie Randall
- 1952 Frank Steel
- 1955 Barbara Farr Brizes
- 1969 Susan Daugherty Murphy

If you would like to continue to build the Alumni Scholarship Endowment, please send your tax deductible gift to:

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation

Alumni Association
476 Mull Avenue
Akron, OH 44320



Years of Catholic Education

Thank you to everyone who was able to give to the **“85 Gift” Campaign**. Your support to the St. Sebastian Parish School allows us to preserve St. Sebastian Parish School’s excellence, innovation and traditions and reduces the tuition for all students attending. **You have made a difference for all our students.**

Thank you

1934

Robert Elwood in memory of
the Elwood Family

1938

C.J. Swedenburg

1939

George Bachmann

1941

Susana Huston
in honor of Bill Huston

1942

Ellen Martucci in memory of
John Martucci &
Kathy Martucci

1943

Anonymous in memory of
Francis D. Gillen

Vincent Del Medico in memory
of Fr. Byrider

Charles Kincaid in honor of
Betty Ann Kincaid

1944

Marie T. Karg Graham in
memory of Thomas J. Karg ‘48

1945

Mary Jo Mellody

1946

Annette Brady in memory of
Emma & Raymond Karg

Mary Lou Linnen

Mrs. Richard Maloyan

J. Philip & Mary Karen O’Neil

1947

Roland Bertolini

Michael Stiller in memory of
Ruth A. Stiller

1948

Jim & Barbara Censky in
celebration of Life

Paul & Carolyn Klein

Sally Longville

George Schumacher in memory of
A Good Basic Education

1949

Edward Dannemiller

Toni Schapansky in memory of
Stanley & Bertha Augustyn

Marie Klocker White

1950

Mary Lou Frohnapfel

Rosemary Doerr Gutmann
in celebration of St. Sebastian
School

1951

Anonymous in memory of
Joseph A. Stefan, Jr.

Albert Caliri in memory of
Marie E. Caliri

Rev. Gordon Yahner

1952

Sonya Halamay Benavent in
memory of my Deceased
Classmates

Thomas Gardner in celebration
of Thomas Gardner

Rev. William Karg

Julie & John Randall in
memory of Julie & Fred Censky

Frank Steel

Jim & Patti Perkins Taylor in
memory of Mary Gillen Keller ‘52

1953

Anonymous in memory of
Edward Butler, Jr. ‘52

Robert Dettling in memory of
Ted, Leane and Bobby

Robert Haas in memory of
Fellow Students

Mary Loftus in honor of
The Class of 1953

Ann Towell in honor of Pat &
Bill Stiller

1954

James McDonald in memory of
Emmet McDonald

1955

Ann Loftus in honor of
The Class of 1955

Thomas Riegler

Deanna White-Hebert

1956

Richard Fanelly

Terry Slough Henretty in
memory of Maybelle &
Robert Slough

1957

Thomas & Susan Fagan
Cynthia & David Naples
John Reichart

1958

James Maurer in memory of
Dick McCready

1959

Stephen Hetey

1960

William Dohner

1961

Anonymous in memory of
Angelina Lobello

Ronald Elsner

Paul McCann

Michael McGuckin

1962

Virginia McGuckin

1963

David Hilkert

1965

Anonymous

1966

Jim Large

Charles Marshall

1967

Anonymous

Phyllis Hilkert

John Jost

Paul Murrow

1968

Frederick Costanzo

1969 Stephen & Carol Jost in memory of Eileen Jost Hudson Susan Daugherty Murphy Elaine Markel Shean	1977 Jackie Large Savage Joseph Walsh in honor of James & Rita Walsh	Max Bedell in honor of Mike & Pat Bedell Lauren O'Neill
1970 Thomas Bray Mary & Bob Williams with Gratitude	1978 Carolyn Marks Hawkins John Helmkamp Pat Hernon in memory of Chris O'Brien '78 Mary Ellen Crowley Huesken Carl Krill III	2002 Luke O'Neill 2003 Carley Whitney 2004 Mari O'Neill 2007 Lyndsey Kirk 2008 Sholar Petit in memory of Gerald F. Petit 2009 James Ciotola Madison Petit in memory of Gerald F. Petit 2010 Alec Bianchi Miles Kirk 2012 Julie Ciotola 2013 Olivia Petit in memory of Gerald F. Petit 2014 Jacob Weber
1971 Stanley & Lisa Bernat in memory of Irene V. Bernat Stephen Buschko Robert Zwisler III	1979 Colleen & Paul Joyce Christine Pace 1981 Anonymous in celebration of Alumni Michael Hergenrother Tricia Marshel 1982 Elizabeth Pinkerton 1983 Joseph Lobello 1984 John Najeway 1997 Natalie Fritz 1998 Patrick Cleary 2000 Patrick T. O'Neill 2001 Anonymous	
1972 Patricia Abdenour Brendan Ford Al Graf in memory of Rita Botzum Jeannie Buehrle Hillery Paul Longville in celebration of Sally Longville Tim & Christie Walsh		
1973 Teresa Redle Brostowitz Anne Giffels 1974 Anonymous 1975 Ray Boshara Nancy Giffels 1976 Anonymous in honor of Marie A. Pouk		

Alumni Updates

CLASS OF 2006

Jessica Contrera was named College Reporter of the Year, and a story she worked on was named News Story of the Year at the 2014 National College Media convention. Contrera graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington last spring. She interned at the Washington Post in the summer and has been a staff writer for the Post since September.

CLASS OF 2014

Congratulations to St. Sebastian Parish School recent alumnus **Claire Heinle** and **Erin Wagner** who were

recently elected Freshman Class President and Freshman Class Secretary for Our Lady of the Elms High School.

Send Us Your "Alumni Updates"

Did you enjoy the article about Ben Musci's experiences in Europe? We would love to hear your stories too! Please use the contact form online or email us your updates and stories to:
alumni@stsebastian.org



Contest Winners

Recently the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation sponsored a competition for the students in grades 6 – 8. They were asked to complete an essay titled, *What does it mean to be young and Catholic?*

Congratulations to the six students whose outstanding essays gave them the opportunity to attend a recent First Friday Club luncheon with Principal Isabella and Father Kovacina. The students were **Stephanie Altier**, **Cole Kelley**, **Brianna McCarron**, **Josephine Savitski**, **Dominick Swindall** and **Cecelia Walter**. The students heard speaker Karla J. Bellinger, Director for The Center for Preaching, Evangelization, and Prayer.

Here are a few excerpts from their essays. *What is means to be young and Catholic.....*

- *it means to be examples of our faith.*
- *to accept all people, no matter their ethnicity, their religion, their political views, or nationality.*
- *when it seems easier to do something wrong, we choose the right path.*
- *as Decon Terry says “Choose to do the good.”*
- *be the best representative of the Catholic Church that I can be.*
- *trying to live my life as Jesus did and evangelize the Word of God.*

Full versions of the student essays can be read online at <http://foundation.stsebastian.org/news>

We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those alumni who have passed. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian Alumni, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Marian Struzenski Balaun, '36, December 7, 2014

Dr. Ralph Strigle, Jr., '40, November 13, 2014

Marilyn Huggans Sain, '43, November 11, 2014

Thomas Hamlin, '45, March 2, 2014

Richard Roelle, '45, August 27, 2014

James McCafferty, '49, October 10, 2014

Marjorie Davis Gray, '51, August 24, 2014

Michael Noble, '51, April 11, 2012

Joseph (Larry) Hauser, Jr., '52, November 2, 2014

Karren Sawhill, '53, November 1, 2014

John Hinkel Sr., '56, September 2, 2014

Kathleen O'Connor Lushbaugh, '58, September 30, 2014

Sandra Homeier White, '61, March 10, 2014

2014 All Class Alumni Reunion

Thank you to Bradley's Catering and Thirsty Dog Brewery for their services to the 2014 Alumni Reunion.



We were very happy to celebrate this historic 85th year with you and hope you were able to connect with some of your classmates! Photographs can be seen at:
<http://foundation.stsebastian.org/alumni/events.html>

Christmas Came Early For Our Students

This past fall, Principal Isabella applied for two grants through the Diocese of Cleveland. As part of the "Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope" program, our school was awarded both requests, totaling over \$45,000. The first grant, Expanding the Educational Landscape, is valued at \$30,000 and will purchase the following items:



- 30 HP Business Desktop ProOne 400 GI All-in-One Computers
- Hardware support for each computer
- 2 HP Laser Jet Pro 400 Laser Printers
- Cisco SG200-50 Gigabit Smart Switch

The second grant is valued at \$15,936 and will be used to absorb the costs of our internet services. All equipment will be purchased in January and will be put into use in our Technology Learning Lab as soon as possible. Over the summer, the computer lab will be renovated with new desks, flooring, ceiling and HVAC system. The new Technology Learning Lab will be ready for the 2015-16 school year!



Principal Isabella displays the quilt created by the class of 1983 which they created when they were in 4th grade. A larger version of this picture can be seen online.

Jeanne Marie (St. Sebastian 4th grade teacher from 1967-1991) donated a quilt to St. Sebastian Parish Foundation that was made by her 4th grade class during 1978-1979 (Alumni Class of 1983). That grade had 3 classrooms of 24 students each. Each student created a square for the quilt as part of their social studies project. Each student brought in 2 pieces of cloth - one for the background and one for the pattern. The students ironed on the design that they cut out of the one piece of fabric and stitched the design onto the background piece.

The St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni

Mass was held on October 30, 2014.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Fr. Valencheck officiated and several dozen alumni were able to attend. Alumni were treated to donuts and coffee in Zhall after mass and were offered tours of the school.