

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

VASJ MAGAZINE

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School



A Catholic community building 21st Century leaders in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions



*Sterling Uitenham '10
in VASJ's Chapel*

MISSION AS GLOBAL AWARENESS

STERLING UITENHAM, VASJ '10

NICK RADDELL, VASJ '01

BARBARA LEGAN-TURNER, VA '78

DR. DANIEL DICKRIEDE, SJ '78

The Athletic Fund

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Poised for the future!

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"The school has given a lot to me and this is my chance to give back to a place I believe in."

*Babe Kwasniak '94
Boys Varsity Basketball Coach*

**TAKE PRIDE IN THE RED AND BLUE!
MAKE YOUR ANNUAL GIFT TO THE
ATHLETIC FUND TODAY.**

From the President



We know that Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic community building 21st Century leaders in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions. But what does that mean in practice? In this issue, VASJ Magazine continues its exploration of how this translates into the lives of our current students, faculty and alumni.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of 21st Century education woven into the fabric of teaching traditional core subjects is Global Awareness. While some schools talk the talk about 21st Century education as they discover just how big the world is, the students and faculty of Villa Angela, St. Joe's and VASJ have been the personification of this through the decades, setting a high standard for others to follow. Our alumni are rife with people like recent VASJ Hall of Fame inductee Therese Osborne, VA'60 (whose mission work in El Salvador stretches over three decades and includes when Sr. Dorothy Kazel, OSU, and three other women were murdered there in 1980) and Fr. Martin Solma, SJ'66 (who on July 1 will be installed as the Provincial of our sponsoring Marianist order, a position he assumes after nearly 30 years ministering in Eastern Africa). The following pages introduce readers to one graduating senior and three alumni who embody the diversity of our commitment to global awareness, showing how it manifests both locally and around the globe. In our world today, this is more important than ever. When

our students graduate, their academic preparation lets them compete not only with local peers, but with peers worldwide. Likewise, the Gospel values we instill in them impel them to make the world a better place, whether in Cleveland or in a South American mission.

Two people who have made an impact of global proportions in the VASJ community are Principal Janice Roccosalva and Dean of Academics Tim Robertson, both of whom are retiring at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Janice has spent 33 years in Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Cleveland, the bulk of the last decade of which was at the intersection of E.185th and Lake Shore. Not counting his four years as a student at St. Joseph High School, Tim has spent 43 years as a teacher and administrator in this building at SJHS and VASJ. As the accolades for both pour into the school, I offer my thanks to them for all they have given to Catholic education in Cleveland and to the Villa Angela-St. Joseph community. Their impact here will be long-lasting, matched only by the appreciation felt toward each of them by a grateful community.

All the best,

Brian R. Menard, President

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From the **Principal**



Dear Alums and Friends of VASJ,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to you my farewell. I am saddened to say goodbye to such wonderful students, colleagues and friends. The nine years I have spent at VASJ have been filled with great joy and fun. I will cherish forever the memories created at the school. I am really going to miss the kids next year. They are so much fun to be around and really keep me centered and focused. The kids give me purpose and meaning for coming to work every day. What we are doing here at VASJ is so important, and it feels good to have been a part of that. Something that we pride ourselves on at VASJ is the sense of community and family spirit we embody in all that we do. We are a school that really comes together in celebration and when times are tough. We pray together in thanksgiving for our blessings and for our family and friends in need. I'm really going to miss my VASJ family.

Knowing the positive direction the school is headed makes it so much easier for me to say goodbye to the VASJ community. We have

accomplished so much in the last nine years; VASJ switched to a Principal-President model of leadership, a new school improvement plan emphasizing our Catholic ideas and academic programs was designed, the University of Dayton Pre-Engineering Program (UD-PEP) started and the VASJ curriculum has been rewritten. There is so much to be proud of at VASJ; a new principal, a strong Board of Advisors, a strong Institutional Advancement Office and our dedicated faculty and staff. The Marianist and Ursuline charisms are alive in the students and staff at VASJ.

I'm proud to have been a part of a school that does so much to make such a difference in so many lives. Thank you for all of the support you have given VASJ. Please continue your involvement with the school.

God bless you always,

Janice Roccosalva, Principal

READER FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the new VASJ Magazine. Send your questions, comments or concerns to Emily Robinson, Communications and Media Coordinator at erobinson@vasj.com or 216-481-8414 ext. 235.

What are you up to?

We need your help to stay current! Help us update our records or share information for the next issue of the magazine by providing us with your updated contact information.

Mail To:

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Or Visit Our Website At:

www.vasj.com

STERLING UITENHAM, VASJ '10

Faith & service gives meaning to El Salvador trip

She's quiet and soft spoken, but Sterling Uitenham is a profound young woman with wisdom and insight far beyond her years. Now a senior, Sterling has known since she was in first grade that VASJ was the school for her. "I was one of the kids that came to the Christmas on Campus event in first grade. Ever since that event I fell in love with the school. In eighth grade, the only school I thought of was VASJ."

Sterling is involved with the Chef's Club, Peer Ministry and MUSP, the Marianist Urban Student Program, which assists students with high academic potential from nearby urban Catholic elementary and middle schools in achieving success in their education within a Marianist High School. Not only did Sterling's involvement with MUSP provide her with the support necessary to do well academically, it also helped her gain the confidence to break out of her comfort zone and try new things, such as taking a service trip to El Salvador in March of 2010.

"I was curious because I don't travel often and I'd never been on a plane before," Sterling explained. But it wasn't the thrill of traveling or the fact that it would look good on a college resume that inspired Sterling to participate in the El Salvador trip. Sterling was struggling with family issues and, as a result, questioned her faith. "I was on a personal journey. I'm still on a pilgrimage. I don't understand my faith for what it is as much as I would want to. The little that I do understand, I would like to enhance. I wanted to see

how people could still appreciate God when they're struck with poverty or seem to be in their darkest hour. At that point I had started to lose my faith. I thought that this trip would help me, and it did."

The first few days in El Salvador were spent exploring. The group traveled to the popular tourist spots but also spent time visiting the poorest areas. The remainder of the trip was spent working at an orphanage, COAR (Community of Oscar A. Romero) where they played and read to children. They also talked to the children in English to help give them a better understanding of the language. What made the trip particularly interesting to Sterling was the opportunity to serve a community that shares the same Catholic faith as the community at VASJ. "You serve them, but at the same time they are serving you. It's an experience of gratitude and love."

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Sterling celebrates her time in El Salvador.

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Sterling has a very strong belief and appreciation for what it means to be a family. One of the reasons she has greatly enjoyed her experience at VASJ is due to the sense of family she feels with the faculty and students. Sterling also felt a strong sense of family among the people in El Salvador, which left a lasting impression on her. "They really don't make TV a major part of their day like many Americans do. They sat down at the table and ate as a family. They participated and did things as a family no matter what. I appreciated that so much." Sterling left the El Salvador trip with a better appreciation and sense of gratitude for what she has.

Although Sterling did not express it as one of her interests, after looking through the 1,048 pictures she took in El Salvador, it is very obvious she enjoys photography and is quite talented. The pictures on the right are just some of the beautiful nature pictures taken by Sterling in El Salvador.

It's really an individual decision about whether or not someone should attend the El Salvador trip, according to Sterling. "I could talk to someone all day long about the wonderful experience I had in El Salvador but if it's not your calling, don't force yourself to be there. It's a great distance away from family and home. You have to be mature when it comes to serious moments in El Salvador. It's not just a place of fun or vacation. It's a land

of deep spiritual calling and spiritual meaning."

"Sterling took to heart, in a very deep way, the call of Christ to accompany the people we met in this developing country on their journey

"You serve them, but at the same time they are serving you. It's an experience of gratitude and love."

through life," said Chris Janezic, VASJ Dean of Students and El Salvador Encounter Coordinator. "Because of her life experiences, she was able to listen to the stories of her new-found Salvadoran friends with a sense of camaraderie and solidarity, helping her to grow into a global citizen." Also serving as President of the COAR Peace Mission, Inc. Board of Directors, Chris has been to El Salvador 22 times and enjoyed watching Sterling absorb the meaning and mission of the trip.

After graduation, Sterling plans to attend Carlow University in Pittsburgh where she will major in theology and culinary arts. "This would be another big experience for me because I would be the first child in my family to go away to a college or university and live there." Sterling enjoys cooking, writing poetry and reading Christian books about love, faith and moving through struggles. "I hope to be an author and a master chef. Maybe someday I can own my own little bistro and travel the world and write books and speak about them."



Sterling captured the beauty of El Salvador in her nature photography.

NICK RADDELL, VASJ '01

Creating healthy cooking for
Nicaragua & Honduras



The Marianist charisms at VASJ enabled Nick to "recognize the dignity of all people."

Although seven years have passed, VASJ alum Nick Raddell remembers vividly his service trip to South America. It was the summer of 2003 and Nick had just completed his sophomore year of college at the University of Dayton. Nick and several other members of the engineering service program ETHOS (Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service-Learning) traveled on a seven week trip to South America, with stops in Nicaragua and Honduras. The mission of the ETHOS group is to find opportunities around the world where engineering students can help solve issues dealing with sustainable engineering practices.

Nick's trip to Nicaragua and Honduras focused on issues dealing with cooking and stove technology. Third World countries like Nicaragua and Honduras commonly do not have advanced cooking technology and often use very basic stoves made of patch-worked clay and large open flames. Some even use basic campfires to prepare their meals. Both can cause a lot of problems. "Mothers are usually the primary cooks in these countries and breathe in the fumes and smoke from the open flames all day. Women can get really sick and even die early from

breathing in smoke all day every day for their entire lives," Nick said. Another potential problem with the open-flamed campfire cooking is the risk of kids falling into the fire and getting burned.

These primitive stoves and campfires are very inefficient and require a lot of firewood for burning. Mothers and their children must go and gather a lot of firewood, possibly carrying very heavy loads and causing large amounts of strain on the body. In addition to the physical labor it takes to gather the necessary firewood, the inefficient stoves also require the cutting down of large amounts of trees. Not only does this cause environmental concerns as tree resources are depleted, there are the very practical concerns of safety and well-being that are compromised when too many trees are cut down. When countries like Nicaragua and Honduras receive large amounts of rain, it is the trees and the roots in the ground that prevent the creation of mudslides. "I remember the first day I was in Honduras and I read the newspaper. It said six people had died the night before because the rain had caused a mudslide." Reading the newspaper article reaffirmed to Nick and his classmates the importance of their trip. "It made it more practical in a sense that we weren't

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just going there to serve people because it was a good thing to do. We were addressing a real concern and a real problem,” Nick explained.

A nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Nicaragua, “Prolinia Branch” designed what they called an eco stove made out of local materials that were easy to find. The eco stoves were much more efficient than the campfire method and were also designed with a chimney to funnel smoke out of the house and a griddle-like top to enclose the flames. More efficient stoves result in less firewood needed and less smoke generated, both of which are extremely important for the safety and well-being of Nicaraguans. The eco stoves were sold with the profits being used to assist in spreading awareness about the dangers of using the open-flame stoves for cooking.

The mission of Nick’s ETHOS group was to learn

the process of making and using the eco stoves and testing their efficiency levels. “Everyone was really excited that we were there and were very welcoming. They wanted to know what we had to share.”

The ETHOS group spent about three weeks working in Nicaragua testing and improving

the efficiency levels of the stoves before they headed to Honduras for three more weeks. The mission in Honduras was to spread the knowledge gained in the eco stove practices of the Nicaraguans.

While the ETHOS group maintained a busy work schedule during the week, they were able to use the weekends and last few days of the trip to really explore the country. “We saw an active volcano, took a trip to the beach, went to several different market places and even saw some ancient Mayan ruins.” Nick’s motto for the trip was to “learn as much as you can and contribute as much as you can.” It is safe to say, Nick and the entire ETHOS group were successful at both.

The awareness of different cultures was one of the most valuable experiences Nick gained from the trip. “There’s a lot to be exposed to and a lot of good things to appreciate about different cultures that you never even knew existed.”

During his high school years at VASJ, Nick was involved with the soccer team and the National Honors Society (NHS). It was his experience with the Marianist traditions and the family atmosphere at VASJ that led Nick to study at the University of Dayton. “The Marianist charisms learned at VASJ enabled me to embrace service projects and recognize the dignity of all people.”

Nick is currently a project engineer at Swagelok in Solon, Ohio where he handles issues dealing with product design and manufacturing.

Nick enjoyed visiting VASJ earlier this month.

“Learn as much as you can and contribute as much as you can.”



BARBARA LEGAN-TURNER, VA '78

Discovering the *unique treasure* that international students offer

Barbara Turner has always had an appreciation for people and things that are unique and different, making her 25 year career at Cleveland State University working with international admissions, a perfect fit. “I always felt that I’ve embraced diversity, even when I was young.”

Barb’s journey at Cleveland State started more than 30 years ago when she was an undergraduate student at the university, majoring in psychology. She went on to obtain her masters degree in post-secondary education administration and worked as a graduate assistant in the student life department. Barb didn’t always see herself in international admissions but rather let her various roles and experiences at the university lead her to where she is today. “I think I was so lucky to follow my path the way I did. It just kind of fell into place,” Barb explained. During her time in graduate school, Barb was responsible for running the freshman orientation program, which was her first exposure to international students at CSU. “Being exposed to all of the international students when I was a graduate student was really exciting,” Barb said.

After graduate school, Barb worked in CSU’s admissions office as an admissions counselor handling both domestic and international admissions. At that time, the population of international students was very small. As time went on, the international student population at CSU grew tremendously, as did Barb’s international admissions responsibilities. She started to attend professional development conferences and seminars to grow and advance her knowledge of international admissions and guidance. There are currently close to a thousand international students at CSU from nearly 80 different countries. The majority of these students are graduate students.

In 1996, The Center for International Services and Programs at CSU was created to bring together all aspects of international student advising, including international admissions for undergraduate and graduate students, all integration advising, counseling and study abroad programs. The center provides an array of programs to service not only the international students, but to also to service the entire CSU community to make it a more global place. For example, the



Maintaining friendships with the international students through her job at Cleveland State is important to Barbara.

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International Center gives presentations to students and faculty members across the campus on topics such as cultural differences and cultural sensitivity.

The American degree is very highly valued around the world and there is a lot to be gained for international students who come to the U.S. In addition to graduating with a highly valued degree, they also learn a lot about customs and practices in the U.S. The international students aren't the only ones who benefit, however. The relationship between international and domestic students is mutually beneficial, as Barb explains. "I think an international student in an American classroom will teach the American students a whole lot too. A lot of students at Cleveland State aren't able to have the luxury of traveling abroad so the multicultural experiences that we have here, I think is good for any student. You've got the world at your feet at Cleveland State."

During the orientation, the international students are encouraged to view their role at the university as more than just a learning opportunity and understand that they can be the teachers in the classroom as well. They can teach the American students more about their country and their culture. In turn, the international students help to create a more positive image of America abroad. International students are able to influence their peers and family members in their own country and allow them to understand better America's multi-faceted and complex society. "Maintaining friendships with the international students is really important to me," Barb said as she points to the array of international gifts students have given her from places all around the world. "Just to see them grow from the day they start to when they graduate is a great experience. Sometimes you have a really hard time saying goodbye to them." Fortunately for Barb, graduation often doesn't mean goodbye as she keeps in touch with many of the students. She has attended several international weddings and christenings, which she really enjoys. "I give them all the credit in the world," Barb said of her appreciation and acknowledgment of what



it must take to be an international student. "I could never have done it myself." Barb can recite countless stories of the struggles students have gone through to become international students at CSU. Before they are eligible to receive integration documents and start the Visa process, international students must show that they have sufficient funding available to attend the school. Sometimes extended families, including aunts, uncles, grandparents and parents, have to collect their money together just to help a student get to the U.S. for school. "They have a lot of hurdles to get over. They so value education and they are very serious students. I think it's neat that they share that love of education with our American students."

Barb does not expect everyone to think and act the way she does, but she does encourage others to try and see that everything is not always black or white. "Embracing diversity makes you a better person and totally changes how you see the world. It's a big world and there is room for everybody."

"Embracing diversity makes you a better person and totally changes how you see the world."

DR. DANIEL DICKRIEDE, SJ '78

Finding his *calling* in the place that needed him the most



Imagine someone who works as a physician in an emergency room, not to buy nice things and spend it on himself, but rather to fund mission work in Africa. That is Dr. Dan Dickriede, a missionary and an emergency room physician. It does not take long to realize that Dr. Dickriede is an extremely humble man with a great sense of humor. He tries to downplay and make jokes about the mission work that he and his wife, Kathy, also a missionary and a Methodist minister, have done and continue to do in Liberia, West Africa.

Dan is no stranger to practicing medicine overseas and is not the first of the four Dickriede boys to have a relationship with Liberia. "When I first came out of medical school in 1990, I was already intrigued with Africa after hearing my brother Pat's stories about

Liberia." Pat Dickriede, SJ '74, was a member of the Peace Corp in Liberia. After college, Dan joined the group Doctors Without Borders, an international volunteer organization which provides medical assistance in more than 60 countries. He spent two years traveling around the world with the group. "I saw abject poverty and people in dire straits and did some meaningful medicine," Dan explained.

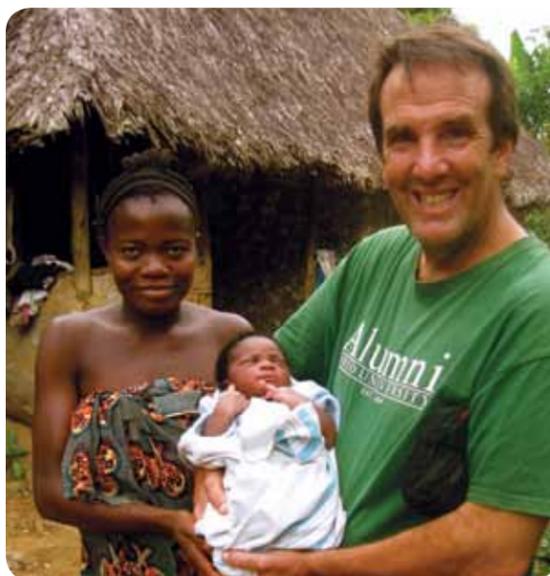
In 2006 Dan and Kathy were asked to go with a team to Liberia to assess how the Methodists could become more involved with the mission work there. In 2008 the Dickriedes returned to Africa and spent the year "missionary hopping," as Dan called it. They visited nearly 40 different missionary stations in places like Tanzania, South Africa and West Africa

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trying to determine whether or not missionary work in Africa was something they should pursue. Knowing that this was their calling, Dan and Kathy decided to come back to the U.S. in 2009 to raise

money and support for their mission work. "It's so funny because some people ask me, 'Why did you choose Liberia. Is that your favorite?' No, it's definitely not our favorite place," Dan explained. "It's the place that needed us the most."



Dan's treatment of pregnant women and newborns is increasing their chances of survival.

As humble as he is, Dan agrees to do interviews about his missionary work because he knows it will help to spread awareness about Camphor Mission, a cause he deeply believes in. Camphor Mission is a Methodist missionary site established 60 years ago and sits on 200 acres of land in Liberia, hosting a boarding school, day school and a safe place for over 300 Liberian children to come and learn.

Dan and Kathy embarked on their mission to Liberia to help train, educate and empower the Liberian people to be self-sufficient. "Kathy and I don't want the Camphor Mission to be our mission station. It's a Liberian mission that we're helping out," Dan explained. Liberia needs more than money. The country needs assistance in building relationships with neighboring cities, learning skills and trades and putting new infrastructures in place in order to improve the school and medical centers, provide clean water and help control diseases.

To get a clearer picture of the conditions they

"It's so challenging. There's no Home Depot in Liberia."

are working with in Liberia, it is important to note that over 3,000,000 people live in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, and there has been no electricity there since 1993. There also are no roads, no reliable transportation, no running water and no sanitation. It is almost 100 degrees everyday and there is absolutely no way of controlling the climate. "There are no fans and certainly no air conditioners," Dan explained. "The need for help is so drastic." The basic functions of practicing medicine and building infrastructures, two of Dan's biggest objectives for the mission, are extremely challenging without electricity, technology and hardware stores, things so often taken for granted. "It's so challenging. There's no Home Depot in Liberia," Dan joked.

"There's not enough food, no clean water, so many babies are dying before age five. As a doctor, that is really frustrating. They are senseless deaths." Dan wanted to figure out how to treat the pregnant women and young babies to prevent these unnecessary deaths. He created an immunization program which he called his "big belly clinics" where he treated pregnant mothers for malaria and made sure that their tetanus shots were up-to-date. While he did have some success with this program, even a routine medical procedure like giving vaccinations is not

easy in Liberia. "One of the biggest challenges in a place where it's 100 degrees and muggy everyday is keeping vaccines cold and viable," Dan explained.

The Dickriedes hope to connect people throughout the world with the people at the Camphor Mission Station in order to raise awareness and support of the mission. "There are some really clever kids there," Dan said. "If I can keep them alive and if we can get them educated and give them a leg up, and not so that they can come and work in North America but so they can give back to Liberia. That is what our goals and hopes are."

If you want to learn more about their mission and how you can help, visit the website camphormission.org. To follow the Dickriede's journeys through their blog, visit rosemarkafrica.blogspot.com.



CHANGES FOCUS ON RETENTION AND STUDENT BODY STRENGTH

The 2009-2010 school year was the start of significant changes in the Admissions Office, with more to come for 2010-2011. We began with the creation of a long-term admissions plan that focused on more effective outreach and relationship building with the Catholic elementary schools as well as strategies for increasing enrollment and retention of a strong student body.

Many Catholic schools, particularly urban Catholic schools, have struggled with declining enrollment over the last decade, VASJ included. VASJ has been walking that fine line between getting high numbers of students versus admitting kids that are a good fit for our school culture, values and goals. A good fit meaning that they are Catholic and/or a Catholic education is a priority for them, they can handle rigorous academics and understand how to conduct themselves as a Catholic school student. In recent years, efforts focused mainly on enrollment numbers resulted in less than optimal retention of admitted students. However, with a long-term plan and strong support from the Diocese to provide state of the art education, we had a unique opportunity to reevaluate our admissions process so that we could better retain the kids who come to us in 9th grade.

To create a stronger VASJ that continues to reflect well on the legacies of Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School, we realized the need to be selective to students who are truly the best fit so that we can attract, and more importantly retain for 4 years, more students of the same and higher caliber. While we could have admitted every applicant and posted an impressive head count when all was said and done, it was not in the best interest of the applicants, our current students, or the long-term viability of VASJ to do that.

We are very excited about the class of 2014 who herald from over 25 different elementary schools from all corners of the Cleveland area. Every student seeking admission to VASJ was interviewed, along with their parents. This was done not only to create a more personalized application process, but also to lay out clearly our expectations of students and parents and listen to theirs as well. Parents have been very receptive to our new procedures and appreciate the school environment being created. They are attracted to a smaller school with a learning environment that provides much personal attention for their students' preparation for college and life.

We are pleased to report that these students received over \$20,000 in scholarships for their performance on our entrance exam and that four have been awarded the prestigious Howley Scholarship. Our incoming freshmen will be introduced to VASJ values and culture through summer programs, mentoring, a welcome dinner and orientation at which they will hear from current student leaders, meet their classmates and learn about getting involved in true Viking fashion.

In the fall, we will reach out to elementary school educators, parents and students with the message that VASJ is alive and vibrant with competitive academics, exciting athletics and opportunities for leadership within a student-nurturing culture based in our Marianist and Ursuline spiritual traditions. We will bring prospective students and their parents onto our campus through academic activities, athletic and arts events and restructured open house and visit days. Current students, teachers and parents will participate in admissions activities at local elementary schools. We will seek out more opportunities to send our students into the community to showcase their talents and gifts since they truly are the best messengers of the Viking spirit and tradition.

We are optimistic that along with the improvements we are making in curriculum, our financial stability and future plans, the admissions process changes can go a long way toward maintaining strength of our student body and community and increasing our enrollment numbers in the best possible way.

Terri Richards
Director of Admissions



Lori Howley with Howley Scholarship seniors. Four incoming freshmen have also received this award.

The purpose of the Howley Scholarship is to assist well rounded students with strong academic credentials to attend private, religiously oriented high schools.



DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT'S REPORT

I would like to give a special thank you to the VASJ community for its warm welcome and support. I am truly excited to be a part of the team and leading the school's advancement efforts.

ADVANCEMENT

The major responsibilities of the Office of Institutional Advancement include coordinating all of VASJ's fundraising efforts, facilitating internal and external communications as well as strengthening and supporting alumni/alumnae relations. As the Director of Advancement it is my goal to ensure that the legacy of success at Villa Angela, St. Joseph and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School continues through building and stewarding relationships with current and future members of the VASJ community.

Despite the economic challenges faced by all, there is much to celebrate. Gifts to the Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund, as of May 24, 2010, totaled \$179,525 compared to \$119,922 last year, with 693 donors having stepped up to the challenge and provided much needed operating support to the school. Due to the fact that over 80% of our students

need financial aid, a fundraising initiative was launched this spring to raise money for tuition assistance.

THE SCHEIDEL FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

The Scheidel Foundation, a foundation established by the late Herb Scheidel SJ '60, challenged VASJ stakeholders to help the school raise \$125,000 through a matching grant. While I am proud that VASJ accomplished the first task of the grant by raising \$250,000 through the annual fund and temporarily restricted tuition assistance, we still have a significant amount to raise by June 30, 2010. Your participation is still vital. All contributions through June 30, 2010 will be matched dollar for dollar.

ATHLETIC FUND

Committed to our student-athletes and understanding that athletic programs are also dependent on charitable giving to cover operating costs, VASJ recently launched the Athletic Fund. Contributions to this appeal, by June 30th, are also eligible to be matched dollar for dollar through the Scheidel Foundation Challenge.

As the 2009-2010 school year draws to a close, I look forward to the 2010-2011 school year with anticipation. There are many opportunities to be seized by the Office of Institutional Advancement. I welcome and encourage your involvement.

If you are visiting the school or are in the area, please stop by to see us or send an email with your thoughts. We would like to hear from you and value your suggestions. In addition, please continue to visit our website for updated information. I also encourage you to attend the events and functions sponsored by our office and the school throughout the year. Not only will you get the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and support your school, but you will also have the opportunity to meet our current VASJ students. They are our future and they need your support!

Finally, on behalf of VASJ, thank you for your ongoing support. With your continued commitment and dedication, VASJ's future remains bright.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Paxton
Director of Advancement



OUR OUTSTANDING COACHES

Earlier this month, VASJ was pleased to announce the hiring of Babe Kwasniak, VASJ '94, as the Varsity Head Coach of the Boys Basketball Program. Babe joins SJ '89 grad, Anthony Redding, who serves as the Varsity Head Coach of the Girls Program. The character, experience and dedication of these two men will allow our basketball program to be an integral part of our school mission to build 21st century leaders in both the Marianist and Ursuline traditions while also allowing us to continue the winning athletic traditions we have experienced throughout our history.



Babe Kwasniak, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

Son of Hall of Famer and storied VASJ boys basketball coach, Ted Kwasniak, Babe went on to play Division I basketball at West Point Military Academy in New York. Babe Kwasniak was not an unfamiliar face to the Viking basketball team as he had spent time speaking to the team at chapel and also assisted with practice this past year. It was clear from the first meeting he had with the team that our players were comfortable with the transition. Likewise, parents enjoyed interacting with him at a recent "meet the coach" night and conditioning plans are being set in place for the summer.

When Babe brought his son to the school not long ago, it brought back a flood of memories for him about the times he spent running around St. Joe's as a child. Now it's his time to bring his family back home.

Girls basketball coach, Tony Redding, continued his rebuilding program this year, with his usual mix of quiet determination and commitment. Chosen as Coach of the Year by both the Greater Cleveland Basketball Coaches Association and the News Herald, Coach Redding never missed an opportunity to teach life lessons through basketball and helped to land several of his players' college playing opportunities for next year.

A team camp in Dayton, a road trip to Columbus and lots of hard work made his team come together and achieve more and more each game, thanks to his tireless efforts and his committed staff of assistants. A team

cookout hosted at his house has already started the fun for 2010. Just ask his players about being on the D team.

We are extremely excited about next year's Basketball program. With outstanding returning players on both teams and a fresh crop of students who have already started enjoying open gyms, we know that VASJ will have some great nights of basketball in the Purple Palace. We urge you to make time to be there and show your support to our coaches and our student athletes with your presence.

With all of the success both our basketball program and our basketball players have had, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the majority of our players

go on to be great college students, employees, parents and sometimes, even coaches themselves.

To continue to be a destination school of choice, we need to continue our tradition of quality athletic programs with coaches that change lives through sports. With Coach Tony Redding at the helm of the girls program and Coach Babe Kwasniak taking over leadership of the boys program, we have solidified both of our programs into the future. We have guaranteed that we will play an important part in the lives of our student athletes, as we have in the past, while creating memorable basketball for our fans in the stands.



Tony Redding, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

21ST CENTURY ON CAMPUS: VASJ PILOTS “SCHOOLGY” FOR DIOCESE

Engineering teacher Steve Wallace frequently talks about the need to teach in ways relevant to today's students. “Our kids are ‘digital kids,’” says Wallace. “They have become *screenagers*. They are and will continue to be developed by the electronic and visual media that they are exposed to. And because of this, it becomes our challenge as Catholic educators to use the new digital landscape to help form them for adult Christian living in the new digital world. This is the reason VASJ is implementing a new digital learning tool called Schoology for the upcoming school year.”

VASJ's Director of the Marianist Urban Students Program, Sr. Martha Mooney, OSU, who celebrated her 50th Jubilee during the 2009-2010 academic year, is excited

about VASJ's future. Commenting on the efforts of the 21st Century Task Force and other faculty to reconceive VASJ's curriculum she said, “St. Angela and Blessed Chaminade were both cutting edge people and visionaries for their times. By looking for new ways to present the same Gospel values Catholic schools have always taught, we bring continuity between the eternal lessons that are our foundation and the contemporary means to engage students fully in learning them.”

VASJ President, Brian Menard, echoed this sentiment saying, “The call for adaptation and change from our Founders, that explicit need to stay current in how we teach our students timeless lessons, is at the core of the curricular changes our faculty are driving.” A great example of that is how social studies and technology teacher Mike Gooding piloted the classroom use of Schoology for the Diocese this spring.

Schoology is an academic content management system, a platform for delivering relevant information and materials. “In the past, when learning was classroom-focused, the only content management system teachers needed was a blackboard. In today's digital environment, where coursework goes beyond classroom walls, learning is globally-focused and requires a much more sophisticated way for students and teachers to collaborate,” said Dolores Bruno,

a technology expert with the Diocese's Office of Catholic Education. “Schoology does exactly that with the ability to receive and share ideas and input easily between students, faculty and parents.”

Bruno credits Gooding and Wallace, who discovered Schoology in February while attending the “eTech Ohio” conference in Columbus, with shaping the Diocese's decision to use Schoology as the anchor for next fall's launch of online courses being offered in the six Diocesan-owned high schools. While all six schools will incorporate Schoology in this limited way, Gooding noted the Villa Angela-St. Joseph plan to utilize it more broadly than the other schools. “VASJ will be the first school in the Diocese to use the full functionality of Schoology as our primary means of tracking attendance and grading,” he said. Gooding expects students to take to Schoology quickly, based on the reactions his students had this spring to the pilot program. “It took no prodding on my part to get the students excited about using Schoology. They were hooked immediately,” he said.

Going forward, the administration will provide faculty with professional development to begin incorporating Schoology into the fabric of their courses as a seamless tie between learning inside and outside the classroom. Already, groups like the school's Management Committee and the 21st Century Task Force are using Schoology to enhance their ability to discuss issues and collaborate. Describing the opportunity Schoology provides for enhanced collaboration, 21st Century Task Force member and new Assistant Principal Megan Scheider said, “Schoology's discussion thread is awesome because we can share ideas 24/7. It makes our face-to-face meetings smoother and quicker.”

Newly announced incoming Principal Dave Csank shares the excitement about incorporating such technology into the curriculum. “I've had similar experience in my current job helping teachers build their technology skills and comfort levels, both for their own satisfaction and for the benefit of the students,” Csank said. “I look forward to joining efforts already underway to build a 21st Century model of Catholic education,” said Csank.



CLASS NOTES

1950s

SJ and VA Class of '54 combined reunion: Saturday, October 30, 2010. Contact Evelyn Petrangelo Malloy at evelyn.malloy@gmail.com, Nancy Lynch Dell at 216-531-2623, John Hutchinson at 440-333-1689 or Joe Topoli at 440-944-0301.

1960s

SJ Class of '60: The Saint Joseph Class of 1960 is in the planning stages for their 50th Reunion in 2010. Contact Walter Zagar at 440-413-3811.

VA Class of '60: Save the date for the Villa Angela Class of 1960 50th Reunion September 17-18, 2010. Contact Barb Petty Tyler at barbara.tyler6@gmail.com.

VA Class of '62: Contact Gerri Gornik at gerrigornik@yahoo.com.

SJ Class of '65: Contact Thomas Mackey at tmackey@charter.net.

1970s

SJ Class of '70: Save the date October 22, 2010 for the St. Joseph High School Class of 1970 40th Reunion! Send your photos to peter@ferengifts.com, gmichaelpatt@yahoo.com or better yet, add them to the Class of '70 Facebook fan page.

VA Class of '70: It's Official! Villa Angela Academy Class of 1970 announces its 40th Reunion planned for the weekend of September 10-11, 2010. All are invited and all are welcome. Check vasj.com for details.

VA Class of '71: There's a group planning a 40th reunion for July 2011, so contact Pixie Kadis Gaia with your information so we can keep you posted. You can also contact Judy Zugel Robinson at robinsonjudy@hotmail.com.

SJ Class of '73: Thanks to all that attended the 35th celebration. From Switzerland and the Philippines, from California to Boston, the classmates came. A total of 240 turned out to “rock” the 3-event weekend...a gigantic success! Congrats to VA rep Mag (Tiger) Zalenski for winning the “'73 Open” at Quail Hollow! Special thanks goes out to Cebar's, Quail Hollow and Regovich's for making us feel at home. Let's try to have more classmates show at the 40th and break the record! Great job Vikings! Best of luck to all, “Mik.”

VA Class of '75: Reunion picnic Saturday, July 31, 2010 from 4-9pm at 3365 N park Blvd, Cleveland Hts., OH. Contact Ellen Hobbs Hirshman at 216-321-4884.

VA Class of '79: Contact Gail Bode for planning information at Gail.Bode@joann.com.

1980s

VA Class of '80: Check out the Facebook fan page, Villa Angela Class Reunion 1980.

SJ Class of '80: Event planned for July 10, 2010. Contact Hugh Daly at 216-732-3259 or hugh@hughdaly.com.

VA Class of '85: Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 6-12pm at Normandy Party Center in Wickliffe. Cost is \$65 per person (not per couple). Family style dinner, open bar, DJ with Karaoke. Contact Tracy LaVigna Hradek at tracytracy305@aol.com.

SJ Class of '86: Contact Ray Vislosky at rayvislosky@sbcglobal.net.

VA Class of '86: Contact Dawn M. Steward Thomas at 614-832-8312 (cell) or 614-475-4170 (home).

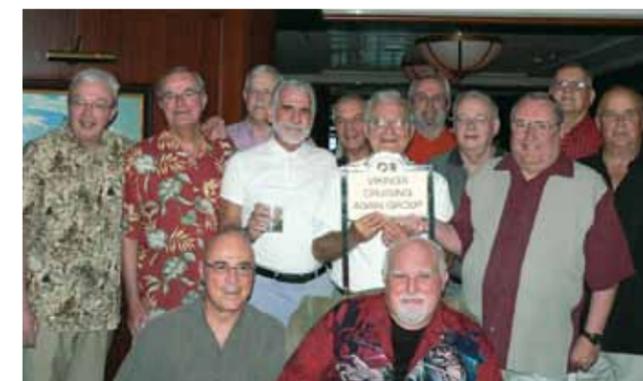
1990s

VASJ '91: Contact Holly J. Rohrbaugh at 440-552-1399.

2000s

VASJ '00: The Reunion will take place on Friday, July 9, and Saturday, July 10, 2010. Please save the date! Check www.vasj.com for details.

If your class is not listed, we would love to hear from you and any plans you may have.



After two days in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 13 SJHS '58 classmates and their spouses embarked on a 15-day cruise through the Panama Canal in February 2010.

Keep up with VASJ on facebook.

Click on the link on our homepage to become a fan today.

**IN
MEMORIAM**

RICHARD "RICK" ANDRASSY
SJ '70

TERRENCE "TERRY" DAGG SJ '71, brother of James Dagg SJ '79, Ken Dagg SJ '74, Maureen (Scott) Dagg VA '78 and Tim Dagg SJ '79

ROSE DICKRIEDE, mother of Edmund Dickriede SJ '69, James Dickriede SJ '72, Patrick Dickriede SJ '74 and Dr. Daniel Dickriede SJ '78,

DORIS HUNT HELMICK VA '42

WILLIAM KEARNS SJ '62

ANTHONY F. "TONY" LUCIC SJ '62, father of Anna Lucic VA '82 and Steve Lucic SJ '87

DR. PAUL OLYNYK, former Villa Angela-St. Joseph faculty member

EDWARD ROKOVITZ SJ '58

TIMOTHY F. RYAN SJ '65

THOMAS SHAVER SJ '65

MIRIAM THERESE SOUKUP
VA '42

JAMES STEINER SJ '71

JOHN STRANIERO SJ '82

VINCENT TARASKA, father of Peter Taraska SJ '86, Vince Taraska SJ '88, Matt Taraska SJ '89, Vic Taraska VASJ '92, Veronica Taraska VASJ '96 and Phillip Taraska VASJ '98

BIRUTE MEKESA VEDEGYS
VA '62, mother of Vilija Vedegys Struna VA '85 and Kriste Vedegys-Duhigg VA '88

RETIREMENT NEWS

After 43 years of dedicated service to St. Joseph High School and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, Tim Robertson SJ '62 is retiring as teacher, friend, administrator, photographer, consultant, statistician and much, much more.

On Friday, May 21, 2010, Tim's AP Calculus class bid him a fond farewell with a surprise assembly, highlighting his classroom antics and style while also reminiscing about the positive impact he has had on the school and his students. Everyone in attendance laughed and cried as Tim's students showcased their affection and admiration to, as his students call him, T-Rob.

Tim's presence at VASJ will be greatly missed but his legacy will continue through the memories and stories of all he has touched in his 43 years. Thank you, Tim.

Once a Viking-Always a Viking.



Tim Robertson stands at the podium, a place where he is quite comfortable and highly recognized, at the end of the assembly.



Melanie Robertson DeLuca VASJ '92 and her Dad, Tim Robertson SJ '62 after the assembly.



Pat Guder, VASJ Senior and Tim's impersonator at the assembly, poses with his AP Calculus teacher, Tim Robertson.

The Scheidel Foundation Annual Fund Challenge



The Scheidel Foundation awards Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School a matching grant for up to \$125,000



Your gift can change the future...

The Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund provides vital operating support to the school and its programs each year.

Impressed with the mission and understanding the need, the Scheidel Foundation challenges you, our alumni and friends, to double the impact of your donation. The Scheidel Foundation has committed to donating up to \$125,000 to the VASJ endowment if the VASJ community matches these funds.

Every dollar raised, once the fund has reached \$250,000, will be matched dollar for dollar for up to \$125,000. YOUR participation is vital. Help us meet this goal!

"[I]n terms of the values from VASJ, that tradition needs to continue. I think that it is important for people to continue giving back to the institution that helped them become who they are."

~Joe Scaminace, SJ '71



Honoring the legacy of alumnus Herbert Scheidel, SJ '60. Mr. Scheidel was dedicated to giving opportunities to students unable to cover the costs of advancing their education.

QUICK FACTS

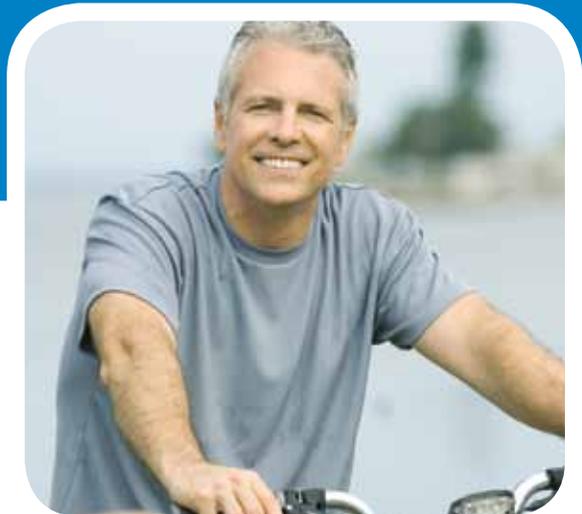
- 360 students currently enrolled
- 81% of VASJ students need financial aid
- 96% of the 2009 graduating class went on to college; 3% to Vocational & Tech School/Military; and 1% to work
- \$3.1 million received in college scholarship offers
- A National Merit Scholarship Finalist

HELP VASJ MEET THE SCHEIDEL FOUNDATION CHALLENGE!

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
18491 Lake Shore Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

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