

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

VASJ MAGAZINE

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School



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



Mr. Tim Robertson SJ '62
(1944-2011)

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF VASJ
AND HONORING A VIKING LEGEND**

**MIKE TOBIN VASJ '91
KIRSTEN HOLTZHEIMER
GAIL VA '85
CHRIS MCGRATH SJ '69**

From the President



Our Ursuline and Marianist traditions emphasize the need for us to embrace adaptation and change. Twenty years ago we celebrated the first graduation of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School with the Class of 1991 marking a new era in our history.

Similar to the way that over decades many alumns at Villa Angela and St. Joe's united in marriage to form new families, VASJ's parent institutions merged to give us a new school which – like any child – at once resembles each parent in particular ways and is also distinct in and of itself. Indeed, our three institutions – VA, St. Joe's, and VASJ – coexist as a trinity with different manifestations of the same school.

Whether alumnae from Villa Angela, alumni from St. Joe's, or alumns from VASJ, each has memories and experiences that are unique to their institution. But instead of these differences dividing us, they enrich the community and bondedness of our family spirit by giving us things to celebrate in each other. Villa Angela and St. Joseph established a legacy that gave birth to VASJ. As the cycle of life continues, the child becomes the parent. So has VASJ shaped thousands of lives that we send on to share their VASJ experience explicitly and implicitly with all they encounter. So do those VASJ alumns continue to shape the legacy and the traditions that they pass to the next generations of students today and tomorrow.

For people and schools alike, seizing the opportunities that change presents, while remaining true to what has always been our essence, lets us grow toward our potential. In 20 years, VASJ has continued the mission of VA and St. Joe's by transforming lives to transform the world. This issue of VASJ Magazine celebrates 20 years of VASJ by featuring Mike Tobin

(VASJ '91), Kirsten Holtzheimer (VA '85) and Chris McGrath (SJ '69) as just a few of the many stories of legacy handed down through the years from parent to child or alum to alum. It tells of those who came before blazing trails for others to follow, and carrying the torch that passes from one generation to the next. And true to what makes VASJ special, that tradition is not lofty and stiff, tradition for the sake of tradition; instead, it is deep, real, and meaningful in the lives of our students and alumns. No better example of that exists than our beloved Tim Robertson, whom we lost this spring after his long battle with health issues. We include in this issue special tributes to Tim/Mr. Robertson/T-Rob, whose impression on the institution and all here during his 44 years on campus is itself a lasting legacy left by the epitome of the True Viking.

All who join our community – as students, parents, faculty, neighbors, and others – are shaped by the VASJ legacy, and help shape it for those who come next. Twenty years after the merger of VA and St. Joe's, VASJ makes a difference in the lives of our students, as well as those of all who are blessed to be part of our community. As I prepare to rejoin my family in Louisiana and pass the baton of leadership at VASJ to my successor this summer, I certainly feel richly blessed by my experience in the Viking Village.

Join us as this 20th anniversary allows us to celebrate that legacy, from the glories of our past to the opportunities of our future.

Peace,

Brian R. Menard, President

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From the **Principal**



Dear Viking Village,

Another school year is behind us, and it is important that we pause to reflect on the many successes that we have enjoyed the past nine months.

On the admissions front, we are extremely excited to welcome the class of 2015! Not only are the overall enrollment numbers of the freshman class already up 50% from last year with three months before school starts, but we are welcoming more students from the feeder Catholic Schools surrounding VASJ than we have in recent years. In addition to the several Catholic Schools sending us students, many other private and charter school students have also been accepted to VASJ. What is most encouraging, however, is the overall quality of the students who have applied and have been accepted. Building on our strategy to create strong, stable, four-year classes as the foundation for our broader successes, the class of 2015 is going to be a truly special and successful class, and we look forward to welcoming them to the Village this fall.

Academically, VASJ has continued to make great strides in becoming a model for 21st Century learning. Schoology, our school information system, has been embraced by staff and students alike. Its versatility has provided many unique opportunities. From the use of Independent Study Days - which allows school to be "in session" even when we are physically not in the building - to virtual discussion boards and drop box homework assignments, Schoology has taken VASJ to the next level of 21st century education. Our graduating seniors have earned millions in scholarships to various colleges, and are poised to do VASJ proud: we wish them Gods' graces and the best of luck!

The Viking sports teams once again gave us plenty to cheer about from August to June. The players, coaches,

parents and volunteers all deserve a multitude of thanks for all their hard work and dedication this past year.

Of course the saddest event of the past year was the loss of Tim Robertson, who was the personification of what it means to be a Viking. He shared not only mountains of math knowledge to countless students, but more importantly, he shared his strong faith and impeccable character with them. He was one of a kind, and will be sorely missed. His effect on our students was evident at the funeral service, where dozens of VASJ students conducted themselves with class and reverence. Tim Robertson certainly played a major role in setting that example.

At the end of this school year, VASJ said goodbye to Ken Prince, another cornerstone of the Viking Village, who is retiring. Like Tim, Ken Prince has molded countless lives, and has always been an excellent example of what we strive for our students to become. Although it is not nearly enough, we say "a million thanks" to Ken for his over three decades of service to the Viking Village.

This year, like all years, was filled with triumphs and tragedies, ups and downs, successes and struggles. Through it all, the Viking community - from parents to students to faculty and staff worked together: it was truly a successful school year.

I wish each and every one of you a happy, safe summer!

Christ's Peace

David Csank, Principal

READER FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the 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:

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
ATTN: Office of Alumni and Alumnae Affairs
18491 Lake Shore Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44119

Fax To:

216-486-1035

Or Visit Our Website At:

www.vasj.com

NEWS ON ADMISSIONS FOR 2011

It has been an incredibly busy year in the VASJ Admissions Office. As the 2010-2011 school year winds down, there are many great things to report on the admissions and recruiting front.

Applications are up. As we entered the second season of the new selective admissions strategy, we experienced a significant jump in interest in VASJ. This was initially indicated by the traffic at our information tables at various high school information nights held at the grade schools, requests for tours and Open House attendance. Later, at application time, we saw significant increases in applications from our nearby grade schools – 20 applicants from Our Lady of the Lake School this year vs. five last year and eight applicants from St. John of the Cross vs. zero last year – as well as increased applications from Julie Billiard and west side schools including Urban Community and Metro Catholic. Similarly, "shadow" visits, wherein students spend a school day as guests of current students also increased in number and have continued into the late Spring. While the shadow student group is mostly composed of 8th grade students, we also welcomed a number of transfer student candidates from the 9th, 10th and 11th grade levels.

The quality of applications is also up. Not only have we received a higher number of applications this year, but it has been immensely gratifying to see that the quality of applicants is also greater. We have attracted superb students from our traditional Catholic 'feeder' schools and have also seen excellent candidates this year from charter schools such as The Entrepreneurship Academy or E-Prep. This year, the best and the brightest from surrounding schools have matriculated, as have many students with specific interests in our Engineering, Culinary Arts, Industrial Arts and Special Education programs as complements to our excellent comprehensive college preparatory curriculum. Incoming freshmen have been awarded \$25,000 in merit scholarships.

While the number and quality of applications is increased, the number of declined applications is down. Last year, we declined a significant percentage of applicants due to low/failing grades as well as records

of poor conduct and/or attendance. This year, it appears that word has gotten out that VASJ expects a higher level of academic effort and personal conduct. This resulted in fewer poor applications that were ultimately declined. Although we are being selective, it is important to note that we still hold true to our mission of helping students become who they want to be. A parent once asked me to explain the difference between VASJ and other Catholic high schools. It is very simple: while it is easy to take the best of the best and graduate the best of the best, our mission is to elevate students to their full potential and abilities and facilitate their graduation with a fine high school resume. Our admitted students enter with a broad range of academic abilities but share a similar work ethic and desire for a VASJ Catholic education. It is our institutional calling to serve these students and prepare them well for college and life.

We continue to enroll a diverse population of students that reflects the world our students will live in. As our numbers grow, we continue to attract students from a wide range of backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, geographic locations and academic abilities to build our school community. The unique composition of our student body is one of our most attractive attributes. It works and has resulted in one of the most engaging and lively high school student communities around. At the same time we maintain our Marianist and Ursuline values of creating an environment of academic excellence that educates in a family spirit.

As of this publication date we are well on our way to surpassing a 50% jump in enrollment for our freshman class next year. This year's summer program and the fall recruiting season are intended to build upon this momentum. We are excited to welcome a talented group of scholars, athletes, volunteers and leaders in the fall.

Terri M. Richards, Director of Admissions



DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT'S REPORT

What an exciting time to be part of the Viking Village as spring blossomed and alums from St. Joe's, Villa Angela and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School came together to celebrate a legendary coach and to dance the night away.

Over the weekend of April 8th, we engaged alumni/alumnae at an event honoring the legacy of Coach Bill Gutbrod, as well as the spring fundraiser, the Vikings Classic Mixer, where they listened and danced to the live music of Chance, Shake (aka the Sensations) and Joey Porello of the Continentals. Between the two events, nearly 700 alums and friends of the school were in attendance. Comments ranged from the Gutbrod Night celebration being a "class act" to "Wow, I haven't been down these halls in years" at the Classic Mixer.

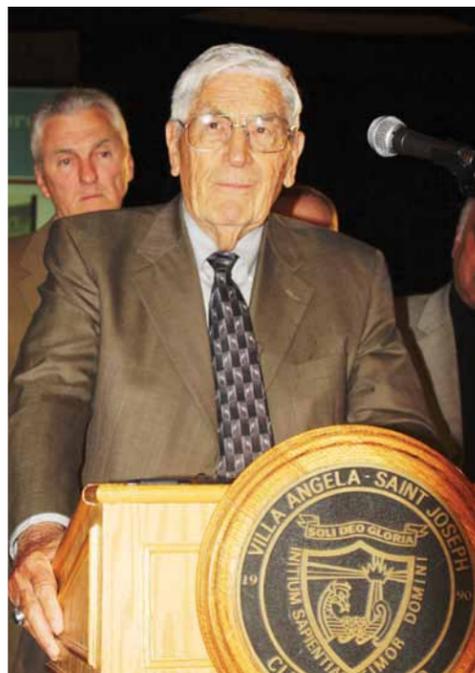
Contrary to popular belief, institutional advancement is more than just raising money, it's about engagement: the engagement of people who are connected to the school for various reasons and most importantly, the engagement of those alumni/alumnae with positive experiences, memorable stories and a strong sense of connection to their high school.

It was an inspiring and awesome experience for me to witness, on both nights, a room full of alumni/alumnae ranging from the Class of 1954 to the current students of VASJ.

The steering committees for these spring events were spearheaded by alumni/alumnae of VA, St. Joe's and VASJ who understood the value of giving back both through financial and volunteer support. With over 16,000 alums between the three schools, we still have a lot of ground to cover. Only by continuing to engage and reengage our alumni and alumnae will we be able to continue to tell and celebrate our history, and be able to build upon the traditions of the past, create new experiences that are memorable and continue to provide the quality Catholic education that began many years ago.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, I want to personally thank each of you who participated in, supported and/or attended the Gutbrod Night celebration and the Viking Classic Mixer. Your commitment and dedication to VASJ's mission and our students will continue to have a positive and powerful impact.

Mary A. Paxton
Director of Advancement



Left: Coach Bill Gutbrod, the guest of honor.

Above: Mike Golic SJ '81 with his brother and emcee of the evening, Bob Golic SJ '75.



Note from Director of Advancement

Remember that you have until June 30, 2011 to make a donation or pledge that will be matched, dollar for dollar, through the Scheidel Foundation Challenge.

Dear VASJ Alumni, Alumnae and Friends,

I am proud and excited to write to you about a special opportunity. From now until the end of June 2011, every dollar donated to VASJ will be matched, dollar for dollar by the Scheidel Foundation, for up to \$165,000. This, combined with the \$85,000 already donated last year through a similar matching challenge will make the total gift to VASJ from the Scheidel Foundation, \$250,000. But in order for VASJ to receive these funds, you must step up to meet the challenge!

My father, Herb Scheidel, St. Joseph Class of 1960, was fortunate enough to be materially blessed in his life through a combination of hard work and seizing great opportunities. From newspaper delivery boy in Cleveland Ohio, to door to door encyclopedia salesman, he became Chairman and CEO of Learning Technologies, selling English learning products in Asia. In 1999, he established a foundation in order to share his blessings, continually searching for ways to help expand opportunities for hard working people to improve their own lives. We wish that he had visited VASJ before passing away from cancer in 2008. We have no doubt that he would have been proud to support the school in a big way, because VASJ does precisely what he sought to support. 95% of the students who attend VASJ go to college, which many studies have shown significantly increase an individual's earning potential. This figure is astounding, especially compared to the college attendance rate of graduates of local public high schools.

My mother, Uncles Rolf ('58) and Ron ('67) and I were fortunate enough to visit VASJ in 2009. It was a special opportunity for us to take a step back in time and walk through the same halls my father did in his youth. The school has certainly changed over the years – it is now co-ed and undoubtedly more multicultural. But what stood out to us during our visit was the commitment of the administration and faculty as well as the students at the school. It was clear to us that the students were there to learn, understanding the fact that many of them might be the first in their families to go to college and make the best of the opportunities being presented. We also learned that many of the students' families sacrifice to afford the tuition rates in hopes that a VASJ education would give their children a better future.

We have learned that VASJ has struggled in the past to raise enough funds from alumni, alumnae and friends. It is our hope that this will change. Therefore, we decided that in my father's memory, we would make a substantial contribution to the school, to challenge others to support VASJ. Your support comes at a critical time.

Yes, VASJ may be a different school from what you remember, but we recommend that you visit to see first-hand the drive of the faculty and administration to provide a quality Catholic education and that the students are eager to take advantage of the great education they receive. With our nation struggling to provide quality education to students in public schools, an investment in VASJ is a great way to help students who want to succeed to have a great chance in doing so.

Right now, until June 30th, you have the opportunity to support your alma mater and to help students in need by doubling your impact through your donation. For example, if you donate \$50, it will become \$100 as a result of this Scheidel Foundation Matching Challenge!

We hope you will respond to this great opportunity by offering your support to VASJ.

Sincerely,

Miki Scheidel
President, Scheidel Foundation
and proud daughter of Herbert and Miyuki Scheidel



Use your smartphone to scan code or donate online at www.vasj.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VASJ COMMUNITY



VASJ RED CROSS CLUB

The Red Cross Club at VASJ held their final blood drive of the school year on May 3rd. VASJ was able to save hundreds of lives this year thanks to the dedication of this hard working group of students.



VASJ LENTEN MISSION COLLECTION

The VASJ student body raised \$2,195.37 during the Lenten Mission Collection to benefit John Shinsky's (SJ '69) City of Children Orphanage in Matamoros, Mexico. VASJ presented Shinsky with the check at an assembly on May 17, 2011.



SENIOR PROM

The Senior Prom was held on Friday, May 13 at La-Vera Party Center in Willoughby. Congratulations to seniors Bobby Vollman and Marquia Ivey for winning prom king and queen!



VASJ Class of 2011 Salutatorian Laura Grudzinski and Valedictorian Timothy Frey

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2011!

On Sunday, May 29, 2011, 67 students received their diplomas from Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. As of May 20, 2011, 55% of our students have earned \$3,272,000 in scholarships. 99% of our students will be going on to attend a two or four-year college or joining the military. Visit vasj.com for a list of college acceptances and to see the final amount of scholarship money received by the VASJ Class of 2011!



WRESTLING

Senior Phil Wellington and Junior DiAnte Jackson competed in the State Wrestling Tournament. Wellington, wrestling at 189 lbs., placed 4th in the tournament to end his wrestling career at VASJ. Congratulations to the wrestlers and Coach Bob Mullin SJ '88 for a wonderful season!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

On Thursday, March 24, VASJ held its annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony where 18 students were inducted as new members. The ceremony was coordinated by the student officers of the National Honor Society (NHS) chapter at VASJ.



2011 LIFEWORKS OHIO ART & ESSAY CONTEST:

VASJ was excited to have nine students win in the LifeWorks Ohio Art & Essay Contest, a program which encourages grade school and high school students to express their commitment to life through writing and art. Row 1: Allison Insana, Ellen Cvelbar and Jonelle Evans (all Seniors) Row 2: Jodie Di Donato, Rita Hidalgo and Bobby Vollman (all Seniors)



GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls basketball team, under the leadership of Coach Tony Redding SJ '89, ended their season as the District runner up team. Congratulations on a wonderful season!

BOYS BASKETBALL

Congratulations to first-year Head Coach Babe Kwasniak VASJ '94 and the boys varsity basketball team for their outstanding season and tournament play, ending the season as the runner-up team for the District Championship.



SPRING MUSICAL: INTO THE WOODS

The cast and crew of Into the Woods put on three outstanding performances the weekend of April 29-May 1. The hard work of the cast and crew made this musical production a huge success.



VASJ SENIOR SIGNS BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP

VASJ Senior Marquia Ivey signed a letter of intent with Cincinnati State where she received a full two-year scholarship to play basketball.



HONORING A VIKING LEGEND

TIM ROBERTSON 1944-2011



A saint goes marching in

Tim Robertson, Long-time VASJ Educator, Gets a Fitting Farewell

by John Sheridan SJ '58, VASJ Hall of Fame 2004

The Villa Angela-St. Joseph High community lost one of its stoutest leaders on April 21 when Timothy Robertson passed away while hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic. He had been on a waiting list for a heart transplant. The highly regarded 66-year-old educator taught advanced placement mathematics at the school for more than four decades until his recent retirement. He also served as the school's academic dean.

The measure of the regard in which he was held was highly evident as hundreds of students, teachers, and other friends and supporters of the East 185th St. school turned out for his wake at Brickman Brothers funeral home in Willoughby. So many came to pay their final respects that people stood in line for two hours or longer to reach the viewing parlor where they extended sympathies to Tim's wife, Georganne, and their four children—Jeffrey, Timothy Jr., Melanie, and Kevin.

And, in a scene vaguely reminiscent of the classic movie "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," dozens of VASJ students lined the front steps at Our Lady of the Lake church (formerly Holy Cross) on Wednesday April 27, waiting for the casket to arrive and then escorting it inside for a

Mass of Christian Burial. As the funeral party entered the church, where Tim had served as a Eucharistic Minister for many years, a solitary bugler played "When the Saints Go Marching In" – an appropriate tune considering that it was the St. Joseph High sports theme song for many years.

During most of his career at St. Joe and VASJ, Tim was a constant presence on the sidelines at football games and other athletic events, serving as the school's official sports photographer. He also pitched in as a sports statistician for the athletic department. In his late thirties, he played for the "Open Pantry Old-Timers" in the Euclid Sunday Morning Softball League—a team composed primarily of Holy Cross parishioners.

For the funeral service, Father John McNulty, former pastor at Holy Cross, returned as the chief celebrant, assisted by the current pastor, Father Joseph Fortuna. In his eulogy, Fr. McNulty noted that Robertson was a teacher in more ways than one. In addition to teaching AP calculus in the classroom, "Tim also taught others, by his example, what it means to live a good Christian life," McNulty said.

Shortly after earning his math degree from John Carroll University in 1966, Tim accepted a position as a math teacher at St. Joseph, his alma mater, and

then spent the next 44 years at the school, including 20 years as chairman of the mathematics department. He also taught evening math courses at JCU, where he had earned his masters's degree in 1969.

Among his various duties at the high school, Tim (SJH Class of '62) served stints as publicity director, bingo volunteer, moderator of the yearbook staff, director of graduation ceremonies, and co-chairman of the joint curriculum committee that helped to oversee the merger between St. Joseph and Villa Angela in 1990.

The thousands of students who have learned the nuances of higher mathematics in Robertson's classes include many who went on to enjoy successful careers in business. "He taught captains of industry," noted one of his admirers.

Robertson, who was inducted into the VASJ Hall of Fame in 1999, will be remembered for the many contributions he made to his school and community—and for the impact he had on the lives of so many students.



Mr. Robertson's AP Calculus seniors, Rita Hidalgo, Ellen Cvelbar and Tim Frey display the banner they made for all the VASJ students and faculty to sign. They presented the banner to Mr. Robertson's family at the funeral home during the visitation.

HONORING A VIKING LEGEND

TIM ROBERTSON 1944-2011



He poured his *heart* into everything he did

by Nancy Slominski Naujoks VA '68,
VASJ Hall of Fame 2009

I don't know the right day for anyone to die. Without Easter, there would be no right day. Death would be a tragedy, from which no good would ever come. And yet as an Easter people, we know that thanks to the one death on the cross, we have a place to go after our Death, and so even in pain, there is born the seeds of hope.

The right day for Tim Robertson to die was Holy Thursday, and the right disease for him to die of was one that would involve his heart. I say that the right day was Holy Thursday because the example repeated yearly on this very special day and night is of Jesus, as he prepared to die, washing the feet of his disciples. Tim was a model of service. He lived out the Marianist admonition to "Do as He tells you."

Tim did what needed to be done, forever and always. He worked Bingo, he created signs for parent-teacher conferences, he kept score for baseball, he took pictures of tournaments and State Championship teams, he worked to pronounce everyone's name perfectly for their one special moment at graduation and he counted the outbursts and graphed them in comparison with previous years. Tim hung extra credit problems outside his office for his overachievers and for those who wanted to get caught up; Tim held special AP study sessions outside of class time and outside of the school day to prepare his students for success. Tim worked

on yearbooks, came to Alumni events, came to games, came to plays, and in short, poured his heart into everything he did for VASJ.

But Tim poured his heart into his family life as well. He loved and cared for Georganne, his wife, his children Tim, Jeff, Melanie, and Kevin, his mother, her mother, her aunt and his grandchildren. Those of us on the outside, mourn the fact that it appears, Tim took so little time for Tim. But what we wouldn't be willing to admit was that Tim did it his way. Tim did what needed to be done at every moment. He came back to teach one class, because we had no one of his experience and skill to do it and he loved to teach. He cared for his mother because of the great love she had always showed him and his family. Tim did the right thing because it was right, even when it was hard. What an example. What a model.

Perhaps Tim needed a defibrillator to remind him to keep things in balance. Life is often hard to keep in balance, with the stresses of work, home and health. He poured his heart out into everything and his heart needed help. There was no machine that could do what Tim's heart had done or give what Tim's heart had given.

Tim didn't just stay late, he worked late. Getting things right takes time and he put that time into all that he did. He put his heart into it as well. Tim took great trips. Trips filled with pictures and memories that he often shared in those times when we could pause and



relax. Tim debriefed teachers after conferences and always had us plan our calendar for *when* we won a State Championship, not *if*... Tim worked on the handbook tirelessly. He took the rules seriously and yet, he wanted room for punishment, atonement and forgiveness. Tim read the paper, and cut out stories as the lives of our graduates unfolded. He remembered those names of students and he made sure that the board in the hall remembered their continued achievements as well. Tim is the kind of person that one person can never replace. When you do so much for so many...you are a true one of a kind.

Tim also lived out loyalty. Teaching at St. Joes and eventually VASJ came naturally. Even when girls were added to the mix, Tim wasn't leaving for any all-boys' school. Tim was here to make sure that what it meant to be a Marianist school and what it meant to be a Viking would carry on. Tim worked at VASJ through

An altar was set up in Mr. Robertson's honor in the ministry center where VASJ held prayer services for him during each period of the day.

“The true gift of great individuals is to inspire others and Tim's life has done that and will continue to do that.”

two Presidents and countless Principals. He also taught at his alma mater, John Carroll, as a way to stay connected and to give back.

Tim brought all of who he was to everything he did. Tim knew how to take team pictures from his summers working at Raimor photography studio.

For me, Tim was the one who caught my mistakes. Who cared enough, even a year in advance, to painstakingly write sporting events into his calendar in his teeny tiny print and then to call when he could foresee a conflict, so I could correct it and get it right. Tim was at more events for more teams than anyone. Not because he had to be, but

because he wanted to. He passed on that love of sports to his children.

The true gift of great individuals is to inspire others and Tim's life has done that and will continue to do that. What a special gift to be able to say that we knew Mr. Robertson and were a part of his life. As we lose souls to their continued life with Christ, we are challenged to take up their work- to carry on the best about the people whose paths cross ours along the way. What will you take with you this day? There are many who have never met or come into contact with Mr. Robertson - but you did, and so he was brought into your life for a reason. Today is a day to contemplate that reason and to go away a changed person. A person enriched and inspired by a heart poured out in love.

MIKE TOBIN, VASJ '91

The Viking network an asset to career success

The saying goes, "It's not what you know but who you know," which is especially true when it comes to getting a job. For Mike Tobin, a member of the first graduating class of VASJ in 1991, a combination of both led him to his successful career in journalism and public relations. He had a passion for the field and worked hard to pursue his dream, but the VASJ connections he made along the way also helped him immensely.

During Tobin's time at VASJ, he was fortunate enough to be challenged intellectually and was influenced positively by many great teachers at the school, such as Ken Prince and Bill Raddell. "I thought they were great teachers at the time, but down the road you realize it even more," Tobin said.

It was Tobin's love for history and English that drew him to the field of journalism, which, in his opinion, combines both of these subjects. He had a passion for news and was already studying local papers when one

day Sr. Naomi, perhaps one of the most influential teachers for Tobin, encouraged him to start reading the New York Times to broaden and enhance his journalism skills. Since Tobin did not have a subscription to the Times and Sr. Naomi did, she shared hers with him. Instead of reading the paper at lunch, as she normally did, Sr. Naomi started waking up for her school day a half an hour earlier so that she could give the paper to Tobin when she got to school. "This is a woman who made a personal choice that impacted my life," Tobin said. "I stayed in touch with her until she died." It comes as no surprise that Tobin remembers Sr. Naomi as one of his favorite teachers. He never would have had the opportunity to learn from and be influenced by her if it were not for VA and St. Joe's merging during his senior year.

After graduation from VASJ, Tobin attended Ohio University to study journalism. During his sophomore winter break from OU, Tobin tried to line up a



Tobin with his father, Jim, VASJ Hall of Fame inductee and fellow member of the advisory board.

"I'm always aware of the fact that I got here based on the kindness of others. I owe it to others that if I can help them in some way, I should do that."

journalism-related summer internship. While home on break he had a chance run-in with Brother Dick Rose, VASJ's Alumni and Alumnae Director at the time. Tobin shared with him his desire to find a journalism-related summer internship. Brother Rose connected Tobin to Rich Osborne (SJ '69), who was the head of a magazine called Corporate Cleveland at the time. This contact led to Tobin landing a summer internship there. "It was the first job where I wore a tie and wasn't doing manual labor or flipping burgers," Tobin said. It was an opportunity that allowed him to work with a lot of incredibly talented and smart people. "The connections I made there, including Rich, were incredibly helpful," Tobin said.

In addition to the connections Tobin gained during his internship, he learned a valuable lesson about the extensive network of the Viking Village and the willingness of alumni to help each other. After his graduation from college, Tobin landed a job in Washington D.C. where he was able to make another Viking connection. VASJ Hall of Famer and Plain Dealer Bureau Chief, Tom Brazaitis SJ '58, happened to work right across the street from him in DC.

Tobin sent a letter to Brazaitis' DC office, explaining that he, too, was a Viking alumn and would like an opportunity for the two of them to sit down and talk. Brazaitis called Tobin immediately after receiving the letter, took him to lunch and served as a wonderful mentor to Tobin from that day forward. Brazaitis helped Tobin get stories into the Plain Dealer and, despite being incredibly busy with his own journalism career, even edited Tobin's stories. It was ultimately Brazaitis who helped Tobin obtain his position with the Plain Dealer in 2000, all as a result of the Viking connections. "There was a point where I couldn't get hired at the Plain Dealer when I was interviewing there. I wasn't significantly better or worse, it's just Tom Brazaitis gave me a chance," Tobin said.

Tobin doesn't take a single one of his connections for granted and is the first to recognize the important contribution they each made on his career. "I'm always aware of the fact that I got here based on the kindness

of others. I owe it to others that if I can help them in some way, I should do that," Tobin said. Little did he know, that opportunity would come knocking in 2010.

After making a career change, moving from the Plain Dealer to the U.S. Attorney's Office where he is the Community and Public Affairs Specialist, Tobin received a phone call from Osborne presenting him with an opportunity to get re-engaged with his alma mater by serving as a member of the Board of Advisors. Given the tremendous ways in which Osborne had helped him, Tobin was inclined to say yes. "Rich has helped me so I can't say no to Rich, right?" Tobin currently serves as a member of the Board of Advisors and sits on the Marketing Committee.

Tobin was not the first of his family to get engaged with the school in such a big way. His father, Jim, already a board member, has been involved in the school since the day his children started attending VASJ. "He got involved when I came here, and then my sister and brother came here too and he never really left," said Tobin of his dad's involvement with the school.

"It's a sense of obligation. The school, the education I got here, the connections I made here, either directly or indirectly, have helped me in my career. So if I can repay that with some of my time, then I'm happy to do that." And with his newly announced role as Vice-Chairman of the board and Chair of the Marketing Committee, Tobin is doing just that.



Tobin recognizes the value that each of his connections has had on his career.

KIRSTEN HOLTZHEIMER GAIL, VA '85

Community service finds its roots in VASJ

Although she cannot pinpoint one distinct moment when it happened or isolate one incident which caused it, somewhere along the way Kirsten Holzheimer Gail VA '85 acquired a strong sense of and appreciation for community – in all aspects of the word. Perhaps it was the close-knit Euclid neighborhood in which she grew up in conjunction with her parents' influence. Maybe it was the community of Villa Angela Academy where she attended high school or her experiences at Kenyon College. More than likely, it was a combination of all of the above that developed her heightened sense of community and her commitment to get involved and make a difference. "It's important for people to be engaged in something. That's how you build relationships and make connections that are important to our life," explained Gail.

Gail's brothers and father all went to St. Joe's. As the first female in her family, attending Villa Angela Academy seemed like the natural choice for her. Understanding the importance of making the right decision, however, she did take the time to look at other choices, too. It was the open atmosphere and warm environment at VA that ultimately made her decision to attend the school a relatively easy one. "I really liked that it was all girls. I think that helped in my experience - developing myself as a leader and becoming more independent," Gail said of her experience at VA.

Of the many great teachers and classes she had, there are a few that really stand out to Gail. She remembers Sr. Naomi registering students to vote as



Gail and her son, Connor, who has just completed his freshman year at VASJ.

soon as they turned 18 and encouraging them to get involved with government. She remembers learning about the push for social justice in her religion courses and really starting to comprehend what that meant. "I think it certainly had something to do with where I ended up and my interests," Gail said of those experiences.

Although Gail does not discount the importance of academics - she took honors classes and excelled academically at VA - she believes there is more to the full high school experience. "The ability to build relationships and have a sense of belonging to a school community is equally important," Gail



"It's important for people to be engaged in something. That's how you build relationships and make connections that are important to our life."

explained. Her involvement in volleyball, a few clubs, National Honor Society, and the school's literary

magazine kept Gail busy and engaged at VA during her time there. "It's important to have pride and have spirit in your school and VA did a lot of things to help you become involved and engaged in the Villa Angela community."

Gail went on to attend Kenyon College where she majored in English and once again played volleyball. During the last semester of her undergraduate career, while taking an Urban Studies course, Gail discovered her interest in community-building and development and her desire to learn more about the processes in place to build stronger neighborhoods and communities. It was because of that urban studies course that after graduating from Kenyon, Gail enrolled in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, a social work masters program that focuses on community development, planning and management.

When she enrolled in this program at Case, it was not with any certain career path or goal in mind. Gail did not wake up one day and say, "I want to be City Council President." Rather, it was the path formed from each one of her experiences that led her to where she is today. And where she is today is in her fourth year as Euclid City Council President. "One of the most enjoyable parts is working with the residents, the neighborhood groups and the community groups that are so active in Euclid and working along side them to make sure Euclid stays a strong community," said Gail. Her favorite aspect of the job is the opportunity to work with groups of people trying to make a difference in the community.

In the true spirit of engagement and making a difference in communities, when Gail saw an opportunity to give back at Case Western Reserve University working part-time as a field advisor, she jumped on it. In this role at the Mandel School, Gail is able to help students in the same masters program she once attended, find their internship placements and ensure that the internship is a positive experience for both the community and the students. "It's really exciting to hear about the new programs and see what's

working well, but also working alongside the students to help them develop as professional social workers and community development practitioners is really interesting," said Gail.

A mother of three children, it has always been very important to Gail and her husband Kevin to make sure their children attended schools that are good fits for their personalities. As someone who has a strong appreciation for and commitment to community, when it came time to choose a high school for her oldest son, Connor, it was important to Gail that it be somewhere that engages him and where he can become a part of the community. In the times that Gail has visited VASJ over the last few years, she noticed the strong family spirit that she felt during her time at VA was still very prevalent. "Ultimately you want your kids to do well academically but you want them to be able to build good friendships and build a strong character and have a positive high school experience"

After attending an open house and shadowing a current student for a day, the Gail's decided VASJ was the right fit for their son Connor, who has now just completed his freshman year here. Following in his mother's footsteps of getting engaged, Connor was involved with soccer, golf and volleyball during his first year at VASJ and his mother has really enjoyed watching him experience all of the fun activities at the school. "He really wanted to be able to develop his own identity and character individually and I think this has been a great place for him to do that," Gail said of Connor's experience at VASJ.

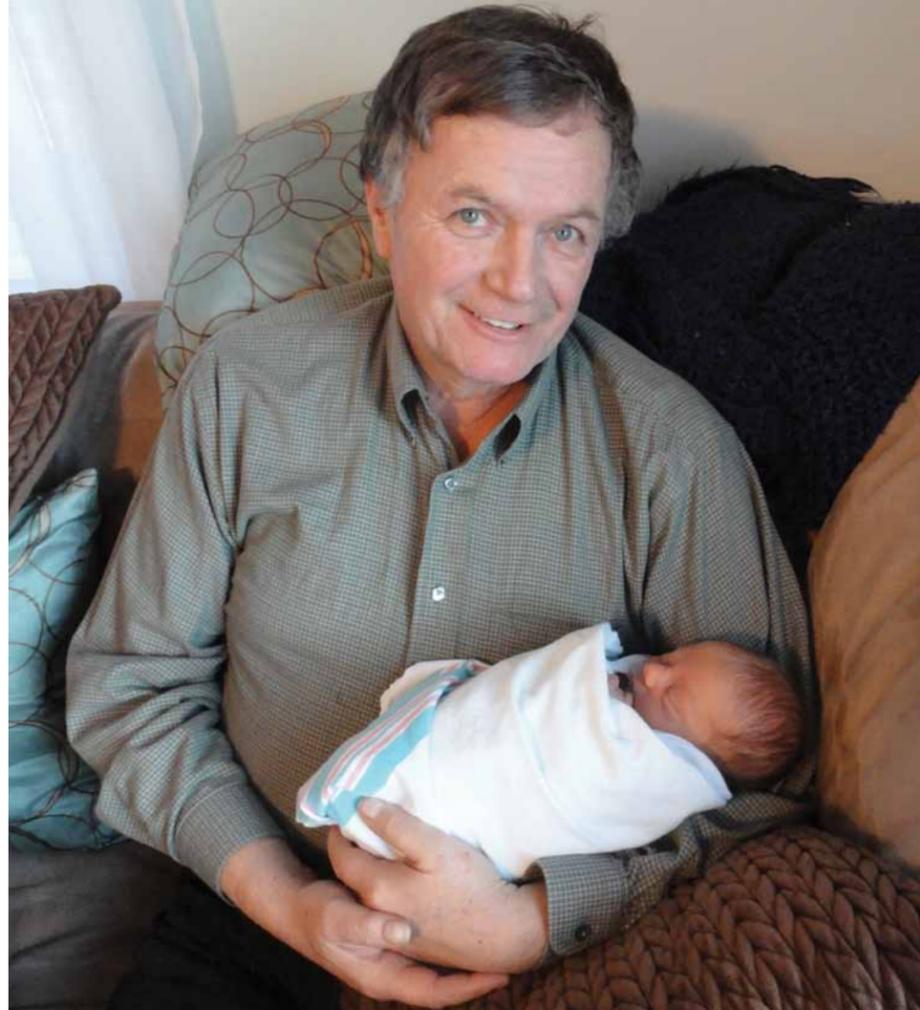
The school's community service focus, commitment to the core values of family, academics and faith are all characteristics that she has seen remain strong over the school's history – dating back to her time at VA and her father's and brothers' times at St. Joe's. For all of these reasons, Gail knew that her son Connor would excel in this environment – and after his first year at VASJ he has proven that to be true.



Gail helps plant a tree to honor the Euclid Hunger Center and Community Resident Ed Dickson at the annual Euclid Arbor Day Ceremony.

CHRIS McGRATH, SJ '69

Appreciating
the true
meaning
of *family*



A family-oriented man, McGrath's face lights up when he talks about his family, especially his new Grandson, Liam.

It only takes one conversation with Chris McGrath SJ '69, to realize what a family-oriented man he is.

There is no denying the joy that lights up his face when he talks about his family - his wife; children; and his new grandson, Liam; and even his family in the Viking Village. For that reason, it is no surprise that McGrath views the school's family atmosphere as something that sets VASJ apart from other schools.

A self-proclaimed gym rat, as he called it, McGrath grew up hanging around the St. Joseph High School gym. When it came time to choose a high school, there was no question that he would be joining the Viking Village family. It was also important to McGrath's father for his sons to be educated by the Marianist Brothers.

Although he does not claim to have been much of a good student during his days at St. Joe's, the Marianist Charisms had a profound impact on his life. So much

so, after graduating from St. Joe's, McGrath went on to enter the Marianist Brotherhood and remained with them for several years. "That was an experience that I cherish and will value all of my living days," McGrath said.

After his time in the Brotherhood, McGrath went on to study at Ohio State, worked as a Deckhand on freighter boats on the Great Lakes, and eventually worked his way into a sales career. During that time, he met his wife of 31 years, Linda, and started a family. When his oldest child was in seventh grade and involved in sports, McGrath found himself getting re-engaged with VASJ.

The family spirit that was once the deciding factor in McGrath coming to St. Joe's came into play once again when it came time to decide where he would send his three children. "This is a very special place. It was home for them," McGrath said. His children,

"I enjoy being here. I enjoy the kids. That's why I came back and that's why I will stay here."

Erin McGrath Julian '00, Katie McGrath '05 and Matthew McGrath '09, all had a great experience at VASJ and continue to do great things today.

Erin and her husband Bill '99 are the proud new parents of a future Viking, Liam. Erin works for St. Ignatius High School in their Development Office. Katie recently graduated from Ursuline College with a degree in nursing and is enjoying her new career working in Pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic. Matthew is in his second year at Xavier University where he is studying business. As for their father, he could not be more proud of them.

McGrath cannot help but reflect on one of the reasons his children have thrived so well in their adult lives: the experiences they gained during their time at VASJ. Not only were his children prepared for college academically but also McGrath feels the diverse environment his children were a part of at VASJ prepared them for life. "The Viking Village is a small little community where you have to learn to appreciate each other, and my kids did very well doing that."

Even though all of his children have now graduated, McGrath is one of the many examples of the dedicated Viking parents who came with their children and never left and holds many important roles within the school. When asked why he stayed engaged with the school after his children have left, McGrath replied, "My job is not done yet. This is family and I'm glad to be a part of it."

When attending home Viking sporting events, McGrath will likely be there to greet you at the door and collect your ticket. Not only does he enjoy this role because it allows him to see old faces and make new friends, but occasionally he also gets to quiz students on the lyrics to the VASJ Alma Mater when they forget their student ID's.

In addition to playing gatekeeper at sporting events, McGrath has also spent many years as an officer of the Oarsmen Club and is still very engaged with the group. Even more important than raising money for boosters and athletics, McGrath views his role with the Oarsmen as that of a story teller. "We have to go out and tell our story and seek other alumni and families to help," he said. And according to McGrath - it's a great story to tell.

Of all the various roles he holds, his involvement with the Parent Action Committee is the role he cherishes most. Now in its fourth year, the Parent Action Committee educates families about important issues such as teenage drinking, suicide, college preparation and most recently, bullying. As for the specific role McGrath plays with this committee, "I just help make things happen," McGrath said.

At the end of the day, there is one reason and one reason only that keeps McGrath coming back for more: the VASJ students in the Viking Village. "I enjoy being here. I enjoy the kids. That's why I came back and that's why I will stay here: for the kids."

"My job is not done yet. This is family and I'm glad to be a part of it."



One of the many volunteer roles McGrath holds at VASJ is as a guest bartender at the annual Ladies Night Out event.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

SJ CLASS OF 1960: The St. Joe's Class of 1960 celebrated their 50th reunion in the fall of 2010. In honor of their classmate, **Herb Scheidel** and the Scheidel Foundation Challenge, the class donated over \$3,000 to VASJ as their reunion gift.

SJ CLASS OF 1961: The St. Joseph Class of 1961 will be holding their 50th reunion the weekend of October 7-8, 2011. View the SJ Class of 1961 website at www.sjhs1961.com. Please contact **Dave Pfriem** for more information at pfriem@sbcglobal.net or 216-227-1088 (home) 216-496-4066 (cell).

VA CLASS OF 1961: The Villa Angela Class of 1961 will be holding their 50th Reunion on September 24, 2011, at the Holiday Inn in Mayfield Village from 5:30-10 PM. For more information contact **Colleen Moran** at 216-486-2691 or **Diane Bafard Mulraney** at 216-481-6862.

SJ CLASS OF 1963: It's time to start thinking about a 50 year reunion in 2013. Email any ideas to **Ross Carey** at carey4074@roadrunner.com or **James Kramar** at jkramar@att.net.

SJ '65: **Earl Frech** was recently appointed to the position of Vice President with Erie Insurance Company where he has worked for 29 years in various positions in both Ohio and New York.

SJ '67: After a 35 year career at senior levels in marketing, **Patrick Surrena** started his own marketing firm last year, Personal Relevance LLC. Patrick spends his spare time working on a book he is writing about Colorado's pioneer trails, enjoying two grandkids, and three grown daughters. Patrick and his family reside in Colorado.

SJ '68: **Joe Ule** is currently living and working with his sons in a home restoration business in Kansas City. He is expecting his first grandchild in 2011.

VA '68: **Linda Coyne Rowan** received some exciting news about her youngest daughter, Paige, who recently received Ursuline College's first ever athletic scholarship for soccer and basketball. Linda and her husband are extremely proud of her.

VA '69: **Maureen Kelly** is halfway through her first term of elected office as Lake County Clerk of Courts. She has been named as an honoree at the Celtic Ball which was held the weekend of Mar. 5-6, 2011.

1970s

SJ CLASS OF 1971: The St. Joe's Class of 1971 is planning their 40th reunion for the weekend of September 23, 24 and 25th. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact **Chris Frey** at lcf165@aol.com or 216-780-8763 or **Tom Gentile** at

gatsby2990@oh.rr.com. Watch vasj.com/alumni/reunions & events for more details on the reunion.

SJ '72: **David Perse** M.D. was named President of St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in April 2011 where he will lead the hospital's operations and the implementation of its strategic plan.

VA '73: **Deb Biggs Thomas** is in her third year as the Coordinator for the Michigan eLibrary, Michigan's 24/7 online library. Deb's job involves marketing and public relations for the state-wide resource which is available at no cost to all Michigan residents.

SJ '74: **Ed Baznik** and his wife Linda, enjoyed a trip to the land of their ancestors, Slovenia, in 2010 and will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this year. The Bazniks reside in Independence, and Ed is employed with FirstEnergy in Akron.

SJ '74: **Peter Celestina** started a new position in December 2010 as Sr. Project Manager for IBM. He lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with his wife Barbara and two sons Michael and Matthew.

SJ CLASS OF 1976: The St. Joe's Class of 1976 will be holding their 35th reunion on Friday August 5th and Saturday August 6th. On Friday August 5th there will be a Golf outing at Manakiki (Home of our Senior Prom). After golf, golfers and classmates will gather at the Old Establishment "The Club House" in Willoughby Hills. The events on Saturday, August 6th will take place at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in the gym. Please contact **Mark Keleshian** at mark9757@aol.com or 440-442-9693 or **Ken Lange** at dnlange@sbcglobal.net or 440-684-0044 for additional information.

VA CLASS OF 1976: The Villa Angela Class of 1976 35th reunion is scheduled for October 15, 2011 at Capelli's @ Comfort Inn Mentor, Ohio. An entertaining evening of celebration is planned including food, drink, music and conversation with friends and acquaintances from our past. For further information check the VASJ website under Alumni/Reunions & Events. Please find the Class of 1976 Facebook or send an email with your contact information to ensure that you receive future mailings, and email scanned pictures to Maryanne.Paccione@sproutec.com.

VA '76: **Linda (Obat) Williams** is in her 35th year as a federal employee, working as the Grand Jury Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cleveland, although retirement may be just around the corner for her. Linda's children are both alumni of VASJ and are attending the University of Toledo (**Cam '05**) and Miami University (**Alexa '10**). Linda has been fortunate to travel with Alexa over the last several years while she was a member of the Singing Angels. Linda resides in Willoughby, Ohio.

VA '79: **Vanessa (Gatto) Vidmar** is currently attending Lakeland Community College in pursuit of a Paralegal degree. She will graduate in December of 2011 and plans to do a summer internship at the public defenders office in Painesville. She resides with her husband **Joseph Vidmar** (SJ '79) in Wickliffe, Ohio.

Remember: The deadline for submitting class notes for the Fall/Winter 2011 magazine is October 27, 2011

Did you know that you now can submit your class notes online? Go to www.vasj.com and click on the Alumni, then click on Class Notes to share with your classmates any updates on careers, activities and whereabouts!

1980s

SJ '80: **Mark Bayer** was recently re-elected to his third term as President of the Local 304 Mailhandlers Union of the Postal Service in Columbus, Ohio where he resides with his wife, Jacqueline.

SJ '80: In 2010, **Ron Manning** was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Archbishop Wilton Gregory in the archdiocese of Atlanta. He serves as deacon at St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Kennesaw, Georgia. Some of his ministries include Retrouvaille Marriage Rediscovery (a Catholic program for troubled marriages), St. Vincent de Paul, and Habitat for Humanity. He resides in Acworth, Georgia with his wife of 28 years and high school sweetheart, **Denise Yakkel Manning** VA '80.

SJ CLASS OF 1981: The St. Joe's Class of 1981 will be holding their 30th reunion taking place the weekend of October 7-9, 2011. Please email contact info (name, home address, phone and email address) to **Richard A. Vadnal** (richard@vadnal.com) or **Jim Brickman** (precordial1@aol.com). Additional reunion committee members needed. Information can also be forwarded to Facebook Page at St. Joseph High School Class of 1981 Reunion.

VA CLASS OF 1981: The Villa Angela Class of 1981 will be holding their 30th reunion on the afternoon of Saturday, September 10, 2011. The VA Class of '81 is on Facebook - Villa Angela Academy - Class of 1981. Contact **Julie Exum Everett** at (216) 210-3525 or via e-mail at enjoylf@gmail.com for more information.

SJ '84: **Craig Miller** is Vice President at Duffy+Duffy Cost Segregation Services in Westlake, Ohio. Craig is a CPA and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM); he is Vice Chair for the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the United States Green Building Council, and the Public Relations Chairman for the Northern Ohio Chapter of NAIOP. Craig and his wife Cindy have four children, Zack 15, Jacob 13, Sarah 11 and Rachel 6.

SJ CLASS OF 1986: The St. Joe's Class of 1986 will be holding their 25th reunion the weekend of August 19th-21st, 2011. A Class Website was created: www.sjvikings86.info. Please use this for all things Class of '86. Please contact **Ray Vislosky** at rayvislosky@sbcglobal.net or **Tim Todaro** at Ttodaro821@aol.com for more information.

VA '86: **Dominique LesCook-Stewart** works as a floral designer for a popular craft store chain in southern Maryland where she resides with her husband, Charles. Dominique has three daughters, the oldest left for Air Force basic training in January. Dominique is grateful to Facebook for allowing her to connect with all of her VA friends!

SJ '89: **William Behrend** is a Computer Science Educator at Willoughby South High School where he is also the head Varsity Girls Volleyball coach. He resides in Wickliffe, Ohio with his wife, Dee.

1990s

CLASS OF 1991: The VASJ Class of 1991 held their 20th reunion on the weekend of June 11, 2011. Thanks to all who attended!

VASJ '92: **Jeff and Sue (Zigmund) Bayer** welcomed their fourth child, Zachary, into their family on Nov. 5, 2010, joining big sisters, Allison (age 7) and Megan (age 2) and big brother, Nathan (age 6).

VASJ '95: The month of January was an exciting one for **Anthony Offak** as he welcomed the newest addition to his family, a son Xavier and became a licensed architect in the state of Michigan.

CLASS OF 1996: The VASJ Class of 1996 celebrated their 15 year anniversary on June 10, 2011 at the Corner Alley Bar & Grill with a fun night of bowling and socializing.

2000s

CLASS OF 2001: The Class of 2001 will be celebrating their 10 year reunion September 16-18, 2011 and needs your help as the details are being finalized. Please email your class officers with your updated information to VASJviking2001@gmail.com or find them on Facebook at VASJ Class of 2001 Reunion. You can also call the VASJ Alumni & Alumnae Office to update your contact information. The class will be sending out details soon and need to know where to find you!

VASJ '03: **Steven Dobo** recently married his wife Tabetha on April 17, 2010. They are currently residing in Canton, OH where Tabetha is an Intervention Specialist at Ohio Virtual Academy and Steven is working and going to school for his Masters of Arts in Theological Studies.

VASJ '04: **Madelyn Otcasek** was a Juris Doctorate candidate in May 2011, from Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law. While attending ONU, she served as the Vice President of the Student Bar Association and also Vice President of the Legal Association of Women. She studied estate planning, non-profit and copyright law.

VASJ '10: **Jocelyn Abron** is currently attending the University of Dayton, OH. She received a \$1,000 Scholarship from Chick-fil-A of Willoughby Commons and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Jocelyn was presented with a Certificate Most Athletic Female by the Gamma Theta Chapter 2010 Freshman Mid-Year Superlatives.

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become a fan today.



Use your smartphone to scan code.

Alfred (Al) Barto SJ '63, brother of Beverly Siedlarczyk VA '52 (deceased), Shirley Green VA '55 (deceased) and Francis (Frank) Barto SJ '59, passed away in January 2011.

Maryellen (Cummins) Buszta VA '59, inlaw of Francis (Frank) Barto SJ '59, passed away in February 2011.

David Peter Celestina, son of Peter Celestina SJ '74; nephew of Joseph Celestina SJ '76,

Mark Celestina SJ '77, Andrew Celestina SJ '78, Charles Celestina SJ '80, MaryAnn Celestina Krevh VA '81 and Thomas Celestina SJ '84; passed away in May 2010 at the young age of 22.

Mirko Champa SJ '78 passed away in December 2010 at the age of 50.

Joseph J. Czernicki, former St. Joe's teacher, passed away in March 2011 at the age of 84.

Mary Locastro Difrancio VA '49, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 80.

Robert J. Daugert SJ '61, passed away in December 2010 after a long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Michael J. Fabry SJ '73, passed away in January 2011 at the age of 55.

Vida C. Fink, mother of Rev. Dr. John F Fink SJ '58, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 91.

Mary Freely VA '39, passed away in January 2011.

Magdalen J. Gaffney, mother of Jean Gaffney Reiterer VA '58, Jan Gaffney Stribbell VA '60, James Gaffney SJ '65 (Marlene VA '65), Pat Gaffney Newman VA '69; mother-in-law of Marlene Murney Gaffney VA '65 and grandmother of Linda Reiterer Cookingham VA '78, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 92.

Merle C. Gambrill, father of Moira Gambrill Lardakis VA '68, passed away in April 2011 at the age of 86.

Ana "Anica" (Oman) Hocevar, mother of John Hocevar SJ '69, passed away in March 2011 at the age of 87.

Leonard Holzheimer, father of Laura Holzheimer VA '79, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 80.

Eugene "Geno" Krause SJ '57 passed away in February 2010 at the age of 71.

Mary Ellen Byrnes Laffey VA '49 passed away in April 2010 at the age of 79.

Robert C. Luberger, father of James Luberger '78, Jeffrey Luberger '81 and Cynthia (Luberger) Munz '84 passed away in March 2011.

William Mann SJ '61 passed away in January 2011.

Alma McGrath VA '35 passed away in December 2010 at the age of 92.

Ron Meditz SJ '69, Ken Meditz SJ '72 and Robert Meditz SJ '75, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 59 after a 21 year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Catherine Breen Nocero VA '49 passed away in 2010.

Paul O'Brien SJ '76 passed away in June 2010.

Bernie O'Leary, father of Michael SJ '67, Patrick SJ '68 and Tom SJ '71, passed away in January 2011.

Kathleen O'Neill, mother of Patrick O'Neill SJ '71, passed away in February 2010 at the age of 85.

Alan R. Robbins SJ '58, brother of Richard Robbins SJ '58, passed away in January 2011 at the age of 70.

Timothy William Robertson SJ '62, longtime teacher and administrator at St. Joe's/VASJ, VASJ Hall of Fame member and loving father of Jeffrey Michael SJ '87, Timothy William Jr. SJ '89, Melanie Ann VASJ '92 and Kevin Charles VASJ '97, passed away in April 2011.

Clarence P. Shea, father of Gerold "Jerry" Shea SJ '58 and father-in-law of Barbara (Foster) Shea VA '59, passed away in January 2011 at the age of 96.

Beverly Ann (Barto) Siedlarczyk VA '52, sister of Shirley Barto VA '55, Francis (Frank) Barto SJ '59 and Alfred (Al) Barto SJ '63, passed away in July 2009 at the age of 76.

Geraldine P. (Sulak) Stack VA '49 passed away in April 2010 at the age of 78.

Ida Marie Tamburello, mother of Frank Tamburello SJ '62, Ron Tamburello SJ '64 and Jack Tamburello SJ '68, passed away in July 2010 at the age of 88.

Mary Ann Tisovic VA '54 passed away in August 2010.

Robert J. Turoczy, former St. Joseph High School teacher, passed away in March 2011 at the age of 71.

Robert (Bob) J. Tyrrell SJ '72, brother of Raymond Tyrrell SJ '71, passed away in 2009.

Mark J. Ule SJ '65, brother of Joseph Ule SJ '68, passed away in April 2010 due to complications from Multiple Myeloma.

Thomas Weigand SJ '59 passed away in February 2011 at the age of 69 after a long illness with colon cancer.

James W. Whitely SJ '54 passed away in September 2010 at the age of 74.

Madelyn Loyola Witchner VA '32 and VASJ Hall of Fame member, passed away in January 2011 at the age of 96. A loyal alumna all of her life, she generously shared her time, talents and treasure with the school she loved, contributing monetarily each year and spending countless hours volunteering in the office.

Emil Wollschleger, father of Dennis Wollschleger SJ '68 and Gary Wollschleger SJ '70 and father-in-law of Terri Worthington VA '73, passed away in April 2010 at the age of 83.

Cheryl (Turk) Zidek VA '79, sister of Fran (Turk) Johnson VA '67, Jean (Turk) Murphy VA '68, Ann (Turk) Morgan VA '70 and Mike Turk SJ '81, passed away in December 2010 at the age of 49.

YOU CAN HELP TRANSFORM LIVES

Empowering students to **excel** academically, **grow** spiritually and be **challenged** athletically.



The Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund



Tuition does not cover the full cost of a VASJ Catholic Education. Now your gift can do even more to bridge this gap, so that we can continue to transform lives through:

- Faith
- Academic Excellence
- Service
- Leadership

Developing students' potential and providing opportunities comes with a cost. VASJ was able to capitalize on the Scheidel Foundation Challenge Grant and receive additional scholarship dollars, but the climb out of the economic recession remains slow for us as for everyone. While the Board of Advisors and Finance Committee are committed to keeping tuition rates affordable, it is not enough. We need everyone's engagement: from our alumns, parents and grandparents to all those invested in the school. Every gift counts and makes a difference!

Brian R. Menard, President

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH THE SCHEIDEL FOUNDATION CHALLENGE!

The Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund supports the daily operations of our school and makes up the difference between the actual cost of educating a student and the cost of tuition. The Scheidel Foundation is once again challenging our alumns and friends to support our students. Through June 30, 2011, the Scheidel Foundation is matching each gift dollar-for-dollar up to \$165,000.

These matching funds will be added to VASJ's endowment to provide scholarships to those families in need. Help us meet our goal!

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* U.S. News & World Report, 2010