

**Nneka Scott '20**  
Spreading joy by serving others

**Jerome Sidley '19**  
Working hard to make a difference

**2017-18 Donor  
Recognition Report**

# VASJ

MAGAZINE

Villa Angela-St. Joseph  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Faith. Family. Future.*



# Be the Light



## Light the Way for VASJ Students

**VASJ'S ANNUAL FUND IS A STEADY BEACON** that shines its light on every corner of our campus. Contributions to this fund support our students, faculty, and facilities. No matter the size, your tax-deductible gift will directly impact the students we serve. Our ability to offer a quality, Catholic education relies heavily on your support.

### Your gift to our Annual Fund helps support:

- Tuition assistance for families in need
- Enhancements to academic curriculum
- Enrichments to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)
- Maintenance and improvements of our facilities and grounds
- Faith-formation activities for students and staff
- Operational support of Viking athletics programs

For more information about these giving options, please contact the **VASJ Advancement Office** at **216-481-8414** ext. 150.

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL  
18491 LAKESHORE BOULEVARD / CLEVELAND, OHIO 44119

*\*We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor and/or attorney to discuss the tax implications of donations.*





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## On the Cover:

Nneka Scott '20 and Jerome Sidley '19 with artwork drawn by Lily Schmidt '20.

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## Three Decades Strong

Thirty years ago, the decision was made to merge two prominent Cleveland Catholic High Schools, Villa Angela Academy, sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, and St. Joseph High School, sponsored by the Marianists. Both institutions had a long and proud history of providing a quality Catholic Education and developing a deep commitment to faith, leadership, and service in the hearts and souls of their students. As a result of the merger, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School was born and was charged with the unique challenges and opportunities that come from combining two schools with such strong histories and traditions.



At that time, the future of VASJ may have seemed uncertain to some. But determination, dedication, and steadfast-faith moved us forward to where we are today, 30 years later: A strong and proud institution, providing top-notch, quality Catholic education, and the development of leaders. The combination of the Ursuline and Marianist traditions, values, and charisms has allowed nearly 3,100 students to receive the support and education they needed in their journey to achieve their future goals and dreams. They were able to make lifelong relationships and experience the true meaning of our motto, "Faith. Family. Future.," which is the cornerstone to all we are at VASJ.

We should all share in the pride and accomplishment of where VASJ is today, because each one of us, in our own special way, has contributed to the success. It is important that we continue to work together as one family to ensure that our future remains as strong as our past. There is much work that needs to be done to maintain the school's success.

A group of nearly 50 dedicated alumni and supporters have been hard at work creating a Strategic Plan that will set goals for our future and guide us in the areas of facility improvements, financial stability, fundraising and advancement, enrollment strategies, and strengthening the spiritual and personal experience of our students. We look forward to sharing this plan with you upon its completion later this year. The implementation of the Strategic Plan will be challenging and will require the support of the entire Viking Family.

Thirty years later, the future of our school is not uncertain. It is strong, exciting, and vibrant. And this is because of your continued support and commitment to Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

And for that, I say thank you and God Bless.

*Bill Cervenik*

Bill Cervenik '72  
President, VASJ

# IN THE VILLAGE



## VASJ wins Fox 8's “Cool School” contest

**THANKS TO THE VIKING FAMILY** who voted tirelessly, VASJ won Fox 8's Cool School of the Week. The Fox 8 news crew came to VASJ to film for the feature story. The morning the story aired, Khalid Mitcham and Emily Gail, both seniors, had the opportunity to go on live TV with Fox 8's morning crew (Kristi Capel and Wayne Dawson, pictured) for the Coffee Quiz. Watch the Fox 8 Cool School video featuring VASJ at: [vasj.com/news/fox8coolschool](http://vasj.com/news/fox8coolschool).





## VASJ students use Spirit Week to give back to the community

Each day during spirit week, VASJ students pay \$1 to participate in the day's dress-down theme. The money goes into their class accounts to cover the expenses of school dances and events. Two students decided to use this year's Spirit Week as an opportunity to do good. To participate in one of the spirit day themes, students were asked to bring in a can of food or non-perishable item to donate to the local hunger center. "We were looking for a fun way to get the Viking Village involved in a service project," says senior student council member Patrick Bradford. Patrick, along with Anna Radachy '19, pitched the idea to student council and it was approved. They collected over 300 food items and over \$30 to donate to the Euclid Hunger Center.

The Broadmoor Bobcats traveled to VASJ High School for a special basketball game against members of the Vikings boys and girls teams. When the Broadmoor team arrived, they received an enthusiastic welcome from a gym full of VASJ students, faculty, and staff dressed in green and white (Broadmoor's school colors) and decorated with personalized signs and banners. At halftime, all of the VASJ students joined the Broadmoor team on the basketball court for a dance party. Everyone got involved in a fun (and long) conga line. The Vikings fought hard but ultimately fell to the Bobcats 53-32, continuing the team's 200+ game winning streak. This may be the only game of the year that VASJ doesn't mind losing. The smiles on the faces of all the students were quite a heartwarming sight to see.



## Will Cartwright '19 achieves Eagle Scout

Congratulations to William Cartwright '19 for being among the 4% of those who enter Boy Scouts and achieve Eagle Scout, the highest achievement or rank attainable in the program. In addition to earning a total of 21 merit badges and serving in a leadership role for at least six months, Will also planned, developed, and lead a service project of refurbishing the large outdoor deck at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid.



## Academic Decathlon team wins State Tournament

**VASJ'S ACADEMIC DECATHLON** team added another state championship to the school's impressive list after winning the Novice Division at the 2019 Ohio Academic Decathlon State Competition in March. The team, led by Coach Bob Seitz, was comprised of Tyonna Davis '19, John Michalski '20, Tyler Matambanadzo '19, Nevaeh Jernigan '21, Clarke Moore '21, Matt Ballard '21, Mark Ballard '21, and Michael Strother '21.

Prior to winning the state competition, the team earned second place in the Novice Division at regionals. Ballard achieved the highest overall score in the Scholastic Division and Strother achieved the second-highest score of all the competing students in the Interview section with a 990 out of 1000.

### BY THE NUMBERS

36

total number of medals earned at the state tournament

14  
GOLD

15  
SILVER

7  
BRONZE

1st

Ballard's ranking in the Scholastic Division

990/  
1000

Strother's score in the interview section

## Mandarin added to VASJ's language course offerings

In addition to French and Spanish, VASJ added Mandarin to its foreign language offerings.

"Having a third language option provides another opportunity for our students to learn about a culture different from their own," VASJ Principal David Csank says. Mr. Zachary Ober is teaching the Mandarin course as well U.S. History. Ober taught in China where he lived from 2010 to 2017.



“

I hope my students discover an interest in Mandarin but I also want them to learn the tools they need to study it on their own.

”

MR. ZACHERY OBER



## DRAMA CLUB LIGHTS UP THE STAGE WITH TWO GREAT PRODUCTIONS

VASJ's Drama Club had another great year with two incredible productions. The fall performance featured a one-act play written by VASJ student Will Cartwright '19. The plot was a murder mystery and was the winning submission of a student writing contest. The story idea started with Sherlock Holmes as the main character with some fun and funny twists, like Watson IBM instead of Holmes' typical sidekick of Watson. The play included other puns like banana phones and apple phones.

In the spring, the Drama Club performed *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a play which provides the backstory of Peter Pan. Equally as impressive as the students' acting, singing, and choreography, were the amazing costumes, lights, and set design. It was an entertaining and fun play for all.



## Going pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Students in VASJ's economics class created and sold pink shirts as a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. More than 190 shirts were sold and VASJ was able to make a \$2,000 donation to JD Breast Cancer Foundation, which helps women by providing essential resources that will help patients cope and manage their illness.



1

## Student-athletes commit to playing at the collegiate level

A GROUP OF 17 OF VASJ'S student-athletes came together to sign their letters of intent to continue their education and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

**1** Jason Priah '19 and Khalil Mitcham '19 **2** Martiza Strong '19 **3** Iyana Smith '19 and Trevon Bell '19. **4** Shaundrea Harris '19 and Mikeya Cook-Howard '19.



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3



4

**Iyana Smith**, Women's Basketball at Hiram College  
**Khalil Mitcham**, Men's Basketball at Marietta College  
**Latrace Jackson**, Men's Basketball at Howard College

**Jason Priah**, Men's Basketball at Morehouse College  
**George Wilson**, Men's Volleyball at Urbana University  
**Emily Gail**, Women's Volleyball at College of Wooster

**Reilly Seagroves**, Women's Volleyball at Youngstown State University  
**Jayla Currie**, Track at Bowling Green State University  
**Mikeya Cook-Howard**, Track at Ursuline College

**Shaundrea Harris**, Track at Clark Atlanta University  
**Maritza Strong**, Track at Cleveland State University  
**Owen Nunnally**, Baseball at Kent State  
Tuscarawas University

**Trevon Bell**, Football at Hiram College  
**Devland Culliver**, Football at Wittenberg University  
**Matt McGinn**, Soccer at Notre Dame College  
**Brian Williams**, Soccer at Notre Dame College



## History and tradition honored at annual Legacy Breakfast

**VASJ HELD ITS ANNUAL** Legacy Breakfast in December 2018. The event celebrates and recognizes current students whose parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents also attended Villa Angela Academy, St. Joseph High School, or Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. We were blessed to have over 80 Legacy Students and their alumni family members enjoy a breakfast catered by Mike Tizzano '72. There are currently over 100 Legacy Students at VASJ, a number that continues to grow each year. We look forward to our next Legacy Breakfast to be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019.



## Religious orders celebrated with Founders Day Mass

Each year in January, the Viking Village comes together to celebrate the traditions of the school's founders, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and St. Angela Merici. As the only school in the world co-sponsored by the Marianist and Ursuline traditions, the Founders Day Mass celebrates the school's combined core values and the unique identity of VASJ. Fr. Joe Fortuna of Our Lady of the Lake Parish served as Celebrant for the Mass.

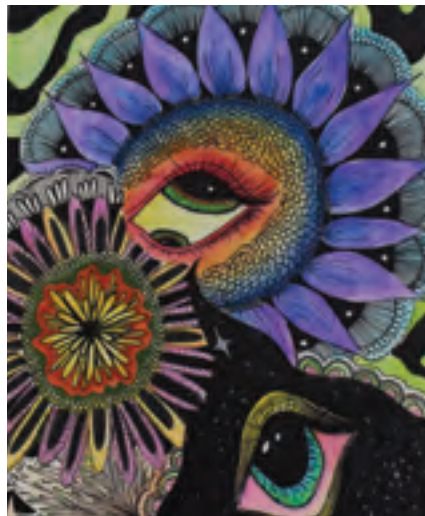




## Students compete on televised Academic Challenge competition

*Three of VASJ's greatest minds from the Academic Challenge team competed on WEWS Channel 5 against Wickliffe and Lutheran West. Together, Patrick Bradford '19, Desmond Norris '20, and John Michalski '20 finished in second place and represented the Viking Village in a great way.*

**Talent on display at VASJ art show** ► Prior to the start of the fall play, VASJ held an inaugural Student Art Show displaying the awe-inspiring talent of VASJ's many student-artists. The art included all mediums from painting, to ceramic arts, to photography.





## VASJ inducts eight new members into Hall of Fame with 2018 Class

**E**ight new members were added to VASJ's Hall of Fame at a November 1 ceremony at the American-Croatian Lodge Party Center in Eastlake, Ohio.

Mayor Annette (McMillian) Blackwell '80, William M. Denihan '55, Kenneth "Binks" Maglicic '61, Megan (Flynt) Maimone '00, James Myers '76, Joseph Scaminace '71, Sandra (Pertekel) Turner '66, and Linda (Mengay) Warren '73, were nominated and selected due to their many contributions to the school and to their communities.

"VASJ's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is one of the school's most coveted events," says VASJ President Bill Cervenik '72. "With an outstanding group of inductees and guests, it was a wonderful evening."

The inductees join an impressive group of past Hall of Fame members which include alumni, faculty, administrators, parents, and benefactors who have honored the richness of traditions and the family spirit fostered at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

The eight inductees were recognized for achievements in the areas of athletics, business, mental health, military, politics, public service, and more.

"The new members of the Hall of Fame come from varied backgrounds and professions, but one thing was clear: each spoke of their experiences in high school and how that time formed the basis of their faith, character, and success in life," says Cervenik.

The new tradition of having current VASJ students introduce the inductees continued and it was again one of the evening's highlights.

The Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School Hall of Fame was established to honor alumni, faculty members, and others associated with the VASJ community who, through their achievements, their exemplary character, and their dedicated service, embody the ideals nurtured by the current school and its predecessor institutions – Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School.

A complete list of the members of VASJ's Hall of Fame can be found at [vasj.com/hof](http://vasj.com/hof).



**1** The 2018 Hall of Fame inductees. Back (left to right): **Kenneth "Binks" Maglicic '61**, **James Myers '76**, **Sandra (Pertekel) Turner '66**, and **Megan (Flynt) Maimone '00**. Front (left to right): **Joseph Scaminace '71**, **William M. Denihan '55**, **Linda (Mengay) Warren '73**, and **Mayor Annette (McMillian) Blackwell '80**. **2** The Hall of Fame inductees were introduced by current VASJ students before receiving their awards. **3** **Eddie Marxen '21**, VASJ President **Bill Cervenik '72**, and **William M. Denihan '55**. **4** **Linda (Mengay) Warren '73** and **Macei Carter '19**. **5** A large group of VASJ students were present at the event, staffing the registration table, greeting and seating guests, as well as introducing the inductees.



# *the* LIGHT *within*



*Nneka Scott '20 and Jerome Sidley '19 are two amazing examples of the wonderful students at VASJ and the powerful way in which God's love shines through in times of working hard and serving others.*

STORIES BY EMILY ROBINSON



NNEKA SCOTT '20

# Spreading JOY by Serving Others

**The words *bare minimum* do not exist in Nneka Scott's vocabulary.**

At the end of her junior year, she had already volunteered three-times as many hours as required by VASJ's Service Program.

For Nneka, serving others is not about the graduation requirement. It's about making a difference - in the lives of others, in the organizations she serves, in the community, and in the world.

"Even though I know it is a requirement, I would still do it even if it wasn't, because it makes me happy," Nneka says. "There are a lot of people out there who don't have the things that they need and service can help."

Nneka is the kind of person who feels good when she is doing good for others.

"I like seeing people smile and knowing that I helped them," Nneka says. "It makes me happy that they are happy."

Her desire to give back and help others developed as early as fourth grade with various food collections at school, and, of course, she brought in more than the required amount.

"My school held food drives and I always tried to bring in more cans of food," Nneka says. "I felt like bringing in more could

really help out and I just like overachieving."

Ask any of her teachers, and they will tell you she is an overachiever at school, too. Always going above and beyond what is expected.

"She's kind, caring, conscientious, and not afraid of hard work," says VASJ religion teacher

Pat Preto. "She's the kind of person we hope all of our students can be."

She didn't become a student at VASJ right away. She completed her freshman year at a public school but didn't feel as though she was excelling at the rate she had hoped (she is an overachiever, after all). So she started searching for a school that would be a better fit.

"My mom knows people who went to VASJ and they told her how great of a school it is so I decided to shadow here," she says. "The students were kind and funny and helpful. I connected with them and I liked walking the hallways filled with all the pictures and the history."

Nneka has experienced tremendous growth during the last two years at VASJ and is happy with her choice to transfer.

"I've been so shy and I think I've outgrown my shyness a little bit," she says. "I've met



“

*[Volunteering] is something that when you do it, it makes you feel good and makes the other people feel good, too.*

”

NNEKA SCOTT '20

a lot of new people and friends. I talk to people more through soccer and peer ministry. I just really like it. It's great."

After graduating from VASJ, Nneka plans to attend New York University where she will study medicine and criminology with the end goal of becoming a criminal profiler.

Given her kind, quiet nature, this career choice might seem strange, until she explains her reasoning.

"I want to help the people, the victims, and study the criminals and see the problem that probably led them to do what they did," Nneka says. "You seek justice and you get the justice the victim deserves."

She plans to continue volunteering during college.

"There is still going to be services out there that need help," she says. "Whether through the college or on my own."

Although there are no bonus points or extra credit for volunteering, for Nneka, the feeling of doing good for others is the only reward she needs.

"Volunteering doesn't have to be something that you are forced to do," Nneka says. "It is something that when you do it, it makes you feel good and makes the other people feel good, too." ■



JEROME SIDLEY '19

## Working Hard to Make a DIFFERENCE

**From an early age,** Jerome Sidley '19 was taught by his parents the importance of pitching in and lending a helping hand, both at home and for others.

"They taught me responsibility and charity," he says.

His parents taught him about hard work by demonstrating it in their own lives and by their own characteristics.

"My dad is devoted," Jerome says. "He's a hard worker. He's focused and motivated and always positive. My mom is very compassionate and caring. She thinks of others before herself. She's hard-working, too."

From the time he was six years old, Jerome's mom worked in VASJ's cafeteria and he often came to work with her.

"I was always excited to come to VASJ with my mom," he says.

When it was time for Jerome to start searching for a high school, VASJ was at the top of his list. He signed up to spend a day shadowing a current high school student.

"The day I shadowed, something felt different from the other schools that I had been to," he says. "It had an inviting feeling in the school."

Raised in a fun-loving, Catholic family, it is no surprise that VASJ's family atmosphere was one of the major draws for Jerome.

"I didn't feel out of place here," Jerome says. "I felt invited. It was very much a family environment. Everyone was close



and I got a sense that everyone was happy here.”

Jerome chose to attend VASJ just as his sister (Alexis Urbas '10) had. During his four years of high school, he left a lasting impression on everyone he interacted with, classmates and teachers alike.

“He is so wonderful that I would adopt him as my own,” one teacher says of Jerome. “Great morals, conscientious, hard-working, etc.”

“Jerome is a kind old soul who will do anything for anyone,” says another teacher. “He is wise beyond his years, respectful, works hard, is a friend to many, and well-liked by his peers.”

It came as no surprise that Jerome was selected by his peers to receive the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade award, which was presented the night of his graduation. The award is given to a senior male who, in the eyes of his classmates, is viewed as actively practicing the gospel values most consistently in their four years at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

“It meant a lot,” Jerome says. “It made me feel recognized. I’m a behind-the-scenes-guy. It made me feel proud and like I had an impact and did something good for people.”

Jerome is no stranger to the rewarding feeling that comes from doing good for others. Service has always been an important part of his life and something he enjoyed through VASJ’s Campus Ministry program.

“After completing service you really feel good about yourself that you did something for someone else.”

He recognizes that service is not only one of the guiding factors of education at VASJ, but also for all Christians.

“God calls us to help the less fortunate and anyone in need, whether it be a friend or a stranger,” he says. “Service brings us closer to God and helps us focus on Him.”

Focusing on what is important is definitely one of Jerome’s strengths. An honors student, maintaining a GPA of 3.7 throughout his four years, he has always taken school very seriously.

“I tried to maintain all of my work because my

mom and dad taught me that school comes first before anything else,” he says. “When it comes to homework and other responsibilities, I tried to do that as soon as I got home so that I could do my own thing later.”

His “own thing” was working in VASJ’s maintenance department while also running his own landscaping business which he started when he was in seventh grade.

“I always helped my dad cut the grass,” Jerome says. “It was something I liked to do and it seemed like an easy way to make money. I started with lawns in my neighborhood where I could push and walk my mower.”

He began working with VASJ’s maintenance department for additional income to grow his landscaping business and gain additional experience.

“I just want to be well-rounded,” he says.

Those who have had the privilege of getting to know Jerome would tell you he is already a very well-rounded young man. Now, at the end of his high school journey, VASJ has become like a second family to him.

He still feels the same love for the school that he developed at the age of six.

“It’s lived up to what I saw on the first day,” he says. “Everything I saw on that first day hasn’t changed. It has just gotten better.”

Jerome feels that he too has gotten better during his four years at VASJ.

“I have loved every moment I had with this school because it has made me an even better person.”

It is clear Jerome inherited all of his parents’ great qualities and he used them to make the school a better place for his second family at VASJ.

“To be a family, everyone has to pitch in and help, help in doing good each day,” Jerome says. “That good each day is up to you. That good can be the smallest of things like holding a door, giving a smile, or just even saying ‘hi.’ You will make someone’s day if you do.”

As Jerome goes on to do big things, he will take with him the lessons he has learned from his family - both his family at home and his second family at VASJ. ■

“  
*God calls us to help  
the less fortunate  
and anyone in need,  
whether it be a friend  
or a stranger. Service  
brings us closer to God  
and helps us focus on  
Him.*”

”  
JEROME SIDLEY '19



1



2



3



4

## Continue the Dream annual gala a huge success at local venue

**V**ASJ's annual Continue the Dream gala, held on Saturday, February 23, was a huge success. Nearly 250 people attended the event, which was held at the historic and newly renovated LaSalle Theatre, which proved to be the perfect location for the red carpet theme.

"It was great to support a new neighborhood venue and it made for an exciting atmosphere for all who came," says VASJ President Bill Cervenik '72. "We pride ourselves in being a part of this neighborhood."

The event was a wonderful celebration of VASJ's past, present, and future. From the student emcees, Anika Duhigg '21 and Desi Dilliard '21, the three featured speakers, Anna Radachy '19, Khalil Mitcham '19, and A'Diva Warren '19, to the students who served as greeters, red carpet paparazzi, and ticket sellers, the VASJ students truly stole the show. They were a great representation of the students we serve and why the support of our school is so important.

"The tremendous testimonies given by our students really made the event special," says Cervenik.

**1** VASJ students Khalid Mitcham '19, Kathleen O'Donnell '19, Hannah Franczyk '19, Patrick Bradford '19, and William Cartwright '19 served as the red carpet "paparazzi." **2** Anika Duhigg '21 and Desi Dilliard '21 served as the event's Emcees. **3** The silent auction items featured many unique and desirable items. **4** A candy bar featuring Humphrey's popcorn balls was a special touch that celebrated the LaSalle Theater's original roots as a local movie theater.





Villa Angela-St. Joseph  
HIGH SCHOOL



## DONOR RECOGNITION REPORT, 2017-18

*Gifts received July 1, 2017-June 20, 2018*

*The 2018-19 Donor Recognition Report will be posted online early fall.*

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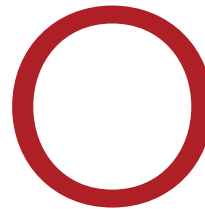


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## Friends and family remember Pat Lyons '70 with "20 for 20" fundraising challenge



On August 8, 1998, Pat Lyons '70, a member of VASJ's Hall of Fame, passed away unexpectedly.

"He was outgoing, loyal, passionate about his family, Catholic education, and basketball," says his brother Jim Lyons '71.

On the 20th anniversary of his death, his family and friends came together with a "20 for 20" goal of raising \$20,000 for the Pat Lyons Scholarship Fund at VASJ. Not only would this challenge keep Pat's memory alive in the VASJ community and beyond, but it would also help the school continue offering a quality Catholic education to students regardless of their financial means, something that was very important to Pat.

"The '20 for 20' group is a group who included many of Pat's best friends, teammates, and family," says Jim. "Pat was so successful during his too-short life because he was a man of action and he knew he could always rely on his family and friends to help him achieve his goals."

The following family and friends came together to show their support of both Pat Lyons and VASJ and they far exceeded the \$20,000 goal by raising \$39,850.00. They hope this type of challenge provides some ideas or inspiration to others who wish to help the students at VASJ and to also keep the memory of their deceased family member alive at VASJ and in the community.

Mike and Anne Lyons Flynt, Thomas F. Cotter, John and Penny D'Angelo, Tim and Molly Delaney, Kevin Flynt, Tom and Stacey McCreight, Fred and Jenny Pollutro, Joe and Joanne Gurley, Jon and Karen Kingdon, Tedd and Roe Kwasniak, Brian and Mary McGraw, Kathleen McGraw, Lake County Judge John O'Donnell and Nancy O'Donnell, Roger and Andrea Paine, Thomas Holmes, Jim and Patty Hurley Lyons, Mary K. Hurley, Terese Anne Hurley, Brian and Monica Hurley, Tim and Anne Hurley, John and Maureen Hurley Antalovich, Dan and Kathleen Hurley, Michael Hurley, Robert Hurley and the Estates of Ed and Mary T. Hurley, James P. Lyons, and Thomas J. Lyons.

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 Jerome J. Pockar '61  
 John A. Poelking '66  
 Robert J. Poelking '62  
 John and Colleen Pokorny  
 Lawrence N. Polena '69  
 John and Katherine Polito  
 Vincent M. Polito '70  
 Theresa Polsak  
 Lawrence J. Pongonis '61  
 Kathleen Wedding Ponikvar '63  
 Thomas W. Potter '84  
 Mark A. Pendergast '73  
 Elise Miklus Preske '79  
 Patrick Preto  
 Carole Price

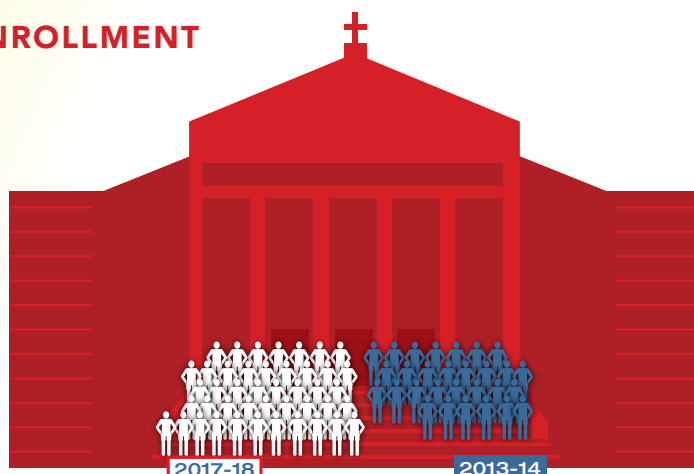
Brenda Prince  
 Kurt M. '87 and Carolyn Princic  
 Earl R. '60 and Jeanette Print  
 Progressive Casualty  
 Insurance Company  
 Thomas V. Providenti '66  
 Thomas J. '61 and Susan Quinn  
 Edward and Mary Ellen Racich  
 Karen Kristof Racutt '65  
 Jerome P. Ranally '71  
 Thomas L. '58 and Sandra Rarick  
 Kenneth R. '61 and Patricia Rarick  
 Robert R. '62 and Lois Regovich  
 Laurence A. '58 and Marilyn Reichert  
 Helen Reichert

Thomas '64 and Nancy Rodgers  
 Patricia Music Rohde '52  
 Timothy J. '59 and Joyce Rose  
 Ronald and Joann Rosen  
 William E. '59 and Carol Rosenberg  
 Mary Ann Coyne Rosenberg '73  
 Jeffrey R. Ross '74  
 Ann Royer-Berger '67  
 Mark G. '77 and Miriam Ruminski  
 Peter G. Ruminiski '71  
 Christopher J. Russ '75  
 Albert and Linda Russ  
 Halle Russell  
 Sebastian F. Russo '57  
 Ruth Marie Ryan '59  
 Edward M. Ryder '66  
 Laurel Miller Sabinky '72  
 Raymond J. '75 and Althea Salomone  
 Robert Samson  
 Greg and Jo Ann Sattler  
 Megan Scheider  
 Dale Schiavoni '69  
 William Schmitz '67  
 Joseph R. Schneider '74  
 John W. Schober '58  
 Schoola  
 Martin and Margaret Schreiber  
 Susan M. Schumacher  
 Gary M. Schuster '73  
 Kathleen Quinlivan Schwiebert '69  
 Christopher and Alyson Scott  
 Eileen Scott  
 Dr. Roger F. Sebenik '59  
 John and Loretta Seidel  
 Mark F. Sejnowski '69  
 John A. Setlock '78  
 Geraldine Novotny Sexton '68  
 John P. '65 and Alice Sferro  
 Mark E. Shaber '60  
 Kevin M. Shea '71  
 John H. Sheridan '58 +  
 Dr. John E. '69 and Cynthia Shinsky  
 Barbara Yano Shivak '57  
 Eva Pasanovic Sicvol '67  
 Michael Sierputowski '72  
 Mary Beth Kander Simon '73  
 Dr. Rudy F. Skerl '55  
 David and Debra Skoglund  
 David A. '72 and Kathleen  
 Cesen '72 Skrajner  
 Mary Slak  
 Martin D. '68 and Anne Smalc  
 Margaret Farrell Smolka '48  
 Sr. Veronica Smrekar, OSU '56

# BY THE NUMBERS: 2017-18 Fiscal Year

**THANKS TO THE VASJ FAMILY**, including donors, board members, alumni, and friends, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School achieved the following successes and wins in the 2017-18 school year.

## ENROLLMENT



**465** **375**

## NUMBER OF GIFTS

**1,925**

UP FROM 1,846 IN 2016-17.

**AVERAGE GIFT SIZE:** **\$485.32**

UP FROM \$475.32 IN 2016-17

## NUMBER OF DONORS

**1,167**

UP FROM 1,003 IN 2016-17

**101**

**LEGACY STUDENTS** - students who are children or grandchildren of VA, SJ, or VASJ graduates, up from 93 in 2016-17.

**142 YEARS** OF OFFERING QUALITY, CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CLEVELAND

## TOTAL MONEY RAISED

**\$934,248**

Up from \$877,447 in 2016-17

*twenty* Honors & AP courses offered

**5** College Credit Plus offerings



gifts received from  
**38/50** states

**plus**

gifts from around the world, including Australia, Brazil and Ireland

**HELP US GET A DONOR IN EVERY STATE!** If you live in one of the following states, please consider making a gift: Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.



John P. Smreker '66  
 Rev. Donald Snyder '64  
 Dr. Robert W. '82 and Debbie Spech  
 Jerome A. Spelic '86  
 William F. Spicuzza '56  
 Diane Stack  
 Patrick '65 and Susan Stack  
 Bud T. Stalker '66  
 Thomas Stalzer '67  
 Dennis M. '69 and Diane Stalzer  
 Frank A. Stanonik '69  
 Kathleen Welsh Stasun '64  
 Patrick Stauton '91  
 Edward A. Steigerwald '61  
 Fr. James R. Stenger '72  
 Susan Stephen  
 Mary Therese Fiebeg Stephens '61  
 John M. Steverding '59  
 Ann Kosir Stipkovich '80  
 Dennis and Deborah Stocum  
 John '59 and Linda Storey  
 Thomas M. '66 and Anne  
 McCauley '68 Storey  
 Roy J. '54 and Marlene  
 Laurich '55 Streetz  
 Dr. Frederick V. '60 and Diana Strnisa  
 Sharon Justin Stupica '60  
 James J. Sukalac '66  
 Robert L. Sukys '72  
 Thomas E. Sukys '78  
 Sr. Germaine Sulak, OSF '55  
 James F. '61 and Emily Sullivan  
 Louis S. Sumas '62  
 Gary and Susan Summerhill  
 Veronica Taraska Susnjara '96  
 Christopher Sustar  
 James Sustar '70  
 Ronald Suster '60  
 Brian M. Sweeney '63  
 Jay Sweet '58  
 Marilyn Beck Swope '60  
 Louis and Mary Jane Syrone  
 Jeanine C. Szalay  
 Vincent F. Sztul '68  
 Buzz A. Tabone '87  
 Joseph H. Taddeo '58  
 Michael W. '72 and Melodie Taisey  
 Peter A. Tanski '61  
 Edward J. '67 and Mary Tatman  
 Marjorie Suchy Taylor '64  
 Thomas Teare '67  
 Rev. Kenneth A. Templin, SM '58  
 Frank L. Tercek '65

James E. Tercek '71  
 Mercita Thailing '54  
 Matthew Thomas '02  
 Edward J. Thomas '90  
 Eileen Ruth Thompson '52  
 Dennis L. Tidmore  
 Ann Hesketh Tisch '73  
 Michael P. Tobin '91  
 Martin Tominc '67  
 Bartholomew S. Topoly '61



Lousi H. Totedo '61  
 M. Jane Toth '57  
 Donald Trask '55  
 Lawrence A. '59 and Carole  
 Vitale '63 Tremaglio  
 James M. '65 and Candi Trentel  
 Ralph Trepal '61  
 Stanley Troha '65  
 Brian Trueman '03  
 Mary Janet Tucek '62  
 Arleen Turk '63  
 Raymond A. Turk '58  
 Frank W. '57 and Anna Marie Turk  
 Barbara Legan Turner '78

Sterling L. Uitenham '10  
 Catherine Schaffer Ullom '60  
 Joseph A. '60 and Kathleen Unetic  
 Kenneth and Karen Urbancic  
 Joseph '70 and Joan Ursic  
 Joseph S. '69 and Carol Usaj  
 Suzanne Vadnal '76  
 Anthony J. Vahcic '60  
 Julie Van Brunt  
 Mary Beth Kinn Van Himbergen '68

John A. Voso, Jr. '74  
 Michael Vrban '77  
 Martin J. Vugrinac '77  
 James '70 and Dee Dee Vukcevic  
 Eric and Claire Waag  
 Daniel Walsh  
 Eugene T. Ward, Jr. '81  
 Patricia Warner  
 Peggy Watral  
 Kellie Clinton Watrobski '03  
 James K. Weber '80  
 Robert and Joanne Weiler  
 Albert Weinning '64  
 John and Barbara Weisensell  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
 Carter and Georgine Welo  
 John Wert  
 Timothy J. Whalen '69  
 LaVerne Koesel Whitaker '57  
 Jason White '96  
 John T. White '59  
 John J. '57 and Mary Ann Whitely  
 Tyrone Williams '95  
 Linda Obat Williams '76  
 Rodney '03 and Sarah Williams  
 Ronald Willner '77  
 Gary '94 and Danielle  
 Przybysz '92 Wilson  
 Herbert M. Wilson '75  
 Brianna Wilson  
 Thomas Wirsing '93  
 Patricia Opeka Wittlinger '74  
 Daniel Wojtila '71  
 Ernest M. '61 and Joanne Woyma  
 Mary Wright  
 Jean Yatska '78  
 Richard S. Zack '70  
 Clara Zahradnik '70  
 Annette Zahradnik '74  
 Matthew Zanoskar '88  
 Kathryn Zarobila  
 Nathan Zavorek '94  
 Catherine McGarry Zbiegien '99  
 Lauren Zbiegien '99  
 Joseph A. '73 and Lynne Zele  
 William Zerial '57  
 Valdone Karosas Ziedonis '62  
 Frances Auer Zingales '57  
 Frank Zingales '92  
 Mitchel Zorich '74  
 Robert F. Zyck '73

# CLASS NOTES



## 1950s

**Tom Banc '59** was inducted into the News-Herald High School Sports Hall of Fame. During his 42-year career, Tom taught and coached at St. Joseph High School, Lake Catholic and Euclid High School where he also served as athletic director before retiring in 2008.

## 1960s

**1** Alumnae from **Villa Angela Academy Class of 1960** have reunited every year since 2010. In August 2018, the ladies enjoyed a gathering at The Cabin in Willowick (their usual spot!) and a smaller luncheon in VASJ's VA Heritage room in March 2019. Truly friends forever!

**2** Ten alumnae from the **Villa Angela Academy's Class of 1960** enjoyed a luncheon in the VA Heritage room at VASJ on March 27. Seniors **A'Diva Warren '19** and **Anna Radachy '19** spoke to the ladies, sharing with them how their legacy shines on through VASJ students today. President **Bill Cervenik '72** and Associate Alumni Director **Cheryl Stashinko '03** were also on hand to welcome the Class of 1960.

**Jack Busher '60** is enjoying retirement since 2006 after a 41-year career as a high school teacher and coach. In his free time, Jack volunteers at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in Colorado as a Volunteer Trail Coordinator. Aside from volunteering, he enjoys traveling and recently spent two months in France with his wife **Kathleen**. Jack remembers his days at St. Joseph High School fondly, often reminiscing about playing for his role model and coach **Bill Gutbrod**. To this day he is proud to be a Viking and holds dear the friendships he holds close to this day.

**3** Members from the **St. Joseph High School Class of 1963** got together for a photo to celebrate their 55th reunion at the All-Classes Reunion on September 28.

**4** Members of the **St. Joseph High School 1968 football team** celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first perfect season (10-0-0) in Viking football history on October 19, 2018. Front and center in the photo is captain **Tim Whalen**, who also was the Class of 1969 Class President all four years. They are joined in the picture by legendary **John Storey '58**, who was assistant to **Coach Bill Gutbrod** during that season.



SAVE THE DATE!

**All-Alumni Reunion**  
Friday, September 13, 2019 | 7 - 11 p.m.

More info at [vasj.com/allalumnireunion](http://vasj.com/allalumnireunion).



## FAMILY

## Elvis Grbac '88 returns to VASJ A touchdown on and off the field

BY PATRICK R. BRADFORD '19



**E**lvis Grbac. A name many avid football fans would associate with the San Francisco 49ers, Kansas City Chiefs, or Baltimore Ravens. However, beneath that notoriety is a humble and good-spirited man who is hoping to bring a lot to his alma mater in his new role as Director of the Marianist Urban Students Program, Head Football Coach, and Athletic Director.

“The MUSP program,” Grbac affirmed when asked what prompted his return to VASJ. “Yes, it was enticing to be the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, but the most important thing that most people need to understand is that this is a vocational call for me.”

Unbeknownst to many, Grbac is currently working to obtain his master’s degree in Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary, a call he is pursuing solely based on his strong faith.

“My relationship with Christ has been growing,” he says. “It has always been strong, but I think you do get pulled away as you get into your professional life, and then what happens is you start to reflect on where you’re at and what’s really important to you.

“What you do for a living isn’t what defines you,” he continues. “What really does is your

relationship with Christ, with God. Your work life is part of your life, but it doesn’t have to be an overwhelming part of your life.”

Passing on the importance of Christ’s light is one of Grbac’s goals in his new position at VASJ.

“Number one is I want to be able to cultivate a very strong faith-based growth for the students,” he says. “Conveying to them that it’s not always about sports or academics. If we start with what we believe in our faith, that’s the solid rock to build off of. If you don’t have that, you’re always sort of searching for that satisfaction in the world and you’re not going to find it.”

Grbac spoke candidly about the importance of faith in his own life.

“Trust me, I’ve been to the highest levels,” he says. “And you know what? It’s great to win Super Bowls and go to the Pro-Bowls and do all those things but if you don’t have that satisfaction and peace in your life then you’re missing the whole boat.”

Grbac reflected on how his time in the NFL helped shape his life and his work ethic.

“Hard work, discipline, organizational skills, correct decision making, everything,” he says. “It’s 24/7, especially at the

quarterback position.”

This has prepared him for his new roles at VASJ.

“A lot of people have asked ‘how are you going to handle all three of these positions?’ What I went through for ten years of my life, 24/7, 365 days a year, that was my life,” he says. “I can fall back on that, knowing that all those skills I have learned were taken to a whole other level, there is just so much that I learned through that process that I can bring here in my new positions.”

He has plans to shape VASJ’s football program with a faith-based approach.

“In the four years I have with students in athletics, I want to put faith-based coaches around them and teach them,” he says. “The yelling, screaming, and all that doesn’t work. Students want to be taught to be successful in what you’re doing and put in a place to do that. Sports are always evolving, and good coaches evolve with the times.”

VASJ will continue its steady growth with Grbac as an asset to the students and the school. Whether on the field or in the classroom, Grbac has a plan to help further VASJ’s mission to improve the lives of its students.



## 1970s

Lake Erie College honored the memory of St. Joseph High School alum, **Dr. Robert J. Trebar '76, Ph.D.** with a special area in its Lincoln Library. The Robert J. Trebar Collection, Reading, and Meeting Mezzanine was dedicated in April 2019. Dr. Trebar served as Lake Erie College's School of Business Dean where he made significant contributions that included expanding the School's undergraduate major offerings and securing a grant to open the Lake Erie College Center for Entrepreneurship. The distinguished leader and educator passed away October 2, 2018.

## 1980s

The **St. Joseph Class of 1983** was well represented at the 2018 All-Classes Reunion on September 28, 2018! The following evening, a private gathering took place at Muldoon's on E. 185th Street. Over 30 classmates enjoyed sharing good memories and catching up. The class's "Core 5" (**Dante Citraro '83, Nick Adams '83, John Rock '83, Vincent DiTurno '83 & Kevin Mullin '83**) hope to see their classmates at the All-Alumni Reunion on September 13, 2019!

**Euclid firefighter Richard Storey '85** sprang into action to save two people who were trapped in a burning vehicle along a local highway in February 2019. Richard, who was off duty at the time, may not consider himself to be a hero, but we sure do!

**Anna (Frabotta) Kubicki '86** started a new role as the instructional coach at the Marshall School District for the 2018-19 school year. Kubicki taught elementary and middle school in Ohio for 13 years, was an instructional coach for three years in Arkansas, four years as a reading specialist in Stoughton, and three years as a Title I Teacher in Sun Prairie. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree from John Carroll University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership (Ed.S.) from the University of Arkansas.

**Sherman Dean II '88**, director of admissions at Hiram College, was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) Jack Scott Award. Dean has worked at Hiram College in this role since 2003.



## 1990s

Community and public affairs specialist with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cleveland and former Plain Dealer reporter **Mike Tobin '91** spoke at the Greater Than Heroin coalition's lunch and learn program titled "Intervening Today - Hope for Tomorrow" at Landerhaven. The coalition works to bring awareness, hope, and treatment options to combat the heroin epidemic in Northeast Ohio.

**London Fletcher '93** was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame for his career at John Carroll University.

**Members of the Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School Class of 1998** celebrated their 20th reunion at the All-Classes Reunion Weekend on Friday, September 28, 2018, and kept the festivities going the next day with a private party!



President Bill Cervenik '72 and Coach John Storey '59 brought the spirit of the Viking Village to alumni in Florida! Over 30 alumni attended events in Naples and Fort Lauderdale. A special thank you to Joseph Scaminace '71 for sponsoring the Naples event and Wafik Elsanadi '78 for sponsoring the Fort Lauderdale gathering.





## 2000s

**7 Erin (McGrath) Julian '00** was honored by WKYC as an inspiring mother in honor of Mother's Day. Erin is the mother of three amazing children: Liam, 8, Regan, 6, and Clare, 4. She is an advocate for children with special needs, especially a rare condition called Nemaline Myopathy (NM), a neuromuscular disorder that causes muscle weakness and difficulty with breathing and swallowing. It is a cause that is close to her heart as her daughter Clare was born with NM but is thriving with the love, dedication, and care Erin and her husband, **Bill Julian '99**, ensures she receives. The Julian family represented Cleveland Clinic Children's at the Speak Now for Kids advocacy day in Washington DC in 2016. They had an opportunity to share their story to members of Congress and why Medicaid funding and resources are important for kids like Clare.

Erin works part-time as the Advancement Specialist for VASJ as well as serving as Co-Advisor on the Executive Committee for Cleveland Clinic Children's Healthcare Partners.

**8 Jason Heil '01** and **Marissa (Koons) Heil '06** welcomed their first child, Joella Grace Heil, on June 22, 2018. Joella is a grandchild of alums **Bruce Heil '72** and **Sharon (Koons) Lewis '88**.

**9 Cheryl Stashinko '03** returned to her alma mater as the Associate Director of Alumni Relations. After graduating high school, Stashinko received her undergraduate degree from Franklin University in Columbus and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University. "I am working for an organization I believe in with all my heart," Stashinko says. "It still feels like home, even though I graduated 15 years ago. Sometimes I still can't believe I'm here!"

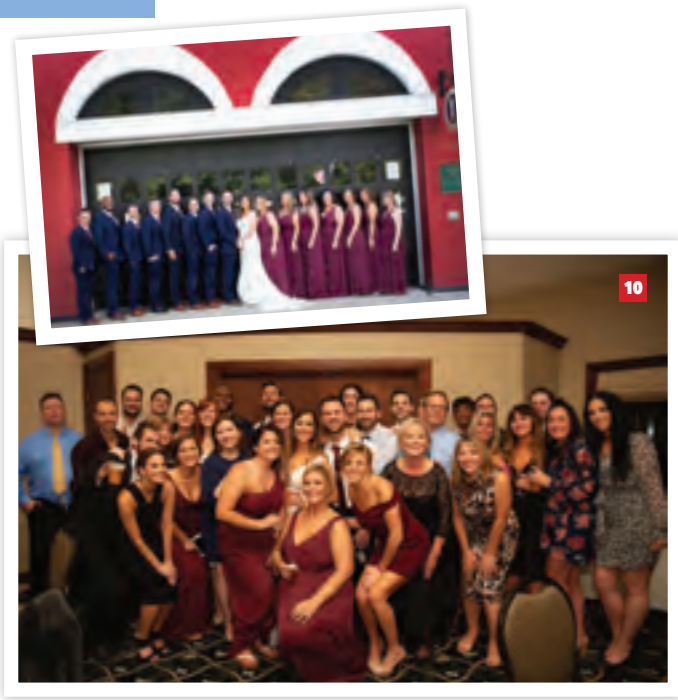
## SPOTLIGHT



## Theresa Osborne '60 Attends Canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero

Villa Angela Academy alumna Theresa Osborne '60, who taught at Villa Angela from 1969 to 1975 and has been a missionary in El Salvador for many years, had the honor of attending the Canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero in Rome in October 2018. At the time of his assassination, St. Oscar Romero was serving as the 4th Archbishop of San Salvador. An estimated crowd of 300,000 from Italy and all over the world were in attendance. Theresa was invited to join the delegation from Iglesia de Belén, a parish of the Diocese of San Miguel in which Archbishop Romero had ministered. Theresa had the privilege of working as a pastoral team member in several parishes within the Diocese, including sites where Father Oscar Romero had served.

Attending the Canonization in the midst of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from a multitude of countries confirmed in Theresa the conviction that we stand together as children of a loving God and that God's dream of a peaceful world will become a reality. Reflecting on her attendance, Theresa says that the most powerful moment of the ceremony came when Pope Francis proclaimed Oscar Romero as St. Oscar Romero. "I was filled with emotion, remembering how Archbishop Romero suffered and eventually was martyred because he spoke out courageously for social justice and defended the poor," says Theresa.



**10** Sean Evers '04 and Andrea Blahovec '05 were married on October 20, 2018, in Medina, Ohio. The bride and groom had 11 VASJ alumni in their wedding party and over 25 St. Joe/VA/VASJ alumni at their wedding. The couple currently resides in Mayfield.

**Thomas Creegan '05** and his wife, Nicole, welcomed their first-born, Andrew Patrick, born November 14, 2018.

**Jayme Jirousek '07** has taken the lessons of community service and education in the Marianist and Ursuline traditions to make the world better for others. Jayme is a recreation program specialist for LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential), an organization that works to increase opportunities and equality for people living with disabilities. His selfless work ensures individuals with disabilities thrive by helping them find employment and financial stability, be active participants in their communities, and live independently on their own.

## 2010s

**11** VASJ high school sweethearts **Mike Brately '11** and **Ashley Russ '11** got married on July 28, 2018, and returned to their alma mater for pictures on their special day.

**Ronny Faddoul '15** is attending Notre Dame College majoring in Communications with a minor in Public Relations. He is getting first-hand experience managing the Lutheran East Men's Basketball program's Twitter and Instagram pages. Ronny made news himself by being a part of the team's 2017 state championship win!

**Janae Johnson '17** was selected for the prestigious and highly competitive BGSU College of Business Student Ambassador Program and will represent the College of Business by engaging with prospective students, current students, and alumni. In preparation for their role, Student Ambassadors complete a course focused on presentation and networking skills. During her time at BGSU, she has made the Dean's List each semester and was able to obtain an internship with Quicken Loans. She



## SPOTLIGHT



## A New Frontier for Anthony Offak '95

**A** Viking Village on Mars? It might sound crazy, but not if you ask Anthony Offak '95, associate and architect for Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., an architecture and engineering firm in Detroit, Michigan. Offak's firm has partnered with Jackson, Mississippi-based W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company to design a structure that could support human life on Mars for NASA's 3D Printed Habitat Challenge. The Kahn-Yates Habitat design won third place in Phase 3, Level 1 of the challenge, requiring that the 1,000 square-foot structure sustain four astronauts for a one-year stay on Mars. NASA hopes to send a crew to the Red Planet in 2033.

is also involved with organizations such as the Undergraduate Student Government, National Association for Black Accountants, Residence Hall Council, and the Business District Learning Community.

**Chantasia White '18** will represent Ursuline College at the Summer Fellows program at the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, sponsored by the Catholic Community Connection. Chantasia is the only Ursuline College student to participate in this program, having successfully completed a competitive application process that required an essay and interviews.





## PAST GATHERINGS

### 12 Alumni Night Out at VASJ's Spring Play

On Saturday, April 13, over 40 alumni and their families enjoyed dinner before the theatrical performance of *Peter and the Starcatcher* at a special alumni night out! All proceeds from this alumni night out benefitted the Drama Club and their growing program. This year the Drama Club received a Rooted in Faith grant of \$7,500 to use towards upkeep and improvements on the stage. Special focus will go towards proper rigging, re-building the stairs to the dressing room, and increasing storage space.

### Alumni Night Out at Boys Basketball

To commemorate the first game in several seasons against St. Ignatius, a special alumni night was held for the boys basketball game on January 21. Over 50 alumni enjoyed pizza and received a special edition t-shirt before cheering on the Vikings. A special thank you to Dante Citraro '83 for singing the National Anthem before the big game.

### All Classes Reunion 2018 Weekend

Over 300 alumni made VASJ's inaugural All Classes Reunion 2018 a complete success! The celebration took place over the weekend of September 28. On Friday, alumni gathered in the gym to reconnect with classmates and friends and enjoy music, drink and food catered by Mike Tizzano '72. On Saturday, alumni celebrated a Mass with Father Joseph Previte '83, followed by a family tailgate before the football game against Cleveland Central Catholic. Special recognition was given to classes ending in 3 and 8. Our next All Alumni Reunion will take place Friday, September 13, 2019.

### 13 GEM Club Career Night

On March 27, VASJ's GEM Club (Girls Empowerment Meetings) held a career fair for its members. More than 30 girls in attendance met with 20 professional women across a variety of industries including healthcare, law, non-profits, technology, marketing, education, and more. Ten alumnae of Villa Angela and VASJ shared their professional experiences with our GEM girls. In addition, the girls heard from two keynote speakers who shared their unique successes, challenges, and advice for the journey ahead.

## SPOTLIGHT



## Valerie Koch '15 Caregiver of Tomorrow

**A**s part of a leadership class during her senior year at VASJ, Valerie Koch '15 recalls cooking meals for family members who had loved ones staying at Hospice of the Western Reserve. Her experiences at VASJ opened her eyes to the importance of helping others in need. "VASJ truly taught me the importance of community service, which I continued to incorporate into my life during my years in college and still very much value today," Valerie says. It is no surprise she was called to enter a career built on strong caregivers. She answered that call in a way that went above and beyond.

Valerie graduated with honors from Ursuline College's Breen School of Nursing in May 2019. While at Ursuline, Valerie took time away from her studies to serve as president of the Student Nurses of Ursuline College, volunteered with campus ministry, raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and mentored pre-nursing students. On a national level, Valerie represented Ursuline in San Diego and Salt Lake City as a member of the National Student Nurses Association. In recognition of her hard work and dedication, Valerie was featured in the *Tomorrow's Caregivers* article in the June 2019 issue of *Cleveland Magazine* as a recipient of the Greater Cleveland Nurses Association's Graduating Senior Award. She also received Ursuline College's 2019 Gonzaga Medal and accepted a position at University Hospitals on their Malignant Hematology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Congratulations, Valerie!

## Your classmates want to hear from you!

Graduate from college? Get a new job? Get married? Have a baby? Win an award? Celebrate an anniversary? Get a promotion? Retire? Have a class reunion? Share your news with us at [vasj.com/classnotes](http://vasj.com/classnotes). Planning a class reunion? Please contact Cheryl Stashinko '03 with your reunion details. Call 216-481-8414 ext. 254 or email [cstashinko@vasj.com](mailto:cstashinko@vasj.com).

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

Members of the **Villa Angela Academy Class of 1959** will celebrate their 60th reunion on **Saturday, September 14, 2019**, at noon at Beach Club Bistro in Euclid. There will be a Pizza Party menu, with choice of appetizers, pizzas, house salads, mini cannolis, coffee, tea and soft drinks. All alcohol is a "cash bar" by each guest. Happy hour pricing will be extended during the luncheon. RSVP to **Noreen Fitch '59** at (440) 729-7594 or [nfitch63@att.net](mailto:nfitch63@att.net).

Save the date for the **St. Joseph High School Class of 1959 Reunion** which is scheduled for **September 6-8, 2019**, at the Kirtland Country Club. Visit [vasj.com/reunions](http://vasj.com/reunions) where more details will be posted as they become available.

The Class with Heart, **St. Joseph High School Class of 1969**, will honor their 50th reunion on Saturday, October 5, 2019, in the Viking Village. Registration is now open at [vasj.com/class-of-1969-st-joseph](http://vasj.com/class-of-1969-st-joseph).

Members from the **St. Joseph High School Class of 1974** look forward to seeing classmates in honor of their 45th reunion. A formal reunion dinner will be held **Saturday, October 19, 2019**, at the American Legion Post 7 in Wickliffe. Registration will begin in August 2019. Check the reunion site for details: [vasj.com/class-of-1974-st-joseph](http://vasj.com/class-of-1974-st-joseph)

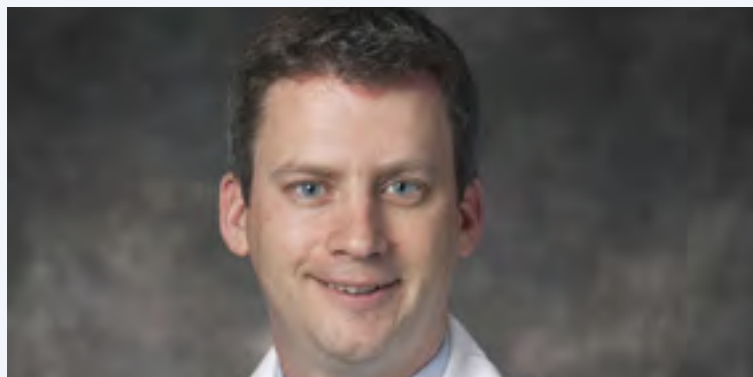
Members from the **St. Joseph High School's Class of 1979** will celebrate their 40th reunion at the All-Alumni Reunion on **Friday, September 13, 2019**. Contact **Tim Dagg '79** at [tdagg@daggsasphalt.com](mailto:tdagg@daggsasphalt.com) to RSVP to be included in the headcount for tables.

Members from the **St. Joseph High School and Villa Angela Academy Classes of 1984** will celebrate their 35th reunions together with a joint celebration on **September 14, 2019**, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Arcadia Beach Club (21 East 202nd St. Euclid, OH). To RSVP, please contact **Mary Ann Milo '84** (216) 392-6467 or [mamilo@earthlink.net](mailto:mamilo@earthlink.net) or **Kenny Snyder '84** at (813) 714-0018 or [ksnyder@hr-properties.com](mailto:ksnyder@hr-properties.com).

Members from the **1989 State Champion Football Team** will commemorate the 30th anniversary of their historic year with a reunion set for **Saturday, November 2, 2019**. More details are in the works. Contact reunion organizer **Dan Regovich '90** at [dregovich@ajaugur.com](mailto:dregovich@ajaugur.com) with questions.

Save the date for the **2nd annual All-Alumni Reunion** on **Friday, September 13, 2019**, at VASJ. This fun event is open to all alums from St. Joseph, Villa Angela, and Villa Angela-St. Joseph with a special Happy Anniversary to the classes ending in '4 and '9.

## SPOTLIGHT



## Dr. James Strainic '94 Performs Innovative Surgery

**D**r. James Strainic '94, director of the Fetal Heart Program at University Hospitals in Cleveland, was part of a team of physicians that performed the first successful fetal aortic valvuloplasty in Ohio. The procedure involves using an ultrasound to help guide the placement of a small inflated balloon with a catheter into the aortic valve of a fetus. The tiny patient, Lorenzo, was diagnosed with a severe leakage in one of his heart valves and hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a disease that causes the left side of the heart to stop growing. The risky procedure was performed at only 24 weeks gestation.

## IN MEMORIAM

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School extends deepest condolences to alumni, family, and friends who have passed. We pause to remember and pray for the following losses in the Viking family:

### PARENT OR SIBLING OF

Ivan Berlec - Father of Sr. Maria OSU '67, Vida '68, and Ivan '70  
Lawrence M. Brazie '67 - Brother of Anthony Brazie '58  
Rita Burkett - Mother of Jim '75, Bill '77, John '79, Kathy '80, Karen '83, Joe '88, Dan '90 and grandmother of Michael Laffey '08, Meggie McGarry '10, Patrick Laffey '11, Bon Rasavong '11, Michael McGarry '12, Marty McGarry '15, Brandon Rasavong '15, Danny McGarry '17  
William J. Carney '54 - Father of Susan '79, Linda '80, Katy '81, William J. '85

Mario D'Alanno - Father of Rich D'Alanno '76  
Thomas Fiebig '65 - Brother of David Fiebig '77  
Brian W. FitzSimons '65 - Husband of Frances (nee Henry) '66 and brother of Philip '63  
Gregory C. Shantery - Father of Scott '07 and Father-in-law of Julie Kwasniak '08  
Lilly Angela Staunton - Mother of Maureen '73, Margaret '81, Thomas '84, Catherine '86, John '88, Patrick '91  
Lois M. Sustar - Mother of James Sustar '70



**CHILD OF**

Allan Srsa '88 – Son of  
Joyce (nee Lenassi) '60

**TEACHERS & STAFF**

Kenneth E. Bodle '60 - St. Joseph High  
School Teacher 1964-65 and 1967-68

Mario D'Alanno - Teacher at St.  
Joseph High for 36 years

Gregory C. Shantery - Former  
Viking Hockey Coach

**OUR ALUMNI**

Timothy F. Apolito '61

Joseph F. Balog '67

Richard L. Baur '58

William R. Blair '57

Lawrence M. Brazie '67

Thomas R. Brenkus '69

James H. Brown '65

William J. Carney '54

Lawrence N. Cissley '55

George Coghill '64

James E. Dailey '58

Thomas Debbs '66

Thomas F. Dowd '71

William Eppich '64

Thomas Fiebig '65

Brian W. FitzSimons '65

Andrew J. Furey '54

Patrick M. Gallagher '74

Christopher E. Garapic '74

Linda M. Geiger '61

Ralph Henry '61

Richard Hordinski '55

Edward Hudson '66

David N. Iannicelli '57

Robert Kenneally Jr. '69

Sister Joann Kessler '44, OSU

Simas J. Kijauskas '81

Thomas Kreczko '66

Joseph J. Kubancik '63

Mary Agnes Lange '37

Stephen Lisy '66

Ronald G. Martin '65

Thomas A. McCann '67

Philip T. McGrath Jr. '64

Thomas J. McNeeley '60

Raymond E. Milavec '65

Joan Minchak (nee Briganti) '75

Terrance "Terry" M. Murphy '69

John Neibecker '69

Richard Neroni '62

Michael C. Perry '74

Charlotte Pertz '56

Tony Petkovsek '59

Joseph M. Petric '77

Delores Pikula (nee Visconti) '70

James D. Plescia '65

Thomas J. Powers '59

Mary Ellen Reaume '62

Ronald R. Reuss '58

Robert Schleimer '65

John Sestokas '76

John H. Sheridan '58

Richard L. Simenc '65

Marlene E. Skomra

Allan Srsa '88

Norman J. Stih '61

Dennis Stoiner '63

Sister Marilyn Story '58

Mary Agnes Sullivan, R.D. (nee Gill) '44

Pamela Sweeney (nee Parker) '53

Nikki Tatum '98

Gerald G. Thomas '63

Robert J. Trebar, Ph.D. '76

William Ulery '61

Jerome "Jerry" Visconti '60

Jeffrey A. Wade '73

Carolyn Wilson '81

Paul T. Yoger '63

**CORRECTION**

**Dennis Jonke '64** was misreported  
as deceased in Fall 2018 magazine.

**SPECIAL MENTIONS****Mario D'Alanno**

Beloved St. Joseph High School  
teacher, Mario D'Alanno. Mr. D'Alanno  
taught social studies at for 36 years  
(1954-1990). He passed away on  
March 14, 2019, at the age of 91.

**Tony Petkovsek '59**

"America's Polka Ambassador" and  
St. Joseph High School alumnus  
**Tony Petkovsek '59** passed away at  
the age of 77 on February 14, 2019.

Tony held a successful 57-year career  
in broadcasting, hosting the longest  
running daily polka radio show in  
America. Instrumental in bringing  
polka to the masses, Tony established  
the "Polka Tour" in 1967, taking polka  
fans and musicians across the country  
and world. Locally, Tony established  
the Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club  
committee, co-founded the American  
Slovenian Polka Foundation, and was  
instrumental in organizing many  
of the beloved E. 185th Street "Old  
World Festivals." Throughout Tony's  
career, he received over 100 awards  
and recognition for his work. Most  
notably, Tony was inducted into the  
National Broadcasters Hall of Fame  
in 1991 and St. Joseph High School's  
Hall of Fame in 1987, became  
the youngest person ever to earn  
"Slovenian Man of the Year" in 1967  
and earned a Lifetime Achievement  
Award and was named Chairman  
Emeritus of the National Cleveland-  
Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum

**John Sheridan '58**

Known for his strong work ethic and  
dedication to his field, Cleveland  
journalist and St. Joseph High School  
alumnus **John Sheridan '58** passed  
away August 13, 2018, at the age  
of 78. After St. Joseph High School,  
Sheridan attended and graduated  
from John Carroll University in 1962.  
It was while in college he discovered  
his zest for journalism, a career that

would lead to an induction into the  
Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame  
in 1997 and VASJ Hall of Fame in  
2004. His journalism career began  
at the Euclid News-Journal and later  
included sports reporting for the  
*Plain Dealer* and serving as writer and  
editor for *Industry Week* magazine, a  
Cleveland-based publication. He was  
instrumental in reviving the Press  
Club of Cleveland, where he served  
two terms as president. John Sheridan  
is an example of VASJ's motto,  
"Once a Viking, Always a Viking," as  
he remained a proud supporter of  
the school throughout the years.

**Sister Marilyn Story '58**

Over the course of her 33-year career  
as an educator, **Sister Marilyn Story  
'58** taught in the math department  
at Villa Angela Academy and VASJ,  
as well as Beaumont School. After  
teaching, she worked as VASJ's  
guidance secretary and school's  
registrar before returning to the  
Ursuline Sisters Motherhouse to  
serve as the leadership team's  
administrative assistant. Sister Marilyn  
Story, who will be remembered as  
a generous and kind educator and  
faithful servant of the Lord, passed  
away on October 12, 2018.

**Updates Appreciated**

VASJ deeply appreciates notification when a graduate passes away.  
Please contact **Cheryl Stashinko '03** at [cstashinko@vasj.com](mailto:cstashinko@vasj.com) with details.

To honor your loved one with a memorial gift to VASJ, please contact **Lisa  
Mayernik** at **216-481-8414 ext. 150** or [lmayernik@vasj.com](mailto:lmayernik@vasj.com).

**Stay In Touch**

Help us update our records by sending along your updated contact information.

**MAIL TO:**

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School  
ATTN: Advancement Office  
18491 Lakeshore Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44119

**OR UPDATE ONLINE:** [www.vasj.com/alumni](http://www.vasj.com/alumni)



Villa Angela-St. Joseph

HIGH SCHOOL

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**VASJ** MAGAZINE

summer 2019

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## PUBLISHING STAFF

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**OUR MISSION** Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school rooted in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions and committed to the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of each student.

## Reader Feedback

*We'd love to hear your thoughts on VASJ Magazine. Send your questions, comments or concerns to **Lisa Mayernik** at [lmayernik@vasj.com](mailto:lmayernik@vasj.com) or call 216-481-8414 ext. 150.*

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**CELEBRATE WITH THE VIKING VILLAGE!**

# *All-Alumni* **REUNION**



**Friday, September 13, 2019**  
7-11 p.m., VASJ Gym

*Open to all alums and friends of  
St. Joseph High School, Villa Angela Academy,  
and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School*

*Enjoy food, drinks, music, and an opportunity to reconnect and  
reminisce with classmates and friends. Special recognition for  
classes ending in 4 and 9.*

**COST: \$25**

**FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [VASJ.COM/ALLALUMNIREUNION](http://VASJ.COM/ALLALUMNIREUNION)**



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# SAVE THE DATES!

## 2019-20 SPECIAL EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 3

Opening Liturgy

### SEPTEMBER 13

All-Classes Reunion

### OCTOBER 13

Admissions Open House

### OCTOBER 19

Homecoming Football Game

### OCTOBER 20

Pumpkin Patch\*

*\*Benefitting VASJ Drama Club*

### OCTOBER 25

Oarsmen Club Clambake

### NOVEMBER 1

All Saints Liturgy

### NOVEMBER 6

Admissions Open House

### NOVEMBER 8

Red Cross Blood Drive

### NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Assembly

### NOVEMBER 22

Drama Club Fall Production

### DECEMBER 3

We Give Catholic  
/Giving Tuesday

### DECEMBER 5

Legacy Breakfast

### JANUARY 7

Founders Day Mass

### JANUARY 31

Scholarship Day

### FEBRUARY 26

Ash Wednesday Prayer Service

### MARCH 4

NHS Induction Ceremony

### MARCH 12

Admissions Open House

### MARCH 19

St. Joseph Day Mass

### MARCH 24

7th Grade  
Future Viking Day

### MARCH 28

Continue the Dream Gala

### APRIL 3-5

Spring Play

### MAY 5

All-School Mass with  
Bishop Nelson Perez

### MAY 7

Ladies Night Out

### MAY 26

Baccalaureate Mass

### MAY 27

Class of 2020 Graduation

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