



# THE SHIELD

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## Madrigal Dinner: a royal recount

By Emily Dolan ('17) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Let me recount the Madrigal Dinner and tell you of all of the merriment that occurred.

This past month, I, Lady Cheshire, participated in a wondrous dinner at Deep Manor with King and Queen Windsor. The Castle Hall was bedecked with beautiful Christmas ornamentation. Lords and ladies from all over the kingdom joined their voices and talents in the Castle Hall.

I enjoyed a wonderful meal of chicken, green beans and, of course, wassail. I especially enjoyed the talents of the consort and the trumpeters. They strummed their instruments with most beautiful melodies. The trumpeters blew thy clarion call to announce all of the events that made the evening so merry and bright.

One of the many highlights of my evening was the fanciful masque that was performed by a troupe of actors. The intriguing plot of the masque was as follows: Jack (from "Jack and the Beanstalk"), along with his unicorn, went door to door selling his unicorn. He then met Ashes-Zelda, Cinderella's lesser-known cousin. Jack and Ashes-Zelda fell in love and agreed to venture hither to the ball that was being held at the royal court. But just as they were about to flee, they were stopped by none other than Knight Crawler, the man that Ashes-Zelda was promised to by her father on her 20th birthday before she was even

born. Knight Crawler had come to claim her as his bride when he tried to prove his love for her by going on a dangerous quest. Fortunately, he was injured by the unicorn, and it appeared that all was safe. Jack and Ashes-Zelda went to the ball only to come across Knight Crawler. But when asked her age, we found out that she was only five and not 20 because she was born on a leap year!

What a masque! What a show! I was quite enthralled and enjoyed the evening thoroughly. We finished the revelry with the most honorable king and queen with a festive concert. The songs were performed by none other than myself and my fellow lords and ladies of the royal court.

I am most excited for the dinner and masque next Christmastime. Perhaps ye shall join me for all of the revelry! ♠



*The intellectual Lord and Lady Cumberland, played by Jon Glowcheski ('16) and Gabby Muller ('17) are introduced by the court at the Lourdes Academy Madrigal Dinner.*

### Lourdes presents "Music Man"

Mark your calendars for Lourdes Academy's Spring musical, *The Music Man*, April 7-9, 2016 at the Grand Opera house. Visit [grandoperahouse.org](http://grandoperahouse.org) for show times and tickets.

# Catholic Schools Week celebrates faith, service, sharing



Band Director Michelle Sorenson and Nate Kaull ('19) prepare to face off at the 2015 Scooter Hockey tournament.

In what has become the ultimate competition, teachers, students and parents will face off during Lourdes Academy's annual All System Scooter Hockey Tournament on Friday, January 29, at Lourdes Academy Middle & High School. More than 300 players will team up to see who can bring home the Spirit Stick, the Scooter Hockey trophy and bragging rights for the next year.

Scooter Hockey kicks off **Catholic Schools Week**, which is celebrated **January 31 - February 5, 2016**.

As a system-wide Catholic Schools Week service project, Lourdes Academy will partner with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry to coordinate the **Life Is Beautiful** campaign throughout the month of January. Sophomore Sami Boehm and Juniors Gabby Muller and Emily Dolan are spearheading the campaign, which was started in 2014 in an effort to help provide the OACP with needed hygiene items.

"Our goal this year is to provide 2,000 hygiene bundles for families that use the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry," Boehm said. "Currently, families are allowed one hygiene item per month, and they often have to choose between needed items like soap or toothpaste. We want people to feel as beautiful on the outside as they are on the inside."

A bundle consists of soap/body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and a toothbrush. Alumni wishing to support the Life Is Beautiful campaign can drop off individual hygiene products or bundles to Lourdes Academy High School at 110 N. Sawyer Street by February 5. Monetary donations can also be sent to Lourdes Academy at 110 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902. (Please make checks payable to Lourdes Academy with "Life Is Beautiful" in the memo line.)

## Alumnus brings clean water to India

Reprinted courtesy of FVTC NewsCenter



Team USA pictured from left: Sudhakaran Nair (President, Indian Plumbing Association, and Chairman of the World Plumbing Council); Adam Koenigs (FVTC-Plumber), Peter Hollmaier (FVTC-Plumber), Miya Preston (Designer), and Jill Vande Boom (Engineer).

Lourdes Academy alumnus **Peter Hollmaier ('06)** was one of two Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) students and two MSOE students selected to

represent Team USA as part of the 2nd Annual Community Plumbing Challenge. The global initiative was designed to address inadequate water systems around the world by mobilizing skilled engineers, designers, and plumbers.

Team USA joined three other nations in a comprehensive effort to implement a new plumbing system for more than 500 students and staff members at an elementary school in Nashik, India. The centerpiece part of the project included the development of a handwashing station in the school's restrooms, along with toilet upgrades.

Team USA won first place in the competition, and all members from FVTC and MSOE humbly admit that the experience in helping others with basic hygiene technology was far greater than earning a top award. 

## Celebrate Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31 - Feb. 5, 2016

- Jan. 29 All System Scooter Hockey Tournament  
Castle & Fortress Gyms, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 2 Red & White Game  
Castle Gym, 6 p.m. JV & 7:30 p.m. Varsity
- Feb. 4 All System Mass  
St. Raphael Church, 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 4 - Feb. 5 Life Is Beautiful Collection  
Donations can be dropped off at Lourdes Academy High School, 110 N. Sawyer St.

# Inspiring Entrepreneurs

Brought to you by the letter 'E'



Being your own boss sounds exciting until you realize the boss is also the accountant, human resources manager, chief marketer and sometimes even the janitor. Owning your own business has its challenges, but it can also be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. This issue's inspiring entrepreneurs have discovered how to turn their passions into their life's work.



When **Erin (Slattery) Black ('91)** started at Lourdes High School in 1991, she tried out for the fall play hoping to meet new friends.

"Turns out I was a terrible actress, but Mrs. Kuble saw I was responsible and she made me the stage manager, which meant organizing and ironing costumes," Black recalled of working with then Choir Director Judy Kuble.

Black got involved in the spring musical working side-by-side with parent volunteers Shirley Leschke and Ellie Maslowski to make costumes. When Lourdes performed the *King and I*, she was tasked with making all the costumes for the King's many children.

In 1991, she enrolled at Marquette University majoring in Education and minoring in Theater. She also landed a work study position in the costume shop at Marquette where she studied and developed her costume design techniques. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in costume design. Working in the field meant either moving to New York or Los Angeles, so Black chose New York where she immediately began freelancing as a costume designer for the Muppets. It was there that she met her husband, Eric Black, who also worked for the Muppets.

"One of the most exciting times was the first time I was on the set of Sesame Street," Black recalled "I was standing in Mr. Hooper's store thinking, 'How many times have I sat on my couch at home watching this, and now I'm in it.' I'm still pretty awe struck after 18 years."

Black's professional resume spans the stage and screen. She has designed costumes for the movie *Spy Kids*, various television children's series, the Rockettes Radio City Christmas Spectacular and the Broadway performance of *Lion King*. As a freelance artist, she never gets bored and each day brings unique and interesting projects.

She has won three daytime Emmys for costume design including one year when she was nominated for Emmys for two different shows, thus competing against herself. In addition to her freelance work, she teaches costume history at New York University and gives sewing lessons in her home studio. Being in business for yourself means finding the balance between work and home, risk and reality.

"If you're thinking of going into business for yourself, you have to balance fear with excitement," Black said. "You can get so bogged down with fear that you never take the first step. Fear is understandable because there are risks, but when it works it's so rewarding and exciting."

Black is passing on her entrepreneurial spirit to her daughter, Lyla, who at the age of three drew a sketch of a "good monster" and asked her mom if she could help her "make it a real—just like the picture." Together they made their first monster as a gift for Eric who encouraged them to make more to sell. What started as a small in-home project blossomed into an online business—Lyla Tov, which in Hebrew means Good Night. They eventually ran a Kickstarter campaign to see if they could enlist the support of crowd funding to move production of the monsters to China, and Lyla Tov was funded in just seven days. Lyla designed four "good" monsters, Charlotte, Forrest, Madeline and Squonk, to help keep the bad dreams away. In 2014, Lyla, now age 9, won Young Inventor of the Year at the Toy & Game Association Awards.

"It's been a fun mother-daughter experience," Erin said. "It teaches real-life applications of what she's learning in school. It's a fun way to teach basic business skills, critical thinking and managing money. And a percentage of the proceeds every year goes back to the community."



When **Jason Quandt ('04)** was a senior in high school, he took a job through a work study program with O'Neill Enterprises Plumbing and Heating. Unsure at the time of his future career path, Quandt found that plumbing was a perfect fit. He enjoyed the hands-on work from the first day, and realized quickly that it was his calling.

He enrolled at Fox Valley Technical College to begin work on his Journeyman's license and earned an apprenticeship, a five-year program which allows plumbing students to work in the field while earning a degree by attending classroom instruction one day a week and in the evening. It was during this time that Jason started dating fellow alumnus **Kimberly Wegner ('06)**, who he married in 2009.

Even during his early days in the program, Quandt had a vision of someday opening his own business. After completing his Journeyman's license, he began pursuing his Masters license, which is required for business owners.

By 2012, Jason and Kimberly were about to have their second child. Business was picking up and the economy was looking brighter, so they decided to take a leap of faith. Jason quit his job and together they opened Quandt Plumbing, LLC, which serves Oshkosh and the Fox Valley area specializing in new construction, remodeling and service work. Owning a business has its joys and challenges, but the experience overall has been rewarding.

"When you own a business, you're on call 24/7 every day of the year," Kimberly said. "But we love the flexibility, especially with young children and a family. It's allowed me to be home where I can spend more time with the kids and be in the business."

Kimberly works with customers on construction and remodeling, which represents 40 percent to 50 percent of their business. Jason goes on the majority of service calls and recently hired two full time plumbers.

"There is a high demand for plumbers," Kimberly added. "There are not enough plumbers coming through the program for the businesses that are established."

Kimberly and Jason hit a milestone in October. They moved the business out of their home and into the Trades & Commerce building at 2909 Green Hill Court, off High-

way 76 in Oshkosh. Their dream is that some day, one of their three children will want to join the business. But that's in the future. Henry just started in the 4K program at Lourdes Academy Elementary School and Hazel (age 3) and Hudson (4 months) aren't far behind.

For Kimberly and Jason, Lourdes Academy has been a tradition that has spanned three generations and one they want to continue. Kimberly's mom, Lori (Daniels) Enders ('75), also attended Lourdes.

"Lourdes gave us the desire and drive that if you want something you have to work for it; it's not handed to you," Kimberly said. "Our teachers were influential in teaching us to be respectful, to communicate and to be conscious of the name we represent for ourselves. We want to uphold the Lourdes name and our family name and to go about our business and life with respect."



**Patti (Horejs) Purcell ('85)** felt the allure of writing since the fifth grade. From essays to stories, she loved to write and to discover ways to tie her faith into her message. In high school, she continued to develop her gift of the written word with the help of teachers like Ethel Heise and Frances "Frankie" Mengeling.

"They encouraged me to continue with writing," Purcell recalled. "If it had not been for Mrs. Mengeling, I may not have gone to college. You can't undersell the importance of a teacher. They see kids every day and they know their skills."

That influence prompted Purcell to eventually earn a degree in Journalism at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh eventually landing a position as a product manager in marketing for Kimberly Clark. When she was expecting her first child in 2001, she left her corporate job to raise a family, but she quickly found she missed using her professional talents. In 2004, she received a call from Kimberly Clark to work on a project and subsequently used her writing skills to help launch the Depend® Silhouette® brand. It was there that she realized how critically important writing is to a new product launch.

Armed with more than 25 years of marketing experi-

ence, Purcell started Writing by Design in 2006, a company that blends marketing and communications for Fortune 100 and 500 companies to local businesses needing to refresh their marketing communications. Writing by Design specializes in new product launch and uses its “strategic thinking and crystal clear writing” philosophy to help companies develop language for new product concepts, taglines, radio commercials, websites and more.

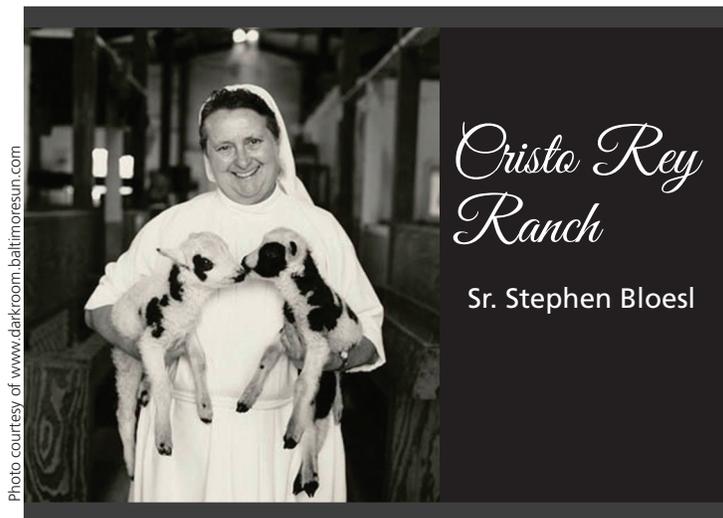
“Companies do quantitative testing on innovative, new ideas and use the results to determine if they should launch a product,” Purcell said. “But the concept writing is left to junior copywriters or marketing people who lack writing skills.”

Writing by Design helps businesses expedite the process of getting their products to market. For the first nine years in business, Purcell developed her business by word-of-mouth advertising, but by 2014, she reached a tipping point. With her client list growing, she made the decision to hire another writer.

“I was over capacity, doing more work and less marketing,” Purcell said. “If I want to do this right, I had to determine what the long term plan looked like. Either hire an employee or fold the business.”

She made the decision to invest a portion of the company’s profits into growing her staff, building a website, conducting seminars and increasing her social media presence. She also established a network of professional partners across the country to provide a wider breadth of services to clients. After 10 years in business, she’s honed in on her vision for the future.

“If I was doing it over, I would have spent more time on a business plan early on,” she said reflecting on the lessons she’s learned over the years. “I didn’t take time to say what I want it [the business] to be. It just was. I was being pushed and pulled in a number of directions. Now we’re saying, ‘This is what we stand for and marketing to that.’”



**Sr. Stephen Bloesl (‘65)** always wanted to be on a farm and become a nun. When she graduated from Lourdes, she joined the Sister Servants of Christ the King who ran the Cristo Rey Ranch, a working farm in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. The ranch was situated on a former

dairy farm and the owners started collecting animals in the 1960s. From a lamb named Freckles that would follow Bloesl around and lay at people’s feet, to a dairy goat that mastered the art of escape, the ranch became a haven for nearly 400 animals, including birds, pot-bellied pigs, donkeys and llamas.

In 1965, the Sisters established the Villa Loretto Nursing Home, a licensed skilled nursing facility on the ranch. Bloesl was provided with a scholarship to earn her nursing degree and became the director of nursing for Villa Loretto, also running the farm.

She realized immediately the physical and psychological benefits of combining these two ministries with the animals at Cristo Rey providing companionship and therapy to Villa Loretto residents.

“I wanted to be a physical education teacher and a social worker who worked with youth,” Bloesl said of her early career aspirations. “But God never led me in the wrong direction. It [nursing] was not a profession I would have picked, but I loved it.”

In 1992, Bloesl converted a house on the Cristo Rey Ranch into a respite care facility for foster families. With help from the sisters, she cares for up to four children at a time, most ages 8-15 years, two weekends each month.

“People ask me, ‘wouldn’t you like children of your own?’” Bloesl said. “You can’t outdo God in generosity. I have hundreds of kids.”

In 2005, Bloesl helped open the Villa Rosa Assisted Living complex on the Cristo Rey Ranch. Together with Villa Loretto, and the respite home, the facility provides care for residents and guests focusing on dignity and respect and helping individuals find purpose at any age.

Bloesl has devoted the last 50 years to caring for residents, respite guests and animals on the working farm. She has brought light to end-of-life care making it her mission to bring dignity to people in their final hours. In 2012, Bloesl was featured in the book, *The American Nurse Project*, a documentary by Carolyn Jones highlighting the lives of 75 nurses across the country. In 2014, she became one of just five nurses to be included in a film documentary released under the same name.

Bloesl retired as Director of Nursing in September 2015. Agnesian Health Care purchased Villa Loretto and Villa Rosa and owns the land that houses the facilities. Bloesl continues to run the respite house and the farm, which she leases from Agnesian. ♥

## Inspiration in the Arts

The Spring 2016 issue of *The Shield* will feature inspirational stories of Lourdes alumni involved in the arts.

Tell us about your arts experience (music, fine arts, performing arts, production, etc.) to be included in *The Shield*. To share your story, contact Karen Boehm by January 29 at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or [kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).



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# THE SHIELD

Lourdes Academy Alumni Newsletter

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## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Class of 1986 - 30 Year Reunion

Saturday, August 13, 2016, Elks Club  
Contact Vickie Kempinger at 920-410-5155 or  
at thisismyemail@new.rr.com

### Class of 1977 - 40th Reunion

Check out "Lourdes Academy Class of  
1977-Oshkosh" Facebook page  
Contact Marianne (Rice) Spain at  
spains43061@yahoo.com

For reunion details and updates, watch the *Alumni*  
link at [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org)

Planning a reunion? Contact Shannon Gibson at  
920-426-3626, ext. 541 or  
[sgibson@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:sgibson@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org) for assistance.  
Lourdes Academy offers free mailing lists, tours and  
facilities usage for Lourdes class reunions.

## Brown named Coach of the Year

Paul Brown was selected by the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association as the recipient of the 2014-15 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year Award for Wisconsin.



Annually the NFHS identifies and recognizes a coach from each state for significant achievement in their sport.

Brown started with Lourdes in 2013 and has led the Knights to three consecutive state championships, making them one of just eight teams in the state to achieve that honor. As the state recipient, Brown will be considered for the NFHS Sectional recognition.

## Please stay in touch

To receive the latest information about alumni news, reunions and Lourdes Academy events and activities, please update your mailing and email address online by clicking on the Alumni Shield at [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).