



THE SHIELD

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Tomorrow's Leaders take "Pride" in projects



In 2013, Lourdes Academy launched the Tomorrow's Leaders program, an extra-curricular program designed to develop and nurture young adults to be leaders in their school and community. This merit-based scholarship program also recognizes high school students who have made a commitment to academic excellence, active leadership and engagement in community service. Students are selected to participate in the program as freshmen and continue with it through graduation.

Throughout their four years in Tomorrow's Leaders, students study characteristics and examples of leaders, and ethics, and they put their skills in action coordinating a leadership project for their school or community.

This past year, the Class of 2021, led by Julie (Schuster) Maslowski ('92), coordinated Project Pride, an effort to give the lockers a face lift and bring pride to the hallways of Lourdes Academy. Maslowski's class of 24 freshmen

Tomorrow's Leaders Class of 2021 led by Julie Maslowski (center) prep lockers for painting. Finished lockers were unveiled in August.

created a video to help outline their project with the help of Zack Pawlosky ('10) and his team at Candeco Creative. Students then presented their vision to numerous businesses and individuals to enlist their support. After 10 months, the students exceeded their fund raising goal, completed Project Pride and held a donor recognition event to unveil the new red lockers.

"I saw 24 freshmen step up to the plate and push themselves outside of their comfort zone to get the job done,"

Leaders...continued on inside flap.

Leaders...from page 1



Students from all local schools came together for an evening of fun and festivities at the Place 4U held at Fr. Carr's Place 2B April 20.



Maslowski said. "These students showed up. They put time in at home and school preparing for their presentations. They battled their nerves of public speaking and communicated their message. But most importantly, they did not forget to laugh along the way. I am really proud of them."

On the other end of the spectrum, the Class of 2018 Tomorrow's Leaders coordinated the Place 4U, a community event designed to reestablish Fr. Carr's Place 2B as a gathering place for teens throughout the community as it was decades earlier. Students partnered with Oshkosh West Rotary Club representatives. They developed marketing materials, met with businesses to sponsor the event, and took to traditional and social media to spread the word. And on Friday, April 20, the Tomorrow's Leaders welcomed more than 80 youth from grades 8-12 to Fr. Carr's Mother Teresa Center for the inaugural Game Night-themed event. Smiles and laughter were aplenty as teens gathered together to play pool, air hockey, board games and Just Dance.

"The students researched several ideas for their class project, but when they met with representatives from Fr. Carr's Place 2B and both parties expressed interest in providing a fun, safe, substance-free entertainment option for youth in our community, the idea clicked, and the Place 4U was born," explained Karen Boehm, Lourdes Academy advancement director and senior Tomorrow's Leaders facilitator. "The students worked incredibly hard on the project. We stress in the class that each of us possess unique, God-given strengths and talents that we can use to serve the world around us. It was exciting to see them bring their strengths to the table and collaborate to bring the Place 4U to life." ♥

Will you support leadership at Lourdes?

Consider adopting a student

2018-19 kicks off year 6 of the Tomorrow's Leaders program, an extra-curricular program designed to develop and nurture young leaders in our school and community (see article on this page). To be accepted in the program, students complete a lengthy application process that includes submitting an essay and references and interviewing with a team of staff and outside volunteers.

Approximately 20 students join the program each year, but 10 are selected to receive a renewable \$500 scholarship based on exemplary performance throughout the application process.

You can directly support our students and the Tomorrow's Leaders program by adopting a student(s). Students communicate with their donor annually and share their experiences in the program and at Lourdes Academy. A gift of \$500 provides a scholarship for one student for one year. **Will you help support a student in the Tomorrow's Leaders program with a gift of \$500?**

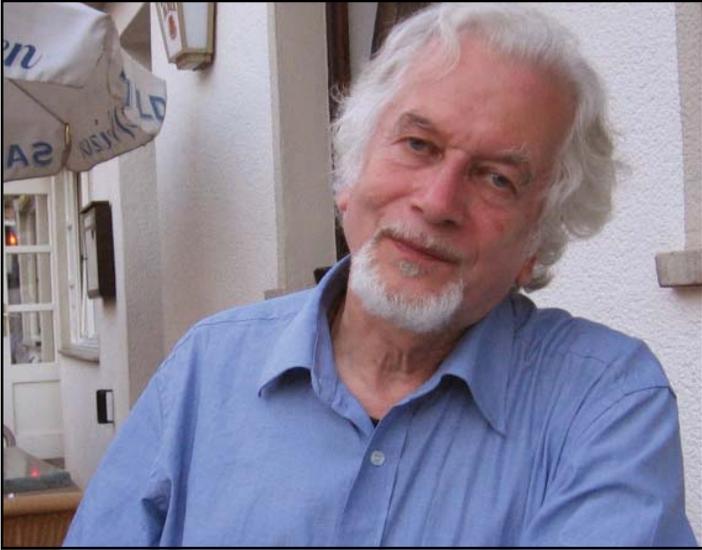
Class of 1990 alumnus Col. Steve Gabavics has provided a scholarship to a student for the past four years.

"I am a strong supporter and firm believer in the tremendous benefits of the Tomorrow's Leaders Program," Gabavics said. "With over 20 years in the military, the one thing that always made a positive difference throughout my career was the quality of the leaders. Good leaders set the tone, provide the motivation, and overcome the turmoil because they know how to take care of people, they lead with character, and they achieve results. Essential leadership skills are what the Tomorrow's Leaders program instills in our young men and women, which will make our world a better place, one leader at a time."

To learn how you can sponsor a student(s) in the Tomorrow's Leaders program, contact Karen Boehm at (920) 426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today.

Alumni Spotlights

Lourdes Academy welcomes back first-ever exchange student



Martin Kämpchen, Lourdes Academy's first-ever exchange student, returned to Oshkosh in May to visit Lourdes.

By Dylan Driessen, Marketing Intern

Martin Kämpchen graduated in 1966 and was not only an exceptional student but Lourdes High School's first-ever exchange student. It hadn't dawned on Kämpchen until later that he had been the first exchange student; however, he knew he was a special student who had a special life that got special attention. Kämpchen went back to his home in Boppard, Germany, after graduation. He completed his schooling in 1967 and attended universities in Vienna and Paris studying German Literature, Philosophy, European Theatre and (in Paris) French Language and Literature. In 1973, Kämpchen completed a Ph.D. in German Literature from Vienna then moved to Calcutta, India, to teach the German language. While teaching Kämpchen read a great deal about philosophy, religion, and world literature and felt the need to return to formal studies.

So, after four years of teaching, Kämpchen went to Chennai in South India to earn a Masters in Indian Philosophy, and then to Santiniketan (West-Bengal/India) to earn a second Ph.D. in Comparative Religion. Rather than returning to teaching, Kämpchen began a career as a writer on Indian culture, literature, and religions, informing and educating the German public on these subjects through books, anthologies, translations, radio programs and a wide range of cultural journalism. It is what he has been doing ever since. The one and only Indian winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Rabindranath Tagore, who spent the second part of his life in Santiniketan, became his special focus. Kämpchen's journey after graduation has been very eventful and accomplished.

"During these many decades I did what I liked best and what I could do best," Kämpchen stated. "Obviously, there

is little money in working as a free-lance writer. So, I had to sacrifice starting a family, building a house and having a secure life. But looking back, I am very happy that I took this risk."

When asked about his greatest memories from Lourdes Academy Kämpchen said, "There are many fond memories. The greatest are of some excellent teachers - Brother Denis, Brother Anthony, our Speech teacher. From all three I learned so much that I can still feel the impact they had on me."

Kämpchen over the years has had time to reflect on what it meant to him to be Lourdes High School's first exchange student.

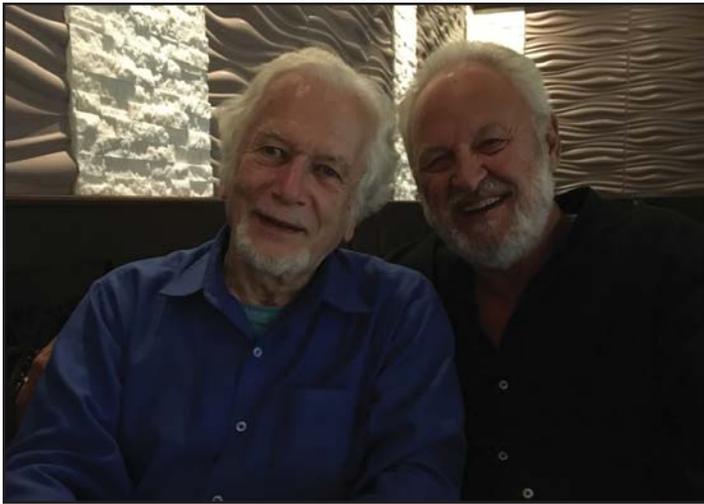
"At that time, I was not quite aware of the fact that I was the first exchange student," he said. "This dawned on me later. I realized that I had a special life and that I got special attention. I used my privileges to the full. I went all over the city taking in eagerly everything there was to be experienced. I visited the radio station and the television station, the local newspaper and the electricity board, the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club and whichever other clubs there must have been. I talked to all of them about Germany and about my American experience."

Life Long Friendship

Kämpchen's friendship with Mark Thompson is a large reason why he commutes to the United States from time to time. Thompson and his family have been an influential part of his life because of the connection with Thompson's father who recently passed away. Kämpchen elaborated on his relationship with Mark Thompson.

"We did not correspond often, but we never lost sight of each other and knew where we lived and what we were doing," Kämpchen explained. "I had a special relationship with Mark's father, Lee Thompson. We exchanged letters until shortly before his passing at the age of ninety. It is due to Mark's gentle prodding that I have returned to Oshkosh this year. I stayed a glorious few days at Mark's and Barbara's villa on the slopes of Green Lake."

Mark Thompson ('66) has remained in the area since graduation. Thompson continued his education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh graduating in 1971 when he was hired at Wisconsin Power & Light (now Alliant Energy). He continued his career in Madison as a writer, photographer and public speaker. In 1974 he began his career in healthcare marketing at Madison General Hospital, which is now Meriter Health Hospital. In 1978 he joined Gundersen Clinic, La Crosse, Wisconsin, (now Gundersen Health System) for an exciting 15-year career. Furthermore, from 1994 to 2018 Thompson served as the Executive Vice President of The Roberts Group in Waukesha, a consulting



After 52 years, high school friends Martin Kämpchen and Mark Thompson reunited to visit the place where they met and share stories.

agency which specialized in creating healthcare marketing and communications strategy.

Having retired last February, Thompson said, "I've always appreciated my successful 45-year career in healthcare marketing, working with medical systems and group practices throughout the country on market strategy, advertising campaigns, crisis communication, special events, etc. One of the highlights of my career during my tenure with Gundersen came as a result of a five-year project during which I was the editor for researching and creating a history book for the 100th anniversary of the founding of Gundersen Clinic (one of the oldest and largest group practices in the United States). I'm proud to say a copy of *Medicine: The Gundersen Experience* resides in the Library of Congress."

Thompson stays connected with Lourdes by reading newsletters, attending class reunions and remaining in contact with his best friend, classmate Kim Koeck. He remembers a lot of great memories that he had as a kid, and Lourdes Academy was a large part of his life.

"As with any Lourdes graduate, the memories are many," Thompson said. "Among mine: learning from the Christian Brothers, especially Brother Denis' religion class where we learned the art and value of critical thinking. I'll never forget the six-week exam for which Brother Denis directed us to prove or disprove the existence of God. It didn't make any difference which position you chose, just prove it. He made you think! During our Senior year, our boys' basketball team beat perennial powerhouse Xavier and advanced to the State Tournament in Milwaukee. That night there was a spontaneous gathering of students at Jess & Nick's Pizza on Main Street. Someone got Coach Kemp on the pay phone and everyone cheered our winning wishes for him and the team."

Over the years, Thompson has always remained connected to Kämpchen. Kämpchen and Thompson's relationship is an interesting story since both men are very different. Thompson said of Kämpchen, "The man has two Ph.Ds. and has lived in India for over 45 years. He has met and chatted with Mother Teresa. He writes and translates a wide range of topics concerning India and Europe. He has

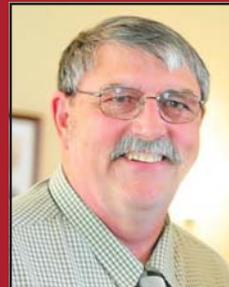
a unique Indo-European world view on issues, places, and people that influenced him deeply."

Thompson continued to say, "I do remember, as a member of Student Council, greeting Martin at his host family's house (The Zanowski's) when he came to Oshkosh. He was the first foreign exchange student at Lourdes and it was quite a big deal. I was one of several classmates that befriended Martin, wanting to make him feel comfortable, welcomed and relaxed in his new home for the school year. Martin spent a fair amount of time at my family's home during the school year for dinners or weekends. In fact, my Dad who was the assistant manager of Sears at the time got Martin a very, very part-time job helping customers carry out merchandise to their cars."

Thompson saw Kämpchen this past May for the first time in 52 years since graduation. Thompson said, "When Barbara and I saw Martin this past May in Amsterdam he mentioned that job as one of his special memories. Over the years since 1966, the friendship Martin and I formed has sustained itself because of our appreciation and respect for one another which we learned to develop from our Lourdes experiences. It gave Martin and the others a chance to connect one more time and share memories and stories about Lourdes and our experiences there." 🍷

"Pibb Sure" Fund honors Knobloch

Rich Knobloch ('68) dedicated his 40-year teaching career to the ministry of Catholic education at Lourdes Academy. He served Lourdes as a teacher and coach, mentoring generations of students. Sadly, Rich passed away in March 2018.



Rich Knobloch
9/5/1950-3/7/2018

In Rich's memory, his family has established the Rich Knobloch "Pibb Sure" Fund to provide an annual scholarship to a student who has shown dedication and commitment in the areas of math or computer science. The fund's name honors Rich's longtime tradition of asking his students if they were "Pibb sure" of their answers to math problems, jokingly betting his favorite soft drink Mr. Pibb.

The family's goal is to fully fund this scholarship with an endowment, and we are already more than halfway to that goal! **Will you help promote academics, offset tuition AND recognize a fellow alumnus with a gift to the Rich Knobloch "Pibb Sure" Fund?** Gifts to the fund can be made online at www.lourdes.today/give. They can also be mailed to Karen Boehm at Lourdes Academy, 250 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902. (Make checks payable to Lourdes Academy, note Knobloch Fund.)

For more information, contact Karen Boehm at (920) 426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today.

It's a Great day to be a Knight!



Lourdes Academy celebrates Homecoming as a family.

The Homecoming Spirit Squad, led by Spirit Master Carter Wesenberg ('19) and Victor E. Knight, visits Lourdes Academy Elementary students and invites them to be part of the week's festivities.



Jesus returns home to Lourdes.

Lourdes Academy kicked off the school year with an all-system mass at St. Jude - Sacred Heart site on September 6 followed by a Eucharistic Procession to Lourdes, bringing Jesus home to the chapel.

Lourdes seeking award nominees

Each spring, Lourdes Academy honors alumni who have made an impact in their profession, community, church and school at the annual Awards & Recognition Dinner.

The *Outstanding Alumni Award* is presented to a Lourdes Academy alumnus who has attained extraordinary career and professional achievements, worked to make a difference in his/her community and demonstrated support for Catholic education.

The *Distinguished Stewardship Award* is presented to an individual(s) who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to our schools, acts as a positive role model and supports our mission to prepare students for life, college and a continued relationship with God. (Nominee does not have to be an alumnus.)

The *Athletic Hall of Fame* inductee is a former student or coach who has distinguished themselves in the field of athletics through their performance and representation of Lourdes Academy.

Nominations are due by Monday, October 29.

Nomination forms can be found on the Alumni link at www.lourdes.today. 🇮🇪

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 1979 40 year Reunion

June 22, 2019 | Time TBD (evening)

Peabody's Ale House | 544 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Deb Rugar rupar4445@gmail.com

Lourdes Academy hosts Carnival Dinner Auction

COME ONE, COME ALL

THE CARNIVAL

CELEBRATING LOURDES ACADEMY

ONE NIGHT ONLY
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 3RD
OSHKOSH CONVENTION CENTER

5:00 PM + COCKTAILS + + HORS D'OEUVRES + + RAFFLES + + SILENT AUCTION +	6:45 PM TAKE YOUR SEATS UNDER THE BIG TOP 7:30 PM + LIVE AUCTION +	7:00 PM + DINNER + combination platter and vegetarian options available
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PRESENTED BY
verve
A SPIRIT UNION

For more information or to make reservations, contact Shannon Gibson at (920) 426-3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today. Or register online at www.lourdes.today.

Alumni Memorial Mass, Nov. 20

Each year, Lourdes Academy holds an Alumni Memorial Mass to pay tribute to the alumni and staff who have gone before us. This year's mass will be held Tuesday, November 20 at 10:20 a.m. in the Bill Behring Commons at Lourdes Academy High School. A luncheon for families of deceased alumni and staff will follow the mass. For more information or to make reservations, contact Gabrielle Jacobs at (920) 426-3626, ext. 534 or [gjacobson@lourdes.today](mailto:gjacobs@lourdes.today). 🇮🇪



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THE SHIELD

Lourdes Academy Alumni Newsletter

Special thanks to Bart Putzer, Class of 1984, for assisting with the layout & design of The Shield.

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WELCOME BACK - LOURDES REUNIONS



Planning a reunion? Contact Shannon Gibson at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today for assistance. Lourdes Academy offers free mailing lists and facilities usage for Lourdes class reunions.