



# THE SHIELD

Volume 5, Issue 3 Spring 2018

## Armory reopens, welcomes mascot



The Armory school store made its debut in January with a dedicated sales force. From left: Mrs. Katharine McArthur, Jacob Diker ('19), Sarah Bullard ('19), Patrick Derleth ('20), Grace Syson ('20) and Gabriel Javier ('19).

By Miroslav Hradsky - Knight Writer Student Journalist

Lourdes Academy business teacher Kelly Carter has reopened the Armory as a way to increase school spirit and to teach economics in a hands-on way.

Carter said that the newly reopened Armory school store is a student-led business, and she likes that kids have an opportunity to create the clothes they want to wear. The grand reopening for the school store was in January during the annual scooter hockey tournament.

The idea for the school store came from her own experience. Her

high school had a school store, and she realized that operating a school store is a great way to teach students how to run a business.

According to Carter, the store is doing very well; almost half of their inventory has already been sold. Items for sale are Knight logo clothes, sweatshirts, pants, dress code passes, and other Lourdes accessories. There are three students leading the management of the store: juniors Jacob Diker, Olivia Sorenson, and Gabriel Javier.

Although the inventory is stored in a room adjacent to the main office at the high school, tables with the

merchandise will be set up and items will be for sale outside the Bill Behring Commons during major system events.

Special thanks to the families and businesses who sponsored the Armory: Verve, a Credit Union; Thrivent Financial; Ripon Athletic; Dynamic Drinkware; the Diker Family; Wisconsin Food Safety Service.

In addition to opening the Armory, Lourdes Academy also welcomed an official mascot, Victor E. Knight. Victor has been spotted among the student section at sporting events, visiting our Future Knights at the elementary school and even stopping for prayer in the chapel. 🛡️



Victor E. Knight is ready for game time with his biggest fans.

# It's a Great day to be a Knight!

## Undefeated Conference Champs!



*Congratulations to Boys AND Girls Basketball. Both teams earned an undefeated Conference Championship and a Regional Championship. (Boys Basketball was continuing on to sectionals at the time of printing.)*

## Lourdes recognizes alumni, staff at recognition dinner

Lourdes Academy's 8th Annual Awards & Recognition Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 27 at La Sure's Hall in Oshkosh. During the event, Lourdes Academy will recognize outstanding alumni, staff and volunteers who have served their schools and communities. Special thanks to Dr. Patrick ('69) & Mrs. Susan Dowling for sponsoring this year's event.

Join Lourdes Academy in honoring the following individuals:

- Outstanding Alumni Award – Joseph Kaufmann ('75)
- Distinguished Stewardship Award – Andy Ratchman ('93)
- Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees – Brian Neubauer ('85); Christine "Teenie" Lichtfuss ('12)
- Dr. Stanley Spanbauer Education & Leadership Award – CastlePierce Corporation.

Lourdes will also recognize outstanding staff with the Silver Sword Awards, as well as retiring staff.

Tickets for the Awards & Recognition Dinner are \$20 each and can be purchased by contacting Shannon Gibson at (920) 426-3626, ext. 541 or [sgibson@lourdes.today](mailto:sgibson@lourdes.today).



## Lourdes Academy named PLTW Distinguished School

Lourdes Academy has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for increasing access, engagement, and achievement in the PLTW Launch program, offered to students in grades K-5. PLTW programs inspire and engage students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and prepare them with the knowledge and skills they'll need to succeed in any career path they choose.

"We are committed to preparing our students for the workforce of the future, including a foundation in STEM," said Lourdes Academy President John Dinegan. "Project Lead the Way has allowed us to incorporate engaging, dynamic activities into our curriculum that develop critical and creative thinking skills."

Learn more about Lourdes Academy's PLTW and STEM initiatives at [lourdes.today](http://lourdes.today), "Academics." 🏆

### Lourdes hosts Family Knight Out for STEM

Wednesday, April 25 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Lourdes Academy Middle/High School

For Students in Grades K-8

Cost: No charge

Family Knight Out for STEM is a one-night event designed to stimulate children's imagination for all things science, technology, engineering & math (STEM).

Hands-on demonstrations and activities will help you encourage your child(ren) to explore STEM activities.

**RSVP: Call (920) 426-3626 or [STEM@lourdes.today](mailto:STEM@lourdes.today).**

### 13th Annual

## Tee It Up for Kids GOLF OUTING



Friday, June 15, 2018

Lake Breeze Golf Club

Register at [lourdes.today](http://lourdes.today) or contact Shannon Gibson at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or [sgibson@lourdes.today](mailto:sgibson@lourdes.today).

# Alumni Connections

## Kevin Koelbl: A journey in the arts



Kevin Koelbl's favorite creations are his two recorded CDs, "Somewhere In Time" and "This Is Christmas Time."

By Julian Foss ('18) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

Alumnus **Kevin Koelbl** has enjoyed the artistic lifestyle since graduating from Lourdes in 1977.

Koelbl said his path since high school has been an exciting one. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh while working summers at what is now Six Flags Great America. There, he realized his love of performing.

Upon graduating, Koelbl decided to pursue a performance career. His first "gig" was singing at the Skylight Opera Company in Milwaukee, and, soon after, he took a job singing for Royal Viking Cruises.

His travels then took him to Virginia, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Switzerland and Las Vegas where he performed at local dinner theaters, Tokyo Disneyland, and at Disney doing specialty shows, as well as for the show EFX. While working at Disney, Koelbl was cast as the first live-action Gaston from *Beauty and the Beast*. While working as an understudy for the well-renown English theater performer Michael Crawford at the MGM Grand, Koelbl said he got a big break. Crawford, who was starring in the show, left abruptly due to an injury, and Koelbl went on as the starring role the next evening.

After performing for most of his career, Koelbl decided to hang up his stage career to pursue a career behind the scenes. Koelbl was interested in education, so he got a job at the LA Philharmonic managing one of their education programs. This opportunity led to other arts organizations and eventually to the LA Master Chorale in Los Angeles where he started out managing their education programs and then moved into the position he currently holds as the Director of Artistic Production.

His favorite creations are his two recorded CDs, "Somewhere In Time" and "This Is Christmas Time."

Kevin's inspiration and biggest champion was Lourdes High School choir director Judy Kuble. She really showed him that he had a talent, and that he could share and make a career of singing. Performing in the school musicals, one act plays, and concerts was his fondest memories of Lourdes. Koelbl said Mrs. Kuble created such a safe

and creative atmosphere for all her students and taught him what collaboration was really about.

"One day I was walking down the school hallway with a fellow classmate and I was stupidly complaining that I felt that Mrs. Kuble was showing much more attention to and helping out some other aspiring singers more than me," Koelbl said. "Mrs. Kuble just happened to be walking not far behind us and heard what I said. Being the wonderful person she was, instead of being upset at me, she stopped us and explained that she had such trust in my ability that she felt it was more important to help other students. After being completely embarrassed, I thought about it and was blown away that she had that much confidence in me, and I realized I needed to believe that as well. That always stayed with me throughout my career whenever I was not feeling adequate at an audition or in a rehearsal or just life in general. She was an amazing woman!"

After he left performing, it was Kuble's love for teaching that inspired him to pursue a career in education.

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## Laura Schaefer: A modern retelling of a classic novel

By Lily Pollack ('18) - Knight Writer Student Journalist  
1997 alumna and *Little*

*Women: A Modern Retelling* author **Laura Schaefer** describes her life and achievements as a writer.

Schaefer explained that she decided to write *Little Women: A Modern Retelling* as a modernized version for middle school audiences based on the original 1868 novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

According to Schaefer, "*Little Women* is a charming story about four sisters, their mother, and their neighbors enduring hardships and enjoying adventures in Civil War New England."

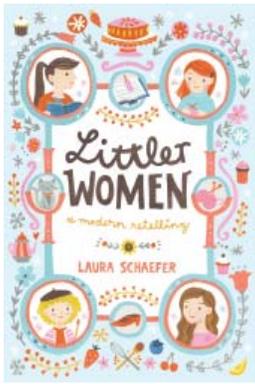
Schaefer's *Little Women* includes the same characters from the original novel, the March sisters. Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March share each other's hopes, dreams, and struggles as they encounter new friends and challenges while growing closer as sisters and friends.

According to Schaefer, "A sweet, contemporary take on the beloved novel, *Little Women* is the perfect introduction to the March sisters for the young readers. Parents are saying they love it for how wholesome and uncomplicated it is, while also being funny and fresh."

Schaefer described how the idea for writing *Little*



Laura Schaefer, author



*Little Women is a modern adaptation of the classic novel, Little Women, published 150 years ago.*

*Women* came from her publisher, Paula Wiseman, who runs the Paula Wiseman Books imprint at Simon & Schuster.

Wiseman approached Schaefer for her writing style and sensibility that she said would fit nicely for the tone of *Little Women*, and Schaefer was honored to receive the offer.

"I've always loved books, so becoming a writer just felt natural to me after college," Schaefer explained. "I'm also very independent and happy to work on my own schedule and at my own pace, which is generally very fast. Becoming a writer is like a dream

come true."

In addition to writing her middle school novels, Schaefer added that she is also a ghostwriter of non-fiction books and content for other individuals and companies.

Schaefer said that she continues to keep in touch with her Lourdes friends who inspire and influence each other, and keeping these lifelong friendships is similar to her experiences of writing stories about other people's lives.

"The best thing Lourdes Academy gave me was the friendships I'm still enjoying today. I wouldn't be who I am without the support and insight of my friends," Schaefer said.

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## Katie Reed tries not to freeze while earning PhD

By Drew Kennebeck ('18) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

2011 alumna **Katie Reed** traveled to Antarctica in February to collect samples of zooplankton for her scientific research thesis. Reed is collecting zooplankton embryos to complete a research thesis which is a necessary step in receiving her PhD. Reed and her advisor share a great interest in zooplankton, which are little crustaceans similar to water bugs that are present in nearly every water body including Lake Winnebago.

The species of zooplankton Reed is researching, however, is unique. "This species is able to enter a dormant state where they appear dead but are really just waiting for the right conditions to hatch. During this dormant state, it looks like they have no metabolism which is usually needed to stay alive, so we are interested in how they can be alive without metabolism," Reed said.

Reed is spending most of her time in Antarctica hiking to remote freshwater lakes looking for and collecting samples to take back with her to the United States to study in a laboratory. She is also collecting data on the lakes themselves including temperature, the amount of oxygen that is available, and how salty or not the water is.

"I am also seeing a lot of cool animals like seals and penguins!" Reed said.

Reed said she is learning the protocol of scientific field work and shared that it is quite difficult but rewarding.

"It is pretty easy to study biology in a lab most of the time, but it is important to study it in the natural environment, too, in order to see if the results we find in the lab match what is seen in nature."

Unfortunately, Reed is also learning that Antarctic weather can be very unpredictable. The weather may be sunny with calm winds one second and then can drop to -25 degrees with winds at 20 meters per second within moments.

Reed left the United States for Antarctica on January 18, 2018 and returned in March. She first flew to Punta Arenas, Chile, which is a scenic area of Patagonia, and then she took a plane to King George Island, Antarctica. The plan was for her to stay for one month in Antarctica. She chose to do her research in February because it is actually summertime in the Southern Hemisphere. Even though it is still very cold in Antarctica, it is the warmest it will be all year.

Reed said she is currently studying at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is majoring in marine science. She earned her undergraduate Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin - Madison where she studied Integrative Biology & Life Sciences Communication as well as Mandarin Chinese.

Reed said, "Lourdes helped prepare me for my current work because I have to know a little of everything to work in Antarctica! At Lourdes, I was able to take science, math, English, and other typical classes but also got to do band, sports, and a bunch of other extra-curricular activities which really helped me prepare for anything. In Antarctica, you have to be ready for anything, so Lourdes really gave me the ability to work with anyone and be ready to learn anywhere! If a Lourdes student asked me for advice, I would say try a little bit of everything you can because you never know what you are going to end up liking and where it will take you!"

Reed adds, "I think Antarctica and Lourdes are probably about the same temperature! When I attended Lourdes, they liked to keep it chilly, so in that way I was prepared!"

To find out more about Reed's Antarctica excursion, check out her blog: [reedaroundtheworld.wordpress.com](http://reedaroundtheworld.wordpress.com).



*Katie Reed in Antarctica*

## Please welcome our calls

Lourdes Academy will conduct its Spring Alumni Phonathon in April. We will be reaching out to hundreds of Lourdes Alumni across the country to ask for your support of the Lourdes Fund through the Spring Appeal. Please welcome our call and consider a gift to the Lourdes Fund. Each gift provides students with the opportunity to receive an education that focuses on the whole person—mind, body and spirit.

# Moran twirls to the Rose Bowl

By Charleigh Reinardy ('19) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

2015 alumna **Mikayla Moran** moved to Athens, Georgia, after graduation to begin her journey as a proud student and collegiate twirler at the University of



Mikayla Moran performed in a pep rally during the Rose Bowl.

Georgia (UGA). Moran fell in love with everything about the school and had always had her heart set on UGA because of the tradition and history within the band and the twirling program. Moran remembers growing up watching the Georgia Majorettes and Feature Twirlers compete at the National Baton Twirling Association Competition in South Bend, Indiana. She looked up to those girls as role models and knew that she always wanted to become a college twirler like them some day.

Moran began twirling and dancing at the age of four at Julie's Touch of Silver dance and twirling studio in Oshkosh, and her passion for twirling only grew as she continued to practice and work toward her goals.

"Many experiences throughout my twirling career, like competitions and jobs, led to my ultimate dream of becoming a collegiate twirler at the University of Georgia," Moran said. "Looking back, what influenced me the most to continue twirling in college was competing in two World Championship Baton Twirling competitions. Winning four gold medals in what would be considered the 'Olympics of baton twirling' may have been enough for some, but this was not enough to satisfy me. In fact, the awards simply inspired me to continue on my journey because I saw how much twirling still had to offer me."

Moran auditioned for the UGA Majorette line while still a senior at Lourdes and said she was beyond ecstatic to find out she had been offered a spot on the team. "At that moment, it became clear to me that God laid it on my heart to follow my dreams and take the position. I was now following in the footsteps of many of my twirling idols and was now a member of a nationally recognized, prestigious college majorette line."

She still remembers her first game, hearing the band play and performing in Sanford Stadium to over 92,000 people. Moran described that football is almost like a religion in the South. "It's like nothing you will ever witness in your life. We bleed red and black and are extreme Dawg fans," Moran said.

Moran experienced many highlights this year, such as traveling to the SEC Championships to play Auburn at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. She described the win of that game as pure joy and happiness and didn't think it could get any better than that moment.

"Seeing the confetti drop and being presented with the SEC Championship trophy was a truly special moment.

I can remember performing on the field and thinking this would be a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was right, but God still had more plans in store for us."

On December 3, 2017 she found out that the Redcoat Band would be traveling with third-ranked Georgia to march in the Rose Bowl Parade and perform for the Rose Bowl game.

"As captain of the Majorette line for the past two years, I immediately began choreographing a parade routine for the 5-mile parade and getting our pregame and halftime show looking clean and sharp."

"The Rose Parade was unlike anything I could have dreamed of. There were people on the streets, sitting high up in the grandstands, and everywhere you looked. They were all cheering us on."

Georgia made history that night winning 54-48 in double overtime. This was the first time that a Rose Bowl game had ever gone into overtime, had the most total combined points, and had seen the greatest comeback from a team.

Fireworks erupted, confetti burst, camera crews went crazy, and the players were running all over.

"Being a part of this piece of history is such a rewarding feeling. I have been so blessed by being a member of the Redcoat Band and University."

Moran said the excitement kept on coming when they started preparing for the National Championship game against Alabama.

"We gave it all we had, but we ended up losing 23-26 in overtime. You could say we were heartbroken but it's great to be a Georgia Bulldog, and no one can take that away from us."

Moran is currently a junior at UGA and will graduate in May of 2019 with a major in Family and Consumer Science Education. She plans to teach nutrition, health and wellness, and get youth excited and knowledgeable about healthy eating, exercising, and cooking. ♡

## Upcoming Reunions

### Class of 1968 – 50th Reunion

Sep. 15th, 2018 @ Lourdes Academy High School  
Contact: Renee Donner at renee\_donner@yahoo.com

### Class of 1978 – 40th Reunion

Aug. 11th, 2018 @ Lourdes Academy High School  
Contact: Jacquelyn Kuhn at jacquelynkuhn@charter.net

### Class of 1983 – 35th Reunion

July 7th, 2018 @ Lourdes Academy High School  
Contact Drew Denney at ddenney@rwbaird.com

### Class of 1998 - 20th Reunion

Stay tuned for details...  
Contact Joseph or Jennifer Gelhar at  
jgelhar98@yahoo.com

For help planning your reunion, contact Shannon Gibson at 920.426.3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today.



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Lourdes Academy Alumni Newsletter

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

Like Lourdes Academy on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @lourdesacademy1.



## What's your legacy?

*Become a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Legacy Society with a planned gift*

A planned gift to Lourdes Academy is a perfect opportunity to support an organization that has had a positive influence on your life and to leave a legacy that will continue the Lourdes tradition for the next generation. Your gift can make a faith-based education a reality for families now and in the future. Consider including one of these gift options in your annual or planned giving strategy.

### **IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)**

Individuals age 70.5 are required to take a minimum annual distribution from their IRA. Consider donating your RMD to Lourdes to receive a tax benefit, and the charity receives your gift TAX FREE!

### **Insurance Policies**

Name Lourdes Academy as the beneficiary of your life insure policy as part of your estate plan.

### **Stock/Securities Gifts**

Stock portfolios are often the most valuable asset an individual owns, and along with it comes the highest potential for capital gains tax. By donating publicly traded stock you

have owned for over a year to an organization like Lourdes Academy you enjoy two major tax benefits. You are exempt from paying capital gains taxes on any increase in value and you are entitled to a federal income tax deduction based on the current fair market value of the securities, regardless of their original cost.

Planned gifts can be given at the discretion of Lourdes Academy administration or designated to one of the following existing endowment funds.

- **Lourdes Academy Endowment Fund** – general operations, curriculum, faith formation and facilities upkeep
- **Bill Behring Staff Endowment Fund** – professional development and salary support
- **St. Clare of Assisi Fund** – tuition assistance
- **Judy & Tom Kuble Fund** – music education and scholarships, and the school musical

Alumni who include Lourdes Academy in their estate planning become part of the Our Lady of Lourdes Legacy Society. To learn more about annual or planned giving opportunities, contact Karen Boehm at (920) 426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today. ♥