



# THE SHIELD

Volume 1, Issue 4 Summer 2014

## Lourdes shares music from Broadway to Broadway



*Lourdes Academy was the first high school in the Fox Valley to perform the stage musical Tarzan.*

It was a busy spring for the Fine Arts department at Lourdes Academy. Over the past three months, we've brought a little bit of Broadway (New York) to the Fox Valley and taken a little bit of the Fox Valley to Broadway Avenue (Nashville).

On the stage, our theater program presented *Tarzan* as a stage musical at the historic Grand Opera House. Not only did the show sell more than 1,600 tickets (one of the top selling shows at the Grand this season), but it involved over 100 students in all phases of production. Aside from the excellent work done by the cast, the show was supported by gifted direction and lots of effort from set and costume designers, technical crews and musicians. It is a testament to the department's ambition and our students and faculty that Lourdes was the first high school in the Fox Valley to perform this show. In addition, it managed to raise money for Lourdes Academy senior Madison Levesque's Life is Beautiful campaign thanks to some creative intermission entertainment.

Outside of Oshkosh, 65 Lourdes Academy band and choir students, along with chaperones, spent a weekend in Nashville, Tennessee. Aside from dining and line dancing at the Hard Rock Cafe and Wildhorse Saloon on Broadway

Avenue downtown, the students were able to tour Belmont University and enjoy the atmosphere surrounding the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four.

Performance wise, our students attended a show at the Grand Ole Opry and put on shows at both Opry Mills and the Country Music Hall of Fame. They produced a professional recording at RCA Studio B, where both band and choir students incorporated one of Elvis Presley's pianos into their performance.

Both the production and the trip were major successes, and we're glad our students had the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity in both local and national venues. We're proud of their success and hard work.



*Students from Lourdes Academy visited Belmont University in Nashville Tennessee during the music trip in April.*

## Please stay in touch

We hope you enjoyed the first year of *The Shield*. By popular request, we will continue to mail *The Shield* during the upcoming year, as well as post it on the website. Please provide your mailing and email address so we can share the good news about Lourdes Academy. Also, be sure to share your favorite Lourdes memory. Click on the Alumni Shield at [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org) to update information or share your story.

One newsletter was sent per household. To have additional copies sent to individual members of your household, please contact Linda Wolfgram at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or [lwolfgram@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:lwolfgram@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).

# Lourdes alumni connected long after graduation



*Brian and Kerry (Branigan) Mitchell are one of more than 200 Lourdes alumni couples who have been married over the years.*

## Locker Mates & Soul Mates

**Brian Mitchell ('91)** admits he "outkicked his coverage" when he first asked his wife, **Kerry (Branigan '88) Mitchell**, to marry him. They weren't actually dating. And he was a freshman while she was a senior. But they had become good friends through the music and theater programs at Lourdes.

During a musical practice, Kerry removed a ring she was wearing and set it down on Brian's binder. She later thought she had lost it. The next day when Brian opened his binder, he found the ring. So as any courageous freshman who had a crush on an upperclassman would do, he returned the ring by proposing to Kerry in front of her locker. And in a spirit of friendship, she said yes.

It would be several years before Brian graduated and he and Kerry started dating. When he did propose for real, he brought her back to Lourdes, the place where it all began, and six years to the day after the first proposal, he again asked for her hand in marriage...in front of her locker.

Kerry and Brian are one of more than 200 Lourdes alumni couples to be married. Alumni from every class and every decade have found love at Lourdes.

## Calling all military personnel

The Fall 2014 issue of *The Shield* will feature Lourdes alumni who are serving or have served in the military. Tell us about your military experience for a chance to be included in *The Shield*. To share your story, contact Karen Boehm at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or [kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org). Or update your information and share your military story in the favorite memory box by clicking on the Alumni shield at [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).

## NOT a Dime a Dozen

**Bob Knobloch ('67)** and **Sue (Poeschl) Knobloch ('68)** met at the first Lourdes dance of the season in 1965, back when sock hops were held in the gym every Monday night during the summer. Sue's cousin and Bob's friend, **Peter Poeschl ('67)**, had a plan to introduce them.

The girls always had to have a dime with them in case they needed to call home for any reason. Peter used to hold the dimes for his sisters and girl cousins because they didn't have pockets. That night he gave Sue's dime to Bob. Bob and Sue were married in 1972 and have been married 41 years. Thank you Peter!

## Chemistry in Chemistry Class

**Todd Meier ('83)** first noticed **Kristin LaPine ('83)** during orientation on the first day of their junior year. Kris, who had just transferred to Lourdes, was getting her class picture taken and her image was locked in his mind. They became friends and even dated once their junior year, but a sports injury left Todd with a fat lip and he figured he blew his chance.

During their senior year, Todd and Kris were lab partners in Mr. Behring's Chemistry class and they hit it off. Todd had recently broken up with a girlfriend when they went on their first date to Mark's Big Boy, recalls Kris.

"On the way as we were driving through town, he didn't want his ex to see us so I hid below the dash of the car."

Kris admits that she skipped a few classes to hang out in the yearbook room with Todd, who was on the Yearbook Committee. More than two decades later, she found the courage to apologize to Mr. Kemp for missing history class.

Todd and Kris will celebrate their 28th anniversary in August and are still going strong.

"It was in (Mr. Behring's) class where Kris LaPine and I bonded and we are still together today (going on 28 years married and together for over 31 years)," Todd said.

"Todd was always very sweet and attentive," Kris said. "I was the lucky one. He is a wonderful father and partner and a genuinely nice guy."



*Todd & Kris (LaPine) Meier share a moment in the courtyard between classes at Lourdes in 1983.*



# Lourdes honors outstanding alumni, organizations at awards dinner



Lourdes Academy recognized (from left) Rob & Lynn Kleman - Distinguished Stewardship; the late Lee Hammerseng represented by Steve ('79), Lois and Larry ('83) Hammerseng - Athletic Hall of Fame; and Herb Ilk - Outstanding Alumni.

The atmosphere was filled with nostalgia as Lourdes alumni and supporters shared stories of days past at the fourth annual Awards Recognition Dinner in April. Each year at the event, Lourdes Academy presents awards to outstanding alumni and volunteers, and inducts the newest member into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Lourdes Academy was proud to honor the following individuals.

## 2014 Outstanding Alumni – Herb Ilk

Since graduating from Lourdes Academy in 1990, **Herb Ilk's** ambitions have led him across the country and back. Ilk graduated from Northwestern University in 1994 with a Bachelors Degree in Chemical Engineering and found employment in that field. While attending Northwestern he and some friends participated in fantasy sports. What started as a hobby with friends quickly turned into a career.

Ilk became the first in his industry to research players and teams and share the information online. In the 1990s, computer programming was not a mainstream field of study so Ilk taught himself to write computer programs. He, along with his college friend, Peter Schoenke, started

RotoNews, a leader in online fantasy sports. The company's rapid growth caught the attention of a larger internet company in California which purchased RotoNews, and Ilk and Schoenke relocated to California. But when the dot com market imploded in the late 1990s, RotoNews was one of many casualties.

Ilk came back to Wisconsin to start anew. His business model and portion of RotoNews had performed well, so he used it to build a new company - RotoWire.

"We liked what we were doing," Ilk said of running RotoNews. "There's the allure of being your own boss. There was a lot of risk and hard work in starting over, but we knew we'd be OK."

RotoWire has consistently ranked among the 10 largest sports sites in surveys by both Media Metrix and PC Data, topping such sites as Foxsports.com.

Ilk credits Lourdes for the perseverance and creative problem solving he used to start, then restart his business.

"A lot (of our business) has to do with creatively solving problems," Ilk added. "I gained a lot of that in math classes with Mr. Knobloch. My senior year, I wasn't going to take

a lot of upper level classes, but Mr. Behring made me take them anyway."

Despite the success Ilk has experienced, if you ask him what his biggest accomplishment is today he will tell you his family—his wife, Jennifer, and two boys, Joseph and Herbie, ages 9 & 11.

## 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee – Lee Hammerseng

The late **Lee Hammerseng** wanted the best of both worlds. He was a man who valued a Lourdes education for his children but wanted to offer them a chance to play baseball as well.

Until 1979, Lourdes High School had no baseball team. Boys who grew up playing the game and wanting to play in high school either went to a different high school or ran track instead.

It took Hammerseng three years to raise the funds needed to field a baseball team at Lourdes High School. His tenacity and determination paid off, and he was able to not only see his dream become a reality



Lee Hammerseng

but he was also able to coach both of his two sons—Steve, the oldest, for his senior year. The team won 60 percent of their games that first year thanks to Hammerseng's dedication. He stayed on for four more years to see his younger son, Larry, through. Both Steve and Larry eventually came back to Lourdes to coach the program their dad worked so hard to establish.

Baseball at Lourdes has grown every year, building on the Hammersengs' success and commitment. In 2012, the Lourdes Knights made it back to the state tournament, just like Lee Hammerseng's team did in the beginning.

Lee did more than bring nine kids out to play baseball. He started a program, one that still lived on after he was done coaching, one that turned out many great baseball players.

Among those ranks are Herb Ilk, the 2014 Outstanding Alumni, who won the Fox Valley Christian Conference 2nd team All Conference, and **Robbie Kleman ('12)** who is playing for the UW Oshkosh Titans and whose parents, Rob & Lynn, received the 2014 Distinguished Stewardship Award. Lee Hammerseng left Lourdes more than a baseball team, he left his legacy.

#### **2014 Distinguished Stewardship - Rob & Lynn Kleman**

Since their children, **Robbie ('12)** and **Katie ('14)** began Pre-K at Lourdes Academy, **Rob and Lynn Kleman** have been active in just about every aspect of Lourdes from athletics and the arts to home and school.

Lynn served as the president of the Seton Home & School Committee, while Rob was busy coaching both Robbie and Katie in 4th and 5th grade basketball for UCS League and Junior Knights Basketball Club (JKBC) teams.

Rob served as the JKBC president and was instrumental in the creation and expansion of the club, while setting a strong foundation for the club to remain active today. During Rob's tenure in JKBC, he coordinated the annual home tournaments, which are the club's key fund raising initiatives. Rob was also an instrumental team member of the Castle Scoreboard Committee.

Lynn is an active member of the Lourdes Academy Booster Club. She has served on the Board of Directors and was a key participant in redesigning the structure of the club as we know it today. Lynn serves as the coordinator of the Communications Committee, while Rob is a member of the Booster Advisory Committee. Both Rob and Lynn have assisted with concessions, flower sales and other Booster Club activities.

But, it's not all about athletics with the Klemans. Rob and Lynn are also both involved in the music community at Lourdes Academy. As

an active member of the Lourdes Academy Music Boosters (LAMB), Lynn has assisted in the Madrigal performances. They have been very active in the musical performances, whether it is volunteering to build sets, chaperone, make meals, unload props, reload props, tear down or clean up dressing rooms.

The Klemans never hesitate to step up where needed and are always willing to go the extra mile.

#### **Stanley J. Spanbauer Education & Leadership Award**

In 2013, Lourdes Academy created the Dr. Stanley J. Spanbauer Education & Leadership award to recognize an organization or individual who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the overall quality of education in the Oshkosh Area and inspired life-long learning.

This year, the award was presented to the **Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce** for its efforts to bridge education and business in the Oshkosh community. The Chamber coordinates an annual Career Fair to introduce middle school students to career options, as well as job shadowing opportunities and co-op programs. It bridges businesses and schools through its PALs (Partners at Learning) program and creates a forum for discussion between the business and education communities through its PIE (Partners in Education) Council. In addition, the Chamber's Leadership Oshkosh and Youth Lead-

ership Oshkosh programs nurture and develop leaders by introducing them to the inner-workings of the community and engaging them on nonprofit boards of directors.

#### **Other Recognitions**

Staff members were also recognized at the event for 10 years of dedicated service. Receiving certificates for service were Susan Hansen, Jenifer Jensen, Rob Mullen and Ron Vandenhouten.

Several members of the Lourdes Academy staff, who received awards at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation's Celebrate Education event in March, were also recognized at the event.

Michelle Sorenson, Lourdes Academy Middle/High School Band & Fine Arts Director, and Jennifer Pollack, Lourdes Academy High School English teacher, received Rudoy Awards. Mary Beschta (LA Elementary – Seton), Katie Mammel (LAMS), Shane Obrigewitch (LAMS) and Erin Nugent (LA Elementary – Cabrini) received Celebrate Education grants.

Lourdes Academy extends its congratulations and thanks to these dedicated individuals and organizations.

To nominate an individual for an award, look for the Alumni Nomination Forms under the Alumni link at [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org) or contact Carla Huizenga at 920-426-3626, ext. 540 or [carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).

# LOURDES ACADEMY

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## DINNER AUCTION



### SAVE *the* DATE

## November 8, 2014

### EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

Contact Carla Huizenga for more information at 920-426-3626, ext. 540 or [carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org) or visit [lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](http://lourdesacademyoshkosh.org).



# Grads go out with a bang!



*Sami Spanbauer ('15), Angela Koppa ('14) and Madison Levesque ('14) collect supplies for the Life Is Beautiful campaign, which served more than 2,000 families at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry.*

As the school year drew to a close and graduation approached, senioritis threatened to invade the Class of 2014. While some seniors may have been dreaming about cleaning out their lockers for the last time, **Madison Levesque ('14)** had one more challenge to tackle before crossing the stage in her cap and gown.

Volunteering at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP), Levesque learned that the 2,000 families served there each month are limited to just one hygiene product per month per family. Families often had to choose between soap, shampoo or toothpaste.

Recognizing an opportunity, Levesque launched the "Life Is Beautiful" campaign with a goal of creating a hygiene bundle—including a comb, wash cloth, shampoo and conditioner—for each of the 2,000 families who use the OACP.

Levesque, president of Lourdes Academy's Campus Ministry program, enlisted the help of fellow Campus Ministry members, classmates and local businesses.

"Mrs. (Sue) Dolan brought three of her (English) classes down to help organize bundles," Levesque said. "And her Freshman class wrote letters to businesses asking them to donate to the campaign."

Lourdes Principal Mike Mauthe arranged for special jean passes for students donating hygiene items to "Life Is Beautiful." And during intermission of the Lourdes musical, *Tarzan*, in which Levesque performed, student "apes" cruised the aisles collecting monetary donations to purchase more items.

"With the musical, we raised more than \$2,000 just that weekend," she said. "I'm very grateful to Lourdes for allowing me to host my campaign and seeing my vision and letting me run with it. It was a win-win." A win for students who earned service hours, for families who received needed hygiene items and for the OACP.

Levesque's "Life Is Beautiful" campaign provided more than 2,000 hygiene bundles to the OACP, as well as a \$2,300 cash grant that the pantry can use to purchase additional hygiene items at a discounted rate.

In May, Levesque was named one of the Oshkosh Northwestern's first-ever "2 Under 20" recipients, which recognizes two individuals under 20 years of age who have made a significant impact in their community.

"I'm very honored to be selected," Levesque said. "Lourdes really likes their leaders and volunteering. 2 Under 20 is about leadership and getting involved in the community. It was a perfect way to wrap up my senior year."

## Lady Knights bring home state trophy



*The Lourdes Academy Lady Knights clinched the D3 Track & Field State Championship in LaCrosse. Pictured are Nora Keller ('15), MacKenzie McDonald ('15), Abigail Moore ('14), Maeve McDonald ('14), Crystal Combs ('14), Maddy Reed ('14), Cecily Vandenhousten ('15), Evelyn Noone ('15), Angela Moore ('16) and Emily Foley ('17). Not pictured: Katie Van Scyoc ('17).*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Judy Kuble had a lot to do with my becoming a music major at Lawrence University.*

~ Brian Mitchell, ('91)

*Favorite memory: "Being a member of the first "four-year" graduating class.*

~ Pauline Benz Casper ('63)



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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.*

## UPCOMING LOURDES REUNIONS

### **CLASS OF 1964 - 50TH CLASS REUNION**

Saturday, August 9 • 6-10 p.m.  
(6 p.m. cocktails followed by dinner)  
Elks Club, 175 W. Fernau Ave.  
Cost: \$20 each or \$37 per couple  
RSVP: Dione Gunther, 920-233-3673 or  
[dionegemail-info@yahoo.com](mailto:dionegemail-info@yahoo.com)

### **CLASS OF 1974 - 40TH CLASS REUNION WEEKEND**

Visit [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/LourdesClassof1974) - Lourdes Class of 1974  
Send any high school or present day photos to  
[pjc.carrick@verizon.net](mailto:pjc.carrick@verizon.net) by July 11.

### **Multi-Class Get Together for Classes of 1971-1977**

Friday, July 18, 2014 • 6:30 p.m.  
Fratello's Field House (outside weather permitting),  
1501 Arboretum Dr.

### **Reunion Golf Get-Together**

Saturday, July 19 • Westhaven Golf Club  
RSVP for Tee Times: Gary Griedl @ 920-426-4912  
or [ggriedl@new.rr.com](mailto:ggriedl@new.rr.com)

### **\*\*1974 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion\*\***

Saturday, July 19  
4:30 pm - Mass at St. Jude (St. Vincent site)  
5:30 pm - Lourdes High School Tour  
6:30 pm - Reunion  
Lourdes HS Bill Behring Commons, 110 N. Sawyer St.  
Hawaiian Theme – Grass Skirt Optional  
\$30 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soda  
& mixers  
RSVP: Linda Leschke Dorsey at [ladorsey@prodigy.net](mailto:ladorsey@prodigy.net)  
or 920-279-0145.

Planning a reunion? Contact Karen Boehm at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or [kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org](mailto:kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org) for assistance. Lourdes Academy offers free mailing lists and facilities usage for Lourdes class reunions.