



# THE SHIELD

Volume 12, Issue 4  
Summer 2025

## Congratulations, Class of 2025!

The Class of 2025 celebrated together on May 25. The graduation Mass took place at St. Jude - St. Vincent Site while the Commencement ceremony was held in the Castle Gym. Each handshake and diploma represented years of hard work and dedication. With fond memories and bright futures, the Class of 2025 stepped forward, ready to make their mark on the world.



*Students of all ages cheer on our seniors during the Grad Walk tradition.*



*Emmie Day (left) and Hailee Bauer (right) celebrate together at the end of the Commencement ceremony.*



*Seniors pose for one last photo together around the Cedar Yard Greeting sign.*



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

On May 7, we held our Teacher Appreciation Week assembly, where our K-12 students and staff gathered to honor our exceptional teachers and administrators. During the event, we celebrated the following milestones and award recipients:

**10-year anniversaries: Jennifer Haack and Sara Jungwirth**

**15-year anniversaries: Karen Boehm and Susan Trofka**

**20-year anniversary: Linda Wolfgram**

**25-year anniversary: Donna Krohn**

**Retiree: Frau Linda Kaelin**

**Silver Sword recipients: Luke Spanbauer (ES), Robyn Skaar (MS), Boyd Zastrow (HS) and Amy Hughes (Staff)**

This year, we also revamped our milestone recognition process to include 15 and 20-year anniversaries. As a result, we celebrated staff members who reached these milestones over the past few years: Karen Coats (20), Rob Mullen (20), Amy Geffers (15), Karen Pettibone (15), Alissa Schade (15), Michelle Sorenson (15), Jill Thurk (15) and Reed Tyriver (15). A special thank you to Bergstrom Automotive for sponsoring the Silver Sword awards.



*Anniversaries: Donna Krohn, Linda Wolfgram, Jenny Haack, Susan Trofka and Karen Boehm.*



*Retiree: Frau Linda Kaelin and her German students.*



*Past anniversaries: Rob Mullen, Karen Coats, Amy Geffers, Alissa Schade and Reed Tyriver.*

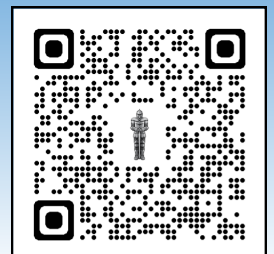


*Silver Sword recipients: Amy Hughes, Luke Spanbauer, Robyn Skaar and Boyd Zastrow.*

## Our Lady's Wish List

Lourdes Academy has many projects and programs throughout the year that strengthen our system, protect our children, develop leaders, and help move Lourdes forward in a positive direction.

Scan the QR code to view Our Lady's Wish List items and learn how you can support our mission and our vision for the future with a gift today. If you have questions about Our Lady's Wish List or any of the items listed, please contact Karen Boehm at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today.



### **CORRECTION**

*In the last edition of The Shield, we wrote an alumni feature article on Jeff Kemp. The article stated Jeff taught at St. Mary's and Seton in Menasha for 25 years. However, it was his wife, Marie, that taught for 25 years. Thank you for your dedication to teaching, Marie!*

# Alumni Spotlight

## Schlueter discovers spiritual growth through life experiences

Greg Schlueter ('86) has achieved numerous remarkable milestones since his graduation from Lourdes Academy. He has contributed to major films such as *Narnia* and *Superman Returns*. He founded Keys2Heaven, an instrumental project that transforms inspiring stories of faith into music. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Miami University (OH), earning a double major in Political Science and Speech Communications, and completed his MA in Theology and Pastoral Ministry with a perfect GPA of 4.0. Together with his wife, Stephanie, he established Mass Impact, committing their efforts to nurture Christian faith and community within parishes. All of these accomplishments stem from Schlueter's unwavering dedication to his Catholic faith.

"We are dignified and made for God's glory," Schlueter said. "That is not just theology for me, it is alive."

Schlueter had a moral awakening at a young age due to three TV series he recalls when he was 10 years old. They centered around Holocaust, Nazi Germany and Jesus. These series prompted deep existential questions about human dignity. Schlueter embraced a pro-life perspective that remained with him throughout his college years. This mindset led to a couple major life events. These epiphanies, along with his experience at Lourdes, has given Schlueter a life filled with spiritual growth.

### **Epiphany #1**

College became a transformative period for Schlueter. He created relationships with faith-filled believers who were leading the pro-life movement.

"At the heart of the movement was relationships," Schlueter said. "Beyond the politics, are we genuinely interested in people and are we seeing God's dignity in them?"

Instead of pursuing law school, Schlueter decided to follow this desire to join the pro-life movement. He believed this was God's calling for him and his divine purpose.

"God made us for a reason and a purpose," Schlueter said. "What he calls you to, he will provide. This is the biggest question. What in the core of your being has God made you and equipped you to do?"

This question stuck with Schlueter and burned inside of him, leading to him taking a job at Human Life International as director of communications.

### **Epiphany #2**

While at Human Life International, Schlueter found a deep infatuation focused around the apparitions at Medjugorje, a village in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is reported that visions of Mary begun in 1981 to six children. The Marian shrine of Medjugorje has become a popular pilgrimage site for Catholics, where each year more than 1 million people visit.

In 1991, Schlueter visited Medjugorje on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first reported apparitions. This experience only affirmed his Catholic faith in a more dynamic way.



*Schlueter and his wife, Stephanie, devote their energies to Catholic marriage and family revival through a nonprofit movement, Image Trinity/Mass Impact.*

"Medjugorje turned the vision of Catholicism from answering the right questions to this deeper encounter of knowing personally. This is the essence of salvation. This is the essence of what God wants."

Medjugorje changed how Schlueter viewed the world and deepened his relationship with God.

"This experience took my vision of the Catholic world from a connect-the-dots to a Rembrandt."

### **The impact of Lourdes Academy**

Before these epiphanies occurred, Schlueter attended Lourdes Academy. Lourdes provided Schlueter a foundational framework that went beyond academic education, focusing on personal development, spiritual growth, and deep relationships. Schlueter believes Lourdes is a place that gives students Catholic roots and allows relationships to grow, mainly due to the power of God.

"Don't dismiss the power of the roots that God has given you," Schlueter said. "Regardless of how things play out or what your circumstance is, positive or otherwise, there is something deeper at work at Lourdes and you will discover that 15, 20 or 30 years down the road."

A perfect example of this is Schlueter's relationship with former classmate Susan (Trickel) Kapnick ('86). Although they were not close in high school, they both attended Miami University and their relationship grew. Schlueter sees Kapnick as an inspiration to him still today.

"Susie is very wise, bold and speaks the truth from her heart."

Schlueter's life experiences, including his time at Lourdes, have given him a path led by God and has led to his pro-life mindset and spiritual development.

"For me, the Medjugorje experience, my experience at Miami and certainly roots of good experiences at Lourdes, punctuated that beyond our misguided conceptions and beyond the poor witness given to all of us, it is the truth of the Gospel that defines this rising of human existence."



# Upcoming Events

LOURDES ACADEMY

## HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 2-3

“WELCOME HOME WEEKEND”

### OCTOBER 2: WELCOME HOME AWARDS CEREMONY @ LOURDES ACADEMY

This special event will highlight our 2025 award recipients.

5:30 p.m.: Cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception

6:30 p.m.: Ceremony

After Ceremony: Cocktail hour and tours

*Athletic Hall of Fame: Joe Leschke ('05)*

*Distinguished Stewardship: Hal & Monica Schulz*

*Outstanding Alumni: Tom Hulsebosch ('82)*



Award Nomination Form  
For 2026 Awards Ceremony

### OCTOBER 3: HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

Join us at the homecoming festivities!

4:30-6 p.m.: Family Tailgate @ Circle Drive

5:15 p.m.: Parade

6:05 p.m.: Human Tunnel (Lot A) & March to Titan

7 p.m.: Football Game vs. Dodgeand @ Titan Stadium



Welcome Home Awards  
Ceremony Registration

For updated information, visit [www.lourdes.today/homecoming](http://www.lourdes.today/homecoming)

20TH ANNUAL  
LOURDES ACADEMY

Tee It Up For Kids

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you got it.

Ganther  
CONSTRUCTION | ARCHITECTURE  
you got it.

Friday, August 15, 2025  
Lake Breeze Golf Club



TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.LOURDES.TODAY/GOLF](http://WWW.LOURDES.TODAY/GOLF).

Lourdes Gala

SATURDAY

1

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# Alumni Spotlight



*Laura Chier ('16) (left) and Brooklyn Berenz ('16) (right) embarked on a camping trip together on an African safari.*

## Berenz and Chier reconnect after graduation

Lourdes Academy is recognized for its community and familial atmosphere. Whether you are an alum's family member, a former student, or a supporter, it is clear that you are part of the family for life. Being a part of a family means creating strong relationships with other members, even if you are separated for a period of time.

Laura Chier ('16) and Brooklyn Berenz ('16) understand this sentiment intimately. These two have been friends since first grade, and after graduation, their journeys took them across the globe, leading them down different paths. However, they were able to stay close during every step of the way.

Chier studied finance and Chinese at William and Mary. She moved to New York three years ago and works at a hedge fund called Napier Park, covering all healthcare investments.

She also worked in China for a time. Chier loved China and lived with a Chinese family. Her family spoke no English and she spoke little Mandarin at first. While living in China, Chier interned at a venture capital firm in Shanghai and attended East China Normal University to better her Chinese speaking skills.

One interesting experience was field trips to a Shanghai marriage market, where parents would type a resume for their child and publicly post it to help them get married. Chier enjoyed trying new Chinese flavors & dishes, including insects.

Berenz graduated with a degree in industrial and system engineering from the University of Minnesota before being approached by Lockheed Martin to apply for the Operational Leadership Development Program (OLDP).

Berenz started OLDP in July 2020 and worked in three one-year rotations, gaining experience in supply chain, quality, and production operations. She worked remote for rotation 1 due to COVID-19; worked at Marinette Marine, a quality engineer on shipbuilding programs; and in Sunnyvale, CA, where she completed OLDP in July 2023. Berenz now works as an industrial engineer in Sunnyvale.

She works in the composite building, on the Orion spacecraft, and in the electronic and machine shop.

Berenz's background in the defense industry and working for Lockheed has allowed her to explore different business areas and learn about different space programs.

While in graduate school, Berenz was contemplating an international journey to Cape Town for a week as part of her MBA program. Her team aimed to connect with local businesses and undertake consulting projects. They planned visits to various sectors, including the consulate, winery, cookie factory, mining, and pharmaceutical industries. Additionally, Berenz provided business consulting for a telecommunications company, where they discussed industry trends and market positioning. Berenz's team concentrated on enhancing online presence and refining organizational structure.

In a delightful twist, she invited Chier to join her on a safari for a week prior to her academic trip. Together with a friend from New York, they opted for a camping adventure with a group of 20 individuals aged 18 to 35.

The group camped across South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe, engaging in a variety of activities such as safari drives, hiking, plane safaris, and canoeing in the Okavango Delta with local guides. An exhilarating aspect of the trip was the night camp experience. The site was surrounded by hippos, and the distant roars of lions could be heard throughout the night. If you needed to leave your tent, it was essential to have friends by your side. They were told to avoid exiting your tent unless absolutely necessary. The guides took turns on shifts to ensure everyone's safety.

Berenz's favorite experience was observing giraffes and visiting the renowned rhino sanctuary in Botswana, recognized for its conservation initiatives. Chier was particularly fond of elephants and hippos, with the river safari being a standout moment. Berenz also relished the thrill of cage diving at the Cape of Good Hope, where she was surrounded by dolphins, penguins, and copper sharks.

The trip deepened the bond between Chier and Berenz, reminding them of the profound connection rooted in their shared time at Lourdes Academy. This once-in-a-lifetime journey through the stunning landscapes of Africa not only provided them with unforgettable memories but also reinforced the values of curiosity, friendship, and exploration that Lourdes Academy cherishes.

### Summer All-Class Get-Together



July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.

Fox River Brewing Company



MUSIC with Lourdes Connections

8 p.m.: Nathan & Elizabeth Schlueter Family

9 p.m.: John Bunks ('84)

**Alumnus Greg Schlueter's ('84) son, Seph Schlueter, will headline Lifest on July 11th.**

For more information, contact Greg Schlueter at [greg@massimpact.us](mailto:greg@massimpact.us)



**LOURDES**

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# THE SHIELD

Lourdes Academy Alumni Newsletter

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## Upcoming Reunions

### CLASS OF 1965 REUNION

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 @ 3 P.M.**

**LOURDES ACADEMY**  
**110 N. SAWYER ST. OSHKOSH, WI 54902**

*For more information, contact  
Terry Koelbl at [tkoelbl@wi.rr.com](mailto:tkoelbl@wi.rr.com)*

### CLASS OF 1980 REUNION

**CELEBRATING 45 YEARS**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025 @ 4 P.M. (COST: \$25)**

**BARLEY & HOPS**  
**663 N. MAIN ST. OSHKOSH, WI 54902**

*For more information, contact  
Joanne Poeschl Gonyo at [Joanne.gonyo@gmail.com](mailto:Joanne.gonyo@gmail.com) or  
Carolyn Brown Bertog at [acmkbertog@gmail.com](mailto:acmkbertog@gmail.com)*

### CLASS OF 1975 REUNION

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025**

**LAKESHORE PAVILION**  
**1875 PUNHOQUA ST. OSHKOSH, WI 54902**

*For more information, contact  
Mamo Kubiak at 920-379-7729 or [mamokubiak@gmail.com](mailto:mamokubiak@gmail.com)*

### CLASS OF 1985 REUNION

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025 @ 7 P.M.**

**THE BAR OSHKOSH**  
**825 N. WASHBURN ST. OSHKOSH, WI 54904**

*For more information, contact  
Sarah Schneider at 414-630-9924 or  
[sarahschneider1@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahschneider1@yahoo.com)*

*For more information about the reunions, visit [lourdes.today/reunions](https://lourdes.today/reunions).  
Planning a reunion? Contact Brett Baehman for assistance!  
920-426-3626 ext. 550 or [bbaehman@lourdes.today](mailto:bbaehman@lourdes.today)*