

SPRING 2024

communiqué



A Steady Hand –
Tom Shipley's Legacy



Mission Statement

The mission of Academy of Holy Angels is to educate and nurture a diverse student population so that each student, as a whole person, may achieve full potential to excel intellectually, to live spiritually, to lead responsibly, to act justly, and to serve selflessly.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| From the President | 3 |
| Tom Shipley's Legacy | 4 - 5 |
| Around Campus | 6 - 9 |
| Advancement & Events | 10 - 14 |
| Alumni Features | 15 - 18 |
| In Loving Memory | 19 |

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Special thanks to Allie Specht '12, David Frear, TeMo Photo, Joe Berg '05, and others for photos for this publication.



On the cover: President Tom Shipley will retire after thirteen years of service at Academy of Holy Angels.

Left: Tom Shipley, Father Mike Tix, and Beth Shipley are pictured together after the All School Service Day Mass in 2017. Along with student service graduation requirements, All School Service Day was one of the new initiatives introduced by Tom Shipley as an effort to enhance and strengthen the Catholic teachings of the school. This year's All School Service Day will take place on May 23.



From the President

Dear AHA Friends,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying what has been a magical ten weeks of springtime in the middle of winter! As I look over our beautiful campus, it is amazing to see students in short sleeves, baseballs flying, and the track team running.

Academy of Holy Angels is defined by our legacy, our past stories, and our future potential. Among the many great strengths of Holy Angels is that it is always evolving, growing, and seeking opportunities for improvement. The signs of this can be found in the highly talented faculty, staff, and students who enter our campus doors every morning. Our broader community, highlighted in this Communiqué, also reflects a school that continues to move forward and alumni and friends who continue to celebrate our mission.

It was thirteen years ago that I first stepped forward on this campus. It truly does not seem that long ago. Not fully knowing what to expect as the new president, it was a pleasant surprise - what an incredible school, surrounded by even more outstanding friends committed to supporting it! Now, thirteen years later, I can express deep gratitude to the AHA community, past and present, for helping shape the school we are today. As I've said many times, this school and this community have given me much more than I've been able to give in return. There is an old adage that says 'Some folks are born with a purposeful gift. Others acquire a gifted purpose'; for Beth and me, AHA will always be that 'gifted purpose'.

Enjoy this spring edition of the Communiqué. You'll read about the excitement of upcoming events including Starfest, Alumnae Luncheon, graduation, Rock the Lawn, and the golf tournament that is growing each day. For yet another year, once again, it is evident to see the vibrant enthusiasm and loyalty to this great school.

I remain forever grateful to you for your participation and support of Academy of Holy Angels. You have made, and continue to make, a transformational difference in the lives of our faculty, staff, students, and families.

Once a Star...Always a Star!



God Bless,

Tom Shipley
President



President Tom Shipley Strengthens Holy Angels for Generations to Come

In December 2023, President Tom Shipley announced his plans to retire from his position effective June 2024. After thirteen years at AHA, he is the longest-tenured high school president within the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Tom has shown an unparalleled, steadfast commitment to the mission of private, Catholic education.

Tom began his teaching career in Libertyville, IL, progressing to assistant principal and then principal at Libertyville Public Schools. After 13 years, Tom returned to his hometown of Madison, WI as principal and later as president of Edgewood Catholic High School. In 2011, Tom and his wife Beth moved to Minnesota where he assumed the role of president at Academy of Holy Angels.

Known for his strong business acumen, Tom brought robust executive leadership, fundraising, and institutional finance skills to his role at Holy Angels, as well as a forward-leaning vision for the school. Under his leadership and direction, the school has:

- Completed two successful comprehensive capital campaigns that raised over \$15 million;
- Established the school's first permanent endowment in 2014, which has grown to over \$5 million;
- Increased the compensation and benefits and provided additional retirement savings options for all staff;
- Added a second turf field and dome in 2019 – making AHA the only private school in the country with two full-sized domed athletic fields; opened the new iCenter for STEM Education in 2022, renovated 25 classrooms, and many other facility upgrades;
- More than tripled AHA's annual giving program, from \$600,000 to \$2 million a year;
- Doubled the amount of tuition assistance available, providing opportunities for many new families to attend AHA;
- Retired more than \$14 million of long-term debt, positioning the school to be debt-free as of January 2024.

"Tom has been an incredible leader for Holy Angels for the past 13 years with his enthusiasm, engagement, and vision to build on the foundation set by the Sisters of St. Joseph. He has made AHA all the better during his time as president!"

*- Pam Matthews Kerber '73,
Board Member & Parent of Alums*

"Tom is leaving a legacy of a debt-free school, students and alumni alike who he meets once and remembers forever, and the best staff Christmas party in town!"

- Gregg Sawyer, Theater Director



What these data points don't capture is the human element of Tom's leadership. Staff members have consistently commented on his compassionate, pastoral approach to challenging issues - including the difficult task of leading AHA through the pandemic - as well as his ability to cultivate a fun and focused staff culture. The combination of overall institutional improvements and the interpersonal touch has played a significant role in AHA being named a Star Tribune 'Top Workplace' for seven consecutive years, a designation that is based solely on employee survey results.

"Serving as president and being able to lead Holy Angels has been an amazing and special gift," Tom Shipley shared. "From leading our community through unprecedented times, strengthening the school's financial foundation, initiating an endowment, retiring the debt, expanding academic and athletic facilities, and establishing the framework of the school's strategic plan, I am incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish. We have doubled

"Tom brought a unique combination of character, integrity, competence, and respect to his role. We're grateful for his leadership, and his legacy is indelibly imprinted on the fabric of the entire AHA community."

- Scott Lynch, Board Member & Parent of Alums

our financial assistance for families and taken major strides in rewarding our faculty and staff in our salaries and benefits offerings. My tenure as president at Holy Angels has been a labor of love and a family commitment for Beth and me."

As a culmination of Tom's leadership, Academy of Holy Angels was deemed a 2021 School of Distinction from Cognia, a global accreditation agency. AHA was one of only 59 schools in the world to receive this honor.

Board Chair Yvonne Houle-Gillard said, "We want to thank Tom for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to AHA these past thirteen years. He is leaving AHA strongly positioned for the future, and we are forever grateful to him. We ask for God's blessings upon Tom and Beth as they start writing the next chapter in their lives. We will forever treasure their friendship and support of AHA."



STARS Girls Hockey Team Earns Fourth Place in State!



Congratulations to the Stars girls hockey team who won the section title and advanced to the 2024 MSHSL State Tournament in February! The STARS were highly ranked in state all season long and ended the season with a record of 22-5-3.

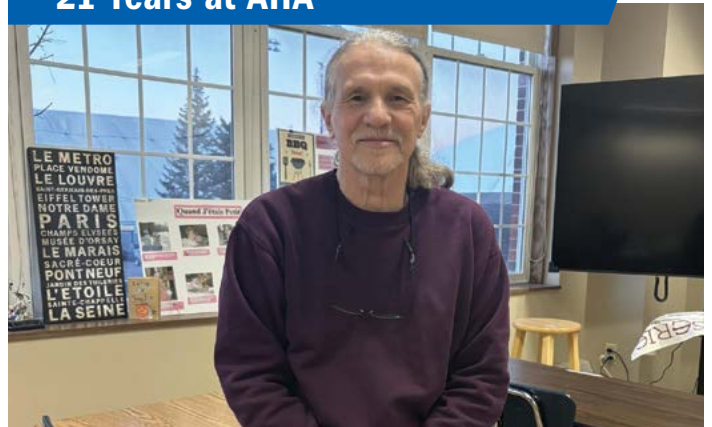
The team was coached by a talented, committed staff including two alums: Ryan LaMere '99 (head coach), Aaron Lapensky '98, Sarma Pone, and Steve Barrett. Coach LaMere '99 shared, "It was an incredible season and another huge step for our program in the quest to win a State Championship. The Holy Angels community and its support for our team was amazing. Congratulations to our players and families on a memorable season. We will be back!"

Girls Table Tennis Wins State Championship!



Madeline Wood and Alaina DeCrans, both seniors, won the Minnesota State High School Table Tennis Team Championship! The competition was hosted at AHA on February 25. A second team, Ava Telep, Ingrid Kuhfuss, Claire Kuntz and Elli Marso, won the consolation championship. Said Jean-Luc Roche, table tennis moderator, "They played their hearts out with great sportsmanship. We can be proud of all of them."

Mr. Roche Retiring After 21 Years at AHA



After 31 years of teaching (21 years at Holy Angels), Mr. Jean-Luc Roche will retire this June. Mr. Roche, who was born in Morocco and moved to Minnesota in 1988 to attend college, has taught French for his entire career. He's held other roles at AHA including moderating the table tennis club and SADD, a student version of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Principal Heidi Foley shared, "C'est magnifique que Monsieur soit professeur à l'AHA. What a gift to AHA students and staff to have a native French speaker. But more, Monsieur Roche is, and always will be, our treasured colleague." When asked what he plans to do upon his retirement, Mr. Roche shared, "So far, I have not decided what is going to be the next step in my life!" We wish Mr. Roche all the best and thank him for his 21 years of service to AHA!

AHA Announces the New Gary Rufsvold Court



AHA will be installing a new wood floor this summer in the main gymnasium. On Friday, March 1, President Shipley made a surprise announcement during halftime of the boys basketball game. When the court is completed for the 2024-25 school year, it will be named after AHA's first coach and long-time athletic director, Gary Rufsvold. Coach Rufsvold is pictured here with his family at the surprise occasion.

Athena Award Winner



Senior Ashley Fisher was named the 2024 Athena Award Winner from Academy of Holy Angels. The Athena Award is based on nominations and votes by head coaches of girls' teams and recognizes one outstanding senior female athlete each year.

Ashley's athletic career as a Star includes participation in track and field, dance, and swimming/diving. Ashley is the 2022 and 2023 State Champion in the 100-meter sprint, and next year, she will participate in track and field at the University of Notre Dame.

Senior Seoyeon Kim



Congratulations to senior Seoyeon Kim on qualifying for the Minnesota State High School Math Tournament! She participated in the individual competition on March 11. Seoyeon is a member of Math STARS, AHA's math team that participates in the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League. The Math League exists to identify students who have unusual mathematical ability, to give them recognition and encouragement, to bring them together with similarly gifted students for mutual stimulation, and to encourage them to investigate a study of topics not commonly taught in the high school curriculum.

Marina Amigon Earns 2024 Triple 'A' Award



The Triple 'A' Award honors high school seniors who are outstanding participants in academics, athletics, and the arts. Academically, Marina excels; she has taken nine advanced placement courses and has earned the Scholar of Distinction honors level all three eligible years. In the arts, Marina's interests include band (clarinet), drumline, jazz band, marching band, and theater. In athletics, Marina has participated in cross country, track and field, and Nordic skiing, where she served as a team captain.

Academy of Holy Angels Names New President

Welcome, Dr. David Sorkin



On March 13, the Academy of Holy Angels Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. David Sorkin as the school's new president, effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Sorkin comes to AHA with significant leadership experience in Catholic education, most recently as the head of school at Saint Hubert Catholic School in Chanhassen, MN. During his time there, David increased enrollment to the highest levels in school history, demonstrated fiscal stewardship to eliminate a cash flow deficit, and implemented culturally responsive welcoming strategies for Spanish-speaking students. He began his career as a music teacher at Saint Agnes in St. Paul and served as teacher and dean of students at Providence Academy in Plymouth before becoming assistant principal at Seton Catholic Preparatory High School in Arizona.

Dr. Sorkin was a national adjunct faculty member at the University of Notre Dame, where he taught graduate-level executive leadership courses designed to align organizational priorities with mission objectives. He is also a research fellow at Boston College, and his qualitative research study on the response of urban, Catholic school principals to the COVID-19 pandemic was presented at the 2022 American Education Research Association national conference and published in the *Journal of Catholic Education* (Fall 2023). Dr. Sorkin has a Bachelor of Music from St. Olaf College, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Innovation from Arizona State University.

This appointment is the culmination of a seven-month, nationwide search by the Academy of Holy Angels Board of Trustees Search Committee, led by Chair Yvonne Houle-Gillard and Past Chair Fr. Mike Tix. The Board was pleased to partner with Gayle Stoffel, Associate Director of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, who provided expertise and guidance throughout the process.

Dr. Sorkin shared, "I am thrilled to join Academy of Holy Angels, and I am excited to partner with the faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and friends of AHA to continue strengthening the excellence found within this amazing community. Since 1931, AHA has proudly served as a beacon for Catholic secondary education, and together, we will ensure Holy Angels continues to be that shining light for the families and students we serve."

Outside of school, David's interests include international travel, food and culture, music, college football, and Caribou Coffee. David, his wife Kelly, and their two sons attend Pax Christi in Eden Prairie.

After thirteen years, Mr. Tom Shipley will retire from his current position as president on June 30, 2024. Dr. David Sorkin will begin his role as president on July 1, 2024. The two will work together throughout the month of July to ensure a smooth transition. In the months ahead, there will be opportunities for the community to meet and get to know Dr. Sorkin.

Campus Ministry Team – A Uniquely Holy Angels Experience

Campus Ministry Team, or ‘CMT’ as it’s commonly called, began as an extracurricular club at Holy Angels in the early 2000s. Today, it’s developed into the capstone theology course. What makes this class unique to AHA is that it is rare for a school to have a year-long class dedicated solely to campus ministry; other high schools either outsource pieces of the program or offer it as an after-school activity.

Each year, approximately 50 senior students are selected to CMT through an application process. When asked why the class requires an application, Ms. McComas-Bussa shared, “We want students who really want to be a part of this. While this isn’t an advanced placement theology class, this is our closest version of it. It requires a significant amount of dedication and a willingness to model the Catholic faith in and out of the classroom.”

CMT empowers students to minister in the areas of faith, service, and pastoral care to help enhance the spiritual life for the AHA community. This includes liturgy, prayer, service, retreat-planning, faith-sharing, outreach, and Christian leadership.

The class is co-led by theology teachers Ann McComas-Bussa and Mark Schumacher. What is evident to them is the growth in leadership and confidence that they witness in their students. Mr. Schumacher shared, “The students appreciate how much work goes into planning events – whether it’s Mass, retreats, or a simple prayer service. They grow in their understanding and in those skills.” Ms. McComas-Bussa added, “Our

CMT students learn so many leadership skills that are transferable to college. I can just imagine one of them as a college freshman - being able to easily initiate a small group conversation, lead a game, and speak comfortably in front of others. These are skills that they’ll use for the rest of their life!”

The entire student community benefits from CMT. Mr. Schumacher said, “The value of this program is that it’s not teachers leading everything; peer-to-peer ministry in this format is really powerful.” Ninth graders receive CMT mentors, meeting weekly during homeroom. During that time, the CMT students share tips for new students, what to expect at school events, how to prep for finals, and more. They serve as a trusted voice to the ninth graders in order to establish a positive school culture all four years.

This spring, CMT students will attend the annual etiquette brunch, where Principal Foley shares a formal meal in the Parlor with them, teaching proper dining etiquette, interview preparation, and social graces. The year culminates in May with a party and a ‘passing of the torch’ ceremony, when the senior CMT students welcome the newest CMT members (current juniors).



Campus Ministry Team members are pictured at their commissioning prayer service last fall.



AHA Provides a Free Online Will and Legacy Planning Resource for Our Community Members



Members of the Academy of Holy Angels Board of Trustees have encouraged the school to provide a resource for our community to help all of us better plan for our futures. A key piece of that plan is a will.

Having a will is important regardless of your assets or where you are in life. A will ensures that your wishes are known and provides peace of mind that you are taking care of everything and everyone you love.

We are excited to share that we have teamed up with an organization called FreeWill to provide an online planning resource to everyone in our community, free of charge.

Here are a few valuable benefits of creating your will:

- 1. Peace of mind:** You can rest easy knowing that the people (and pets) you care about will be supported, no matter what.
- 2. Security:** By having a will and estate plan, you can communicate crucial financial and healthcare decisions, ensuring you're prepared for whatever comes your way.

- 3. Impact:** When you create your will, you can choose to include a legacy gift that will support Holy Angels and our commitment to providing the best possible Catholic, college preparatory education for generations to come.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity. See how creating your will and legacy can build a bright future for yourself, your loved ones, and our AHA community.

If you choose to include AHA in your will, you will be joining over 100 other current members of the AHA Legacy Society.

Is AHA already in your will or estate plan? Please let us know!

If you are not sure how to get started or want to learn more about what an impact your gift can make for AHA, please reach out to Jesse Foley '89 (jfoley@ahastars.org) or Brian McCartan (bmccartan@ahastars.org).

Blue & Gold BASH

STARFEST 2024

Join us on Saturday, April 27!

All members of the AHA community are invited to a special evening to celebrate the spirit of AHA at *Starfest: Blue & Gold Bash!*

There will be special recognition for outgoing **President Tom Shipley**, honoring his 13-year legacy and leadership at AHA. Additionally, **Frank Vascellaro**, WCCO anchor and parent of alum, will join us as our always-entertaining emcee and auctioneer.

Funds raised at Starfest benefit all AHA students by supporting academics, arts, athletics, faith, and tuition assistance.

Complete event details, raffle information, and Starfest tickets are now available online at www.academyofholyangels.org/starfest.

Thank You, Sponsors!

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2024 STARFEST RAFFLE

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GRAND PRIZE:

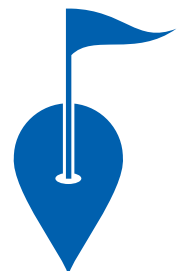
Full Year Tuition for the 2024-25 School Year or \$10,000 Cash!



Join Us! The annual **Shoot for the Stars** is **Wednesday, June 12**

New location this year! Crystal Lake Golf Club (Lakeville)

This annual event is hosted by, and directly benefits, the Stars boys and girls hockey programs. Visit the AHA website for more information and to register.



2024 Awards Ceremony

The annual Donor & Volunteer Recognition Reception & Activities Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is about celebration and gratitude! On January 30, several AHA community members were recognized for their generosity, service, achievements, volunteer efforts, and leadership at the annual event. We applaud these community members for their support of Holy Angels.

The Angelus Award was presented to **Marlys Thies '57** in honor of her years of dedicated service to her AHA classmates and friends, her steadfast support of Holy Angels and our students, and her family's overall commitment to Catholic education.

Jeff Boyle '05 was presented with the Rising Star Award in recognition of his years of dedicated service and deep care for the students at Blessed Trinity Catholic School and for sharing his time and talent as a football coach at Academy of Holy Angels.

Ed and Beth Flaherty were presented with the St. Joseph Award in recognition of their family foundation's extraordinary efforts to ensure that students with significant financial need can attend faith-based college preparatory high schools in Minnesota and around the country, as well as their steadfast commitment since 2016 to the Flaherty Scholars at Holy Angels.

David Frear was inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of his 15 years of dedication and service to AHA's athletics, arts, and advancement programs. Through his professional photography, David has faithfully and tirelessly shared his creative talents with thousands of players and families to capture the spirit of AHA.

Kelsey Romatoski '09 was inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding hockey and track and field careers at Academy of Holy Angels, which included her role on the 2005 Class AA State Hockey Championship team. She was a top-five finalist for Ms. Hockey in 2009 and All-State hockey honors in 2008. Kelsey was the 2009 Athena Award recipient.

Mike Hoover '80 was inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding wrestling, football, track and field, and theater careers at Academy of Holy Angels. Mike was captain of three sports his senior year, named All-State in football, and was cast as a lead actor in AHA's production of *The King and I*. In wrestling, Mike was Conference Champion, District Champion, and qualified for the 1980 MN State Wrestling Tournament.

John and Beth Schutz were presented with the Possumus Award for their overall and generous contributions to Holy Angels. John's impact on the school came through his leadership on the AHA Board of Trustees serving as chair in 2018 and 2019. Beth was an involved parent and served on the 2023 Senior Party Planning Committee.

Wanda and John Hagerty were presented with the Possumus Award for their overall and generous contributions to Holy Angels. Wanda has been the school secretary at Nativity of Mary Catholic School in Bloomington for many years. She was one of the founding members of the South Side Youth Organization. John has always been a tremendous help in building community, providing opportunities, and offering hospitality to all. He's shared his talents coaching and officiating.



*Front row: John and Wanda Hagerty, Beth and Ed Flaherty, Kelsey Romatoski.
Back row: John and Beth Schutz, Jeff Boyle, David Frear*

ROCK THE LAWN-JUNE 14

Rock the Lawn is an all-community outdoor music concert celebrating Holy Angels! It includes ours, music, food, drink and great fellowship. We hope you can join us!

HEADLINER

ST. PAUL & THE MINNEAPOLIS FUNK ALLSTARS



AHA is excited to announce that the 2024 Rock the Lawn Headliner is Paul Peterson and the Minneapolis Funk All Stars. AHA Alum Paul Peterson '83 is one of the best musicians to emerge from the Twin Cities. St. Paul appeared in Purple Rain as a teenager playing keys with The Time.

St. Paul has assembled the who's who crew of the Minneapolis Sound with St. Paul & The Minneapolis Funk All Stars, showcasing those who wrote, produced, performed, or have sung on some of the biggest hits from the heyday of electro funk-rock in the Twin Cities. Rock the Lawn will feature hits from Prince, New Power Generation, The Time, The Family, all performed by members of the original bands.

TICKETS

Available for purchase now at rockthelawn24.givesmart.com

SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------|---|
| 6:00 pm | Doors open! Food trucks, bar, and games on the front lawn |
| 7:30 pm | Bluehound |
| 9:30 pm | St. Paul & the Minneapolis Funk All Stars |
| 11:00 pm | End |

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Rick Welter '93



Sara Melby Thomas '06



Hannah Schweich Hanson '06



Calling All Angels

Alumnae Luncheon



Academy of Holy Angels and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are excited to offer the “Calling All Angels” Alumnae Luncheon on Thursday, May 2. This free event is for our pre-co-ed alumnae and will include an all-school convocation, social time and a luncheon. After lunch there is additional social time followed by a program in the theater with a song from the spring musical, a brief AHA update, a history presentation and a reflection by a senior girl. We hope you will join us!

AGENDA

- 10:15 am Guests arrive
- 10:30 am All-School Convocation in the Gym
- 10:45 am Social and Luncheon
- Noon Program in the Theater
- 12:30 pm Tours of AHA



RSVP

To reserve your place, please register online at: bit.ly/CallingAllAngels2024

You may also email Jesse Foley at jfoley@ahastars.org or call 612-798-2621

PARKING

Available in the St. Peter’s parking lot next to Holy Angels



Here is our AMAZING Luncheon Planning Committee:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alice King Moormann '56 | Pat McGruder Willette '62 |
| Bonnie Talbot Cox '56 | Joan Willenburg Rourke '65 |
| Martie Trader Glockner '57 | Patty Meehan Cunniff '65 |
| Maureen Kelly Neerland '58 | Margie Mexner Cesarek '73 |
| Margie Hayes Bednarz '59 | Sr. Kay Egan, CSJ |
| Kathy Finley Hanson '59 | Sr. Susan Oeffling, CSJ |
| Ruthanne Heenan '59 | Rose Murray, Former AHA |
| Lois Johnson Johnson '62 | Teacher |



A Love Story's Lasting Legacy

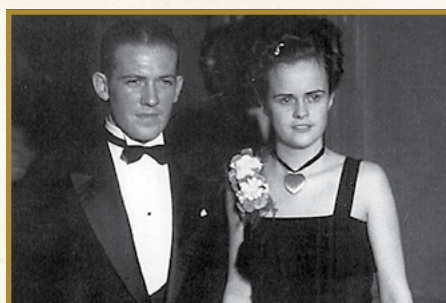
Written by Mollie Mulheran Raih '61

My mother Mary Rocheford Mulheran was a proud member of the AHA Class of 1938. She was active with her friends in many of the school's activities, sports, clubs, and especially in the musicals. She loved Holy Angels! The principal then was Sister Angèle, C.S.J. Mary soon became aware that Joe Mulheran, the boy she was dating from DeLaSalle High School, was the nephew of her school principal!

In those days, it was common for DeLaSalle boys to join the Holy Angels theater department to be cast in the male roles. In one play, Mary, a beauty inside and out, and her



Mary Rocheford Mulheran on the right AHA Theater performance in 1938



Joe Mulheran & Mary Rocheford Mulheran '38

handsome friend Joe were often cast opposite one another. Mary and Joe, who would become my mother and father, had many friends and drew much admiration with their charming personalities. My guess is that Mom's growing interest in Dad was avidly watched by her Holy Angels classmates and friends, and most certainly by her boyfriend's aunt (and her principal) Sister Angèle.

After graduating, Mom went on to study at St. Kate's. She continued dating Joe, a year ahead of her at St. Thomas College. And, as luck would have it, when my mother studied at St. Kate's, Sr. Angèle became her History & Middle Eastern Studies professor there. Sister Angèle, Joe's aunt, was transferred from Holy Angels to St. Kate's. Did God have a plan? You bet! Mary and her boyfriend Joe were also well-supervised at the college level.



Mary Rocheford Mulheran '38, senior picture

Fortunately for them, and for me, Mary and Joe's relationship survived the pressure, and in 1941, they were married. They were blessed with seven children. Their only two daughters, my sister Kassie and I, became proud members of the Holy Angels classes of 1961 and 1962. Our niece Katie Mulheran, All-State soccer goalie, was AHA class of 2004.

Fond memories from my childhood include summer Sunday afternoons, when my parents would bring us to visit our great aunt, Sister Angèle, at St. Kate's. We had fun running around the lawn, where they've now built the Carondelet Center. Sister would have someone serve us lovely cool lemonade. Sister charmed us with her beautiful, resonant voice and always showed an interest in each of us.

The friends we made at Holy Angels have enriched our lives in so many ways. We will also be forever grateful for the excellent academic education we received and for the formation of our Catholic faith, given to us by our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



Alumni Class Notes



The AHA **Class of 1962** is well-represented at Twins spring training this year! Pictured here are alums **Kitty Ernst Schumacher**, **Dee Weinbender Bentley**, and **Barbara Conlin Blaeser** at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers.



The AHA class of 1976 gathered at Christmastime at Joanne Ticen Mallon's home. Pictured are: **Lynette Wittsack Stenglien**, **Sandy Anderson Webster**, **Therese Maurer Feldmeier**, **Jullene Zilka Kallas**, **Jeanne Luxem**, **Margo Truskowski Simmons**, **Lisa LeJeune**, and **Joanne Ticen Mallon**.



The AHA **Class of 1980** gathered for a Christmas celebration. Front: **Cathy Srnec Lingenfelter**, **Joan Piculell**. Back: **Mary Johnson**, **Anne Regnier Maley**, **Molly Wheeler**, **Gina Schullo Meacham**, **Michelle DuPont Johnson**, **Ann Welbes Hubbard**, **Mary Reger Lorentsen**



After 29 years of dedicated service, **Gina Schullo Meacham '80** is retiring from her role as AHA registrar.

AHA has had the extreme good fortune to have Gina as our amazing registrar. Gina has done her job with precision, care, and discretion. She has a deep love for the institution, its traditions, and for all of the kids who have passed through our halls. Gina takes care of all of the behind the scenes issues with grading and student records. She is the first person to offer help when things need to get done. Without fail, former students calling in to get a transcript always get a warm welcome and a trip down memory lane.

As great as she was at her job, Gina has been a friend to everyone at AHA. She supported her colleagues through so many of life's ups and downs. She is there to share laughs, advice, and hugs with everyone. When Gina retires, AHA is losing a loyal cheerleader, a whip-smart registrar, and a smiling presence that can never be replaced!

Gina and her husband **Jeff Meacham '79** are the first alumni couple to have a child also graduate from AHA. They have three children - **Jessica Meacham Boerboom '99** (married to **Ryan Boerboom '99**), **Maria Meacham Stotesbery '03**, and **Thomas Meacham '08** and 8 grandchildren.



Some proud Co-Stars gathered over the holidays. They are **Bruce Nauth '89**, **Jon Launstein '88**, **Sean Morrill '88**, **Chad Schumacher '87**, Front row: **Tony Smith '88**, **Bill Farhet '88**, **Rob Egan '88**, **Matt Lockhart '88**.



A few members of the AHA Class of 1989 (and one from '92) got together for a holiday gathering. **Leo Arms '89, Jesse Foley '89, Annie Juettner Foley '92, Courtney Hauer '89, Lisa St. Aubin Anderson '89, Susan Harristhal Schlink '89.**



Shawn Marette '99 and **Mark Marette '03** attended the World Series games in Arizona. Shawn works for the Diamondbacks in baseball operations. Mark works for Mondelez International.



Thank you to AHA alum **Tony Poehling '00**, CFP of HolleyJo Wealth Advisors for being a guest speaker with AHA's Business Club.

John Patterson '00 was recently named the Chief of Staff at World Vision Australia. He is excited to join the team to work towards a better world for all and to be part of an organization that has such a profound impact for everyday Australians and for vulnerable children around the world.



Lindsay Corbo Cadigan '02 recently won the Best Author Award in Boston Business Women! Last fall, Lindsay launched her second children's picture book in The Confetti Yeti series. For more information go to www.theconfetiyeti.com.

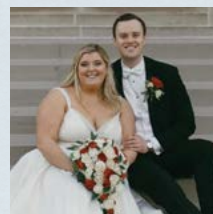
Jazz Hampton '08 will be honored by the University of St. Thomas with the Spirit of St. Thomas Award. One of three founders, Jazz Hampton is CEO and General Counsel at TurnSignl, a Minnesota-based tech company that provides real-time legal guidance from an attorney to drivers.



A great picture from the **AHA Class of 2010! Pictured are Molly Welna, Sara Weeres, Allie Peters Cauble, Aleeta, Nora Conneely St. Angelo and Jenny Hurinenko.**



Congratulations to alums **Jamie Schumacher '14** and **Seamus Burke '14** who were married on February 3. Look at that incredible AHA alumni picture!



Congratulations to **Samantha Biltz '15** who married Brian Vullo on October 7. Proud parents are AHA graduates **Greg '95** and **Angie Olson Biltz '95**. Samantha finished medical school in 2023 and started her pediatric residency through the U of MN in November. This wedding photo also includes **Jackson '21** and future star **Melissa '28!** Many alums were in attendance at the wedding including these seen below.



Rhea Burns Bako '14 married Christian Bako on Sept 2nd 2023. In this picture are AHA alums **Mary Beth Bungert Burns '86, Riley '12, Rhea '14, Garrett '19** and **Gavin '20**.





An Alumni Update from Andrea Douglas, mother of alum [Tyler Douglas '18](#):

“Dear Ms. Kjorstad, I’m so grateful for the advice that you gave my son Tyler Douglas six years ago. The encouragement and belief you had in his passions, throughout the ups and downs of the college admission process, ensured Tyler that he would always end up in his dream job no matter where he went to school.

I wanted to send you an update about what’s happened since Tyler went to the University of Minnesota to study aerospace. Tyler ended up captaining the U of MN Rocket Team, and along the way, he and his team created ridiculous rockets and processes. Tyler’s team even won the 2021 Spaceport America Cup beating many prestigious colleges. He also built a rocket that could reach 100,000 feet, then drove it cross-country in a Gopher caravan to the Mojave Desert to shoot it off.

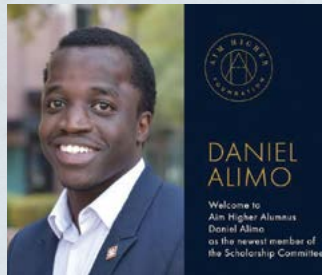
After graduation, Tyler landed a job at SpaceX (20+ interviews) in Los Angeles. Tyler is now a propulsion engineer on the rocket that propels Starship into space from Texas. On March 14, Starship’s third flight test resulted in achieving orbit for the first time with the world’s most powerful rocket. It has twice the thrust of the Saturn V!

Now, Tyler gets the opportunity to hire young scientists who were once in the same place he was. Here’s a picture of Tyler from November 2023. So, it all worked out! To all the teachers at AHA that Tyler drove crazy, thank you!”

Noah Cierzan '18 was selected as the Vermont Sportscaster of the Year at NBC5 in Burlington, VT. Congratulations Noah!



Daniel Alimo '19 was recently appointed to the Aim Higher Scholarship Committee. In 2023, Daniel graduated with a bachelors of business association in marketing and economics from Drake University. He is currently employed with JP Morgan Chase Company.



Congratulations to **Leah Lood '19**, a metro paramedic, for earning a life saver award. She recently and successfully resuscitated someone in cardiac arrest.



Nick McGrane's '20 short documentary won a Crystal Pillar Award in 2023. This award, from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, judges student productions. In addition, Nick was a team member on another winning project with Extending the Link, a documentary organization at CSB+SJU. This year, Nick is nominated for his third Crystal Pillar in a craft category for photography. His nomination includes a showcase of drone shots gathered during his time studying abroad in Europe.



Michigan Technological University student **Grace Hoepfner '21** was awarded the Michigan Space Grant Consortium 2024 Fellowship. She will be studying the problem of atrial fibrillation and potential treatment strategies through computational modeling. Grace is also having success on the MTU soccer team.

In Loving Memory

Please help us remember and pray for those in our AHA community who have died.

ALUMNI

Edward Louis Bader '90 (04/9/2023) brother to Sue Bader Coldwell '78, Maggie Bader Larson '79, Tina Bader '80

Kathleen Burke '65 (3/14/2024) Sister to Mary Burke Kleve '69

Patty Picha Carmody '65 (01/09/2024) sister-in-law to Joan Picha '76, aunt to Annette Picha '02 and Jaclyn Picha '05

Mary Joan Damberger Ciepielinski '59 (04/04/2023) sister to Ann Moore '67

Ann Behring Frost '65 (02/21/2024)

Patricia Burns Gardner '68 (11/08/2023)

Ann Marie Groebner Hagen '63 (03/17/2024) sister to Lorraine Groebner Janson '66 and Susan Groebner Prom '70

Marilyn Wagner Haubrich '52 (11/12/2023) sister to Nancy Saros '58

Mary Hadlick Hoedeman '49 (02/08/2024) aunt to Joseph Seidel '78, Ann Bielejeski '80, Robert Seidel '81, Therese Seidel-Miller '84, Kathleen Walsh '86, Peter Seidel '88, Monica Seidel '93

Alex Johnson '98 (02/22/2024)

Daniel Kepner '81 (01/07/2024)

Jordana Kraabel '93 (1/23/2024)

Mary Frey Luther '61 (06/11/2023) sister to Molly Frey Sherry '54, Donna Frey '64 and 'Margaret Frey Bianconi '64

Margaret Laux McCarthy '53 (12/25/2023) mother to Kathleen McCarthy '87. Great aunt to Sam '16, Joe '18, Margaret '21 and Michael Laux '23

Diane Mary McCormick Jacobson '69 (11/19/2023)

Shelly Ann Moorman '58 (02/05/2024) mother to Elizabeth Moorman '85, Katy Moorman '87

Janet Frazier O'Hanlon '59 (02/23/2024)

Nancy Osman '65 (02/07/2024)

Eileen Walsh Osterbauer '59 (01/13/2024) grandmother to Emily Osterbauer '16

Kathy McDonnell Penteman '59 (06/23/2023)

Michael Pokorny '12 (02/22/2024) brother to Daniel Pokorny '15

Martha Linden Poquette '78 (9/22/2023) wife to Matthew Poquette '79, mother to Leo Poquette '10 sister-in-law to Trudi Poquette '60, Judith Poquette '61, Dona Poquette Kennedy '63, Maria Poquette Leininger '66, Molly Poquette '70, Susan Poquette Keenan '76, cousin to Genevieve Myran '12, Joseph Myran '14.

Judith Smith '61 (12/7/2023)

Caroline Aulwe Stevens '64 (11/23/2023) sister to Patricia Burnworth '63

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Dorothy Helen Adams (2/12/2024) Mother to former AHA teacher Barb Klish

James Bauch (02/24/2024) father to Amy Griggs '00

Geno Bortolussi (2/20/2022) father to Nancy Bortolussi '73 and Patti Bortolussi Bane '75

Joseph Cassioppi (02/12/2024) father to Joseph '00, Sharon '02, Robert '04, nephew to Margaret Huch '44, Kathleen Blanke '51, cousin to Michael Arms '81 +, Thomas Arms '83, Dr Joseph Arms '84, John Arms '86, and Leo Arms '89

Marybeth DeMarce (11/27/2023) Mother to Julie DeMarce Walsh '82, Amy DeMarce Stonehouse '86, Dan DeMarce '87, grandmother to Ian Stonehouse '12 and Thomas Stonehouse '18

Frank Dunn (March 17, 2024) father to Jerilyn Dunn Waters '82, Jimmy Dunn '85, great-uncle to Brian Runman '92 and Scott Runman '99+

Eugene Floersch (01/13/2024) father to Peter Floersch '83, David Floersch '85, Michael Floersch '88, Annette Schaffer '90, Lee Floersch '91, Licia Stedman '94 +, father-in-law to Mark McGinty '79, grandfather to Matthew McGinty '17

Conrad Glatzmaier (06/12/2023) husband to Rita Glatzmaier, father to Sara Glatzmaier '87, Marion Glatzmaier '90, Gail Glatzmaier Kostohryz '93

Tom Holloran (02/15/2024) husband to Patricia McConville Holloran '48

Monica Lea Jensen '70 (08/04/2023) sister to Cyntia Jensen Sweeney '68

Annamaria Kusber (12/17/2023) mother to Angelo Kusber and grandmother to Victoria Kusber '14, Dane Kusber '17 and Nora Kusber '24

Thomas McCarthy III (09/20/2023) husband to Colleen McCarthy, father to Kerry Korman '89, Mark MCarthy '93, grandfather to Emily McCarthy '22

Sr Rita McDonald, CSJ (11/20/2023)

Milton Tillman Mattson (1/3/2024) grandfather to staff member Erin Blauert, great grandfather to Stevan Blauert '20 and Audrey Blauert '22

John Moroney (10/10/2023) father to John Moroney, grandfather to Jack Moroney '11, Patrick Moroney and Colin Moroney '16

Charles Thomas Nixon (02/27/2024) father to Theresa Kaczorowski '90, Katie Wegleitner '90, Julianne Haenel '98, Thomas Nixon '00

Robert Praus (12/09/2023) husband to Sally Hackenmueller Praus '58

Peter Ritten (01/15/2024) spouse to Mary McFarland Ritten '55

Chuck Rogers (01/28/2024) father to Sara Hartley '90, Rachel Hagenson '94, Charles Rogers '97

Pam Salomone (3/2/2023) mother to Christine Salomone Foy '01

Gary Lee Sims (03/22/2022) Fiance of Nancy Bortolussi '73

Mary Torborg (01/27/2024) mother to Karen Morris, grandmother to Tali Hayhoe '04, Carly Charleson '06, Ben '08, Hannah '09 and Jacob Morris '21

To have someone remembered, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@ahastars.org. These names were those that Holy Angels was notified about prior to March 20, 2024. We apologize for omissions due to lack of information or error.



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Starlight Productions Presents THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

The cast and crew of Starlight Productions is proud to present the spring musical, The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Please join us!

Performance dates are
April 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, and 26.

For tickets and showtimes, visit
academyofholyanngels.ludus.com

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Twitter: @aha_stars



Facebook: Academy of Holy Angels Alumni



Or the web: www.academyofholyanngels.org

Upcoming Community Events

- April 27 Starfest Auction
- May 2 Calling All Angels, Alumnae Luncheon
- June 2 Class of 2024 Commencement
- September 27 Stars Are Out Tonight & Homecoming
- October 4 Grandparents Day
- October 24 Fall Open House
- November 16 Booster Club Steak Fry

Upcoming Class Reunions

- CLASS OF 1959**
Will gather as a class in the summer or early fall
Contact Kay Miller Norman at 612-508-0721
- CLASS OF 1964**
Will celebrate 60 years at the "Calling All Angels" Luncheon on May 2nd (see page 14) and in mid-September as well
Contact Helen Bettendorf at jhbetten@charter.net
- CLASS OF 1974**
At AHA on Saturday, September 14
Contact Jerry Willenburg at jerjowill@msn.com
- CLASS OF 1979**
At Rock the Lawn on Friday, June 14
Contact Charlie Casserly at cpcasserly@aol.com
- CLASS OF 1984**
At Rock the Lawn on Friday, June 14
Contact Joe Arms at Josepharms@gmail.com
- CLASS OF 1989**
At Rock the Lawn on Friday, June 14
The Class is also looking to gather in the Fall of 2024.
Stay tuned for more information.
Contact Jesse Foley at jfoley@ahastars.org
- CLASS OF 1999**
The AHA Class of 1999 plans to celebrate their 25-year class reunion in the fall of 2024. Stay tuned for more details
- CLASS OF 2004**
At Rock the Lawn on Friday, June 14
Contact Sarah Kirby Sorensen sarah@sorensen@gmail.com
- CLASS OF 2009**
At Rock the Lawn on Friday, June 14. The class is also considering a fall gathering.
Contact Charlie Keis at charliejamiekeis@gmail.com