



DRA GONTALER

St. Margaret of Scotland Alumni News

Summer, 2005

Class of 1960 Reunion(s).....by Ed Kotowski

After reading a St. Margaret's alumni newsletter referencing another class reunion, Dan Lowery felt that our 1960 graduating class was due for its first reunion. He sent out a letter on Feb 16, 2004, along with a group picture of the 8th grade class, seeing if anyone would be interested, and if so, looking for volunteers to organize and to work out details.

Little did Dan know at the time that he had created the beginning of what has become a number of wonderful re-bonding experiences for about 40 of our classmates.

A committee was formed, and had its first meeting in March to prepare for the reunion on October 23-24, 2004. Tom Riggs had suggested the group prepare a CD with then-and-now pictures, which turned out to be an extremely rewarding project.

I knew I wanted to be involved with that project, and went to the next meeting. We thought that gathering old photos would be an incredible experience—an “electronic year-book”—covering our grade school years and beyond. As a surprise, we took current photos of the homes where the “kids” originally lived. Also on the CD are the biographies, all the email memories, the parish's 100 anniversary book, trivia from 1960, old addresses and map, music from Mary Ann Mechler Blankinship's CD of her original music, and much more.

The team meetings became mini-

reunions themselves. The group of organizers grew to Dan Lowery, Judy Cova Lacy, Mary Killenberg Riley, Tom Riggs, Ed Kotowski, Dan Wolf, Dolores Boxdorfer Duncan, Joyce Hoff Day, Jane McCormick Reed, and Mary Ann Mechler Blankinship.

On the 23rd, the first day of the reunion, several current grade school students gave us a tour of the new and old school buildings. Seeing the old school again brought back many wonderful memories, including cloakrooms, the cafeteria, separate boy and girl playgrounds, and piano lessons. We then went to 4:30 pm Mass at Church. There were tearful moments for many of us, to be reunited once again in the most beautiful church in St. Louis. The choir was spectacular, and Fr. Chochol made us feel at home, even working “pagan babies” into his homily.

After Mass, we received “state of the parish” info from Fr. Ron. We posed for a group picture in front of the altar, and also a photo of five of our classmates who had been married at St. Margaret's. We then toured the rest of the church and church hall. Seeing the church hall brought back fun memories of the Sunday afternoon movies that cost only a few coins.

The evening's reception was held at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel in Clayton. On display throughout the evening were: a continuous slide show of the 600 pictures on the photo CD, enlarged pictures of all the

class pictures, a map of the Shaw neighborhood (pre-Hwy 44) with stick pins identifying where we all originally lived, and a memorabilia table. Music from 1959 and 1960 was played. Two special guests were Sr. Mariann DeBuck (formerly Sr. Anna Henry, our 3rd grade teacher), and Sr. Elizabeth Ahrens (formerly Sr. Robert Francis, our 4th grade teacher). Twenty-eight classmates attended the reunion events. On a sad note, a beloved classmate, Ronald Jernigan, passed away only two months prior to the reunion.

On Sunday morning, the 24th, we had reservations for brunch at the Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park. What a beautiful place! We then went on a neighborhood walking tour with Dave Brownell (the keeper of most of our memories) as our tour guide. We went to the locations of our old houses, and took pictures of each “kid” in front of their old house. Some of the neighbors saw how much fun we were having, and asked if they could join us to hear the old stories also.

Now for the rest of the story... the reunions have continued! We had so much fun reuniting, that whenever one of our out of town classmates return to St. Louis for a visit, we try to coincide that with a mini-reunion. Several of us met with RoseMarie Pfaffe and her husband at the Chase

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From (the computer of) Pastor Fr. Ron Chochol



Greetings to our alums! I keep running into alums all over the area. A few weeks ago I preached at all the Masses at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish in south county on behalf of the Catholic Church in China. After each of the five Masses one or more people came up and introduced themselves as transplants from SMOS. It was enjoyable to hear their happy memories of their years here and to be able to connect them with what is going on currently in the parish and school. I was also happy to invite them to come back and visit the Shaw Neighborhood, since many had not been back for a long time. They found it hard to believe all the changes.

As those who still live in the St. Louis area know by now, there have been some significant changes in the parishes and schools in South City. St. Margaret will be continuing and we have had our territory expanded. Immaculate Conception/St. Henry Parish to the east of Grand has been merged into our parish. The congregation there had dwindled significantly over the years; currently there are only about 45 to 60 people who regularly attend the two weekend Masses. Although they had worked hard to keep their community spirit alive, had been persistent in their efforts

to renew their neighborhood, and had a generous and important outreach to their neighbors in need, the archdiocese decided that they really didn't have enough people and resources to continue as an independent parish. For various reasons most of the people registered there have decided to go to parishes other than St. Margaret, mostly to St. Wenceslaus (near Kutis Funeral Home).

We have also been given the territory of St. Cronan Parish to the northwest of ours. Since the parish is continuing as a non-territorial "personal" parish, we are not yet sure what this means for us.

More interesting and significant for us was the closing of Holy Family Parish south of Tower Grove Park. Although the parish and school were merged into St. John the Baptist Parish, 40 of their kids have been registered in our school for next year. Their parents have also registered in the parish. We welcome all of the people who will be coming to us over the summer and as the school year starts.

In January SMOS initiated a strategic planning process to enable us to identify our goals and objectives in view of our changed circumstances and the needs and resources of our parishioners. We were very fortunate to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Incarnate

Word Foundation to assist us with this project. The grant helped pay for a complete survey of the new territory of our parish by the College of Public Service at Saint Louis University. They provided a remarkable treasure of information about our area.

We have also done parishioner and school family surveys. This summer ten different subcommittees will look at all facets of our parish and school life to identify our strengths and areas for improvement and to set priorities. We hope to wrap up the project by December and begin implementation in 2006. It is an exciting time to be involved here at SMOS.

Unfortunately for me, I will not be a part of the future of the parish. At the beginning of July I am being transferred to St. Mary Magdalen Parish at Kingshighway and Bancroft. I wish the parish well. I hope that you alums will be a part of the future of the parish as you were a part of the past. You have much to give to enable SMOS Parish and School to continue in a great tradition. God bless you all!

— Fr. Ron Chochol

St. Margaret of Scotland School, a diverse, urban, Catholic community, is committed to providing for children pre-kindergarten through eighth grade an outstanding learning environment in which they are challenged to meet their potential and to recognize their giftedness in body, mind and spirit.





From the Principal . . .



What's Happening at St. Margaret's School?

SMOS School is fortunate to have many new families joining the parish and/or coming into the school. Many of these families will be joining us from Holy Family Parish, but there will be new students from other schools and parishes as well. We may have 275 or more students when school opens in August. This wonderful growth helps to insure the viability of St. Margaret's School.

We have resources!

St. Margaret's will have a learning consultant on staff five days each week in the 2005-2006 school year due to our larger student population. A learning consultant works with teachers, parents, students and "individuals/agencies" to facilitate successful learning for all of our students. St. Margaret's is fortunate also to have the expertise of resource teaching through the Title I, government-funded program. This program offers assistance to students in the areas of language and mathematics.

Additionally, St. Margaret's has the assistance of the School Partnership Nurses at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, the personnel at the Archdiocesan Department of Special Education, individuals at Catholic Family Services for Children and Youth, individual therapists and counselors, and of all the community resources available through the public school system and the broader community.

We have pride!

SMOS is an accredited elementary school. During this past school year SMOS School began implementing Archdiocesan school policies and procedures, including the sharing of information forms, and health procedures.

During this year, SMOS Parish has also experienced changes: the assignment of a new pastor, efforts to coordinate groups, the implementation of up-to-date Archdiocesan accounting practices, a well-planned and thorough calendar for both school and parish, and the closing and merging of parishes in south St. Louis.

St. Margaret's has weathered all the changes and is well-positioned for the future!

We have dreams!

SMOS School has a well-developed curriculum. Our teachers are knowledgeable and competent in teaching the content. The entire faculty will be looking at and discussing all subject areas of the curriculum. This review will include possible methods of coordinating subject areas, co-teaching of units, and including arts in subject areas. Also included in the review would be identifying supplemental materials needed to support the preferred instructional strategies. We will be clarifying which specific skills and competencies a student needs to acquire in each grade. We will be identifying teaching and learning strategies and methods to support the content and skills/competencies to be learned. There is a wealth of professional, educational information about the benefits of specific strategies and methods which may be implemented at St. Margaret's to insure the learning of all our children.

We will fully implement our school safety program. We will consider additional ways to infuse all of our learning, our environment, and our relationships with Catholic, Christian values, traditions, culture, and rituals. We will continue to make prayer an integral component of our school. Since good citizenship is one expression of Christian values in our culture, we will work to reflect these values in our political lives.

This is a great deal to accomplish! It will not be completed in a single year. There is a passion at St. Margaret's which encourages our dreaming for our School. We have so much about which to be grateful! We have so much about which to be proud! We dream of constant growth, not of "perfection." Our time together here is a journey—we want to enjoy the views! Share the moments! Dream the future! Love the journey!

It is a joy to be here in this community. Thanks to everyone who works and prays to make SMOS such a vibrant faith community. May God bless each of you, your families and friends, during the summer months. We ask You, Lord, to keep our children safe from harm so that they may return to us refreshed and ready to grow.

—Dr. Sharon Baumgartner, Principal

AlumNotes.....Notes, Notes, Notes, Notes

B. Jane (Lagermann) Gorton, 1945: “We have two children and three grandchildren. I truly enjoyed my years and the good education I received at St. Margaret’s.”

Daniel H. Day, 1961: “We initially lived on McRee, then 4112 Flad, and finally Shaw Place. I can remember boys shouting squabbles, throwing hundreds of baseball cards in the playground and the resultant mayhem of everyone diving into the melee for the cards. Also Sister Marie Chantal grabbing me so forcefully that she ripped off the collar of my coat; she did sew it back on though!”

Karen Olsen Cody, 1958: “Enjoy the *Dragontaler*.”

D. Jane Gannon, 1939: “Retired from Hughes Aircraft Co. after 31 years. Saw Howard Hughes once at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. Although he was in a wheelchair, he looked great. Love to hear the news from St. Margaret’s, especially class of 1939.”

Mary Beth Lewis, 1976: “Thank you for sending the newsletter! It brings back good wholesome memories of SMOS. I wish I could have graduated from SMOS; my family moved the summer going into my 8th grade. Sounds like SMOS is living daily the Catholic ideals that started my life on a good path.”

Victor L. Ottenlips, 1950: “Good article on Dan Martin. My wife Mary Lou Wolf, ’51 was of the family of Wolf Bakery on Thurman; they had 16 children—Mary Lou is 13 of the 16.”

Patricia R. Lee, 1948 (SMOS High): “Eight children, 18 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren.”

Everett Lewis, III, 1971: “Attended St. Louis U. High & SLU. Started St. Louis Striping in ’85. We now are the foremost painters of artificial turf in the U.S. Wife Anne & son Everett IV. Anne (nee Mueller) is “Little Flower” born & bred; graduated from St. Elizabeth’s after Xavier closed in ’75. My father (Everett II) died suddenly in ’75, mom (Marge) passed on in ’02. We all miss the days at 3841 Flora Place.”

Jeanette (Ungar) Mattingly, 1944: “Many fond memories of my days at St. Margaret’s. I remember the nuns marching the whole school to stations on Fridays during Lent.”

Georgia Lee (Hoff) Metzger, 1948: “Have five children, 12 grandchildren. Spend time supporting activities of grandchildren all over the state of Arizona. Granddaughter just graduated Cum Laude from Arizona State Univ. in 3-1/2 years.”

Nancy (King) Klos, 1960: “The reunion for the Class of 1960 included Mass at St. Margaret’s. It was my first time to return in 44 years and I was not disappointed in the beauty it still holds.”

Judy (Kennedy) Volansky, 1960: Our class of 1960 had a wonderful reunion at St. Margaret’s including Mass & tour on 10-23-04.”

Tom Jourdan, 1942: As my classmate (Richard Moxley) said: I REALLY LIKE “ALUMNOTES” AND APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS. Keep up the good work.”

Alumni contacts Judi Tucci or Mary Robbins can be reached by email: stmargaret@shaw.org.

Mystery Alum Hint: This alum gave an “electrifying” performance at the Spring 1993 Togetherfest on the school playground. Who is he?? (Answer on page 7.)



St. Margaret's News . . .

- ✓ Congratulations, Mrs. Terri Merideth, on her 20 years of musicals here at SMOS!
- ✓ Congratulations to our 2nd graders who celebrated their First Reconciliation in December, 2004 and their First Communion in March, 2005!
- ✓ Congratulations to Ben Kennedy, of SMOS's Boy Scout Troop 110, who was honored as the troop's newest Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor held March 10, 2005!
- ✓ Congratulations to the 6th and 8th graders who entered projects in History Day at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in March, 2005.
- ✓ Congratulations to Samantha Nuernberger, '03, a student at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, who received academic honors in 2005.
- ✓ Congratulations to Emily Autrey, '05, who was a finalist among 900 entries in the EXPRESS THE MUSIC essay contest, sponsored by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.
- ✓ SMOS Girl Scouts honored Miryam Andrews-Ohlman, '01, Elizabeth Reinberg, and Anna Werner, '01, at a tea in the church hall on May 22, 2005. The girls completed Girl Scout's highest honor, the Gold Award.
- ✓ Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their environmental respect posters in a contest sponsored by Bank of America: 1st Place (\$50 award): Emma Andrews, Samantha Auch, Franny Bruner, Lan Truong; 2nd Place (\$25 award): Beatrice Connaghan, Nurice Knox, Katlin Glasco, Henry Schneider.
- ✓ The 2005 Monsanto Science Fair winners were: Blue Ribbons: Jarret Banks, Kieran Connolly, Chris Connor, Alex Haines, Katie Heagney, Bridget Kelleher, Courtney Landes, Carl Wurm; Red Ribbons: John Barron, Alex Clemens, Chelsea Duffe, Daniel Jones, Nich Hummel, Chris Moore, and The 2nd Grade Class Project; Green Ribbons: The 3rd Grade Class Project.
- ✓ Kudos to Liz Salsich, '05 and Emily Autry '05, who both received gold ribbons with a perfect score in the Fall 2004 Bellarmine Speech Meet. Congratulations to gold ribbon winners in the Spring 2005 competition: Rachel Landes, '05, Emma Master, '05, and Christy Rose Cecil, '05.

✓ A special thank you to Ms. Diane Heigel, niece of Mae Kilcullen Petersen, for the memorial contribution sent to St. Margaret's in support of the school library and in memory of her aunt.

✓ Thank you to Mrs. Patti Hendrickson and her adult volunteers who are the adult safety patrol for the school. Any adults available to help (even one day a week) at drop-off or pick-up time, please leave a message at the school: 314-776-7837.

✓ Congratulations to the following SMOS graduates who were inducted into the National Honor Society's Cardinal Glennon Chapter (Rosati-Kain High School) in the Fall of 2004: Bridget Heine ('02), Heather Joerger ('02), Katherine Robbins ('02), Mary Grace Schneider ('01).

Bridget Heine has been elected president of this chapter for the 2005-06 school year.

✓ Paul Barker, '01, received a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT. Paul will be attending Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus in New York City on a full scholarship.
Congrats Paul!!

Class of 1960 Reunion(s).....

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on November 5. On November 20, we had a "CD Release" party at Dan and Stella Wolf's house, to coincide with Alan Traynor's visit from Florida. We have had two more get-togethers: in December at Steve and Jane McCormick Reed's home in Lebanon, IL and a March gathering at Bill and Mary Ann Mechler Blankenship's home. Photos from each gathering are posted on a Yahoo photo page for the folks that could not attend.

On Sunday, May 22, 2005, we had another full reunion (the 45th). We went to 10:00 am Mass at St. Margaret's, and then on to Tower Grove Park at the Humboldt North Pavilion for a picnic reunion. Sixty-seven folks attended the picnic, including 26 classmates and two teachers. Ten o'clock Mass at St. Margaret's is a beautiful experience, and class reunion groups are treated royally.

A real treat was talking to the parents that attended: Pat Heede McLean's mother, Bernice, (who was a Girl Scout leader), Mary Killenberg Riley's father, George (the managing editor of the Globe-Democrat for many years), and Joyce Hoff Day's parents, Delores and Walter.

The picnic was such a success that we plan to make the 10:00 am Mass and picnic at TGP an annual event.

The next get together is being planned for September 2005 at the home of one of our "kids"!

Sports

Third-grade girls took the first place trophy in the St Raphael Basketball Tournament in February, 2005. The coaches are very proud of their players: Jordan Banks, Telisa Booker, Natalie Daughtery, Gabrielle Hantak, Ebba Oldenborg, Claire Paddock, Megan Pennington, Kate Trimble, and Gabriela Zegarra-Barron.

SMOS 4th grade Boys' Basketball Team won the Consolation Bracket at St. Raphael's 2005 Tournament. Great job, boys!!

Congratulations to the 2005 SMOS Track Team!! Eight athletes advanced to the 2005 CYC Championship Track & Field Meet held May 7, 2005: Trenton Dardick, Maggie Hagen, Katie Heagney, Tom Heagney, Daniel Jones, Emilee Magill, Andrew Petty, O'Connor Richardson. Trenton Dardick, '05, placed 6th in shotput, 5th in 1600 meter run, and 4th in the 800 meter. O'Connor Richardson (1st gr.) won a bronze medal in standing long jump. Andrew Petty (7th gr.) took 6th in the running long jump, 4th in the 100 meter dash, and took a silver medal in the 200. Daniel Jones (7th gr.) took 1st in the running long jump. Dan set a NEW record by .01 seconds for the 100, breaking the 1995 record. He THEN went on to beat the old record in the 200 by .4 seconds; his run was 25:03. Bottom line for the team: 11 point-winning finishes out of 15 events, one bronze, one silver, three golds, two all time records. WOW!! WOW!! WOW!!

They're the comeback kids... the 8th grade boys' soccer team who won their league in 2004 and made the playoffs. The team stumbled at the beginning of the season, losing their first 3 games—finished the season by winning all four of their remaining games. This is a team that did St. Margaret's proud. (from Coach Rick Heagney)

Congratulations to the 2004 SMOS volleyball players and coaches on another great season:

Claire Stragand,'05 and Charles Gerber,'05, represented SMOS on the South City teams in the CYC Spirit of St. Louis Volleyball Tournament over Thanksgiving weekend. The South City Boys' Team was coached by Charles' mom, Jill Gerber.

Congratulations to Marcela Zegarra-Barron and Emily Luepkker on an undefeated regular season with the St. Roch 5th grade volleyball team. Well done!

Cullen Gerber's 3rd grade volleyball team at St. Joan of Arc won the Bantam Minor division.

Special thanks to coaches Gayle Hantak, Les Landes, and Peter Stragand for all their time and effort on behalf of our athletes!



**Congratulations to the
SMOS Class of 2005:**

Neal Abbott, Emily Autrey, Katherine Baltrushunas, Christy Rose Cecil, Trenton Dardick, Bryan Folk, Charles Gerber, Nicole Greenstreet, Samantha Greenstreet, Thomas Heagney, Rachel Hosna, Paul Joerger, Rachel Landes, Emma Master, Caroline Newman, Jessica Pachak, Jackson Ramsey, Arinala Randrianasolo, Gabrielle Reed, Helen Roach, Andrew Robbins, Elizabeth Salsich, Claire Stragand, and Nicholas Toohey.

The graduates were admitted to these schools: DeSmet Jesuit High, Nerinx Hall, Notre Dame, Rosati-Kain, St. Elizabeth Academy, and St. Louis University High School.

Additional recognition went to:

Emily Autrey, who received an academic scholarship to Nerinx Hall;

Paul Joerger, who received the Principal's Award from DeSmet High School for outstanding elementary school performance; and

Andrew Robbins, who represented SMOS as an Outstanding Scholar, awarded by St. Louis University High School to incoming freshman who score in the 99% (composite) on the Academic Profile Exam.

Hats off and good luck to the CLASS OF 2005!!

Mystery Alum...

Answer: Dan Keller, Class of 1993

Dan's band was getting ready to begin their "debut" performance, when Dan received quite a jolt from a microphone!! It knocked Dan to the ground – an ambulance was called, and he recovered just fine. Dan says that many said later that they thought the "shock" was part of the performance!!

Weddings

Brian Reid, Class of 1990, wed Jessie Blaha at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church on May 14, 2005

Jeff Redfearn, Class of 1996, wed Angie Birkenmeier at Holy Family Church on May 14, 2005

Julia Merideth, Class of 1993, wed Michael Lange at St. Margaret of Scotland Church on May 28, 2005



Things are
beautiful
if you love them.

—Jean Anouilh

In Memoriam

Edward E. Conrad, 1928
deceased November 4, 2004

Thomas Deering, 1949

Bernice J. (Nordmann) Donze, 1945
deceased November 2, 2004

Betty (Laubenthal) Hessler, 1939

Gary J. Jannett, 1970
deceased August 3, 2004

Doris Mattingly, 1944
deceased August 18, 2004

Marcella Stamps, Class of 1952
deceased February 3, 2005

To update our alumni records or to include information in the *Dragontaler*, please fill out this form and return it to the Alumni Office at St. Margaret of Scotland. Thank you very much!

Name (include maiden name)

SMS graduation year or last year attended

Spouse's name

Current parish

Home address (include apt. #)

City State Zip Code

Your place of employment

Title or position

Address of employer

City State Zip Code

Home phone number / Work phone number

Does your employer have a matching gift program?
_____Yes _____No

COMMENTS: In the space below, please provide any other information you may wish (such as children, awards, degrees, career plans and changes, or even memories).

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
Summer, 2005

St. Margaret of Scotland School
Alumni News
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