

FALL 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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This working farm outside Poughkeepsie, NY is also an important educational program that furthers the Mission of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. Read the story of Sprout Creek Farm on Page 4-5 and the two RSCJ who make it possible.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!



MORE THAN 380 SACRED HEART 2012 GRADS NOW ATTENDING MORE THAN 170 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



FROM COAST TO COAST, north to south, Sacred Heart graduates are enrolled in as diverse a lineup of colleges as the 2012 alums themselves. The colleges reflect a wide range of goals and objectives among the students.

It's not unexpected to see Boston U, Princeton, Yale, DePaul, Stanford and Duke, but colleges also include the famous Parson's School of Design in New York and Columbia College in Chicago – well-known for its broad-based communications curriculum. Others chose Colorado School of Mines and American University in Paris.

The choices include the very large, the mid-size and the smaller campuses. It would appear that Sacred Heart grads made their selections based on many personal factors, as well as some that could apply to most students choosing their college:

- Proximity to home (some want to be near; others, far away)



The Top Ten Colleges Chosen by Sacred Heart Graduates

This year's Sacred Heart alums are attending hundreds of different colleges and universities, but based on enrollment by members of the Class of 2012, these are the Top Ten schools.

Boston College
Georgetown University
Duke University
New York University
Wake Forest University
College of Holy Cross
Boston University
Bucknell University
Loyola (various campuses)
Cornell University

There are several other colleges that are close: Amherst, Northeastern U, Notre Dame, University of Virginia, Fordham and Penn State.

But the Number One college or university is always that special one chosen by each individual student... forever their alma mater!

- Curriculum (does the college offer what the student wants to study – though it always stands a chance of goals changing from that freshman year to junior)

- Costs (the biggest hurdle of all – are there grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities to reduce the amount of student loans)

The most significant information gleaned from the survey is the number of Sacred Heart graduates who are continuing their education. Among the 2012 graduating classes, more than 99-percent are enrolled in college. Looking back over the past 10 years, the average number of graduates continuing their education is very close to 100-percent.

What are the most popular colleges and universities among Sacred Heart graduates? The adjacent box lists the top 10, based on number of Sacred Heart enrollees.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

FROM AASH PRESIDENT 2011-2013

MAUREEN E. RYAN

BARAT COLLEGE 1981

Dear Alums...

This Annual Report issue of Esprit de Coeur is being mailed to over 45,000 alums in our database. On the Honor Roll of Donors, pages 18-22 there are approximately 720 contributors listed. If you are one of the alums listed in the Honor Roll of Donors, please know how grateful we are for your support! 70% of our income comes from your contributions and approximately 44% of our budget is used to communicate to you via our website and this publication.

For many years, we have been running a deficit and borrowing from the AASH Endowment. This past July, when I had an opportunity to meet with our collaborators (members of the Provincial team and Network), I paraphrased a popular quote from St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and said, "As times change, we (AASH) must change too." One of those changes is that in the future AASH will attempt to be environmentally and financially greener. Beginning with the next issue, we will only mail copies of Esprit to alums who are actively supporting the Association. I encourage you to login to our online community at www.aashnet.org and register for the first time, and add your email address to our database. This will help us communicate to you in a more efficient and economical manner. Please consider telling your fellow Sacred Heart alum friends to also register.

It was an honor to spend time with Past President Jo Witt during the 2011 Duchesne Reunion. We profile her remarkable life on page 12.



Your current AASH Board is committed to improving how we stay connected and we are in discussion with various stakeholders to find ways we can offer you a value-based membership. Prior to the end of this calendar year we will be conducting online surveys. I encourage your participation. If you wish to take part and do not have access to do so via computer, please contact our office and we will send you a copy of the survey.

If you are interested in creating an association in your city or at your college/university, please contact the AASH office and we will send you information on how to do so. It's a wonderful means of staying connected to fellow Sacred Heart alums.

During this biennium we will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart. In honor of this momentous occasion, I ask you to consider a gift to AASH in multiples of 80. Does your employer have a Matching

Gifts Program? Please take time to view the list of companies on our website that offer matching gifts. You may find that your dollars can be doubled or tripled!

I hope you enjoy reading the many wonderful stories of alums who have been impelled to action and are leading a life full of federation, spirit and service as much as I did. Our thanks to all the alums who helped make these stories so meaningful!

*I look forward to seeing you in Omaha next April at our 39th Biennial Conference where we will **Celebrate Our Legacy in the Heartland**. And, finally, with a great deal of gratitude, I wish you and your families a very blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.*

Warm regards in the Heart,

Maureen Elizabeth Ryan

Visit my blog: <http://aashpresidentmer.blogspot.com>

Follow me on Twitter: twitter.com/MERBARAT



SPROUT CREEK USES FARM SETTING TO FURTHER GOALS OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION

In a pastoral setting near Poughkeepsie, NY, there is a 200-acre working farm that produces more than delicious cheese and meat products: it also produces a new way to look at life for girls, boys and adults. Its programs are diverse, yet each one has a common element – participants contribute to the operation of the farm with hands-on activities – from milking cows to feeding chickens to “housekeeping” the animal areas.

The farm as an educational tool began in 1982 when three high school teachers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, CT, a school for girls, felt that their students needed to find a broader horizon of experiences in order to expand their values and develop responsibility. The school was situated on an old farm, and some of the buildings remained. With a cadre of dedicated volunteers, the buildings were rebuilt and refurbished and gifts of animals completed the project. Just six months after the idea was put forward, the farm was up and running as an educational tool.

Its co-founders, Srs. Margo Morris, RSCJ (Bloomfield Hills '67) and Sue Rogers, RSCJ (Prince St., Rochester '60) – along with the school chaplain -- initiated programs to accomplish the farm's objectives. In 1987, they were approached by the estate of Elise Kinkead, a longtime Poughkeepsie resident, and Miss Kinkead's Woodford Farm in LaGrange was donated to the Society of the Sacred Heart to be operated as Sprout Creek Farm.

The farm was moved from its school location in 1990 to the majestic setting Miss Kinkead had so generously donated. Sprout Creek Farm was officially 'open for business.'

Margo and Sue were happily surprised with the enthusiastic response of the community to the farm's educational programs. In no time, every slot was filled

with school classes, Brownie and Girl Scout Troops, and other groups. With such overwhelming response, Sprout Creek was able to expand to develop more comprehensive programs to complement school curricula. Today, more than 2,500 children visit Sprout Creek during the school year, and with Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ (Woodlands Academy '58) as Education Director, the farm's calendar is filled a year in advance. In addition to the many local schools and organizations served, Georgie Blaeser ensures that all schools in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools enjoy a curriculum all their own. Most choose to participate as resident students and teachers for a week or more during the school year and in the summer months.

Margo Morris says that with more space and personnel, she is confident that Sprout Creek could double its total enrollment; thus, fundraising is a year-round effort. Sprout Creek Farm has been recognized as a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization, making all donations tax deductible. AASH is a proud supporter of Sprout Creek (see special donation program on page 21).

But there is much more to Sprout Creek Farm than its extensive educational program – it is a peaceful sanctuary, a summer camp, a place for intellectual inquiry. It is actually four different entities, different yet intertwined, explains Margo.



- It is a working farm, raising free-ranging cows, sheep, goats, turkeys, guinea fowl, chickens and pigs.
- It is a small manufacturing plant that produces more than 40 thousand pounds of cheese annually. The Creamery is a teaching environment as well, with visitors, interns, and program participants learning the art and science of artisan cheese making and affinage.



A working farm requires many hands to keep it running smoothly. Visitors plant, feed the livestock, work in the farm store, bale hay, harvest crops, and -- of course -- enjoy sampling the fruit of their labors. Whether it's for a day, a weekend or longer, visitors to Sprout Creek Farm learn about farm life by experiencing it firsthand. Photos by Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ.



- It is a market, selling its internationally award-winning cheeses and farm-produced meats, eggs, and vegetables, Hudson Valley milk and ice cream, and locally made foods, crafts and gifts.
- It is an educational center, offering day, weekend, and summer programs that help connect young people to the land, the seasons, and the plants and animals that co-exist in harmony at Sprout Creek.

"As well as producing and selling our meats and cheeses, Sprout Creek Farm has a much wider mission and the income from the market not only helps to fund that mission, but it also enables scholarships to children who would not otherwise be able to participate in our program," says Margo. "We are dedicated to providing educational experiences for both children and adults that fosters appreciation and understanding of our place in the natural world, which encourages responsibility for the future of the environment. We offer programs to reconnect people to our rich agricultural heritage; offer an experience of community as a model for peaceful living; and programs in spiritual development using our farm resources as both a setting and starting point of such programs."

There are programs that offer a week-long stay at the farm, giving the young people the complete experience of

farm life. There are also day programs, as well as overnight opportunities. There is a parent-child weekend offering that is a bonding experience, as well as reconnection with nature. Saturday workshops for adults are open to both men and women, except for the popular "Mommy Goes to Camp."

And one of the most appealing for families or small groups is a three-bedroom cottage that can be rented by the day or the week. The cottage offers generous space to relax, trek around the beautiful Hudson Valley, and sign up for a variety of farm activities. A portion of the rental helps fund children who could not otherwise participate in educational programs or summer camp.

A visit to its website www.sproutcreekfarm.org, offers a comprehensive look at this unique farm and its programs. There is information on making reservations and applications that can be completed online.

"We are open year round, and we welcome visits from our fellow alums and their families and friends," adds Margo Morris. "What began as a dream 30 years ago has become a reality that has surpassed our greatest hopes. We owe so much to so many who have supported Sprout Creek Farm over the years, as donors, as volunteers and as a devoted, hardworking staff. For these, and so much more, we are deeply grateful."

Order Colossal Cheeses for the Holidays

*The cheeses made at Sprout Creek Farm are more than just delicious: they make it possible for the farm to continue its programs and provide scholarships for children. The farm makes award-winning cheeses and other food products right on its premises, and you can serve them to friends and family throughout the Holiday season and beyond. The choices include specialty cheeses, traditional favorites and maybe a few that you haven't tried before. **To receive your order by Thanksgiving, place by Friday, November 16th. To receive your order by Christmas, place by December 17th.** Cheeses offered are aged anywhere from 2 to 12 months. They can be refrigerated for days and even weeks ahead of serving.*



As a Sacred Heart alum, your support of Sprout Creek Farm is furthering the mission set down by Madeleine Sophie Barat so long ago. All proceeds from store sales are committed to this mission, so place your order for gifts and for yourself. Ordering is easy. Simply go to www.sproutcreekfarm.org and follow the link to the store. While you're there, read about this amazing farm and the alums who make it possible. **Happy Holidays!**

Western Regional Conference



Meeting in Bellevue, WA, the theme for the Conference was "Rediscovering Our Pioneering Spirit in the Heart of the Northwest". Mary Forsyth AASH Western Regional Director, sums up the impact of the Conference agenda: "Forest Ridge as the hosting venue allowed us to 'rediscover our pioneering spirit' in a place that whispered serenity and sheer natural beauty. What inspiration it was to choose Krysta Svore and Sr. Linda Haydock, SNJM, as the two speakers. Their messages touched our minds and our souls with meaningful and authentic content. The commentary of two articulate students was the icing on the cake. We finished the day truly understanding what it means to give women their collective and individual voices." Above are moments shared during the Conference. **1.** Julie Lundgren and Madeleine Ortman, **2.** Mary Forsyth, Sarah Graeber Chesemore, Sr. Mary B. Flaherty, Maureen Elliott, **3.** Denise Frisino and Sam Kauffman, **4.** Pam Snyder and Sr. Gina Rodee, RSCJ. **5.** Sr. Marcia O'Dea, RSCJ and Karen Patterson, **6.** Mary Forsyth and Karen Paterson and **7.** Katie Sawyer, Alice Burns and Maureen Correia.

Eastern Regional Conference



Set in beautiful Cape Cod, attendees were treated to a weekend of inspiration and reflection, focused on the Conference theme, "Heart of the Matter: Living an Ordinary Life With Extraordinary Love". Participants heard a diverse group of stirring speakers, and at the conclusion of our program was an all-star alumnae panel moderated by Toni Walsh Curry: "Heart to Heart" by Peggy Brennan Hassett; "Come and See" by Linda Hogan O'Connor; and "Dress a Girl Around the World" by Judy Whalen Conley. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Mark R. Hession.

These are just a few special moments shared during the conference.

1. Bernece Hackett Davis, Sally O'Connor Healy, Ann Blunt Condon, **2.** Adele O'Grady Botticelli, RSCJ, Sr. Mary Jane Sullivan, RSCJ, Nancy Bowdring, Sr. Nancy Kehoe, RSCJ, Maureen Elizabeth Ryan, Sr. Marie-Louise Wolfington, RSCJ, Valerie Moore O'Keeffe, Sr. Eleanor MacLellan, RSCJ, Toni Walsh Curry, Sr. Gail O'Donnell, RSCJ, **3.** Sr. Gail O'Donnell, RSCJ and Carol Levis, **4.** Jeanne Burke O'Fallon, Julie Burns Doll and Patricia Daly Verde (Maryville College – class of 1973), **5.** Marcia Abbo and Maryann Brennan Keyes, **6.** Kristin Dawson, Mary "Micky" Mahon MacMillan and Blanche Hunnewell, **7.** Sr. Nancy Kehoe, RSCJ, Patricia Leary Dowling and Karen Murphy Birmingham, **8.** Marcia Abbo, Diane Reimen Tymick and Kathy Delehanty **9.** Lois Birmingham Wrightson, Mary Griffin.

Central Regional Conference

"Giving Thanks from the Heart of the Midwest" was the theme for the AASH Central Regional Meeting hosted in Michigan.

Featured speaker Kaitlin Liroff, BH'08 discussed Sacred Heart Internship program (S.H.I.P.) and Human Trafficking.



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Kaitlin with Carolyn Price and her Mom



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Autumnal colors greeted alums gathered at Bloomfield Hills for the biennial conference, "Giving Thanks from the Heart of the Midwest". Among inspiring and reflective events during the two-day conference was a Mater Play presented by second graders from the school; a tour of the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit; and a tour of Grosse Pointe Academy, followed by lunch in the Academy Parlor. Another high point of the conference was SHIP intern Kaitlin Liroff -- one of the program's originators -- who moved participants with her perspective on human trafficking and how her Sacred Heart education has motivated her to undertake an advocacy role in her life. Following Mass, participants were guests at the home of Patricia Kolojeski.

Throughout the conference, alums gathered to renew friendships and make new ones, as captured in these candid moments. **1.** Barbara Price, Joey Yao, Ed and Anne Franco, Tom and Patricia Kolojeski, Ed and Fran Benz, **2.** Carolyn Price, Kaitlin Liroff and Kaitlin's mom, **3.** Rosalie Posselius Bellanca, **4.** Kathleen "Kippy" Piedici and Alice Burns, **5.** Martha Barrett, **6.** Carole Peabody and Meg Canty, RSCJ, **7.** Shirley Miller, RSCJ and Virginia Antakil, **8.** Barbara Price, Maureen Ryan, Patricia Kolojeski, **9.** Frances Asam and **10.** Sally Teppert.

New Leadership Team for Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province

The U.S. Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart has a new leadership team. Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, was named provincial in September 2011 by Superior General Kathleen Conan, RSCJ. Following a consultation with the province, she named her provincial council. Sisters Margaret Causey, Sheila Hammond, and Diana Wall have agreed to serve with Sister Dawson for a three-year term. They began their term August 1, 2012.

The Province held a leadership blessing ceremony at the Shrine of St. Philippine Duchesne in St. Charles, Missouri on Saturday, July 21. In addition to welcoming and blessing the new team, members of the province thanked and blessed the outgoing leadership team made up of Provincial Paula Toner, RSCJ and Sisters Anne Byrne, Margaret Causey, Mary Charlotte Chandler, Melanie Guste, Mary Kay Hunyady and Susan Maxwell.

Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, is a lawyer and educator. She has already served two terms as head of the U.S. Province, 1993-99. A native of San Francisco, Sister Dawson has most recently ministered in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she was consulting with the Society of the Sacred Heart Indonesia as it develops its plan for mission and ministry. Prior to her service in Indonesia, she was head of school at St. Martin de Porres School in West Oakland and as a consultant to the Urban Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Oakland, CA. Sister Dawson earned her bachelor of arts from Lone Mountain College (now the University of San Francisco), and a law degree from the University of San Francisco. She earned a master of arts in international comparative education from Stanford University. She is a member of the bar in both California and Missouri and serves on the board of trustees for Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and the School of Applied Theology, Berkeley.

Margaret (Meg) Causey, RSCJ, has served in provincial leadership for the past three years. Prior to this service, she worked in administration and curriculum at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She founded the Duchesne Center at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, and has taught ethics and theology. Sister Causey has extensive experience with the Network of Sacred Heart



AASH President (c.) Maureen E. Ryan, met with outgoing Provincial Paula Toner, RSCJ, (l.) and incoming Provincial Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, during the annual collaborators' meeting in St. Charles, MO. The Provincial also serves as honorary president of AASH.

Schools and was head of Oak Hill School in St. Louis for several years prior to entering the Society. Sister Causey holds a PhD in theology from Marquette University; an MTS in theology from the Weston School of Theology; an MS in educational administration from Washington University, St. Louis, MO; and a BS in English education from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, joins the provincial leadership team after seven years as the director of pastoral care at Saint Louis

University Hospital. Previously she served as a member of the provincial team with Provincial Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, 1999-2005. She has also served as director of chaplaincy services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, director of formation for the U.S. Province and as chaplain for hospitals in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan. Her graduate degree in theology is from St. Louis University and her bachelor's degree is from Manhattanville College.

Diana Wall, RSCJ, has most recently served as director of institutional advancement at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Seattle. Sister Wall also ministered in development for the Uganda/Kenya province of the Society of the Sacred Heart and at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans. She used her knowledge of administration and healthcare in eldercare administration for the U.S. province. Sister Wall is a graduate of Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of San Francisco, and also holds an MBA in Management.

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in France in 1800 by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and brought to the United States by St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in 1818. There are 340 members in the United States Province and more than 2,500 professed members in 41 countries. Members of the Society are committed to discover, live and announce God's love through the service of education for transformation, in diverse ministries, particularly addressing the needs of children, young people, women and those in society who are marginalized.

FIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS SHARE NEW

FOR EIGHT WEEKS DURING THIS SUMMER, five young people traveled to Washington, DC to participate in SHIP – Sacred Heart Internship Program. This was the second, year of the internship program that is run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart with two young Sacred Heart Alumnae Coordinators.

The program was designed by two graduates of The Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills. Seeking more opportunities to work in advocacy and social service after high school, SHIP was created to engage young people in a service-learning summer internship to grow personally while gaining valuable working experience in a field of choice, according to its founders, Kaitlin Liroff, Bloomfield Hills '08, and Amanda Waske, Bloomfield Hills '09.

“During high school, our investment in social justice and advocacy was fostered and encouraged,” say Kaitlin and Amanda. “SHIP is designed to give those who want to continue in these fields to intern at a choice of social justice based organizations or other placements in Washington. Working on SHIP has truly changed our lives.”

Interns work with the RSCJ in their different advocacy projects and live in community at CEDC – the Center for Educational Design and Communications – a social justice technology, communication and conference center run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

The SHIP Program is financed through a grant from the Society of the Sacred Heart. Interns board at CEDC; receive a Metro card for transportation to and from their internship site; and at the end of the Internship, each one receives a stipend. The hope is that, in the future, outside funding can be found to enable even more young alumnae/i to take part in the program.

For participants, the program does not end with the eight-weeks in Washington. For the following 10 months, they work on an advocacy project for an issue developed by the interns themselves.

The program is open to Sacred Heart Alumnae/i who have completed their first or second year of college. The five 2012 interns included one who was not a Sacred Heart graduate, but who came through the Franciscan Action Network. Because the SHIP program was designed by students at Bloomfield Hills, most of the interns have been its graduates, but 2012 shows how that is changing.



The 2012 SHIP Interns take time to gather for a group photo. The five alums spent two months in Washington, each pursuing experience as advocates and social service volunteers in their fields of interest. Shown above are: Top Row: Sean Reidy, Amanda Waske, Ashton Wills Front row: Laura Spinelli, Meg Scamardo.

The 2012 interns are:

Amanda Waske, Bloomfield Hills '09, was one of the original designers of SHIP and acted as student coordinator. She is now a senior at University of Michigan. Her internship placement was at Franciscan Action Network in Northeast Washington.

Ashton Wills is not a Sacred Heart graduate, and she, too, did her internship at Franciscan Action Network. She is a junior at Central Arkansas State University.

Laura Spinelli, Bloomfield Hills '10, returned for her second year as an intern at Sirrus Radio, and joined the interns for community life and reflection. Laura is a junior at Denison University.

Sean Reidy, Atherton '11, was placed at Living Wages – an adult education center in Southeast DC. He is a sophomore at California Polytechnic and the first young man to participate in SHIP.

Meg Scamardo, Duchesne Academy, Houston '10, did her internship at Perry Community School. She is a junior at Texas Christian University.

The agenda for each intern was determined by their placement. Some worked with adults; some worked with children; the common denominator was the personal effect and change that each intern expressed from the experiences.

EXPERIENCES AS 2012 SHIP INTERNS

The interns had weekly reflection sessions with RSCJs in the Area and held Wednesday dinners where they invited local Religious and Social Leaders to share their work and insights on current justice issues. One of the assignments of the Internship was writing a blog – recounting each week's activities and the learning experience that resulted. Here are some of their thoughts:

AMANDA (Reflecting on the International Aids Conference, all Interns had the opportunity to attend) *This past week I was challenged both emotionally and intellectually. In the United States, at least where I've grown up, it's not especially common to meet someone who has contracted HIV. Whether that is because there isn't a high prevalence or because of the stigma still attached to the virus I'm not sure, but either way it's not a disease that I have much familiarity. I was able to hear Sir Elton John speak this past week, and to paraphrase his wisdom: HIV is the cause of the disease, but stigma is the cause of the epidemic. Poverty and stigma are the problems, and drugs aren't the answer.*

ASHTON (On attending the return of Nuns On A Bus to DC) *"Reasonable revenue for responsible programs". That is the mantra Sister Simone Campbell left for her 300+ crowd of faithful DC followers, and the legacy I am sure she and her Sisters left in their wake during the Nuns on the Bus road trip. These women visited nine states, advocating for a Faithful Budget as an alternative to budget cuts to important programs that are crucial for taking care of our poorest Americans. I was blessed and honored to stand with friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and strangers alike to welcome home a bus full of passionate women who had just spent two weeks on the road, advocating for the dignity of all Americans.... It was a day of solidarity, compassion, and good ole American civil rights rallying.*

SEAN (On the role of the Church in today's world) *Wednesday night's discussion with Father Ed (Edward Vacek, SJ) about the current state of the church, the good and the bad, particularly the role of women, really got me wondering what exactly it is that we need in the church. There are many questions in the church today such as should women be priests, should priests be allowed to marry, how to best handle all the priest abuse scandals, and many others. Personally, I think greatest change will come from the lay people. There is something deep inside that calls for change because we know there is a better way to live. I don't know the answers to these questions but I do know we need to figure out a reassessment of our values not just as a church but also as a people.*

MEG (Reflections on being a white minority at Perry Community Center and race in general) *This week we added two more volunteers to our classroom. However, I'm officially the only other white person these kids know, and I just can't help to feel like I'm out of place sometimes. Though of course the kids make comments about my pale skin, etc., it's never been a barrier and I'm pretty sure they all like me. I feel like they listen to the other volunteers more. Maybe it has nothing to do with race and is really all about firmness, but I don't know: it just makes me think.... I'm so happy that I have the opportunity to spend my summer with the biggest constant reminder of how important it is to have fun.*

LAURA SPINELLI *was invited to represent young alumnae and the SHIP internship at the Assembly of RSCJ in July 2012. At that meeting she had the opportunity to share what her Sacred Heart education meant to her and how the internship program has allowed her to continue her involvement in the mission of the Society. Of her experiences, Laura said: My favorite part about the Sacred Heart Internship Program is the opportunity it provides to meet so many great people--the fellow interns, non-profit leaders, and RSCJ. It is inspirational to know that we are all connected by the same commitment to make the world a better place.*

As the year passes, the search for answers and understanding will no doubt continue for this newest class of SHIP Interns.

SHIP... a program that is growing, a program that works, and a program that honors the Sacred Heart mission.



SHIP Intern Meg Scamardo with some of the children she worked with at a Washington, DC innercity school.



PAST PRESIDENT PROFILE

Past President Jo Witt Created a Strong Family, Connection to Duchesne College and Academy

*A*s AASH prepares for its 39th Biennial Conference next April in Omaha, it is appropriate to profile and recognize the extraordinary contributions made by Josephine McGinn Witt to Sacred Heart education in Omaha and well beyond. It is a tradition that Jo Witt instilled in her family and that they continue to support.

Born on December 4, 1927, Jo attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Holy Name High School, then on to Duchesne College. Jo and her sister-in-law, Marilou Witt, met while students at Duchesne. It was through Marilou that Jo met her future husband. Jo graduated in 1950 and is regarded as a legendary alumna of the college. Among the 60,000+ alumnae of Sacred Heart schools, Jo may well be among its most decorated and honored over more than four decades of service to Sacred Heart, to her community and to Catholic education worldwide.

Jo and her husband Eugene were parents of six children – three daughters and three sons. All three daughters attended the Academy – Diane Witt Taylor '72, Karen Witt German '75, and Marilyn Witt Tampke '79. Now their daughters, Jo's granddaughters, are carrying on the tradition.

Her daughters note that Jo instilled the importance of charity and volunteerism in them at an early age. Just recently, Karen was honored by Duchesne with the Trés Bien Award in recognition for her many contributions of talent and time to the Academy. As she says, "I am following in my Mother's footsteps – giving back to our Sacred Heart education."

Jo was awarded the Trés Bien award from Duchesne in 2007; the AASH Cor Unum Award in 1995; the Gerald T. Bergan Award, the highest honor for volunteers at Bergan Mercy Hospital; and the National Catholic Educational Association Presidential Award. She also received high honors from Christ Child Society, Roncalli High School, Mount

Michael Abbey and School, Holy Name Parish and School, Sacred Heart Parish and School, and St. Joseph High School.

Along with her husband, Gene, they shared a passion about Catholic Education and they did their utmost to see that not only their own children, but many more receive that education both in Omaha and around the world. They worked on almost every Catholic school fundraising effort in Omaha at one time or another. And their generosity to the Catholic schools and to Bergan Mercy Hospital is legend. Their international efforts included membership in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, which supports Christian schools and churches in the Holy Land.

Jo Witt has played an integral role in the history and success of Sacred Heart education, locally, nationally and internationally. She served as a member of the Duchesne Board of Trustees, was AASH President from 1987-89, and an advisor to the International Sacred Heart Alumnae Association (AMASC). Jo regularly attended numerous AASH national conferences throughout the United States, and attended AMASC Conferences around the world.

And though Jo worked on many projects for many organizations, her heart has always belonged to Duchesne and the Religious of the Sacred Heart. One of her most memorable experiences was when she and her family went to Rome for the canonization of St. Philippine Duchesne. She was AASH President at the time, and was honored with a private audience with Pope John Paul II.

Her daughter Diane relates a fond family story. "Mom was usually at a meeting and missed most of our sightseeing so she isn't in many pictures from our trips. The one picture we have of Mom with Pope John Paul II was sent to Mom after we got home. Dad took so many pictures during the Mass that he sent Mom back for the private audience with a camera that was out of film. He didn't tell her until we were back in Omaha, even though the rest of us on the trip were aware and asking him every day if he told her yet. She kept saying 'I can't wait to see the pictures with the Pope', so we were delighted when the photo taken by the Vatican arrived. This is still one of our funniest family stories."





Jo Witt was blessed and honored to have a private audience with Pope John Paul II, during her visit to Rome for the canonization of St. Philippine Duchesne. At the time, she was President of AASH.

From the canonization in Rome to the Royal Palace in Japan, Sacred Heart roles took Jo to many ports of call. While in Tokyo for the AMASC International Conference, Jo was invited to a private reception hosted by the Princess of Japan – a rare and high honor. It was yet another show of recognition for this extraordinary woman, no matter where she went in the world.

She is well-known for her philanthropic dedication – a quality she passed along to her daughters. As National AASH President, Jo brought the biennial conference to Omaha in 1989 for the second time in AASH history. She enlisted the assistance of her family in preparations and arrangements for this important event, which was well attended and stands as the benchmark for subsequent Biennial Conferences. Her daughters recall what a huge undertaking the Biennial was, and what a huge success it was. Jo and Gene hosted a reception for delegates at their home, further evidence of their commitment to all things Sacred Heart, and how seriously Jo always took her responsibility within an organization.

Her beloved Gene passed away in September 2008, and two years ago, Jo was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Despite these tragedies, Jo has never complained, say her daughters. Jo now resides at Parson's House Assisted Living facility in Omaha, and is in good physical condition.

Jo and Gene Witt were very generous with both their time and money throughout their lives, and Jo Witt is an outstanding role model for her family and for many others. Jo epitomizes the life and mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and the values it represents throughout her presidency of AASH.

With Duchesne Academy once more hosting the Biennial Conference in 2013, the legacy of Jo Witt and her family take on renewed importance. AASH is proud to recognize the achievements and standards that make Josephine McGinn Witt an extraordinary Past President.

Among the 60,000+ alumnae of Sacred Heart schools, Jo may well be among its most decorated and honored over more than four decades of service to Sacred Heart, to her community and to Catholic education worldwide



Jo Witt and her sister-Duchesne alums are her daughters and granddaughters. Pictured (l. to R.) Diane Witt Taylor, A72; Jenny Witt Medinger, A95; Elizabeth German Langan, A01; Karen Witt German, A75; Carolyn German, A10; Josephine McGinn Witt, C50; Marilyn Witt Tampke, A79; and Annie Knowles German, A03.

Josephine McGinn in her wedding gown for marriage to Eugene Witt in August 1950.



Treasures from the Heart

THE PAINTING OF OUR LADY IS A MAJOR PART OF SACRED HEART HISTORY

To a Sacred Heart alumna, a likeness of the Mater Admirabilis is synonymous with their education. This distinctive portrait has a fascinating history, and its likeness has been reproduced in exquisite statues, paintings and stained glass windows found in schools and churches worldwide – always associated with the Society of the Sacred Heart.

It was on a trip through Savannah, Georgia that a Sacred Heart alum saw the beautiful Mater Admirabilis stained glass window in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. This century-old window could possibly be connected to our Sacred Heart family, and so a search began.

We learned that a fire had destroyed this historic cathedral in 1898 and all but one of its windows was lost. As the church was restored, new lancet windows were created: one of them was the Mater window.

More than 100 years later, a search began to find the Sacred Heart connection with the donor of the exceptional window. In the Cathedral records, the window is referred to as *The Blessed Virgin Mary "Mater Admirabilis" in memory of John D. Reiley*. However, no connection to Sacred Heart could be found. Instead, we uncovered a strong and indisputable link between the 13th Station of the Cross and Mother Eleanor M. O'Byrne, RSCJ (*Esprit de Coeur* – Summer 2012).

The story behind Mater Admirabilis is worthy of recounting, and extensive history and insights can be found at www.rscj.org, the source of our material that follows.

It was a young French Sacred Heart postulate who came to live at the Trinità dei Monti, a Sacred Heart school and community at the top of the Spanish Steps in Rome, who requested permission to paint an image of Our Lady on a wall of a corridor that led to the sisters' cloister. At first, the Mother Superior rejected her request, but Pauline Perdrau



This 100 year old image resides in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah, GA, as a magnificent stained glass window. Though no connection to Sacred Heart could be found, the inscription to the chapel record reads: The Blessed Virgin Mary "Mater Admirabilis" in memory of John D. Reiley.



This exquisite painting of Our Lady was created by Sacred Heart postulate Pauline Perdrau as a fresco on a corridor wall. It became known as the Mater Admirabilis and is always associated with the Society of the Sacred Heart.

– who was also a gifted artist – persisted and eventually she was granted permission. For months, she spent hours each day preparing the wall and painting her image of Mary.

The fresco painting was completed in 1844, but it was felt that the colors were too vivid. A protective cloth was placed over the painting to give it time to dry. When the cloth was removed several days later, the colors had softened to the shades of pink, blue and ivory that are so well known to visitors at Mater's shrine today.

To Pauline Perdrau, who became a Religious of the Sacred Heart, the change was nothing short of a miracle. But there is more to the story.

In the fall of 1846, Pope Pius IX visited Trinità dei Monti and was overwhelmed by the beauty of the fresco of Mary. "Mater Admirabilis!" exclaimed the Pope, giving the painting of Mary the title it still bears.

Over the years, Mother Perdrau personally painted Mater in oils, including two that were requested in 1865 by Mother Anna Shannon, vicar in Louisiana. Mother Shannon had traveled to Paris where she met the artist. The original oils were sent to New Orleans in 1866. After a circuitous route, one found its way to St. Charles in 1970, and the other is at Grand Coteau.

Mother Perdrau's lesser known interpretations of Our Lady in old age were greeted with both adulation and controversy, since Mary had never been represented in late life. Her last painting, *Mary in the House of the Beloved Disciple*, began as a sketch, but at urging by her admirers to paint it as a life-size companion to Mater Admirabilis; she traveled to Marseilles where she completed the work in 1878.

The Savannah window does not replicate the soft hues of the fresco, but the pose and the likeness are indisputable. It is truly a Treasure from the Heart.



A Cause that Touches the Heart: Just Because We Care

BY LAUREN FOLEY KOLBE, ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART ST CHARLES '87, VILLA DUCHESNE '91

September 14, 2012: I returned from Honduras last night, following a great Children's Day celebration with the Just Because We Care school community there.

Just Because We Care is a private charity run by our friends, Bob and Diane Wamhoff, who began a mission 10 years ago to feed the children of a small mountain community outside of El Progreso. Diane was approached by a nun with an invitation to visit her school. Diane accepted, and what she originally saw on the mountain brought many tears. Children were starving, with nothing to eat besides grass and leaves. The nun explained to Diane that if the school could build a kitchen, the government would provide food. Her church group was not able to take on the project, but Diane felt compelled to act, and personally provided the funds to build the kitchen.

A year later, Diane returned to the mountain and to her dismay, found no food. The government hadn't fulfilled on its promise. At that moment, Diane realized she had been led to the mountain by God, and by her son "Angel Timmy" who had died in a car accident a few years prior, to care for these children. She and Bob resolved to do whatever they could to ensure that children in the community weren't going to die from malnutrition, and formed the organization that today, continues to raise money to feed, clothe, educate, house, and provide basic medical care for the children and their families.

When my husband and I met Bob and Diane nearly 5 years ago and heard the stories, we were inspired to get involved. This isn't a charity where we in the United States are "passively" involved, sending money and visiting every so often. This is an organization where we are hands-on, and really experience the difference Just Because is making:

- We now feed the elementary school children 5 days per week.
- We've built a vocational school to teach older students skills in computers and carpentry.
- We've built 6 houses for families in need, renovated the



Lauren is all smiles as she embraces the child she and her husband sponsor. Jose Eduardo is a second grader in the mountain school.

community center, and built a library, stocked with Spanish books, for use by all.

- Many supporters in the United States have sponsored children on the mountain for various programs, including high school and college scholarships.

There are so many other things we've been able to do over the years. Each time I travel there, I feel so much love from the people, and see the progress of the community and each child.

I spent time with the child my husband and I sponsor – a second grader named Jose Eduardo – and met his mother for the first time.

Yet even with so much progress, there is still so much to do. Unemployment on the mountain remains high (around 70%), and the cost of food continues to rise.

Just Because is a 501 (c) 3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible. In addition, there are several fundraising events throughout the year, including two golf tournaments, a trivia night, and a bi-annual dance.

For more information regarding "Just Because" please feel free to call Diane Wamhoff at (636)493-5055 or E-mail: diwamhoff@charter.net.

If you wish to make a donation, please call (636)573-1212 and ask for Peggy Ann. Or write to us at 1520 S. Fifth St., Suite 300, Saint Charles, MO 63303.





ELIZABETH: LEARNING TO DRESS MYSELF FROM THE INSIDE OUT

BY MARY ELIZABETH MOLONEY, VILLA DUCHESNE '53, MARYVILLE '57

This candid autobiography explores a remarkable journey as the author relates a mother who tried to dress Elizabeth in her own image; her years in a convent; later, a marriage; and her outreach for help. Through dream-work with a wise Jungian analyst, she learned to step back from her doll-like façade, to take responsibility for her un-lived years, to recognize and deal with an addictive personality and to explore the richness of the gift as woman and as writer.

Today, her days are more than full as she continues exploring tangles in her dreams, promoting her memoir, developing her blog, and researching a new memoir: the spiritual implications of living with chronic pain. She still finds time to keep up with family, friends and neighbors. Elizabeth is a member of the St. Louis Writers Guild and the St. Louis Publishers Association.

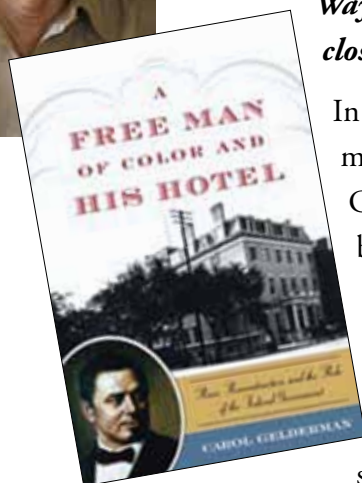


A FREE MAN OF COLOR AND HIS HOTEL

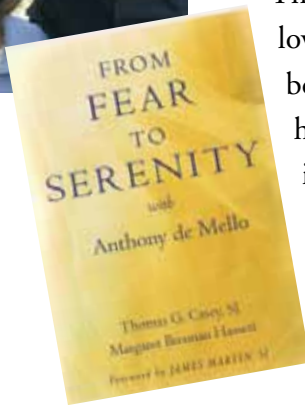
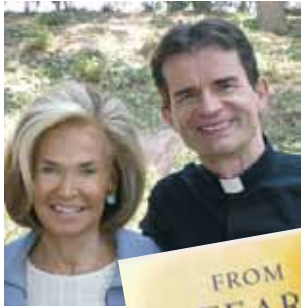
BY CAROL GELDERMAN, PHD, GROSSE POINTE '56, MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE '60

Carol Gelderman is the author of nine books, and is currently Distinguished Professor of English Emerita at the University of New Orleans. Her books include *Henry Ford: The Wayward Capitalist* (1981); *Mary McCarthy: A Life* (1988); and *Louis Auchincloss: A Writer's Life* (2007).

In her newest book, she weaves a story of a uniquely successful black businessman into the burgeoning post-Civil War political struggle that pitted the Federal Government against the states' desire to remain autonomous. In a period when business opportunities for African-Americans were limited, James Wormley built and operated the luxurious Wormley Hotel in Washington, DC, hosting the movers and shakers of the era. During his rise to success, U.S. Supreme Court decisions hindered other African Americans potential success following reconstruction. By examining one man's against-the-odds success, the author shows how the same issues are still relevant in a post segregation United States.



For a comprehensive list of Sacred Heart authors, visit AASH President Maureen Ryan's blog at: <http://aashpresidentmtr.blogspot.com>

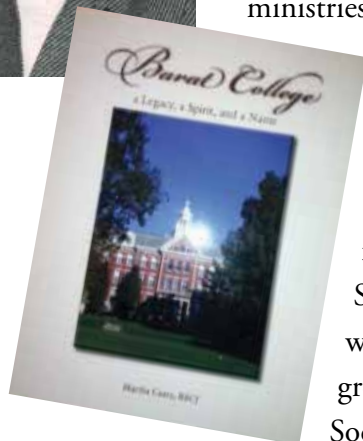


FROM FEAR TO SERENITY WITH ANTHONY DE MELLO, SJ

BY MARGARET BRENNAN HASSETT, NEWTON COLLEGE '62,
AND THOMAS G. CASEY, SJ

Margaret Hassett was studying at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome when she met Thomas Casey, director of Jewish Studies and Professor of Philosophy. Their mutual love for the work of 'Tony' de Mello and his teachings led to collaboration on this book. The Indian Jesuit Anthony de Mello died in 1987 but his spiritual writings still have wide appeal. In this book, the authors discuss his work and explain his teachings. Among de Mello's insights: that a deeper awareness of one's breathing can help facilitate prayer. The approach of the book, which was de Mello's approach, is to offer readers freedom from the daily grind of the workaday world and to be deeply at peace with ourselves.

In addition to her many philanthropic endeavors, Margaret Hassett serves on the Board of Trustees of the Gregorian University Foundation, and continues her lifelong commitment to understanding addiction and recovery. She resides in New York.



BARAT COLLEGE: A LEGACY, A SPIRIT AND A NAME

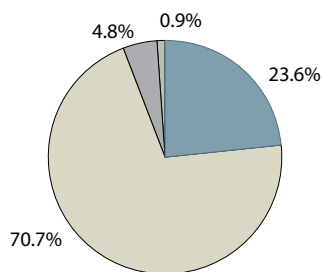
BY MARTHA CURRY, RSCJ, BARAT COLLEGE '48

Sister Martha Curry is more than an alumna of Barat College: she was a member of the English faculty for many years and has immersed herself in its heritage. While at Barat, she made a specialty of teaching, publishing and lecturing on Sherwood Anderson, Gertrude Stein and James Joyce. After she retired from teaching at Barat, Sister Curry continued her ministries at Wayne State and Princeton universities and as director of the Sacred Heart retirement community in Albany, NY.

When Barat closed in 2005, Sister Curry determined that its story should be told. Its namesake, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, permeated the life of Barat College and on the pages of this book. With access to unpublished primary material from the archives of Rome to the archives in St. Louis and at DePaul University, Sister Curry dutifully researched her subject and artfully tells the story that began when five RSCJ came to Chicago in 1858 and founded an academy that would grow to become Barat College. The legacy of Barat College is the heritage of the Society of the Sacred Heart – one that every Sacred Heart alumnae/i will find richly rewarding and enriching.

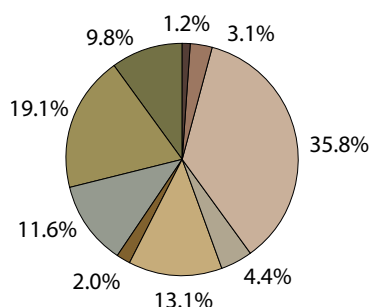
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our sincere gratitude...

In this list we recognize the many alums who have contributed to AASH during the 2011-12 fiscal year. Your gifts are absolutely vital to helping us keep our 47,000 alums connected and informed through this publication, our online community, our website and more. From connecting alums on college campuses to providing opportunities for career networking and mentoring to sharing our common bond, AASH exists for you. Your donations are essential to growing and maintaining our remarkable alum community!

An envelope has been included in this issue for our 2012-13 fiscal year. To increase the value of your gift, check out our list of companies offering Matching Gift Programs at www.aashnet.org. As we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of AASH, please consider making your donation in multiples of 80!

Please give as generously as you can. And remember, you can save time and postage by donating anytime online at www.aashnet.org.

If your name is inaccurate or has been inadvertently omitted from this list, please contact the National Office at 1-888-622-7421 or nationaloffice@aashnet.org so we may correct our records and give proper acknowledgment.

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