

Esprit de Coeur

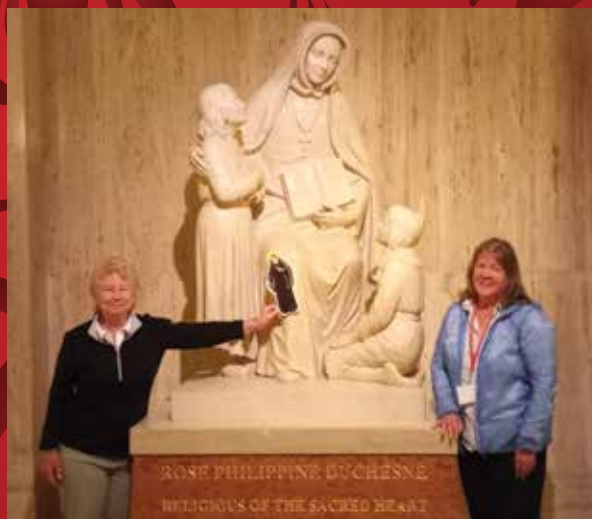
spirit of the heart

SPRING 2022

SAVE THE DATE!
44TH AASH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
MAY 19-21, 2023
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI OF THE SACRED HEART



What's Inside

President's Letter.....	Inside front cover
First Person.....	3
Reunion Photos	6
Top Shelf.....	9
Sacred Heart Connections.....	10

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rhonda Raffi Meegan,
President

Dear Sacred Heart friends and family,

We have so much to be thankful for! On behalf of the AASH Board, I thank all of you for the communication, prayers and gifts you have given us during such challenging times of this pandemic. We continue our prayers for all of you! As we start a new year with gratitude and thanks, we also pray that you receive blessings abundantly more than you ask.

We are a very special family as children of the Sacred Heart. We all know it, and feel it in our heart of hearts. From our education, we learned to open our hearts to love; Christ's love. How many times have you had an amazing Sacred Heart connection experience? You might be on a trip in another country and someone helps you or you're in a supermarket and someone shares a special story, and you discover that person is a Sacred Heart alumnus. How many times have you prayed and prayed and felt you were at rock bottom, only to see a glimmer of hope, and somehow got through your challenge? One of my favorite Philippine Duchesne quotes is the following.. ***"He will never let the trial surpass the strength He gives you, and at the very moment you think yourself overwhelmed by sorrow, He will lift you up and give you peace."*** Look for these little miracles He gives us daily. They're there! His love abounds.

As a team, we are working very hard to keep each and every one of you, our family, close, to celebrate Christ's love. We are working to help each other, to share joys and sorrows together, and to love one another. Our work as a national alumnae/i association continues to support the tireless efforts of Philippine Duchesne and Sophie Barat, who together started our special family. Please, connect with us at aash.org to see our new AASH Connections tab which helps us connect with each other! Write to us! Call us! Let us know how we can help you. Your family is here.

AMASC, the world alumni association of the Sacred Heart, works diligently to maintain their mandate of "Let's live together as a family of the Sacred Heart." Visit their new website to connect with them at amasc-sacrecoeur.net.

Most importantly, we all must continue to show support and gratitude to the Society of the Sacred Heart. We would not be here if it were not for the amazing, tireless efforts of the RSCJ who taught us how to be God's loving children of the Sacred Heart. I encourage all of you to connect with the RSCJ, and visit their website, rscj.org, to see what their new focus is, and their special mission work.

Working to connect us further, our AASH Board efforts are now focused on our Regional Conference 2022, which will be held online in the fall. We are very excited about it, and will soon be posting more information on our website.

With great joy, we are working hard on organizing our 44th National Conference. It will be held in Portsmouth, RI, to honor Elmhurst Academy, and celebrate the new Network school, St. Philomena. We are so grateful to Brian Cordeiro, Head of School, at St. Philomena, for all of his help and prayers for our conference. We are also grateful to the Society of the Sacred Heart for its efforts to help us connect with our new network school.

Again, with gratitude, I thank all of you on behalf of the AASH Board, for all you have given us, which helps to keep our family together. Scripture comes to mind as I reflect on my feelings of love for and gratitude to you for your love and prayers as we work together in one heart.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:15-17

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Meegan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

2021-2023 BOARD MEMBERS



President
Rhonda Raffi Meegan
Newton Country Day 1971
Newton College 1975
president@aash.org



Vice President
Kate Devers Sawyer
Ninety-First St 1986
vicepresident@aash.org



Treasurer
Sarah Mayer Wolf
Bloomfield Hills 2007
treasurer@aash.org



Recording Secretary
Linzee Evans LaGrange
Grand Coteau 1979
recordingsecretary@aash.org



Corresponding Secretary
Stephanie Chaczyk
Bloomfield Hills 2007
correspondingsecretary@aash.org



Central Regional Director
Andrea Briefs Ferris
Bloomfield Hills 1975
crd@aash.org



Eastern Regional Director
Maria Asteinza
91st Street 1985
erd@aash.org



Western Regional Director
Marcia Tufarolo
Forest Ridge 1973
wrd@aash.org



AASH Ambassador
Deborah Newhouse Dunham
Grand Coteau 1962
DASH Houston 1970
ambassador@aash.org



Southern Regional Director
Charla Niccoli Dziedzic
ASH St. Charles 1975
srd@aash.org

AASH National Office
801 Spoede Rd, 2nd Floor
St. Louis, MO 63131-2699
NationalOffice@aash.org
314-569-3948

National Office Director
Laurie Strickland
ASH St. Charles 1976
lstrickland@aash.org

On the front cover: Deborah Dunham and Kathleen Belanger at Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Grand Coteau's Class of 2010, Greenwich's Class of 2001, Villa alums celebrating at Reunion and Grand Coteau's youngest students visit the school's Grotto.

On the back cover: Members of the Atherton Class of 1969 and the members of Rosary's Reunion Courtyard Soiree Committee.

Editor: Maggie Sieger, Duchesne Houston 1985, editor@aash.org

Designer: Angela Schulte

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Maggie Sieger Kaspura,
Editor-In-Chief



Spring is here! I am always thrilled to see the first crocus poke its head up. I start clocking sunsets around mid-January, watching as the days get longer, and force bulbs so my kitchen smells of hyacinths in February. Molly is in the final countdown to graduation. That means fittings for her long, white dress, Maypole practice and recurring bouts of Senioritis cycling through the members of the Class of 2022 at Villa — and every other high school, I'm sure. It's not just the graduating class getting ready for a big change. The Society of the Sacred Heart is in the midst of a rethinking how to live its mission. Jan Dunn, RSCJ (Duchesne Houston 1964/Maryville 1968), talks a little about what the Society's Special Chapter last fall means on page 5.

Change is happening at AASH, too. I left my position as National Office Director at the end of 2021, and this will be my final issue as editor-in-chief of the *Esprit*. It was a huge benefit to be on campus with Molly and have the opportunity to say hi to her friends and teachers in the halls of Villa, where AASH rents space for the National Office. As Molly prepares to move on to a new stage in her life, it's a good time for me to transition as well. I'm once again writing full-time as a Senior Editor at Fitch Ink, a company full of other former journalists — meaning I fit right in. AASH's new National Office Director is Laurie Strickland (ASH St. Charles 1976). She and Betty Gibson, the National Office's stellar administrative assistant, will be a dynamic duo. I've known Laurie for years — she used to teach Molly when she attended ASH! — and I couldn't be happier to have her take over the National Office. Laurie introduces herself on page 4, and I'm sure you'll agree she is the perfect person for the job. Drop her a note to welcome her at NationalOffice@aash.org.

I started working at AASH “for just a few months,” when the organization was unexpectedly without a National Office Director, with no idea those months would turn into nearly a decade all up. I have loved being part of this amazing organization and working with the many, many talented women and men who are part of AASH. It's been a privilege to meet so many of you Sacred Heart alums from across the country and around the world. We are truly part of an international family. Moving forward, I'll still be a reader of the *Esprit* and am making plans to see you in Providence, RI, May 19-21, 2023, for the 44th AASH National Conference. Hopefully, we can gather in person once again and really celebrate. It would take an entire issue to thank everyone who has helped and supported me during my time at AASH. Your numbers are legion! Know that I am grateful and feel so very blessed to have crossed paths with you all.

In the Heart,

Maggie

Connect with Us

We hear dozens of stories of how alums recognize each other by their class rings or randomly meet at work or on college campuses. The Sacred Heart Alum Network is more than 40,000 members strong and can help you find others. We'd love to hear how you met other Sacred Heart alums.

Email editor@aash.org to share your story.

Not sure we have your latest email address? Contact us at NationalOffice@aash.org or call 314-569-3948.

Visit our website www.aash.org and connect with us on Facebook (AASH-Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart), Twitter (@AASH) and LinkedIn (AASH-Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart).

FIRST PERSON

By Rachel Connelly DASH Omaha 2013

Recently, my high school dream of becoming a Sacred Heart Educator led me into a series of Zoom meetings with other Sacred Heart people from several continents that has become a permanent organization named Global Youth. My path to this outcome started with a personal interest in both the Spanish language and Theology, which were enhanced and expanded by my profoundly formative experience at Omaha's Duchesne ASH. Indeed, I left DASH with that dream to teach and concentrated in college on secondary education, Spanish and Theology.

My dream became a reality when Duchesne hired me five years ago. Today, I teach Spanish 3, AP Spanish 5 and a course on the Church and saints. I am also a campus minister and the moderator of several clubs, including Archery Club and la Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (the Spanish Honor Society). Among my favorite aspects of teaching is watching students live the Goals and Criteria holistically - joining Sodality, praying the Rosary, leading a retreat, taking optional language courses, engaging in compassionate service and advocacy, building potentially lifelong friendships and discovering their unique strengths and interests — whether athletics, robotics or leadership.

About a year ago, Mary Finlayson, RSCJ, told me about an international Advent retreat that RSCJs were planning for young people connected to the Society. It was an incredible opportunity to meet, reflect and pray virtually with other young people who have also experienced the love of the Sacred Heart and the Society. The RSCJs inquired at the end of the retreat if we would be interested in having more virtual retreats. The Zoom screens filled with thumbs up, hearts and “yeses.” Last June, four young women from Latin America and I were invited to help facilitate another retreat, for the Feast of the Sacred Heart. After yet another memorable experience, everyone wanted to keep in touch. Thus, Global Youth was created.

So, what is Global Youth? We are a group of young people between 16 and 30 years old, including current students and alumnae/I as well as others connected to the Society in some way, who meet to build upon and deepen our Sacred Heart roots. We pray together, talk about current issues/events and learn from one another. We have four coordinators: María from Mexico, Carol from India, Matilda from Kenya and myself from the U.S. Together, we help plan and facilitate the virtual retreats and encourage ongoing conversation in other occasional meetings. Our first meeting was in October, when we talked about the languages we speak, our hopes for Global Youth, and how to pray the Our Father in Swahili. These meetings are organized by different regions and held in English, Spanish and French, so that we can learn from one another and take advantage of the international Sacred Heart community.



Rachel Connelly DASH Omaha 2013

I have known intuitively that Sacred Heart education impacted me, but never specifically reflected on the how and the who. My heart is filled with gratitude for my parents, teachers, colleagues and students. They made my Sacred Heart education a reality, challenged and supported me, grew with me and continue to inspire me. I'm also grateful to the RSCJs, who graced me with their presence and insights, as well as the Global Youth family, who opened their hearts to me.

To learn more about Sacred Heart Global Youth, contact globalyouth@rscjinternational.org. We would love to have you!



NEW NATIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR



**Welcome to Laurie Strickland (ASH St Charles 1976),
the new National Office Director!**

Happy New Year!

I'm excited and thrilled to begin 2022 as the new National Office Director for AASH. My roots are deep in the traditions and charism of the Sacred Heart. The seed was first planted when, as a shy five-year-old, I became a student at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles. At the time, no one knew that this was the start of a life-long connection. That seed took root and flourished as the love and care of the RSCJ and dedicated lay teachers guided me. Fascinated by the stories of St. Philippine Duchesne, I was honored to walk the grounds where she began her mission in America.

The roots became even stronger as my four children attended and graduated from St. Charles, joining me as a proud member of the Sacred Heart alumni. I became a faculty member at St. Charles in 2016 and my focus became that of a Sacred Heart educator, bringing my experience with Sacred Heart education full circle. Longing for more, I became an Associate of the Sacred Heart and continue learning how the spirit of Sophie and Philippine can be present in our everyday lives.

And now, these well-established Sacred Heart roots are in new soil as I begin the role of National Office Director. I am here to serve you and my desire is to do whatever I can to help you feel connected as a child of the Sacred Heart.

In the Heart,

Laurie

RSCJ SPECIAL CHAPTER

November 10-December 2, 2021



The Society of the Sacred Heart's Special Chapter last year was convened to address and discern two issues: (1) how the Society of the Sacred Heart will reconfigure its way of being One Body and (2) share resources for the future of its life and mission.

"Chapters" are gatherings of the RSCJ that include representatives from every region of the Society. A Special Chapter is called to address a specific issue, while General Chapters are held every six to eight years and include the appointment of a new Superior General. Last year's Special Chapter was only the second in RSCJ history. The first was convened in 1967 in the wake of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican (Vatican II) to modernize the Society's structures and way of life.

Superior General Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, (Lone Mountain) called the 2021 Special Chapter, which kicked off with a Mass Nov. 10 that was live streamed from the Society's Motherhouse in Rome. The Chapter included 67 Religious from around the world — known as "Capitulants" — who were nominated to represent their regions. Provincial Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, (Manhattanville 1976) and Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, represented the United States – Canada (USC) Province. Former Superior General Kathleen Conan, RSCJ, (Manhattanville 1968) also attended.

The Special Chapter, which had been delayed and moved to a virtual platform due to the pandemic, concluded with a Mass livestreamed from Guadalajara, Mexico, on Dec. 2. To read more about the Special Chapter, see the RSCJ website: <https://specialchapter2021.rscjinternational.org/>.



What the Special Chapter of 2021 Means to Me

By Jan Dunn, RSCJ
Duchesne Houston 1964,
Maryville 1968

Barbara Dawson RSCJ, Superior General, called a Special Chapter of the Society of the Sacred Heart for November 2021. The unique feature of this gathering was that it was all conducted by Zoom. The elected delegates met remotely across continents and time zones! Quite a feat!

The focus of this Special Chapter was twofold: to enhance our capacity for mission and to discover new ways to live this mission.

For me, the Special Chapter is like a flower opening. When the Chapter has closed, our work begins. It is now up to us to take what the delegates discovered and make the truths real. Through prayer and reflection, and dialogue with each other, we now are called to live the insights of this moment. Although St. Madeleine Sophie set the direction of the Society in 1800, we as her daughters in 2022 are asked to read the signs of our times to make the charism alive in modern life. It is a call always to go forward to make known today the love of the Heart of Christ.

Special Chapter Prayer

*Spirit, Creator, You make all things new,
You go ahead of us on the way,
Light up the way we look at things,
make us able to see
The ways you are acting in us,
in others and in the world.*

*Spirit of discernment,
Guide us through this chapter,
Inspire our thoughts, our words,
and the way we speak them,
Guide our assemblies and our conversations
In our common search to better serve you.*

*Spirit of light, Dwell in each RSCJ,
in the whole family of the Sacred Heart
so that your priorities become ours.
May your inspiration enlighten us.
May your power enable us to act.*

Amen.

REUNION PHOTOS



Atherton Class of 1970



Atherton Class of 1960



Atherton Class of 1971



Atherton Class of 1961



DASH Omaha Class of 1971



REUNION PHOTOS



ABOVE: Grand Coteau Class of 1976

LEFT: Grant Coteau Class of 1981



Greenwich Class of 1971



Greenwich Class of 2001



Stone Ridge Class of 1970

REUNIONS



Rosary Class of 1971



Rosary Class of 1970



Villa Class of 1970



Villa Class of 1971

TOP SHELF

Books by Sacred Heart Authors



By Jan Dunn, RSCJ

Catherine Collins, RSCJ (1937 – 2010): Innovator with Heart and Vision

By Jan Dunn, RSCJ
Duchesne Houston 1964, Maryville 1968

Catherine “Kit” Collins, RSCJ (Newton 1954, Manhattanville 1958, 1965) applied her considerable talents to Sacred Heart matters that ranged all the way from the beginnings of Sacred Heart education to the 21st century technologies required to manifest the Sacred Heart charism in the world of today. Biographer Jan Dunn, RSCJ

reports her subject to be friendly, joyful and energetic – a person authentically trying to become the person ... God created her to be. All students who attended a Network of the Sacred Heart school owe a huge debt to Kit, who conceived both the Network and the earliest statement of the cherished Goals and Criteria. She also was the driving force behind the Society of the Sacred Heart’s Center for Educational Design and Communication (CEDC – now known as The Stuart Center), an active ministry putting communication at the service of social change and social justice. Kit “created the concept of a network of Sacred Heart schools and led its growth, until in ten short years it became an educational force in the United States and was known around the world.” The Stuart Center emerged as a principal means “to make RSCJ reflections on our own experience accessible to others.”

Sweeping changes in the 1960s in the number of Sacred Heart elementary and secondary schools and in the number of available Religious teachers and administrators, along with changes in consecrated religious life envisioned by Vatican II, required a new direction for the Society of the Sacred Heart. Independent boards of trustees assumed responsibility for individual schools and the Society at large found its existing Provincial institutions excessive and in need of reorganization. The story of Kit Collins is largely the story of the Society’s successful response to these circumstances. Hailed as an educational “visionary” and “prophet,” Catherine Collins collaborated with most who were willing to confront these challenges, collided with some, and left a rich legacy that extends well beyond the conditions which triggered her efforts.

The book is available at Amazon and other booksellers.



Cokie: A Life Well Lived By Steven V. Roberts

Cokie recounts the extraordinary life and legacy of legendary journalist Corinne “Cokie” Roberts (Stone Ridge 1960) — a trailblazer for women. In it, she is remembered by her friends and family.



In this loving tribute, Cokie’s husband of 53 years, Steve Roberts, reflects both on her many accomplishments and on her devotion to helping others. For Steve, Cokie’s private life was as inspirational as her public one. Her commitment to celebrating other women was evident in everything she did, and her generosity and passion drove both her personal and professional endeavors. In *Cokie*, he has a simple goal: “To tell stories. Some will make you cheer or laugh or cry. And some, I hope, will inspire you to be more like Cokie, to be a good person, to lead a good life.”

Through her celebrity, Cokie Roberts was an inspiration and a role model for innumerable women and girls. On national television and radio for decades, she also wrote five bestselling books focusing on the role of women in American history. She was portrayed on *Saturday Night Live*, name checked on *The West Wing* and featured on magazine covers. She joked with Jay Leno, balanced a pencil on her nose for David Letterman and was the answer to numerous crossword puzzle clues. Many dogs, and at least one dairy cow, were named for her. When *Spy* magazine diagramed all her connections, with the headline “Cokie Roberts – Moderately Well-Known Broadcast Journalist or Center of the Universe,” they were only half-joking.

Those closest to Cokie remember her impressive mind, impish wit, infectious laugh and the tenacity that sent her career skyrocketing through glass ceilings at NPR and ABC. Throughout, she advanced others and cared deeply about the world around her. When faced with dilemmas, many of them still ask themselves, ‘What Would Cokie Do?’

To read more about Cokie Roberts, see the RSCJ website: <https://rscj.org/news/remembering-cokie-roberts>.

The book is available at Amazon and other booksellers.



If you have a book you’d like to share with our Sacred Heart alums in Top Shelf, please contact the National Office at NationalOffice@aash.org or 314-569-3948.

SACRED HEART CONNECTIONS



AASH Ambassador Deborah Dunham (ASH Grand Coteau 1962, Duchesne Houston 1970) made a number of connections recently!

Dr. Kathleen Hartnett Belanger (City House 1967) and her husband, Tom, came to Washington, D.C., from their home in Nacogdoches, Texas, in November for their Catholic University of America 50th year reunion. For four years, Kathleen and Tom were classmates there of my husband, Larry. The first night of reunion weekend, Kathleen and I discovered we were both Sacred Heart girls! Well, you could not separate us the rest of the time!

We reminisced for hours about primes, white gloves and on and on. We even had a few nuns in common. Our husbands put up with our chatter because they no doubt realized how much joy it gave us. And we all went to visit the sculpture of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was a wonderful weekend! I cannot wait to visit them in Texas on my next trip there.

I was golfing at East Potomac Golf Links in Washington, D.C. A young man came up and asked if my golf towel was from The Rosary in New Orleans. I responded in the affirmative, and that I had played in the school tournament recently with Lynne Lieux, RSCJ. Asked how he knew of school, he responded that he was from New Orleans and his cousins went to The Rosary. The next weekend he was returning to NOLA to be married.



These people contributed to the AASH Endowment, which supports the National Office, between June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021.
Thank you for your generosity!

Amelia "Mimi" Ackerman	Jeanne McGowen
Cecilia Marie Amaro	Patricia Dooley McWilliams
Gladys Arango	Mary Theresa Moser, RSCJ
Maureen Brady	Nancy Poor
Mary Brunn	Carolyn Lindeman Price
Dinah Amieiro Burgos	Jessica Reuben
Sophia E. Ciatto	Mary Frances Flynn Scholl
Carolyn Fath Dowling	Ellen Schlafly Shafer
Ruth Dull	Danielle Pagano Shelton
Mary Jo Pflieger Eick	Sally Teppert-McKendry
Linda Fikes	Francesca Heng Westenberg
Honour Naryka Fleming	Cynthia Cunningham Whalen
Joan Fleming	
Mary Lindeman Fournie	
Mary Lynne Hickey	
Wendy Delery Hills	
Jo Ann Hilliard Holland	
Christine Stevens Johnston	
Harriet Leahy	
Patricia Dalferes Martin	



Sacred Heart Legacy Society

AASH recognizes members of the AASH Legacy Society in the annual report published every September in the *Esprit de Coeur* magazine. With the member's permission, we will run a photo and brief bio in the *Esprit* and publicly thank them when the gift is first planned. In the following years, they will be noted in a special list of AASH Legacy Society members in the annual report. A complete profile/obituary along with photos will be run in the *Esprit* and posted on AASH's social media when we receive the gift. Legacy Society members should feel free to send high resolution photos they would like to be included in the magazine.



Did you know you can give money to AASH and lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) at the same time? Anyone aged 70½ or older who must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their traditional IRAs can contribute up to \$100,000 directly to AASH without it being considered a taxable distribution. Contact your IRA administrator or the National Office (nationaloffice@aash.org) for more information.



AASH National Office
801 South Spode Road, 2nd Floor
St. Louis, MO 63131

Esprit de Coeur is published biannually by the Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart for all alumnae/i of Sacred Heart Schools in the U.S. and Western Canada.

To report a change of address or if you prefer to receive *Esprit de Coeur* electronically, please contact the National Office at nationaloffice@aash.org or 314-569-3948.

www.aash.org



44th AASH National Conference
May 19-21, 2023

St. Philomena School of the Sacred Heart
Portsmouth, Rhode Island
See aash.org for details



The Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart (AASH) was created in 1933, as a way to unite all children of the Sacred Heart and to further the work of the Religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart.