

Esprit de Coeur

spirit of the heart

SPRING 2016

REGIONAL MEETING DETAILS

— SAVE THE DATE —



ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI OF THE SACRED HEART



Interview with Katie Ledecy,
Olympic Gold Medalist —
*Our Sacred Heart Girl
of Summer*

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CONNECTIONS OF THE HEART

When Jane Musabeyezu and Micaela Kelly English met at Barat College, little did they know what an impact they would have on each other's lives. It was 1998 and Jane had recently moved to the U.S. from Rwanda.

"We took some classes together and ended up in a sociology study group," recalls Jane. "Barat is a tiny school, so everybody knows everybody. For four years, it was my home."

While Jane had escaped the horrors of the genocide in Rwanda, she lost her father along with "tons of extended family members, friends and neighbors." She says that it was so raw when she began at Barat that she never talked much about it. Micaela was one of a few friends who knew her story.

"Jane is such hero," shares Micaela. "She saved lives in Rwanda," referring to Jane and her mother helping children get to the French mission there. "They couldn't take all of us, so Mom and I let them take three of our neighbor's kids, instead of us," explains Jane.

It was serendipitous that Micaela was at Barat College when Jane arrived. Micaela had attended Barat College in the late '60s, but didn't finish. Years later at a friend's dinner party, she met Lucy Morros, president of Barat, who encouraged her to return and complete her degree. Then she met Jane and they became good friends. "She was fun. She seemed strong," says Micaela. "We were helping each other study. I liked her right away."

Micaela's family lived near Barat College and Jane (She adapted her name from Janviere when she arrived in the U.S., and her last name translates as "ask Jesus.") spent time with them. "She took me under her wing," Jane says. "She became like a mother."

Micaela graduated in 2001 and when Jane graduated the following year with a degree in sociology, Micaela hosted her graduation party. Since Jane had no family here, it meant the world to her. In addition, Micaela gave her an incredible graduation gift – paying a year's rent on an apartment that she also helped furnish for Jane. With another Barat College friend and alumna Patsy Reiss, RSCJ helping secure a job as a house parent at Woodlands Academy, Jane was on her way.

Micaela shrugs off the enormous generosity of her gift. "She is a wonderful girl and I wanted to celebrate her graduation. I was very proud of her," she explains.



*Micaela Kelly English,
Barat College '01*

"I was pretty sure she didn't have definite plans and I wanted to find an apartment for her. I wanted to give her a good start."

"She did so much for me," Jane glows. "How many people would do this? She is so modest. I would be back in Rwanda." Instead, Jane has been able to bring three family members to the U.S. to attend college. Her sister, Chantal, also attended Barat College.

Eventually, Micaela moved to New York and they lost touch for some years. Jane was living in Chicago and happened to see a house for sale in the newspaper. She recognized it as Micaela's house and wrote to the address in the ad, hoping to track down her friend. Micaela's son, who was living in the house, opened the letter and immediately put them in touch. Jane says she turned to her husband (Barat College classmate Ryan Ennis) and exclaimed, "Honey, I found her!" Micaela called and the two spent hours catching up.

"We reconnected," says Micaela. "It was unbelievable." Now they communicate regularly and are working on getting together. Jane and Ryan recently moved to Austin, Texas with their three children but are hoping to visit Micaela in New York.

"It was mind blowing knowing what she had been through," says Micaela. "Her goal was to bring her family members over to the U.S., and I was in the right place at the right time. I felt very fortunate to have met her. I feel lucky and blessed to know her as a person."

With tears in her voice, Jane says, "Talk about friendship!"



*Jane Musabeyezu, Barat
College '02 with her
husband, Ryan Ennis*

Connect with Us

We all know the tune "It's a Small World," but when you're a Sacred Heart alum, it's even smaller! 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 opportunities for connection are endless and we want our alums to benefit from them.

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. To share your story email editor@aashnet.org.

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

Visit our website www.aashnet.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).



Mary L. Forsyth, President

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In an effort to decrease our publication and mailing costs and to reduce the amount of paper we use for each issue, Esprit de Coeur is mailed to alums who graduated prior to 1978. Those who have graduated since 1978 receive electronically. Esprit de Coeur is also available on our website www.aashnet.org. If you wish to receive a hard copy by mail or if you are receiving a hard copy and prefer to receive electronically, please contact the National Office.

On the cover: Springtime scenes of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. and Villa Duchesne in St. Louis, Mo. Katie Ledesky '15 swims for Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Bethesda, Md.

Back cover: Spring at the University of San Diego and Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

Dear Sacred Heart Family and Friends,

*Loving God, unseen companion of our life,
 Give us faith and eager expectancy as we begin this fresh stage of our journey.
 Take from us all fear of the unknown and teach us to wrest treasures from
 darkness and difficulties. As the days come and go, may we find that each one is
 laden with happy opportunities and enriching experiences; and when this year
 reaches its completion, may our best hopes be more than ever fulfilled. Amen*

The above prayer by Mother Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ offers us a perfect reflection on the meaning and purpose of the New Year. On behalf of the AASH board and staff, I am wishing you every blessing and joy throughout the months of 2016. It is our hope that your experiences will include staying connected with AASH.

Please know that your generous response to our annual appeal is a source of appreciation and new beginnings for AASH. Our Board goals include expanding outreach to local associations. Because of your invitations, our regional directors have been active in attending association meetings this winter. We are preparing for the biggest outreach of 2016 – the Regional Meetings. You may recall that because AMASC met in the United States in 2014, AASH held one regional meeting at the AMASC Congress in Scottsdale, Ariz. This year, there will be four regional meetings:

Southern: St. Louis – September 23-25

Western: San Diego – October 21-22

Eastern: Washington, D.C. – November 4-6

Central: Bloomfield Hills/Grosse Pointe – November 11-12
(All meeting departures on Sunday)

Each meeting is planned to share the unique characteristics of the host cities and Sacred Heart schools. This issue of *Esprit* offers brief profiles of the regional meetings. Invitations to regional residents are usually sent two months in advance of the meeting.

As we approach the bicentennial of St. Philippine's arrival in the New World, the Western Region is preparing the 2017 National Conference with the theme: *Journey of the Heart – A Global Vision*. San Francisco's Sir Francis Drake Hotel will host the meeting from April 27-30, 2017. Both St. Philippine and Sir Francis were global explorers and forgers of new frontiers.

Enjoy your own journey through *Esprit de Coeur*. You'll meet new faces and old friends. "Happy opportunities and enriching experiences" are AASH's wish to you this spring. We are profoundly touched by the Easter season message: Christ is risen. How fortunate we are to be part of the Sacred Heart family.

In One Heart,
 Mary L. Forsyth

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 Duchesne and Oak Hill School; Linda Behrens; Therese
 Meyerhoff

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS



In One Heart

Greetings from the National Office! As I write this, I am feeling especially inspired today by the sights, sounds and scents of spring on this beautiful 80 degree March day in St. Louis ... Inspired by the curiosity of a group of active alumnae who just today inquired and learned about the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart Education for the very first time ... Inspired by the Eighth Class at the Academy in St. Charles and their beautiful, unique and self-reflective quote canvases (above).

I am feeling especially grateful for the opportunity to serve as the AASH National Office Director and be surrounded by the incredible inspiration that radiates from the Sacred Heart family across the country.

And, at the AASH National Office, we are continually inspired by YOU and your accomplishments, generosity, service and kindness as well. In fact, we'd love to hear what has inspired you or continues to inspire you from your days at a Sacred Heart school. If you'd be so inclined to share your story with our 40,000+ alumnae and alumni, I'd love to publish these moments of inspiration on our website (www.aashnet.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/aashsacredheart). Please email your Sacred Heart stories of inspiration to nationaloffice@aashnet.org.

For more than 80 years, AASH has worked diligently to inspire and unite all former Children of the Sacred Heart. While this is still our mission today, we're currently working hard to make the mission even more relatable and relevant to our members by providing tangible benefits such as networking, local conferences and virtual opportunities. We are in the process of creating an updated and more user-friendly website, growing our email capabilities and online donation pathways, as well as optimizing Facebook, Twitter and other social media opportunities – so we can hopefully inspire you.

In the meantime, our current website (www.aashnet.org) is still up and running and includes alumnae and alumni events, articles, regional news, *The Legacy Project* video, current and past issues of the *Esprit de Coeur* and more. Be sure to check it out. And, please "Like" our Facebook page if you haven't already

(www.facebook.com/aashsacredheart) and then share the page with your former classmates. Word-of-mouth is vital to building the AASH network!

Most importantly, to further this mission, we need your updated contact information. YOU are what AASH is really about. Please kindly take a moment to email us your most recent mailing address, email address, preferred phone number (home or mobile), and the year and school from which you graduated to nationaloffice@aashnet.org.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming AASH Regional Meetings as featured in this issue of *Esprit*. The hardworking Regional Conference Chairs have been very busy planning an inspirational weekend of Sacred Heart connection and community. And, be sure to save the date for the next AASH National Conference: April 27-30, 2017 in fabulous San Francisco at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

A sincere thanks for your patience as I've "learned the ropes" over the last nine months. I truly hope to meet more of you face-to-face in the near future. For now, please know that I am working hard here in St. Louis to keep you informed, inspired and involved in the Sacred Heart community that is so special and dear to my heart. I look forward to reading your stories of Sacred Heart inspiration!

United in One Heart,
Karen Netsch Timmons (St. Charles '82)
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Karen Netsch Timmons, National Office Director,
St. Charles '82

Generous Hearts

We are approaching the end of our fiscal year, May 31, 2016. Generous contributions from our loyal alumnae and alumni keep our Sacred Heart family strong and connected. While membership dues come from Associations across the country, primary support comes from the annual appeal, which covers operational expenses.

To date, approximately 440 donors have given \$48,500, but your support is still needed to help us build and strengthen our community! Communication plays a vital role in community. Please consider a gift now to sustain the following:

- AASH website (www.aashnet.org)
- Creating and distributing *Esprit de Coeur* twice a year
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/aashsacredheart)
- LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4242513>)
- Promoting local alumni association gatherings, including 2016 Regional Meetings
- Supporting the National Conference in 2017
- Helping alums connect on college campuses, new cities or in the workplace

To make a donation, please complete and return the envelope included in this issue or donate securely on-line at www.aashnet.org. Many thanks in advance for helping AASH to continue to provide services to keep our Sacred Heart family connected!

The Legacy Project is Now Available Online

"Long after we are gone, who will tell our story?" So begins *The Legacy Project*, a video documentary created by AASH and Rosalie Bellanca Posselius, Grosse Pointe, '73, Bloomfield Hills/Lawrence Ave. '77 along with her partner, videographer J.C. Whitelaw.

The Legacy Project premiered to alums at the National Conference in Boston last April. A collection of interviews, memories, images and memorabilia, this film captures and preserves the feelings, impressions and deep gratitude of our alumnae. The goal is continue to document memories from women and men to present a dynamic, growing archive of how our alumnae and alumni interpret and live the legacy of their Sacred Heart education.

To view *The Legacy Project*, visit www.aashnet.org or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMI1k35Lo84>



Lauren Dumas, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills '15, speaks about the Goals and Criteria.

Legacy Gifts

Naming AASH in your will or trust is a significant way to leave a legacy and help us continue our mission to "foster a spirit of unity and ongoing communication among alumnae and alumni and their respective associations throughout this nation and the world." For more information, please contact Karen Netsch Timmons, National Office Director, at NationalOffice@aashnet.org or 314-569-3948.

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2016 REGIONAL MEETINGS — SAVE THE DATE

Alums from Any Region are Welcome to Attend All Meetings!



Southern Regional Conference
Villa Duchesne-City House Alumnae Association
St. Louis, Missouri
September 23–25, 2016

Remembrance & Renewal in the Land of Philippine

All Southern Region Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni are invited to join their Sacred Heart friends, AASH President Mary Forsyth, Southern Regional Director Deborah Dunham, and RSCJ in St. Louis for a weekend of Remembrance & Renewal – *in the Land of Philippine!* This conference promises to delight your senses with inspirational speakers, enlightening tours, local culinary specialties, restful accommodations and gracious Southern hospitality.

An opening reception at St. Ferdinand Shrine, where Philippine lived and prayed for 14 years, will set the tone.

Hotel accommodations at \$132/night have been reserved at the Frontenac Hilton – just minutes from the beautiful Villa Duchesne campus. Reserve your room today: 1-800-325-7800 or www.stlouisfrontenac.hilton.com, group code AASH. Be sure to inquire about the Hilton's FREE airport shuttle.

Invitation/registration forms will be mailed to Southern Region alumnae/i in July. For further information or questions, please contact Dede Sheehan Brunetti, Villa Duchesne '81, at dede.brunetti@ilcworldwide.com.



Eastern Regional Conference
Washington, D.C.
November 4–6, 2016

May His Light Shine in Our Hearts

Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni are invited to join their Sacred Heart friends and RSCJ in the Eastern Region for a two-day conference in the Washington, D.C. area. Just days before the Presidential election, the conference will share in the joy as we see ways His light shines in our hearts.

Stone Ridge will host a welcome reception on Friday evening. Hotel accommodations have been reserved at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda where the conference will be held. Saturday begins with a brief business meeting with AASH President Mary Forsyth and Eastern Regional Director Rhonda Meegan. Conference speakers include Diane Roche, RSCJ (“Acting Justly, Loving Tenderly and Walking Humbly in the Sacred Heart Tradition”), sharing her work at Stuart Center. Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ will highlight the Network Schools. More speakers to follow.

A special treat includes a famous Strathmore Tea luncheon, as well as a trip to the Smithsonian for a choice to visit the National Gallery of Art to see fascinating pieces such as Rembrandt’s “Prodigal Son” or the American History Museum to explore the special exhibit of “Hooray for Politics!” and the collection of all of the First Ladies’ Ball Gowns. Then we’ll enjoy a sightseeing tour of the D.C. monuments on the way to dinner at the historic George Town Club. At dinner, we will hear from Georgetown University Professor Marilyn McMorrow, RSCJ. Registration forms will be mailed to Eastern Region alumnae/i in September. For further information, please contact Conference Chair Lisa Kirby Greissing, Stone Ridge '68/Newton College '72, at greissing72@gmail.com.



Western Regional Conference

Associated Alumnae & Alumni of the Sacred Heart

San Diego, California

October 21–22, 2016

Heart of the Peacemaker

All Sacred Heart alumnae/i in the Western Region are invited to join their Sacred Heart friends and RSCJ in sunny San Diego for a two-day conference, *Heart of the Peacemaker*. Set for the School of Peace Studies/Institute of Peace and Justice on the campus of the University of San Diego (USD), the conference will explore how Sacred Heart women and men can promote peace and justice globally. Scheduled speakers include Fr. William Headley CSSp, the founding Dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at USD, and a panel of women peacemakers from across the globe studying at USD.

Hotel accommodations have been reserved at the Hacienda Hotel in Old Town San Diego, and shuttles between the hotel and the USD campus will be provided. Beginning with a welcome reception at the Hacienda Hotel on Friday evening, the conference also includes a brief business meeting with AASH President Mary Forsyth and Western Regional Director Kate Sawyer, as well as optional tours of USD's historic Founders Chapel and the University's renowned art gallery. Saturday evening Mass will be followed by a special dinner in USD's gourmet restaurant, La Gran Terraza.

Registration forms will be mailed to Western Region alumnae and alumni in August. For further information, please contact Suzanne Strassburger at suzstr@hotmail.com.



Central Regional Conference

Bloomfield Hills & Grosse Pointe, Michigan

November 11–12, 2016

The Heart's Roots

All Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni in the Central Region are invited to join their Sacred Heart friends and Religious of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe, Mich. for a two-day conference, *The Heart's Roots*. Throughout the conference, we will delve deeply into the logo's depiction and will discuss what was (our roots), what is (the oak tree), and what will be (the acorns) within our AASH community. We will explore the Sacred Heart traditions that are kept alive by both the Grosse Pointe Academy and Bloomfield Hills students and allow time for business – including current events and regional round-up sharing.

Hotel accommodations have been reserved at the Detroit Marriott Troy, located just a few miles from the Bloomfield Hills campus, and transportation will be provided from the hotel to the school campuses and excursions. The conference will start at the Grosse Pointe campus and will include a History Day Congé with the students, a tour of the beautifully renovated school and a sit-down dinner in the exquisite ambiance of the Grosse Pointe Parlor. On Saturday, attendees will experience the rich cultural and historical legacy of one of the predominant families of Detroit's automotive industry with a private tour and elegant luncheon at Meadow Brook Hall. In addition, celebration of the blessed liturgy will take place Saturday evening in the Bloomfield Hills chapel.

Registration forms will be mailed to Central Region alumnae and alumni in September. For further information, please contact Roselie Posselius at detactgld@aol.com or Sandra Shargabian at sshargabian@ashmi.org.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Renewed Network of Sacred Heart Schools

For many Sacred Heart alums the “Network” may be a nebulous concept. The Network of Sacred Heart Schools did not formally exist for those who graduated prior to the early ’70s, but there was always a sense of belonging to something larger. One example is the many alums who experienced this connection through award-winning Summer Service Projects.

Today, the Network of Sacred Heart Schools consists of the 24 schools in the United States and Canada as well as the Provincial Team of the USC Province. The Network facilitates collaboration among the schools and Province by sharing intellectual, spiritual and other resources that support and develop the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart schools. From workshops and conferences for faculty, staff, administrators and trustees to programs for students, national and international exchange programs, group workshops and opportunities to use shared technology resources, the Network connects more than 2,000 faculty who educate 12,000 students, ensuring the mission is lived out.

Last summer, the Network reformed its structure, relocated to a new city and welcomed three new employees – all alums. Now settled into their offices in Washington, D.C., the team includes Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, Ian Humphreys and Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez.

The focus of the restructure was strengthening relationships to ensure that the mission of Sacred Heart education remains vital as the schools and Province move into the future. Within the new structure, there are two parts, similar to the two sides of a coin because both the Conference of Sacred Heart Education and Network Planning and Program are essential to mission.

The Conference side of the coin is intended to animate fidelity to mission by focusing on governance, education to mission and accountability for mission. Listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within the school communities and within the realities of our world, the Conference hopes to ensure mission effectiveness by creating opportunities for the Network Heads of Schools, Board Chairs and Provincial Team to engage in thoughtful dialogue and discernment about the future of Sacred Heart education.

On the Network side of the coin, the Network Board ensures on-going programs for students and Educators of the Sacred Heart. Now all the constituents of the Family of the Sacred Heart are supported.

“Independent but never isolated, every Sacred Heart school needs to feel the strength of belonging to a larger whole, of sharing principles and values, broad purposes, of hopes and ambitions. (*Goals and Criteria*, 1975)

Sister Cooke was named Head of the Conference. Her primary responsibility is to sustain the relationship between the Society of the Sacred Heart and each school through ongoing communication and education. She is the former Head of School of Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami (1998-2015) and Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bellevue, Wash. (1990-1998). She has taught at Carrollton, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart and El



Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ, Ian Humphreys and Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez – all alums – staff the new Network Office in Washington, D.C.

Instituto Nacional de Pedagogia in Lima, Peru. Sister Cooke has been a trustee at several Network Schools and has served on SHCOG (Sacred Heart Commission on Goals) and the Network Board. She is an alumna of Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart (Portsmouth, R.I.) and Manhattanville College.

Ian Humphreys serves as the Network Director of Program Planning, responsible for planning and executing programs. A 27-year faculty member at Convent of the Sacred Heart, 91st Street in New York, Ian has taught history and was chair of the department. Ian served a six-year term on SHCOG, was a Network Global Education representative, a model UN moderator and director of the summer internship program for the Temple of Understanding at the United Nations. Engaging his love of Sacred Heart, St. Madeleine Sophie, history, travel and culture, Ian developed a summer tour of the life of St. Madeleine Sophie in France. He is an alumnus of Stuart Hall for Boys in San Francisco.

Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez is the office manager, managing a whirlwind of activity, from being a key Network Summer Service Project contact to bookkeeping to website maintenance. She is a graduate of Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Houston and recently relocated to Washington, D.C. with her husband, an attorney for the U.S. Coast Guard. With a degree in international affairs from University of St. Thomas, Nadia pursued her J.D. at South Texas College of Law. In addition to

being a licensed attorney in Texas, Nadia has a pending license application with the District of Columbia Bar.

Rarely are all three in the office at the same time, as Sister Cooke and Ian are frequently traveling across the country. Ian has been visiting schools (#19 by the end of April) to explain the new structure, elicit ideas and suggestions. Sister Cooke has been busy attending meetings and workshops around the Network and collaborating with the Provincial Team.

"Sacred Heart through and through," fittingly describes this team and we look forward to learning about the programs, opportunities and successes for students in our schools – future alumnae and alumni!

Keeping the Spirit Alive and Well in our Schools

Since 1975 and the first edition of the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart education, the Religious of the Sacred Heart have engaged the lay Educators of the Sacred Heart in a collaboration focused on ensuring St. Madeleine Sophie Barat's vision long into the future. With each generation this partnership has strengthened, as extraordinary lay Educators of the Sacred Heart have responded to this charge to continue to live St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Philippine Duchesne's mission of education. Today these dedicated lay people fan the flames of Sacred Heart education as they work in each school to ensure the mission is lived out among the student and adult communities.

In 2008, the Network formalized its "Formation to Mission" efforts in each of the schools. This term refers to an ongoing plan for the education of adults to the essential elements of the culture of Sacred Heart. The ultimate aim is a commitment to live out the values of Sacred Heart education and to integrate them into the fabric of personal and school life. From trustees, to Heads of School, to faculty and staff to parents, each constituency is engaged in learning and empowered in living the mission of the school.

Within each school, there is a group of faculty and staff who are often called "Keepers of the Flame" – fitting since it is the translation of "Potawatomi," the Native Americans with whom Philippine worked. Each school has a different model, but can include faculty, staff and administrators. Some schools have a paid position responsible

for Formation to Mission, while others appoint a committee or open it to volunteers, which can range in size and scope. The one thing in common is to find creative ways to connect the mission with adults in their communities.

The Network of Sacred Heart Schools and the Conference of Sacred Heart Education sponsored a meeting for members of Keepers of the Flame teams St. Charles April 7-9. Keepers came together to connect, share ideas and deepen their understanding of living the mission. During introductions, individuals told their stories of how they came to a Sacred Heart school and what inspired them. Common themes emerged – "My school feels like home." "We are indebted to the remarkable RSCJ who came before us." "This education is important for the world."

Speakers included Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ, who shared "The Joy of the Gospel" and Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, who introduced plans for the Bicentennial (see pg. 17). Attendees brainstormed about new and exciting ways to live the mission in their schools and offered feedback to the Network about moving forward. Of course, no visit to St. Charles would be complete without prayer in the Shrine of St. Philippine Duchesne. Individuals were re-energized and excited to return to their schools. As one Keeper said, "Sacred Heart education and the way we live help us to share God's love."

Keepers of the Flame work to empower adults in our schools to be bearers of the mission and to share in the responsibility to foster its transmission to the next generation. In truth, all members of Sacred Heart schools are Keepers of the Flame – individuals charged with keeping the Sacred Heart spirit alive and well and burning for future Children of the Sacred Heart.



Fifteen alums from Sacred Heart schools across the country attended the Keepers conference. Front row, left to right: Beth Klaric Metcalf (St. Charles), Maria Cusma-Dovico (Montreal), Lydia Buechler Cruz (Duchesne -- Omaha), Martha Roughan, RSCJ (Newton College), Lisa Tebbe (St. Charles). Middle row: Mary Frances Popit (Woodlands Academy), Suzanne Cooke (Elmhurst/Manhattanville College), Kathleen Dolan, RSCJ (Greenwich/Maplehurst/Manhattanville College) Sarah McNeely Meurer (Duchesne -- Houston/Villa Duchesne), Theresa Grass (St. Charles). Back row: Jane Steinfels (Sheridan Road), Ian Humphreys (Stuart Hall), Susan O'Callaghan Davis (Stone Ridge), Megan McGraugh Horner (St. Charles), Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez (Duchesne -- Houston).

KATIE LEDECKY

Our Sacred Heart Girl of Summer



With Katie Ledecky on the verge of competing in four different freestyle events in the Summer Olympics – which in itself would make history – many are anxiously awaiting the beginning of the Brazil games on Aug. 5 to cheer for our Sacred Heart swimmer.

Last August, Katie became the first swimmer to win four individual freestyle gold medals ever at the FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia. There, she dramatically broke her own world record for the 800-meter freestyle with a time of 8:07:39. Five months later at the Arena Pro Swim Series in Austin, she bested her own 800-meter record yet again, clocking in at 8:06:68. She is the current world record holder for the 400, 800 and 1,500-meter freestyle.

Katie propelled to new heights when she competed in the 2012 Olympics at 15 (the youngest American participant) and won the gold in the 800-meter freestyle race. In her career, she has broken 11 world records and has won 15 medals in international competition. She has been named World Swimmer of the Year and American Swimmer of the Year by Swimming World and earned countless awards.

Katie graduated last May from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Md., where she began as a freshman. With her training and competition schedule, it may have been challenging to feel like a regular high school student, but Katie seemed to do just that. From her friends and teachers to campus ministry and her social action work, Katie loved being a part of her Sacred Heart community.

Katie has deferred her freshman year at Stanford University to train for the summer Olympics. Last fall she took a few classes at Georgetown University, but is now deep in training mode (25-30 hours a week) preparing for the Olympic Trials in June in Omaha, Neb. Katie was interviewed in the April issue

Katie gets a hug at Commencement last spring.

of *Vogue* and was photographed by the renowned Annie Leibovitz on location at Stone Ridge. Somehow, the famously low-key Katie doesn't seem phased by the pressure. She told *Vogue*, "I really don't feel it. I've just always set goals. When I was a kid, I would write them down, and I would work toward them, and that's still pretty much what I do."

We are very grateful to Katie for taking the time during her incredibly busy schedule to answer a few questions. Our thanks to Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart for helping with coordination and photos.

EdeC: What initially attracted you and your parents to Stone Ridge?

When I had my shadow visit at Stone Ridge, I knew it was the school for me. In fact, I loved it so much I decided I wouldn't apply elsewhere. I loved the teachers, the students and, in particular, the social action program. My parents loved the school the minute we all walked onto the campus during the Open House. Both of my parents knew of the strong values and academics of Sacred Heart schools and of Stone Ridge. We were also aware of the Sacred Heart Network. However, most important, we were impressed with the Head of the School, Mrs. Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, and the students.

EdeC: What do you value most about your Sacred Heart education?

I value the friendships I made at Stone Ridge. I have so many friends from my class and each of the classes that were there while I was a student. In addition, I feel that all my teachers cared so much about me and all my classmates. I really value the time and effort they put into every class. We had so much fun!

EdeC: How were you able to balance your school life with training and competition? Were you involved in other extra-curricular activities or clubs?

I had to work hard to get my schoolwork done so I could get to bed early for 5 a.m. practices. I did a lot of homework over the weekends, especially reading. I was a member of the campus ministry and, during my senior year, I co-directed it with a fellow senior, Megan Zorc. We planned the school liturgies and we also served meals to the homeless, once a month on a Saturday evening at Shepherd's Table.

I was also on the swim team and we won our league championship when I was a sophomore. My varsity swimming high school coach, Mr. Bob Walker, worked with my club coach to work out any conflicts and to assure my swim schedule made sense. They worked really well together. I am so grateful for that.

I also had great guidance from Mr. Malcolm McCluskey, Assistant Head of Upper School, who, each year, advised me on class selection and schedule in conjunction with my extracurricular activities.

EdeC: What are some of your favorite memories, traditions and teachers?

My favorite tradition was Congé, but I also enjoyed Feast Wishes (an all-school gathering before the Christmas holidays where students present the gifts of song and cards to every member of the administration, faculty and staff). I have wonderful memories of my social action team working at Bikes for the World. This is an organization that collects donated bikes and ships them to developing countries or countries in need. You can read about it at www.bikesfortheworld.org. I did that every other Wednesday during my junior and senior years. Social Action is such a great program. I am so proud of all the work that Stone Ridge girls do every year through the Social Action program.

I have so many favorite teachers. I could list them all.

EdeC: How were you supported and encouraged to follow your dreams by the Stone Ridge community?

The Stone Ridge community was so supportive of my swimming. During the Olympic training camps I received many emails and video messages from my classmates, the faculty and Mrs. Karrels. I have kept them all and I occasionally re-read them or watch them. I also received a hand-delivered note from the Sacred Heart school in Roehampton, outside of London. It was delivered to me in the Olympic Village. When I returned home, a bus load of classmates and Mrs. Karrels and Director of Marketing and Communications Mrs. Connie Shaffer Mitchell '92 met me at Dulles Airport. It was such a nice welcome home. When I returned to school to begin my sophomore year, we had an assembly where I could share with the students my experience and show them my Olympic medal. After that, it was back to normal. They all treated me with love and respect, but they never treated me differently than before.



Katie and two Stone Ridge friends.

EdeC: Can you describe the feeling of competing and winning at the Olympics?

Competing and winning at the Olympics was almost surreal, but, honestly, felt really good. I was proud to represent my country and it was emotional hearing the "Star Spangled Banner" during the awards ceremony. Every time I hear it now, it brings back some of my thoughts of that day. It was really a great feeling.

EdeC: What achievement are you most proud of?

In swimming, I am most proud of my Olympic performance and my performances where I have broken the world records, but I am also proud of my academic endeavors and I know that both swimming and academics require a lot of work. Hard work pays off.

EdeC: What are your plans/goals following the Olympics?

I still have to qualify for this summer's Olympics. Currently my plans surround Olympic Trials which will be held June 26-July 3 in Omaha. I am currently training hard for those and hope to be successful there. I would love to represent the USA again. Following this summer, I will enroll at Stanford University where I will continue my studies and participate in NCAA swimming competition.

Thank you, Katie. Know that thousands of Sacred Heart alums are wishing you luck and will be cheering for you!

YOUNG ALUM HIGHLIGHTS

Alums Making Art



Tiana Abdulmassih, Convent of the Sacred Heart, San Francisco '11

The Art of Activism

Tiana Abdulmassih (Convent of the Sacred Heart, San Francisco '11) was recruited by Harvard University for the crew team, where she rowed for two years before sustaining a career-ending injury. As devastating as that was, it allowed her time to work as a staff photographer for *The Harvard Crimson*, where she served as the photography and videography editor in 2014. Tiana began as a government major but switched to visual art after realizing her passion for photography. It was this passion that helped her become one of the organizers of the EmBODYIndia project (<http://embodyindia.tumblr.com/>), a photo campaign that attracted international attention.

After seeing a series of revealing photographs of a famous actress that ran in the *Times of India* in September 2014, Tiana and her roommate (who was from New Dehli) were horrified at the media's treatment and public response. In an effort to show women in India that the Harvard community supported them and their rights, the EmBODYIndia photo campaign was born. Tiana explains that it was a response to the ongoing objectification, harassment and abuse of women in India. The photos, taken by Tiana, include Harvard students and faculty members of all ethnicities holding slogans in support of women's rights. "We want to convey the simple message that a woman's

body is her own, and her clothes are never an invitation for judgment or harassment," Tiana stated.

"Our dream for the EmBODYIndia project was to change the way people think – both domestically, but more importantly, overseas. The campaign is focused on Indian society but is applicable to countries all over the world," explains Tiana. "Our thought was: even if just a few women around the world see our photographs and are given a sense of empowerment, then the campaign will be a success." The response was overwhelmingly positive. "The majority of articles written about the campaign were from Indian-based publications, all of which were extremely supportive of our message," she says.

The EmBODYIndia project has surpassed Tiana's hopes. Numerous universities and schools in the U.S. and around the world have participated with their own photos and the hashtag #emBODYIndia, including messages that they believed embodied women's rights and what it's like to be a woman in today's society. "Our main objective was to have as many people as possible see our photographs, read our messages and know that we stand in solidarity with women who are abused and discriminated against around the world," says Tiana.

Aside from the EmBODYIndia, the majority of Tiana's work was done on assignment for *The Harvard Crimson*, from covering concerts, sporting and political events, to happenings at Harvard and the greater Boston area. She says, "My most meaningful and rewarding work was done during some of the most sensitive times of my four years at Harvard. I covered the Boston Marathon bombings, manhunt and aftermath in 2013. The following year, I was able to shoot the Boston Marathon in a whole different light. I also covered multiple Black Lives Matter peaceful protests at Harvard and in Cambridge during the Ferguson non-indictment of police officer Darren Wilson."



Upasna Sharma, Harvard College Class of 2015 and Rakesh Khurana, Dean of Harvard College, photographed by Tiana for the EmBODYIndia project.

Tiana graduated from Harvard in 2015 with a degree in visual and environmental studies, studio art, economics and French. She is currently a project manager at Stericycle Environmental Solutions in San Francisco. In her position, she is focused on driving the company's Pharmaceutical TakeBack program. This program is designed to protect public health and the environment by eliminating the possibility of diversion and keeping unused and expired pharmaceuticals out of the water supply. "Not only is prescription drug abuse a growing problem in the United States, but the improper disposal of drugs causes those drugs to penetrate our water supply. Societies all over the world have pharmaceuticals in their drinking water – our goal is to prevent this from happening," she says.

While her job doesn't require her to pull out her Nikon, photography remains a true passion. "I see photography as the greatest channel for expression and documentation, whether I'm capturing images to promote a social movement, expose a tragedy, or simply record memories of those close to me," she says. "I completed a creative Thesis in Photography my senior year of college focused on documenting my sisters and parents – this is one project that I will continue to build upon for the rest of my life."

Tiana attended Convent from kindergarten through high school and says, "I would not trade my time on Broadway for anything." In addition, her three sisters are alums and she adds, "Not only was I able to make incredible friends and form close bonds with my teachers, but it was an integral part of developing relationships within my own family. I do not know many people who can say the same of their school."

Tiana concludes, "Convent instilled in me the sense that I could do anything that I put my mind to, and more importantly, that women (no matter their geographic location, background, or social status) can be just as powerful and impactful as anyone else in the world. This empowerment is not only something that I'll take with me for the rest of my life, but hopefully be able to share with those around me as well."

Combining Art and History

Painting is a hobby for George Capps, whose day job is in the biotech world. As chief executive officer of Antegrin Therapeutics, a company developing novel therapies to treat fibrotic diseases, he raises money from investors, pursues business development conversations with larger pharmaceutical companies and manages the development plan, budget and finances of the company. But in his spare time, you'll find him painting sweeping historical scenes, portraits and religious art.

George attended Oak Hill School in St. Louis (the co-ed elementary school of Villa Duchesne) through fifth grade in 1996. He went on to St. Louis Priory for middle school and high school. George received his bachelor's and master's of science degrees in biological sciences as well as an MBA from Stanford University.

A "compulsive drawer" since he was very small, George was fortunate to have parents and teachers who supported his creative interests. His mother taught him some of the principles of proportion and perspective in line drawing and also took him to watercolor classes as a child. Beverly Groneck, his art teacher at Oak Hill, is credited with most of the rest of his formal training. In middle school, George transitioned from pen-and-ink to acrylic painting, then began working in oils in college.

Today, much of George's artwork relates to the history of the American West, for which he has held a fascination since childhood. Instead of an "artist," George describes himself as a historian who expresses his scholarship visually, rather than in writing. His vivid and dramatic canvases are rich in



*George Capps, former
Oak Hill student*



Saving Captain Henry © George Capps

SACRED HEART YOUNG ALUMS

Alums Making Art, *continued*

detail, requiring months of painstaking research to ensure historical accuracy.

This research is evident in the location, terrain, attire, saddles, even hair of his subject. “My artwork is not meant simply as an aesthetic experience (though of course I try to marry visual beauty with the historical goals of realism, accuracy and authenticity),” he explains. “It is meant as a tribute to the individuals and the cultures that played a part in the story of our collective past.”



Madonna & Child ©
George Capps

George was honored to have one of his prints, “Saving Captain Henry,” presented to Gen. Martin Dempsey, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas in 2012. He shares that “quite a number of individuals affiliated with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment feel a special connection to Guy V. Henry, who is prominently featured in my painting of the Battle of the Rosebud and who later became colonel of the regiment. Because of that connection, my print of “Saving Captain Henry” has proved popular in that community.”

His art fans also go back a number of years. “Twenty-five years ago, as his art instructor at Oak Hill, I met curious, attentive, peace-filled little George. At that young age, I could already hear his cogs of imagination turning,” shares Beverly Zoellner Groneck (St. Charles ’69). When

he contacted her a few years ago to critique his first major painting, she was not prepared for the image that appeared. “Awe! ‘Point on’ light, perspective, composition, palette and historical accuracy, left this viewer with a complete visual and spiritual understanding of his intent. I was astonished and, might I share, gleefully proud – as I was thrust onto the battlefield (with George) and it was exhilarating!” glows Beverly.

Besides friends and family, his prints are collected by those who have not only an interest in art, but also a keen interest in history. “I think my artwork particularly appeals to people who appreciate that respect for the history – people with a heart for the romance of the American West but a head for the facts, who understand the thrill of the whistling arrows and thundering hooves, but who refuse to settle for a naive stereotype or an idealized abstraction. My goal is to communicate a factual representation that nonetheless does justice to the poetry inherent in the subject material, and those who are open to experiencing both elements are best positioned to appreciate my artwork.”

George, a sixth generation Child of the Sacred Heart, has seven younger siblings who also attended Villa Duchesne (where the youngest is in eighth grade) or Oak Hill School. His mother, Polly Sell Capps ’78, is also an alum, as are numerous family members. He lives in St. Louis, Mo. To view his work, visit www.cappsprints.com.

Film Explores Philippine’s Impact on Sacred Heart Millennials

Two alums have teamed up to produce an independent documentary film highlighting St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and her impact on Sacred Heart Millennials. In celebration of the 200-year anniversary of the founding of the first Sacred Heart school in North America, Erin Everson (Duchesne – Omaha, ’12) has begun production for the documentary *Of the Oak*, and will begin fundraising for filming the project. Erin is a senior majoring in Communication at Saint Louis University and connected with Mary Beth Sales (Academy of the Sacred Heart ’98 and Villa Duchesne ’02), who is also a graduate of Saint Louis University.

“When St. Rose Philippine Duchesne arrived in the United States in 1818, she planted a seed that has grown far and wide, establishing a network of schools that has bred incredible and impactful women and men,” says Erin, director and producer of the film project. “This documentary will show the world how Sacred Heart education and values have become the foundations of the personal, professional and spiritual lives of these individuals, as well as how they are living out Philippine’s legacy through their commitment to social justice.”

Tracing her story back to Grenoble, France, *Of The Oak* will begin with an overview of Rose Philippine Duchesne’s life, examine the challenges she faced during the French Revolution, and share the events which led her to leave France and plant Sacred Heart roots in North America. The narratives will illustrate Philippine’s faith and vision in the midst of adversity, as well as explore crucial decisions that led to the establishment of subsequent Sacred Heart schools, and expansion into what it is today, a quickly growing population of people who live to make similar impacts in the world.

“The most thrilling part about producing *Of The Oak* is that it’s bringing together and re-connecting Sacred Heart family members,” says Mary Beth Sales, producer of the film. “Our mission is to document and share with the world the unknown stories of alumni – whether they’re leaders in political office, Hollywood players, professional athletes or parents – and how a 200-year-old tradition plays a role in the communities they are



Erin Everson (left) and Mary Beth Sales (right) have teamed up to produce an independent documentary highlighting St. Rose Philippine Duchesne's impact on Sacred Heart Millennials.

building." Mary Beth lives in Los Angeles and is a public relations expert and co-founder of Wilshire Austin, a strategic communications company.

Of The Oak will zoom in on select Sacred Heart alumni, their memories, the habits and rituals (and knowing the difference between the two) that they picked up and embraced under a Sacred Heart roof, and how lessons and traditions have translated into their current lives. Filming is slated to take place in St. Charles and St. Louis, Mo., Grenoble, France, and other cities.

Erin and Mary Beth are looking for Millennial alums and leaders from all Sacred Heart generations for feature interviews. For more information on *Of The Oak*, participation opportunities and corporate partnerships, visit <http://www.OfTheOak1818.com> and email Bonjour@OfTheOak1818.com.

OUR SACRED HEART WORLD



Mark your Calendars for the First AMASC Gathering for Young Alums

If you studied in a Sacred Heart School, are 18 to 25 years old and wish to share your experience and spirituality with other alumnae/alumni from all over the world, AMASC invites you to:

The First AMASC International Youth Meeting, June 27 – July 1, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting is being organized by Religious of the Sacred Heart from the Stuart Center. During the meeting you will have time to share your experience, listen to great conferences, have workshops and visit Washington, D.C.

Visit our event site for more information or pre-register here:
surveymonkey.com/r/AMASCYouthConference

Alums Receive Papal Acknowledgement

At the AASH National Conference in Boston last April, Frances Dubrowski, an alumna of Newton College, moderated a panel of RSCJ educators and practicing artists to explore what climate change means for us and what we can do to build prepared, resilient, climate smart communities for generations. Fran is project director of Honoring the Future, a nonprofit project to harness the power of art to educate, empower and engage the public on climate change.

During the Conference, Honoring the Future launched its campaign to collect signatures on a letter thanking Pope Francis for his leadership on climate change and committing signers to listen to his climate message "with open minds, generous hearts, and a willingness to honor our responsibility to care lovingly for the earth we leave our children, grandchildren, and generations to come." That letter was sent to the Papal Nunciature with 675 signatures, accompanied by a single edition lithographic print of the digital art image created for the letter by Miami

artist Xavier Cortada and first publicly unveiled at the AASH Conference.

"Please convey to the artist and to all those who signed the Holy Father's gratitude for this gift of art and for their affectionate support to his work, particularly through his encyclical *Laudato Si*. May we all continually be inspired to reflect on the sacredness of life and the necessity of being God's good stewards of creation," wrote Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio.

Fran is most grateful for the support of Sacred Heart alumnae and alumni. To learn more about Honoring the Future, visit www.honoringthefuture.org.

CELEBRATING OUR SPIRIT

Seeking the One Whom We Love: How RSCJs Pray

"What difference does it make how you pray, provided that your heart is seeking the One whom you love?" asked St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. With thanks to editors Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ and Therese Fink Meyerhoff, we have a new window into the prayer life of Religious of the Sacred Heart – daughters of Sophie – in *Seeking the One Whom We Love: How RSCJs Pray*. While relationship is the essence of prayer, 55 Religious share in very different styles the answer to the intimate question: How do you pray?

For Sophie, "prayer and the interior life" were at the heart of the order she founded, the very phrase part of the original Constitutions written in 1815. "The gift of Sophie's school of prayer is twofold," explains the book's introduction. "There is, first, her conviction that prayer is as necessary and as natural to the human heart as breathing in and breathing out ... But, it is her second gift, her emphasis on interior life, that makes her school of prayer distinctive – her insistence on prayer as a habit of heart, a way of living, a way of relating to others, of using time, of filling the imagination."

In this collection of essays we find depth and diversity. RSCJ across the U.S. and Canada share their individuality and the beauty of their relationship with God with humility, openness, courage and humor.

"It is the simple action of sitting still with God and letting God be God," explains Bridget Bearss, RSCJ.

Muriel Cameron, RSCJ writes, "... my interior life and prayer are nurtured by contemplative practices leading to inner silence and mindfulness. These practices sharpen my senses of gratitude, of joyful delight, of compassion, of wonder, of amazement at the work of God in the tiniest details of life, even in the periods of struggle. I am reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8:35).

"There is still another way to pray and that is to visit our sisters confined to wheelchairs or in their rooms," shares Lillian Conaghan, RSCJ from



"Reflections" a watercolor by Regina Shin, RSCJ graces the cover. Shirley Miller, RSCJ, shares an excerpt from Seeking the One Whom We Love at the book launch on March 3.

Oakwood, the retirement home for RSCJ in Atherton, Calif. "You often see the face of God."

These essays reveal that even our RSCJ can sometimes struggle with distractions, questions and desire for intimacy with our God. Their words encourage and reassure us there isn't just one way to pray and that diversity in prayer helps us to sustain and nurture our relationship with God. "After all, the desire to be in communion with God is itself a perfect prayer."

Seeking the One Whom We Love is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. You might also inquire at a bookseller near you.

"I have long been an admirer of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, that astonishingly talented and devoted group of Catholic sisters who have poured themselves out in service to generation after generation of men, women and children, all responding to their foundresses' desire to help others nurture prayer and the interior life."

– James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

"It answers the very private questions we seldom ask but always wish we could: 'How do you pray?' ... Their answers will both surprise and comfort you. They will give you 55 lived experiences of prayer to guide your own spiritual journey and to grow your soul as you go."

– Joan Chittister, OSB, author, speaker, spiritual guide



Editors Therese Fink Meyerhoff and Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ with U.S. Provincial Barbara Dawson, RSCJ.

ANNOUNCING BICENTENNIAL PLANS



We have much to celebrate in the year 2018:

- the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Philippine Duchesne and four companions in the New World;
- the 200th anniversary of Sacred Heart education in the Americas; and
- the 200th anniversary of the internationality of the Society of the Sacred Heart, now in 41 countries across the world

There will be a variety of opportunities to celebrate Philippine's legacy and the internationality of the Society of the Sacred Heart:

- A spirituality forum, July 12-16, 2017, at Saint Louis University
- A web-based Year of Prayer beginning in November 2017, with weekly postings and interactive dialogue possibilities; a PDF journal will be designed and available for download and individual use.
- A global service day on Saturday, September 15, 2018, in honor of Philippine, who opened her first free school on September 14, just a few days after arriving in St. Charles. The hope is to engage all our constituencies – RSCJ, Associates, students, faculty, parents, graduates, family and friends – in this day of service. We suggest preparation in small groups, sitting as Philippine did with a map on her lap, and asking: "If Philippine came to my city today, where would she be drawn to serve?" Imagine, on September 15, 2018, the wave of love and grace, beginning in Australia and New Zealand and sweeping across the Society world-wide!
- A newly commissioned Mass of Philippine in three languages with a Potawatomi Amen will be premiered on St. Rose Philippine Duchesne's Feast, November 18, 2018, in the St. Louis Basilica, and will be used by the Society around the world to celebrate her feast.



Members of the Bicentennial planning committee, front row: Hilda Adams, Jan Dunn, RSCJ, Pam Schaeffer, Maureen Glavin, RSCJ, Lisa Terneus. Back row: Ian Humphreys, Catherine Howard, Karen Timmons, Michael Pera, Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, Donna Collins, RSCJ, Linda Behrens, Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ.

Cheers to 200 Years!

Wine lovers unite! In celebration of the Academy of the Sacred Heart's founding in 1818, a one-of-a-kind wine is being produced and made available for purchase. French winemaker Jean-Louis Chave, husband of alum Erin Cannon Chave, is overseeing production of a *Cuvée Bicentenaire*. The Chaves live one hour's drive from Grenoble, the birthplace of St. Philippine Duchesne. The Chave family has been growing grapes and making wine in this region in France since 1481. The Academy's bicentennial wine will be Chave's Cotes du Rhone — commonly subtitled "Mon Coeur." It will be sold in 6-bottle cases for \$180, and delivered to the Academy in St. Charles.



JL and Erin Cannon Chave, St. Charles '85, Villa Duchesne '89

Please note that due to alcohol import and distribution laws, the wine CANNOT be shipped to other destinations in the U.S. and will need to be picked up from the Academy when its arrival is announced. Estimated delivery: winter 2017-2018. To order, visit: <http://www.ash1818.org/main/web-forms/bicentennial-wine-order-form/>.

Karen Timmons, National Office Director, is a member of the planning committee and is the AASH point person for information about the Bicentennial. More details about these possibilities will be available at www.rscj.org by July 2016. Stay tuned for ways to commemorate the Bicentennial!

TOP SHELF

Books by Sacred Heart Authors



TWO

By Melissa Ann Pinney,
Sheridan Road '71

In her most recent book, *TWO*, award-winning photographer Melissa Ann Pinney explores a multitude of two-somes, both human and inanimate, revealing the power of

their connection. A collaboration with her friend, best-selling author Ann Patchett (*Bel Canto*, *This is the Story of a Happy Marriage*), *TWO* is filled with Melissa's thoughtful, captivating images that contemplate the "essence of duality in our relationships and in the world that surrounds us."

Patchett, who edits and introduces *TWO*, pairs Melissa's photographs with works by notable writers: Edwidge Danticat, Barbara Kingsolver, Richard Russo, Elizabeth Gilbert, Susan Orlean, Alan Gurganus, Maile Meloy, Elizabeth McCracken, Jane Hamilton and Billy Collins.

From New York to Italy, Hawaii to her home town of Evanston, Ill., each of Melissa's images tells a story. Whether they are siblings, parents, friends, couples, trees or tea cups, the intimacy of her photographs draws the viewer in. Interwoven throughout are essays and poetry, which provide a thoughtful pause from the visual and time to contemplate two in literary form.

"I've always been interested in watching people together. I wonder what their story is, who they are to each other," Melissa writes in the preface. "No matter how uninspired I feel, how dull I think a place is, when I look at the world through a camera a new beginning takes place."

Following her graduation from Sheridan Road in 1971, Melissa attended Manhattanville College, then received her Bachelor of Arts in Photography from Columbia College Chicago. In 1988, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Melissa has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and her work is in the permanent collection of museums from coast to coast: the Metropolitan Museum of Art,

the Museum of Modern Art, The Art Institute of Chicago and the J. Paul Getty Museum, among many others. She lives in Evanston with her husband, Roger Lehman.

Melissa's previous book, *Girl Ascending* (2011) focused on a touchstone moment in the lives of American girls: their emergence from protected youth to public maturity. *Regarding Emma:*

Photographs of American Women and Girls was published in 2003. Melissa's daughter, Emma (Sheridan Road, '09), is featured in her books as well as her Sacred Heart classmates.

TWO is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, BooksAMillion, Harper Collins, Indie Bound and Parnassus Books. For more information and to view Melissa's portfolio visit www.melissaannpinney.com. Of special interest to Sacred Heart alums is her "White Dress Project," a stunning study of young women in their graduation gowns at Sheridan Road.



Louise Callan, RSCJ (1893-1966): Historian and Biographer of Philippine Duchesne

Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, St. Charles '58

Mother Louise Callan was a beloved professor of history and sacred scripture at Maryville College in St. Louis, Mo., until her death in 1966. Overcoming severe obstacles of time and limitations of resources, Mother Callan produced a major biography of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ (1769-1852), pioneer missionary from France to America in 1818, which is widely known and yet to be superseded.

Mother Callan's work, which was met with critical acclaim, was accomplished during years in which she suffered courageously from cancer and worse from the treatments available at the time. A teacher to the end, she died an hour after finishing her last class.

Lyn Osiek, RSCJ, has captured Mother Callan's character and spirit. Sister Osiek is the Archivist for the Society of the Sacred Heart, US-Canada Province. She holds a doctorate in New Testament and Christian Origins from Harvard University and is the Charles Fischer Professor of New Testament emerita of the Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. Sister Osiek has taught at Grand Coteau, Newton Country Day and Villa Duchesne. In addition, she has served on numerous boards of trustees of Sacred Heart schools. She is author or editor of 12 books on New Testament and Early Church topics. She has also written a biography on Mother Kathryn Sullivan, RSCJ of Manhattanville College and is currently working with an RSCJ from France on a complete edition of the writings of St. Philippine Duchesne.

This biography is a tribute to Mother Callan as we approach the bicentennial of the arrival of Philippine and her companions in 1818. The book is available through iUniverse or as an ebook from online vendors, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark

Jo Ann (Graveman) Trogdon, St. Charles '72

While researching her previous book, *St. Charles Borromeo: 200 Years of Faith*, Jo Ann Trogdon, an attorney, came across an obscure journal belonging to William Clark dated 1798-1801 that had been virtually overlooked in the State Historical Society of Missouri since 1928. Her discovery prompted more questions as she pieced together the years prior to his historic expedition with Meriwether Lewis. She is the first to chronicle Clark's journal and put forth facts that he may have been involved in one of the largest and most scandalous plots of that era to commit treason against the United States. Known as the Spanish Conspiracy, this plot was also an effort by Spain to separate Kentucky from the United States.

Using Clark's journal entries corroborated with Spanish governmental archives as well as American sources, *The Unknown Travels* tells the story of Clark's journey down the Mississippi to Spanish Louisiana and beyond. Along the way, Jo Ann investigates evidence that Clark engaged in some questionable activities: helping smuggle a secret Spanish payoff to a corrupt American official, illegally transporting Spanish dollars from New Orleans to the U.S. border and committing acts of espionage.

In his foreward, James J. Holmberg, editor of *Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark*, notes, "... it placed the explorer on the historical stage as a player in a turbulent time in American history with schemes and shifting alliances that potentially threatened the stability, growth and very future of the young United States."

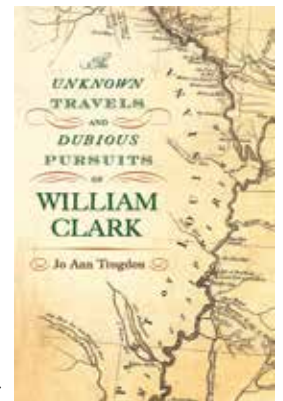


Photo by Edgar Ailor III

Jo Ann provides a detailed narrative that appeals to both history aficionados and those looking for a compelling story about one of our greatest explorers. Whether Clark unwittingly or intentionally participated in these dubious pursuits, it is beyond a doubt that this trip helped him gain invaluable skills as an explorer, navigator and cartographer which would prepare him for his historic expedition of 1804-1806. While we will never know Clark's exact involvement, Jo Ann says, "My goal in this book is to present Clark as a complex, fully three-dimensional person."

Jo Ann graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles in 1972 and attended the University of Missouri at St. Louis and the University of Arizona. She received her law degree from Saint Louis University. She lives in mid-Missouri with her husband, author William Least Heat-Moon.

All are welcome to a book signing on Friday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Academy in St. Charles. Her book is available through Barnes & Noble, Amazon and University of Missouri Press.



William Clark's Connection to Sacred Heart

The Corps of Discovery set off up the Missouri River to the Mississippi in May, 1804, about a mile from where Philippine Duchesne opened the Academy of the Sacred Heart in the "Duquette Mansion" in 1818. In fact, when Clark and the men were camped on the river bank between May 16 and 21, 1804, he was invited for supper with the Duquettes for three nights. He wrote in his journal something to the effect that "Monsieur Duquette is an agreeable man and his wife even more so. He has a lovely location overlooking the Missouri River with fruit trees, vegetable gardens, etc." Lewis was in St. Louis at the time and later in the week Clark sent the Duquettes a fish that the men had caught in the river.

In another connection, according to Louise Callan, RSCJ, biographer of Mother Duchesne, Philippine stood as godmother to a step-daughter of Gen. Clark. Mary Radford was the daughter of his second wife whom he married in 1821. Philippine wrote to Sophie on April 16, 1822, describing an Easter Monday baptismal ceremony at which nine children received the sacrament.

In addition, many of William Clark's descendants are alumnae and alumni.

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@aashnet.org or 314-569-3948.





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