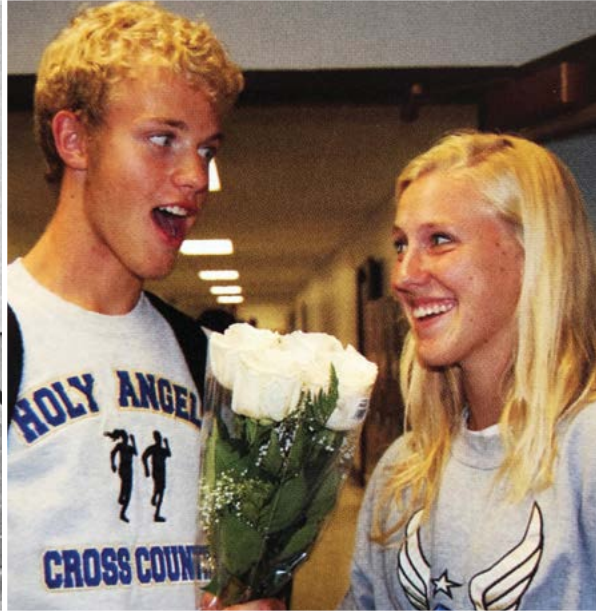


SPRING 2022

communiqué



*Holy Angels Celebrates
50 Years of Co-Education*



ACADEMY OF
HOLY ANGELS

Mission Statement

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

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Pictured, left to right: Co-Principals Father Bob Cassidy, two AHA graduates, and Sr. Kay Egan gather on the AHA front lawn during graduation.

2021-22 Board of Trustees

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Michael Kautzman, Athletics Director |
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2021-22 Advancement

| |
|--|
| Meg Angevine, Admissions Officer |
| Joe Berg '05, Admissions, Student Marketing, and Website |
| Erin Blauert, Advancement & Board of Trustees Assistant |
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| |
|-----------------|
| Jesse Foley '89 |
| Sarah Hauer |

Communiqué is published two or three times a year. Submit items to alumni@ahastars.org. AHA reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Special thanks to Charlie Gorrell, David Frear, Joe Berg '05, and others for photos for this publication.



In the fall of 1970 Father Cassidy and I were asked by the finance director of the CSJs to begin the process of closing Holy Angels in June of 1971. Without even glancing at one another, we each said “No”.

– Sr. Kay Egan, AHA Co-Principal in 1972



“The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.”

– Bernard William

Dear Friends of Academy of Holy Angels,

I am pleased to present you the spring edition of the Communique. It is exciting to share many accomplishments and significant happenings that have framed the winter months of our school year. With a historical milestone upon us, we also celebrate and highlight many stories in this edition from the past 50 years since Academy of Holy Angels became a co-educational institution in 1972.

While we look back and acknowledge many individuals who have made a profound impact on AHA, we also look ahead with hope and optimism to the future of our school during this Easter season. Of major interest for all who support Holy Angels is the unveiling of the school’s Strategic Plan: Vision 2026. This plan has been a major area of work for the Board of Trustees, leadership, faculty, and staff. Over the past nine months, an in-depth review has been conducted as we focus on the major areas of AHA’s operation:

- Faith Development/Catholic Identity/Culture
- Curriculum/Co-Curricular/Athletics advancement
- Advancement - Enrollment Management/Admissions
- Advancement - Marketing /Public Relations
- Advancement - Resource Development
- Finance
- Facilities/Grounds/School Safety
- Governance
- Personnel Resources

Vision 2026 includes a series of action plans in each area of concentration that have been prioritized in the first year. We look forward to sharing the detailed strategic plan with the greater community in May, and we hope you will take time to review it and learn more.



In closing, I want to extend my gratitude to the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and parents who have partnered with us as we navigate the challenges presented by the pandemic. As the completion of the school year draws near and with the lifting of many COVID-19 protocols, we can recognize how AHA pulled together in a great time of need – just as previous AHA generations have done while addressing their own distinct challenges.

We continue to be blessed with a community that embodies the tenets of the AHA Way, especially by “being part of the solution” and “being a community where each and every one matters.” May the final days of the school year be especially meaningful to our Class of 2022 as they transition to a new phase of their lives and begin their collegiate and post-high school journeys.

In peace,

Tom Shipley, President

Meeting the Needs of the Time, Holy Angels Becomes Co-Educational

by Former Principal, Sr. Kay Egan, Ph. D.



Sr. Kay Egan

My memories at this celebratory time focus on the realities and multiple decisions in 1970-72 resulting in Holy Angels becoming co-educational. A large dose of imagination and communal effort moved a great school into being the even greater school that students experience today.

In the early 1960's, the Academy of the Holy Angels had an enrollment of 800 young women. After the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, responding to a diocesan invitation, opened Regina High School in the mid 60's, Holy Angels enrollment began to decline, signaling a need to reimagine the school. As assistant principal in 1969, I was part of the reimagining process that included curriculum revisions, a move to a modular teaching, learning format and a trimester school year to begin Fall, 1970.

In 1970, Sister Genevieve Cummings, Sisters of St. Joseph Province Director appointed Father Robert Cassidy and me to be co-principals, and we began our work as a team with determination and

high hopes. Just as the fall semester was settling in, John Foley, Finance Director for the Sisters of St. Joseph met with us to request that we begin the process of closing Holy Angels with a closure date of June, 1971. Without even glancing at one another, we each said "No". Mr. Foley was startled. Father Cassidy and I talked over each other exclaiming that Holy Angels had a powerful welcoming, caring spirit, a legacy of academic excellence and values grounded in the Vatican II Church we wanted to advance. Holy Angels had a future!



Fr. Bob Cassidy

Mr. Foley took our message to the Sister leadership council, and negotiations began. Talk of co-education had surfaced earlier among some faculty and parents, but now it was officially on the table. I had taught in two Sisters of St. Joseph co-educational schools in North Dakota so I thought the prospect of co-education as very exciting. The Archdiocesan Office of Education insisted that archdiocesan approval for co-education would depend on Holy Angels establishing a Board of Trustees and developing new marketing and fundraising efforts that included a capital campaign.

We complied. Creative, energetic faculty, staff, parents, alumnae and students pitched in to promote their school. Judy Rauenhorst, a senior, discovered her marketing skills and designed the magazine,

Communique. The very existence of Holy Angels was ever on our minds.

A new Board of Trustees began its work, eager to offer support and leadership. Jerry Brock, a consultant from a Chicago fundraising firm, directed the first capital campaign. Joe Lapensky, Trustees Chair and an executive at Northwest Airlines, arranged for Northwest's marketing department to produce a campaign brochure, a stunning piece entitled, *Alive and Well and Living in Richfield*. The campaign succeeded, and I recall with deep gratitude the many generous donors. St. Pater's Parish made a significant gift. Hal Johnson became director of a new development office. Sister Susan Blecha '66, CSJ became the school's first admissions director and Mary Meitz Winum '51 became alumni director.

Recognizing success, the Archdiocese gave the green light to consider enrolling boys at Holy Angels. AHA young women did not give a green light so readily. I recall open-mic discussions in the auditorium at which students could express their viewpoints. When presented with the possibility of young men being welcomed to the school, some liked that their brothers could have Holy Angels as an option. Many others, however, expressed that they had opportunities for learning, leadership and achievement that many of their friends in co-ed schools did not have. They did not want a 'macho' school. Many liked the responsibilities for learning that came with modular scheduling and wondered if boys would be up to the challenge.

The Sisters of St. Joseph leadership council withheld final approval for coeducation until recruitment efforts bore fruit, but those efforts could



One of AHA's first co-ed dances

not begin until the possibility of co-education at AHA was introduced to the larger community. Father Cassidy and I, along with volunteer faculty and parents, met with what seemed like endless parish and civic groups. Holy Angels was highly regarded, but there were questions. Would there be sports? Would there be male teachers? What boy would even consider going to a school named Holy Angels? Won't there be a new name?

Suggested new names did not meet with alumnae or student favor. Sister Genevieve Cummings, who kept a close eye on the co-education process, suggested emphasizing that angels in scripture are male and highlighting the beauty of the angels in the school's architecture. She said to keep talking about an eventual name change, and probably the issue would evaporate. It did.

Providing theological education and ritual grounded in Vatican II was a high priority at Holy Angels. Maintaining that priority was critical as plans for co-education evolved. A goal of the religion department chaired by Sister Kathie McLaughlin who had an M.A. in systematic theology from Marquette was that all religion teachers have B.A., preferably M.A. degrees in theology with various emphases such as scripture, social justice and world

religions. Modular scheduling allowed for small group sessions where students could talk about their experiences and understandings of God, Jesus, and their participation in the Church community. Faculty from area boys' schools said boys would not want to share in small groups. Sister Kathie disagreed. Turned out, she was right.

School spirit is often grounded in sports. The goal was that Holy Angels school spirit would continue to rise out of caring relationships, shared values, ritual and participation in multiple activities that included drama, music, art, dance. The commencement ritual on the front lawn with graduates wearing white caps and gowns adorned with red roses would continue. Recognizing equity, the teams would be called Co-Stars.

The advice of consultants was that boys should be enrolled in grade nine only. The decision to enroll boys in grades 10-11 happened after intense discussions. Those first sophomores and juniors lived up to high expectations becoming great role models.

In the spring of 1972, Sister Genevieve called every few days with encouraging words but also to get a report on the number of boys enrolled. The first report was six. But then it happened. The numbers grew. More girls came, too. A new educational venture was launched. Holy Angels had the possibility of becoming a school that could provide a nourishing, energizing, pleasing learning experience for young women and men for years to come. There were no guarantees. The future would depend on fresh collective creativity and determination. Now, it's 50 years later. Celebrate!



Joe Lopensky & Frank Reilly



Judy Rauenhorst Doerr '70



Sr. Joseph Marie CSJ and students



Building a Sports Program for Girls and Boys

by Gary Rufsvold

Once the decision was made that AHA would be co-educational, school leaders began the work of fundraising, student recruitment and developing new programs. One of the most important things that also had to be added was the development of an athletic program for all students.

In April of 1972, I was chosen to be the first athletic director. In a short period of five months there was much to do! We had to decide which sports were to be offered, hire coaches, create schedules and purchase equipment. We were able to achieve these things with great community support, leadership from the administration and some very excellent additions to the staff.

In 1972, it was decided to play at the 9th grade and junior varsity levels for the boys and to play at the varsity level for the girls. We had a sizable freshman class and a good number of sophomore transfers. We even had a few juniors who talked their way into attending! These students transferred because AHA was closer to their home and many had sisters who attended AHA.

It was a fun and successful first year, with the boys playing other private schools. The very first game for the boys was a football win over St. Bernard's. They ended the season 7-2. The girls basketball team was outstanding during that time and showed signs of big things to come!

The next year the decision was made to play a varsity schedule for all the teams. It was a difficult year but we kept telling the young men that they were pioneers and would lead the way for the future. This turned out to be a very true prophecy.

In the 74-75 school year, everything got so much better. It was the girls basketball team that led the way by capturing the first Minnesota State Basketball Tournament with a 39-37 thrilling win over Le Sueur High School. The publicity was tremendous, including an invitation to visit Governor Wendell Anderson at the State Capital. Looking back, I would have to say this was one of the most important victories in the school's history. The victory put AHA on the map and it cemented the fact that we were a true and successful co-educational high school.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the school grew in size, changed from modular scheduling to traditional scheduling, developed more and more support from our neighboring feeder schools and expanded our enrollment reach to south of the river. Holy Angels continued to grow and thrive and it's been wonderful to see!



Boys Gain Access to the AHA Experience

by Jerry Willenburg '74

In 1972 I was a sophomore at DeLaSalle High School in downtown Minneapolis. The early seventies was a difficult time financially for all of the private schools in the Twin Cities. Most were going through some kind of transition out of necessity just to survive. Some of the schools merged, some went co-ed and some didn't survive and were forced to close. Holy Angels was not immune to these challenges. In the spring of 1972, Holy Angels announced that they too were going co-ed.

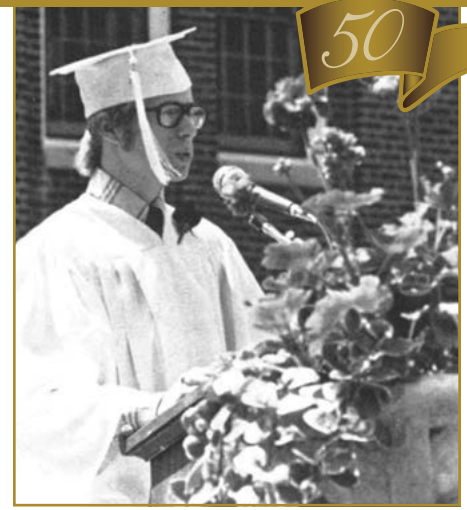
This news was perfect for me as I was aware of the high-quality education that Holy Angels provided since three of my older sisters were graduates. I was determined that I would complete my high school years at AHA. The only challenge that I faced was that they also announced they would only be accepting freshmen and sophomores the first year, so as to lessen the impact



on the student body. Since I would be a junior, that meant I would not be eligible to attend in the fall. I needed to understand if this was a "RULE" rule, or just sort of a guideline. I called Holy Angels and scheduled a meeting with Father Cassidy, the principal at that time. The person scheduling the meeting may have reasonably assumed that I was an adult. In any case, I think Father Cassidy was a little surprised when a sixteen-year-old high school student from DeLaSalle, stepped into his office.

Father Cassidy made our conversation very polite and respectful. I explained that I wanted to attend Holy Angels in the fall and that my current school was not the right fit for me. He explained the school's reasoning was to minimize the impact on the student body. He gave me an "A" for initiative, candidly one of the few "A"s I got in my time there, but that unfortunately the answer would be no. And so, I went away.

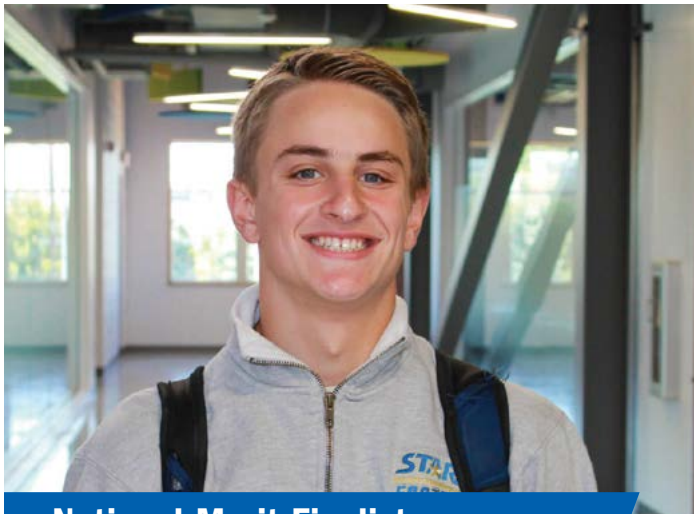
Two weeks later I returned to meet with Father Cassidy hoping to continue our conversation. I re-stated my previous points. This time I shared with him what my daily routine was like just to get to and from my school located downtown. Each morning I would walk to catch a city bus to the end of the Nicollet Mall. From there I would walk over to Hennepin Ave and across the Mississippi bridge. A daily journey! Again, our conversation was very respectful. He said that he could understand how my commute would be unpleasant, but that the answer would still have to be no. And so, I went away.



Two weeks later. I returned and met with Father Cassidy for a third time. By now we were getting to know each other pretty well. We had a mutual respect for each other. Dare I say it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. This time I decided to meet his main concern head on - the impact on the student body of going co-ed. I pointed out to him that my sophomore year was the first year going co-ed. I experienced first-hand the sense of "the girls" coming into "our school". I told him that if I were to attend Holy Angels in the fall that my presence there might provide a helpful perspective. I may have said that I could be his "Ambassador of Positive Change". This may have been a bit too far since he chuckled as I said this, but he got my point. Finally, Father Cassidy said to me, "Jerry if you promise not to meet with me again until September, you can come here in the fall." I stood up and shook his hand. They did not "advertise" that they were now accepting juniors, but from that point they allowed any others that came along to attend.

A few weeks went by and it was getting close to the end of that school year. I got a call from Annette Margarit '73 currently on the Student Council at Holy Angels. Annette wanted to let me know that at the end of each year there are elections for the Student Council for the following year, and she wanted to know if I was interested in running. I thought about it for a minute and

Continued on page 11



National Merit Finalist: Braden Stock

Senior Braden Stock was named a Finalist in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Braden on this esteemed recognition!



Stars Participate in Youth in Government

In early January, ten AHA students participated the YMCA's Youth In Government program. Alongside nearly 900 students from cities near and far, these delegates assumed the role of state senators and representatives and did everything that real lawmakers do in the actual chambers of Congress at the capitol building in St. Paul. AHA was proudly represented by seniors Claire Krieger, Maria Zeien, Maddi Portner, Grace Roscoe, Abbie Leidig, Ella Anderson, Jessica Pastrana, Andrew Pastrana, Alex Braun, and junior Sam Delaney. Additionally, alum Matthew Pastrana '19 served as a volunteer in the court program.

A Trip of a Lifetime to London



AHA juniors and seniors had a trip of a lifetime in London over this year's spring break, accompanied by Mrs. Ahlm, Ms. Kjorstad, Mr. Unverzagt, Ms. Wayland, and Mr. Werle. Over the course of the week, the young travelers experienced the chaotic beauty of Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus, explored Windsor Castle, took in the calming history of Stonehenge, checked the time from Big Ben in Westminster, walked the aisles of Westminster Abbey, quoted Shakespeare in his birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon, and watched a jaw-dropping production of *Come from Away!* This trip ignited a passion for travel in many students and even inspired some to look into studying abroad. Mrs. Natalie Ahlm, English teacher, reflected, "We are so lucky as a school to have such amazing families and faculty to participate in this trip!"



2022 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



On February 15, Academy of Holy Angels celebrated and inducted the 2022 National Honor Society (NHS) members from the junior and senior classes. At AHA, students are eligible for NHS by first having a cumulative GPA of 3.6667 or above after the 1st trimester of a student's junior year with 24 graded credits at AHA. Students are then evaluated

by a faculty committee on the tenets of NHS; service, character, and leadership, before being accepted into NHS. The Seraphine Ireland chapter at AHA is focused on serving the AHA community. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Annex.



Diversity Club Presents at Convocation

The Convocation on February 10 featured student speakers from the AHA Diversity Club who presented about Black History Month. The Diversity Club is a student-led group that focuses on education and connection in order to continue building AHA as a school community of inclusivity, positivity, and love.

Students shared the history of Black History Month and highlighted various Black individuals and their lasting, positive impact on American society.

Campus Ministry Team Leads Ash Wednesday Mass



Members of CMT planned the Ash Wednesday Liturgy in March. They shared this message with the AHA community: "As we enter this Lenten season, we should strive to remember the pillars of Lent - prayer, fasting, and giving. Later, as the ashes are spread across your forehead, remember Jesus' sacrifice that was made for each of us. As you continue your day, let the ashes serve as a reminder of His presence in our lives, the promises we make, and that we need to turn away from sin and be faithful servants of the Gospel."

Stars Sports & Activities



Junior **CHARLIE ABDO** won the Minnesota State High School snowboarding championship in both slalom and giant slalom.

The **STARLINERS DANCE TEAM** won the Tri-Metro conference championship. Sophomore dancer Ashley Fisher was named to the 2022 Class AA High Kick All-State team.



SECTION RUNNER-UPS: Congratulations to the **STARS GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM** (pictured) and the **GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM** who both advanced to their respective section championship game. The girls basketball team also won the Tri-Metro conference championship.



BOYS BASKETBALL SERVES: The boys basketball program came together in various ways this season through Faith in Action projects, including making sandwiches for Loaves and Fishes and volunteering at Bridging. Pictured are a few members of the freshmen team as they moved furniture, cleared shelves, and cleaned the Bridging warehouse.

Congratulations to these senior student-athletes for surpassing historical scoring milestones!

- **KASSIE CARON** – 1,000 points – girls basketball
- **ELLA CLOW** – 100 points – girls hockey
- **CARTER HERMANSON** – 100 points – boys hockey
- **NOAH HERMANSON** – 100 points – boys hockey
- **GRACE MASSAQUOI** – 1,000 points – girls basketball





Join us at Starfest on April 30!

Hosted by Frank Vascellaro

We will celebrate a return to campus and come together in-person to support our Stars!

Full Tuition Raffle ★ Social Hour ★ Dinner
Live & Silent Auction ★ Fund-a-Need

Get your tickets online today!

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Doris & Ron Rothstein

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Boys Gain Access to AHA Experience, continued from page 7

thought this could be where I start my work as “Ambassador of Positive Change”. Annette let me know that election day was in a week. I took the day off, created buttons and banners, and came up with the slogan “Put a Man on Your Team”. No one was more surprised than me that I got elected. I went home that day and realized I had just gotten elected to the Student Council of a school that I did not yet attend. Only in America!

The next two years were filled with many positive, inspiring and sometimes profound experiences. Some of the finest people I have met in my life I met during those years at Holy Angels. Not just classmates but faculty and staff of that time as well.

Each year the senior class votes for the person that they want to give the commencement address at graduation. I voted for Michaelen Coleman, our class president, and never gave it another thought. A week or so later we were at senior retreat when an announcement was made that I would be giving the commencement address -I was stunned. I worked hard to make that speech something that captured the essence of

our class. Being picked by my classmates to give that speech remains to this day one of the greatest honors of my life.

Time and tradition marches on. All of this happened decades ago. I believe that my time at AHA contributed to the blessed and fulfilled life that I enjoy. In 2018 my great-nephew Jacob Werle, grandson of my sister Joan Willenburg Rourke '65 was also chosen to deliver the address at his graduation. As I sat in the audience on the front lawn of Holy Angels and listened to Jacob's well-delivered and inspirational words, many memories of my time there came rushing back.

Your life is sort of like a home. A home built on a strong and solid foundation will provide shelter, warmth, security and a safe surrounding for you and your family. I believe that my time at AHA made a significant contribution to the foundation of my life. I hope that Jacob, his classmates and all AHA alums were able to receive the same valuable foundation as well.

Dedicated to the class of 1974, as well as the facility and staff that had the courage to teach our bunch of hooligans.



A Grand Celebration!

2022 Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Night and the Dedication of the new iCenter for STEM Education

On the evening of March 22 AHA celebrated and thanked some incredible people who have been instrumental in the successes of the school. We recognized several community members for their generosity, service, volunteer efforts and leadership.

In addition, AHA dedicated our new iCenter for STEM education and honored those who helped to make this exciting project a reality. AHA Chaplain, Father Mike Tix, along with President Tom Shipley, Principal Heidi Foley, and teachers Gretchen Amigon (technology), Donna Poshusta (Math) and Jason Hall (Science) all played a role in the dedication ceremony. Afterwards donors and guests got a chance to see the amazing facility.



Allison Barton Doane '05 and Sue Barton



iCenter Welcome Area



Principal Heidi Foley



*Sisters Patricia Finley Throlson '58
Kathleen Finley Hanson '59*

Each one of these award winners were featured in previous Communiques. We're grateful we could finally celebrate them in person!

Possumus Winners

Pat and Patti McAdaragh
 Jim and Mona Myott
 Leo and Julie Poehling
 Paul and Laurie Ritz

St. Joseph Award

Sr. Carolyn Puccio

Angelus Award

Christine Hunt Anderson '71
 Bishop Paul Sirba '78 +



Gina Schullo Meacham '80, Kathy Hanley '71, Christine Hunt Anderson '71, Mary Jane Carroll Curran '71, Annette Margaret '73 and Katie Carroll Johnson '69



Brian McCartan, Sr. Susan Oeffling, Sr. Susan Hames '62 and President Tom Shipley



Tom Shipley and Sr. Carolyn Puccio



Pat and Patti McAdaragh



Jeff Vigil, Kathy Vigil, Mary Pat Oslund and Dave Oslund



Ray Longo, Beth Longo, Kristina Erazmus and Mark Erazmus '86



Rick '78 and Marie Welbes Rodier '78



All-AHA Alumni Picture

ROCK THE LAWN IS JUNE 25!

Rock the Lawn is an all-community outdoor music concert celebrating Holy Angels! It includes a Mass, tours, music, food trucks, beer and wine and great fellowship. We hope you can join us!



HEADLINER
Martin Zellar



AHA is excited to announce that the 2022 Rock the Lawn headliner is Martin Zellar and the Hardways. Martin Zellar first appeared on the music scene in the late 80's as the lead singer and songwriter for the alt-country pioneers, Gear Daddies.

2022 Pricing

Young AHA Alumni ('09-'14) and all Pre-Co-Ed Alumnae - \$10
All other tickets thru June 1- \$20

Tickets are available for purchase now at:
<https://rtl22.givesmart.com>
or text rtl22 to 76278



Schedule

- 5:00 pm Mass in the Chapel or Courtyard
- 5:30 pm Food Trucks, Bar and Games open on the Lawn
- 6:00 pm Band #1, The Mark Miller Band
- 7:45 pm Band #2, Carpool
- 9:30 pm Headliner, Martin Zellar and the Hardways

A big thank you to our sponsors!



Pat Kelly '92



Shane Grutsch '91



Dan O'Rourke '90



Rick Welter '93



Meredith Waterston '03



Paul Schoenecker '83



Calling All Angels

Alumnae Luncheon

Academy of Holy Angels and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are excited to offer the “Calling All Angels” Alumnae Luncheon on Friday, May 13. This free event is for our pre-co-ed alumnae and will include an all-school convocation, social time and a luncheon. After lunch there is additional social time followed by a program in the theater with a song from the spring musical, a brief AHA update, a history presentation and a reflection by a senior girl. We hope you will join us!



AGENDA

| | |
|----------|---|
| 10:15 am | Guests arrive |
| 10:30 am | All-School Convocation in the Gymnasium |
| 10:45 am | Social and refreshments |
| 11:00 am | Luncheon |
| Noon | Program in the Theater |
| 12:30 pm | Tours of AHA |

RSVP

To reserve your place, please register online at:
bit.ly/CallingAllAngels22

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

PARKING

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

CLASS OF 1962 REUNION

Will be gathering at this luncheon as part of their 60-year reunion.
Contact Rita Fox for more details.

Here is our AMAZING Luncheon Planning Committee:

Alice King Moormann '56
Bonnie Talbot Cox '56
Marge Zieska '56
Martie Trader Glockner '57
Maureen Kelly Neerland '58
Margie Hayes Bednarz '59
Ruthanne Heenan '59
Donna Kelly Ramsay '61
Lois Johnson Johnson '62
Pat McGruder Willette '62
Joan Willenburg Rourke '65
Patty Meehan Cunniff '65
Sheila Clifford Lind '65
Annette Margarit '73
Margie Mexner Cesarek '73
Sr. Kay Egan, CSJ
Sr. Susan Oeffling, CSJ
Rose Murray, Former AHA Teacher



TERESA BLATZ

Brown-eyed and brilliant, Terry has made a remarkable senior class president. Ever ready to lend a helping hand and to cooperate, she will, without doubt, achieve success in any undertaking.

Deo Gratias

A Holy Angels Reflection by Terry Blatz Walker '44

I first attended Holy Angels some eighty years ago. Memories fade and blur, but, certainly, those school days were very special for me. It was an all-girls academy, we wore uniforms, classes were small, and it had a college-prep curriculum with excellent teachers.

The class of 1944 was the thirteenth graduating class at the school's present location. There were still a few boarders, one of whom was a classmate. There was a grade school until 1946, but I do not recall young children there when I attended. Our classes were small and the building large, so much could go on without our being aware of it.

Tuition was \$100 in my day. Even the \$100 was heft in my time and, had I not received a scholarship as well as a student service contract, my parents could not have afforded to send me to Holy Angels. The uniforms themselves were costly but I wore the same jumper for four years and sold it to an incoming freshman after graduation.

The dress code required that we wear long stockings, though the style was just to wear anklets. Wartime made nylons hard to come by and I had just one seemingly indestructible pair that I wore through high school and into college. They were sheer and beautiful and I

was once summoned to the principal's office as one teacher had reported that I was not wearing long stockings. The principal had to feel my legs and pull at the stockings to be certain I was wearing them. It was a humiliating moment for both of us, but those amazing nylons came through the trauma without a snag or "run." The uniforms made it easy to blend in and I am grateful to the more sophisticated student body of the time that accepted this farm girl from Bloomington into their midst and made me feel at home.

My years at Holy Angels were also the early years of World War II. Our graduation on June 2, 1944, was just four days before D-Day, that day of historic heroism and sacrifice. Some of the darkest times of the war were the fifteen months that followed before the war finally ended. Also, many of us had family members going off to war and often we did not know where our brothers were. Some students had family members "killed in action." We held the tension and prayer came easily. It is a credit to both the school and to the resilience of youth that, in spite of the emotional undercurrents of war that were a part of my high school experience, it is the happy memories that have prevailed.

When I look at the school's current dedication to service and outreach in the community, I realize that we also had a sense of giving and responsibility. It was simply framed in a different way. My experience was overshadowed by wartime, which required its own sacrifices. Patriotism in action was likely

the community service of its day. We students were too young to be "Rosie Riveters" but we did what we could. There was gas rationing and those of us who did not live on a regular bus route had to be creative in finding ways to get to Holy Angels. We had many projects promoting the sale of War Bonds, we wrote to our servicemen, and put up with the deprivations of wartime without complaint.

All of our teachers were St. Joseph nuns. All were garbed in voluminous black habits with huge hanging rosary beads and starched coifs. All lived in a semi-cloistered area of the building and we students were not allowed to enter their domain. I remember an aura of mystery and silence when as we ventured down the hall toward the chapel and the convent entrance just beyond. It was like treading on hallowed ground.



Eight of our group of ten best friends, Terry is second from right

In retrospect, the separation seems too great. The nuns were a dedicated group, but there was little interaction outside the classroom. It was a poignant time, not only for many in the school but for me personally. My mother was very ill for much of the time and died in March of my senior year.

There were the required quick showers after our simple gym class which made it almost impossible to get to the next class on time. We were tempted to cheat and dress in the shower stall but students were assigned to check and those devoted to duty would reach in and be sure the water was running.

I remember the excellence of the drama department and sitting in awe at the near-professional performances in the beautiful red plush auditorium, and I marvel at my choice of Latin to fulfill my second language requirement. I took it for two years with no regrets. “Veni, vidi, vici.”

Above all else, I made friends for a lifetime. There were just over 40 in our class but I bonded most closely with ten. The ten of us continued to gather over these eighty years, our numbers dwindling as we bade farewell to those who passed on. Now, only two of us are still living. I communicate with the

other who lives within walking distance of Holy Angels. She feels she has come full circle.

In spite of the difficulties of the time, my years at Holy Angels were happy ones. Young as I was, I knew I was fortunate to be there. There were strong bonds of friendship and school was a safe and stimulating haven that provided a sense of normalcy. I have an overall sense of secure and happy days and many delightful memories.

To this day, I am grateful that I was able to attend Holy Angels. I am also grateful that many of my nieces and both their sons and daughters have gone there. As an alumna, I am proud to see the school’s continued growth and progress and to still be connected. If I might say it in Latin, “Deo gratias.”



AHA Chapel in the 1940s.



All-school Officers '43-'44



Founders Day War Bonds Presented to Holy Angels

Young Alumni News



Thank you to the many alumni who served as presenters at **Jump Start Your College Planning Day**. Presenters included Jonathan Hokanson '16, Andrea Abbs (current AHA parent), Jessica Poepping Allured '97, Jack Cable '13, Kimberly Cline '99, Maureen Cunniff '95, Cirien Saadeh '05, Jack Foley '18, Tom Ascher '84, Andy Bollig '14, Amanda Bandur '03, Jerry Willenburg '74, Macy Mancini '14, Tracy Ystesund Mishler '03, & Bruce Johnson '84.

The **Women's Hockey** game had its best alumnae turnout ever!



Congratulations to AHA Alum **Chris Sailors '00** who was recently profiled as one of the 2021 top attorneys in the state in Minnesota Lawyer magazine.



Katie Hirsch '07, Registered Nurse, returned to AHA as a career speaker. She is also in her 3rd of 4 years in her Doctor of Nurse Practitioner degree.



Kelly Downes '13 Physician Assistant, returned to AHA as a career speaker.



Sarah Skogmo '14, Austin Burns '15 and past parent **Tom Lehrke** are AHA Ski Team coaches this year!



Noah Cierzan '18 is a Broadcast and Digital Journalism major at SI Newhouse at Syracuse University. He is involved in the student TV station as an on-air host and reporter. He also hosts a radio show at the student radio station.



AHA Alum **Patrick Dysart '18** spent his spring break at the World Expo in Dubai as part of the U of M Marching Band. Patrick will graduate in May as an Industrial and Systems Engineering major.



Michael Ignacio '19 returned to visit AHA after a year-long deployment in Kuwait, in support of Operation Spartan Shield. In August 2021, he and his MN National Guard unit was redeployed to Afghanistan and played a key role in the Kabul Airlift evacuation (Operation Allies Refuge) of over 120,000 people as they protected the Hamid Karzai International runway. May God bless Michael and all who serve our country.



Justin Lockwood '19 is a junior at USC majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He recently built a robot that makes pancakes!



In Loving Memory

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

To have someone remembered, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@ahastars.org.

We apologize for omissions due to lack of information or error.

ALUMNI

Marilyn Smith Christian-Pieper '57 (2/1/2022)

Mary Gorman '71 (12/24/2021) sister to Kathleen Gorman '74

Denise Kelly '50 (12/30/2021)

Mark Krenn '95 (12/23/2021) brother to David Krenn '97 and brother-in-law to Jennifer Ganahl Krenn '97

Joan Mace '61 (12/18/2021)

Helen McGraw Moore '44

Joan Rumford '57 (11/27/2021)

Elizabeth Fredericks Wolf '49 (12/14/2021)

Jean Shaw Hubred '78, (12/18/2021) sister to Dave Shaw '79

Mary Bigelow Connelly '49, (2/3/2022) Sister to Rose Bigelow Huntley '57, Lorraine Bigelow Melcher '45 +, aunt to Anthony Maghrak '77, Patrick Maghrak '82, and Mark Maghrak '83, grandmother to Erika Melcher '08, Maria Melcher Davy '05 (Johnny Davy '05)

Patricia Grady LaPlace '62 (3/17/2022) sister-in-law to Martha Simms '52

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Judith Arms Judith Arms (2/23/2022) mother to Michael '81 +, Thomas Arms '83, Dr. Joseph Arms '84, John Arms '86, Leo Arms '89, sister-in-law to Margaret Huch '44, Elizabeth Giefer '45 and Kathleen Banke '51, grandmother to Max Arms '16, Jackson Arms '18, Lucas Arms '25, Margaret Arms '19, Ruth Arms '21. Grandniece is Sharie Cassioppi '02 and grandnephew is Bobby Cassioppi '04

John Baregi (12/17/2021) father in law to Amy Anderson Baregi '84, and grandfather to Tony '07 (Terese Ragaller '07) Willy '11 and Annie '11 Baregi

Alice "Sally" Boland (2/26/2022) grandmother to Emily '22, Jack '22 and Maureen Boland '22

Mark Davy (2/26/2022) brother to Mary (Molly) Davy '57 +, father to Maureen Davy Tesch '89, Anne Davy '92 +, and grandfather to Anna Tesch '15

Mike Karlson (2/16/22) former AHA Science teacher. Step uncle to Katie Gwost Karlson '02

Jeremiah Michael Murphy (2/19/2022) grandfather to Emily '22, Jack '22 and Maureen Boland '22

George Olson (12/23/2021) grandfather to Jarrett '20 and John Michie '20

Joseph O'Neill (1/25/2022) father to long-time AHA board member Joe O'Neill, grandfather to Claire '05, Leigh '07 and Taylor '09, and grandfather-in-law Bryan Brutlag '07 (Taylor's husband).

Jack Pelner (3/22/2022) husband to Connie, father to Stephen '81, David '82, John '86, Greg, grandfather to Michael Chiodo '10 +, Benjamin Pelner '11, Sam Pelner '12, Anamarie Pelner '14, Marie Pelner '15, and Lucas Pelner '16

Joan Totzke (12/19/2021) grandmother Charlie '09, Sally '11, Sam '13 and Emily '16 Keis

Elizabeth Tschida (12/20/2021) mother to Julie Marzinske '84

Carol Vopatek (1/12/2022) wife to Steve Vopatek

May Walentiny (2/5/2022) mother to Marie Walentiny Medvec '65, Jeanne Walentiny '74, Tom Walentiny '80, grandmother to Larisa Medvec Breid '94 and Nicole Medvec Farrell '97

Warren Waterston (6/14/2021) grandfather to Marcus de los Reyes '98, Michelle de los Reyes '03 and Matt de los Reyes '09

Marcella Wartman (1/19/2022) former AHA teacher, fine arts department chair



Legacy Society members are those who have included Holy Angels in their bequest and estate plans. Gifts from wills and bequests expand the school's endowment, helping to underwrite our core activities such as financial aid and academic and co-curricular programs. For more information, contact Jesse Foley '89 jfoley@ahastars.org or Brian McCartan at bmccartan@ahastars.org.



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TUCK EVERLASTING
Book by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle
Music by Chris Miller • Lyrics by Nathan Tysen
Based on the novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
9-29 April 2022

ACADEMY OF
HOLY ANGELS
Starlight Productions
6600 Nicollet Ave S • Richfield, MN 55423
Performance Dates and Times
9, 22, 23, 29 April @ 7:00 pm
10 and 24 April @ 4:00 pm
General Admission:
\$10/Adults
\$5/Students and Seniors
For tickets: academyofholyanels.ludus.com
For more information: academyofholyanels.org
Tuck Everlasting is produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, Inc.

Find us on:



Facebook: Academy of Holy Angels



Facebook: Academy of Holy Angels Alumni



Instagram: @academyofholyanels



Twitter: @aha_stars



Or the web: www.academyofholyanels.org

Starlight Productions Presents Tuck Everlasting

Upcoming performance dates are
22, 23, 29 April at 7 pm & 24 April at 4 pm

Tickets can be purchased at academyofholyanels.ludus.com

AHA ADVANCEMENT CALENDAR

APRIL 30

Starfest (see page 11)

MAY 5

Cinco de Mayo, Class of 2026 Welcome Party

MAY 13

"Calling All Angels" Alumnae Luncheon and
Class of '62 Reunion (see page 15)

MAY 20

Grandparents Day

JUNE 8

Class of '57 65-Year Reunion at AHA

JUNE 13

Summer Experience begins

JUNE 15

Shoot for the Stars, Golf Tournament

JUNE 25

Rock the Lawn (see page 14)

Class of '92 25-Year Reunion

AUGUST 29

First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 9

Stars Are Out Tonight, 5 p.m.
Stars Football, 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 30

Homecoming and Hall of Fame
Stars Football, 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 13

Admissions Fall Open House

APPLY TODAY

Students Entering Grades 9, 10, or 11



\$90

**Summer Experience Camps
June 2022 - Grades 3 to 9**

We are here to assist you and your family!



Meg Angevine
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Joe Berg
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jberg@ahastars.org

www.academyofholyanels.org