

WINTER 2018



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MARIST



W E A R E O N E

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“The youth are our future.”

We hear these words often. I don’t know about you, but for me, with the world changing at warp speed it’s almost impossible to imagine ten years from now, let alone the next generation. How blessed we are to be among the youth daily at Marist and to witness first-hand the hope-filled future that they represent for all of us.



There are more than 500 examples of scholars, athletes, artists and leaders on our campus right now, each one of them exhibiting their uniqueness in ways that inspire us to question, wonder, hope and dream about what they will do to make their mark on our community and the world. If the depth and breadth of the contributions of our thousands of alumni are any indication, these students are certainly capable of achieving greatness!

Recently, Marist senior Caroline Gonyea, a young woman I have known since her elementary school days, was presented the *Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award* from the National Catholic Education Association. One

of just ten recipients in the country, Caroline was recognized for her mark on our community. She developed an innovative, peer-designed and led program, called Project KIND, that combats social aggression in middle schools by sparking a conversation on issues many students encounter. At the All Catholic Schools Mass—an annual gathering of Marist, O’Hara and St. Paul students and staff—a representative of NCEA presented Caroline with this award that recognizes the “extraordinary young people in our Catholic schools who through their selfless service, determination, innovation and ideals are changing the world.”

Virtue, valor and vision. Those are big words. Virtue is defined as moral excellence; valor as great courage; and vision as being able to see. These are characteristics that we all should hope to achieve in our adult lives; how wonderful to recognize it in our youth, where students, like Caroline, work to infuse the world with optimism by looking out for each other and the least of their brothers and sisters. These moments amount to lives changed and futures brightened.

And for me, a radiant light of hope.

We Are One.



Suzanne Graf
Suzanne Graf

- 2 **Be Kind to One Another Because We Are One**
William Loveall '18 shares his amazing story of how he came to be a Spartan
- 4 **Love Through the Ages**
High school romances live on
- 12 **Service Like Air**
Retiring after 34 years of being a civil servant, Pete Kerns '79 starts a new chapter
- 14 **It’s All About the Kids**
The calm, compassionate care of athletic trainer Mari (Pittman) Gibson '90
- 16 **Embraced by The Spirit**
A reflection by Dr. Rick Martin including a brief history of the Marist Encounter
- 20 **Pragmatism, Passion and Providence**
CJ Hainley '04 navigates his musical and engineering journey
- 22 **Campus Notes**
- 24 **Class Notes**
- 26 **Reunions**
- 26 **In Memoriam**
- 28 **Take 5: Jon Nuxoll**



Page 2



Page 12



Page 14



Page 16



Page 20



Photo by Toni Cooper

ON THE COVER:
Co-rector Hadley Peterson '18 leads the candle ceremony at St. Benedict’s on the Winter Women’s Encounter.

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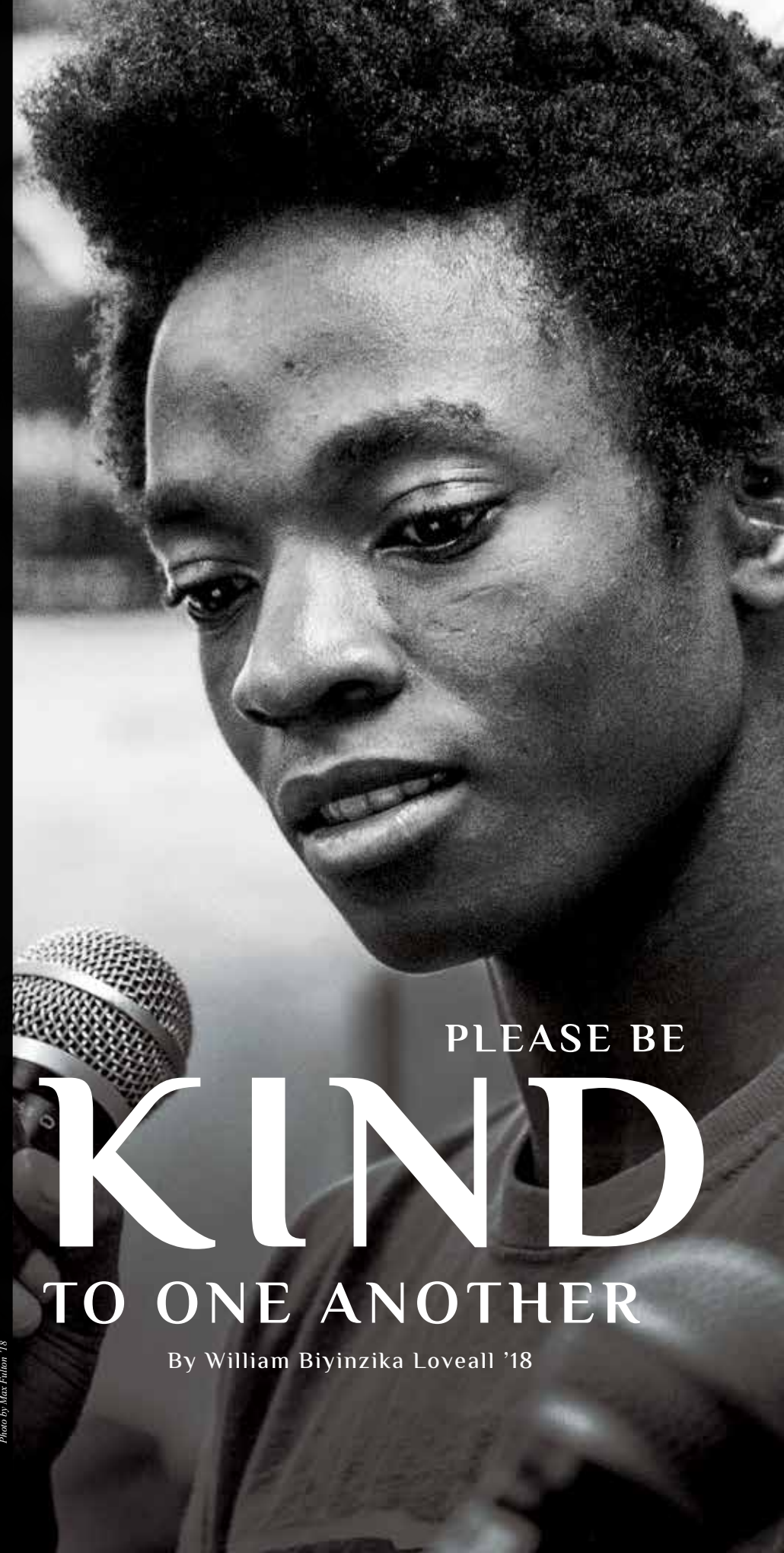
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Senior William Loveall has an amazing story about how he came to be a Spartan – he calls it a “God thing.” He was chosen by the student body as their president and when he reads the daily announcements each morning, he signs off by saying “God bless you and be kind to one another because we are one.”

I was born into poverty in Uganda. I was abandoned, abused and felt little affection from my birth parents from day one. But with God, everything would change.

My mother and father separated shortly after I was born. That meant I may never know my father. My mother struggled with finding enough money to support just herself so, as a result, she left me at my severely alcoholic grandfather’s house who beat my grandmother, cousins, nieces and me with sticks as big as sugar canes about every day. My mother moved to a city that was a four-hour drive from my grandparents’ village.



PLEASE BE
KIND
TO ONE ANOTHER

By William Biyinzika Loveall '18

Photo by Max Fulton '18

My grandparents were also unable to provide for me, so at the age of six, I went to live with my aunt. She already had many children to look after and I became another burden. She, too, beat me. Each time we would both count to fifty before it ended. Shortly after being placed with my aunt, I needed to find a way to attend school. My aunt placed me into a small obscure school by saying I was an orphan. I was taken into the Jireh Children’s Center, a Christian orphanage and boarding school; that’s when my life drastically changed.

In the first grade I became a Christian. I will never forget the time I read the Bible story of how God did the impossible for Abraham and Sarah. This motivated me to test and see if God was that real. Could He be that real to me?

Throughout elementary and middle school, teachers beat me and my friends for not having good enough grades. At the beginning of 6th grade, I prayed to God to take me to America by the time I would start high school. In Uganda, middle school ends with 7th grade. Therefore, I only had two years for God to work a miracle and get me to the United States. I decided to change my last name to Biyinzika which means “with God all things are possible.”

BECAUSE WE ARE ONE

My friends thought I had lost my mind. I did this as a declaration of my faith in God.

I fasted and prayed many times. Once I went three days without eating anything. I wanted God to answer my prayers, so that I wouldn’t be embarrassed in front of my

friends. In Uganda, to enter high school, you must pass a national exam.

At the end of my 7th grade year, it was discovered by national testing officials that some school district leaders had cheated on the tests in an attempt to make our school district look better. The punishment, for their deception, was that everyone in my district had to repeat their 7th grade. I didn’t complain. I saw this as God’s plan. While others wept at a wasted year, I thanked God for giving me extra time for Him to fulfill my miracle.

During my second year of 7th grade, my teeth were keeping me awake in pain at night. A missionary group came to my school. They constructed buildings, doctors helped the children, and there was a hygienist who helped by pulling out my bad teeth. The following morning, I gave this hygienist a thank you note for helping with my pain.

About six months after my teeth were fixed, I got a message that an American couple had become interested in hosting me as an exchange student. I had never asked anybody to bring me to America and had never told any white person about what I’d been praying for. I surrendered to let God do the miracle in my life and I could see Him beginning

was difficult, as they had to make multiple unplanned trips back and forth from Eugene to Uganda to do the necessary paperwork.

Several months later, I found myself saying goodbye to my family and friends in Uganda and boarding an airplane for my first flight. My excitement seemed to outshine the moon that night. I was heading to live with a wonderful family in the best country in the world: America. While waiting to take-off, I looked back and I saw that I was no longer that abandoned child who had been living in an orphanage. In that moment, I knew that my life would never be the same.

With God on my side, I made it to America in March 2013. That fall, I started 8th grade in the U.S. at Willamette Christian School and I was able to fulfill my vision of attending high school here at Marist, where I currently serve as the ASB president. God had miraculously answered my prayers.

Reflecting on my journey and experience, I find I’m no longer abused. I’m no longer abandoned. I am no longer a victim. God has done a great work in my life. Yet I believe this is just the beginning. The best is yet to come. I have had to forgive those who wronged me in Africa. Everything we go through is God’s intention to make us better to fulfill

to do the work I had been praying for so hard.

The couple returned and fought to allow me to come as a student, but because of my age, I could not; Nita (the hygienist who had pulled my hurting teeth) and David Loveall would have to adopt me. The process

the purpose for which He has placed us in this world. At the end of every darkness, there is life and His light to take us where we never thought we would be. ☩



HIGH SCHOOL ROMANCES LIVE ON

BY REBECCA LARSON

Everybody loves a sweetheart story. Valentine's Day has just passed—an appropriate time to celebrate love that blossomed during high school and still endures. We have record of nearly 250 couples from St. Mary's, St. Francis and Marist who became sweethearts during their high school years and married. Here's a sampling of the stories we've happened to hear—stories that span decades of love and commitment.

A FIRST DATE LASTED FOREVER

John '50 and Joann (Oswald) Breeden '52†

In 1949, Joann was a freshman and a cheerleader at St. Mary's High School. "She was the prettiest girl in school," John recalled. Their story began between classes. Joann was in the hallway, trying to avoid another boy when she passed John, a junior, who was walking the opposite direction. As John went by, he asked her if she wanted to go to the junior/senior prom with him and kept on walking.

"And I said 'yes' and kept walking and that was how it started," Joann remembered.

"And now it's 65 years later," John added with a smile.

Stairway to the Stars was the prom's theme and they double-dated with Bob Hill '50 and Loni (Morrow) Ferebee '52. Dinner was Chicken à la King at a drive-in on 1st and Blair. And they ate in the car.

"That was our big, fancy dinner," John recalled with a laugh.

John and Joann dated all through high school. When they started getting serious, John's sister, Norine (Breeden) Blanchard '40 said they

were "too young" which happened to be the name of the #1 selling Nat King Cole song in 1951.

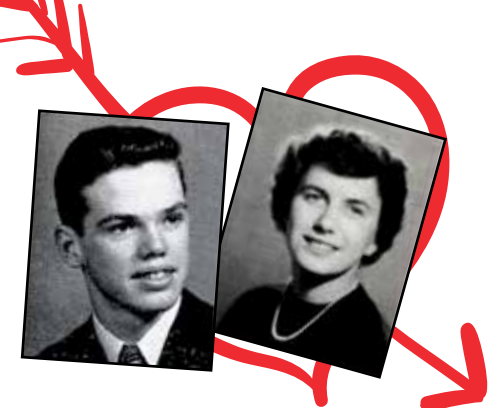
"That became our song," John remembered.

Joann married John on July 1, 1952. John says that "believing in each other and having patience" is what kept their marriage strong throughout the years.

John and Joann had three children: Renae (Breeden) Joseph '71, Lorene (Breeden) Paakaula '72 and Donald Breeden '74.

Two of their grandchildren found mates at Marist: Mahala (Breeden) Shutes '98 who married Casey Shutes '97 and Andrew '06 and Amanda (Weber) Breeden '06.

Andrew and Amanda's "sweetheart" story began in 5th grade at O'Hara. Andrew describes himself as "reclusive" but Amanda Weber was "just persistent enough in pestering me that we started to hang out." They kept their friendship quiet to avoid the drama of middle school, but identified themselves as a couple at Marist, dating through high school



and college. They married on Dec. 4, 2009 and now have a one-and-a-half-year-old son, Leon.

Andrew said, "Amanda had a genuine interest in me in a time when I was pretty down. To this day, one of the things I like most about her is that I know she is just a good person."

Andrew has this advice for other young lovers: "You don't have to move at anyone else's pace. We may have been dating since 7th grade but we didn't kiss until our sophomore year and didn't get married 'til 21. What matters is what you are comfortable with and what you want."

When he heard his grandparents were going to be in a "sweetheart story" Andrew was happy to be part of it. "I respect their relationship immensely," he added. ☩

†Joann passed away December 21, 2017.

THE YIN AND YANG OF IT ALL

Mark '69 and Terrie (Tremaine) Clemens '69

Marist's story and the story of this couple began together.

By the fall of 1968, Terrie (Tremaine) Clemens '69 had known Mark Clemens '69 as a classmate for several years.

"He was just the nicest guy," she recalls. "We had P.E. together and I got to know him as we 'allemanded left' in square dancing."

The summer of 1968 changed everything. Terrie was working in the Marist front office for the Brothers, and, while driving to work, noticed a tanned, shirtless young man pounding stakes into the ground for what would become Goodpasture Island Road.

"And I'm like, 'What happened to Mark Clemens?' His hair had blonded out and was kind of long – and I love guys with long hair. Here's someone who I thought was an uncoordinated string bean and he'd turned into a hunk!"



My heart fluttered. I gave him a flirtatious wave and he waved back!”

Their first date was Homecoming. According to Terrie, Mark was too shy to ask her, so he enlisted the help of Joe Ira '69. Terrie told Joe that she wasn't going to say “yes” through him and Mark should ask her himself, which he did.

“He looked like a deer in the headlights,” Terrie recalled.

Her first “yes” led to other dates through high school and carried them through college, though he was at UO and she was at Oregon State. They married on March 17, 1973.

Many of the couple's brothers and sisters attended Catholic schools as well and their children Colleen (Clemens) Shipman '96, Brooks '03 and Trevor '08 are all Marist grads.

Terrie and Mark were in the first



Mark and Terrie recreate a bit of high school.

Photo by Chris Miller

flirting back, but we weren't!”

Fifty years later this June, Terrie will “graduate” in a different way, retiring from Marist where she has been serving the community for over 20 years as an administrative assistant, human resources coordinator and campus ministry assistant. Her “going away” present to

the staff this year has been a different sweet treat every month—including her justly famous and decadent Almond Roca and gooey, warm caramel cinnamon rolls.

Their marriage has its own sweet foundation based on faith, common goals and mutual respect.

“What I've come to appreciate about Terrie is her ability to be a loving partner and wonderful mother. I appreciate all the facets of her personality,” Mark commented.

“I just love this independent, authentic, kind, good man,” Terrie said, “We're the ‘yin and yang.’” ☪

Marist graduating class and they have many shared stories, including one about typing.

“Mark got an A+ and I only got a B,” Terrie recalled, still mildly irritated after decades about a high school class they took together. “It's because Sister didn't think the boys needed it.” Sister was wrong; Mark became a court reporter and types daily.

“Terrie's just jealous because the nuns happened to like the guys better than the girls,” Mark said. “Sister liked to flirt. She thought we were

NEW SCHOOL, NEW COUPLE

Dave '71 and Joan (Schnabel) Morris '71



Joan Schnabel '71 was new to Eugene in September 1968 and was looking forward to attending “the beautiful new high school on the river.” She first noticed Dave Morris '71 in their freshman homeroom.

“I thought he looked handsome in the blazer worn by the football team on game days,” Joan said. “And I could tell he was smart.”

Their official first date was the 1968 Homecoming dance and they became a couple, going steady throughout their years at Marist.

Brilliant minds can compensate for difficulties, masking learning issues. Dave had made it all the way through elementary and middle school with undiagnosed dyslexia. Sister John Maureen Backenstos†, Joan and Dave's English teacher, discovered the problem and was his champion. Both of them remember her as “a wonderful person and teacher.”

After high school, Dave joined the Navy and Joan attended LCC. They maintained their relationship across



Dave and Joan with their dogs.

Photo courtesy of the Morris's.

the miles and married on May 18, 1973 (Dave's 21st birthday) at St. Jude Catholic Church in Eugene. Ten days later, he shipped out for 6 months. Afterwards, they reunited and lived in the Bay area for several months before he was sent to Vietnam. Their son Brady was born while Dave was overseas; Zach was born in 1976. As of their 45th high school reunion, Dave had retired from Weyerhaeuser, but Joan was still working as a nurse.

“We both keep a sense of humor, respect each other and never take ourselves too seriously,” Joan said of their marriage.

Dave was glad that retirement would mean more time to spend together. He added, “I'm just looking forward to traveling around the country with Joan and our wiener dogs.” ☪

†Sr. John passed away in December 2017.

JUST ONE LOOK

Jason '88 and Victoria (Ramirez) Starr '89

Victoria Ramirez '89 noticed Jason Starr '88 the very first day of school in the fall of 1987. She and her family had just moved that weekend to Eugene from southern California where she had attended an all-girls school, so co-ed Marist was a “big deal.”

“Heather (Jones) Setzler '89 was showing me and my sister around and I saw him across the courtyard and I said, ‘Who is that? He's really cute!’”

Jason noticed Victoria right away, too.

“She was dark skinned; Marist was pretty vanilla at the time. The way she was dressed, the way she carried herself, everything. She was something different.”

Although they were not in the same class, they had mutual friends and became good friends themselves before they started dating. When Jason went off to college, they mutually decided to date other people, but seemed to always come back to each other. Finally, in Victoria's last year of pharmacy school in Pullman, Washington, Jason, who had earned his pilot's license, flew there and presented her with a ring. They were formally engaged in November

1995 and married in St. Paul Catholic Church in Eugene on August 23, 1996.

They speak easily of what they like about each other. Victoria says, “Jason is very in touch with his emotions and he is very kind. He's not a bravado dude.” Jason says, “I trust her 100%. And I just think she's beautiful. She's true blue.”

As many do, they found a way to navigate challenging times - sometimes with humor. “We got in a tomato fight,” Jason remembers of an early-marriage spat. “I threw one at her and she just smashed a big one on herself and said, ‘Bring it on!’ We had to clean up afterwards for hours. She was awesome. It was just what I needed.”

Medical issues posed another challenge. After two years of being misdiagnosed, Victoria was finally diagnosed with Lyme disease through a test used everywhere in the world except the United States. “It's a lifelong affliction,” Jason said. “But she's as tough as nails.”

Faith is a big part of that strength which Jason describes as her “extra intangible.”

“Through Vicki, I learned about God, because she's such a strong woman in her faith. Having faith gives you strength that is not measurable,” he said.

Looking back on their shared time at Marist, Victoria has this advice for current students who are dating, “Have fun, enjoy your time together, but give yourself time to grow up and meet other people. If it's meant to be, you'll come back to each other.”

It's worked for the Starrs. ☪

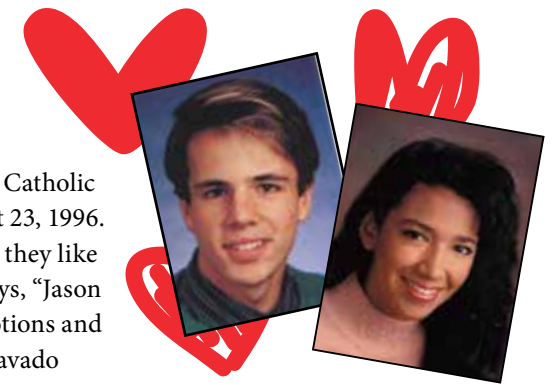


Photo courtesy of the Starr's.

Jason and Victoria during a recent visit to Marist.

ON THE SAME TEAM NOW

Grant '08 and Lydia (Gust) Mascolo '08

his girlfriend and I happily said 'yes,'" remembers Lydia.

They were each other's first and only real loves, but the romance didn't overshadow their practical natures.

Lydia said, "Getting a good education was important to both of us

and we were focused on college. We worked our relationship around higher ed and our goals. We knew that if we wanted to be successful and set up a life together, we needed to get degrees and get professional jobs."

Grant knew she was for him "when

Father David Cullings told the story at their wedding on Sept. 13, 2014. It seems that in a lively game of Marist dodge ball, it came down to only two people left: Grant Mascolo '08 and Lydia Gust '08 on opposite teams.

Lydia said, "He threw the ball so unnecessarily hard, it hit me in the head and I fell down."

"I didn't lob it," Grant grinned. "I was playing to win. I guess you could say I knocked her off her feet."

Lydia turned the painful incident into a source of amusement then and now, still teasing the shy, tall and skinny Grant that he must have been on steroids to be so strong.

"I should have probably not have liked him at that point, but we remained friends and had lots of classes together," Lydia said.

Both of them came to Marist as freshmen, she from Oaklea in Junction City and he from Cal Young. Lydia was a basketball player and was interested in a relationship with someone athletic. Grant was obsessed with baseball, so Lydia made that the topic of their conversations.

They became a couple in the first week of summer after their sophomore year. Lydia, Grant and his best friend since 1st grade, Alec Swindling '08, were hanging out in the park near Grant's home. Alec, who knew what was going on, walked away from the pair moseying along the outside edge of the park to give them some space. "I knew Grant was going to ask me to be



Lydia and Grant and their one-year-old boy, Rocco.

Photo by Chris Miller

she was willing to go to all my games and sit in the pouring rain and never complained."

Lydia watched him play baseball for the next six years: his junior and senior years and then four years of college. Even though they attended different schools, they'd travel to be together on the weekends.

"We never broke up once," she said.

Many teachers at Marist were favorites, but they both agreed that Bill Ferrari was special, as a teacher and as the baseball coach. He obviously returns their regard:

"Lydia and Grant individually and collectively represented the best of Marist and they still do. Lydia was a superb student and Grant accepted every academic challenge I gave him. They both loved their teammates and their community, and each of them would knock you flat on your butt to win a ballgame." [Editor's note: Please see

opening paragraph.]

"It is zero surprise that they have both pursued careers that directly benefit others who are in vulnerable moments of their lives," continued Ferrari. Lydia is a surgical nurse and Grant works for Lane County Youth Services.

"About a year ago Julie [Ferrari] and I ran into them at a Duck baseball game, and they had beautiful little Rocco with them along with Alec Swindling and his wife Sarah (Oberle) Swindling '08 and their precious daughter. That same radiant smile that defined them as high school sweethearts defines them as parents. I am beyond happy for them," Ferrari added.

The friendships begun at Marist have stayed strong. Today, Lydia and Grant live just a quarter of a mile from the Swindlings, who are Rocco's godparents. Lydia and Grant are godparents for Alec and Sarah's one-year-old daughter, Rosalie.

Both Lydia and Grant attest to the importance of investing in their relationship.

Lydia said, "We have a son now and it is so hard on your marriage when you have kids. If you don't have a good foundation, you don't have that to stand on when times get tough, when illness or kids come along."

"I think some people were surprised at us," Grant said, "I was really quiet and Lydia has a strong personality and speaks her mind. At one point, Pat Wagner [science teacher] told us, 'Opposites actually do attract.'"

And stick together. Lydia's faithful attendance at Grant's baseball games earned her a special privilege: parking near the field, rather than far away and walking in, as the other girlfriends had to do.

"They were fair-weather fans," she said. ☘

IT'S ABOUT SPIRIT AND THE SPIRIT

WC '99 and Katie (LeBrun) Harbert '00

Since WC is the son of Joe '67 and Sharon (Rodgers) Harbert '67, themselves St. Francis sweethearts, one could say his story has a long history, but it really began years later on New Year's Eve in 1997.

WC was a sophomore when he first noticed Katie LeBrun '00 at a party at the home of Megan (Schaffner) Westbrook '99. Although Katie and WC were both Marist students, he was a year older and they didn't have any classes together. Katie was tagging along with her brother Jeff LeBrun '99 and was the only freshman in the group.

"That was our first real conversation," WC said. "She was very pretty and very nice and a little bit shy, but she wasn't shy with me."

Many other conversations followed

and Katie asked him to the Snowball Dance that year. They enjoyed each other's company in groups of friends, attending games, dressing up, showing school spirit and going out for pizza at Papa's afterwards.

"It didn't matter who was playing," said WC. "It was super social and so easy to have fun and engaging relationships."

WC and Katie began dating seriously when he was a senior and Katie was a junior. Their romance was a natural outcome of their friendship.

"Our first real date was the Olive Garden," Katie said. "It's like the group decided 'WC and Katie are a couple.'"

Keeping the relationship alive after WC went to Southern Oregon to play football was hard. Then Katie went to

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma to play soccer the following year, which put them seven hours apart. Although they broke up that year, they kept in touch and kept coming back to each other. Eventually WC decided to transfer to PLU—except Katie was across the ocean studying in Spain for the first six months.

"We learned to talk on the phone and have good communication skills," Katie recalls. Ironically, WC



actually graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications while Katie earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in athletic counseling. They use those skills today in their respective jobs as a police officer and assistant athletic director for student-athlete development at the University of Oregon.



Katie and WC at his Marist graduation.

School spirit had enhanced their Marist years, but the deeper religious and spiritual aspects of Marist were also important to both of them and helped forge a strong bond. "I was attracted to WC because he has a spiritual side and wasn't afraid to show it. He went to Mass in the morning before school even when he didn't have to."

Marist retreats helped define and refine their characters.

"Before you can be in a healthy relationship, you have to be in a healthy relationship with yourself. Be honest with yourself, self-reflective, be willing to explore who you are. Retreats were huge—that's a lot of where I learned who I was and to be okay with who I was. I had to be confident in who I was before I could be in a long-lasting

relationship" said Katie.

WC and Katie married on Aug. 7, 2004 and have three children: Ollie (6), Oscar (4) and Hazel (almost 1).

Their marriage isn't something they take for granted.

"It takes a lot of work—consistently," Katie said. "It's super important to be really good friends. That's the foundation of our marriage. We enjoy a lot of the same activities."

WC adds, "Katie and I continue to think about one another and care for each other. Romance wears off in the first couple of years. Not that it's completely gone, but that honeymoon stage goes away and then it's about being best friends and supporting each other." ❧

annoy you; I'm not going to add to it, (pause) but I do miss Dallin."

After high school, Dallin enlisted in the Air Force. Luba has worked part-time in a mortuary, volunteers as a firefighter and has been the girl's assistant lacrosse coach at Marist for three years.

Luba and Dallin became engaged Dec. 29, 2017. In June, she will fly to Minot, North Dakota where they will be married by the base chaplain and live in military housing. Come September, they'll fly back home to Eugene and hope to have their marriage blessed by Father David Brown at St. Paul Catholic Church.

The Eugene celebration will be all about family. Dallin's sister Lindsey '11 is helping with wedding



Dallin and Luba's engagement photo.

plans and is a bridesmaid; the two daughters of Janae (Cone) Glazier '08 will be flower girls. There will be a remembrance table honoring Dallin's mother, Lisa; grandparents and Luba's great-grandmother Gladys Philleo.

Remembering those who have died is not just a nice gesture to Luba.

"It's important," she said. "The wedding isn't just about bringing Dallin and me together, it's about honoring those who are in heaven."

Luba's favorite Bible verse, Psalm 46:5 reflects her deep faith. Dallin shares that faith and wrote:

"First we were an awkward high school couple, but as we grew together and went through my mother's death I felt like we both really grew up. Now Luba isn't just my fiancée but my best friend. I'm looking forward to starting a family with her and just encouraging each other when it comes to our walk with God." ❧

WALKING WITH GOD

Dallin Cone '15 and Luba Kalstad '15

Social media may have started their romance, but old-fashioned family values are in the hearts of Dallin Cone '15 and Luba Kalstad '15.

Dallin was "a friend of a friend" when Luba texted him: "Hey this is Luba :)." Both were 7th graders at that time: he was at O'Hara and she was at St. Paul. They started going to the same dances and would wave at each other across the gym. In 8th grade, Dallin finally walked across that vast expanse of shiny hardwood floor and asked Luba to dance. She said "yes." They've been together, for the most part, ever since.

Both of them have had unusual childhoods. Luba was adopted by Sam and Lark Kalstad

from a Russian orphanage when she was 3. Dallin survived a brain tumor, discovered when he was 10. He endured many treatments and tests, but recovered and now enjoys good health.

The Kalstad and Cone families became close friends. Luba remembers when Dallin's mom, Lisa, called Lark asking if she knew their kids were DATING?

"We were camping at the time and man, was that a long camping trip," Luba said, shaking her head.

Sadness marred the next years. In 2013, Lisa tragically lost her life in a car accident. Luba and Dallin became closer than ever in shared grief. As a senior, Dallin was honored by his classmates as "most



courageous" and recognized for remaining committed to his faith despite his personal tragedy.

But Luba and Dallin's romance had lighter moments, too. Their families knew they were meant to be together, even when they weren't. Good-natured teasing marked her family's response to their occasional break-ups.

Luba's mother would casually comment that she "missed her son-in-law." Cathy Kalstad '20, called Dallin "the brother I never had, but always wanted." Luba's dad would say, "I'll just let your mom and sister

EVERY GIFT CREATES A STORY

A planned gift is a meaningful way to impact future generations.



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Jon & Terri Anderson, Steve and Kathryn Hutchinson, Father David Cullings, Vicky Hanson, Tony Huck, Ben Salm '77, Jon Nuxoll, and Magnhild "Sue" Gallagher†



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†Magnhild "Sue" Gallagher passed away Jan. 17, 2018.



SERVICE LIKE AIR

RETIRING AFTER 34 YEARS OF BEING A CIVIL SERVANT, PETE KERNS '79 STARTS A NEW CHAPTER

BY SUZANNE GRAF

When it comes to service, Pete Kerns '79 grew up in a 24/7 classroom. His parents modeled it through action and word – spoken and unspoken. No one can deny the influence of family on a person's beliefs, values and character. In Pete's case, it's easy to see the connection.

Pete's father, Dr. Thomas Kerns, was a local family practitioner whose determination and commitment led to cutting-edge programs in medical care. Raising a family of eight children - Tom '61, Jane '62, Patsy '64, Bob '72, Mary '73, Will '74, John '77 and Pete '79 – with his wife "Tops" and delivering babies were only part of his calling.

Photo courtesy of Pete Kerns.

In 1964, Dr. and Mrs. Kerns, along with Don and Helen Walsh, co-founded the Eugene Montessori School. They believed in its method of allowing children to work independently and experience the joy of self-discovery. These principles carried over into Dr. Kern's own life. He was a lifelong learner, and after having seen the pain and suffering that can arise from alcoholism, he educated himself on the disease and went on to found Eugene's Serenity Lane Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center in 1973 and later became the first addictionologist in the state.

In the midst of all this, Dr. Kerns still found time to serve his parish, St. Paul Catholic Church, and the community through Catholic Charities of Lane County, the Knights of Columbus and was a founding member of the Oregon Catholic Physicians Guild. He was the first football team physician for St. Francis High School, starting in 1950, and continued in the same role at Marist until 1985.

Pete's mom, Tops, was a busy woman as well, primarily being a mom to eight children, but she still found time to serve as a member of the Altar Society and to help with her kids' activities like the Scouts.

These two most certainly laid a solid groundwork for Pete and his siblings. "My parents modeled service. They were always, in their free time when not with family, doing for others," said Pete. "As kids, we were always with them when they were serving. We watched, listened and helped. Service to others was like air; it was just what we did."

Pete's parents not only modeled service, they created a home environment that expected the best of them while making space for deep and rich discussions. Growing up, Pete recalls sitting around the dinner table with

his parents and at least four of his siblings. His dad would preside over interesting discussions about different situations and moral dilemmas. "We engaged in conversations that would help people make good, value-based decisions about anything—the Catholic Church, conflict, etc. To be a little kid sitting among pretty brilliant siblings and parents was informative," Pete said.

As a student at Marist High School, Pete was involved in athletics, student council and classes. He gravitated toward leadership positions because it felt meaningful and he enjoyed being in the center



Pete Kerns '79 and granddaughter Audrey Kerns.

immediately saw the benefits of this work. "I realized that the values I had learned at home as a kid could be in harmony with the profession I had gotten into. Eventually, I threw my whole weight into that," Pete said.

His 34-year career with the Eugene Police Department culminated with his retirement this last December after nine years as the chief of police. Humble and quiet, Pete led the department with firm conviction about treating others with dignity—a value he stressed often at the leadership level.

Family traits run deep and, much like his father, Pete's service did not end at work: He has modeled it through word and action for his children—Connor '08 and wife Rachel (Huston) Kerns '08, Erin '09, John '15—and now granddaughter Audrey. Pete has served on the St. Paul Parish School Advisory Board, the St. Paul Foundation Board, the St. Thomas More Newman Center RCIA team and the Marist Catholic High School Board of Directors. He and Joan help at the Egan Warming Center in the winter. And he's about to start a

whole new career as the chief of staff at St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County where he will use his skills and experience to help this organization that serves the underprivileged.

When asked who Pete considers his hero, he responded easily: "Our dad, because he set such a great example for us and other people. He did it in an intelligent way and was so good with people. He did not just stop at being a physician and a dad, he left a legacy that will go on for decades."

Dr. and Mrs. Kerns would be proud of the legacy that their son will leave to our community, a fitting tribute to the lessons learned around the Kerns' family table. ☪

Front Row: Mary (Kerns) Newson '73, Bob Kerns '72, and Fr. John Kerns '77.
Middle Row: Will Kerns '74, Tops Kerns, Dr. Thomas Kerns and Pete Kerns '79.
Back Row: Patsy Kerns '64, Jane (Kerns) Stanfield and Tom Kerns '61.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

THE CALM, COMPASSIONATE CARE OF ATHLETIC TRAINER MARI (PITTMAN) GIBSON '90

By Beth Wirth

After twenty years working with high school athletes, Mari (Pittman) Gibson '90 is still saying "this job is as good as I imagined it would be." Mari, the Marist athletic trainer, graces the sidelines of every home athletic event, and, due to the higher likelihood of injury, also travels with the football team.

A swimmer and sports fan while she was a student at Marist, two main factors determined her college decision: an athletic training program and being able to continue her swim career. She found this fit at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, where fittingly enough her daughter, Marissa '16, currently studies and swims. It was a good choice for Mari: the swim program was the right fit and she found some great mentors to guide her through the learning curve of athletic training.

After graduation from Whitworth, she worked at a high school in western Washington before returning to Eugene with her husband, Jared. It was then that she asked Corey Anderson, then the Marist athletic director, if there was an opening at Marist. In the week following, she got a job offer to work at a rival school in the area, but the job just didn't feel right. Without any word from Marist, she turned it down. But as things happen, just days later, she heard from Anderson that there was, in fact, an athletic trainer position

opening at Marist. "Of course that felt like complete divine intervention," she said.

Her time spent in working in the physical therapy profession only confirmed her love and hope of working with student-athletes. There is an immediacy to the skill she provides for students that is not part of life in a traditional physical therapy office. Often times she is there at the time of the injury to assess and stabilize the athlete. She is calm, confident and even-tempered—just what anyone in pain would want and need. The kids trust her because she knows her stuff. "We see Mari as an extension of our coaching staff. I totally trust her with how she deals with our student athletes. She has developed programs for our volleyball program that focused on injury prevention while building strength in our female athletes," volleyball coach and school counselor, Shari Pimental, said.

The profession in which Mari works is constantly changing. There is often new research and she is never content to rest in the "old way" of practicing her job. "Mari is amazing at her job. Last summer when heat waves and smoke impacted our practices, she was researching and reaching out to medical professionals to make sure our practice decisions would ensure the safety and well-being of our student athletes and coaches," Principal Stacey Baker said.

The joy of working with athletes through adversity, finding the best way to get them back on the court or field, then watching them return to play is deeply rewarding for Mari. She loves that she gets to continue a relationship with her patients even when they aren't hurt, which is hard to make happen in much of physical therapy.


Any teacher at Marist will tell you that athletes are delighted to head to Mari's training room, and it's not just because they are getting out of class. She meets them when they are most vulnerable, both physically and emotionally. She works to explain their injury and get them back to being able to focus in class and play their sport. "There are times when I tell a student that he or she doesn't need to come to my room anymore and it's time to return to play and I see that they are disappointed," Mari said. "Then, I wonder what they are really looking for."

It turns out they are often looking for more than an athletic trainer; they're looking for a teacher, a mentor or a counselor as well.

There would be plenty of room to "move up" and explore college or professional athletics, but those hectic schedules and big budgets do not appeal to Mari. "I love my job and I love this age group—even when they're being silly. It's always a chance to help shape them to make better choices." ☪

Photo by Taylor McWilliams '11

Athletic Trainer, Mari (Pittman) Gibson '90, helps a freshman football player in 2008.



EMBRACED BY THE SPIRIT

A REFLECTION
BY DR. RICK MARTIN

Sitting in the fireside room at St. Benedict Lodge is an almost overwhelming sensory experience, featuring sights, sounds and scents that uniquely characterize this Dominican Retreat Center.

For many, the sensory experience is dominated visually by the oversized stone-faced fireplace at one end of the room and the view of the McKenzie River out the windows. As striking as these sights are, if you close your eyes, you will find that the slightly muted sound of the rushing river takes over. This is my preferred immersion into the spirit of St. Benny's, because once I close my eyes, and allow the sound of the river to surround me, my imagination takes over.

After many years of traveling back and forth for student and staff retreats, my imagination supplies an endless reel of images—many from Encounter weekends. St. Benedict's has hosted Marist Encounters for most of the last 44 years, amounting to nearly 5,000 members of the Marist community sitting in these chairs, before this fireplace, sharing the view and the sound of the river outside, and finding a miraculous encounter with self, others and God.

My imagination replays moments of prayer, fun songs, silly games, deep and moving talks, skits, tears and laughter, sadness and joy, forgiveness and reconciliation, introspection, wayward animals, burning prayer scrolls, burning Agape twigs and heartfelt expressions of love. I remember how we move on retreat: from the anxiety of not knowing what is about to happen, through the realization that one is safe here, to the discovery that God is richly present, available and accessible.

Photo by Amy Oldham

Cole Jones '19 on his Encounter at St. Benedict's in the fall of 2017.

There is magic here that is not magic at all, but that is so amazing that it must be magic! I believe it is the holiness of this space and the retreat experience hosted here that, through the grace of God, meets each person where they are on their life's journey. Being met in such a way is healing and comforting all by itself, but St. Benedict's doesn't allow it to rest there. That is only a point of meeting and then departure, so that something new and transformative can take place in the life and journey of each individual.

Among those who have experienced St. Benedict's firsthand, there is an immediate kinship with all who likewise have been here, who have seen the sights, heard the sounds and enjoyed the change of heart that inevitably arises from such a place. And looking forward, we know that when present and future Marist students and staff step into this place, they join with us and with countless others who know the same epiphany and transformation that they will feel.

And once again, "We Are One" takes on yet deeper meaning. ☩

Over the years I have invited students to write about Marist experiences that have impacted them spiritually. When writing about "what has mattered most," students choose to write about many and varied aspects of our life and community here, but perhaps none more than Marist retreats, especially the Encounter. The following statements are representative of many such writings, and express sentiments that bridge the generations of Marists at St. Benedict's.

—Dr. Rick Martin

"On my Encounter, I remember I truly felt as if I was having a conversation with God – that for once, I could actually hear Him. It wasn't just a one-way conversation, but I could feel what he had been trying to tell me all along – I just never had the patience to listen. This experience of God will never leave me for the rest of my life."

"The Encounter for me was a weekend of not only self-knowledge, but 'class-knowledge.' Inevitably, I grew as an individual, in my relationship with God, but mainly in my relationship with my classmates."

"I remember arriving at St. Benedict's feeling stressed about homework and school in general, but we left feeling that we will always hold our high school experiences close to our hearts, despite the rough times. I left all my worries in the back of my mind, and let the simplest of moments, like laying on the couches with friends, fill the empty space that is usually preoccupied by the anxiety of junior year. It was an experience like nothing else. I thought I would be itching to get back home, but I wanted to stay and I want to go back to that moment even today."

"With trees surrounding me, and the warm sun shining, creating perfect beams of light across the flowing water, I was able to feel God's embrace and powerful love. The sound of water hitting the rocks filled my ears, drowning out any other thoughts straying me from His Word. As I looked at my Bible, I opened up to a random page and read the title of the passage, and it hit home. I almost burst into tears because it was almost as if He had read my mind. He provided an answer for just what was hanging over my head."

"People often talk about the Freshman Lock-In or the Kissing of the M as the initiation into Marist life, but I think that those are only the first steps. The Encounter is the completion of the Marist experience. Those freshman activities set you up for the next four

years, but the Encounter is what makes you realize that these years mean so much more."

"When we were given time to ourselves, all around me I felt God's presence. There was a very powerful scene around me: the enclosure of the trees of the forest surround St. Benedict's as well as the overhead cloud coverage creating a further sense of enclosure. This felt like an embrace from the Lord Himself. I was in complete serenity and felt no emotion but simply peace within."

"One thing that changed my whole view on the world and has been very close to my heart is the Encounter. I remember being in a bad place mentally during that part of the year. I was depressed and did not feel loved or like I truly mattered. The Encounter changed that. I saw the truth, that I was truly loved, and by a lot of people that I really did not know loved me."

"Whenever I think about my faith, the McKenzie [River] automatically comes to mind. I am taken back to my Junior Encounter sitting on that rock. I am reminded of the way I felt that cold day in November. Strong, happy, a sense of clarity – I was content."

"When we were given time to ourselves to sit and read The Good News, I was able to experience a time of self-reflection. This wasn't just an ordinary time of reflecting on daily routines, but rather a time of reflecting on myself in relation to God – how He saw me, His plan for me, and whether or not I was carrying out His will. This was a moment when I felt God's presence all around me."

"The Encounter has led to my faith becoming truly mine, not my parents'. I've accepted the responsibility of deepening my connection with God and not letting others do it for me."



Photo by Tami Cooper

ENCOUNTER HISTORY

Fifty years ago, as Marist High School was just being built in Eugene, back East, the Encounter was being born. Marist Brother Phillip Robert created the Encounter, which first began in the fall of 1967, at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, New York. The late 60s was a time characterized by great change; for the church it was Vatican II and for America it was the war in Vietnam. The Encounter was the Marist response to seeing a population of youth that needed direction—direction they would hopefully find when they had a chance to encounter themselves, God and others. Brother Owen Ormsby, Executive Director of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus is quoted on the Marist Brothers website as saying that the early Encounter team "had the courage to say, 'We believe in young people and want to give them a program...to show them their God-given talents can change the world.'"

Brother Phil, who now lives in a retirement home in the Bronx, based the Encounter on the Cursillo retreat for adults that sought to develop Christian leaders, but he made it accessible for youth. Other retreats, like Search and Kairos, are also based on the Cursillo model. "The Encounter spread throughout the USA because of the Marist Brothers and their presence in schools. The other programs, I am fairly confident, came up around the same time but Encounter was all our creation," said Matt Fallon, Director of Marist Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the U.S.

It was just six years later, in 1973-74, that Marist Eugene principal Br. Anthony Iazzetti would gather four young men for two trips to Esopus, both to make their own Encounter and to learn how to build a program in Eugene. These four young men were senior Dave Schmidt '74 and juniors Tim Barnes '75, Bill Conklin '75 and Tim Gieber '75, and they became the student leaders for the first Marist Eugene Encounters (both for the men and the women) until more students could be trained.

St. Benedict's Lodge was the site of those first Encounters: the men's in the fall of 1974 and the women's in January, 1975. Schmidt came back from his freshman year in college to help with both. According to Lori Easterla '76, who was on the first women's Encounter and became a leader for the next, the women's was run by two Brothers, a priest, four Sisters, a lay teacher and ten junior and senior boys—since no female students had been trained yet. The next women's Encounter was led by female students. Since it was, and still is, a retreat for juniors or seniors, those first retreats were a blend of the classes of 1974 and 1975.

Choosing St. Benedict's as a place to run the retreats was "a given," said Brother James Halliday, who ran many Encounters while in Eugene during the 70s and 80s. St. Benny's was the only Catholic retreat center in the area, he said, and Marist already had a relationship with them.

The first retreats were four days, and, other than a couple of activities that were dropped when it changed to a three-day retreat, the original template for talks and activities has not changed. Our 44-year history of running the Encounter has brought us many riches including nearly 5,000 students and staff that have been deepened by a call to discipleship and grown in the knowledge that they are loved.

Br. James said that of all the times he crosses paths with past students whether by email, phone or in person, "It always comes back to the Encounters. It's interesting that after the decades...it's actually what happened up there that continues." ☩

PRAGMATISM, PASSION, AND PROVIDENCE

CJ HAINLEY '04 NAVIGATES HIS MUSICAL AND ENGINEERING JOURNEY

By Beth Wirth

You wouldn't guess that CJ Hainley '04 is an engineer when he rattles off the list of activities he was most involved in at Marist: pep band, choir, jazz band and theatre—including musicals and Shakespeare. Music, singing and the drums have always been a passion for him. He is Marist's only student to win an OSA state championship in music. "I was too chicken to go into music," he said half-jokingly. But his twin interests, music and engineering, have pulled at CJ's heart since his youth and his passion for both are evident as you listen to his journey.

When he was in 5th grade, he told his mother that he wanted to be a pilot. When she told him that pilots use math, he immediately asked, "How far can I go in math?" The answer was calculus, so it became a goal of his young life to take calculus from Bob Devereaux, a former and formidable math teacher at Marist. "So, like a lot of people who end up in this field, it was like, I'm good at math and science, why not be an engineer to put food on the table while still pursuing my passion for music?" he said.

University of Portland was the perfect fit: it was close to home, Catholic, had a good engineering program and offered him a great scholarship. His hopes and guesses about his passions were confirmed. "I flourished in the engineering program, I was president of the Engineering Honor Society and I was taking 20 credits per semester. I figured that I got here, and I was going to squeeze every ounce of blood out of this turnip," he said. Still actively interested

in music, he attempted to double major in engineering and music, but eventually had to drop his music major down to a minor to focus on engineering.

As he considered his next steps after UP, he remembered that a professor once told him, "I think you'd be bored in industry. You should consider grad school." This same professor connected with him on a summer research project in nanotechnology at the University of Texas in Austin. But nanotechnology was not CJ's preferred field—that 5th grade ambition to be a pilot was still the reason for getting into engineering in the first place. So, he decided to look for graduate programs with that focus, specifically at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When CJ was admitted into MIT's aerospace engineering program and gave the good news to a one of his MIT-educated professors who had written him a recommendation, the professor said, "Really?! I can't believe it! I didn't have any hope." His shock was not a reflection of CJ's abilities, but rather the fact that CJ would be the first UP engineering student ever to attend MIT.

The demands of MIT were rigorous. Marist had prepared him for the workload at UP, but MIT was "a stretching moment. It is a place that asks you what you really want in life. You think you've given it your all and then the program asks for more," CJ said. Throughout this challenging time, CJ was questioning the bigger purpose of his work—could this lead to a PhD? Did he even want it to lead to a PhD? He had always told himself that he would stay on this

path until he couldn't go any further. He even got to work under Dr. Dava Newman who would go on to serve as the Deputy Director of NASA from 2015-17. But when it came time to take the exams that would qualify him for a PhD, he didn't pass. And, although not pursuing a PhD might limit his opportunities to teach, it still felt right. "It felt like God was shutting this door and that was okay," he said.

He found himself trying to decide what would come next. He finished his master's in aeronautical engineering. The priesthood had always been on his mind and heart, so he applied to seminaries. A visit to the seminary at Notre Dame convinced him that this was not going to be a fit. That same week, he got a call from a company in Portland. The opportunity was too good to pass up and he spent five years working as a design engineer for ESCO Corporation, which makes parts for mining.

As he was adjusting to life back on the West Coast, his spiritual advisor, the founder and prior of a Maronite Order of Catholic contemplative monks in Portland, told him, "You've got too much going on; you need to find a way to be quiet and listen." Ironically, music made that possible. Although music was always a part of his life, it had taken a backseat at times. One Sunday he made the mistake of singing too loudly during Mass and was asked to join the church's Gregorian chant choir. Eventually he became the director of that choir. (He says that he has Stacey Baker, his high school Latin teacher, to thank for giving him familiarity with the language.)

It was at this time that CJ began to hear music in a whole new way and Gregorian chants were the perfect venue to be quiet and reconnect with himself and God. "This was a very unexpected adventure in my life and I am so grateful for it," CJ reflected.

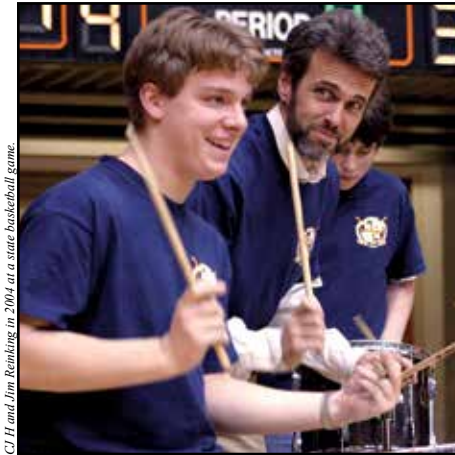
As his professor had predicted, CJ got bored in industry. As he was entering another season of searching

for where God wanted him next, CJ saw that UP was looking for a professor with his background to teach in the engineering program and is now a part of the UP faculty. "It's amazing. When God wants to move you, He will. I had been wanting a change of scenery for a while and it ended up happening at just the right time," CJ observed. "Teaching has been a steep learning curve," he

said, "but beautiful and rewarding all at the same time."

And still the seasons change; newly married last October, CJ is stepping away from his role as choir director at St. Birgitta's in northwest Portland as he and his wife, Sara, discern where their home parish is going to be.

Providence will likely provide a passionate, yet pragmatic answer. ☩



CJ Hainley and Jim Reinking in 2004 at a state basketball game.



CJ directing the choir for a wedding at St. Birgitta's Catholic Church.



CJ working at a mine site in Nevada for ESCO.



CJ next to the original Apollo Lunar Module test computer in Cambridge, MA.



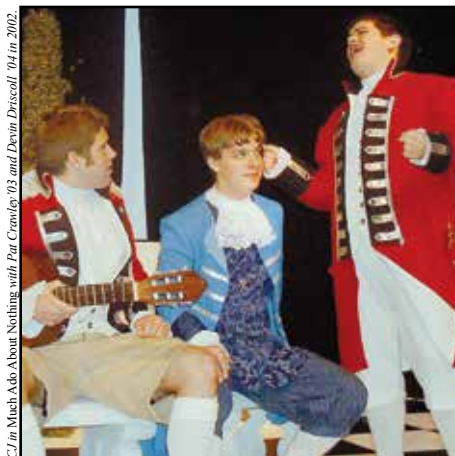
CJ and his wife Sara on their wedding day last October.



Sara and CJ on their honeymoon in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



CJ in France at a wedding for one of his friends from grad school.



CJ in Much Ado About Nothing with Pat Crowley '03 and Devin Driscoll '04 in 2002.



CJ at a Marist football game in 2003.

Celebrating the 20th All Catholic Schools Mass



▲ Archbishop Sample delivers the homily at the All Catholic Schools Mass in February at Marist.

This February, the three Catholic schools in Eugene celebrated their 20th year of gathering at Marist for the All Catholic Schools Mass. Archbishop Sample and several local priests celebrated the Mass for the community of over 1500.

The very first All Catholic Schools Mass took place on Feb. 3, 1999 at Marist, but the idea for the Mass and the planning started much earlier.

In the 90s, a coalition, called Lane County Catholic Schools, had begun to form so the three Catholic schools could work together and show Eugene they were connected in their mission. It gave Jerry Ragan, who was the principal of St. Paul Parish School at the time, a good idea: National Catholic Schools Week could be a perfect time to gather the three schools together, in a very tangible way, to celebrate Mass. The idea was presented to Fr. Vincent Lopez and Elizabeth Moore, the principals of Marist and O'Hara, and Marist campus minister Rick Martin. Everyone decided it was a good idea, and that the schools

could take turns being in charge of the planning. That first Mass took eight weeks to plan and it was celebrated by Fr. Vincent Benoit with Fr. David Cullings and four other parish priests, including Fr. John Kern '77 who was at All-Saints in Portland at the time. "It's hard to remember [all the details], but when people really want to get something done, you just start doing it, you know? There is something so special about Catholic education and that Mass fostered that special bond for our community," Ragan said.

The Mass hasn't really changed since 1999 and how fitting that the theme for that very first All Catholic Schools Mass was Faith for a Brighter Future. "It's always a wonderful thing to see 4-year-olds to 18-year-olds celebrating Mass together. You see those little kids sitting in the front and you hope they will be in the bleachers someday. Then, you add in the parents and other community members and it's easy to see that there is something unique about a Catholic education," Ragan added.

RISE to Take a Stand



▲ Students gather to create an anti-bullying video.

This March, RISE, a student leadership group led by Director of Student Services, Christi Nicholson, that aims to improve school culture, will kick off an anti-bullying week with a video they created this January. The video titled *Take a Stand, Lend a Hand* was written, acted and directed by students and depicts bullying scenarios and solutions relevant for students today.

NCEA Awards Presented



▲ English teacher Bill Ferrari with his students.

It was announced at the All Catholic Schools Mass in February that English teacher Bill Ferrari and senior Caroline Gonyea both won awards from the National Catholic Education Association. Ferrari is one of 26 educators across the country to receive a *Lead. Learn. Proclaim.* award from the NCEA for his outstanding work as a Catholic School Educator. He will travel to the NCEA national convention in Cleveland this April to receive his award.

Gonyea was just one of 10 students across the nation to receive a *Youth Virtues, Valor, and Vision* award for a program she created, called Project KIND, to help schools cultivate a positive school atmosphere. She has been going to her alma mater, O'Hara Catholic School, for the last year with a group of high school peers, actively engaging 7th and 8th graders about typical middle school issues like cliques, exclusion, insecurities and social media.



▲ Senior Caroline Gonyea receives her award from a representative of the NCEA.

The Spirit of Giving



▲ Students load Advent Angel gifts and donations.

The season of giving was a wonderful opportunity for Marist students and staff to give back to our community. To name a few, in November, Marist students helped the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve sort toys and books for the Toys for Tots Foundation. In December, National Honor Society held a Blood Drive at Marist that provided 59 pints of blood for Lane Blood Center. Marist's Advanced Strings class visited three assisted living homes to spread Christmas cheer. Also in December, NHS members made fleece

scarves and blankets for St. Vincent de Paul and held a bake sale to raise money for Crow High School's Angel Tree which helped 30 families in the Crow community. And for the annual Advent Angels project, each theology class helped Catholic Community Services gather money, clothes, toys, toiletries and household items for local families. "I am filled with pride for the generosity of the students and the joy we are able to help give these families," Christian service coordinator Julie Ferrari said.

Mr. Spartan 2018



▲ The 2018 Mr. Spartan program participants.

The 2018 Mr. Spartan Team has been busy visiting Sacred Heart hospital's NICU, collecting loose change "for the babies," organizing fundraisers and of course getting their "dance" ready for the big pageant that happens on April 14 at 7 p.m. in the Marist Gym. This is Marist's 24th year of raising money for Children's Miracle Network and Sacred Heart's NICU.

On Stage at the Hult



◀ Junior Liesl Benda (back left) and freshman Sarah Rosier (back, 2nd from left) pose with Lindsey Stirling after their performance.

In December, junior violinist Liesl Benda and freshman cellist Sarah Rosier were selected by the Eugene-Springfield Youth Symphony conductor, Dr. David Jacobs, to perform on stage at the Hult Center with pop sensation Lindsey Stirling – a violinist, dancer and composer.

Winter Sports



▲ Junior Emma McKinney dribbles up the court. She leads the team in scoring this season.

◀ Members of the boys and girls swim team pose with the girls' 4th place trophy at the OSAA 5A State Championship Meet in February. Standing at the top is sophomore Lauren Barry who won two state titles in freestyle.

Two individual state swimming titles earned by sophomore Lauren Barry and a fourth place trophy for the girls swim team have been highlights of the winter sports season so far. After finishing 5th at the state meet last year, the talented group of young women who placed in the top six of each of the relays and three individuals, including Barry's first in both the 50 and 100yd freestyle, scored in the top six of their races at the 5A OSAA State Championships in February. Junior Chris Allender, in the 50yd free, was the lone boy to qualify for state.

Returning their entire starting line up from last year's fourth place state team, the girls basketball team has been the No. 1 ranked team in 5A state for most of the season. They finished the season 21-3 and 13-1 in league and will begin their state playoff run for a state

championship on March 2 at home.

Led by nine seniors, the boys basketball team is coming off a tough regular season battle in a Midwestern League dominated by four of the top-10-ranked teams in 5A. They finished with a 12-12 overall record but ranked No. 12 in state. They will be playing at Central High School on Feb. 28 in an OSAA Play-In game with the hopes of making it into the state tournament the following week.

The Marist ski team is in its second year of competing in the Oregon Schools Ski Association races on Saturdays at Mt. Bachelor. Sophomores Charlie Moore and Evan Villano have led the boys to mostly 3rd and 4th place finishes and sophomore Sally Moore leads the girls. The team will compete in the championships in early March.

CLASS NOTES

1960s



◀ **Phyllis (Beveridge) Nissila '68** is a writer and currently an adjunct instructor at Lane Community College in Eugene.

1980s



▲ **Patrick Griffin '89** was promoted to Commander in the US Navy in November. His son is pictured pinning on his dad's silver oak leaf cluster. The ceremony was held in Okinawa, Japan, where Patrick is currently stationed.

1990s

Sarina (Passarelli) Bronson '99 and husband Greg were blessed with their fifth child on August 8, 2017. Martha Clare is loved by her three big brothers Luke, John, and Paul, and her sister Lucy. The family lives in Rescue, CA.



▲ **Ryan '96** and **Jessica (May) Dwyer '05** welcomed Conor Patrick and Olivia May on May 23, 2017. The babies are pictured here at 6 months. **Clem '67** and **Tammy (Norris) May '75** are the proud grandparents.



▲ **Jess Kokkeler '96**, an interior architecture student at the University of Oregon, was recently featured in the UO magazine for his work in Africa helping the International Anti-Poaching Foundation. In Zimbabwe to study adventure tourism, he volunteered with the IAPF and used his love and knowledge of northwest fire lookout towers to help rangers build tall portable structures to watch for poachers on game reserves.

2000s



▲ **Courtney Jeffries '00** married Bernie Cartin Chavez in Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Tamarindo, Costa Rica on January 13, 2018. Courtney is carrying a fabric rose bouquet her mother crafted from her own wedding dress and wedding dresses of her grandmothers. Courtney's brother, **Jordan Jeffries '03**, served as her Gentleman of Honor.



▲ **Eileen Chanti '03** is the new director of St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center. Eileen earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's College and a master's in Urban Teacher Education and Teacher Leadership from the University of Chicago.



▲ **Christine Paiement '03**, married Dave Penwell on July 15, 2017 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Portland. She is the 2nd grade teacher and vice principal at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School and he works in sports marketing at Adidas North America.



▲ The Mascolo family has been blessed lately! Pictured above are **JJ Mascolo '05** with wife Jessica and son Parker; **Grant Mascolo '08** with wife **Lydia (Gust) Mascolo '08** and son Rocco; and **Sean Mascolo '02** with wife Nicole and son Liam.



▲ **Michael McCormick '05** and **Marisa DeLuca '07** were married on September 30, 2017. Marisa's brothers, **P.J. DeLuca '06** and **Bradford DeLuca '05**, were groomsmen, and **McKenzie Kenney '04** was a bridesmaid. They currently live in Portland where Mike is the editor in chief for Quiltfolk magazine and Marisa is a labor and delivery nurse.

CLASS NOTES



◀ **Andrew Tillman, DMD '05** recently opened his own dental practice, Tillman Family Dental on Willamette St. in Eugene, with his wife Jesika after graduating from OHSU.



▲ **Brantley Millegan '06** and his wife Krista and children—Elijah (7), John Paul (3), Josiah (1) and Adelaide (5)—visited Marist in December. Brantley is the founder and editor of ChurchPOP, an online media platform that targets millennials with “sharable Christian culture.” It was recently acquired by EWTN Global Catholic Network.



▲ **McKenzie (Schmidt) Ma'aseia '06** and Joe Ma'aseia welcomed baby Luisa Alexis on Sept. 1, 2017. **Dave '74** and **Lex (Bonzer) Schmidt '70** are the proud grandparents.

Patrick Millegan '08 is currently living south of San Francisco in Silicon Valley and is the director of products at a start-up company called Green Chef.



▲ **Stella Strother-Blood '08** was named Best Teacher/Professor in the 2017 Best of Eugene Reader's Poll. She currently teaches 6th grade language arts and social studies at Agnes Stewart Middle School in Springfield.



▲ **Madison (Hilles) Smith '09** and **Drew Smith '09** were married August 12, 2017 at the home of the bride's parents, David & **Diza (Hoglen) Hilles '81**. **Andrew Mosier '09** was best man, **Kyle Hauser '06** was a groomsman, **Emery (Hilles) Heffernan '08**, the sister of the bride, was the matron of honor while **Danielle (Smith) Hauser '06**, **Madeline Gonyea '09** and **Bridgette Kimball '09** were bridesmaids. Madison recently received her master's from Arizona State University and works at O'Hara Catholic School. Drew has been working at Central Print since graduating from OSU.



◀ **Sarah Yamada, DVM '09** graduated from OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine in June 2017. After working as an intern in an emergency

veterinary hospital in Portland, she has returned to Eugene where she is now a veterinary doctor at a local clinic.

2010s



▲ **Geoffrey Wildish '12** was the 2017 student award winner for OSU's Excellence in Family Business Awards last November. Geoffrey, who is studying construction engineering management, has already earned a business and entrepreneurship minor, and is adding an innovation management degree to enhance his career outlook.



▲ **Keanu Davis '13** is currently a graphic design intern for the Los Angeles Clippers' marketing department, in the heart of downtown L.A., where he creates graphics and designs for both print and web for the Clippers as well as their G-League team, the Agua Caliente Clippers.



◀ **Jack Lund '17** is attending Seattle University and is a dual major in political science and international affairs with a minor in Asian studies. He was awarded one of 15 freshman spots on the university radio station KXSU.

Attention Alumni

Send us news, updates, or accomplishments so we can celebrate you in our magazine!
Send information and photos to alumni@marisths.org.

REUNIONS

Reunion Information

Class of 1967 - 51 Years

The annual reunion for the St. Francis Class of 1967 will be held August 11, 2018 at the Harbert residence commencing at 4 p.m. Contact harbert5708@comcast.net for details.

Class of 1968 - 50 Years

The St. Francis Class of 1968 will celebrate their reunion on August 4 at Roaring Rapid, and on Aug. 5 with a potluck picnic at the home of Connie (Kersey) Green in Cottage Grove. Contact Connie (Kersey) Green at 541-206-3524 / 541-942-9288 or Theresa Briggs at 541-968-0265.

Class of 1978 - 40 Years

The class of 1978's reunion is scheduled for July 27-28. See the "Marist Class of '78" Facebook page. Contact Mel Damewood at meld3@comcast.net or Gloria Jarvis at jarvisgirlfive@gmail.com.

Class of 1983 - 35 Years

The Class of 1983's reunion is scheduled for Aug 11. Contact Jennifer Solomon at jennifersolomon@comcast.net or Chris Herring, crisco@visco-light.com.

Class of 1988 - 30 Years

The Class of 1988's reunion is scheduled for August 11-12. There will be an evening event on Saturday, Aug. 11 and a noon picnic in Marist's courtyard and a tour of the school on Aug. 12. Contact Julie (Murray) Fulton at juliefulton22@gmail.com or 541-953-8426.

Class of 1998 - 20 Years

Come celebrate 20 years with a casual get together at Hop Valley on Friday, July 20. On July 21 there will be a Marist campus tour followed by lunch. Significant others and children welcome. For more information, RSVPs and lunch reservations, contact maristclass98@gmail.com.

Classes of 1993 & 2008

Let's hear from you! There's still time to plan for a get together. Contact alumni@marisths.org and let us help.

Mark your calendar!

The All Alumni BBQ, celebrating graduates from St. Francis, St. Mary's and Marist, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16 at Marist. RSVP to alumni@marisths.org

IN MEMORIAM



Catherine Wojcik passed away April 4, 2017 at the age of 97. **Leonard Wojcik Jr. '62** and **George Wojcik '66** are her sons. She and her husband Leonard ran an auto and truck repair business that kept the log trucks rolling during World War II.

Ed Childs passed away May 7, 2017. His wife is **Mary Lou (Gallagher) Childs '72**.

Joan Diane Wren passed away September 25, 2017. **Steven Eggink '80** is her son.

Jayna Warm Nest Gieber passed away in October 2017. Her husband is **Jon Gieber '76**. **Lonnie Gieber '71**, **Dan Gieber '72**, **Mike Gieber '73** and **Tim Gieber '75** are her brothers-in-law. Her sister-in-law **Laurel (Gieber) Waterhouse '79** preceded her in death.

Burrle Elmore '61 passed away October 2, 2017.

Clarene Hample passed away October 4, 2017. **Deborah Hample '17** is her granddaughter.

Ann Byrne passed away November 12, 2017. Her grandsons are Gabe Schepergerdes, **Matt Schepergerdes '10** and **Ben Schepergerdes '14**.

Martha Ryan passed away November 13, 2017. Her daughter is Foundation Board member Cathleen Karcher. Her grandchildren are **Lauren Karcher '07**, **Alex Karcher '11** and **Emily Karcher '13**.

Jimmie D. Henderson passed away November 16, 2017. His granddaughters are **Kate (Bohrer) Harvey '98**, **Emily (Bohrer) Cox '01** and **Molly Bohrer '13**.

Nora Reynolds passed away November 21, 2017. Her grandson is **Andrew Guzman '19**.

W. Thomas Shepard passed away November 24, 2017. **David Shepard '60** and **Stephen Shepard '65** are his siblings. **Thomas R. Shephard '01** and **Matthew Shephard '03** are his nephews. Jay Bonzer, **Laura (Bonzer) Howard '69**, **Alexis (Bonzer) Schmidt '70** and **Dolores (Bonzer) Gandall '73** are his cousins.

Howard Behrens passed away November 27, 2017. Don Behrens, Marist maintenance supervisor, is his son.

Father Patrick LaBelle, O.P. passed away December 11, 2017. Father LaBelle was Marist's chaplain from 1969-1971.

Sister John Maureen Backenstos, born Margaret "Peggy Jean" Backenstos, passed away December 14, 2017 at the age of 95. She was a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 73 years and chose her religious name because of her great love for the Gospel of John. She was a published poet, writer, volunteer firefighter, birthing coach, social justice advocate, friend of rich and poor alike and a world traveler. Sr. John taught English at Marist from 1970-1981 and chaperoned many summer trips to Europe. After her career at Marist, she served at St. Benedict Catholic Church at McKenzie Bridge, teaching religious education and performing her other pastoral duties.

Pauline (Elko) McLaughlin '40 passed away December 15, 2017. **Joseph McLaughlin '13** and **Hannah McLaughlin '19** are her grandchildren.

Pat Moore '40 passed away December 17, 2017.

Gregory Giustina passed away December 19, 2017 at the age of 90. **Sylvia Giustina '73** is his daughter and Foundation Board member **Mark Giustina '99** is his grandnephew.

Gladys Philleo passed away December 19, 2017. Her stepdaughter is Marist music teacher, Alisa Kincade. Her grandchildren are **Shawn Vuksich '92**, **Mary Vuksich '94**, **Rachel Kincade-Earl '06**, **Justin Kalstad '11**, **Emma Kincade '14**, **Luba Kalstad '15** and **Catherine Kalstad '20**.

Joann (Oswald) Breeden '52 passed away December 21, 2017. Her husband is **John Breeden '50**. **Rena (Breeden) Joseph '71**, **Lorene (Breeden) Paakaula '72** and **Donald Breeden '74** are her children. Her grandchildren are **Mahala (Breeden) Shutes '99**, **Christopher Breeden '05** and **Andrew Breeden '06**.

Ray Evonuk '62 passed away December 25, 2017. His siblings are **Ed Evonuk '61**, **Carol (Evonuk) Sullivan '63**, **Christine (Evonuk) Ledgerwood '67**, **Paula (Evonuk) Greif '68**, **Phil Evonuk '71**, **Steve Evonuk '71** and **Marion (Evonuk) Rich '72**. His parents **Walter '36** and **Martha (Guthrie) Evonuk '36** preceded him in death.

Eugene Boyd passed away on December 26, 2017. Becky Boyd and Ryan Elliott, Marist teachers, are his daughter-in-law and son-in-law. **Emily Boyd '15** is his granddaughter.

Mary Kay (Leavy) Brown '76 passed away December 26, 2017. Her parents are Eileen and Ed Leavy, a former Marist Foundation Board member. **Thomas Leavy '70** and **Patrick Leavy '73** are her brothers.

John Eklund passed away January 4, 2018. His children are **Connor Eklund '19** and **Ava Eklund '21**.

John (Jack) Oldham passed away on January 9, 2018. Andy Oldham, Marist vice principal, and Toni Cooper, journalism teacher, are his son and daughter-in-law. **Dillon Oldham '10** and **Zac Oldham '14** are his grandchildren.

Marianne (Wilson) Lilley '48 passed away January 15, 2018. Her children are **Robert Lilley '74**, **Scott Lilley '76**, **James Lilley '78** and **Steve Lilley '85**. Her grandchildren are **Anthony Lilley '07** and **Katie Lilley '09**.

Larry Schmidt passed away January 16, 2018. His children are **Marian (Schmidt) Boileau '72**, **David Schmidt '74**, **Catherine (Schmidt) Krauss '76**, **Rita (Schmidt) Proulx '78**, **Jane Schmidt '79**, **Ruth (Schmidt) Watkins '81**, **Joseph Schmidt '84** and **Teresa Schmidt '87**. **McKenzie (Schmidt) Maaseia '06**,

Brandon Weaver '08, **Kelsea Schmidt '10** and **Brett Proulx '15** are his grandchildren.

Magnhild Sue Gallagher passed away January 18, 2018. **John Gallagher '62**, **Tom Gallagher '64**, **Patricia (Gallagher) Hilliard '67**, **Mark Gallagher '70**, **Mary Lou (Gallagher) Childs '72** and **Maureen (Gallagher) Jensen '72** are her children. **Ann Gallagher '84** and **Amy (Gallagher) Winn '86** are her grandchildren. Her son **Kevin Gallagher '69** preceded her in death.

Rich Schwab passed away January 22, 2018. He was the Marist Football coach from 1973-1978 and is known for fostering the birth of Marist's motto "We Are One" during the team's state championship run in 1973. He also taught industrial arts and woodshop at Marist in the 70s.

Amedeo Rosa II passed away January 23, 2018. Jerry Rosa, Marist custodian, is his brother.

Julia (Swadener) Fudge '84 passed away January 24, 2018. Chris Fudge, the Marist network administrator, is her husband. Her siblings are **Philip Swadener '86**, **Carrie Swadener '87** and **Margaret Swadener '89**. Her sons are **Tony Fudge '16** and **Andy Fudge '20**. Her father Paul Swadener was a former business manager for Marist.

David Kim passed away January 25, 2018. Beth Keech, Marist Spanish teacher, is his daughter-in-law.

Rick Starr '56 passed away on February 3, 2018. **J. Michael Starr '55**, **Shannon (Starr) Seven '61**, **Shelley Starr '65**, **Paul Starr '67**, **Daniel Starr '69**, **Jeremy Starr '71**, **Katie (Starr) Dwight '73**, **Tom Starr '75** and **Kim Starr-Pfau '77** are his siblings. **Jason Starr '88**, **Jade Starr '92** and **Kimberly (Wickham) Starr '03** are his nephews and niece.

Elizabeth "Liz" Chambers passed away February 1, 2018. **Julia (Chambers) Stiltner '09** is her daughter.

Honored and Remembered

An endowed scholarship is a meaningful way to honor a loved one. Currently, 53 scholarships—the Sister John Marureen Backenstos Scholarship, the John & Joann Breeden Family Scholarship, the Kevin Gallagher Memorial Scholarship and the Jack Starr Memorial Scholarship—benefit 89 students and three departments at Marist.

An effort is underway to endow Marist's newest scholarship in the name of Coach Rich Schwab.

Gifts should be made payable and sent to:

Marist High School Foundation
1900 Kingsley Road
Eugene, OR 97402

Please include a note indicating "Coach Rich Schwab Memorial Scholarship."

For information about establishing your own scholarship, please contact Nancy Kiesewetter, nkiesewetter@marisths.org.

Remembering Loved Ones

If you know of an alumnus, family of an alumnus or friend of Marist who is in need of prayers due to the passing of a loved one, please let us know at alumni@marisths.org.

Although care has been taken to ensure the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information provided, we are sometimes incorrect. If any information in this publication is inaccurate, please let us know at alumni@marisths.org.

TAKE

Jon Nuxoll

answers *five* questions in *five* minutes

History teacher Jon Nuxoll was recently recognized by the district chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his contribution to promoting citizenship education in the classroom and school. This is his second recognition; the first was by Local Post 293 in December.

Tell us about this award. Why might you have been nominated?

Andy Oldham made the nomination, so he can better answer the question, but I try to give students the vocabulary to understand ideas and forces that make up our personal, national and global beliefs. That involves learning about, understanding, sorting through and then simplifying lots and lots of ideas, people and events over a long time.

I heard you met an old friend at one of the ceremonies?

Jim Dunne, who taught at Marist before and just after I came, joined us at VFW's awards banquet in December. Jim came as a past colleague as well as a World War II veteran who fought in the Italian campaign. We still get together every month or two for lunch.

Why is history your passion?

I am not sure, except I've always had an interest in it, though not so much in high school—except in CCD classes, where Mrs. Randall taught us a lot about the context in which our Catholic faith developed. Conviction in the importance of history grew in college, when I came across a lot more names and events and ideas I did not recognize because I hadn't learned about them in high school. That gives me a drive to instill in students the vocabulary to understand the world—politically, but also socially, religiously and intellectually—around us. It is also fun.

Surprising him in his classroom, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars present history teacher Jon Nuxoll with an award in January.

How did you find your way to Marist?

One reason I went into teaching was that I had hoped to go back to my hometown of Colfax, Washington—but only after I had first taught somewhere else. But after college I couldn't find a teaching job, so I took a job at a newspaper in Chelan, Washington. I kept a few irons in the fire for teaching, but had just about given up. When visiting friends in Corvallis one fall, I swung by Eugene's Catholic high school. Principal Br. John Cummings saw me for five minutes and asked, "History teachers are a dime a dozen; what makes you any different?" I don't remember my answer, but it was either very good or he was very desperate because nine months later he called about a last-minute opening. Brother John and Jerry Ragan interviewed me on the phone the Wednesday before Labor Day, 1992. I was hired Thursday, accepted Friday, got a U-Haul Saturday, packed Sunday, loaded up Monday, left Chelan Tuesday, arrived in Eugene Wednesday, got an apartment Thursday, put my mother on the train Friday, and started the following Monday. Ed Hummel substituted until I got here and Kevin Connell gave me a tip on an apartment. Barbara Moore, Jean Scholz, Johnnie Mullin, Lindy Freeman and Bob Devereaux helped me navigate a tough first year and Brother Sumner Herrick and I went train-watching on weekends.

Just between you and me, who is your all-time favorite student?

Anyone who thinks that trains are dumb or Charles de Gaulle was a loser. It is fun and quite easy to prove them wrong.



Photo by Andy Oldham

JOIN THE PARTY!

FIESTA DE MARIST

47th Annual Marist Auction
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

Come celebrate Marist at a festive evening inspired by the lively flavors, sounds and warmth of Latin locales. Fiesta de Marist will delight your senses.

Don't miss out on a fun night in support of our students. Auction chairs David & Tracie Gonyea and Andy & Donna Moore invite you to join the fiesta!

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Please email us with current contact information for family members at alumni@marisths.org and we'll see that the Marist Magazine gets sent directly to them. Thank you!

Commemorate Marist's 50th Anniversary



AnnualFUND

During this year of celebration, consider giving a gift to honor your Marist experience. First time donations will qualify for a generous **dollar-for-dollar** match from the Joseph E. Weston Foundation.*

Take advantage of this special occasion and special offer to double the impact of your gift!

Alumni, add your name to the list of your classmates who have already given.

We Are One.

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*Some restrictions apply – see details online.

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 9, 16, 23 Friday Lenten Masses–8 a.m.
- 14-15 End of Winter Music Concerts (all shows 7:30 p.m.)
- 26-30 Spring Break

APRIL

- 14 Mr. Spartan Pageant–7 p.m.
- 20-21, 26-27 Marist Theatre Presents "The Little Mermaid" (all shows 7:30 p.m.)

MAY

- 5 47th Annual Marist Auction–5 p.m.
- 9 Founder's Day Mass–11 a.m.
- 14-15 Spring Music Concerts (all shows 7:30 p.m.)

JUNE

- 1 Senior Farewell Mass–9:27 a.m.
- 8 Baccalaureate Mass–7 p.m.
- 9 Graduation -11 a.m.