

# St. Margaret Mary Spirit



Spring 2016

A Publication for the Alumni of St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, Omaha, NE

Vol. 1, Issue 11

## Back to the Beginning

By Nan Tiedeman

The expression, "you can't go home again," is not applicable to 61st and Dodge St. Nine current faculty/staff members are SMM alumni. From Jim Rouse '58 to Megan Brudney '03 they represent over 45 years of SMM memories. In order to share the alumni's unique perspective, they answered a series of questions. Here are some of their responses:

### What is your most unforgettable SMM memory?

Kate Egan Gilloon '71 recalled the nuns' beautiful convent on Elmwood Road just south of Dodge. Before it was a convent, during Prohibition, it was a speakeasy with a peephole in the backdoor. Students would go over to rake leaves and help with chores. Kate recalled an altar boy catching on fire during Mass. He was standing too close to a candle. Fortunately the priest was able to rip his alb off before causing any harm. She also noted that the building of the overpass was a "big deal." Jim Rouse '58 remembers going to Terry Gleason's house to watch the 1956 World Series (Dodgers vs Yankees) during lunch time. Mary Tarsney Kelly '82 enjoyed Heather Hays Uhl receiving a detention in 2nd grade. Sr. Raymonda gave it to her for doing a jig in the auditorium. Joanie Wachter Knowles '73 shared a story about a girl putting her tongue on the overpass during the winter. When she could not pull it off one of the nuns ran from the school with a bucket of hot water to "unstuck" it. Joanie also recalled the school carnival being held in the gym. The principal, a nun, was a dunk tank participant.



L to R: Ellen Ramsey Paggett '77, Jim Rouse '58, Alice Henry Fleming '60, Mary Tarsney Kelly '82, Heather Hays Uhl '82, Susie Mullin Rogers '82, Megan Brudney '03, Kate Egan Gilloon '71, Joani Wachter Knowles '73

**How is the school different today from when you attended?** Though one of the staff noted that SMM still looks and smells the same, there are many things that have changed. Surprisingly, many of the alumni mentioned lunch. As opposed to current, daily, government-regulated meals, former students were served lunch once a month. The menu included hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, glazed donuts, home-made cupcakes and Goody Pop. The boys and girls ate at separate tables and lunch was served in the current library. The auditorium was strictly used for all school assemblies or plays. Students had one hour and fifteen minutes for lunch/recess. Many went home, or to a friend's house to eat.

**Other differences include:** walking heel-to-toe in silence; 45 to 50 students per classroom; uniforms worn only by girls; brass bells rung to gain the students' attention; no

Continued inside...

## Alum Inducted Into Creighton Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame



Congratulations to Alum Mickey Anderson '82 for his induction into the Creighton Preparatory School Athletic Hall of Fame. Mickey (Prep Class of '86) was one of six athletes in the 2016 Class of Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Prep chooses the inductees for their outstanding contributions to their athletic program. Their commitment, achievement and sense of sportsmanship set the standard for the young athletes who follow in their footsteps today. In the football history of Creighton Prep, Mickey is the only person to be named all metro, all state, a state champion, a national champion and a member of the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Ranked 16th in the country by USA Today, the 1985 football team on which Mickey and many others excelled was honored in 2010 with induction in the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. It is widely acknowledged as the greatest high school football team in Nebraska history.

Mickey is the son of Mary Jo and the late Tal Anderson. He and his wife, Krista, have six children; four of whom currently attend SMM school. Congratulations, Mickey!

### In the Loop...Do you have an interesting update on an SMM alum...

Or other news or memories to share? We welcome your additions to the newsletter. Please send to alumni@smmomaha.org.

We are accepting memorials, honors & donations. Please send to: St. Margaret Mary School 6116 Dodge Street Omaha, NE 68132

## School Wish List

There are so many ways you can help SMM. Currently we need to replace the carpet and paint all classrooms.

If you would like to help with these items please send a contribution to: SMM, Attn: Peggy Grennan/Wish List 123 N. 61st St, Omaha, NE 68132.

Your support and any donation is greatly appreciated!

## St. Margaret Mary Spirit

Published by St. Margaret Mary Catholic School for our alumni.

Volume 1, Issue 11  
Editor/Designer  
Audra Neppel Cavanaugh, '86

Managing Editor  
Don Schinzel

## Notable Alum Accomplishments

- Congrats to Mary Hoover '13 & Carolyn Hoover '12 who received a National Silver Medal in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards held at Carnegie Hall!
- Alum Nikki Maloney '83 has written 5 childrens books. Her latest is The Peppermints: Big Sur. It continues where the series left off. Taking place in the 1950's, The Peppermints provide nostalgia for grandparents and parents, while lending a unique experience of a time gone by for younger readers. The Peppermints series is a heart-felt remembrance of the past and creates a new category of Vintage Modern. Visit NikkiMaloney.com for more information.
- Congrats to Alexandra Bilunas '07 who qualified for the 2016 Olympic Swim Trials in the 50-meter freestyle. Way to go!
- Marika Svolos '07 received the Creighton Leader of Today award. Congratulations!

## Upcoming Reunions

Following are the classes that have upcoming milestone reunions in 2016:

- 2006- 10 yr.; 1996 - 20 yr.; 1986 - 30 yr.; 1976 - 40 yr.; 1966 - 50 yr.; 1956 - 60 yr.
- If you would be interested in planning a reunion for your class please email: alumni@smmomaha.org.

**Email Request!** If you received a paper copy of this newsletter in the mail please send us your email as we would like to begin sending our newsletter electronically. Please send your email to: dschinzel@smmomaha.org.

## 3rd Alumni Basketball Tourney

Ten teams with 13 classes represented - including 1968 played in the 3rd annual alumni basketball tournament.

The Class of 2009 took home the title for the 2nd time - led by Patrick Mulhall (Creighton Prep, Marquette) and John Carter (Omaha Central, UNL), won the championship without big man Will Kathrein. 2009 relied on its quickness and surprisingly great cardio (for college juniors) in running teams off the court. Fast break after fast break in their rout of 2011 and 2006.



Back Row (L-R) Evan Varner, Alex Penrice, Jonny Kalhoff, John McCaslin, Sam Davey  
Front Row (L-R) John Carter, Mitch Findley, Jordan Kyes, Patrick Mulhall, Jack Mikuls

2009 defeated a scrappy class of 2012 led by Central varsity players Patrick Carter and Michael Galeski. Zach Pusic, John Lukowski, and Jay Huber formed a tenacious backcourt that played suffocating defense and made timely jumpers. 2012 made their money at the foul line, hitting many free throws in their victories over 2005 and 2010.

Less than an hour after Steven Dytrych (38) broke Michael Dentlinger's single-game scoring record (32), Taylor Stormberg showed off his D-1 skills and lit up Liam Keating's 2013 squad for 44 points. The Dermot Swanson-Taylor Stormberg matchup in this game was likely the best of the tournament. The class of 2005 won the consolation for the 3rd year in a row.

### Memorable moments:

- Michael Galeski's putback slam
- Swanson vs. Stormberg fireworks show
- Class of 2011 scoring 116 points against the current freshmen
- Tempers flare in 2012-2005 game
- Wiseappel playing with a mouthguard to avoid losing anymore teeth

The tournament's transition to Christmas break was a success! We hope to see you for the next one!

Please remember St. Margaret Mary School for Omaha Gives on May 25th. For more details visit: [www.omaha-gives24.org](http://www.omaha-gives24.org)

**OMAHA GIVES!**  
a 24-hour charitable challenge

## Back to the Beginning Contd'...

air conditioning or computers. And, there was a kickball field where the circle drive is now located.

### What is your favorite "thing" about SMM?

Ellen Ramsey Pagett '77 enjoys the dedicated staff and beautiful campus. Alice Henry Fleming '60 likes the great tradition of academic excellence, wonderful alumni and long lasting friendships. Susie Mullin Rogers '82 loves how many families stay in the parish from generation to generation. Heather Hays Uhl '82 loves the sense of community. She noted that everyone is so quick to help others out whenever they can. SMM is blessed to have this group of life-long Spartans playing an important role in the education of our future alumni.

## Alums on Prep's Hall of Fame Championship Team

SMM has 4 alums that were part of a historic, championship team. Athleticism, size and speed as well as drive and senior leadership, all peaking at the right time, formed the foundation of success for the 1994 Creighton Prep varsity basketball team that finished with a 24-3 record and a state championship that had eluded the Junior Jays for the previous 13 seasons. Alums Ben Fogarty SMM '90 and Vince Pietro '92 were part of the team. In addition, Curt Cyr '82 and Phil Cyr '84 were assistant coaches.

The team was led by two-year captain Erik Lauritsen and fellow senior guard Ben Fogarty '90. They helped keep together a talent-rich squad that played at the highest level and went on to receive a combined eight college scholarships in basketball, football and baseball.

In its reporting of Prep's tournament play, the Omaha World-Herald noted that the team "won with resiliency on Thursday and patience on Friday" before relying on defense Saturday, holding the high-scoring Rockets to two points in the second quarter and scoreless for the final five minutes of the championship game.

Vince Pietro '92—forced the starters to better themselves in practice and stepped up when it counted most during various points of the season.

The 1994 varsity basketball team will forever be considered as one of the all-time great Creighton Prep basketball teams.

## In Memorium

It is with great sadness we remember these alums who have recently passed. Please remember them & their families in your prayers.

- Rev Bob (Robert) Fitzgerald SJ class of 1949
- F. Patrick Matthews class of 1959
- Tom Begley class of 1973

**SMM & Social Media:** visit our [Facebook Page](#) St. Margaret Mary - SMM Omaha Alumni. Also [follow us on Twitter](#) @SMMschoolOmaha. There is also a school blog you can find at: [blog.http://stmargaretmaryparish.blogspot.com](http://stmargaretmaryparish.blogspot.com)



## From the Principal

By Peggy Grennan

Dear Alumni & Friends,

It's hard to believe that there are only five weeks left in the school year. The time has flown by. Our second graders just made their First Holy Communion— what a

precious event that was! Our 8th graders look forward to their Confirmation and Graduation.

Our theme this year *Believe There Is Good In The World: Be the Good* has been played out in many ways.

We've had many service projects this year including:

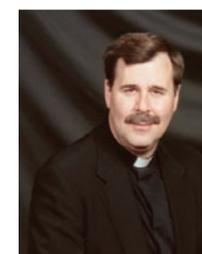
- Altar Serving (6th, 7th, 8th grades)
- Book covering to support our sister school in Uganda
- Casual Days (K-8) that supported various groups including:
  - Our sister school in Omaha— All Saints School
  - The Archdiocesan Seminarian Fund
  - Music in Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund
  - The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society
- Visiting the residents of Mercy Villa and Mercy Care (8th grade)
- Singing for the Senior Saints Christmas Luncheon (3rd grade)
- Switching out the church missalettes seasonally (5th grade)
- Recycling collection (6th grade)
- Classroom trash collection (5th grade)
- Making Valentines for Veterans (4th grade)
- Pen Pals with Ugandan School (7th grade)
- Caretaking the SMM Monarch Meadow Butterfly garden/ weigh station (3rd grade)
- Safety Patrol (8th & 7th grades)
- Advent Projects: Baby Shower for Jesus for Bethlehem House,; Mitten, glove & sock tree for the Stephen Center Shelter
- Food Drive for Heart Ministry Center at Sacred Heart Church
- EPS Baby Bottle for Change Drive
- Book Donations to All Saints School

We have three students currently battling cancer. We've prayed for them, visited them, made cards for them, delivered pumpkins for them and will hold a blood drive & bone marrow donor drive at the end of April. Please keep Lauren (8th), Michael (7th) and Oliver (1st) in your prayers.

We look forward to the Class of 1966 holding their 50th reunion on June 4th. As the year draws to a close, we complete our 94th year of educating the children of St. Margaret Mary Parish. We continue to pray for our alumni and parishioners--thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless you!

*Peggy Grennan*



## From the Pastor

By Father Greg Baxter

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of St. Margaret Mary School,

St. Margaret Mary School has been providing students with a Catholic educa-

tion rooted in Christ and gospel values for nearly a century. Since our founding in 1921, St. Margaret Mary School has been a place where children are educated in mind and heart, formed to be young people of faith, of learning and of virtue.

Today, with over 500 students, St. Margaret Mary School continues our tradition of academic excellence with Christ at the center of our daily actions. We strive to remain ahead of the curve and grow as our world grows, incorporating technology into the classroom and creating twenty-first century learners who are prepared to succeed. We strive to educate our children in the faith, encourage their friendship with the Lord Jesus and prepare them to share in the mission of the Church. From kindergarten through eighth grade, our school provides children with a solid Catholic education.

This, of course, would not be possible without some very dedicated individuals. I want to thank Mrs. Peggy Grennan, our principal, for her exceptional leadership and our outstanding faculty and staff, parents and students, parishioners, friends, and benefactors. Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward in our commitment to the mission of educating the hearts and minds of our students and renew our dedication to Christ, the Light of the World.

I thank you, alumni and friends, for the part that you play in helping us to continue our mission. With your support, we will continue that vision into the future.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Fr. Greg*

## Donations, Memorials & Honors Dedication

*In Memory Of:*

William Joseph Foxley  
Eileen Conroy Foxley  
Jane Foxley  
Sheila Foxley Radford

*Donor Name:*

Elizabeth Foxley Leach  
Elizabeth Foxley Leach  
Elizabeth Foxley Leach  
Elizabeth Foxley Leach

Your contributions are welcome.

Thank you for your Support. We are accepting Donations, Memorials & Honors Dedications.

Please send to: St. Margaret Mary School  
6116 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68132

*Thanks for Your Support!*