



From the HEART

Summer 2015



Honoring Pioneer Class of 1945

David Dick, Alumni President

On September 8, 1941, 27 students registered to become the first freshman class of the newly founded Sedalia Catholic High School (shortly after renamed Sacred Heart High School). It's hard to fathom that three months into their freshman year – on December 7, 1941 – the United States was attacked, and our country was launched into World War II.



In her personal diary, Shirley (Wiemholt) Schieberl ('45) noted: "At the end of one year in High School, we were all very happy to think that we had completed at least one year of high school. Now, as I look back, I feel certain that all of us are saying to ourselves, 'Gee, those days went by in such a hurry, I'm sure the other three will too.'"

And fly they did. On the 70th anniversary of the Class of 1945, we honor the many "firsts" this pioneer class gave us, many of which remain with us today as some of the most cherished representations and traditions of SHS.

Whether it's stepping out onto the stage or the court, we still cheer on our Gremlins, and sing our Alma Mater wearing red and white with pride, just like our founding classmates did. Even more, we honor the vision and leadership of Reverend Father A.J. Brunswick and the dedication of the parents and the Sisters of the Society of the Precious Blood to keep the focus on faith and education, which continues to light our way.

(Pictured: The class of 1945 was honored at the end-of-year all-school Mass in May, which was celebrated by Fr. Mark Miller. Shirley, one of the four living members of her class, was an honored guest at the Mass. She is holding a class photo from 1945 - one of many mementos Shirley kept throughout the years, and recently gave to SHS for its historical records.)

♥ Donate today

ALUMNI NEWS:

Celebrations, Remembrances & Reunions

REUNIONS!

CLASS OF '95 – Sept. 19
CLASS OF '65 – Sept.
19 CLASS OF '05 – Oct. 10

The class of 2005 will celebrate its 10-year reunion. The event is open to alumni and families from the classes of **2003 - 2007**. Go online and enter the code "2005" for more info and to purchase tickets through Sept. 15. Please contact Jen Messick with any questions.

Gremlin Pride goes global! **Matteo Benciolini ('86)** sports his Math Team patch that Richard and Jan Banner gave to him while they were visiting Matteo in Padova, Italy. Matteo joined SHS as an exchange student.



Bryant Motors & Dodge Test Drive Rev Up Donations

SHS recently teamed up with Smith-Cotton School and Bryant Motors to host the "Dodge Booster Club Fundraiser," which raised \$2,040 to be equally split between both schools. The Dodge brand contributed \$20 for each test drive.

Pictured: Kyle Herrick ('82) (center) with Bryant Motors presents SHS administrator, Gary Manning, (left) and S-C asst. principal (right), Joe Doyle, with a ceremonial check.



Richard Bahner Named 2015 Alumnus of the Year

Richard Bahner ('70) was named the Sacred Heart Alumnus of the Year following the conclusion of Sacred Heart's Catholic Schools Week celebration. Presenting the plaque was David Dick, president of the Alumni Association.

Bahner is a math teacher for Sacred Heart. His wife Jan teaches English and drama.

Dick noted that Bahner is a descendent of those who built the original church and school in 1881. Dick is also a former student of Bahner's. "I survived him; he survived me," Dick joked.

"I must say, I was caught completely by surprise," Bahner remarked when he received the award. "I really appreciate this ... it does run in your blood. My father didn't graduate from high school at all. He came to Sedalia to go to work as a sheet metal worker. But Sacred Heart was always a part of his life. The slate shingles that are up there right now, he was part of the crew that put those shingles there. It's my understanding that he was up there on the steeple, working on the cross," he noted.



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Stephanie Hanlon ('10) married **Seth Keethler ('10)** July 19, 2014 at Sacred Heart Church. She currently works as a dental hygienist at Clinton Family Dentistry in Clinton, Mo. Seth is attending graduate school at University of Central Missouri (UCM), working on his master's degree in sports administration. He works as a graduate assistant in the athletics department at UCM.

Scott Christopher ('00) married Tatiana Lazo July 18, 2015 at All Souls Catholic Church in Sanford, Fla. Scott works as a college adviser at Daytona State College in Palm Coast, Fla. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an E-5 from 2003 to 2007 stationed at Jacksonville, Fla.

Rick Mergen ('73) retired from Pepsi after 42 dedicated years. Rick now enjoys more time with his family and his farm!

Sr. Marsha Wilson, ASC is celebrating her 50th anniversary of being a Sister with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She taught at SHS in the '70s. Greetings can be sent to Sr. Marsha at: 926 All Hallows Wichita, KS 67213

David Sparks celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary July 31, 2015 to Peggy. David worked as a teacher and coach at SHS in the early 70s.

Our Dearly Departed Kathy (Rouchka) Knox ('59) July 12, 2015

Erma (Hall) Bagley ('67)



Hagebusch Named 2015 Teacher of the Year

Science teacher and animal lover, Barb Hagebusch, was named the 2015 SHS Teacher of the Year at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week.

Presenting the "Excellence in Education" award was John Swearingen, president of the Sacred Heart School Foundation.

"It's safe to say that Barb brings her classroom to life like no one else," Swearingen said of Hagebusch, who has taught for 34 years, the last eight at Sacred Heart.

"She consistently strives to be her best for each and every student," he said, adding that Hagebusch is the driving force behind the school's annual National Honor Society's blood drive, "helping students look beyond themselves to see a higher calling to serve in more ways than one."

Another major contribution is the NHS's annual Christmas Eve dinner, which serves a hot meal to over 650 elderly and homeless individuals in the area.

"I really appreciate it," Hagebusch said of the award. "I work with a fantastic group of teachers; I couldn't ask for any better."



A Foundation for Our Future

A major factor in our school's growth is the financial support we receive from donors like you to the SHS Foundation Annual Fund Drive. Thank you to everyone who supported our school's Foundation 2014 Annual Fund Drive. [\(See list of donors.\)](#) As the foremost fundraising event for our school, your gift is critical to our school's operational budget. Last year, we reached an all-time high of nearly \$150,000 in pledges!

We are now well underway with our 2015 Annual Fund

July 6, 2015

Carol (Karigan) Anglin ('68)
March 26, 2015

Don Weller ('45)
February 8, 2015

Jean Antoinette Ransdell
(mother of Bonnie Diefendorf,
long-time SHS teacher)
August 3, 2015

[ORDER YOUR GREMLIN
GEAR ONLINE TODAY!](#)

VIDEOS

Education You Can
BELIEVE IN!



Pastor
Fr. Mark Miller

**School Board
President**
Donna Beykirch

Administrator
Dr. Gary J. Manning

Assistant Principal
Holly Wilson

**SHS Foundation
President**
John Swearingen

Development Director
[Liz Suter-Van Leer](#)

Alumni Association
David Dick
[Dianne Withers](#)



Drive. We hope your name is on the list of 2015 donors, which will be posted at the end of the year. You now can make a gift [online](#). Thank you for putting "Heart" into our children's education by making the school a priority in your charitable giving.



SHS News In a Nutshell

Don't let the brevity fool you. SHS continues to make BIG headlines. Keep up on all the latest happenings by following us on [Facebook](#).

- Holly Wilson has been appointed assistant principal for the 2015-2016 school year. In this full-time role, Wilson will assist in the direction, supervision and evaluation of the school's K-12 instructional program. Wilson succeeds Dr. Jim Davis, who retired at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.



Last school year, Wilson taught Junior High Language Arts and Social Studies at SHS. She also served as National Junior Honor Society adviser.

Wilson has eight years teaching experience at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. She has a K-8 principal certification, and received her Master's of Education in Administration from William Woods University in Fulton, Mo.

- For the first time in school history, a two-way tie in student votes led to the crowning of two SHS Homecoming queens. Mary Fischer and Erin O'Connor were both crowned queen during the SHS coronation ceremony, which took place prior to the start of the Varsity boy's basketball game against Northwest. Included in the court were Mason Kelchner, Mary Fischer, Ben Smeltzer, Erin O'Connor (all four pictured), Claudia Cox, Chase Lyles, Lexi Krumroy and Garrett Strange.



- From a nationwide pool of nearly 500 nominees, Sacred Heart School student, Zach Parsons, was one of six recipients selected as the first-ever 2015 Operation Homefront National Guard Military Child of the Year.

Zach, who will be a junior at SHS, received \$10,000, a laptop computer and other donated gifts, and was flown to Washington, D.C., for a special recognition gala on April 16, 2015. The awards were presented by senior leaders of each branch of service.

Zach said one of the best moments of the trip to Washington D.C. was receiving the Military Child of the Year award and meeting Army General Martin Dempsey - 18th Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff. (Pictured below.)

Zach shares that his life was dramatically changed when his dad deployed and was injured. "When the main figure leaves your household there is a spiral of things to deal with. My dad was head of household, so when he left there were so many things left to do on the farm, as well as keep our life together. Dealing with that empty space is tough." Zach has continued to uphold a 3.85 GPA and multiple leadership positions while adjusting to these new roles.

Zach is an active member of 4-H both at the local and state level. He is currently President of the Johnson County Council, West Central representative for Missouri State Council and the National 4-H Congress delegate from Missouri. He also competes in public speaking events in 4-H and as a member of the Sacred Heart Speech Team. He is an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Whiteman Air Force Base and he serves as a junior deacon for the Jacoby Chapel Presbyterian Church.



- Elementary students honored Elvis Presley on the anniversary year of his 80th birthday by performing a number of his iconic songs at the annual elementary spring concert. Kindergarten through sixth-grade students entertained a near capacity-full gymnasium with choreographed songs like Teddy Bear, Blue Suede Shoes, Heartbreak Hotel and Hound Dog. (Pictured: Jesus Alvarez (front and center), along with his first-grade classmates, rock out to Johnny B. Goode. The song was never recorded by Elvis, but was included in some of his live shows.



Copyright Protected Image

- The Sacred Heart School Math Team wrapped up the year with an undefeated season and its 7th consecutive Kaysinger Conference Championship. Some highlights of this accomplishment include the fact that SH swept the top student spots in each class.



- The Gremlins soccer team scored a history-making season, taking third place in state this year. The Gremlins lost to the Canton Tigers, 2-1, in November, ending their season with a 21-6 record for 2014. This was the first state final four appearance for our soccer program.



Heart to Heart with Shirley (Weimholt) Schiberl ('45)

By: Sarah Benitz ('14)

Editor's Note:

The "Heart to Heart" series features alumni interviews conducted by 2014 graduates Grace Callis and Sarah Benitz.

Shirley (Weimholt) Schieberl, a graduate of the first class of Sacred Heart School in 1945, is a font of knowledge and a very caring woman. From Shirley's deep love for Sacred Heart School to her knowledge of how it began, she is truly an asset to this religious community. She also lived through World War II and truly understands the value of life, which shows in her undying Pro-Life convictions. I feel very lucky have had the chance to interview this wonderful lady. – Sarah Benitz

Q: What was your favorite class in high school? Why?

A: I really just liked school in general. I liked diagramming in English, times tables in math, and music class.

Q: What was the general expectation for students after they graduated high school?

A: Not many students had a lot of plans with World War II occurring. Some students went to college. I planned to get married; I never had any plans for college.

Q: What classes did you take in high school?

A: I took geometry, physical education, English, music, history and civics.

Q: How did your education at Sacred Heart School help you in your career?

A: Geometry helped me to format pictures when I worked for Interstate Studios.

Q: What sports or extracurricular activities did you take part in while attending Sacred Heart School?

A: I played volleyball and participated in scouts during high school.

Q: Where did you work?

A: During my senior year I worked for a dentist office. I also worked at Interstate Studios for a short time.

Q: What advice would you give to students currently attending SHS?

A: I would tell students to do the best they can; not everyone learns at the same pace, but they eventually learn it.

Q: Who were your favorite teachers?

A: My favorite teacher was Sister Mary Rosetta.

Q: What do you think Sacred Heart School does particularly well?

A: Sacred Heart School has great teachers who have been there a long time and they also have very good ratings. Additionally, they award many scholarships.

Q: What was a typical school day like (schedule)?

A: All classes were taught in what is the old part of the school today, the center part. Some classes were taught on the stage and I had a study hall there. We also had outside

walks for exercise.

Q: What did you like most about Sacred Heart School?

A: I liked the togetherness as a class the best and I just liked school in general, especially music class.

Q: What was life like in Sedalia during World War II?

A: Everyone was very afraid because of the number of people who had been killed. Most of the boys in my class went into the military. Sugar and stamps was rationed. We even saved used cooking oil.

Note: You can read more about Shirley's account of the first four years of Sacred Heart School in the Sacred Heart School 50th Anniversary Commemorative Yearbook.

