

Alumni News

Saint Philip Catholic Central High School

Vol. 11, No. 1

2011

There's no place like

H
O
M
E



Lone Meyer, Class of 1933



Ruth Creager, Class of 1931

2010 Homecoming Highlights & More Inside

Alumni Calendar * STP Smiles and Milestones
Distinguished Alumni * Hall of Fame Inductees
Alumni Column * Homecoming Photos
Classmate Updates * STP Today
BCACS Foundation News

Celebrating 50 years...



...STP Class of 1960

Alumni's Guide to Who, What, Where, When & Why

TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK

15th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion

All alumni and friends are invited **October 8, 2011** to the 15th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion. Invitations for this full day of nostalgia, food and fun will be sent mid-summer.

The day begins at 10 a.m. with the Alumni Association Annual Meeting in Room 107. The Tiger Tailgate Party starts at noon and Big RED Football kicks off at **1:30 p.m.** at C. W. Post Field. During the game we will be honoring the State Championship Football Teams from 1955, 1974 and 1985. We will also honor the 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.

The festivities continue at St. Philip Church, where we will celebrate the **4:30 p.m.** mass to honor all STP alumni. The **Class of 1961 will be recognized** as they mark their 50 year reunion.

Cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 pm in the recently constructed Parish Center at St. Philip School, followed by dinner.

The 2011 Distinguished Alumni will be honored and the school will be opened for all alumni to explore. Reconnect and reminisce while wandering the hallways and classrooms of your alma mater. Don't miss a moment of the fun. Mark your calendars today!

All Proceeds Support BCACS Scholarships

Sheila Guerra Memorial Golf Outing

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Allwyn Downs

Contact Vicky Groat
vgroat@bcacs.org or 269.963.4503

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951,
1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981,
1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006



CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE YEAR HOMECOMING WEEKEND

SUMMER IN THE CITY 5K RUN AND 1-MILE FUN RUN/WALK

Join us Saturday, August 13, 2011 for the Summer in the City 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk at Bailey Park. The 1-Mile run will start at 9 a.m., with the 5K starting at 9:30 a.m.

The course is within Bailey Park on paved paths and

does not cross any roads.

"My wife, Ann and daughter, Rachel, and I ran the inaugural race last August," said **John Gallagher, Class of 1978.** "It was very well organized and lots of fun for the runners and volunteers. I encourage all alumni to

come out in 2011 to show your support for your alma mater and Big RED athletics."

Awards will be given for age groups and split by male and female. There will be a water station and refreshments after the race.

◁The 2nd▷ Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

Friday, November 25, 2011
SHEILA GUERRA TIGER DEN GYMNASIUM

For details contact
Nick Buckley, Class of 2003, at
llnickj@hotmail.com

AUGUST 13, 2011 STP Alumni Summer Block Party

Watch bcacs.org,
the STP Alumni Facebook page
at "saintphilipalumni", and your
mailbox for more details

21st Annual Michael J. Hume BIG RED OPEN

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011

BINDER PARK GOLF COURSE

Contact Mary Rabbitt for more
information or to register
mrabbitt@bcacs.org
269.963.4503

PLANNING A REUNION?
HAVE STP ALUMNI NEWS TO
SHARE?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Alumni News
269.963.4771
stpalumni@bcacs.org



Cooper James is the son of **Chris Rabbitt, Class of 2000**, and Kyra Rabbitt.



Charlie Buckley is the daughter of **Nick Buckley, Class of 2003**, and **Alexis (Rainier) Buckley, Class of 2004**.

* Class Reunions * Engagements * Weddings * Anniversaries * Babies * Special Moments * Holiday Parties

STP ALUMNI SMILES AND MILESTONES



Susie (Smiley) Lorenc, Class of 1994, her husband, **Simon**, her sons, **Benjamin and Zachary**, welcome new baby, **Caroline**.

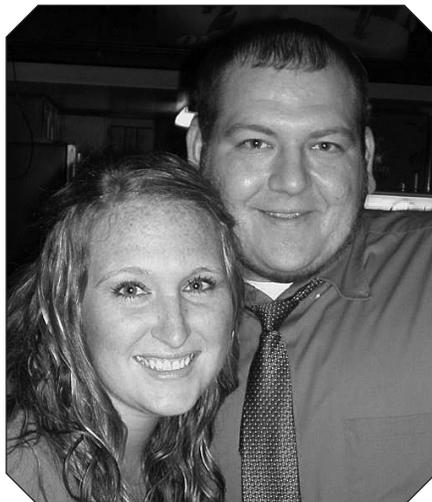


THE MIGHTY TINY TIGERS: (Left) **Cameron Barker** is the son of **Andrea (Miller) Barker, Class 2000**, and **Jake Barker, Class of 2001**. (Right) **Olivia Westphal** is the daughter of **Lisa (Buckley) Westphal, Class of 1998**, and **Jason Westphal**.



Jackson, Tyler and Brady Duval are the sons of **Ryan Duval, Class of 1995**, and **Jenny Duval**.

Chad Francisco, Class of 1998, and **Channan Kositzke** are planning their wedding for **October 22, 2011**



Abby (Mohan) Melad, Class of 1999, celebrating together with other STP Alumni at her wedding on **July 30, 2010** in **Charlevoix, Michigan**.

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

Making Life Challenging...



BCACS Foundation Trustees get a "sneak peek" of the new Parish Center.

In the last issue of the Alumni News we celebrated the continued success of the In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign and what it means to St. Philip.

This year's students are learning an invaluable life lesson -- flexibility. Those alumni who attended the Homecoming Reunion this past October shared in this lesson as all attendees traipsed up the "red door" stairs to enter the gymnasium and were relegated to the girls' locker room if the need arose. Today's students enjoy their lunch breaks in Mrs. Smith's Biology classroom, make the mad dash to the lower level for a restroom break and study to the whines of drills, saws and jack hammers.

And, we do so very anxiously and appreciatively! On January 24th, in the wee hours of the morning, Jenna Behnke and Zoe Saye, Class of 2011, arrived to St. Philip, made their way to the girls locker room, and now proudly boast that they were the "first" to take showers in the new locker room! We are thrilled to host visiting teams in our renovated gymnasium, complete with new boys' and girls' locker room facilities. Not to worry Lady Tigers. Your old locker room will be renovated and serve as the new concession stand. For our Tiger Guys, your locker room will be deemed "storage space."

In all seriousness, much has been accomplished, academically and physically, toward the transformation of St. Philip Catholic Central High School. We are hopeful that our Class of 2011 will celebrate their graduation reception in the new 20,000 square foot parish center. The Grotto, originally funded by the Class of 1951, will be re-constructed on the grounds of the Seton Center. We gratefully acknowledge the Class of 1951 who contributed over \$50,000 for its re-construction. Your generosity is remarkable! **Mary Rabbitt, Class of 1974**, St. Philip Secretary, (Yes! Mary is still here!) will relocate to the new school administrative offices. Finally, St. Philip School's main floor, cafeteria, rest rooms and gymnasium will be fully handicap accessible. We welcome your visit. Just remember, our new main entrance is located near the north doors of St. Philip Church!

We continue to move forward with our aggressive capital campaign. To complete all aspects of the renovation, we must raise an additional \$4 million. We are thankful to the many alumni who have already committed to the project. Watch your mail for information about the "Challenge of the Decades" -- together, we can fulfill this mission and ensure STP's future!

— KATHY GALLAGHER, BCACS FOUNDATION

a conversation with STP Principal Kathy Grosso



PRINCIPAL OBSERVATIONS

On Academics: Along with the formation and integration of our faith, academics are one of our strongest assets. We are known in our local community, as well as in the circle of college admissions counselors, as a school that offers a rigorous and meaningful academic program. Our test scores that surpass all other schools in the area support this belief as well as the high rate of college acceptance and success. The 1:1 laptop initiative has proven to be an invaluable resource in and out of the classroom. This 'learning tool' provides up-to-date resources, gives every student experience in the use of a course management tool, and provides the opportunity to learn how to use technology in the context of learning.

On Facilities: One of the highlights of this month has been the opening of the new locker rooms, athletic hallway, and main floor restrooms. Students are excited about these new additions and you can feel a sense of pride among them as well as their parents and staff. Our seniors look forward to being the first senior class to have their picture taken on the new entryway steps in the spring. We are also excited to hold the BCACS Foundation graduation reception in the new Parish Center.

On Internships: The internship program really supports our goals of college acceptance and success. Internships tend to be one of the highlights of our students' high school experience. The start of the second semester marks the beginning of the internships for most of the senior class. Students attend their internship every day from 1:00-3:00. They are placed in a variety of locations including Team Active, Battle Creek Police Department, Southwest Michigan Rehab, and the Veterans Administration. We continue to be appreciative of the community support and willingness to work with our students and provide them with an opportunity to really 'try out' a career interest.

On Enrollment: The first question that many alumni have is "What is STP's enrollment?" Although we have a decline this year, over time it has been stable. It is certainly not at the peak as in the 70's, but comparable to Catholic schools in our region. One vital factor to enrollment is the BCACS Foundation's role in raising tuition assistance dollars. Each year, nearly 25% of our students rely upon a scholarship to attend STP. Our gratitude for our alumni support!

STP Students Head South to Serve

VALERIE MOREL, CLASS OF 2011

On June 20, 2010, a group of 15 St. Philip High School students and five adult chaperones traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for a week long service trip. HandsOn Battle Creek and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation have sponsored the program.

The students met twice a month throughout the school year to plan the trip. The group began by choosing a location, selecting between Mississippi, New Orleans, and New Mexico. The students were responsible for researching issues affecting many New Mexico residents. After choosing poverty as the issue they wanted to address, they came up with a list of potential service projects they could do while in New Mexico.

The group worked on Santo Domingo Pueblo, a Native American reservation north of Albuquerque, as well as helped out at a local charter school in Albuquerque. The projects chosen included building a new playground, doing various clean-up projects on the pueblo, and hosting a "block party" for the families we served.



Internships



STP Seniors, T.R. George and Brenden Barlow, intern at Western Michigan University School of Aviation.

A Legacy of Champions

STP celebrates their 16th Volleyball State Championship ...a state record.



Science & Space

The sciences at St. Philip continue to be enhanced and expanded thanks to the Norman "Bud" Lawrence Fund for the Sciences (Class of 1951).

Kyle Griffin, Class of 2011, assembling a telescope in astronomy class.



Creatively Speaking...



Katie George, Class of 2012, is working with Glass.

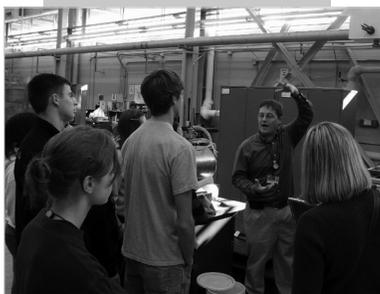
Whether crafting glass beads, expressing oneself in watercolor, making beautiful stained glass boxes, honing one's drawing skills, or creating a beautiful ceramic vessel, this has been a fantastic year for Fine Arts at St. Philip. In January, five students represented St. Philip at the Open Door Gallery student invitational in Sturgis. This March, seven students will represent us at the Art Center of Battle Creek's "Class Act." Also with the support of a Binda Foundation grant, high school art club students presented "A Day with Monet" to elderly members of our community in December. Students had a wonderful time sharing what they learned and expressing themselves creatively!

GAIL SUESS-BRANDOW, STP ART INSTRUCTOR

Spiritual Gifts

St. Philip Catholic Central High School Seniors participated in their annual retreat at The University of Notre Dame in November. Throughout their two-day retreat they reflected on their high school years and changing lives. The seniors focused on understanding that God guides them forever. The highlight was a candle light procession to The Grotto. The retreat culminated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Celebration of the Mass. St. Philip Catholic Central engages each student through annual grade level retreats - - an educational experience unmatched.

STP Seniors praying at The Grotto at the University of Notre Dame.



MSU National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory Visit: (left to right) Makayia Hargrove, Dan Riggs, Aletia Memmott, Charlotte Long, Ned Ingalls, Dr. Zachary Constan, Nancy Lassen.



(Left to right) David Ryan, Barb Ryan, Kathy (Ryan) Sierra, Mary Jo (Hendrickson) McPeake, James Palmer, David Austin, and Michael Rae

JAMES PALMER, CLASS OF 1963

James (Jim) Palmer was a 1963 graduate from St. Philip. Jim was nominated by Dennis Cripps, Class of 1963 who expressed, “Jim has earned a distinguished career in business, while being totally dedicated to service to others.” Jim remains dedicated to service to others as exemplified by his mission work in Haiti, the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina and most important, his prison ministry volunteering at Pugsley Correctional Prison.

DAVID AUSTIN, CLASS OF 1965

David Austin is a 1965 graduate from St. Philip. David was nominated by Mary (Meyer) Austin, Class of 1966, who expressed “David has earned the respect of his associates as an officer from the Portland Police Bureau, as a volunteer coach for the Spartan Track Club (Oregon) and as a scholar-athlete at St. Philip.” David’s athletic achievements rival his professional achievements and community service. A member of the 1964 Class C State Championship 880 Relay Team, David has spent most of the past 40 years coaching track and field at the high school and club levels in Portland.

MARY JO (HENDRICKSON) McPEAKE, CLASS OF 1969

Mary Jo (Hendrickson) McPeake was Salutatorian for the Class of 1969. Mary Jo was nominated by classmate, Mary (Atchley) Vasquez who shared, “Mary Jo generously gives of her time and is instrumental in accomplishing so many good things, whether it be for her family, friends, parish or her alma mater. She truly demonstrates the heart and soul of St. Philip in the life of service that she leads.”

DAVID K. RYAN, CLASS OF 1953

David K. Ryan is being honored as a Distinguished Alumni, posthumously, as his vision and leadership continue to be profoundly realized today. David graduated from St. Philip in 1953. David was nominated by Cathy and Mike Hughes, long-time friends and fellow lay leadership within our Catholic schools. They shared, “With all of his professional accomplishments, David always felt that his greatest achievement was serving St. Philip School. Today, he would be very proud of the Catholic schools and the success of the students, in academics, sports, quality of their lives and their community ministry.”

MICHAEL J. RAE, CLASS OF 1960

Michael J. Rae graduated in the Class of 1960. Mary (McVeigh) Nowlin, Class of 1976 nominated Michael, sharing “Michael is dedicated to service and leadership for our community. He has a strong Catholic belief and background which have given him a foundation to build a better community. He is a loyal friend and a great source of comfort.”

To review the complete biographies of our 2010 Distinguished Alumni, please visit [www.bcacs.org/Alumni/Distinguished Alumni](http://www.bcacs.org/Alumni/Distinguished%20Alumni).



RUTH AND BILL McVEIGH

The St. Philip High School 2010 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is dedicated to the memory of Ruth and Bill McVeigh. Their tenure at St. Philip spanned twenty-five years as their fourteen children were educated at St. Philip School.

The McVeigh parents understood the value that an education at St. Philip offers, both on the field and in the classroom. Throughout their lives, Ruth and Bill McVeigh generously supported Catholic education in Battle Creek.

Their legacy lives on through the Ruth and Bill McVeigh Scholarship Fund which ensures that future scholar-athletes will benefit from an education at St. Philip Catholic Central High School. We remain deeply appreciative for their devotion and support for Big RED Athletics.



TERRY NEWTON

Terry is recognized for his commitment to our Catholic schools as coach, former athletic director and assistant principal at St. Philip Catholic Central High School. Terry has an extensive career in coaching baseball, basketball and football.

Terry also has a distinguished record of athleticism during his high school and college careers including playing on the 1968 Football State Championship Team for Battle Creek Central. He graduated from Albion College where he played football and baseball, earning Hall of Fame Recognition for both sports.

Under Terry's leadership, the St. Philip athletic programs expanded to include soccer and the re-institution of cross country. He is responsible for overseeing the renovation of the Sheila Guerra Gymnasium, Walsh Field at St. Philip and the development of the softball field at St. Joseph School. He successfully negotiated St. Philip's move to the South Central Athletic Conference. Terry served on the American Amateur Baseball Congress Board of Directors and was instrumental in the establishment of the Stan Musial Amateur Baseball Association in Battle Creek.

Terry is currently the director of Baseball Operations and Bailey Park Facilities. Terry and his wife, Barb, have five children, two currently enrolled at the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and three who have graduated from St. Philip Catholic Central High School.



PATRICK DOWNEY, CLASS OF 1996

Pat was a four year member of the St. Philip Varsity Baseball and Football Teams. He earned All-Conference, All-City honors for both baseball and football and All-State Honor Team for football. He was named a Detroit Free Press Scholar-Athlete in 1996. He was a three-year starting catcher for the Tigers, leading them to League, District and Regional Championships his senior year. Pat was a four-year member of the Albion College Baseball Team and a member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Pat was the head Varsity Baseball coach at St. Philip. He was assistant varsity coach for four years. Pat and his wife, Amiee, have two daughters, Ellery and Leah. He is Vice President of Investments for Chase Bank. He also is a member of St. Joseph Parish, where he serves on the Parish Council.

Pat was the head Varsity Baseball coach at St. Philip. He was assistant varsity coach for four years. Pat and his wife, Amiee, have two daughters, Ellery and Leah. He is Vice President of Investments for Chase Bank. He also is a member of St. Joseph Parish, where he serves on the Parish Council.

MARY REILLY

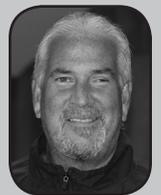


Mary Reilly has displayed the finest example of "service" to her community. Her commitment to our schools began in 1987 when she actively volunteered at St. Joseph School. Since that time, Mary has coordinated hundreds of parent volunteers in support of the St. Philip Athletic Department, its student athletes, athletic directors and coaching staff. Whether it was by organizing athletic department banquets, team meals, gate volunteers or all aspects of planning and staffing concessions for every athletic event, Mary ensured that our students and staff were able to devote their time and talent to academics and athletics.

Mary also volunteered in a school leadership capacity through her longevity on the school board, middle school parent advisory group, the BCACS Strategic Planning Committee and most recently as co-chairperson for the In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign.

Mary earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. Her Master's Degree is from Western Michigan University. Mary recently retired as an educator at the Battle Creek Public Schools. Mary and her husband, Mike, have four children. All are graduates from St. Philip Catholic Central High School.

PAT FROST, CLASS OF 1970



Pat Frost, along with his classmates, are celebrating their 40th reunion this year. During his years at St. Philip, he lettered eight times: one in football, three in basketball and four in baseball. Following graduation, Pat attended Aquinas College on a basketball scholarship. His career was shortened due to a knee injury and surgery. He returned home and went on to play basketball for Kellogg Community College.

Pat coached junior varsity baseball one year before he began as assistant varsity coach in the early 1970's. During this time, he helped coach the team to the state semi-finals. From 2006 to 2010, he has been assistant Varsity Basketball coach. Last year, he helped to lead the St. Philip Varsity Team to a 23 and 2 record, while the players set many new school records. Pat has played on or coached some of the best basketball teams in the history of St. Philip.

Pat and his wife, Marcia, have one son, Mykl and three daughters, Erin, Tara and Lauren. His best buddy is his granddaughter Isabella. Pat is proud to be inducted in to the St. Philip Hall of Fame and is very thankful to faculty, classmates and especially teammates who helped to shape him into the person he is today.

MARIAN JUSICK



Marian Jusick receives an Honorary St. Philip Varsity Letter from Coach Mark Beckley. She is being honored for decades of involvement, record keeping and support for St. Philip Athletics, especially for the sport of basketball.

Homecoming 2010...

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS, THE CLASS OF 1970



HOMECOMING COURT: (SEATED)



DANIEL SWEENEY, MATT BENZIK, KAITLYN ASKER, VALERIE MOREL AND ZOE SAYS (STANDING) JOE MARTIN

MARRIOTT, CLASS OF 1944, REVEREND CHURCH FISCHER AND JOSEPH MARRIOTT, CLASS OF 1944



MARY LOU (DOUD) ATHA

CELEBRATING 56 YEARS, THE CLASS OF 1944

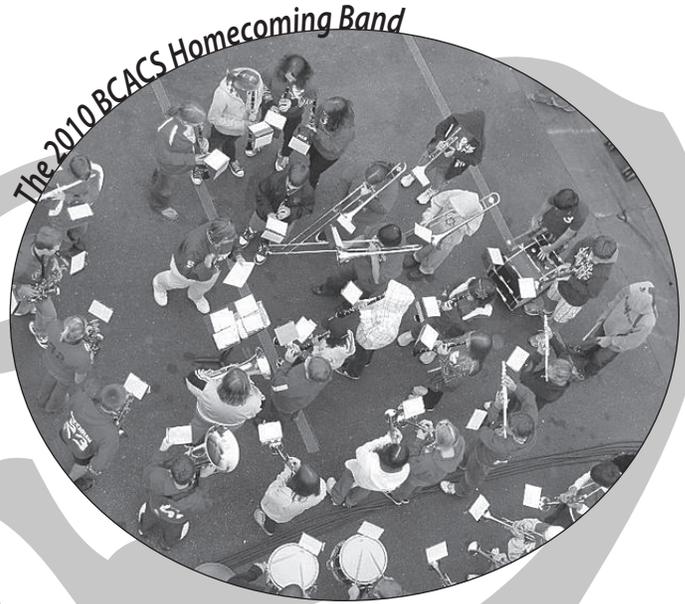


STP BROTHERS: DENNIS REILLY, CLASS OF 1970 AND MIKE REILLY, CLASS OF 1968

...worth another look



HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) TERRY NEWTON, MARIAN JUSICK, MARY REILLY, PATRICK DOWNEY, CLASS OF 1996 AND PAT FROST, CLASS OF 1970



The 2010 BCACS Homecoming Band



EARL BRUTSCHE, CLASS OF 1944, AMY BAUMAN, CLASS OF 1977, AND KATHY GALLAGHER



REVEREND ROBERT CREAGAN



TIGER CLAN: DAVID RYAN, CLASS OF 1983, BARB RYAN AND KATHY (RYAN) SIERRA, CLASS OF 1985



A HAPPY STP FAMILY: STEVE McVEIGH, CLASS OF 1970, BOB McVEIGH, CLASS OF 1972, KATHLEEN (McVEIGH) COFFMAN, CLASS OF 1964, MARY (McVEIGH) NOWLIN, CLASS OF 1976, A.D., VICKY (GUERRA) GROAT, CLASS OF 1985

"How do I want to be remembered?"

All the alumni that I meet share special memories of their time at St. Philip. Their memories may be about their studies, the clubs that they belonged to, the teams that they were members of, or their friends, teachers, and clergy. There is truly a spirit at St. Philip that binds generations of students and faculty together throughout their lives. Our alumni are the foundation of that Spirit.

St. Philip remains strong today as it continues to excel in academics and athletics, to provide a solid moral and spiritual foundation and to ensure that our graduates are well-prepared for college and beyond.

As we celebrate the closing of Catholic Schools Week--2011, we reach out to you--whose lives and futures were influenced by your years at St. Philip. We want you to be a part of the continued growth and success of your alma mater. It is through your generous support that STP will remain the cornerstone of Catholic education in Battle Creek.

A pledge envelope is included with this issue. Please respond generously. Imagine the impact if every alumni made an annual commitment--at whatever level is possible, to their alma mater.

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION . . . NOW AND FOREVER

Just as the BCACS Foundation works to provide resources for today's students, we are committed to ensuring Catholic education . . . forever. Legacy gifts, planned gifts and bequests are invested

permanently in our endowment fund. Each year, a percentage of our endowment fund's annual earnings are used to support program enhancements and tuition assistance funds at your alma mater.

Do you ever ask yourself, "How do I want to be remembered?" It is a gift when you communicate your final wishes with your loved ones. Creating a will lets your family know that you care about them. And, your bequest expresses your permanent testimonial about what is most important to you.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Cheryl and Chuck Adams, Class of 1967. To honor the memory of their daughter, Carrie, Class of 1991, Cheryl and Chuck established the Carrie Adams

Scholarship Fund at the BCACS Foundation. This scholarship fund provides tuition assistance for students to attend our schools. Throughout their lives, Cheryl and Chuck are ensuring tuition assistance for qualifying students. We remain profoundly grateful for Cheryl and Chuck's generosity, careful planning and their commitment to future generations of St. Philip students.

Recently, Chuck shared, "When we die--what do you do? Your spirit lives forever. You should consider keeping your spirit alive, forever, through your bequest to the BCACS Foundation or parish. Giving a percentage of your earthly goods will always keep your spirit alive. It's our obligation to do what is right for our children... to keep the faith."

KATHY GALLAGHER, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

*"It's
our obligation to do
what is right for our children...
to keep the faith."*

CHUCK ADAMS, CLASS OF 1967

IN THANKSGIVING

St. Philip Catholic Central High School and the BCACS Foundation extend their deep appreciation for recent gifts received in memory or honor of these STP Alumni.

GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Agnes (Byrne) Cull, Class of 1934
Alvin Schmitzer, Class of 1934
W. Fred Mangan, Class of 1944
Gloria (Buckley) Steinbrunner, Class of 1944
Joan (Burgie) Parker, Class of 1950
Norman "Bud" Lawrence, Class of 1951
Jean (McVeigh) Adams, Class of 1958
Sara (McGuire) Korsak, Class of 1961
Michael Smith, Class of 1961
Frank Quartermaine, Class of 1961
Mark Nicolai, Class of 1965
Michael Brandt, Class of 1990
Carrie Adams, Class of 1991

Deceased Members of the Class of 1974:

David Abbey, Patrice Brady, Larry Johnson, Mike Muma,
Karan (Vaughan) Simon, Mark Tuttle,
Carol (Wathen) Myers, and Mike Wilcox

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Cathy (Rae) Kunitzer, Class of 1962
J.P. Bauman, Class of 1999
Ben Tanoff, Class of 2010
St. Philip Class of 1978

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the STP family have passed from this life to the next. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Agnes (Byrne) Cull, Class of 1934
Alvin Schmitzer, Class of 1934
Patricia Jennings, Class of 1937
David Dyas, Class of 1938
Anna (Horvich) Moran, Class of 1938
Nellie (VanderPoel) Stevens, Class of 1941
Lorraine (Foley) McKnight, Class of 1943
Rose (Howard) Castanier, Class of 1943
Jeanette (Goble) Smith, Class of 1944
Gloria (Buckley) Steinbrunner, Class of 1944
Rudolph Bartholomew, Class of 1946
Gertrude (Osborn) Odette, Class of 1949
Joan (Burgie) Parker, Class of 1950
Patricia (Fahndrich) Currier, Class of 1951
Dora (Tonelli) Morales, Class of 1953
Norma (Beaton) Conklin, Class of 1956
Kenneth McDonald, Class of 1957
Frank Quartermaine, Class of 1961
Arleen (Llewellyn) Tremblay, Class of 1964
Mark Nicolai, Class of 1965
Ronald Schmitt, Class of 1965
Marcia (Rondeau) Bracy, Class of 1968
Michael Wilcox, Class of 1974
Thomas Beck, Class of 1978
Gino Guarniere, Class of 1979
Bethany Richmond, Class of 2000

ALUMNI COLUMN: THE MEANING OF SERVICE



**SERVING OUR
COUNTRY**
VERONICA (GOMEZ) ROBINSON
CLASS OF 2001

My squadron Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 9, HSC-9, is currently at the tail end of work-ups for deployment. We are attached to Carrier Air Wing 8 aboard the USS George H. W. Bush. We are set to deploy early this spring. We spent the last five weeks in Fallon, Nevada training with our entire Air Wing learning how to fly safely and efficiently in the mountains which is the most common environment we would encounter if we go to Afghanistan. The nature of our deployment is still unknown and we probably won't find out until right before we leave, but they are preparing us for everything!

We have done numerous boat detachments over the last 8 months getting the Air Wing as well as the boat ready for deployment. Our most common mission we train to is Search and Rescue. We provide quick response in case of aircrew ejecting over water or personnel falling overboard. We also have a wide range of skill sets we train to including passenger transport, Anti Surface Warfare, Combat Search and Rescue, Vertical Replenishment, and Humanitarian Aide. My squadron had the opportunity to spend 6 weeks in Haiti in response to the earthquake, taking part in hundreds of critical MEDEVACS, and providing over 400 TONS of food and water to earthquake victims.



**SERVING OUR
WORLD**
MARK & LINDSEY THOMAS
CLASS OF 2001

The very first Peace Corps volunteer we ever met was Mrs. Carol Smith, our former teacher at St. Philip. Her class was small and personal which allowed us to really get to know one another. As the semester went on she told us many stories of her experience in Central America during her service, making sure to show us her old pictures and even describe the food that she ate. This was where our desire to join the Peace Corps started and by sophomore year of college we were both quite certain that we would someday make this dream a reality.

There was a certain excitement that we experienced when we would show up in a foreign country having little knowledge of the language, culture, or even how to get around. As we began to become settled into our new environment it took a hold of us and made us a part of it. There was and still is a sense of wonder that we feel when we go out into the world and have the opportunity to explore all of the beauty and diversity that it holds.

Other than our pure love to explore, there was also a duty that we feel compelled to undertake. That is a desire to give back to those less fortunate than ourselves, which in large part comes from our years at St. Philip and the values that were instilled in us there. Both of us feel incredibly privileged to have the families, education, and opportunities that we have been blessed with in our lives. This is our chance to share some of that privilege with the rest of the world and hopefully make a positive difference in the lives of others. Peace Corps is also about sharing our culture with people from other parts of the world, which has led us to have some really fun and interesting conversations about American people and culture.

We are now living in a rural village of about 15,000 people called Mmadinare in Botswana, Africa where we are working with local counterparts to help support the national response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Lindsey is working with the village social work office and Mark is working with an orphan care center called Mmadinare Children's Corner Trust. Unfortunately, Botswana has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. However, the government of Botswana is also a leader in HIV/AIDS treatment, care, support, and prevention programs. We feel honored to be part of this work and have had the opportunity to learn a lot and to work with some inspiring people who are dedicated to preventing the spread of HIV in Botswana and improving the lives of those currently living with HIV and AIDS.

We still have 18 months of our service in the Peace Corps left which means we won't be back in the United States until June 2012. Until then we will be enjoying the adventures and challenges that face us here in Africa. If you would like to contact us we can be reached by email at thoma2me@cmich.edu (Mark) and l.thomas22@live.com (Lindsey). We also keep an updated blog at <http://www.markandlindsey.com>.

www.markandlindsey.com



**SERVICE AT THE
CORE**
ABBY BUCKLEY
CLASS OF 2005

Sometimes we don't realize the life lessons that we are learning until we reflect upon our past. I remember at St. Philip when we were called upon to serve the hungry at Thanksgiving or shop for families who would not otherwise have a Christmas or spend time with residents at local nursing homes. Our annual service commitment always loomed over our heads and sometimes didn't seem significant. Now I appreciate how STP's commitment to service provided the road map for my college and career choices.

Service was an integral part of my college education for Albion College espoused a similar philosophy of giving back. While we spent a great deal of time discussing community issues in the classroom, my professors believed to fully grasp what was going on outside of our doors, we had to be a part of it. Volunteering allowed me to apply the knowledge I gained in the classroom, a concept I now know as service-learning.

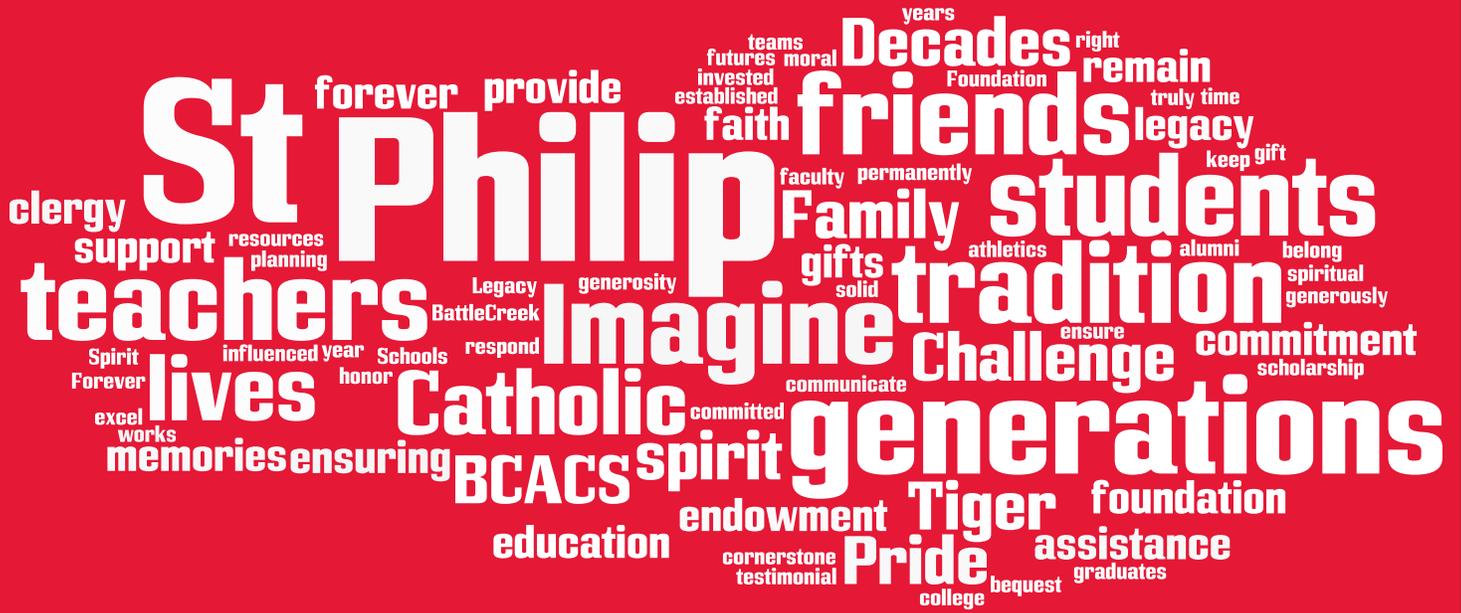
I graduated with a degree in Sociology and began working as a Youth Program Coordinator at HandsOn Battle Creek in 2010. Giving others opportunities to give back has multi-dimensional rewards. It benefits the individual as much as the community. I draw often on my experiences as a student. It helps me connect with this new generation, who are truly invested in service.

Working with Jim Pearl, Executive Director from the Class of 1978, I realize that giving back is a central value instilled at St. Philip. It transcends generations and bridges communities. The very core values upon which we were raised are very evident today.

I feel a great sense of pride when I see members of our St. Philip family, firsthand, taking action to build a stronger and more vibrant community. I can confidently say that the pathway that has led me to where I am today was paved by former teachers, principals, counselors, and peers, and especially, the St. Philip community as a whole. Taking action through service is the foundation of our Catholic school experience.

Share how your STP experience influenced your life. Email your remarks to stpalumni@bcacs.org. Put "Alumni Column" in the message line and attach a recent photo.

Pass the torch to the next generation...



...take the STP Decade Challenge.

Check your mail for more details or contact the BCACS Foundation Office.

Keeping our STP Alumni, their Friends, and Family connected with Tiger Pride!

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Battle Creek, MI
Permit #1136

St. Philip Alumni Association
BCACS Foundation
20 Cherry Street
Battle Creek, MI 49017