

## Alumni Visits



▲ Chris Gordon '86, Kevin Kelleher '89 and Larry Mulcahey '75 in Baltimore

## St. Mary's on the Road

**Phoenix, AZ** – In October, the Women's Volleyball Team was in Phoenix, Arizona, where Joanne Thomas '70 and John Kemnitz '75 stopped by to watch the team compete in the Nike Tournament of Champions against some of the best women's volleyball teams in the country. The team also had time to visit the Franciscan Renewal Center for Mass and have lunch before heading back to Lancaster.

**Baltimore, MD** – While on a recent trip to Baltimore, we had the chance to grab lunch and catch up with alumni Larry Mulcahey '75 and Chris Gordon '86 at the well-known Miss Shirley's Café, which has been featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

**St. Petersburg, FL** – During a recent trip to Florida we met with alumni David Repka '84, Beverly Reid Repka '63, Jared Repka '87 and Roger Klaffka '84 at the beautiful Vinoy Hotel overlooking the St. Pete Harbour.

**Naples, FL** – Thank you to our wonderful hostess and Board member Maureen Bowen Denman for hosting lunch for alumni Frank Lazarus '62 and Carol Scheminger Lazarus '62 at the Bay Colony Beach Club in Naples.

## Event Recap

### Classic Car Show

On August 21, we celebrated another wonderful Classic Car Show, all to benefit St. Mary's High School students. This event featured 200 cars and over 80 special awards and hand-made trophies.

Thank you to Richard '64 and Karen '65 Penfold for their continued support of this event and the following alumni for entering their cars in this year's show: Donald Ulrich '60, Gerald Wienckowski '64 and Raymond Zorn '69.

### Bash for Cash

On October 22, friends and families of St. Mary's High School gathered for an evening of fun, food, entertainment and raffles! The highlight of the night featured a grand prize of \$10,000, along with 61 other prizes ranging from \$50 to \$3,000. Congrats to all of our winners!

### Lancer Dinner Auction

On Friday, February 3, 2017 St. Mary's High School held its Annual Lancer Dinner Auction.

This year's event was a huge success, raising approximately \$90,000 to support St. Mary's High School and its students! It was an evening of great food and drinks, great entertainment and great company...all supporting a wonderful cause!

Thank you to all of our attendees and donors, and a special thank you to our Auction Committee, Gift Gathering Party Hosts, and the following Sponsors:



▲ Special events coordinator, Julie Wipperman, presents this year's big winner with a \$10,000 check



▲ Donald Ulrich, Class of 1960

## 2016-2017 Annual Appeal

We need all our alumni to support St. Mary's! Please submit your gift today! Visit [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org).

## The Lance



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
LANCASTER • NEW YORK

142 Laverack Avenue, Lancaster, New York 14086

Spring 2017

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ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
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Preparing young men and women for college and beyond

## Meet our new administrative team

Kevin Kelleher was named Head of School under the new leadership structure. The Board of Trustees also announced the promotion of Mr. Rob Cavallari from Chief Financial Officer to Chief Operating Officer.

In addition, the following positions have been created:

**Dean of Academic Affairs** – Mr. Keith Junik, former Social Studies teacher and department head at St. Mary's

**Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations** – Ms. Amanda Rebeck

**Dean of Enrollment & Student Life** – Mrs. Andrea Drabik

**Dean of Student Formation** – Mr. Beck O'Connor, former Enrollment Director at St. Mary's

Other new additions to the St. Mary's Faculty and Staff include:

**Athletic Director** – Ms. Brittany Heist

**Marketing & Communications Coordinator** – Ms. Amy Kawa '11

## Athletics (Continued)

### Womens Volleyball Wins States

Congratulations to the Women's Volleyball Team as they earned their 18th New York State Catholic High School Championship. The Lady Lancers earned this year's title with a four-set win over Kellenberg Memorial of Long Island 27-25, 20-25, 25-21 and 25-15.

In tournament pool play, St. Mary's swept Maria Regina and St. Francis Prep while splitting with Kellenberg. St. Mary's defeated St. Francis in the semifinals.



in the Nike Regional Championships. They all ran spectacularly and represented St. Mary's well.

### Girls XC Has Successful Season

Congratulations to Libby Benzer, Kayla Leo, and Anna Schmitz for representing St. Mary's



### Boys Soccer

The SMH Men's Soccer Team defeated Cardinal O'Hara by a score of 3-1 to capture the Small School Msgr. Martin Athletic Association title.



### Men's Hockey

The SMH Men's Hockey Team was a rebirth first year team. They won the Small School Club Championship and finished as the #1 small school in WNY! In the AAU State

Rankings they are 3rd and in NYS they finished 18th out of 184 teams. They made it all the way to the state semifinals, where their season ended in a double overtime loss. Overall, they finished their season with 20+ wins.



### Men's Basketball

The Men's Basketball team won its 1st ever Manhattan Cup Title! They moved on to the Championship game of the boys State B Finals where they fell to LaSalle at Fordham University in the NYS Catholic High School State Championship Title game.

## Save the Date



### May 12th

Spring Fling Tuition Raffle  
St. Mary's High School, \$100/admits two  
Join us for a chance to win free tuition for the 2017-2018 school year.

### May 20th

25th Annual Chris Griswold Memorial 5K Race  
Como Park, \$22/per person

### June 26th

Golf Tournament  
Lancaster Country Club, \$150/per golfer,  
sponsorship opportunities available

### August 21st

Classic Car Show  
St. Mary's High School

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I write to you with a sense of excitement, dedication, passion, love and also a measure of gratitude.

I have a genuine love for our school and its great tradition of helping mold great men and women for God and Community for the last 113 years. I love its great traditions of learning and family. I have a true passion, shared by our strong St. Mary's faculty and staff, for the success and happiness of our current students and their families who entrust their children to us. We too have a dedication to continually create and implement new innovative ideas that are consistent with our goal of providing the finest college preparatory experience possible.

I also share with our faculty, administrative team and the members of our Board of Trustees a tremendous level of excitement for our future. There exists a great feeling of momentum within the school. As our enrollment numbers continue to grow, we continue to add quality families to the St. Mary's Community. I am excited to announce that according to the latest enrollment numbers we are the fastest growing private school in WNY since 2013-2014.

I am grateful to be a part of this growth and also for the wonderful memories that have been afforded to me through my St. Mary's High School education. I know from my own experience that many of you have many amazing memories of your years at St. Mary's, too. Trust me that the chances are very high that these memories were only possible due to the generous donation from an alum or friend to the high school directly. With this knowledge, please never underestimate the importance of a gift to St. Mary's High School.

Please donate today to help keep our momentum going! Please give today with the comfort of knowing that every decision made by our administration will be made realizing that in the Franciscan tradition one of our true missions is to help our students find theirs. To support our mission, visit [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org).

God Bless and Go Lancers!

Kevin Kelleher '89  
Head of School



## School News, Current Events and Student Accomplishments



▲ STEAM Program wins STEM Award

### STEAM Program wins STEM Award

In October 2016, the St. Mary's High School STEAM Program was recognized by WNY STEM as a School on the Move at a reception held at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Over the past four years, through a generous grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation, St. Mary's has created a comprehensive program to develop student interest in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) fields.

Currently every sophomore must complete at least two STEAM challenges, such as competitions in bridge building, bottle rocket construction and making a mousetrap-powered vehicle. Additionally, juniors and seniors are involved in a large-scale project, constructing a greenhouse with recycled 2-liter bottles.

Next year the program will be expanding with the creation of a "trout room". Students will be raising trout from eggs, to be released into area rivers and streams to help repopulate this important species vital to our local aquatic ecosystems.



▲ Kids Escaping Drugs Leadership Conference

### Kids Escaping Drugs Leadership Conference

Members of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club attended the Kids Escaping Drugs Summit. St. Mary's students raised over \$600 on a Jeans Day to be donated to Kids Escaping Drugs. We discussed the danger of using drugs and how addiction affects people. We learned about stereotypes associated with addiction and had a chance to hear stories of addiction and recovery from KEDS alumni. We discussed a few celebrities and athletes who have dealt with addiction along with messages from the media and how they impact students.



▲ Blue Mass

### Blue Mass

On Tuesday, November 1st, St. Mary's students, faculty and staff celebrated All Saints Liturgy and Blue Mass. Blue Mass celebrates and honors the heroism of our first responders. Mass included a 1st responder procession, a pipe and drum procession, a salute and bells. Many area first responders were in attendance at this mass.

## Athletics



### Erin Hufford Softball Scholarship

Senior Erin Hufford, a pitcher and outfielder of the St. Mary's Softball Team, recently signed a Letter of Intent to attend Canisius College where she plans to play softball for the Golden Griffins.

Erin is surrounded by her parents Melissa and Kevin, her grandmothers Joyce Hufford and Mary Fial, her sister Bridget Kraska, as well as St. Mary's Athletic Director Brittany Heist and Assistant Softball Coach Mike Rappi '71.

**Athletics section continued on back cover**



## Alumni Spotlight



### Dale Carlson '63

has joined the full-time faculty of Quinnipiac University School of Law in North Haven, CT as a "distinguished practitioner-in-residence". He directs the intellectual property law concentration at the school, and teaches courses in patent law and advanced patent law. Dale is a retired partner at Wiggin and Dana (New Haven, CT), and a past president of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association, the largest regional IP law association in the United States.

After graduating from St. Mary's, Dale went on to achieve both a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a M.B.A. from the State University at Buffalo; and then a J.D. from Syracuse University Law.

Dale and his wife, Ginger, have also recently made a lead gift to St. Mary's High School to start a student scholarship. Dale hopes that former classmates from the Class of 1963 will contribute to the scholarship to deepen the impact.



### Paul Nazzarett '84

received the 2016 Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award. Officer Nazzarett has been a member of the Cheektowaga Police Department for the past 17 years, 12 of which have been spent with the Community Crime Prevention Unit. He is a member of the Cheektowaga Steering Committee with the mobile Safety Net team, an initiative of the Oishei Foundation that seeks to strengthen the region's safety net

through identifying barriers of access to essential human needs.

Paul is also a CHOICES Program mentor working with the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce. CHOICES is an interactive, decision-making workshop that encourages middle school students to stay in school, as the choices they make today impact their futures.

Of all his accomplishments, Paul's personal favorite is the Cheektowaga Police Department's "Do the Right Thing Program". It is open to all students in grades kindergarten through 12th who reside, attend school or do a recognizable deed in Cheektowaga. Nominated students are honored at an annual ceremony for making a difference in their hometown.



### Don Nichter '75

was inducted into the South Central Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in November, 2016.

In the three decades since joining Dickinson College's staff, Nichter has become the most decorated coach in modern history. His cross country, and now track teams, have combined for 16 conference championships in the highly-competitive Centennial

conference, and his women's cross country program is currently working on a string of 16 straight team appearances at the NCAA Division III championships. The men are equally successful and saw an eight-year streak of NCAA team appearances end in 2015.

Nichter—a seven-time Mid-East Coach of the Year as selected by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association—has contributed to the development of 34 All-Americans, and has produced two national track champions.

Nichter ran cross country at St. Mary's and later helped petition Ithaca College to start a cross country program (he ran on its first team in his senior year).

## Alumni Updates



### Michael Kubera '73

just started a new silent disco business in WNY, [www.InYourEarEvents.com](http://www.InYourEarEvents.com).

### Patricia Majka Keller '73

is retired and has two granddaughters, Hadley and Delaney.

### Deborah Conrad Rennicks '85

returned to college this year and plans to graduate in 2018. Her oldest daughter will graduate college with a Music Education degree in 2017 and her youngest daughter will graduate high school in 2019! She is involved with fellow alumni Doug Kern's Rocking Horse Productions as a stage manager, properties manager and run crew as needed. Above all, she is a breast cancer survivor!

### Paul Twarog '86

was promoted to Director in Legal on his 5th Anniversary at Google.

### Bill Hermann '88

is the owner of a screen-printing, embroidery and promotional products business, [www.identityink.com](http://www.identityink.com).

### Melissa Benn Johns '95

recently moved to Florida to accept a position with WESH, the NBC Affiliate in Orlando, Florida. Prior to this she spent 14 years at WIVB in Buffalo, but couldn't pass up the offer to make the move and enjoy the sunshine instead of snow!

### Pamela Smaczniak Schweickert '99

and her husband welcomed their second child, Autumn Lynn, on September 21, 2016.

### Elisabeth Bengert Volpert '00

attended the University of Louisville after graduating from St. Mary's. She is a professor at the University of Louisville and has established a large internal medicine patient panel. She has also begun a doctoral research project at the University of Louisville in the area of electronic cigarettes. She is also happily married to John and they have two energetic redhead girls! As a family, they still return to Buffalo every year to visit with long time St. Mary's High School friends and family.

### Michael Trzepacz '03

got married on October 10, 2015 to Tammy (Plasecki) Trzepacz.

### Joseph Vegas '03

was promoted to Assistant Director of Residential Operations at Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara. His wife gave birth to their second daughter in September 2016.

### Kristen Murray '04

is currently working as a pediatric Occupational Therapist, assisting children with medical and behavioral complexities to develop greater levels of independence in all areas of their lives. She recently opened Kristen K. Murray MS, OTR/L Occupational Therapy Services, a private OT practice incorporating hippotherapy, a medical treatment strategy utilizing the movement of a horse to influence the neuromuscular and sensory systems of the patient. She is certified through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International as a recreational adaptive riding instructor. Kristen currently provides equine assisted services at Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center in East Aurora, NY.

To update our information and tell us what you have been up to please visit: [smhlancers.org/alumni-updates/](http://smhlancers.org/alumni-updates/)

## Reunion Re-cap



### The Class of 1956

held their class reunion at SMH on September 24.

### The Class of 1991

celebrated their reunion with gatherings at SMH and Big Ditch Brewery the weekend of October 21.

### The Class of 1996

celebrated their reunion the weekend of October 7 with a Friday night gathering at Franks Grille, family-friendly football game and tailgate, and a reunion dinner at SMH.

### Upcoming Reunions: can you help?

If your class year ends in an 8 or 3 then you're celebrating a milestone reunion next year! If you would like to act as a class liaison and help with the planning, please contact Amanda Rebeck, Dean of Advancement and Alumni Relations at **716-683-4824 ext. 237** or [arebeck@smhlancers.org](mailto:arebeck@smhlancers.org).



▲ Class of 1956



▲ Class of 1991 at Big Ditch Brewing



▲ Class of 1996