

From the Director



"We'll always come to thee again, when Alma Mater calls"

Alumnae Annual Appeal 2009

In 2006, we suspended the Alumnae Annual Appeal (which you most probably remember as the phonathon) in order to launch the Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign. As always, you rose to the occasion and supported us in the renovation of our chapel, monastery, and in the establishment of a Ministry Fund. Because of your support, you have touched the lives of the Benedictine Sisters in this community and as a result, you have touched the lives of many others.

We are returning to the Alumnae Annual Appeal. Materials have been mailed to all alumnae members. **This year the proceeds from the appeal will be used to help fund the upgrading of the surface and equipment in the toddler area of the playground at the St. Benedict Child Development Center.** The Child Development Center provides a managed daycare program, Head Start for migrant children, and infant care. It offers space where children of different races and cultures can become friends, where they can play, solve problems, and learn together.

Your gift also helps us to continue awarding scholarships to students attending Catholic schools. **We have awarded \$45,500 in scholarships over the past 19 years, to 380 students who were relatives of alumnae members. It helps support the Benedictine Sisters who helped so many and gave so much at St. Benedict Academy.** A small portion of your gift helps the Alumnae Association with mailings, organizing events and planning class reunions.

MAIL CALL!

We need your e-mail address in order to complete class lists for reunion purposes. Please send it, including your first, maiden, last name and class year to Ann Comstock. sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

Helen Schmitt Wright	'40
Dolores Jean (Dee) Zalas Fiedler	'53
Alice Vommaro Marino	'53
Patricia Mazanowski Bujalski	'56
Jane Dailey Graham	'69

Volunteers Needed: Can you help?

St. Benedict Education Center: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program

St. Benedict Education Center serves as the primary contractor for the Department of Public Welfare's Employment and Training Programs for parents who receive cash assistance.

One cohort of this population is a refugee population with varying degrees of English language skills and varying degrees of education and literacy skills in their own culture. We currently have enrolled refugees from 10 countries. Some have been in the States for several years; some are coming directly from refugee camps. SBEC has professional staff members who work with the refugees to assist them to develop pre-employment/life skills. We are currently attempting to assemble a volunteer group interested in committing some time and interest in helping these folks.

We need:

Someone to serve as Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers for break-out groups of 4-5 refugees to engage in general conversation. These sessions are Mon.-Fri, 1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Volunteers could help any or all of the days.

Our refugees are very cooperative and quite motivated to become part of our country's culture and life style. Please consider being a "helping hand!"

Contact: Sister Miriam Mashank, OSB, executive director

(814) 452-4072, Ext. 234

mmashank@stben.org

Visit ErieBenedictines.org for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your e-mail address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use e-mail, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd., Erie, PA, 16511. And whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article, jot it down, or call us, so we can share the news with all our members.



Reunions

“What a Summer it Was”



Kathy Anysz reports:

Class of '69

It was a beautiful summer evening at Jr.'s on the Bay. The view from the deck was picturesque. There were 26 girls from the Class of 1969 who attended our 40th class reunion on Saturday, August 1st. We enjoyed a cocktail hour along with a delicious buffet dinner. We shared pictures, e-mails, life experiences and stories from the good old days.

We decided we don't have to wait every five years to get together. Some of us meet once a month on a Sunday for brunch at Peggy's at the Liberty Plaza and attend the yearly SBA Alumnae Brunch. We also get together at the Alumnae Christmas Party at the Avalon. And occasionally we plan other outings including bus trips and dinners.

We'd like to keep in touch with our fellow classmates and keep your info updated. E-mail Pat Causgrove Wheeler at pwhels@aol.com with your name, address, e-mail & phone number and we'll keep you informed on all our activities so you can join in. And if you do not have e-mail call either Kathy Anysz at (814) 866-0802 or Pat Causgrove Wheeler at (814) 456-3180. Looking forward to hearing from you!



Lisa Manendo shares:

The Class of 1974 held its 35th class reunion on Sunday, July 26 at the Erie Yacht Club. Thirty-two classmates gathered to reminisce and rekindle old friendships. Several classmates traveled from out of town, the farthest from Florida. A pre-event gathering was held at the Plymouth Tavern on Saturday evening.

A DVD, created by Judy Pulinski Ward, was shown during the brunch. The DVD was a compilation of all four years at St. Benedict's including class trips, dances, and graduation. A memory table of yearbooks, school uniform, dance programs and other memorabilia was thoroughly enjoyed by all the classmates.

Hostesses Lisa Manendo and Judy Pulinski Ward would like to thank all alumnae for sending in photos and remind them to keep in touch by joining the Facebook group: Saint Benedict Academy Class of 1974 (Erie, PA).

Class of '74

LAST CALL FOR ANYONE WANTING YEARBOOKS

Extra copies of the following years are available: 1970, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988. Leftover books headed to the recycle bin - January 2010



Reunions

Triple Crown!

Sister Mary Ellen Plumb, OSB:

SBA class reunions are always a chance to catch up with old friends, reminisce about the great fun and great opportunities afforded by an SBA education, and of course, laugh and cry and to be amazed by the classmates who were your dearest friends so long ago (and maybe still are).

Never has this been more true than when the classes of '89, '90 and '91 gathered at the Mount this past June for a first-ever reunion! Twenty years after the closing of Saint Benedict Academy, we invited the students who never had the chance to graduate from the academy back to remind them that even so, they are still very much "SBA grads!"

About 35 members of these three classes gathered with the Sisters and former teachers for a picnic lunch and lots of time for sharing stories and gratitude and yes, pain for never having the chance to finish at the "best high school ever" – addresses were exchanged, more discoveries made of "lost" class members and the beginnings of a more complete mailing list. And with the sharing came healing and understanding and even more gratitude. It would be an understatement to say the event was a success and there are definite plans in the works for a repeat event next summer with double the attendance.



Class of '90



Class of '89



Class of '91



All of us!





Reunions

Twenty-five members of the Class of '67 attended their 60th "Birthday Bash" aboard the Victorian Princess this summer.



Forty alumnae joined the Sisters at Mount Saint Benedict on June 23 for a picnic supper.



Watch the Mail! Invitations for our Annual SBA Christmas party will be mailed during October. This year's party will be held at the Avalon Hotel on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. If you or any of your classmates would like to donate a gift basket for our Gift Basket Raffle, please contact me at 899-0614, Ext. 2573. Proceeds will go to the Child Development Center this year.