

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Sister Paulette Deters, CSJ

Class of 1960



When St. Martin's was ready to open its doors in 1951, I was ready. My father was also ready and made sure that I was the first student registered for the new school. I was in the first kindergarten class, taught by Mrs. Sable, and continued all the way through eighth grade, graduating in 1960. Under the guidance of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, we were educated and prepared for the sacraments: "confession," "communion," and confirmation. During our fifth grade, when all kids from grades 5 – 8 were confirmed, the old church was so packed that not even all the sponsors could attend; there was no room for parents.

Besides learning the 4 R's (reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, and religion), I spent extra time helping the teachers after school, playing on school teams, and singing in the school choir. Under Sr. Frances Marie's direction, many choir practices after school and on Saturdays were spent learning Latin chants for Sunday "high masses" or funerals. Living down the hill from the school, we were sometimes recruited to help clean the church for special occasions.

Like most kids, I loved recess. In the lower grades, tetherball and dodge ball were my favorites, especially when I could beat the boys; in the upper grades, I focused on volleyball and volley tennis. Every day I would run home for lunch, and then hurry back to play sports.

What are some of my favorite memories? Folk dancing in 3rd grade and participating in the school dance festival; daily school masses followed by breakfast in the classroom; the yearly May Crowning and Living Rosary in the church; 5th grade art classes in the lower field/pasture; Girl Scout activities; and most math classes. I enjoyed school.

After graduation, I attended Rosary High School in San Diego, and later joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and focused on religious life. I received my BA in English from Loyola-Marymount University and MA in Private School Administration from University of San Francisco. For 40+ years I taught grades 3-8 in various parish schools, mostly in Orange Co. (From 1987-89, I taught at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, now housed in my former high school building). In 2011, after retiring from teaching and grading papers, I began working in my Community's Finance Office in Orange. Presently I am involved in banking, supporting the finance staff, completing extra jobs, and over-seeing maintenance at our beach houses. The multi-tasking and Interaction with adults keeps me plenty busy.

Music has been an important part of my life. Every year since grade school, I have belonged to some type of choir or chorus—school, church, Community, and/or professional. This is my 46th year of singing with OC's professional chorus, the Pacific Chorale; Holy Family Cathedral Choir has been my church choir since the early '90's. Practicing at least two nights a week (plus extra concert rehearsals) doesn't allow for much free time. The schedule can get stressful, yet music nourishes the inner spirit. Belonging to both groups has allowed me to sing with wonderful symphonies, travel to Europe, visit beautiful sites, and enjoy the richness of other cultures.



The Deters Family has been a part of St. Martin Parish even before Fr. Barry's arrival. My grandfather helped paint the old rectory. My dad belonged to the Knights of Columbus and my mom joined the Women's Club. She and my brother Lee were long-time members of the church choir. Both brothers, Lee and Norman, were active in the Boy Scouts and attended Saints. My sisters Shirley, Margie and Anna (SMA class of '60) all went to OLSH and Rosary, and were married at the parish. I was the youngest of six children born to Ray and Viola Deters. As long as I can remember, St. Martin's has always been an important part of our lives.

Since 1964, my larger family has been the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, a community of religious women (now about 140 sisters) who have served in education and health care ever since the Community was founded in 1912. We are dedicated to serving the "dear neighbor" by promoting unity and reconciliation among all people. In July 2014, I celebrated 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph.



Thank you, St. Martin's, for providing a solid background in academics and the Catholic faith; for letting us just hang out and feel at home; for nurturing my love for music, my interest in teaching, and my call to religious life; for connecting us with so many wonderful families. St. Martin's will always hold a special place in my heart.

May 2016

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Dr. Brien Hill

Attended SMA from 1968-1970

Dr. Brien Hill is a local general dentist, who has been practicing in La Mesa for 26 years. He attended St. Martin Academy from 1969 to 1972 and was baptized and confirmed at St. Martins. He also serves as a Eucharistic Minister, usher and bingo caller.



His favorite memory of his time at St. Martin Academy is playing dodge ball on the parking lot. The lot as you know is slanted towards El Cajon Blvd so the ball always curved that direction.



First Holy Communion

Dr. Hill started his educational career at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in El Cajon, California then to St. Martin Academy. He graduated from Grossmont High School and San Diego State University for a degree in Biology (to become an Aztec like his mother Agnes and brother and sister before him). At University of California at Los Angeles he earned the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Is a member of the American Dental Association, California Dental Association and the San Diego County Dental Association. He continues his post graduate studies with the prestigious Spear Education.

Dr. Hill practices general dentistry with his wife of 29 years Dr. Tamara Schneidmiller. He most enjoys making his patients feel at home. His practice is "Your Dental Home" where patients come to visit and become healthier. He even has a great dog in the back yard of the practice to welcome you.

Dr. Hill enjoys road cycling, mountain biking and wine tasting. You may also see Dr. Hill at 7 am Mass, stop and ask him any questions you might have about dentistry. He especially likes to mentor students who are interested in the profession.



3rd Grade Class Photo

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Kathy Connors Class of 1975



In 1957 my parents moved to California and enrolled my older siblings in St. Martin Academy. For 25 years my parents had a child attending SMA. Recently I expressed to my mom how grateful I was that they chose a Catholic Education for us. When I graduated in 1975, I felt prepared academically, socially and emotionally to move on to high school.

After graduating from Our Lady of Peace in 1979, I attended San Diego State University. I received a B.A. in Liberal Studies, two different Special Education credentials and a Masters in School Counseling. In 1986 I began teaching special education in the Cajon Valley School District. I am proud to say this is my 30th year of teaching. I would like to say “Thank You” to the past and present SMA teachers who have influenced my family.

SMA has been another “home” to our family. My parents believed in giving back and did so by dedicating their time to Bingo. They appreciated everything the school did for us. I now know that feeling as my husband, Chris and I have watched our children graduate from

SMA: Sean (2008), Grant (2011), Jake (2013) and soon to Claire (2017).



Home is where
the heart is...
Thank you St. Martins.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Liana Zoni *Class of 2006*



I attended St. Martin's from Preschool to Eighth grade and have fond memories of many teachers and friends whom I keep in touch with regularly. I always remember feeling safe and "at home" in my school environment which made my learning experience so impactful. I truly loved my time at SMA. The Workshop Way curriculum paved the way to success by teaching me independence and time management at a young age. I believe that it helped me in the transition to high school with the larger work-load I took on.

After attending Steele Canyon High School, I was accepted into the Child and Family Development program at San Diego State University. While attending SDSU, I worked part-time at the family business and juggled many internships relating to Child Development. Some of my internships include the SDSU Children's Center, Interactions for Peace - Bully Prevention Programs, Leah's Pantry - Food Smarts Workshops, San Diego Youth Services for At-Risk Youth and many more. These children and family centered agencies taught me to appreciate what I have in life and moved me to want to impact the lives of others in a positive, uplifting way. Because of my the lasting memories and teachings in college, I will be pursuing a teaching credential in Fall of 2016.

I graduated with a BS in Child and Family Development in December 2014 and since, have had the privilege of substitute teaching at St. Martin's and volunteering at St. Rose of Lima School in Chula Vista. When I began substituting, I was welcomed back with open arms and have loved getting to know many of the SMA students. I am excited to continue my higher level education and until I start my program will substitute teach throughout San Diego county.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Kerry Tarlov Class of 1985



I attended SMA from 1976 until 1985. Yes, that's all 9 years! My family lived in Del Cerro, and my parish was actually St. Therese. At the time, they did not offer kindergarten at their school, so my mom enrolled me at St. Martin's with the plan to move me to St. Therese in 1st grade. By the end of the year, I had made so many friends that I begged my mom to let me stay. I have fond memories of my teachers and classmates.

After graduating from University of San Diego High School in 1989, I attended the University of San Diego. I majored in Finance, graduating with my bachelors degree. I met my husband, Jason, at USD and we were married in 1995. After graduation, I worked for a software company that did work for the US Department of Defense for five years, managing their contracts and doing human resources work. When the company was bought out, I went to work for a local building contractor as the Controller. Deciding that I wanted to be my own boss, I started a company with my husband in 2011, providing outsourced bookkeeping and accounting to small businesses in San Diego. We are fortunate to have the Diocese of San Diego as a client, which led me back to SMA a few months ago for a project and I got a tour of the school. What a difference 30 years makes.

I live in Rancho San Diego with Jason and our two children, Ethan (15) and Catherine (12). Ethan is a freshman at St. Augustine and Catherine is in the 7th grade at Holy Trinity School.



Class of 1985 - Reunion

I firmly believe that a Catholic education was an important foundation for me, and wanted to provide that same opportunity to my children. I hope they develop the friendships that I was able to at SMA. Many of us still keep in touch via email and Facebook. In fact, our class had a SMA reunion the summer of our 20 year high school reunions. My classmate, Joe Freed, organized it and most of the class, including Monsignor Sheehan, met downtown for cocktails, story telling, and reminiscing.

December 2015

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Dennis Sable Class of 1965



After spending 1st grade at St. John of the Cross, in Lemon Grove, I entered St. Martin Academy at the beginning of 2nd grade (although I did attend kindergarten at St. Martin's). You see, my sainted mother began teaching at St. Martin's partially as tuition for my attendance. After my wonderful education at St. Martin's Academy, I attended University High School (Uni – It was still “all boys” until just after I left). From there, it was a short stint at Grossmont College and then the draft and into the Army. I must say here that the 70s were just plain strange. The Vietnam war, free love, drugs, and wonton rage against authority reigned. These things are still the bane of my generation, but I am thankful for the rock of my faith. For the love of all that is decent and prudent, I will skip these years in my little history here. Suffice it to say that the love of my life, my wife Lynette, steered me back home to Saint Martin of Tours in the late 70s as she converted to Catholicism, and in 1983 provided me with our wonderful son Paul – another force for stability and persistence in my life.

In 1980, I tested for, and received, my General Contractor's License (B1), but as luck would have it, this came just in time for the 1980 construction slow-down in southern California. Luckily, my brother in law had a foot-hold in the burgeoning coin-op video game industry, and he gave me a lift into that fun business. I spent over 15 years working (and playing) with games.

Then came the Nintendo and Sega home systems, and the fall of coin-op video games. With the help of my family and faith I pulled up my britches and headed back into construction. After starting as a \$12 an hour laborer, I spent about two years working my way up to construction superintendent. I held that position in various companies until the greed induced banking fiascos of 2008. From 2008 to 2010, a plethora of part-time jobs (sometimes three at a time) paid the bills. Then in 2010, one of my former construction bosses told me about a Facilities job at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and I have been Director of Facilities for their beautiful eight story building since then.

Lynette, Paul, and I traveled extensively during the video game years. From Virginia, to Los Angeles, to Alpine, to Cupertino and Morgan Hill in the San Jose area, we had some wonderful times, but we are back home in La Mesa now. Along the way I attended junior college with my son and finally earned my bachelor degree in business administration, with a certificate in alternative dispute resolution, from National University in 2014 (better late than never – right?).

Throughout my life, I have been a “choir guy”. Even in those tumultuous 70s I played and sang at “folk masses”. To this day, I find great solace in making music for my parish family. I believe that my Catholic education has served me well. It has been the rock upon which my family has weathered storms and celebrated high points. Thank God for St. Martin's Academy.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Danielle (Funk) Gameros Class of 2002



Hello - my name is Danielle (Funk) Gameros. I attended SMA from K-8th grade. I met some of my best friends there, and I keep in contact with them regularly. I graduated from SMA in 2002. After SMA I attended Helix Charter High School. During my sophomore year I came back to SMA to volunteer in the Kindergarten classroom where I worked for 9 years. I also helped in the preschool and first grade. Volunteering at SMA helped me in choosing my lifelong career of becoming a preschool teacher. I graduated from San Diego State University with my bachelors in Child and Family Development. Currently I am using that degree and working in Ramona with 2 year olds. I work for Head Start which serves low income families and provides other services for families in need.



Although I am no longer volunteering at the school, St. Martin's Parish is still a big part of my life. If you attend the 9am Mass chances are you will see me in the choir. I have been singing in the choir since I was 13 years old. I also help with Step-Out where I work with children ages 3-6 to explain the Gospel and readings to their level of understanding. I have been doing Step-Out since I was 10 years old.

On November 22, 2014, I married my best friend, Cesar, at St. Martin's. It was nice to get married in my home church and to have some current staff present along with some of my alumni friends. I am so thankful for my parents who sent my sister and me to such a great school. St. Martin's taught me about faith and continues to teach me. I am so happy to be a part of this community and family.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Joshua Cavanaugh Class of 1999



I was privileged enough to attend St. Martin Academy in the 1990s, from first to eighth grade. During my eight years attending the academy I had a number of extraordinary teachers as well as a chance to participate in a unique and creative learning system, Workshop Way. Workshop Way employs a series of tasks that utilize various educational tools to wake up the brain. Accompanied by that, each morning I would meet with my teacher. We would go over my homework, one on one. She always greeted me, shook my hand, smiled at me and called me by name. And I would look her right in the eyes, smile back, and say “Good morning Mrs Dimuzio.” Those were the important parts of my learning for the day, the homework was secondary. I didn’t realize at the time, that we were being taught important social skills as well as courtesy. But what was most important for my future career, was our music classes. I was fortunate enough to have two wonderful music teachers while I was at St Martin’s, first was Mrs. Lodi Pippin who taught music in our classrooms and directed and played the piano for our school choirs and music events, and she was assisted by Frances Cavanaugh. Yes, that’s my mother. Little did I know that these early music classes would lay the groundwork for my future career in music. These classes helped me through high school and shaped my decisions on what college and university to attend.

After graduating from St Martin Academy, I attended Valhalla High School. I played clarinet in the marching and concert bands during my freshman and sophomore years, I ran track during my junior year and was on the soccer team for all four years. I was also in the choral ensemble for my sophomore, junior and senior years.

After high school I attended Chapman University in Orange County California and received a Bachelors of Music degree in vocal performance - classical voice. Following that, I was accepted at New York University (NYU) and received a Masters of Music in vocal performance - musical theatre voice.

After graduating from NYU I decided to stay in New York to pursue a career in musical theatre. I’ve performed in a number of different musical theatre shows, cabarets, concerts, readings, etc. I’ll highlight a few:

In The Mood - Emcee and Male Soloist.

This show was a musical tour of 1940s music. I toured for more than 7 months and performed in Australia and the United States.

The Untitled John Mayer Project - Chad

At the Merc in Temecula California, this was a brand new musical using new arrangements of John Mayer’s music and an original book written by Jordan Beck.

Dracula - as Dracula

This show was at The Dio, a dinner theatre in Pinckney, Michigan. It was one of the first true leads I’ve played, and an amazing experience overall.

The Light in the Piazza - Ensemble/Priest

Sweeney Todd - Ensemble

These last two shows are both at the Fingerlakes Music Theatre Festival in Auburn, New York at the wonderful and historic venue The Merry-Go-Round Playhouse.

St Martin Academy taught me so many fundamentals about life. I’m an actor and musician and I have to present myself at auditions in a very vulnerable way, but I learned the confidence to take a risk with that very first handshake. St. Martin Academy and parish will always be a part of my life. I have sung at many weddings, funerals, church and academy functions and general masses during my visits back to San Diego and I will continue to do so. The employees and people of St. Martin’s are family.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

*Elyse Witt
Class of 2004*



I attended St. Martin of Tours Academy from Preschool through 8th grade. There were a lot of great memories throughout the years: soccer, volleyball, Mexican dance class, Girl Scouts, Student Council, and drama productions. In addition to the wonderful teachers at St. Martin's, I have fond memories of Father Sproul and how he used to bonk us on the head with his Missal during the Mass recession.

I graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace in 2008. During my time at OLP, I participated in drama productions and Varsity Swim. Throughout my high school years, I dedicated many hours of volunteer service at a local animal shelter where I learned to provide preventive animal healthcare, socialization, and prepared animals for adoption.

In 2013, I received my Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (emphasis in Biology, Psychology, and Anthropology) from San Diego State University. During college, I started coaching for OLP/St. Augustine High School Swim teams as an assistant coach and in 2015, became the Head Coach for the OLP Swim Team. I am currently a Team Sales Representative at a local swim shop that outfits many of the San Diego County swim clubs, high schools, water polo teams, and water aerobics classes. In high school, I met my now soon-to-be husband and are set to exchange vows on August 1, 2015. Two of my best friends and fellow SMA alumni, Paulina Alcocer and Jacqui Murray, introduced us and they will be standing next to me on our wedding day!

As I move forward into a new phase of my life, I know that the life skills and values I developed at SMA and OLP have contributed greatly to my success and happiness. I'll always be grateful for the education I received and lasting friendships made at St. Martin of Tours Academy.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Rebecca Dean
Class of 2004



I have only fond and fun memories of SMA. After my time at St. Martin of Tours Academy I went to OLP for four years. After graduation I attended the University of San Diego and graduated cum laude with my Bachelor's Degree and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. While in college I discovered my love of travel. I traveled three times to Costa Rica, once for fun and twice, to volunteer teaching English, during my time at USD.

The summer after my college graduation was spent getting prepared to move to Girona, located in Catalunya, Spain, to teach English for one school year. My time in Spain was spectacular. I lived with two different amazing host families. My students were all incredible, ranging from age 3 to 12. It was a lovely, charming place to live. I loved the people, food, culture, and the opportunity to practice my Spanish and learn a little Catalan.

While in Spain I accepted a position to teach Science in Thailand for the next school year. I just recently returned from my six months in Thailand. Not speaking Thai when I arrived was a challenge but the people in Thailand made an

effort to help me in any way they could. I was able to travel many of the weekends I was there seeing the city life of Bangkok, the wild life including snakes, monkeys elephants, and bats, and the gorgeous beaches.

I am currently happy to be home in San Diego working as a literacy tutor at Monarch School downtown and pursuing a full time teaching career.

June 2015



Monthly Alumni News Corner

Stephanie "Cuthbertson" Fortuna Class of 1984



Growing up in La Mesa has had many benefits for myself and my family. I attended several great schools but began attending St. Martin Academy in 1976 as a 1st grader. I graduated in 1984 and began attending University (Uni) High School and later transferred to Grossmont where I graduated in 1988.

I enjoyed working and going to school at the same time because it provided me with my own sense of responsibility. At 16, I had my first job and worked at Schillers Jewelers in Lemon Grove. It wasn't until my mid 20's where I discovered I had a passion for Electronics and began working for what is now known as AT&T. I have held several positions but most recently Project Manager in our Network Department. I absolutely love what I do and I can't say enough about the company I work for.

For the past 3 years my sons, Massimo and Christian, have been attending St. Martin's and are currently in 2nd Grade with Mrs. Mazarra. I have a great sense of pride knowing that I am able to give my children a better education and experience the way my parents did for my brother and myself. I am so grateful to my mom and dad for sending me to the school. I have so many fantastic memories that I can think back on. I do remember hating wearing a uniform. But now, what I wouldn't do to be able to wear one to work every day. I wouldn't have a dry cleaning bill anymore.



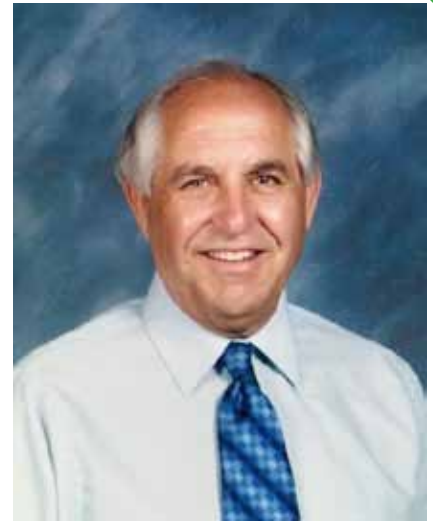
In April 2015, we recently had our 30th Reunion for our 8th grade class. It was fantastic to see so many of my friends and get back in touch. We all agreed that its still an amazing school and we all still love it.

Thank you St. Martins!

May 2015

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Howard Dye Class of 1955



I was part of the opening of Saint Martin's Academy in 1951. I had been attending Blessed Sacrament School up to the fourth grade. I began as a fifth grader and enjoyed the wonderful teachings of the Sisters of Notre Dame. I graduated from the eighth grade in 1955 and began my secular education at Helix High School. Having had the background of Saint Martin's, I was well prepared for Helix. Upon graduation, I received a scholarship to attend San Diego State and, like my sister, Mrs. Rosie Beck, I was a math major.

Because of my love for math, the training by my father, a Land Surveyor, and the training I received in the U.S. Army, I was hired by the California Division of Highways (now Caltrans) as a surveyor. I worked there for a few years and then joined my father who was retiring. In 1981, I partnered with a colleague to form a Civil Engineering and Land Surveying firm, known as Snipes-Dye Associates. We moved from Lemon Grove to La Mesa in 1996, where the firm is still very active performing the services connected with the business.

I retired at the end of 2011 and began the real busy part of my life. My wife, my four sisters, my brother, and a daughter, all have teaching credentials. I even have a granddaughter currently studying to be a teacher at Sonoma State University. So I have a feeling teaching is in the blood. For the past three years I have been volunteering at Saint Martin's and at Chase Avenue School, where my sister Mrs. Dory Miller teaches fifth grade. I love tutoring in math and other subjects as needed. It's been a very rewarding experience, especially when I see the "light go on" when the students finally "get it."



My mother, Victoria Dye, who is 96 years old, is still active in the Saint Martin's Women's Club. She is definitely the matriarch of a teaching family. When you see her at the 7:00 Mass on Sunday, be sure to give her a gentle hug.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Bart Carter Hartley Class of 1997

July 30, 1982 - February 22, 2015



In Memoriam by Ray Pepin

We are all here today because Bart touched each of our lives. And once that happened, we were forever smitten. Bart was one of life's great characters. Most of us are limited by the few little drops of personality that we are born with, but not Bart. Bart's cup runneth over. He was truly an original and we marveled at his range and complexity. I don't think I ever knew anyone who was more comfortable in his own skin. He was this physically dominant wrestling champion, yet he was the kindest and most gentle person you ever met. He was this rough and tumble construction worker, yet he earned a BA in Kinesiology and was finishing his Masters in Performance Psychology.

Outwardly, I'm not sure there was a smooth edge on him. But, he loved Martha Stewart.....and he loved manicures.....and he loved the waitresses at Marechiaros. But, most of all, he loved his family. And, he loved his friends, and he loved people. He loved all of us. As parents, we learn very quickly the we can't raise our children on our own. It takes all of us. Our children create friendships and bonds with other families. And, if we are very lucky, those families adopt your children and treat them like their own. Families who help shape and mold your children into great people. Families like the Hartleys, for which I am forever grateful.



And so it was for Bart in our home. He quickly became more than Zach's best buddy. He became another brother to all my sons. He became another son to Therese and I, and another grandson to our parents. And he had a particularly special relationship with our 100 year old great grandmother. Granny adored Bart and Bart was always so kind, so patient and so considerate of her. When Bart came over, he would always go in and check on Granny, and crack open a beer with her. Soon he would be rewiring the whole Granny flat so she could better enjoy her tv shows - that's just how Bart was. He was a shining example of how to love.

I just want to say thank you Bart for the thousand ways you enriched our lives. And, thank you Bob and Diane for so graciously allowing Bart into our family, and welcoming Zach into your own. Bart left us too soon, but the truth is, no amount of time would have been enough. And, even now, while you miss him so much, your hearts must be overflowing with pride for a life so well lived. We

love you Bartman and we'll see you again. In the meantime we will, all of us, carry you in our hearts because that is where you carved your name. And It will remind us all to help each other... to take care of each other...to be a better friend and a better person...to be more like you, Bart.

March 2015

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Yvette Phipps Class of 2005



SMA was a big part of my life as I started in Kindergarten and finished with 8th grade. My three younger siblings had the whole experience as well, so I had a connection with SMA for quite a long time after I graduated. I have some amazing memories. It really is an interesting experience to grow up with the same 30 kids, give or take a few, for 9 years. We became like family, but by the time we reached 8th grade, we were definitely ready to move on and up!

I ended up starting out at Cuyamaca and Grossmont College. Since I finished a semester early, I took my first abroad trip to Mexico for a semester to learn Spanish. It was my first experience truly traveling and getting to know a different culture from my own, and I became hooked. I came back home and got accepted into California State University Long Beach, where I went for a year before taking another semester off to go and teach English in China. I finished up my last semester back at CSULB when I returned and immediately took off again, this time back to Mexico.

Ever since my first trip, I knew I wanted to live abroad, and teaching English was the way to do it. It has become more than just a tool to travel though, as I have really invested myself in getting certified and treating it as a career (I want to get a Masters some day).

I have been living in Monterrey, Mexico for the last year and a half, and in August I became a 2nd grade teacher with my own class of 23 kids. I have been in contact with Ms. Mazzara, who was my 2nd grade teacher, because I want to start a pen pal exchange with my class and hers! I should be getting the first letters soon and my kids are so excited!

I am enjoying my life as it is and to the fullest, but I am really excited as to what is to come. I am engaged to an amazing man, and our wedding date is already set for this summer. We are ready to experience a new country together once this school year ends. I really believe that a lot of my success came from having the SMA background. Not only do I mean the educational part, but the morals and values that were instilled in me, which I have always fallen back on, and they will continue to lead me to whatever wonderful experiences are next in line.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

*Anya Kuzma
Class of 1995*



I attended St. Martin of Tours Academy from 1993 to 1995, grades 6, 7 and 8. Although my time at SMA encompassed a shorter time span than that of other alumni, the years at this school provided me a solid education and the potential to become a caring, dedicated and conscientious student and person in my high school years and beyond.

The years after graduation from SMA included four years at West Hills High School in Santee, followed by my undergraduate education at San Diego State University where I completed my BA in History. Thereafter, I entered graduate school to study History at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. I completed my MA in 2007, and married my husband Charles Adkins that same year. Although I initially planned to work in academia, that is not the path where my life ultimately directed me.

Since 2008, I am employed with Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego and have the fortune to work in a profession dedicated to social justice. I am blessed to work with a group of outstanding co-workers who have a deep commitment for the work they are entrusted to do.

I wish all SMA alumni of my graduating class of 1995 and those of all other years a lifetime of success.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Matthew Stolze Class of 1998



I have many fond memories of my K-8th years at St. Martin's. It was a great place to grow up – My name is Matthew Stolze from the Class of 1998. I attended SMA from Kindergarten until 8th grade. I have a few fond memories while I attended SMA, our long time Pastor, Father Sproul., the Challenger experience and our “8th Grade Special Lunch Area”.

After graduating from SMA in 1998, I went to University of San Diego High School (Currently Cathedral Catholic) where I did my general studies. The majority of my friends from SMA went to USDHS as well so I was with good company. I graduated in 2002 and went straight to work. I had no plans on going to college right out of high school, I just wanted to work and earn money. Going through a few jobs, getting injured on the job, I decided there needed to be a change. I enrolled at a Graphic Design College in San Diego called Platt College, where I earned my Associate of Applied Science Graphic Design Degree in 2008 and have been working as a Graphic Designer/Production Artist for a local company in El Cajon for 8 years now. I also have a successful freelance business on the side where I am Graphic Designer and Web Designer/Developer.

I got married in 2010 to my beautiful wife Nicole and in 2012 we welcomed our beautiful daughter Braelyn LaDon Stolze into this world.

The experiences and education that I received under the Workshop Way system helped pave the way for my future. It taught me how to be a smart, kind and loving individual. I will never forget all of the teachers and staff that helped mold me into the person I am today.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Lauren Barclay Class of 2001

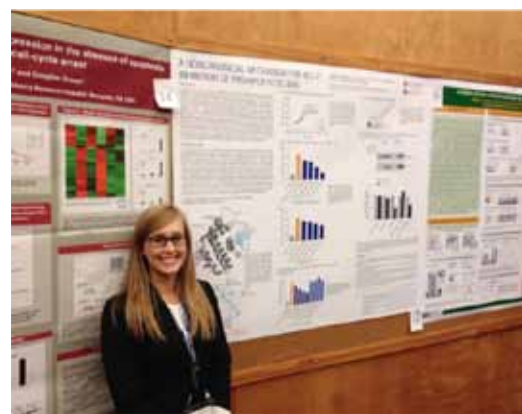


*Fourth grade science fair
project at SMA!*

I have many fond memories of my K-8th years at St. Martin's. It was a great place to grow up – and now that I am finally done with graduate school, I do appreciate the Workshop Way education that got me where I am today by encouraging development of my independence and initiative and teaching me how to work well with others.

After graduating from St Martin's, I attended high school at Our Lady of Peace where I was involved in Academic League, student council, the annual Spring Sing show, JV soccer and cross country. I took several science classes at OLP that lead to my interest in biology and scientific research. I graduated from OLP in 2005 as valedictorian and moved north to pursue my undergraduate studies in Molecular and Cell Biology at UC Berkeley. While studying for classes and working in a Berkeley research lab, I also found time to compete in intercollegiate sailing as a member of the student-run Cal Sailing Team.

When I graduated from Berkeley in 2009, I received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award. I decided to continue my education in biological research and enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. During my Ph.D. studies I learned how to perform independent research and survive snowy New England winters, although I still miss the California sun! I successfully completed my Ph.D. dissertation over the summer and will start a postdoctoral research position at a biotech company in Cambridge, Massachusetts this winter, where I will be participating in early-stage drug development and research. In my free time I enjoy skiing and camping in New Hampshire and Maine, going out with friends, and sailing in Southern California with my family.



Monthly Alumni News Corner

Alex Padua *Class of 2006*



I attended St. Martin of Tours Academy from grades K-8th and graduated in 2006. I remember keeping busy throughout my years at SMA and taking part in all of the activities that the school provided: sports, drama, choir, and the student council. Thinking back, it's funny that Sister Charlene even let me sing in front of people considering the terrible voice I have now! I have so many great memories of the friendships I made and the teachers who all had a positive impact on my life.

I attended St. Augustine High School in 2010 and upon graduation I was accepted into San Diego State University. I am currently on my last year, completing my undergraduate studies in Finance and Spanish. At SDSU I was recently elected as the Vice President of Financial Affairs for the student body. I represent over 30,000 students and oversee a \$24.8 million dollar budget. While balancing school and my full time leadership role, I also intern part-time with Wells Fargo Advisors at one of their branches downtown.

I truly believe that the experiences and the education I received at SMA during those crucial years of growth shaped me into the individual I am today. I will always remember the great times at St. Martin of Tours Academy.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Pamela Lopez-Davies (Davies) *Class of 1964*



Greetings from Prescott, Arizona!

My sister Patty (class of 1965) and I attended St. Martin's from 1955 through 1964, except for 1960-61 at St. Mary's in Grand Island, NE. We came back from Nebraska and resumed at St. Martin's as if we had never left!

The principal was Sister Andrea, and my favorite teacher was Mr. Trombley for 7th grade. I appreciate the education I received at SMA and the friends I made there, some of whom I had the privilege to see at our recent 50th reunion.

After graduation, I attended Our Lady of Peace in San Diego, an experience I will always cherish.

After attending Grossmont, Mesa and Coleman Colleges, I started to work at the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, now called the San Diego Tourism Authority, where I remained for 30 years until 2004. I then worked for the San Diego Convention Center for 3 years until 2008, when I unofficially retired. During those years, I had several jobs within the organizations, until I had my own department and managed a staff of 200 part-time convention workers. This was extremely rewarding, as I was able to fulfill our clients' staffing needs, plus offer semi-retired people gainful employment in a fun and interesting industry. I still keep in touch with many of them.

As a retired person myself, I work the occasional convention in San Diego, Las Vegas, and Phoenix, through Convention Staffing Solutions based in Las Vegas.

My husband and I moved to the Prescott area in 2011. I am involved in many activities here, including the High Desert Artists' guild, Bunco, Mahjong, art and craft shows, and a memoirs-writing class. I help teach a painting class for seniors at the Chino Valley Senior Center, and I am currently the assistant superintendent of the fine arts department of the Yavapai (County) Fair, which takes place September 25-28 in Prescott Valley.

It was a pleasure to return to St. Martin's after all these years and find that things were both changed and familiar. My best to all my former classmates and teachers!



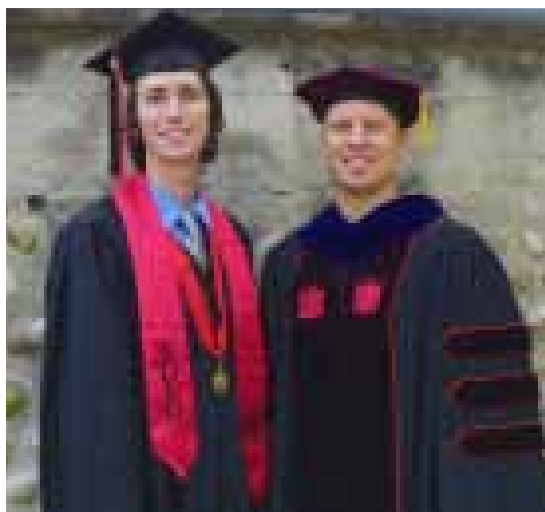
Monthly Alumni News Corner

John S. Hayes *Class of 2003*



John attended San Diego State University as an undergraduate where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in Liberal Arts. During his undergraduate studies he was a math tutor in area middle schools.

As a loyal Aztec, John continued his graduate studies at SDSU where he had the opportunity to be a teaching associate for an accounting class. He recently earned his Masters of Science Degree in Accountancy where he was fortunate enough to be honored as the Most Outstanding Graduate in the field of Accounting. John is now working on his CPA and will start his career in the San Diego area as a public accountant. In reflecting on his time at Saint Martins, John said that “after working in many middle schools and as a teacher myself I really began to see the benefit of the Workshop Way. Looking back I think it helped to cultivate a sense of independence and self-discipline ... the life skills that are essential to be successful in any line of work or pursuit.”



John Hayes (uncle to Tommy & Brendan Gould)
with Damon M. Fleming, PhD.
Associate Professor and SMA Parent!



Congratulations, John!

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Karen DeBolt Class of 1997



Karen at the State Department (2006)

*Greetings from Karen and Lisa DeBolt --twins and
St. Martin of Tours Academy alumnae (Class of 1997)
and are thrilled to have this opportunity to fill
you in on what we've been doing.*

I enjoyed my time at St Martins fondly and remember with great affection wonderful times with Fr. John Sproul, Nancy Ryan, Ronda Galvan, and everyone. I graduated from the University of San Diego High School and decided to go to college locally at the University of San Diego, where I went to undergraduate and graduate school, receiving a Master's Degree in International Relations.

I decided to continue school and went to law school. I graduated from California Western School of Law, passed the California and Nevada Bar exams and am an attorney here in San Diego. I enjoy working in La Mesa for The Atallah Group, A.P.C., a law office that focuses in real estate, business, and estate planning matters.



Receiving Holy Communion from
Pope Benedict XVI (2007)

My years at St. Martins were very formative to my faith formation. I have been blessed to intern for the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican in 2004 and have returned to Rome a number of times since. I try to keep up my Italian. In my free time, I enjoy cooking (especially Italian dishes).

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Lisa DeBolt Class of 1997



Meeting Former First Lady Laura Bush (2004)

Like Karen, I went to “Uni” for high school and the University of San Diego for my B.A. and M.A. in International Relations.

Having enjoyed being a student, I also decided to go to law school and graduated from USD School of Law in 2011. I am currently in the Tax Diploma/LLM program at USD.



Meeting Pope John Paul II, (2004)

I am presently working at the San Diego City Attorney’s Office and enjoy assisting the civil litigation team.

I have always had an interest toward working for the government. I also interned with Embassy Vatican in 2004 and with the Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor’s Office of International Religious Freedom in 2006. Subsequent to my State Department internships, I participated in a program in conjunction with the State Department where I brought conferences and a greater awareness of the Department to our local college campus at USD.

This year, I am currently the Vice Chair of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Division’s International Law section. Recently, I co-chaired a phone conference on immigration issues.

I remember my time with St. Martins fondly (everyone was wonderful) and enjoy going to Mass there weekly.



Receiving Holy Communion from
Pope Benedict XVI (2007)

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Marie (Ashby) Nunley Class of 1961



My years at St. Martin Academy were memorable. My First Communion, Confirmation, and Graduation all took place in our old church, now called Barry Hall. Our playground was in front of the school/church property where our much larger current church was built in 1965. Our playground was asphalt (no grass). We were fortunate to have brownies, girl scouts, and boy scouts.

We were taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame. The principal and eight grade teacher was Sister Andrea. The nuns resided in the convent, which is now our preschool. We had a school cafeteria, which was in the current hall. The older girls (7th & 8th graders) could work by cleaning the tables and washing the dishes. I think we received free lunches for our work. The price for lunch was around 50¢. We were picked up for school at stops close to our homes by Mrs. Langford the school bus driver. At that time (in the 1950's) few mothers drove cars and families did not have more than one car.

I enjoy looking at all the class pictures located in the hall as you walk into Barry Hall. I will never forget my 8 years attending St. Martin Academy. After graduating from St. Martin Academy, I attended Rosary High School where I was involved in Flag Corp.

I then attended Grossmont College receiving an Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science. I worked for over 40 years in the banking business as a Computer Programmer/Analyst and Quality Assurance Supervisor.

I am now retired! I have attended St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church since 1948 and currently serve as a Eucharist Minister. I am grateful for my years at St. Martin Academy for helping me be the person I am today. In 2011 our class celebrated our 50 year reunion from St. Martin Academy.

Your classmates you have today can be friends for the rest of your life.



Monthly Alumni News Corner

*Melanie Quinn
Class of 1998*



After graduating from St. Martin Academy, I attended the Academy of Our Lady of Peace and was involved in theatre while there. I went to Sonoma State University where I received a BA in History. During my time at SSU I was active at the Newman Catholic Center. I also worked as a Community Service Advisor for two and a half years serving other students who lived on campus.

I am a librarian and have a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. I am the librarian for John Paul the Great Catholic University, and also work for Grossmont College and the San Diego County Library.

I enjoy traveling and have had the opportunity to take many great trips including a cruise to the Panama Canal with my grandma and a trip to Europe (of which visiting the Vatican was a highlight) with my brother, Steve (SMA class of 2004). In the future I hope to make it to Australia and to visit all of the National Parks in the U.S. I enjoyed my time at SMA. Some particularly memorable projects were building a town, the Challenger experience, and the medieval, independence and immigration simulations in 7th and 8th grade. Special note to future simulation loyalists, try to get the vote for independence to be unanimous (historically it really was). I wish you better luck with it than I had.



Monthly Alumni News Corner

Dennis Dunn

Class of 1963



After graduating from St. Martin Academy, I attended St. Augustine for freshman year and graduated from Helix High in 1967. I am a Viet Nam veteran after serving in the Medical Corp of the US Air Force from 1970-1973.

I lived in England for 3 years and traveled through much of Europe. My favorite place during that time was the Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. Later received my AA degree from Grossmont College and worked for the Industrial Gases and Welding Supply field for 38 years. I retired in 2010 and really enjoy being retired!

Last year our class got together for a 49th reunion - over 58 attended! Some of the “kids” came from as far away as Arizona, Idaho, Northern California and Los Angeles. I feel SMA gave me a strong foundation mentally and spiritually...It gave me a great start in life.



Our Class of '63 will again get together on September 8th here at SMA to celebrate our 50th! After all these years, we still remain close.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Sarah Gilbert Class of 2003



After graduating SMA in 2003, Sarah attended the Academy of Our Lady of Peace High School and graduated in 2007. She attended San Diego State University for her Bachelor's in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science. During her time at SDSU, Sarah studied abroad in Seoul, South Korea, was a technological assistant at Student Disability Services, and volunteered as a service dog trainer at Little Angels Service Dogs. After graduation, Sarah spent a year working for Princess Cruise Lines traveling around the world to places like Alaska, the Caribbean, and New Zealand. She is currently studying for her Master's and teaching credential in mathematics at Point Loma Nazarene University with plans to student teach in the fall of 2013. In the meantime, Sarah has been completing student observation hours at St. Martin's with Mrs. Beck in the upper grades.



Monthly Alumni News Corner

Andrew Dean Class of 2001



After graduating from St. Martin Academy, Andrew attended St. Augustine High School where he excelled in his studies and on the soccer field. Andrew graduated with honors from Saints in 2005. He continued his education at the University of San Diego where he earned a Bachelor of Accountancy, graduating Cum Laude in 2009. While attending USD, Andrew continued to play soccer; this time with the university's club team. Since graduating from USD in 2009, Andrew has been working for Intuit, the developer of Turbo Tax. His current position is Tax Analyst Programmer III. Additionally, he is a certified *Scrum Master and recently became a Certified Public Accountant. Andrew continues to pursue his love of soccer by playing in adult recreational leagues.

**A scrum master is the facilitator for a product development team that uses scrum, a rugby analogy for a development methodology that allows a team to self-organize and make changes quickly. The scrum master manages the process for how information is exchanged.*

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Anna Marie Lear Class of 2000

My name is Anna Marie (Lear) Forsberg from the Class of 2000. I attended SMA from kindergarten all the way to 8th grade and went on to Grossmont High School, then Grossmont College and finally to USCD, where I graduated in 2009, with a bachelor's degree in Communication. Today, I am married to my best friend and we have a son, Gavin who will turn 3 years old at the end of April. I work for a successful lawyer, who owns his own practice, helping people who have had a business deal that has somehow gone wrong. I am his legal assistant, which means I sometimes get to do exciting stuff, like pull criminal records and research the details of someone's past and other things. I also do some not so exciting stuff like searching through boxes and boxes of documents for one little document. On my days off, I enjoy spending time



with my family and playing board games of all sorts. I am terrible at sports, but I love to dance and do so very often, usually embarrassing my husband. Now that we have a child, he loves to join in the dance party and make daddy laugh at our crazy moves.

Anna Marie with her sister Lizzy (Class of 2002) stopped by for a visit a few years ago!

Monthly Alumni News Corner



Emily Pippin Class of 2002

I attended St. Martin of Tours Academy from grades K-8 and graduated with my great class in 2002. I loved attending school at St. Martins and had experiences and made friends that will last throughout the years. I received a wonderful education from some of San Diego's top teachers and educational professionals and will always deeply value my time there.

After graduating from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace in 2006, I went to San Diego State University and studied Journalism and Media Studies. While in college, I signed up for as many internships as I could and worked at news outlets throughout San Diego County as a freelance writer. My articles have been published in the Presidio Sentinel newspaper and on the Mount Helix, La Mesa and Poway Patch.com websites. I also worked as an intern for Ace Relocation Services and wrote keyword-rich copy for their newly redesigned website.

I worked part-time as an Editorial Assistant at the San Diego Business Journal while finishing my Bachelor's degree in Journalism. After graduating from SDSU in December 2011, I accepted a full-time position with a local marketing firm. Only a few short months later, I was invited back to the San Diego Business Journal to accept a full-time position as Research Editor handling the research and compilation of all the business lists that the Journal publishes each week. As Research Editor I surveyed more than 80 lists and got insider data to the top companies in San Diego County. I also managed the compilation of the 2013 Book of Lists—a 154-page highly informational resource for the top San Diego businesses that includes more than 70 lists with data spanning 50 industries.

In January 2013 I was promoted to Digital Media Editor at the Business Journal and wear a variety of hats each day! In my new role I handle the creation and layout of our daily e-newsletter which reaches more than 50,000 readers each day. I also work as a traditional editor and edit copy, write headlines, choose art and proof pages for each weekly edition of the newspaper. In addition, I write a weekly column that highlights the philanthropy/giving environment in San Diego and have had the opportunity to attend many exciting charitable events.

I look forward to where my career goes next and hope to one day be an Editor in Chief of a local newspaper or magazine.

Monthly Alumni News Corner

Rebecca Ortega Class of 2004



Rebecca enrolled in kindergarten with Mrs. Ashcraft and continued through 8th grade. During her years at SMA and OLP, Rebecca played the flute faithfully at the 9am Sunday Mass with the folk group beginning in the 4th grade. Rebecca was voted most versatile in her graduating class. She applied for admission to the Academy of Our Lady of Peace and received Honors at Entrance in 2004.

In 2008, she applied and received a scholarship to Duke University. Graduating with a BA in Science (cellular & monocular biology) and a minor in chemistry. She was also on the Dean's List her senior year. Rebecca applied for dental school and was accepted at all the schools she applied for. She chose UCLA Dental School. (*out of 3000 applicants only 88 seats were open*) She will be starting this Fall.

*We wish Rebecca a great send-off
and are proud of all her
accomplishments!*



*Congratulations from the Staff
and Students at SMA!*