

SPRING | 2015



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**Saint Pius X**  
CONNECTIONS

**Saint Pius X High School**

5301 St. Joseph's Dr. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1712  
(505) 831-8400  
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St. Pius X Connections is published by the St. Pius X High School Advancement Office.

The mission of St. Pius X Connections is to provide alumni and friends of SPX with news, information, and inspiration regarding the school and each other.




Dear Friends,

One of the educational experiences that resonates consistently with St. Pius X students when they first attend college is how well they feel we have prepared them for college writing. Even students who did not feel they were accomplished writers at St. Pius report that they are leaders in their freshman composition classes who classmates turn to for help. The dedication, teamwork, experience and creativity of the St. Pius X English Department faculty are vital components of a stellar college preparatory education. Their hard work shows in our students.

The ability for students to express themselves in a clear and organized way is tantamount not only to college performance, but carries over into career and life experiences. St. Pius alumni have taken the critical reading and writing skills gained here to professions across the disciplines and around the world. Journalists, scientists, teachers, authors and public officials look back on their high school preparation and are truly grateful for the foundations built at St. Pius. Read some of their stories in this issue of *Connections* starting on page 4.

At St. Pius X we look forward to commemorating these and all our successes with a year-long 60th Anniversary celebration to begin in April 2016. We hope you'll see page 11 for details and consider helping with the effort to mark this important milestone in our history.

In a final and sad note, we remember the passing of Ms. Elva Avila in December. A theology teacher at St. Pius X for the past 16 years, Ms. Avila encouraged her students to serve and lived out her faith before them in the classroom. Our 2012 Teacher of the Year, she will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,  
  
Barbara M. Rothweiler, PhD

*C o n t e n t s*

**FEATURE**

**Prepared to Write** ..... 4  
The critical reading and writing skills imparted and the excellence required by the St. Pius X High School English Department prepare students to succeed in higher education and beyond. Alumni from across the decades share how the SPX English program impacted them.

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**ON THE COVER**

St. Pius X High School seniors **Garrett Smith** and **Brianna Barkocy** will take their English skills into college and careers. Garrett, who is considering Regis University, plans a career in sports journalism. Brianna will pursue photojournalism, possibly at Creighton University.

## Goodness



### SPX Record Effort Grants Child's Wish

St. Pius X High School students, faculty and basketball fans raised a record \$4,274 in January for Make-A-Wish New Mexico to help grant 4-year-old Elias Chavez's wish to visit to Disney World. The amount raised was almost double that raised for the program by any other school in Albuquerque.

SPX Campus Ministries and senior Brianna Barkocy coordinated the effort with the Make-A-Wish Foundation's

Kids for Wish Kids, a program that allows students to raise funds and help grant wishes for kids with life-threatening medical conditions. As the student representative, Barkocy recruited other students to help in the effort which began with a week-long sale of \$1 Make-A-Wish stars that students could put on their lockers and classroom doors and \$2 wrist bands.

The SPX boys basketball team and athletic department added to the effort, setting aside the Jan. 23 game against Albuquerque High School as a special night for the program and for Elias, who has hemophilia. The team had a special St. Pius basketball jersey printed for Elias. He met the team in the locker room before the game and joined them on the bench. His name was announced during the starting lineup and he ran through a tunnel of players to meet head coach Damian Segura at center court where he received a basketball signed by the varsity players.

The Athletic Department donated the gate proceeds for the night to the effort and Barkocy and her team collected donations during halftime after Make-A-Wish volunteer Joyce Barkocy, Brianna's grandmother, spoke about the program and Elias's mother spoke about his wish and his condition.



From left, Joyce Barkocy, Elias Chavez and Brianna Barkocy

### SPX Utilizes Weight Room

Taking advantage of one of the top four high school weight rooms in the state, students and teachers at St. Pius X stay fit with cardio and weight machines and free weights before and after school and on weekends.

"It teaches an ethic of discipline," says Pat Weiss, SPX P.E. teacher for 34 years and weight room coordinator since 2007. "If you want results you have to be disciplined in your workouts."

Weiss says since the facility was refurbished in 2006, its use has tripled. Every team uses it, as opposed to only football in the past. Athletes from all sports are found lifting weights and working out using plyometric boxes. At times this winter there have been up to four different teams using the weight room in the mornings. Students also use the weight room to rehab injuries under the supervision of the school's athletic trainer.

Teachers use the facility during their lunches, spending 20 or 30 minutes working out to feel rejuvenated for their next block of classes, Weiss says.

## Discipline



### Theater Students Earn National Competition Slots

St. Pius X High School's top drama students have qualified to represent SPX at Thespian Festival 2015, a national competition and weeklong theater experience for students held June 22-27 in Lincoln, Neb.

Veronica Baca and Shamus Gridley will present a duet scene, and Jessica King will compete in the monologue category. Amelia Mascolo will feature her skills in costume construction. The students qualified by earning superior ratings from a panel of three judges during the state festival held in January. SPX students Anelisa Montoya and Rafael Sarmiento also earned honors performing as part of the winning improv team for the state festival's Showcase.

Drama teacher Dianne Keyson said 22 members of the school's chapter of the International Thespian Society took part in the highly-competitive state festival featuring New Mexico students who have earned entry into the society by participating in multiple school productions.

## Knowledge



From left, Shamus Gridley, Veronica Baca, Jessica King and Amelia Mascolo

## Sartan Wrestler Earns State Runner-Up

In the 5A State Wrestling Championships, Sartan Gavino Hernandez took second place in the 120-pound weight class. Derrick Cleavall placed fifth at 138 pounds. The team finished 14th overall with just 6 out of 14 weight classes represented.



## Girls Win Thrilling District Championship

The St Pius X girls basketball team, with a district record of 5-1, won their 5A District Championship over the Grants Pirates in a thrilling 65-64 win at home. Junior guard Juliana Gurule hit a game winning 3-point shot with seconds left in the game to win it for the Lady Sartans. District awards were presented at the conclusion of the championship game with Natalie Zamora receiving District Most Valuable Player honors for the third year in a row and Gurule and Victoria Sanchez receiving all-district honors. The team lost in the first round of the state tournament to Valencia High School 60-54.

## Boys Earn 8th Straight District Title

With a district record of 7-0, the SPX boys basketball team earned its eighth-straight 5A District Championship. Coach Damian Segura calls this year's team with its overall record of 22-4 his "most unselfish, cohesive team in the past 15 years." The team has not lost a district game since 2012, winning 27 straight. The team lost in the first round of the state tournament to Artesia High School 42-40.



## Diver Repeats State Championship

SPX diver Natasha Dark is the Class 6A State Diving Champion, breaking her own 2014 state record by 46 points during the February Class 6A Swim and Dive State Championships. With 47 schools represented, the St. Pius X boys team took 12th place and the girls team took 17th. In the 50 Free, Marina Guzman took 13th for the girls, while for the boys Nick Christman took 5th, Tim Billstrand 7th, and Austin Waterman 17th. Throughout the season, the boys team won the Capitol, Los Lunas and Farmington Invitationals and finished second at the Horseman Invite. The girls team placed in the top 3 at the Capitol, Los Lunas, Farmington and Horseman invitationals.



2015

## Phil Zuber

### Keeping it Real

Ask alumni from the 1980s to today about influential St. Pius X teachers and the same name is often mentioned: Zuber.

For the St. Pius X English department's Philip Zuber, teaching classic literature and advanced writing skills goes hand-in-hand with guiding his students to realize a sense of self. "The senior curriculum is wrapped around the theme of identity," Zuber says. "If students get clues about who they are, they can make good decisions. We keep it real."

Zuber reluctantly joined the faculty of St. Pius X High School in 1981. As a former administrator of what he calls "a Catholic school for delinquents" in Pittsburgh, he saw himself working with at-risk students from difficult neighborhoods like the one in which he had grown up in Pittsburgh. Encouraged to go to law school to help these kids outside of the classroom, he moved to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico and began substitute teaching in the area's Catholic schools. That led to teaching middle school math at St. Mary's in Albuquerque.

When one of his best math students faced an electronic answer sheet mix up on her St. Pius X entrance exam and feared failure, he offered to go to St. Pius to ask if she could retake the test. He spent half his day trying to bring about what he considered a simple solution. He was not impressed with St. Pius, but the school's administrators took note of his passion and asked him to apply to teach at the high school. He didn't want to. He argued with the principal, Father Dennis Andrews, at his interview and refused the contract offered to him, but he was unsettled.

"I was lighting a candle to the Blessed Mother at St. Mary's, praying a prayer of surrender," he says. "I asked God for a sign."

On his way out the door of the church, he bowled over the St. Mary's principal and had to catch her. She immediately said, "Phil, you should go to Pius." Not knowing the nun had been spurred to say such by multiple calls from Father Andrews, he took it as his sign and acted immediately.

By 1987 he began a 12-year stint as English department chair. He taught AP and honors courses for 15 years, coached boys and girls basketball in the '80s and '90s, and sponsored the student council. Today he teaches senior English classes and sponsors the community outreach group.

It is Zuber's hope that his students will find success in doing what they love and that he can help them discover what that is. "St. Pius is here to build the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven," he says. "We're here to serve other people with love. That love comes from God, and doing what we love to do."

1998



1982



PREPARED TO

Write

“People ask me how I became such a good writer; I point to St. Pius,” says **Dr. Laura McNamara ’87**, author, editor and anthropologist at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque.

Alumni across the decades, the disciplines and the globe echo McNamara’s sentiments, praising the quality of the program and the passion of the faculty. “Zuber, he’s slightly insane, which can be very motivating to young people,” **Michael Tapscott ’87**, a Phoenix author of a non-fiction book on homelessness, says with a laugh when describing Phil Zuber, a 42-year teaching veteran -- 34 of those years at St. Pius -- known for inspiring his English students.

“So many students applaud the English Department,” Zuber says. “One of our main goals is to prepare them to write in college, and they do learn to write extremely well.”

Zuber says the vision of a unified English program building writing skills from freshman to senior year began in the mid-1980s and was championed by then-department chair Augustine Martinez. Over nine years members of the department worked to solidify curriculum that explores classic literature while teaching structured approaches to critical writing, the argumentative essay, the rhetorical modes of

exposition and the literary research paper. They revisit it frequently to assess and improve.

Veteran English teacher Mimosa Finley took a two-year sabbatical and attended classes of the University of New Mexico’s professional writing program to see what’s being asked of students in college. “I saw chemistry majors and biology majors taking professional writing classes,” she says. “It doesn’t matter if they are leaving the study of English literature, the skill of writing remains very important.”

Finley says that after graduating many SPX students report that college classmates are turning to them for guidance in their freshman composition classes because they have writing and organizational skills that typical high school graduates don’t have.

“My teachers -- Patricia Herron, Augustine Martinez, Alaine Daly and Phil Zuber -- made us reach so far beyond what we knew,” McNamara says. “At St. Pius I learned to treat language as a beautiful thing we as humans create.”

McNamara has edited and co-edited three books on social science topics and edited a series called *Studies in Multidisciplinarity* for Elsevier Press. She writes articles, book chapters and proposals. In her role as an anthropologist she studies how people interact



English teachers  
Phil Zuber,  
Mimosa Finley  
and Charla  
Smith.

with the technical world and uses her writing skills to explain those interactions and to advise.

“I would not have the career I have without the St. Pius writing program and my mother,” says McNamara. Her mother, Joan McNamara, became an English teacher at St. Pius X after McNamara graduated. “No kidding, she used to correct my diary when I was in middle school. Between Pius and my mom, it was inevitable that I’d learn to put a decent sentence together.”

McNamara, who earned a bachelor’s degree

in international relations at Georgetown University and a master's degree and doctorate in anthropology at the University of New Mexico, shares the five-paragraph critique she learned at St. Pius X with the student interns with whom she works at Sandia. "The rigor and structure that the program brought to me was invaluable," she says. "Now writing is the most marketable skill I have and I look for it when I hire people. It's really important to me."

Charla (Phillips) Smith '89, an English teacher at St. Pius for almost 13 years, says the organization, critical thought and overall effective writing focused

upon at St. Pius X are invaluable in every discipline.

"The idea of focusing on technology and science-based learning is a large part of modern society, but strides in these fields are due to humans' ability to think on higher, figurative levels, and communicating these ideas is crucial," Smith says. "By learning and practicing these skills through a medium like literature, the basics of critical thought and communication are exhibited in a safe and entertaining way."

Smith, a contributing writer to the website Catholic Sistas, says that as a student at St. Pius X she honed her skills as a reader and writer. "I had a teacher,

Sister Margaret Powers, who taught me well in the structure and discipline of the craft; I love *The Scarlet Letter* to this very day, because of her enthusiasm. Mr. Zuber . . . got me to think harder than any teacher had before."

"At Pius students are asked to make amazing connections," Finley adds. "My goal is to offer them the understanding that they must have critical and analytical skills to do well. I want them to have the confidence that they can do more than just find the superficial meaning. They can think about things on a deep level."



## ALUMNUS PREPARED BY PIUS

### Gerald Bourguet '09



"When I realized my career as an NBA player probably wasn't going to pan out, I decided writing about professional basketball would be the next best thing," says Gerald Bourguet, an NBA writer covering the Phoenix Suns as co-editor of the Valley of the Suns, a news and opinion website of the FanSided Network. "The English classes I took during my time at St. Pius helped me develop my confidence

in my writing abilities and cultivate my interest in creative writing. I'm thankful for the way those classes directly impacted my career path."

Bourguet graduated from Arizona State University in 2013 with a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism. He also serves as assistant editor for HoopsHabit.com, writing NBA features and covering the Golden State Warriors.

### Anne Hillerman '67

"English classes at Pius in my day were tough, but fun," says Santa Fe-based author and journalist Anne Hillerman. "I especially recall Miss (Jeanette) French and her attention to both the details of writing -- grammar, syntax, punctuation -- as well as the joy of a story well told. She and I had an interesting debate about the merits of Bob Dylan as a poet. She didn't think much of his lyrics, but she was willing to let me write a paper about him."

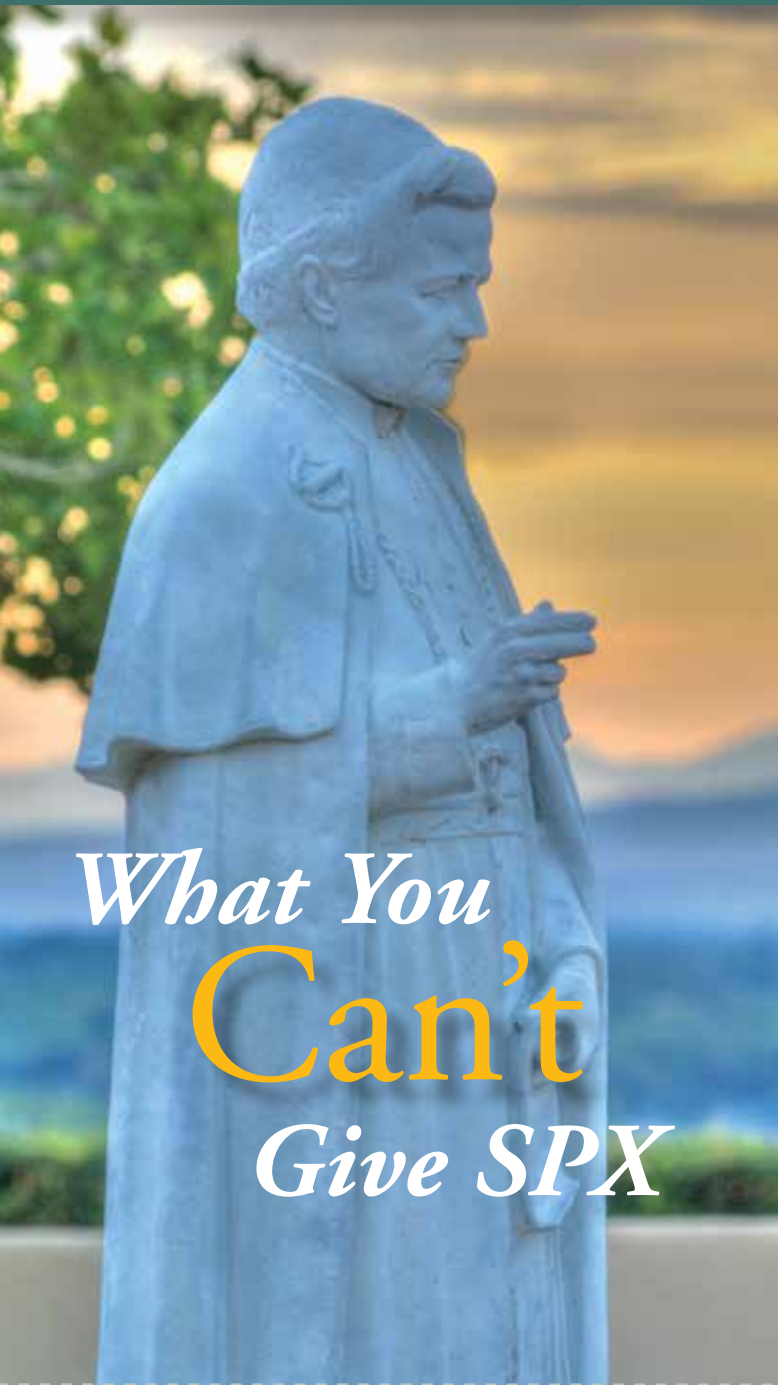
Hillerman's second mystery novel, *Rock With Wings*, hits the shelves on May 5 and carries on the story of the Navajo detectives her father, Tony Hillerman, created. Her first novel, *Spider Woman's Daughter*, debuted Oct. 1, 2013, and became a *New York Times* Bestseller in its first week on the shelves. The book won the 2014 Spur Award for the Best First Mystery from Western Writers of

America and the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for Best Book in 2014. Both novels are published by HarperCollins.

A graduate of the University of New Mexico and a journalist for more than 20 years, Hillerman worked as editorial page editor for the *Albuquerque Journal North* and the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, and as arts editor for both papers. Hillerman, now a restaurant reviewer for the *Albuquerque Journal*, has published eight non-fiction books and is a director of the Wordharvest Writers Workshops and the Tony Hillerman Writers Conference, both of which she helped establish in 2001. Her award-winning non-fiction books include *Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leaphorn* and *The Gardens of Santa Fe* (both collaborations with her

*Continued on page 8*





## What You Can't Give SPX

You can give money to St. Pius X. You can give stock and real estate. You can give personal property like artwork, antiques, coins and cars. You can give promissory notes and royalty rights. You can give life insurance and pension funds.

You can give your time. You can donate your special expertise and your leadership skills. You can volunteer to help with various events. You can give a hundred different ways.

But there's one thing you cannot give St. Pius X: a gift that will jeopardize your financial security. We won't let you. At least, we will try our best to prevent it. That's because we value you and your ongoing partnership with us. We want your giving to be right for you in every way.

Making a major gift to St. Pius X requires great care. The gift plan needs to fit you like a glove. It should make sense and contribute to your satisfaction and enjoyment. It should be one of the high points of your life.

Steve Ross is the director of advancement for St. Pius X. He is able to explain various giving opportunities and help you and your advisors tailor the ideal gift plan for you. Whether it is a bequest designation in your will or a life-income gift you establish now, he can help you.

Have you considered creating an endowment fund? Steve can help you. Would you like to know how to give a life insurance policy you no longer need? Steve can help you. Do you want to explore a possible gift of closely held stock, a vacation home you no longer use, or a piece of undeveloped land? Steve can address all of these things, and more.

You can contact Steve by calling (505) 831-8423 or by mailing the coupon below. You will find him personable, knowledgeable and trustworthy. He will guard your confidences and honor your privacy. No arm-twisting. His services are complimentary and you are under no obligation to proceed with a gift.

One more thing: Steve will not try to take the place of your own legal, tax or financial advisors. Instead, he will urge you to obtain independent counsel to make sure that any major gift you make to St. Pius X is appropriate in light of your overall estate plan.

Let Steve tell you about the planned gifts others have made and what opportunities exist for you. Call him or mail in the coupon.

### Dear Friends at St. Pius X Foundation:

- Please send me information about year-end giving.
- Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- I have provided for St. Pius X in my will or other estate-planning document.
- Please send me information about the St. Pius X Foundation.

### Please complete and return this reply form.

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Mail this form to | St. Pius X High School, Advancement Office | 5301 St. Joseph's Dr NW | Albuquerque, NM 87120





ANNUAL FUND

*Donate today, make a difference tomorrow!*

## SPX Annual Fund Heroes

The Heroes of the St. Pius X Annual Fund are you! Each of you who contributes yearly to the SPX Annual Fund is a hero to St. Pius X. Without your contribution, St. Pius would be greatly lacking in funds to support tuition assistance thereby denying a quality Catholic, college prep education to deserving students. More than 40 percent of St. Pius students receive some level of tuition assistance.

The Annual Fund also supports teaching excellence awards for faculty, athletics and fine arts projects, and campus improvements. Recent examples of your

annual fund contributions at work include a new baseball scoreboard installed last year and professional development stipends awarded to three faculty members.

As you may know, the operating budget to sustain St. Pius has only two sources of revenue, tuition payments and contributions from alumni, parents, businesses and the community. There is no Diocesan or Parish support. Private support allows the school to keep tuition costs at an affordable level. This is especially critical given the economic downturn.

Two of the many heroes of St. Pius X want you to know why they choose to give:

*“As the only Catholic High School in Albuquerque, St. Pius X provides a foundation for one to grow into a well-rounded community member. As an alum, St. Pius provided me not only an excellent academic foundation, but a spiritual and moral training ground for life. That is why is I support the SPX Annual Fund each year.”*

—Cathy Chespregi Cavanaugh '95



*“When I see and hear about all the successful individuals and families who we went through St. Pius with, it makes me proud to have known them and to do my part in keeping a great and unique tradition going.”*

— Lonny Hurley '77

If you have already made your Annual Fund contribution this school year, we are grateful. If not we hope you will respond through the gift envelope in this issue of *St. Pius X Connections*, one of our spring mail appeals or when an St. Pius student calls you during our April phonathon.

PREPARED TO

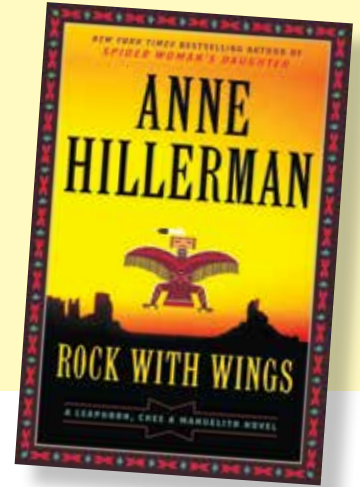
# Write

## Anne Hillerman '67

*Continued from page 5*

husband, photographer Don Strel); *Santa Fe Flavors: Best Restaurants and Recipes*; *The Insider's Guide to Santa Fe*; *Children's Guide to Santa Fe*; *Done in the Sun*; and *Ride the Wind: USA to Africa*.

"I loved writing in high school, in part because of the support and encouragement I received not only from my English teachers but from everyone who demanded those perky reports and term papers," Hillerman adds.



## Tim Keller '96

New Mexico State Auditor Tim Keller remembers sitting back in his English classes with teachers Joan Sabato, Patricia Herron, Jim Padilla and Phil Zuber wondering why they always said that the lessons learned in English class would be very important for the rest of your life.

"Don't get me wrong, I always loved those classes, but I didn't understand that the ability to think on different levels, to build and articulate persuasive arguments, and

the power to use language as a means to communicate all manner of thoughts, feelings and emotions, are gifts I would end up being grateful for everyday," Keller says. "As a former state Senator and current statewide elected Auditor, I use the skills I learned from those four giants almost every day in my public life. I consider my four years with the Saint Pius English Department to unquestionably be the single most valuable academic experience of my life."

Keller went on from St. Pius X to earn a bachelor's degree studying public service, art history and finance at the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in business administration with honors from the Harvard Business School.

## Leslie Radigan-Yodice '91

Leslie Radigan-Yodice credits Mimosa Finley for her love of F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Phil Zuber still comes to mind as she cringes over comma splices. "The goodness, excellence and discipline they instilled us were so forming," she says.

Radigan-Yodice of Albuquerque earned a degree in communications and journalism at the University of New Mexico and has worked in the communications office of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe for the past 10 years. She has seen the need for her writing skills expand from press releases and editing the archdiocese's monthly People of God publication to managing its web content

and Twitter feed.

"Pope Francis is so behind digital media with his amazing tweets," Radigan-Yodice says. "We follow him in that and see the technology as another vessel to spread the good news."

Radigan-Yodice says with her English preparation at St. Pius X, she was fully prepared for college classes. "I was blown away at how easy the first years were," she says. "They got difficult as I moved on, but the study skills I had learned and being able to succinctly defend an argument (remained important). It was empowering to have this skill set."

*Leslie Radigan-Yodice and Archbishop Sheehan.*



# Michael Tapscott '87

Michael Tapscott is the author of *Homeless Hero* published by AbbotPress in 2013, a book about his quest to understand homelessness in society and to understand a sense of it in his own life. "Homelessness is so complex and I understand that I don't understand it," he says. "Part of the point of the book is get us to open up to the fact that it's not simple."

To tackle the public awareness project, a Grand Prize winner of the Great Southwest Book Festival, Tapscott drew on the organizational and writing skills learned at St. Pius X, where

he received the last of his formal English instruction.

"I did not get a college degree, and Pius was the end of my English education," says Tapscott, a massage therapy instructor at Maricopa Community Colleges in Phoenix, Ariz. "I'm really lucky to have gone to high school there having not gone to college. The English teachers at St. Pius hammered in the basics, those foundational writing skills, and they taught me to be a clear, concise writer who can carry an idea along. They got you to write and fall in love with stories."



# Sarah Sluder '13

Sarah Sluder, an English and elementary education major at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., hopes to inspire students in the same way her St. Pius X teachers inspired her.

"While I was at Saint Pius X, I was taught by very passionate teachers," Sluder says. "Experiencing the love for the subjects they teach and being a part of their classrooms inspired me to pursue a job in education. (My English teachers) helped me develop a

great zeal for literature and so I am pursuing it today."

During college Sluder has seen her peers struggle with research and writing organized papers. "St. Pius X has really prepared me to write quality papers for my college courses," she says. "This is a great strength that SPX has given me. The ability to convey thoughts with intelligence and creativity is a skill that will never be outdated and will always have value."

# Dr. Michael Schirber '89

Michael Schirber learned grammar, vocabulary and how to present an argument in the St. Pius X English program, but more important to him was an excitement for learning he gained.

"Phil Zuber had an enthusiasm for knowledge that was infectious," he says. "I came out of his class excited to know things; wanting to know things; thinking it's cool to know things."

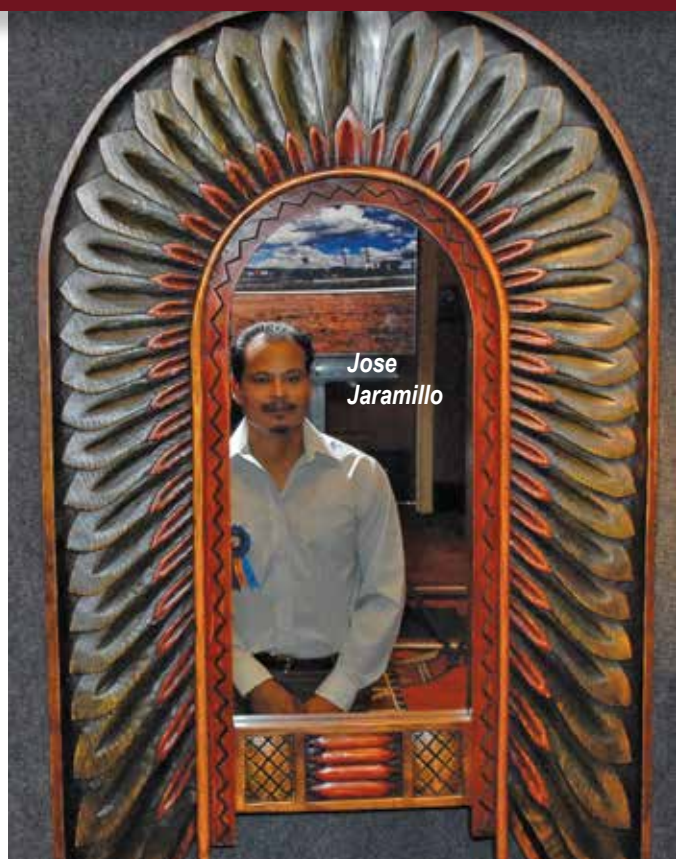
Schirber went on to earn a degree in math and philosophy from the University of New Mexico and a doctorate in physics from Ohio State University. After earning his PhD, Schirber found himself more interested in telling the story of science than of doing science. That led him to the science writers program at New York University and a master's degree in journalism. He now works as a science writer freelancing for

publications including *Physics World UK*, *Science* and *New Scientist* on topics of physics, astronomy and chemistry while living near Lyon, France. His articles bringing the scientific research of the day to a general audience also have appeared on the Yahoo News website.

"Sometimes people feel science is too far above them," he says. "But there are stories that can be told that can reach everyone."

"I interview a lot of scientists for my work" Schirber adds. "You can tell people who have grasped their role as communicators. They understand that part of their job is not only to do science but to make sure it's presented to the public. They realize they're reaching the next generation, making them excited about science as well."





## 2015 Legacy Art Features SPX Parent

The craftsmanship of premier woodworker and St. Pius X parent Jose Jaramillo will shine at Legacy Art 2015 at 5 p.m. on May 9 at Sandia Resort. As the event's featured artist, Jaramillo will present his 46-inch by 66-inch "Vintage Buckle Mirror" framed in Superior Alder wood beautifully carved in a belt buckle motif.

Jaramillo, the father of **Javier '14** and SPX sophomore **Jose**, will participate in Legacy Art for his third year. A fourth-generation carver and Albuquerque native, Jaramillo has operated Jaramillo Fine Wood Carving for more than 25 years. He carves for custom homes across the country, creates furniture and has appeared on HGTV.

Sponsored by the St. Pius X and Art Has Heart foundations, Legacy Art Albuquerque raises funds for college scholarships, tuition assistance at St. Pius and support of the SPX fine arts programs. Since 2001, the program has enjoyed the support of hundreds of gifted artists, talented celebrities, generous sponsors and exceptional volunteers.

Tickets are \$50 for dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Contact (505) 831-8406 or [bmontoya@spx.k12.nm.us](mailto:bmontoya@spx.k12.nm.us) for information.

## Mardi Gras

Matt and Tammy Plummer '04 visit with Dennis and Lynne Peckinpaugh '64.



An Elegant Evening in Monte Carlo, St. Pius X High School's annual Mardi Gras celebration held Feb. 7, raised \$60,000 to support the school. Special thanks goes to the evening's sponsors:

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Larry Rainosek and Dan Atchley enjoy the gaming tables at the Evening in Monte Carlo.



Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan shares his "Big Dog" story.

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## Class of '64 Endowment Grows

The St. Pius X High School Class of 1964's **Chuck Reynolds** (far left) and **Eddie Castoria** (far right) presented to SPX principal Dr. Barbara Rothweiler (second from right) funds left unspent during their reunion last year to be added to their '64 Endowment. Also pictured is student Jessica who received tuition support from the endowment. Members of the class hope to see the endowment grow to \$50,000 in the near future and support additional deserving St. Pius X students.



Sixteen classmates from the St. Pius X High School Class of 1965 gathered for lunch at Ned's just after Christmas. They hope this is a sign that there will be a great turnout for their 50th Class Reunion Sept. 11-13. For information email [stpius1965@comcast.net](mailto:stpius1965@comcast.net). Pictured left to right are **Charlie Pascetti, Randy Chavez, Margaret Martin, Trish Goodwin Ellis, Phil Herndon, Carlos Martinez, Steve Dobbins, Rick Bressan, Gilbert Montoya, Roger De Angelis, Al Cata, Marlowe Fisher Cata, Tish Martinez, Dave Padilla**; and seated are **Dianne Sei De Angelis and Linda Castoria Carstens**.

## Socialize with the Sartans

Sartan Social hours are in full swing for 2015. Include us in your summer plans and mark your calendars now for our summer event. Alumni from every decade will gather at Red Door Brewing Company on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. Red Door is located at 1001 Candelaria Rd NE and owned by fellow alumnus **Frank Halloway '00**. Special thanks to Farina Alto for hosting our first Sartan Social Hour of 2015 in March.



## 2015 Reunions

### Class of 1965

**50th Reunion • Sept 11-13**

Email: [stpius1965@comcast.net](mailto:stpius1965@comcast.net)

Call: Charles Pascetti at (505) 269-4196

### Class of 1975

**40th Reunion • Sept 18-19**

Email: [1975.spxjorge@gmail.com](mailto:1975.spxjorge@gmail.com)

### Class of 1985

**30th Reunion • July 24-25**

Email: [piusreunion1985@gmail.com](mailto:piusreunion1985@gmail.com)

### Class of 1995

**20th Reunion • June 27**

Email: [spxclass95@gmail.com](mailto:spxclass95@gmail.com)

### Class of 2005

**10th Reunion • July 31-Aug 1**

Email: [jessicaleemon@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaleemon@gmail.com)

For general information, contact Jennifer Maldonado at (505) 831-8406 or [jmaldonado@spx.k12.nm.us](mailto:jmaldonado@spx.k12.nm.us).

## Help Us Celebrate 60 Years

St. Pius X High School will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the school's founding in 2016. The SPX Advancement Office is coordinating the year-long celebration and is now recruiting alumni, parents, parents of graduates, and others who would like to serve on the 60th Anniversary Committee to help the office plan, oversee and implement the anniversary celebration.

If you are interested in serving please contact Becky Montoya, associate director of advancement, or Jennifer Maldonado, alumni relations manager, at (505) 831-8406.

The anniversary celebration will launch in April 2016 and run through June 2017. Please join us in celebrating excellence in quality Catholic education.

Wilma Brandt, age 81 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 12, 2015. She is survived by her children Barbara Brandt, **Jackie Roeder '78**, **Christine Brandt '80**, Michael Brandt, and **Lt. Col. Steven Brandt, USAF (Retired) '86**; and 10 grandchildren.

**Bruce Doeren '72**, age 60 of Albuquerque, died in November 2014. He is survived by his wife Eloise; children **Miquela '09** and **Ryan '13**; and brother **Robert '74**.

James Harold Forrester, age 86 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 25, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn; his children Jim Forrester and Janet Copenhaver; five grandchildren including **Aaron Forrester '93** and **Scott Forrester '00**; and five great-grandchildren.

**Rema Ann Giannini, "Rae Rae" '74**, age 58 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 11, 2015. She is survived by her sons, Joseph Harrison (USMC) and Michael Harrison; her parents, Remo and Sanita Giannini; and her sister, Concetta Baker.

Frank S. Hellwig, age 91 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 17, 2015. He is survived by his children **David Hellwig '71**, **Dr. Beth Hellwig '72**, **Keith Hellwig '73**, **Karen Hellwig Hankinson** and Mary Barber; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Marie Elizabeth Hillerman, age 87 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 12, 2015. She is survived by her children **Anne Hillerman '67**, **Jan Grado '72**, Tony Hillerman Jr., Monica Atwell, Steven August Hillerman, **Daniel Bernard Hillerman '82**, and numerous grandchildren including **Ian Grado '97**, **Matthew Grado '99** and **Sarah (Grado) Tuico '02**.

Bobby Keys, age 70 of Nashville, Tenn., died Dec. 2, 2014. He is survived by his wife **Hollyann Radelli '77**.

John Konitzer Jr., age 79 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 5, 2015. He was preceded in death by

children **Francis B. Konitzer '77**, **Cecilia M. Sanchez '82** and **Monica M. Konitzer '84**; and his wife Evangelina R. Konitzer. His survivors include his wife, Diane Konitzer; his children John Konitzer III, **Kathleen Armijo '75**, **Richard Konitzer '78**, and **Rita Helak '81**; and five grandchildren.

Robert E. "Bob" Melloy, age 91 of Albuquerque, died Nov. 9, 2014. He was one of the founders of St. Pius X High School in 1956. He is survived by his children **Pam Shumard '61**, **Joe Melloy '64**, **Steve Melloy '66**, Nick Melloy, Guy Melloy, Dan Melloy, **Michael Melloy '84**; 20 grandchildren including **Grace Melloy '18** and 22 great-grandchildren.

Mario J. Menicucci, age 92 of Albuquerque, died Nov. 11, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Theresa; six children **Gemma Morris '67**, **Roberta Menicucci '68**, **John Menicucci '70**, **Mark Menicucci '71**, Laura Miller, and Philip Menicucci; 17 grandchildren including **John Jr. '94**, **Janea '96**, **Joseph '98** and **Jason '00** and 31 great-grandchildren.

**Thomas Theodore Michaels '64**, age 68 of Lockesburg, Ark., died Oct. 1, 2014. He was retired from the U.S. Marines and worked in management after the military. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Ann Lowrey Michaels, three children and six grandchildren.

**Phil Moser '68** of Albuquerque died Nov. 3, 2014. He was a veteran, a successful plumber, a father and grandfather. His survivors include son **David '92**, and siblings **Eugene '65**, **Margaret '66**, **Mary '69** and **Patrick '76**.

Stephen H. Neff, age 94 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 22, 2015. He and his wife Margaret were patrons of St. Pius X High School, instrumental in soliciting donations to help build the school's first campus on Louisiana and Indian School and very involved

in the 1960s and '70s with the St. Pius Spaghetti Dinners. He is survived by his children **John Neff '63**, **Kathleen Neff '64**, **Margaret Mortis '68**, **Thomas Neff '70**, **Stephen (Greg) Neff '72**, **Mary Snow '73**, **Julie Gregory '75**, **Teresa Bottomly '75**, **Patricia Wallentine '77**, and **Barbara Ducaj '79**; 23 grandchildren including **William Gregory '02** and **Michelle (Wallentine) Madrid '07**; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Douglas Gale Nichols, age 80 of Round Rock, Texas, died Dec. 31, 2014. He is survived by children Douglas Gale II, John Richard Frank and Susan Harris; and four grandchildren including **John Richard Frank '88**.

Roberta Jeanne Radigan of Albuquerque died Jan. 9, 2015. She is survived by her children Mike, Steve, Tom and Kerry; 11 grandchildren including **Leslie Radigan-Yodice '91** and **Michael Radigan '96**; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Edward Louis Rubio, age 84 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife Priscilla; sons **Edward George Rubio '77**, **Robert Rubio '78**, David Rubio, Rodney Lozano and Johnny Lozano; daughters Patricia Rubio, **Gina Rubio '79**, **Loretta Steele '80**; **Nancy Serna '82**, Pinky Salvo, Karesse Grenier, **Elaine Graham '74**, and Pauline Ryan; 24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

William M. Schum, age 85 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 31, 2015. His survivors include his wife, Doris Schum; children Michael Schum, **Stephen Schum '68**, **Timothy Schum '69**, Kathleen (Schum) Becker, Susie (Schum) McMillin, Lisa (Schum) Ferguson, and Kevin Schum; 16 grandchildren, including **Erin (Becker) Razuri '00**, **Amanda (Becker) '04**, and **Stephanie Becker '09**; and 17 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter, Paula Schum, and grandson, David Schum.



## *SPX Mourns the Loss of Ms. Avila*

St. Pius X High School theology teacher **Elva Avila**, age 61 of Albuquerque, died Dec. 11, 2014, after a heroic battle against cancer. Ms. Avila was a teacher for 40 years and spent the past 16 years teaching at St. Pius X. With professionalism and attention to detail, she created a beautiful peaceful environment that helped students learn and grow, said fellow theology teacher Sister Rena Romero. She was named St. Pius's 2012 Teacher of the Year.

"She had a gift for teaching and a deep desire to share what was so meaningful to her -- her faith," Romero said. "I saw how deeply she lived out her faith by her unselfish hard work and dedication she gave so consistently. Elva was a witness of God's endless source of grace and peace."

"As a teacher of theology, she encouraged her students to step outside of the classroom and serve in their own communities, putting into practice all the rich things we learned in her class," wrote **Greg Hakeem '10**, her former student and current SPX theology teacher. "It was these experiences that ignited the desire in my heart to continue my study of theology throughout my college education."

Ms. Avila is survived by her sons, Rudi Cruz and **Adrian Cruz '08**; and her siblings, Maria Shelley, Rudy Vasquez, Martha Dovenbarger, Esther Byrne and Eustacio Vasquez.



**U.S. Air Force Lt. Ryan Loyd '06**, sixth from left, completed F16 pilot training in 2014 and received an Exemplary Leadership Award as a top F16 pilot. He is now stationed at Osan Air Force Base in South Korea. Loyd graduated from the Air Force Academy in May 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. In April 2013 he graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, achieving the Air Force's three top flying awards, Distinguished Graduate, Commanders Choice and T-38 Flying Award.

## 1960s

The University of New Mexico named Heather Dyche, daughter of **Carol Roth Dyche '64**, its new women's soccer coach in January. Dyche played college soccer at Nebraska and Florida State and has extensive coaching experience at numerous levels of national club soccer, according to the Albuquerque Journal.

## 1980s



**Patrick Gallagher '81** was named Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh in August 2014. Gallagher left posts as the acting deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the director of the

National Institute of Standards and Technology to take the position at Pitt, where he earned a doctorate in physics in 1991.

**Steve Maestas '81** began his term as chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Board of Directors in January. The CEO of Maestas Development Group and chairman of Maestas & Ward Real Estate in Albuquerque, Maestas is the first New Mexican to chair the board that advises the bank and contributes to the mission of the nation's central bank, the Fed, to set national

monetary policy, supervise banks and provide financial services to those banks. Maestas began serving on the Kansas City Fed's Economic Advisory Council in 2010 and was appointed to a three-year-term on the Kansas City board in 2013. He served as deputy chair in 2014.



## 1990s

**Tim Keller '96** was sworn in as the New Mexico State Auditor in January after being elected last November. He is among the youngest statewide election officials in the nation. In New Mexico, the state auditor is an executive branch statewide elected official responsible for the oversight of over 900 state agencies and local governments.



The auditor also conducts special investigations of potential cases of fraud, waste and abuse. Previously Keller was Majority Whip in the state Senate where he focused on government reform, transparency and accountability.

## 2010s



Norwich University men's soccer center back **Christian Albrecht '12** was named the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Defensive Player of the Year for 2014. Albrecht, a junior at the Massachusetts university, anchored a defensive unit that allowed just 24 goals

in 21 games played this season. Albrecht also earned First Team All-Conference and GNAC All-Tournament Team honors in 2014.

**Mary Carpenter '13** was named to the 17th Annual All-Colorado Academic Team in March, honoring the top high-performing community-service oriented students from 14 Colorado community colleges. Carpenter's



college, Trinidad State, selected her from among members of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, which recognizes the academic achievement of two-year college students. Carpenter plays on the Trinidad State women's basketball team and is a member of its acclaimed robotics team. She will graduate in May with an associate's degree in science and plans to pursue a four-year degree in electrical engineering and a career combining robotics with the development of prosthetics.

## Share your news

We're looking for the latest news about you. Send us information and photos about accomplishments, new jobs, fun experiences, engagements, marriages, new additions to the family, and retirements. We'd love to feature you in the Alumni Notes or the Alumni Profile. Send your news and photos to [spxeditor@outlook.com](mailto:spxeditor@outlook.com).



*The SPX RobotiX Club's Team Gold took the state Tournament Champions title and earned the Design Award and first in Driver Skills at the 2015 VEX Robotics State Competition at New Mexico State University on Feb. 14. The club's Team Black placed third in the tournament. With its wins, Team Gold qualified to enter the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky on April 15. Team mentors are Ms. Joyce Gridley and Ms. Diana Perea. Team Black includes **Shamus Gridley, JP Maestas, Landen Culbreath, Jaqueline Baros, Sydney Hunter, Emily Eix and Harold Gridley**. Team Gold members are **Tatiana De La Torre, Kelly Cox, Cris Aragon, Jacob Carpenter, Sarah McHarney, Gabe Niski, Mark Perea, Ely Teran and Tim Tran**.*

*For alumni, donors and friends of St. Pius X High School*

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