

FALL | 2014



Saint Pius X
CONNECTIONS



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Saint Pius X

CONNECTIONS

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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,

The fall issue of St. Pius X *Connections* features the impact our alumni make on the community. I continue to be impressed with the work, service and leadership at which St. Pius X graduates excel. The alumni we feature this year, **Steve Maestas '81, Chris Plaman '07 and Carol Zonski '66**, are beautiful examples of where a St. Pius X education can lead. I know our current student body of 722 will be ready for the challenge as their

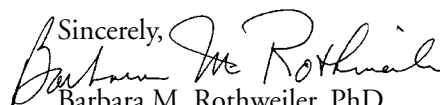
St. Pius X experience lays the foundation that leads to alumni success.

We always seek to enhance the student experience, and this fall we have begun work on several ideas for strengthening our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum with a focus on technology. One of those ideas springs from the efforts of freshmen parent Darren Beckett. With Mr. Beckett's help, St. Pius X received a grant from a private foundation for the purchase of a WeatherBug system. This system allows the campus to have weather monitoring capabilities that alert school officials, students and parents of severe weather while providing for a science curriculum component that science faculty member Jim Renshaw has implemented.

We're also preparing students to impact their worlds through faith, and helping us to do that is newly-ordained **Deacon Kevin Barkocy '85**, an SPX science and theology teacher. Deacon Barkocy works with Deacon Rene to plan and facilitate class retreats and to help students leave St. Pius with an understanding of science and its principles and an understanding of faith, mystery, morals, social justice and the sacraments.

We also recognize the impact made by alumni, parents and friends of St. Pius who give generously during the holiday season in support of our school. Your private support plays a vital role in our efforts to educate students who make a difference.

On behalf of St. Pius X, I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas!

Sincerely,

 Barbara M. Rothweiler, PhD
 Principal

C o n t e n t s

FEATURE

SPX Impact.....4
 Follow St. Pius X High School alumni who make life-saving, economic and educational impacts across their communities. **Steve Maestas '81, Chris Plaman '07 and Carol Rivera Zonski '66** share their stories.

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ON THE COVER

Chris Plaman '07, a fourth-year medical student at the University of New Mexico, earned the Red Cross Real Heroes Award for his response to a life-threatening emergency.

TEACH ME GOOD

Goodness Teachers Attend Science and Religion Seminar

Over the summer, St. Pius X High School science teachers Brooke Landavazo and Joyce Gridley and theology teacher Elva Avila attended a seminar at the University of Notre Dame titled "Science and Religion: Strangers, Rivals or Partners in the Search for Truth?" The three joined with science and theology teachers from Catholic high schools across the country to discuss the intricacies of the relationship between science and religion.

"All teachings in the science curriculum at St. Pius work harmoniously with the teachings of the Catholic Church," the science teachers wrote. "As a (science) department we are constantly striving to serve God and ensure our students are receiving an all-encompassing spiritual education not only in the theology classroom but in the science classroom as well."

Discipline Flamenco Artist Earns National Recognition

St. Pius X High School junior Elena Heiss received a "2014 Princess Grace Dance: Performance Scholarship," recognizing her exceptional talent in flamenco. She received one of only eight dance and choreography awards presented this year by the Princess Grace Foundation USA. All of the other awardees are college students or college graduates and professional dancers.

"(Heiss) is primed to become a major force for the next generation of flamenco artists," Eva Encinias Sandoval, National Institute of Flamenco director and founder, said in a news release.

Heiss will use the scholarship award to continue her study with the National Institute of Flamenco, where she has studied for eight years and was named student of the year in 2013. This year the Vail International Dance Festival also selected Heiss as its inaugural Scholar-in-Residence. At the Colorado festival, Heiss was mentored by Tiler Peck, principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, and performed her flamenco solo "Zapateado" alongside a diverse range of dance performers.



Elena Heiss

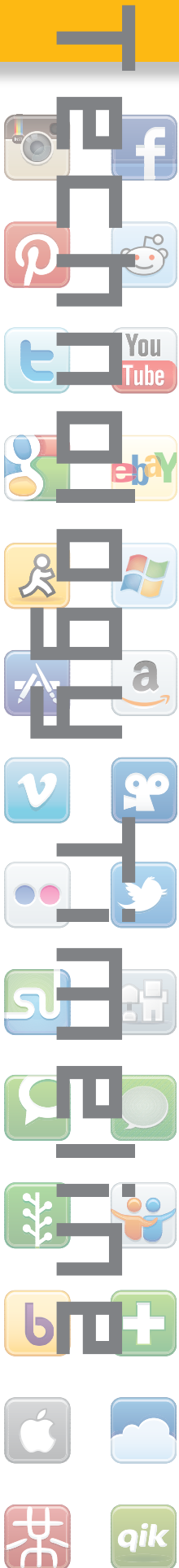
Knowledge French Language Students Lead the Nation

St. Pius X High School French language student Joe Couls ranked second in the nation in the 2014 National French Contest. SPX French students excel each year in *Le Grand Concours*, a national and statewide contest held in March attracting 94,000 students from 50 states.

Couls ranked first in New Mexico and second in the nation in the French level II exam and earned the highest national ranking among 400 New Mexico students. Joining him in the state and national rankings were Olivia Sotello, ranking third in the state and 11th nationally in French level II; Gabriella Bauer, earning a state third and national 14th among French level I-B students; and Xavier Robinson, placing fourth in the state and 16th nationally in French level I. Also ranking in the New Mexico top 10 were Teresa Valdez, Mitchell Hayden and Caryn Bernal.



Xavier Robinson, Gabriella Bauer,
Joe Couls and Olivia Sotello



In the *Connections* Summer 2014 issue we asked, "What was the *most advanced technology you used as a senior* at St. Pius X High School?"

We tracked down these Sartans at the 2014 Hall of Honor ceremony for their answers:



Chuck Reynolds '64

"AM transistor radio," which his parents bought him when he didn't make the cut for the basketball team.



Phyllis Schubert '66

"An electric typewriter."

Ed Larranaga '84

"Calculator watches were big. And a scientific calculator for Fr. Falbo's chemistry class."



Megan Tinnin '06

"Texas Instruments graphing calculator and a flat Nokia phone with the game 'Snake' in color."



Building

Bridges

We also challenged you to name these students having their bridge tested by Mr. Sanchez's bridge building 2006 competition. Jessica Sanchez '08 was the first to name Caitlin Garringer (left) and Monique Martinez '08.

Girls Soccer Repeats as State Champs, Retiring Sullivan is Coach of the Year

The top-seeded Sartan girls soccer team earned its second-straight state championship in a final game matchup between SPX and rival Albuquerque Academy. The Class 5A championship game ended in a 2-1 Sartan victory with goals scored by First Team All-State forward Tatiana Limon and the game winner from First Team All-State midfielder Lourdes Padilla. Head Coach David Sullivan Sr., retiring this year after 21 seasons, was named Class 5A Coach of the Year. Defender Dominique Rivera earned Class 5A Player of the Year and First Team All-State honors. The district champs finished the season with an overall record of 20-3 and a district record of 6-0 and was the highest scoring team in 5A and 6A with a total of 119 goals scored and 23 allowed. This



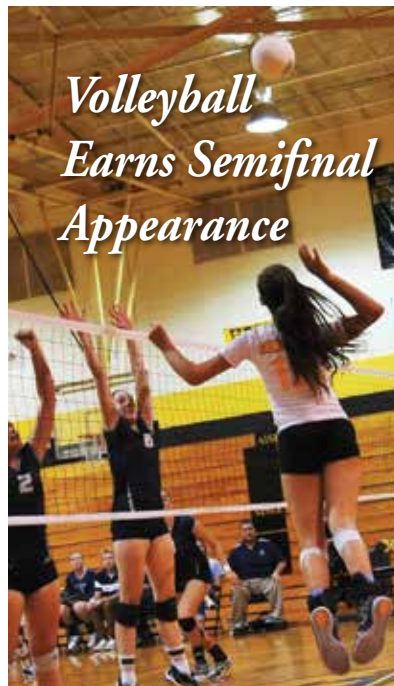
year's state championship was the sixth in the last 11 years of the program. Also earning First Team All-State honors were goalkeeper Tatiana Sarracino, defender Victoria Sanchez, midfielders Alexandria Otero and Madeline Waszak, and forward Samantha Afonso.

Sartan Football is District Champ



The Sartan football team earned a district championship with their 3-0 district record and a seven seed in the Class 5A state playoffs. The team came up 8-3 overall after a first-round playoff loss to Farmington. The Sartans surged from a 41-14 deficit in the third quarter to make it 41-35 at game's end.

Volleyball Earns Semifinal Appearance



St. Pius advanced to the semifinals of the Class 5A volleyball championship tournament, losing to Piedra Vista three games to one. The Sartans beat Los Alamos in three games during the quarterfinals. The district champs posted an overall record of 17-7 and a district record of 5-1. Mercedes Pacheco earned Co-Player of the Year honors for District 5-5A and Coach Jeanne Fairchild received the District Coach of the Year award. Named First Team All-District were Julia Landavazo, Emily Burford and Pacheco; Second Team All-District were Kayla Griego and Gabby Maxson.

Boys Soccer Advances to Semis, Coach Allen hits milestone

The 12th-seeded SPX boys soccer team knocked off No. 5 Los Lunas and No. 4 Farmington to meet rival Albuquerque Academy in the Class 5A semifinal game, a 2-0 loss for the Sartans. The team finished the year 10-12-1 and with a district record of 4-2-0. Luke McConnell earned Player of the Year honors from the district. The district runner-up Sartans placed nine players on the All-District team and five on the All-Academic All-District team. The team earned its 500th team victory with the win in overtime over Farmington in the state quarterfinals. The win marked Coach Ron Allen's 421st coaching win, making him the winningest coach in the state of New Mexico.



Cross Country Team Finish Earns State Third

Girls cross country capped off another state trophy-winning year, placing third at state for the third straight year. The girls were led by an individual second place finish by sophomore Jordyn DiLorenzo and tenth place finish by junior Hannah Baca, earning them All-State honors. DiLorenzo was also the District individual champion, leading the girls to a district runner-up trophy. She and teammate Baca also earned All-Metro Team honors. The boys team placed third at district and sixth at the State Meet. Junior Steven Duran placed 10th at District (All-District Team) and 17th at the State Meet. Duran also made the All-Metro Cross Country Team with his fourth place finish.

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St. Pius X High School graduates leave their school prepared to make an impact. Our alumni use the multifaceted lessons learned at St. Pius X and carried forward into life to influence government, business and service locally, nationally and internationally.

LIFESAVING *Impact*

*Chris Plaman,
UNM Medical School*

Chris Plaman '07 awoke with a start on the morning of May 17, 2013, the 6 a.m. silence

shattered by multiple loud banging sounds. Then shouts of pain. Unsure of the source but driven to find out, the then third-year University of New Mexico med school student opened the front door of the house where he was staying near the medical school. He scanned the horizon until his eyes fell on a figure down the street. Realization set in - gunshots.

Not knowing if the person was a threat or if the threat that put him in the street was still out there, Plaman rushed out. He put his recent emergency aid training into action, and he discovered the victim, Justin Schroer, had two gunshot wounds. Schroer was conscious and able to tell Plaman that he had been out for a jog when a white pickup truck slowed as it neared him. He saw the man inside point a gun at him and fire several times.

Plaman and two other medical school students, Brittany Garcia and Tania Ruiz, cared for Schroer's entry and exit wound from a single bullet while keeping him alert and calm until emergency responders arrived to rush him to the hospital.

"I was surprised to find myself in that situation," Plaman says humbly. "One of the most important things we did was call for help to ensure a quick transport for Justin to the nearby hospital."

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ECONOMIC *Impact*

Steve Maestas, Kansas City Fed

Steve Maestas '81 has been a student of the economy since his teens. He listened in on his parents' dinner

table conversations about investing in rental properties. He weeded and painted at those rentals and tagged along as his father collected rents. He spent a year working in a New Mexico silver mine where he decided that for him building a strong brain rather than a strong back was a better long-term strategy.

From those foundations, Maestas launched a career that led him to co-found what is now the largest commercial real estate firm in New Mexico and to sit as deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Board of Directors.

Maestas, managing partner of NAI Maestas & Ward Commercial Real Estate, began serving on the Kansas City Fed's Economic Advisory Council in 2010. The Fed Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., appointed him to a three-year-term on the Kansas City board in 2013, and he was named deputy chair this year.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City oversees banks in the Fed's Tenth District, which includes northern New Mexico, western Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming. It contributes to the mission of the Fed, the nation's central bank, to set national monetary policy, supervise banks and provide financial services to those banks.

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EDUCATIONAL *Impact*

Carol Zonski, Archbishop's Fund Dinner

St. Pius X High School taught **Carol Rivera Zonski '66** about being

hardworking, forging ahead and doing the things she wanted to do. And although most of the day was spent in classes separate from the boys, "there was nothing I was told I couldn't do," she says.

"St. Pius taught me a lot of discipline in my life, listening skills, and taking people for their worth and what they can contribute."

Those lessons have contributed to Zonski's success and impact in fundraising for Catholic education. For more than 30 years, Zonski has been a key member of a dedicated group that coordinates the annual Archbishop's School Fund Dinner, raising funds for an endowment that provides \$400,000 a year in Catholic school tuition assistance to students in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The largest dinner drew more than 900 guests to hear speaker Bill O'Reilly.

Zonski also served on the St. Pius X Foundation board for 11 years and helped start the fundraising effort known as Keep Investing in St. Pius X, or KIX, which included the annual car raffle and the fundraising dinner that has evolved into the annual SPX Mardi Gras celebration. She and her husband John Zonski, owners of Jubilation Wine and Spirits in Albuquerque, sent their four children to St. Pius: **Tasha Zonski Armijo '87, Danya Nicole "Nikki" Foley '89, Arik Zonski '94 and Ryan Adam Zonski '09.**

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If you're like most people, you do your major giving toward the end of the year. This probably occurs for several reasons. The closing of the tax season encourages itemizers to obtain income tax deductions; a barrage of earnest appeals by nonprofits increases awareness of financial need; and many are simply pre-disposed to end the year by making a charitable gift.

Here are five tips to help you make the most of your year-end giving:

1. Calculate your income. Try to get a handle on your tax liability for the year. Did your unearned income increase? Did you sell any appreciated assets? Will you owe more taxes? This alone may motivate you to increase your giving before December 31. In fact, you may even want to move some of your giving forward from next year to create a larger income tax deduction for yourself this year. Non-itemizers may especially find this "grouping of gifts" useful in order to take advantage of an itemized tax return every other year.

In any case, by the time you fill out your income tax return, it will be too late to make charitable gifts for the previous year. Take the time to do some planning while you still have the opportunity to make a year-end gift.

2. Review your stocks. Look at the stocks you have held for more than a year. Which ones have appreciated the most? It may be prudent for you to make your year-end gift using one or more of these stocks. Here's why: If you sold the stock, you would incur capital gains tax on the appreciation. However, if you give the stock and allow St. Pius X Foundation to sell it, no one pays tax. And you get a charitable deduction for the full amount of the stock, just as you would if your gift were made with cash. And what's more, if you can't use all of the income tax charitable deduction resulting from the gift, you can carry it forward for up to an additional five years. Such gifts are deductible up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.

3. Consider a life-income gift. St. Pius X Foundation offers a variety of life-income plans to fit your needs. You can make

5 Tips for Year-End Giving

a gift now, obtain tax benefits and receive income for the rest of your life. Sound too good to be true? A few minutes of your time will convince you otherwise. Our Director of Advancement can provide personalized illustrations and printed material to assist you and your advisors.

4. Do your giving early. This is especially true if you want to make a gift of non-cash assets (stock, real estate, etc.). It also applies to life-income gifts (gift annuities, pooled income fund contributions, trust arrangements, etc.). Your professional advisors and St. Pius X Director of Advancement are busy beyond belief as the year winds down. The sooner you can get your gift activity going, the better it will be for everyone concerned.

5. Talk to your advisor. Before making any significant gift to St. Pius X, or to any other nonprofit, you should have your CPA, attorney or other advisor help you understand the impact of your gift on your income tax return and estate. We at St. Pius X Foundation want your giving to be prudent, as well as generous and joyful.

For more information about the year-end giving opportunities at St. Pius X, contact Steve Ross at 505-831-8423. Or complete and mail the coupon below. We are here to help you in any way we can.

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



A Family's Passion for Giving

Discover your philanthropic passion and make a difference. So says a family with two generations of St. Pius X High School patrons: **Linley (Brummell) Daly '84**; her husband Mike Daly, East Catholic High School, Connecticut '80; and Linley's father, Gig Brummell. All have been inspired over the years to support St. Pius in ways personal and important to them.

Sitting in the ABQ Uptown Starbucks that used to be the school's Louisiana campus parking lot, Brummell, a long-time manager with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Albuquerque, explains the need in the early 1980s for an endowment. Finding it difficult to raise funds every year for various school needs, a group of parents gathered to develop the concept of creating a permanent fund with a percentage of its earnings distributed annually for assistance to students and care for special needs of the school.

The founders pitched in what they could to start the endowment and then began holding fundraisers to increase it, including an annual car raffle of a 1960s Mustang refurbished by parent **Bart Chimenti '60** and graduate **Ralph Balduini '60** and a dinner event that for several years featured a dance routine - initially the Can-Can - choreographed by SPX Dean of Students **Betty Corazzi '67** and performed by Brummell and about 15 other fathers. The routine quickly became the highlight of the event and a source of camaraderie and fun for the families participating.

"To us it was better to work together

to create a permanent endowment, rather than raise and spend the funds every year," Brummell says. "And we got personally connected to our kids' classmates and families through our efforts."

“*Find your passion, what interests you, and make a difference.*”

Mike Daly believes the creative energy these families put into supporting St. Pius was key to their success. "These folks took the initiative to get together and do something new and creative and it had a legacy effect," Mike says. "Their amazing *esprit de corp* and desire to leave a legacy in perpetuity is inspiring."

The original endowment started more than 30 years ago has grown to \$3.9 million and primarily supports tuition assistance

Linley has watched her father and mother, Jeanne, quietly establish a legacy of philanthropy throughout their lives which she considers her foundation, personally and professionally. As president of her own nonprofit consulting firm, she assists local nonprofits in resource development. Personally investing in the community, Linley and Mike have made tuition assistance for seniors in jeopardy of not graduating from St. Pius due to unforeseen financial hardship an area of action, and have asked the Sartan community to make a difference in the educational life of these students.

Ten years ago the Dalys established

the Circle of 7, designed to help a senior who faced leaving St. Pius because of the family's financial situation. With tuition then at \$7,000 a year, each member of the circle contributed \$1,000 to support that senior. The anonymous group has now grown beyond seven members and has helped more than 25 deserving students preserve their St. Pius educations, including a total of eight students in 2014. Students assisted by the program are required to submit a letter to the circle explaining what they've accomplished at St. Pius, what the assistance means to them, and how they plan to pay it forward.

"The Circle of 7 is about the Sartan community coming together to support St. Pius students in their time of need," Mike says. "We're committed to getting them through."

"As parents of Catholic school students, (and Pius graduate, **Lauren Daly '14**) we recognize that sending kids to Catholic school is difficult for families," Linley adds. "We want to honor the sacrifices they've already made and give them that help, through good times and bad."

Linley says the two generations of her family giving at St. Pius are good examples of following your passion in giving. Whether it's to create a long-term legacy of sustainability or to help students or the school with an immediate need today, there's a place to give at St. Pius.

"Whatever your passion is for giving, you can find a place to direct it at St. Pius," Linley says. "Find your passion, what interests you, and make a difference."



ECONOMIC *Impact*

Steve Maestas, Kansas City Fed

Continued from page 5

“The Fed employs over 300 Ph.D. economists who represent a diverse range of interests,” Maestas says. “The public component of the board comes into play because we can advise them with real-life applications of the data and how it affects business and industry. The board also serves to govern and supervise the bank.”

Maestas seeks to bring value to those discussions based on his knowledge of commercial real estate, development and business in the southwest, and to create awareness of the Federal Reserve’s mission and importance in New Mexico.

“I hope I’m bringing the flavor of New Mexico to the Fed in representing the economic conditions in our state,” he says. “And I hope I can extend practical experience on how monetary policy impacts business, so the Fed understands the impact of its decisions.”

Maestas says his experiences as a small business owner’s son influenced his career path greatly. His father, Paul Maestas, co-founded Mr. Tux Formal Wear in Albuquerque in 1962, while coaching and teaching at St. Pius. He later formed Paul Maestas & Associates Realty.

“I knew commercial real estate was the career I wanted to pursue,” Maestas says. “But I had to mature and season.” He left home at 17 with what he describes as a shoot-first-aim-second mentality and chose not to go to college. “It wasn’t something I identified with,” he says.

After working a string of jobs bagging groceries, stocking shoes, and silver mining, he turned to business. In 1985 he started as a bank teller and began moving through the ranks learning financial concepts and business etiquette. It solidified his desire for a career in commercial real estate.

Without a college degree, it took five interviews for Coldwell Banker to take a chance on him. He worked there for seven years, gaining an understanding of the business and rising to a top associate. “But I knew I wanted to do it differently,” he says.

In 1996 he did, launching his firm with partner Phil Ward. He has since expanded into development with Maestas



Chris Plaman’s
Real Heroes award.



Development Group, acquiring and building more than 50 commercial projects throughout the Southwest. His projects include Las Estancias at Coors and Rio Bravo in Albuquerque, an \$80 million, 80-acre commercial development with a movie theater, health club, retail and restaurants currently under construction. His other business ventures include licensing rights to the popular restaurant Sadie’s of New Mexico. He is the immediate past chair of Albuquerque Economic Development and a trustee for the Albuquerque Community Foundation. And almost eight months ago Maestas and his wife, **Debbie Weh Maestas ’89**, welcomed their first child, Addison Emma.

Maestas says growing up in Albuquerque with siblings **Paul ’79** and **Becky ’84**, he had a typical life and a loving family that taught him to revere God, work hard and treat people right. He enjoyed going to school at St. Pius and made life-long friends. “When I reflect on my experience, I recognize there were a lot of good people there, well-intended educators,” he says. “As a young person I didn’t understand the value of that.”

When asked about the role faith has played in his life, he’s quick to answer. “Some of the best business and life principles were taught by how Jesus acted,” he says. “My playbook and source of strength is my relationship with Jesus and with God. I know that’s why I’ve been successful.”

LIFESAVING *Impact*

Chris Plaman, UNM Medical School

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Schroer, development director of the UNM Cancer Center, credits the students' quick action at the beginning of his ordeal for putting him on the path to his full recovery today. "They saved my life; I have no doubt about that," Schroer says of the students. "Chris was very calming. He told me everything was going to be okay, told me to breathe. He asked me questions to keep my mind going."

One year later, the American Red Cross in New Mexico honored the students with its annual Real Heroes award for rushing to aid Schroer. The award presented in June honors individuals and professionals in the community who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Plaman, now a fourth-year medical student at the UNM School of Medicine, is in the process of applying for residencies in internal medicine. He graduated summa cum laude in biochemistry from UNM in May 2011. In that same year he received an American Chemistry award for excellence and a biochemistry award for teaching.

The son of Jill and Michael Plaman chose internal medicine because it is "mentally stimulating and wide in scope." As he finishes medical school, he sees paths in his field ranging from cardiology to primary care. "There are a lot of doors still open," he says.

Those doors also include work with the underserved and responding to global health issues. He has already served on medical missions to Kenya, India and El Salvador, where as a pre-med student he spent a year fundraising with other students for basic supplies and medicines and then hiked them into rural villages with three local doctors who saw up to 400 people a day.

"I've always enjoyed serving the underserved and I see the need in the United States and abroad," Plaman says. "I was fortunate to go Pius; (its commitment to service) pushed along my natural tendencies."

Plaman also appreciates the support he received at St. Pius. "Mr. (Phil) Zuber was a big positive influence on me; he taught me about balancing academic work with enjoying the learning process," he says. He also credits teachers **Scott Howard '85**, William Cappuccino and Kerrie Sena for providing him with a strong foundation.

"I love the community at Pius," says Plaman, who played ice hockey, roller hockey and water polo during his high school years.

Plaman says of his faith-based education that "the fundamentals are part of who I am, like compassion for others and faith in things you can't control. It also gives me an appreciation for my patients and how strong their ties are to God and how powerful that can be."

EDUCATIONAL *Impact*

Carol Zonski, Archbishop's Fund Dinner

Continued from page 5

In September St. Pius X High School honored Zonski with its Outstanding Alumnus Award for her dedication to the Catholic community and to Catholic education. From her oldest daughter's first days at St. Charles Borromeo School, where she was an active volunteer and a substitute teacher, to her many years as an active St. Pius parent to today's Archbishop's Dinner, her commitment to service and volunteerism has impacted thousands of children and families.

Zonski credits her loving and involved parents for instilling in her a sense of service. Zonski's mother, Mary Rivera, was her first example of volunteerism as an active parent at St. Charles where Zonski and her siblings Henry Rivera Jr. and **Susan Rivera Adkins '70** attended.

Her father, Henry Rivera, a medic who survived on Omaha Beach on D-Day during World War II, was separated from most of his family at age 6 when he and two younger siblings were sent to be raised at an Albuquerque orphanage after his father died. His mother could only care for the three older children who could come with her to work cleaning houses. His life experiences made his family very precious to him.

"We were spoiled," Zonski admits with a smile.

After graduating from St. Pius, Zonski studied at the University of New Mexico's journalism department with her advisor and professor Tony Hillerman. She earned a degree in journalism and a secondary education teaching certificate in 1971. During her years at UNM she married John and began her family.

In 1976, John, then the Bernalillo County epidemiologist, began helping her father operate his package liquor store in Old Town. When her youngest son entered kindergarten, she joined the family business. "I wanted to give it a feminine approach," she says, "and create a place for women to feel comfortable coming in to buy wine for dinner."

Twenty-eight years ago, the family moved the business to its current location near Lomas and Carlisle, where the third generation has joined Jubilation, Zonski's children Tasha and Arik.

From the play area for her grandchildren in Jubilation's office area to the care she takes cultivating the Archbishop's School Fund Dinner, Zonski's commitment to her family and to Catholic education is obvious and its effects wide-reaching.





SPX Tourney Raises \$30,000

The 2014 Swing Fore St. Pius Jamie Tinnin Golf Classic held Sept. 19 at Isleta Golf Club raised more than \$30,000 to benefit student financial aid through the SPX Alumni Scholarship Fund and athletics through the SPX Athletic Boosters. The annual golf tournament gathering alumni, parents and supporters of Catholic education was made possible by a host of sponsors.

Our thanks goes out to:

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Sartan eXtravaganza Fills Campus

The SPX Alumni Council entertained a record-breaking crowd during the third annual Sartan eXtravaganza Aug. 16-17. Past and present friends and family of SPX flooded the campus, including **Phil Pettit '83**, **Nikalus Skipp '18**, and **Chris Skipp '86** pictured above. Sartan spirit was everywhere from the track to the football and soccer fields and continued to the volleyball court with the Alumni team dominating the 2014 SPX girls' team. The weekend concluded with Mass in the chapel celebrated by **Fr. Vincent Chavez '81**.



Tom Tinnin, Carol Rivera Zonski '66 and Joe Muhlberger '78

SPX Adds to Hall of Honor

The St. Pius X High School community recognized the unique and invaluable contributions of **Joe Muhlberger '78**, **Tom Tinnin** and **Carol Rivera Zonski '66** at the 2014 Hall of Honor Ceremony held on campus Sept. 17.

Muhlberger received the the Principal's Leadership Award for exceptional leadership in helping to support and advance the mission of St. Pius X High School. Muhlberger, a principal at Vigil & Associates Architectural Group, volunteered his services over the past several years to develop the school's campus master plan. Joe has also served as past chair of the St. Pius Consultative Council and a member of the SPX Foundation Board. His son **Andrew Muhlberger '14** attends Regis University in Denver on a baseball scholarship.

Tinnin received the Julio Vincioni Award for exceptional service and significant contributions to the school. Tinnin, owner of Tinnin Enterprises, has been the principal sponsor of the annual Swing Fore St. Pius Jamie Tinnin Golf Classic since 2011 in honor of his wife Jamie, who battled breast cancer and died in 2009. Tinnin also provides for tuition assistance scholarships each year to two seniors who participate in athletics and need assistance to complete their final year. His daughters **Megan Tinnin '06** and **Courtney Tinnin '08** were student athletes during their years at St. Pius. The award Tinnin received is named for Julio Vincioni whose six children graduated from St. Pius and who gave selflessly to the school for 20 years.

The SPX Alumni Council awarded Zonski with its Outstanding Alumnus Award for her contributions to St. Pius, including 11 years on the SPX Foundation Board, and to the Catholic education community as one of the principal organizers of the Archbishop's School Fund Dinner for more than 30 years. Read more about Zonski and her impact on page 5.



Kerry Ryan VanAmburg '85, Adrienne Gallegos Garcia '85 and Alisa Gallegos Lucero '99 enjoy the Sartan Social in October.

Sartans Socialize

About 25 St. Pius X High School alumni along with Mr. Zuber and Coach Duffy gathered on Oct. 20 at Ned's Bar and Grill for the Fall Sartan Social. The group included alumni from 1964 to 2010, representing a great mix of SPX history. Our next Sartan Social will be held in January. Look for details from the Alumni Council in the coming months.

Sartans (clockwise, from left) **Rick Garcia '84, Cynthia Larranaga, Regina Larranaga Rizek '86, Adrienne Gallegos Garcia '85, Jennifer Herrera Maldonado '91, Alisa Gallegos Lucero '99, Jean Marie Wegman Skipp '87, Kerry Ryan VanAmburg '85 and Ed Larranaga '84** enjoy the event.



Photo Credit: Mark Gerken '70



'64 Celebrates 50

The St. Pius X High School Class of 1964 celebrated its 50-year reunion on Sept. 12-14 with gatherings, golf, dinner, dancing and Mass at Our Lady of Fatima. A total of 84 people attended, including 48 classmates from a class of 125 graduates. The class honored their 21 deceased classmates with a gift to the class endowment in support of St. Pius X. Pictured in front, from left, are *Lynne Franchini Peckinpaugh, Gerry Montoya Sandoval, Kathy Neff, Marti Cassel, Eddie Castoria, Karla Barela-Lucero, and Carol Hanosh Brown*. Standing from left are *Kathleen Killorin, Stephen Adrian Goding, Joe Armijo, Richard Ruminiski, Kathy Yates Hymel, Posey Hagerman, Art Verardo, Mike Hemdon, Bonnie Burr, Chuck Reynolds, Jan Johnson Donahue, Malcolm Shannon, Jorja Armijo Brasher, Joe McGuire, Bob Dodson, Joyce Knipfing, Geraldine Ortiz Meyer, Mike Brown, Joe Melloy, Cheryl Wood Barnard, Kathy Cunningham Barker, Barbara McGirk, Pat Mechenbier Keever, Betty Paruta, Carol Roth Dyche, and Msgr. Francis Eggert.*



Golden Society Pin Presented

The St. Pius X High School Advancement and Alumni Office launched a new tradition this fall honoring each member of the graduating class celebrating their

50-year reunion with a specially designed pin celebrating entry into the "Golden Society."

"Our alumni set the foundation for the school and our legacy," says Jennifer Maldonado '91, SPX alumni relations manager. "The Sartan traditions are alive and well thanks to those that came before us." The class of 1964, the fifth class to celebrate a 50-year reunion, was the first class to receive the pins created by Maldonado and B&D Trophies.

The idea of a "Golden Society" stems from the idea of an elite group celebrating the traditional golden anniversary at 50 years.

Members of the Class of 1964 received their pins at their reunion dinner.

"The members of the class of 1964 were not only thrilled to be acknowledged but also very gracious," Maldonado says. "In fact, all members of the class that attended the 2014 Homecoming game were proudly wearing their pins."

Maldonado said members of previous classes who have celebrated 50 years can contact the SPX Advancement and Alumni Office at 831-8406 to obtain their pin.

"There is a kinship among St. Pius graduates that you don't find at every school," Maldonado says. "We are proud of our school and feel a special connection with fellow alumni. Our alumni are an important part of St. Pius X heritage and we feel that 50 years is a huge achievement."

Paul F. Becht, 76 of Albuquerque, died June 5, 2014. His survivors include his wife Barbara Becht; children Robert Ficklin, Kim Keeling, and **Bradly Ficklin '84**.

Lawrence P. Billmaier, age 93 of Albuquerque, died Aug. 17, 2014. His survivors include his children **David (Terrie) Billmaier '68, Mary Flores '69**, Michael (Robin) Billmaier, and Steven Billmaier.

Robert J. Bukowski, age 76 of Rio Rancho, died May 5, 2014. His survivors include his wife Jayne Bukowski; and children Joseph Bukowski, **Laura Neuman '89**, and **Katherine Gorrasi '90**.

Adrian "Butch" Calderon Sr., age 75 of Albuquerque, died June 25, 2014. His survivors include his wife of 54 years, Mary Lou; and children, **Adrian Calderon II '79**, Curtis Calderon and Nicole Calderon.

Paul A. DeBlassie Jr., age 84 of Albuquerque, died June 14, 2014. His survivors include his wife of 63 years, Priscilla Sanchez DeBlassie; six children, Dr. Paul DeBlassie III, Joanna DeBlassie Boothe, Joseph DeBlassie, Ronald DeBlassie, Mark DeBlassie, and **Kenneth DeBlassie '84**; and grandchildren including **Stephanie Boothe Sponder '04, Caroline Boothe '09, Marysa DeBlassie '09, Joseph DeBlassie II '12**, and **Julia DeBlassie '14**.

Kathryn Mercedes "Peachie" Domme, age 89 of Albuquerque, died May 2, 2014. Her survivors include five sons: **Craig '66, Fr. Edward Domme '67, Dan '70** and wife **Colleen (Ryan) '71, Tom '74** and wife Martha, and **Jack '79** and wife Karen; and grandchildren including **Gretchen Domme Malovoz '92** and husband **Christian Malovoz '92**, and **Kent '95**.

Carmel Griego, age 78 of Albuquerque, died May 10, 2014. She is survived by her children, **Richard Griego '75, Joan (Griego) Major '76** and Jimmy Griego.

Manuelita "Molly" Amalia Gomez Jacques, age 92 of Albuquerque, died August 8, 2014. Her survivors include daughters **Agapita "Pita" Hopkins '72, Lucy Purtell '75, Anita Endres '77**; grandchildren, **Denae '98**, Samuel, Maria, Alejandro and Benjamin.

Edward A. Kociscin, age 79 of Albuquerque, died May 31, 2014. He is survived by his wife Peggy; and daughter **Amy Elizabeth Kociscin '84**.

Frank Allen Lederle, age 87 of Albuquerque, died Sept. 4, 2014. He is survived by his six children, Frank, Mike, **Tim '75, Jeff '77, Carol Coleman '79** and **Susan '85**; his eight grandchildren; and his wife, Janet.

Marlowe Mansfield, age 90 of Albuquerque, died June 11, 2014. She is survived by her children, **Mike '65** and wife **Terri (Donovan) '65, Diane '67**, Jan, Craig, Jimmy and Scott.

Bernard John "Bernie" Mechenbier, age 82 of Albuquerque, died June 15, 2014. His survivors include his wife of 58 years, Pat; and daughters **Pamela Hainlin '79** and **Caryn De Rochie '82** and husband, **Tony '80**.

Mary Patricia "Pat" Mertz, age 75 of Albuquerque, died May 27, 2014. She is survived by her children, Eric, **Linda '86** and Mike.

Jerry B. Monahan, age 83 of Albuquerque, died Oct. 20, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jeanette Monahan; his children, **Patrick '81** and **Patricia Kalb '85**; and two grandchildren.

Joseph George Muhlberger, age 78 of Albuquerque, died May 16, 2014. He is survived by his wife Antonia; children **Joseph B. '78**; Thomas R., John P., **Mary Angela '90** and grandsons, **Andrew '14** and Evan.

John Harris Saiki, M.D., age 77 of Albuquerque, died Aug. 8, 2014. His survivors include his wife Julie; his three children, **Beth '85, Bill '87** and **Catherine '91**; and three grandchildren.

Margaret "Peggy" Breece Seis of Albuquerque died May 23, 2014. Her survivors include daughter **Mary (Seis) Hawley '79** and son **Casey Seis '80**.

Barbara Erin Sheehi, age 24 of Albuquerque, died Sept. 28, 2014. Her survivors include her parents **Dorothy Othmer Sheehi '74** and E. Joseph Sheehi, grandmother Betty Othmer, and numerous relatives including aunt **Margaret Othmer Rouse '71**.

Phillip Daniel Sisneros, age 22 of Albuquerque, died May 10, 2014. His survivors include his father Anthony Sisneros and wife Szilivia; mother **Elizabeth (Padilla) Manning '80** and husband Scott; and siblings Sarah, Stephen, David and Noah.

Geraldine Marie "Geri" Skroch, age 87 of Albuquerque, died Oct. 9, 2014. Her survivors include son, Michael Skroch (Michele); and grandchildren, **Mitchell '12, Caley '14**, Jonathan, Heath and Hunter.

Sandra Drebing Stagnone '78, age 53, died Oct. 1, 2014. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of New Mexico and cared for patients in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at UNM Hospital and later in Dallas, Texas. More recently, she owned and managed a pet boarding and grooming business and designed jewelry as a hobby. Her survivors include her parents, George and Carmen Drebing; and brothers, **Mark Drebing '80** and **John Drebing '81**.

Paul Starcevich, age 62, died May 27, 2014. His survivors include his daughter, **Lori (Starcevich) Bottom '89**.

Gregory I. Tikkanen, age 48 of Albuquerque, died January 21, 2014. He is survived by Samuel Tikkanen, his father; Maria Tikkanen, his mother; and his sisters Nadine Tikkanen, **Stasia Tyner Tikkanen '85**, and **Lara Tikkanen Reising '89**.

Robert "Rob" Benjamin Trujillo '84, age 48 of Albuquerque, died Aug. 31, 2014. He graduated from New Mexico State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and worked for Coors, Presto, Martin Marietta, Motorola and Sandia Labs. Survivors include his wife JoAnna B. Trujillo; parents Ben and Inez; brothers Donald and Tim; a stepdaughter and a granddaughter.

Dwayne R. Ulibarri, age 51 of Albuquerque died June 27, 2014. His survivors include his wife of 23 years, **Ginger (Scott) Ulibarri '86**; and sons, Dru and Garrick.

Carolyn Louise Vatuone, age 56 of Phoenix, Ariz., died July 5, 2014. Her survivors include her husband Tim; daughter **Theresa '10**; and son **Christopher '11**.

John P. Weber, age 83 of Albuquerque, died June 6, 2014. He is survived by sons Mark and Joe; and six grandchildren including **Allison Weber '05, Diana Weber '09** and **Sara Weber '12**.

Please send obituaries to spxeditor@outlook.com.

CORRECTIONS

St. Pius X Connections has several corrections to make to the Generations story in the Summer 2014 issue. Several names and graduation dates in one of our three generations families were listed incorrectly. Nanci (Nan) Carriveau's three generation family listing should have read: **Nanci (Nan) Carriveau '66**; daughters **Amy Cunningham '86, Joy Cunningham Tucker '89** and **Jennifer Cunningham Fenstermacher '89**; and Jennifer's son **Jonathon Cunningham '08**.

Also, the story incorrectly listed the first class to spend four years at the newly established St. Pius X High School. The **Class of 1960** are the trailblazers recognized for that important distinction. *Connections* regrets the errors.

1980s

Tina Knipfing '86 and **John Lardner '86** planned to marry on Oct. 11, 2014, according to Tina's parents.

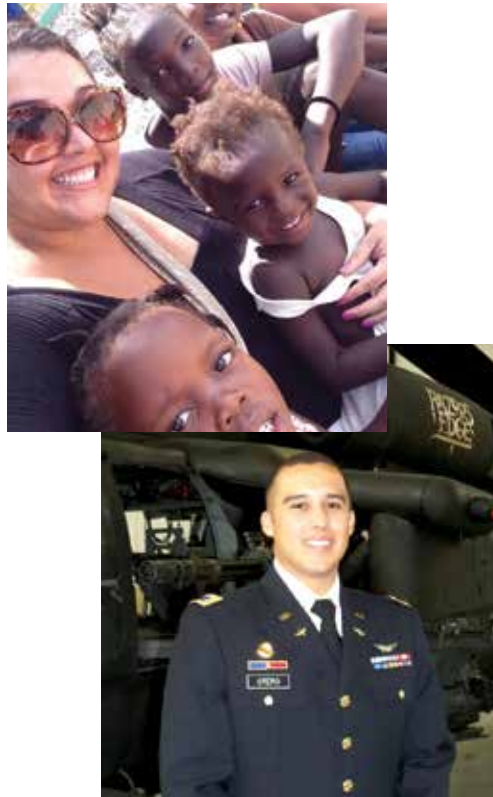
1990s

Jennifer Maldonado '91 has joined the St. Pius X High School Advancement and Alumni Office as alumni relations manager/campaign assistant. She acts as staff liaison to the Alumni Council coordinating reunions and class giving to the annual fund. She also is responsible for Sartan eXtravaganza, Sartan Social events, Homecoming coordination for alumni and the 50 year class recognition. She has been a member of the SPX Alumni Council since 2011 and has served as president since 2013. She recently returned to the workforce after being a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer for the last eight years. She has a background in development and major gift fundraising and has worked at several nonprofits in the Pacific Northwest, including The United Way of King County in Seattle, Wash.

Stefanie Fila Tierney '97 was the female winner of the 31st Annual Duke City Marathon on Oct. 19. She completed the 26.2-mile course with a time of 3:15:54. The St. Pius X High School girls JV soccer coach has run the race four times, also winning in 2006.



2000s



Justine Otero '04 was selected for a four-month internship to Haiti with the Mission of Hope organization where she will serve until December 2014. She is the sister of **Nathan**

Otero '11 and **Christopher Otero**, who attended SPX from 2003 to 2006 and recently graduated as a U.S. Army Aviator Black Hawk pilot. He will serve in the Army National Guard in Santa Fe.



Kristin Gutierrez '09 and **Nick Boynton '09** got engaged at Disneyland on May 18, 2014. They plan a June 2015 wedding.

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Contact Associate Director **Becky Montoya-Ballou** at (505) 831-8406 or bmontoya@spx.k12.nm.us.



Sarto the Winged Lion made his 2014 debut at the first Sartan football game of the season. The Winged Lion, a symbol of faith, power, history and mystique, roared out from St. Pius X High School's own crest as part of Pope St. Pius X's coat of arms for many years. It was selected to represent the school as a mascot last fall.

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

FALL | 2014



CONNECTIONS

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