

SPRING | 2014



CONNECTIONS



STEM SUCCESS



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,


I am delighted that this issue of the St. Pius X High School Alumni Magazine not only launches its new name, *Connections*, which aptly speaks to its purpose, but also features our STEM program that we are continuing to strengthen for the benefit of our students.

As a college preparatory school our science, technology, engineering and math curricula are paramount to the students' learning experience. With the advent of our media lab and iPad minis for faculty, our technology program has greatly improved. There are four computer teaching labs for faculty that allow for research and class projects. Other classroom teaching enhancements include a new Mac lab and video lab. Students video the daily announcements that all students watch the next day. Teachers can use the video lab for teaching and send students a link they can use to view a lesson from home.

Student math testing scores are on the rise. Based upon pre-testing, selected freshmen students can have a math program designed that will take them as high as Calculus III. For the past eight years Math Department Chair Larry Sanchez has conducted an engineering bridge building competition in which the winning model is determined by structural weight and weight load. The lightest bridge to hold a minimum of 50lbs. wins.

Once again St. Pius came away with outstanding achievements at the recent state-wide science fair. The Science department has also enhanced the Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses in order to give students greater depth to advance them in their college careers. This is the inaugural year for the Robotix Club. The students recently took second place in a state-wide robotics contest, under the guidance of Mrs. Joyce Gridley. Mr. James Renshaw and the students from AP Environmental Science are currently engaged in a water quality project with students in Katmandu, Nepal. We had a wonderful time recently meeting each other using Skype.

St. Pius has always been a school actively preparing students for engineering, medical and science careers. Our STEM program allows us to enhance our STEM activities and our students continue to be a step above the rest. Thank you for your support of St. Pius in our science, technology, engineering and math endeavors.

Sincerely,

 Dr. Barbara M. Rothweiler
 Principal

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STEM Success 3
As St. Pius X High School's alumni find continued success in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the school prepares current students for technical jobs that may not even yet exist. Alumni Christopher Hovorka '82, Kenneth Morley '08 and Gina Sada Rightley '81 share their experience.

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ON THE COVER

Christopher Hovorka '82, co-director of the master of science in prosthetics and orthotics program at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, says giving students the opportunity to connect with STEM concepts is key to St. Pius's success. Photo by Josh Meister.

TEACH ME GOOD

Goodness

St. Pius Donates 900 Toys to Community



St. Pius X High School junior Jacob Berry (left) and senior Alex Arvizo manage the growing stack of toys donated by students and families for the annual SPX Christmas Toy Drive.

In a massive community outreach effort, St. Pius X High School students and families collected and donated more than 900 toys to brighten the Christmas season for children locally and internationally.

At the school's Christmas and Grandparents' Day Mass on Dec. 12, students surrounded the altar with their donations of bicycles, games, trucks and dolls. The grandparents honored that day also contributed to the effort, bringing donations of their own.

The school's Community Outreach club sorted the toys and distributed them throughout the community. The drive provided toys to Holy Family and Holy Ghost parishes; the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center's family Christmas party; the Barrett House shelter for homeless women and children; Catholic Charities; the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department; the Joy Junction homeless shelter; and Casa de Amor, an orphanage in Juarez, Mexico.

Added to the drive this year as suggested by St. Pius senior Jordyn Casaus was a collection of business attire for the women of Barrett House going on job interviews.

Discipline

DECA and Snack Shack Excel at State



Photo by Alex Sais

The Sartan Snack Shack, an enterprise of St. Pius X High School's DECA program, has earned a gold certification award as one of the top student-run concession stands and small business enterprises in the nation. The venture was so successful last year it donated \$20,000 to fund half of the school's new iMac computer lab and video production lab.

Students Kayla Montez and Christian Chavez helped the snack bar earn the award through their project in the small business enterprise category at the DECA state competition in February and earned entry to the international DECA conference in May in Atlanta.

St. Pius's DECA program excelled at the 2014 state competition with 13 students earning awards and five spots at the national conference. The event was the marketing association's most successful of its three year existence at St. Pius.

Ambrose Kupfer placed second in business public speaking at the event. The team of Kupfer and Kevin Sanchez placed second in sports and entertainment marketing. Jordan Olguin placed fifth in marketing management.

Also earning state awards were Brandi Keryte and AJ Adler-Olona in community service; Esteban Garcia and Andrew Sedillo in entrepreneurship and innovation plan; Jordyn Casaus, Staci Lente, and Brooke Hensley for fashion merchandising and promotion plan; and Carisse Enriquez for professional selling.

Business teacher and DECA advisor **Robyn Dow '98** says the SPX DECA program is the smallest in Albuquerque with 27 students versus area public schools with 300 DECA students. St. Pius is the only private school in the area that offers the program that prepares high school students for leadership in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Knowledge

Science Shines at STEM Expo



St. Pius X High School junior Jacqueline Baros earned first place in environmental science for her science fair project on mapping tweets from Twitter to guide emergency management officials at the 2014 St. Pius X STEM Expo on Feb. 1. Other first place winners at the annual science fair included Valerie Perea and Julie Giannini in biochemistry, Joey Sinclair in earth and space science, Justin Rosenthal in botany, Marcos Serna in engineering, Darby Jones in chemistry, Jewel Kentilitisca in math and computer science, Danae Maes in medicine and health, Madison Lash in microbiology, Aydan Sparks in physics, Christopher Monjaras in zoology, and Madison Baca in behavior and social science.



SPX Diver Sets State Record, Swimmer Takes Championship

SPX sophomore Natasha Dark set a new state record while winning the State Diving Championship in the 1-meter dive, and senior Lauren Atkins added another State Championship for the Sartans in the 200-yard IM. Lauren also finished second in 100-yard backstroke at the state championship. Both girls met the All-American consideration standard. Sophomore Nick Christman placed sixth in the 50-yard freestyle and seventh in the 100-yard butterfly. Junior Tim Billstrand placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle. The relay team of Christman, Billstrand, Michael DePrest, and Tristan Vigil placed fourth in the 4 x 50 freestyle and captured ninth in the 4 x 100 freestyle. The boys team finished 11th and the girls finished 15th at the State Championships that featured 47 schools.

Sartan to Play Lobo Soccer

Senior David Gros signed a national letter of intent to play soccer at the University of New Mexico next season. The midfielder was a second team All-State selection after earning District Player of the Year honors for the Sartans and tallying 19 goals and 14 assists in the final two years of his high school career.

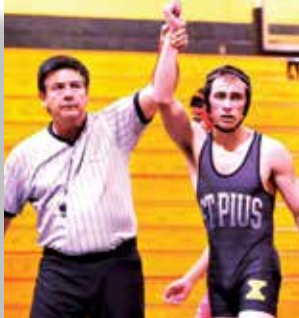


Senior Kellie Reagan

Photos by Ron Tybor

Reagan Runner of the Year

Senior Kellie Reagan was named New Mexico's Gatorade Cross-Country Runner of the Year for 2013-14. The award recognizes athletic excellence along with high standards of academic achievement and character.



Junior Derrick Cleavall

Freshman Wrestler Grabs State Title

Gavino Hernandez became St. Pius X's first-ever freshman State Wrestling Champion and earned the school's fifth individual title overall. Entering the 4A state tournament as the #6 seed at 106 pounds, Gavino beat the #2 and #3 seeds to then defeat a #1 seeded junior from Miyamura High School 8-7 in the finals. Hernandez also earned a district championship and ended his season with a record of 39-8. The team produced a total of seven state qualifiers and two district runner-ups in Derrick Cleavall and Pete "Bubba" Mora. Mora placed third at the state championships at 195 pounds, making him a two-time state placer with a 2014 season record of 21-6. The team's total individual varsity match record for the season was 159-117.



Senior Ray Reyes

Boys Basketball Advances to State Semis

The 2014 District 5-4A champion St. Pius X boys basketball team put up a 21-7 overall record, a perfect 6-0 district record for the season and advanced to the Class 4A semifinals in the state high school basketball tournament. A 39-36 loss to Los Lunas ended the Sartan run at a repeat state championship.



Senior Caitlyn Martinez

Girls Basketball Produces Perfect District Season

St. Pius X High School girls basketball finished the season with a perfect 6-0 record in District 5-4A, a district championship banner, an overall record of 22-6 and a 2014 New Mexico High School Basketball Tournament trip that ended in a 61-53 quarter final game loss to Valencia High School. Junior point guard Natalie Zamora was selected player of the week twice by the New Mexico High School Coaches Association during the season.



Sartans Earn Honors

Skye Prater, Tomas Gallegos and Cody Axtell were selected to the 2013-2014 New Mexico Interscholastic Ice Hockey League All-Star Team. Prater also was recognized with the league's Leadership Award.

Senior athletic training student Julie Gadowski is a 2014 Jack Cramer Scholarship finalist, making her the top Athletic Training Student Aide applicant for District 7 representing Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

science | technology | engineering | mathematics

STEM SUCCESS



Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, as **Kenneth Morley '08** was starting his sophomore year at St. Pius X High School. The effects of the storm and its aftermath - including 1,833 deaths, the displacement of more than 1 million people and an estimated \$108 billion in losses - impacted Morley.

Set to complete his thesis and graduate this May with a master's degree in atmospheric science from Ohio State University, Morley took the spark that ignited his interest in the weather and the service commitment ingrained in him through his Catholic education to the next level developing a hurricane risk analysis model based on social vulnerability.

Morley combined information on storm categories, storm surges and evacuation times from hurricanes along the Gulf Coast and a social vulnerability index that tracks data including age, income, race, single mother occupancy and car ownership along the coast to determine the level of risk in each county and pinpoint areas where the population is most at-risk from an impending storm. The information could be used by emergency management officials in their evacuation efforts.

"I want to have an effect on the social aspect of weather," Morley says. "This research creates a way of helping people who will be affected."

Today's graduates of St. Pius X High School enter a world where demand for

workers trained in science, technology, engineering and math may outstrip the supply graduating from U.S. colleges. Known as STEM fields, they include careers in computing, engineering, architecture, science and medicine.

According to data from Burning Glass Technologies, a labor market analytics firm in Boston, in 2013 there were about 2.5 entry-level job postings for each new bachelor's degree recipient in a STEM field, compared with 1.1 postings for each new grad in a non-STEM field. The firm also found that liberal arts grads who also develop a technical skill set can nearly double the jobs available to them.

"STEM is one of the leading avenues for employment," says Brooke Landavazo, St. Pius anatomy teacher. "It's a highly sought after skill and education. We're preparing them for professions that do not yet exist and it's only going to grow exponentially."

Christopher Hovorka '82, co-director of the master of science in prosthetics and orthotics program at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, says giving students the opportunity to connect with science, math and engineering is key to St. Pius's success in preparing students for STEM careers. *(See page 5 for Hovorka's STEM journey.)*

"If students at St. Pius can be exposed to science and engineering creatively and in a fun way, that's the foundation for advanced student engagement," Hovorka says. "It's important that they get excited about it at a high school level or even before and follow their motivation and interest from there. That's how it happened for me."

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How Can I Help?

Are you interested in encouraging St. Pius X High School students in science and math? Christopher Hovorka '82 would like to connect with St. Pius alumni interested in developing opportunities for alumni and other community members engaged in science to serve as a resource for SPX students and faculty. Contact **Steve Ross** in the St. Pius X Advancement Office at **(505) 831-8423** for more information.

science | technology | engineering | mathematics

STEM SUCCESS



Joey Sinclair presents at the SPX STEM Expo.

Continued from page 3

Joey Sinclair, a junior at SPX, is just such a student. With plans to study environmental engineering and renewable energy, Sinclair has been interested in a science career since participating in a middle school science competition. At this year's St. Pius STEM Expo, Sinclair took first place in the earth and space science category for his science project studying how waves affect sand at different depths.

"The ocean covers largest part of the world so creating hydropower by waves makes sense," Sinclair says. "I'm very interested in different renewable energies and finding out what is the next big thing in energy."

SPX science department chair and chemistry teacher Jonathan Ball says all students are well served by the strong science background provided by St. Pius, which requires four years of study in both science and math and has vital support from the school's administration and the community.

"We believe they're learning fundamental processing skills valuable for life," says **Kevin Barkocy '85**, an SPX physics and theology teacher.

Dr. Gina Sada Rightley '81 earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and her doctorate all in mechanical engineering at New Mexico State University. In 23 years at Sandia National Laboratories she has worked in electrical



engineering, nuclear engineering, rockets, microelectromechanical systems and defense programs.

Rightley says pursuing a STEM career in the 80s

as a woman did present challenges. "Sometimes I had to remind myself that someone has to be the pioneer," she says.

Rightley credits St. Pius, calculus with Mr. Alan J. Higgins and chemistry with Fr. Sam Falbo for her solid preparation for entering college as an engineering major. "The first year of college was review for me, and these were intense courses, first and second semesters of calculus, calculus-based physics and chemistry," she says.

Rightley and her husband **Mike Rightley '80**, also an engineer at Sandia Labs, counted on St. Pius to prepare their children **Eric '09** and **Madison '11** to enter STEM fields as well.

Rightley believes St. Pius must continue to set high goals for its students. "As a country we need to focus on being originators and creators of the new in technology, science, medicine and research," she says.

Biology teacher Rebecca Giron agrees and says, "We want to develop people who have the curiosity to figure out questions we don't have the answers to."



Faith

For **Kevin Barkocy '85** living in the worlds of faith and science is a daily existence as a physics and theology teacher at St. Pius X High School, and one he enjoys. "Science can explain the how but not the why," he says.

While the culture often tries to pit science and religion against one another, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* shares the Church's view in this way, "Methodical research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of the faith derive from the same God. The humble and preserving investigator of the secrets of nature is being led, as it were, by the hand of God in spite of himself, for it is God, the conserver of all things, who made them what they are" (CCC 159).

Barkocy says St. Pius is in a unique position to see and to teach the whole picture. "Students



Photo by Josh Meister

Mapping A Career

There was no map for the career journey **Christopher Hovorka '82** embarked upon, but because of him there is one now.

Developer and co-director of the master of science in prosthetics and orthotics program at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Hovorka uses his love of science to advance treatments for patients needing artificial limbs and external braces and to train the practitioners who care for them.

“In my field we produce dramatic stories of people who were unable to walk or move who now can, or people with no hands using robotic hands,” Hovorka explains. “I really like helping people and that I can use technology and science to make that happen.”

“*I really like helping people and that I can use technology and science to make that happen.*”

Sartan Snapshot: Christopher Hovorka



Class of 1982 | SPX INFLUENCE: *Mr. Robert Fincke*

Co-Director, Georgia Tech Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics Program | Doctoral Candidate, Biomechanics, Georgia Tech | Atlanta, Ga.

Hovorka embraces three distinct roles at Georgia Tech. He leads the prosthetics and orthotics program as co-director. He teaches students physiology and biomechanics and to evaluate and treat patients. And he's actively engaged in prospective study of how the nervous system behaves and learns when people wear bracing technology.

Reaching this pinnacle point in his career did not follow a straight or clearly defined line. After graduating from St. Pius, Hovorka earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of New Mexico. Recognizing the need for an advanced degree and limited career opportunities in exercise science, he began to learn about prosthetics and orthotics. He decided to pursue it as a career although it meant starting his education over with a second bachelor's degree.

“I was really interested in treating patients, but I also wanted to do science,” he says. “At that time there was not a clear knowledge base to the profession. It really was an emerging profession. So I decided to chart my own course. I wanted to do things that didn't exist and I thought if could pursue my idea with enthusiasm and effort, I could make a difference.”

Hovorka earned a bachelor's degree in prosthetics and orthotics at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle in 1991. He completed residencies in orthotics at Southern Illinois University in 1992 and in prosthetics at Newington Children's Hospital in Connecticut in 1993 and was board certified in both areas.

With that he had gained the clinical background he wanted and so he then began advancing his science and research goals. In 1998 he earned a master's degree in allied health science at the University of Connecticut and began to teach science and work in clinical practice.

In the early 2000s when engineering powerhouse Georgia Tech sought to create an advanced education program in prosthetics and orthotics, it hired Hovorka as clinical director to develop its facilities and core curriculum - his

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& Science

leave here with an understanding of science and its principles and an understanding of faith, mystery, morals, social justice and the sacraments,” he says. “They're able to articulate both sides.”

Barkocy, who is slated to complete four-years of diaconate formation and be ordained a deacon on June 21, holds degrees in chemistry and education and received training at the Denver Seminary. Working as a youth minister during college led to teaching chemistry and theology at St. Pius from 1994 to 1997. He then decided to put his science and teaching skills to work for 15 years in the pharmaceutical industry. Three years ago he returned to St. Pius to teach physics and theology.

“When the opportunity presented itself to return to the classroom I gladly jumped at it,” he says. “I love the opportunity to incorporate all of my passions - teaching teens, God and science.

“That's what makes Pius special, it helps kids to see both God and science. And in me they can see someone who is fully engaged in science and fully steeped in the faith.”

Planned Giving



Wills, Willingness and Will Power

by Steve Ross, SPX Advancement Director

Have you ever heard anyone say, “I want to die without a will”? Nor have I. While some people may act like they don’t need a will, I haven’t heard anyone actually brag about it. That’s because people seem to agree that having a will is a good idea.

Actually, when it comes right down to it, no one dies without a will. State government has seen to that. Lawmakers have “written” a general will that stipulates how our estates will be disbursed - if we fail to do this ourselves. The problem is, they do not know our individual priorities and commitments. So a personalized will (or other transfer document such as a living trust) is of great value. Not only does it provide peace of mind; it prescribes who you want to handle your affairs and who will benefit from your estate.

We in the Advancement Office of St. Pius X have discovered that many of our friends and supporters are quite willing to consider placing St. Pius X in their estate plans. They believe in our mission and want to invest part of their estate in our future financial health. The willingness is there.

Knowing the value of having a will and being willing to include St. Pius X is commendable and appreciated. But good intentions alone will fail to bring the peace of mind a good will can produce. Nor do good intentions lock in a bequest to an organization you care about. What is needed is action. And what will help produce action is will power.

Will power can help you use the power and freedom you have as an individual to make your own choices regarding the disposition of your estate. Will power can also apply to your decisiveness and determination in getting a will in place.

Let this little message be a boost to your will power and move you to action. Call your attorney and make an appointment. Fill out and send in the coupon below. If we can help you in possible any way, contact me, **Steve Ross**, in the Advancement Office at St. Pius X at **(505) 831-8423**.

We are willing and we have the will power to help you obtain your will. Do it today!

Dear Friends at St. Pius X High School:

Please complete and return this reply form.

- Please send me free literature about making a will.
- Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- I have already provided a bequest for St. Pius X in my will.
- Please send me information about the St. Pius X Legacy Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail this form to | St. Pius X Advancement | 5301 St. Joseph’s Dr NW | Albuquerque, NM 87120



Galassini Endowment Reaches Goal

An endowment honoring the memory of **Lincoln Galassini '65**, St. Pius X High School alumnus and former teacher and coach, has not only reached the required \$30,000 to establish the endowment, but thanks to the efforts of his son Joel, along with classmates and former students, the endowment stands at \$53,000. Joel Galassini matched all contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000. A percentage of the annual interest earned off the Galassini Endowment will provide tuition assistance to deserving students each year.

St. Pius currently has almost \$4 million in total endowments, which annually provides about \$200,000 in tuition assistance to students.



Annual Support is Critical

There are only two revenue streams that sustain St. Pius X High School as well as provide the financial resources needed for St. Pius X to be regarded as a top college preparatory school in the region. Tuition and private contributions are those two revenue streams.

This is why support to St. Pius X through the SPX Annual Fund is so important. The Annual Fund is used to support five on-going initiatives for St. Pius X:

- ▶ *Tuition assistance, which allows many students the opportunity to attend*
- ▶ *Athletics*
- ▶ *Fine Arts*
- ▶ *Teaching Excellence*
- ▶ *Capital Improvements*

Total contributions to the SPX Annual Fund at fiscal year's end are used by the school for the above initiatives. Examples from last year include tuition assistance for some 30 students, \$3,500 in professional development awards to three faculty members, and support for the new baseball scoreboard.

In each issue we typically spotlight a donor who has made a difference at St. Pius X in impacting the lives of young people. At this time we are spotlighting all the St. Pius X faculty and

staff who each year contribute financially in support of the school. We currently have a greater than 90 percent participation rate in SPX Annual Fund giving by faculty and staff, which speaks volumes to the dedication, commitment and regard faculty and staff have for the school. A total of 22 percent of St. Pius employees are alumni.

We also want to acknowledge all the alumni who contribute each year to the SPX Annual Fund. Alumni are the school's largest constituency and are key to the overall success of the advancement program. One aspect of our alumni giving to especially note are the many alumni who continue to give year after year. In fact, one-third of all the alumni who gave last year have been giving for 10 years or more.

In addition to the strength of alumni who give in support of the school, is the opportunity for St. Pius alumni to connect via the alumni council, Sartan Xtravaganza, reunions, homecoming, and the annual Hall of Honor event. The alumni council, under the leadership of **Jennifer Herrera Maldonado '91**, is currently working on setting up some social gathering activities at Albuquerque eateries that are owned and operated by fellow St. Pius alums. Albuquerque area alumni will be invited to these gatherings, so look for your announcement.

The SPX Spirit Dance Team presented *They Dance Alone* to a crowd of more than 100 museum guests at the closing of the National Hispanic Cultural Center's exhibit *Stitching Resistance: The History of Chilean Arpilleras*. The dancers learned the piece, choreographed by Larry Davidson to a song written by Sting to protest the military rule and human rights violations in Chile from 1973 to 1990, from their coach **Dr. Gina Sada Rightley '81**, who performed it while in graduate school at New Mexico State University. The dance depicts Chilean women mourning over the disappearance of their loved ones.

"The dance performance was perfect and brought tears to the eyes of a number of guests at the museum," said Dr. Tey Marianna Nunn, museum director.

The Spirit Dance Team was invited to present the dance at the cultural center after their performance of it at the SPX Hispanic Heritage Night last fall.

They Dance Alone



Mapping a Career

Continued from page 5

opportunity to put in place the education path that didn't exist when he started on it 15 years earlier.

"In 2002 it was the first of its kind," Hovorka says. "Our program has now been modeled in other universities and adopted as a national standard."

Georgia Tech's program now includes a first-of-its-kind doctoral program for students in the field wishing to pursue careers in research and academia. Since its inception in 2002, 99 students have earned advanced degrees through the program and work throughout the world in research and as clinical practitioners - including one at Carrie Tingly Hospital in Albuquerque. Hovorka now is completing his dissertation and plans to finish a PhD in biomechanics by the end of this year.

"I wanted to go the pinnacle, but it wasn't clear how to get there, nobody had done it," he says. "I got to make up the map on my own."

Hovorka, a track athlete in high school, credits St. Pius with shaping him as a science student. "My time at St. Pius inspired me to pursue higher education and it was there I became interested in science," he says. "My biology teacher Robert Fincke was committed to students learning. He encouraged me all along the way."

Hovorka worries that U.S. students may not be getting the

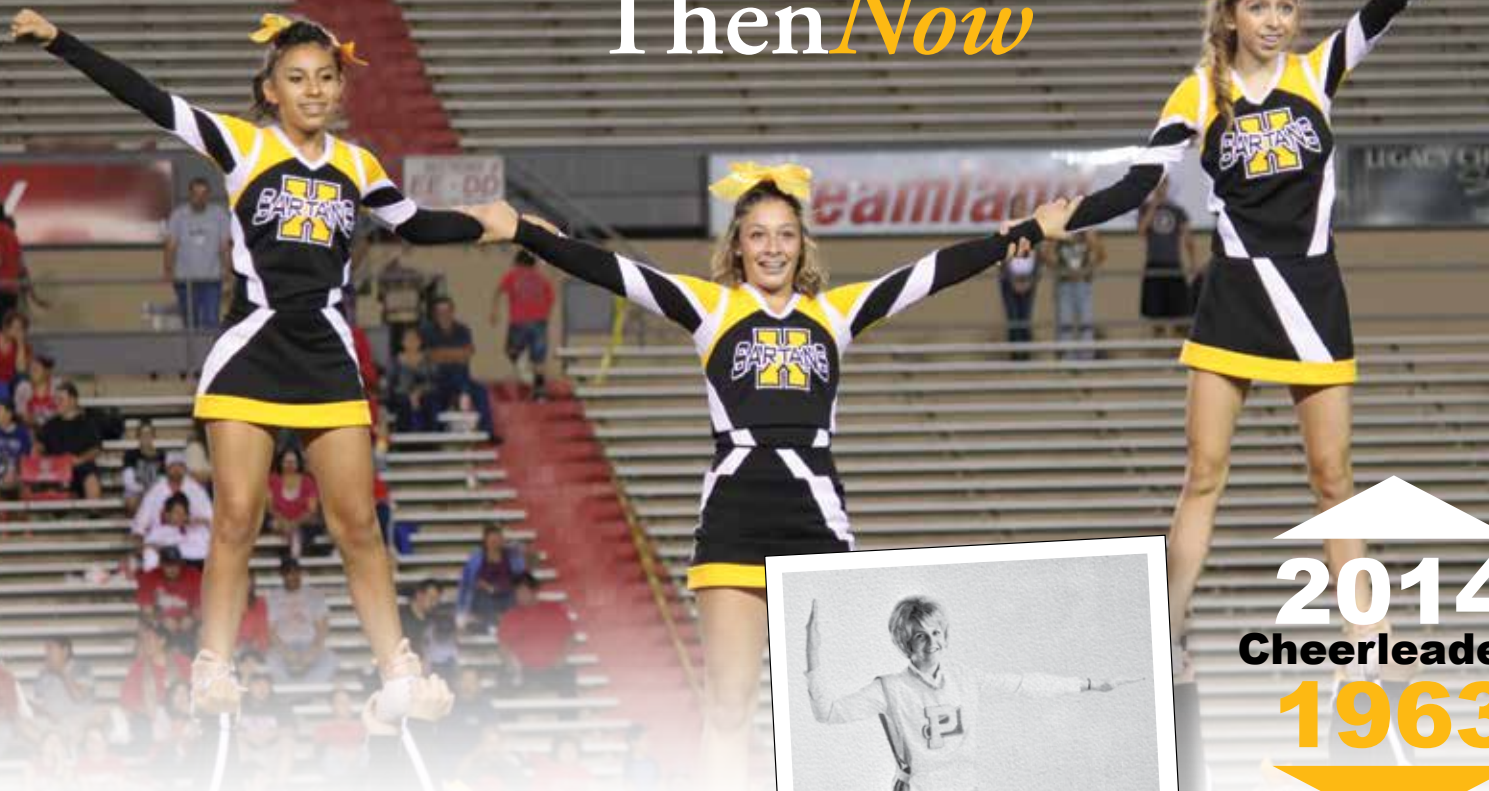
kind of science education and encouragement he once did. "If you look across the nation in areas of science and engineering, many students in those fields are not well prepared," he says. "There's a smaller cohort going into those fields, and in the U.S., degree programs in science and math are seeing reduced enrollments."

Hovorka believes developing opportunities for alumni and other SPX community members engaged in science to serve as a resource for SPX students and teachers would be beneficial. Hovorka envisions a student-alumni network that would encourage SPX's enthusiasm for science and create collaborations through funds and resources that would incite and advance student interest and achievement.

"If we connect science faculty and students to alumni engaged in science and engineering, the alumni can then gain awareness of what's going on at St. Pius, make connections and provide support through giving or mentorship," Hovorka says. "If it's something we can create, we can create a sense of ownership of the school's science program in the community."

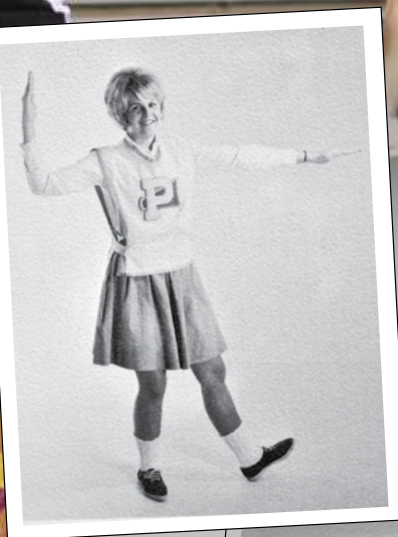
Having mapped the course, Hovorka is eager to share. "I love what I do, so much that I have to share it with others," he says. "My career is about helping others in need and it's a productive use of my skills and knowledge for society. It embraces the concept of St. Pius."

Then *Now*



2014
Cheerleaders
1963

Boys Basketball



Can you identify these girls without going to your yearbook? Send your best guesses to spxeditor@outlook.com.



Tim Rizek '86, Regina Rizek '86, Jim McCue and Maria McCue '86 enjoy the 1920s themed gala to support St. Pius X High School.



A Lasting Legacy

With a double-dose of generosity, **Dr. Mark Rainosek '83** last year made his support of Legacy Art Albuquerque a lasting tribute. Rainosek purchased a retable of St. Pius X at the 2013 art event and auction. He then donated the retable back to the school to hang in the front office, presenting it to Dr. Barbara Rothweiler, principal, and Becky Montoya-Ballou, assistant director of advancement.

This year, Legacy Art Albuquerque XIV, the annual art event and auction supporting the St. Pius X High School fine arts department and financial aid for deserving students, will be held May 10 at Sandia Resort. 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 information on tickets and sponsorships, contact (505) 831-8406 or bmontoya-ballou@spx.k12.nm.us.



The SPX Robotix Club placed first in robot skills and second overall in the VEX State Tournament Robotics Event held at New Mexico State University in February. Team members are from left (front row) Landen Culbreath (11), Sydney Hunter (11), Shamus Gridley (11), (back row) Jordan Sandoval (12), Harold Gridley (9), Gabe Niski (11), Mark Perea (9) and Sarah McHarney (9). The team sponsors are teachers Joyce Gridley and Diana Perea and are helped by parents James Gridley and Lem Hunter.



May 10, 2014
Sandia Resort

For tickets and sponsorships, call (505) 831-8406

Sartan Xtravaganza

Join the St. Pius X High School community August 16-17 for the 2014 St. Pius Sartan Xtravaganza. Presented by the St. Pius X High School Alumni Council, the campus event for alumni, teachers, families and friends of St. Pius will feature Alumni women's and men's soccer games, a barbeque lunch, music and children's activities. Cost is \$5 per person. Contact (505) 831-8406 for more information.



Revelers got into the spirit and their 1920s flapper dresses for The Great Gatsby Gala - St. Pius X High School's annual Mardi Gras celebration - on March 1 at Hotel Albuquerque. "It was a great opportunity for friends of Catholic education to enjoy an evening together and support financial aid at Albuquerque's outstanding Catholic high school," said Ed Larranaga, president of the SPX Board of Consultors. The evening included dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions.

Thank you to our Great Gatsby Gala sponsors!

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Quarterly Gathering

The Broken Bottle Brewery and its proprietor Chris Chavez '96 hosted the first Quarterly Gathering of St. Pius X High School alumni on March 27. The SPX Alumni Council plans to sponsor these informal gathering events for alumni every quarter at local establishments, preferably those with ties to the SPX family. If you'd like to host a Quarterly Gathering, contact Becky Montoya-Ballou at (505) 831-8406 or bmontoya-ballou@spx.k12.nm.us.

2014 Reunions

1964 • September 12-14

Eddie Castoria, nightjumper5@gmail.com

1974 • September 26-28

Spxclass74@gmail.com

Joe Maloney, jmaloney@brownre.com

Hector Salas, hector@autenticamexicanfood.com

1984

Please contact bmontoya-ballou@spx.k12.nm.us to organize a reunion committee.

1989

Please contact bmontoya-ballou@spx.k12.nm.us to organize a reunion committee.

1994

John Menicucci, jmenicuc@yahoo.com

2004 • August 1-3

Jenaya (Hakeem) Howard, j.hakeem@gmail.com

Anthony Joseph (Tony) Apodaca, age 85 of Albuquerque, died Nov. 22, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frieda (Salazar) Apodaca, children Anthony Apodaca III, Christine Muehlenweg, Claudia Apodaca and Vincent Apodaca; grandchildren **Anthony Apodaca IV '97, Alicia Apodaca '99, Joshua Apodaca-Muehlenweg '02, Zachary Apodaca Muehlenweg '04, Damon Apodaca-Muehlenweg '06, Neal Apodaca-Joffe, Jordan Apodaca-Joffe, Samuel Apodaca '17** and Veronica Apodaca; and three great-grandchildren.

John J. Evans, age 84 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 3, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Cora; daughter, Teri Evans Salls; and granddaughter, **Ferryl Salls '12.**

Theresa Faifer Everett, age 58 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 31, 2014. She is survived by her daughter, **Laura '03** and grandson Zachary. Theresa worked for the last 13 years as the parish/school bookkeeper at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Bennie Gonzales, age 80 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 21, 2014. He is survived by his children, Bennie F. Gonzales, Randolph Gonzales, Christina F. Gonzales and Henry Munoz; eight grandchildren, including **Bennie Joseph '01** and **James**; and three great-grandchildren.

Carlos A. (Freddy) Griego, age 68 of Albuquerque, died Dec. 6, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Lydia Montoya-Griego; and sons, **Jerome '96** and **Clifford Griego '00.**

Cherelaine Ann Coons Gullick '62, age 69 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 20, 2014. She attended the University of New Mexico and worked for Albuquerque Public Schools for 30 years. She was an enthusiastic traveler visiting over 70 countries, a longtime member of Risen Savior Catholic Community and a member of the Women's Guild. She is remembered for her kindness, friendliness, beauty and courage throughout her life. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Ed; son, Christopher; siblings **Cecilia Boyles '64, Frank Coons '67, and Larry Coons '76.**

Polly Herrera, age 79 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 8, 2014. She is survived by her children Frank Herrera Jr., **Larry Herrera '78, Ted Herrera '79, Ann Burns '80, Charlie Herrera '82,** grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Maria Regina "Gini" Leyva, age 59 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 6, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Lorenzo Leyva; her sons, **Christopher Leyva '97** and Jason Leyva; and two grandsons.

Richard McBride, age 73 of Albuquerque, died Dec. 29, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Elvira McBride; daughter **Andrea Ewert '87;** and three grandsons, Adam Ewert, **Dominic Ewert '10** and **Jeremy Ewert '13.**

Lillian I. Micono, age 90 of Albuquerque, died Dec. 10, 2013. She is survived by her spouse of 69 years, Jeff Micono; sons, Jeff, Mark, Peter and James; 12 grandchildren, including **Peter J. Micono '09** and **Annamarie Micono '11;** and eight great-grandchildren.



Arturo Guillermo "Art" Ortega Jr. '64, age 67 of Albuquerque, died Nov. 28, 2013. He attended Regis College in Denver and the University of Albuquerque, where he found his calling as a broadcaster. He started his career at KDEF in Albuquerque and continued at radio stations in Denver, Boston, Columbus and San Diego. He returned to Albuquerque in 1985 and retired from broadcasting in 2011. Known for his engaging personality, quick wit, ready smile, and ever-active sense of humor, Art volunteered on many boards and committees throughout his career and exemplified excellent problem-solving skills coupled with creativity and imagination to benefit the community. He is survived by his wife, Lynda; son, **David '93;** grandson, Dominic; stepson, Eric Martinez; stepdaughter, Kristine Martinez; siblings, **Dr. Ricardo Ortega, M.D. '66, Cristina Ortega Morris '70, Carlos Ortega, Daniel Ortega '75, Roberto Ortega, and Armando Ortega;** and his former wife, Margaret Ortega.

Thomas Joseph Ortega, age 65 of Grants, died Jan. 4, 2014. He is survived by his siblings Mary L. Ortega, **Teresa Heaphy '74, Ann Johnson '78, Peter Ortega '81, Paul Ortega '83, Philip Ortega '85, and Angelica Benavidez '92.**

Ruth Cordova Padilla, age 82 of Albuquerque, died Dec. 4, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Sosimo Padilla; her children, Veronica Padilla Prager, Phyllis Padilla Owens, and John Padilla; her grandchildren, Adam Sanchez, **Aaron Prager '98, Matthew Padilla, Maria Milder and Karli La Cour '93;** and three great-grandchildren.

Herb Runkle, age 79 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 6, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Cathy; his children, **Kathy Sager '76, Rebecca Sanchez and Sam Runkle '77;** and four grandchildren.

Albert (Babe) Sanchez, age 81 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 14, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Terri Sanchez; four sons, **Franklin '81, Eric '84, Paul '86, and Ronni;** and one grandson.

Josephine (Jo) Price Seery, age 68 of Bosque Farms, died Nov. 11, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Al Seery; children Jerry Jennings, **Katherine Rieland '94,** and step-daughter Melissa Coash; and five grandchildren.

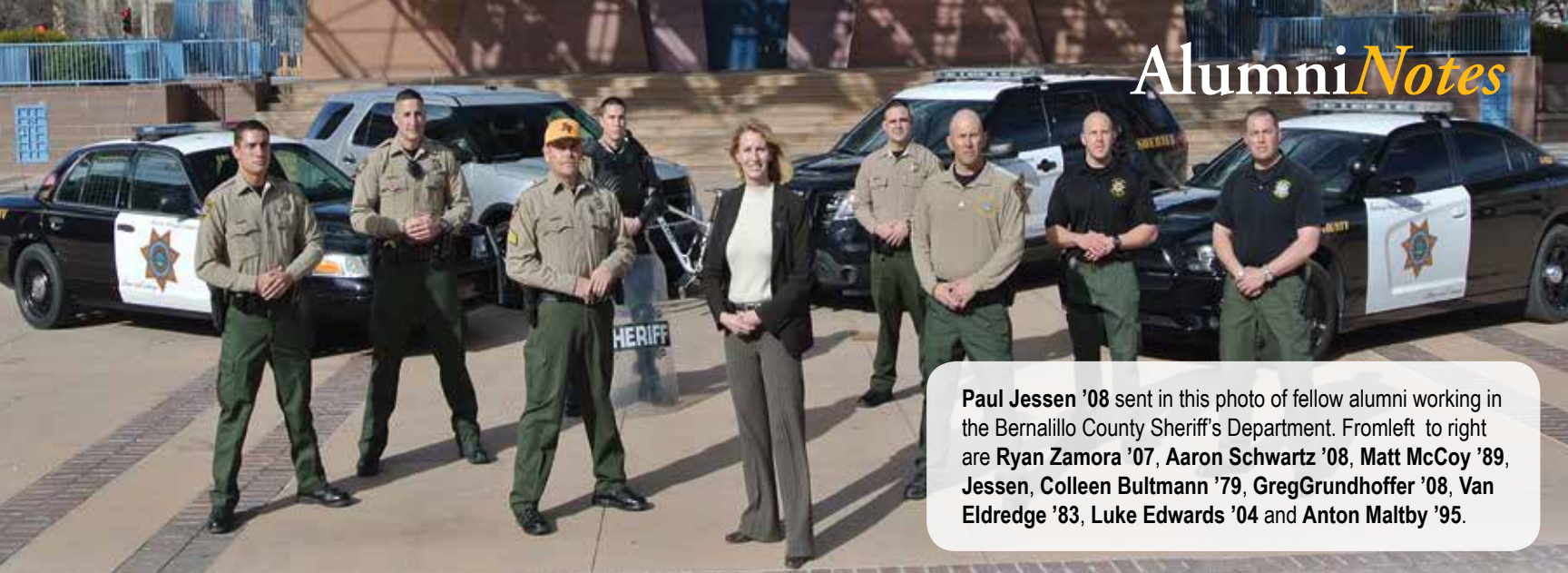
Samuel J. Sandoval '13, age 19 of Los Lunas, died March 2, 2014. Sammy was an avid Atlanta Falcons football fan, enjoyed the outdoors especially hunting with his bow and rifle, and loved to make people laugh and smile. He is survived by his father, Isriel Sandoval; mother and grandmother, Olga Sandoval; grandfather, Lawrence Sandoval; maternal grandparents, James and Becky Schwarz; two sisters, Bernadette and Angelina; and mother, Ramona Gurule.

Esther Silva-Kozak, age 60 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 7, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Kozak; her four children, Luis Chacon, **Natalie Chacon '01,** step-daughter Deana Lopez and step-son Joseph Kozak, Jr.; and three grandchildren.

Fred T. Skasik, age 70 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 20, 2014. He is survived by his former wife of 36 years, **Joyce Knipfing '64;** daughters, **Bridget M. Goldfarb '86** and Suzanne M. Skasik; and three grandchildren.

J.R. Whatley, age 55 of Albuquerque, died Feb. 1, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Karen (Smith) Whatley of 34 years; his daughter, **Madison Whatley Lewis '04** and his son, Jake Whatley.

Matthew Wildau, age 81 of Albuquerque, died Jan. 20, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Corinne A. Wildau; children **Matthew J. Wildau '79** and wife **Regina '79,** and Marybeth Smith; and five grandchildren including **Danielle Wildau '98, Matthew Wildau '07, and Robert Wildau '10.**



Paul Jessen '08 sent in this photo of fellow alumni working in the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department. From left to right are Ryan Zamora '07, Aaron Schwartz '08, Matt McCoy '89, Jessen, Colleen Bultmann '79, Greg Grundhoffer '08, Van Eldredge '83, Luke Edwards '04 and Anton Maltby '95.

1970s

Mike Mechenbier '72 received the 2013 Spirit of New Mexico, Harry E. Kinney Good Neighbor Award from the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and the Albuquerque Journal in December. Established to recognize individuals who have improved the lives of other New Mexicans, Mechenbier was honored for helping establish El Rancho de los Niños, an alternative to foster care where sibling groups can live together in a family farm setting. Mechenbier is the owner of Sundance Mechanical and Utility Corp. in Albuquerque and rancher and farmer in Valencia County.



1980s

Rob Frassanito '83 won the World Champion Calf Roping title at the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association's World Finals in 2013. This is his third calf roping world championship

with the association. Rob is a Senior Sales Consultant with Bayer Healthcare and lives in Cave Creek, Ariz., with his wife, Marta, and two children, Megan and Robbie.

Steve Maestas '81 has been named deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, which oversees banks in New Mexico. Maestas, managing partner of NAI Maestas & Ward Commercial Real Estate



in Albuquerque, joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Board of Directors in 2013 and before that served on the Bank's Economic Advisory Council. He co-founded NAI Maestas & Ward Commercial Real Estate in 1996 and is responsible for its growth and diversification. In addition, he is a partner and co-owner of Sun Vista Enterprises, which operates maintenance, landscaping and HVAC divisions servicing more than 2.2 million square feet of commercial space that is managed by NAI Maestas & Ward.



Damon P. Martinez '84 at press time awaited U.S. Senate confirmation as the next U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico. New Mexico Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich recommended Martinez for the position in April

2013. President Barack Obama selected him in November and announced his nomination was bound for the Senate in January. According to a news release from Udall's office, Martinez has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 2001, supervises the organized crime and gang unit in Albuquerque, and has worked on cases involving national security, anti-terrorism, immigration and narcotics.

2000s

Christie Gross '06 held an author signing at Barnes & Noble in Albuquerque in September for her first book *Passages: Through the Eye of the Needle*, published by Wasteland Press in December 2012. The novel is available in Albuquerque at Barnes & Noble Bookstores and



online at Amazon.com. Gross returned in October 2012 from a two-year post with the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, West Africa, as a small business advisor for a women's business group. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University

of New Mexico and is working on an MBA with concentrations in information assurance and management information systems at UNM.

Eric Gross '09 and his UNM Anderson School of Management marketing student team earned first place honors in May 2013 in the American Petroleum Institute Adventures in Energy Case Competition in San Francisco.

Breanna Houghton '06 has joined the law firm of Sutin, Thayer & Browne as a member of the firm's litigation group, primarily in commercial litigation, creditors' rights and employment law. Her background is in law, finance, public policy and immigration. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from the University of New Mexico, *summa cum laude*. She attended the University of Notre Dame Law School, where she served as solicitation editor of the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Public Policy and as vice president of the Hispanic Law Student Association.

Chelsy R. Lucero '05 is engaged to **Mark P. Dinelli '05**. The couple is planning a fall wedding.

We're looking for the latest 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. Send your news and photos to speditor@outlook.com.

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May 10 | Sandia Resort

■ **Sartan Xtravaganza**

August 16-17 | SPX Campus



Photo by Josh Meister

Thanks to all who submitted ideas for the naming of the St. Pius X High School alumni magazine. Studying those ideas and the spirit behind them, we've decided that Connections best expresses what St. Pius X High School creates and what this magazine hopes to achieve. Connect with us directly at spxeditor@outlook.com.