

Parish School Opens State-of-the-Art Innovation Lab

In August, St. Sebastian Parish School opened the doors on a brand-new Innovation Lab, a state-of-the-art “makerspace” for student learning. Envision a place where ideas come to life through hands-on prototyping, collaboration, testing and redesign; a place where students use their imaginations and a wide array of tools and materials to design, build, evaluate and improve their creations. The new Innovation Lab is all that and more!

The Innovation Lab is a maker-space classroom that houses an amazing array of learning materials and offers a large, flexible space for project-based, active learning. The room previously served as the 6th-grade science lab, but it would be hard for many alumni to recognize it, since the room was renovated from top to bottom:

Lab Tables: Students work at six custom-made moveable lab tables

with large, butcher block surfaces and storage drawers underneath. The tables are of two different heights to meet the needs of smaller and taller students. The tables can be moved together for group work, or stored on the perimeter for projects that require large spaces, such as when the Derby Dogs team works on building full-size Soap Box Derby cars!

Wall Storage: The recessed wall, where students used to hang their coats and backpacks, now features a row of tall, heavy duty storage cabinets. Along the wall with the windows is a row of low storage cabinets, the tops of which serve as “grow stations,” where students will prepare seedlings to plant in the school garden. Along the front wall are several tall shelving units and a few more storage units.

Instructional Technology: At the center of the front wall is a large Smart Board, an interactive digital



The creation of the Innovation Lab began with the installation of hybrid polymer floors and customized shelves and storage cabinets.

white board that is connected to the internet, providing access to a whole world’s worth of resources. Smart Boards, which are now in every classroom at the school, are also able to connect with tools such as microscopes, cameras, and video equipment for enhanced instruction. That’s a long way from the overhead and film projectors of the past!!

Lego Wall: One end of the Lab features a wall-to-wall Lego platform surface for building

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The Innovation Lab features custom-made, moveable lab tables (left) with butcher block surfaces and storage drawers. The walls are lined with custom-made cabinets and shelves. One wall features a large Lego platform (center), which is popular with students and with adults, such as Tim DelMedico '70, Ken Contrera, Chris Baugh, Brenda Pier Beck and Patrick O'Neill, who stopped by for a tour. The new floor (right) is stain and spill resistant – and also the perfect place to use iPads to test drive Dot and Dash robots!

We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

(October 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018)

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

John F. Long '37, November 25, 2017
Harold D. King, Sr. '39, December 3, 2017
Paul A. Waickman '43, December 21, 2017
Joseph A. Perkins '44, January 11, 2017
Thomas E. Giffels '46, January 5, 2018
Doris Jane Seikel Hinton '47, January 3, 2018
William B. Fahey '52, January 11, 2018
Julie Ann Judge Leeser '58, November 28, 2017

Roger Mark Crassweller '59, October 11, 2017
Timothy J. Ochsenhirt, Jr. '60, November 9, 2017
Robert E. Hatton '62, October 23, 2017
Timothy C. McDonald '62, January 10, 2018
Lynn Taggart Rogers '74, December 11, 2017
Bernadette Budd '77, September 30, 2017
Laura Howard Warner '77, December 6, 2017
Richard A. Kraemer '80, October 31, 2017

Class of 1968 Plans 50th Reunion

The St. Sebastian Parish School Class of 1968 will hold its 50th Reunion on Sept. 22, 2018 in Zwisler Hall. More details to come! Pictured here

at a planning meeting are: (left to right, seated): Cathy Sinopoli Davis, Mark Waickman, and Patti Large Cleary, and (standing): Dave Singleton, Patty Cunningham Post, and Barbara Carroll LaRose. To join the planning team or for more information, please contact Patti Cleary at cleary.patti@gmail.com.



Innovation Lab *continued from pg. 1*

3D models using the thousands of Legos in the Lab's inventory. Unsurprisingly, this wall is very popular with all the students!

Floors: The old flooring was replaced with a hybrid polymer floor that is resistant to stains and spills.

The Innovation Lab now houses in one location most of the school's high-tech learning materials, from circuit boards and a fleet of drones to Lego Mindstorm robots and tool sets. Since the Innovation Lab is used by all grade levels, the school has increased student access to a wider range of materials and equipment without needing to purchase multiple sets of resources.

Thank you to Ohio Garage Interiors for their exceptional work on this project, as well as John Najeway '84 for his help. Thanks also to everyone who funded the lab through their support of the school's STEM Initiative and the September Spectacular paddle raise. If you would like a tour of the Innovation Lab or want to help with the school's technology initiatives, please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or holadayk@stsebastian.org.



St. Sebastian Parish School alumni were well represented at the 2017 Induction Ceremony for the National Honor Society at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Pictured here are new NHS members Alex Phillip '15, Maria Dobson '15, Maddie McSteen '15, Ada Wyszynski '15, Cecelia Walter '15, Jordan Jennings '14, Anne Hanlon '15, Olivia Gupta '15, and Alec Coombs (not pictured). Current STVM NHS members pictured are Jared Musci '14, Molly Haines '14, Tyler Eroshevich '14, Sydney Powell '14, Helena Kresja '14, and Sarah Minear '14.

Alumni Updates

Class of 1952

Stephanie Schmida Dumstorf wrote the Alumni Association to say thanks so much for the Fall, 2017 issue of the Alumni Newsletter that featured Forest Lodge. Stephanie said, “Just seeing Forest Lodge (as we could from our 8th grade classroom, too) brings back fond memories of carrying our skates to school, so we could be ready for the ice after classes. We must have needed notes of permission for that, but I don’t recall that part--only the fun of the skating! It was also a treat to see classmate Jim Fenwick highlighted in the issue. What a fine group of schoolmates I was privileged to know in my days at St. Sebastian! I treasure our Class of ‘52 reunions when we can relive those joyful times ... my thanks for keeping our St. Sebastian memories alive.”



Class of 1968

Greg Davis '68 and his four siblings (Anita '70, Christopher '72, Timothy '73 and Mary Louise “Mimi” Moore '75) all attended St. Sebastian Parish School. Today, Greg and his wife Alix live in California, where he works as an aerospace engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Greg enjoyed reading the article in the last alumni newsletter that featured Forest Lodge, so while visiting Akron in February, he decided to take up Kathy Holaday, director of development, on her offer to give tours to any alumni who would like to see Forest Lodge, the school and/or the church. He moved into the neighborhood in time for 4th grade at St. Sebastian, and he has fond memories (some more “memorable” than others!) of his grade school days there, especially at Forest Lodge, when during the winter he and his classmates would go skating after school, and during the spring he would catch the “fairy shrimp” that hatched after the thaw. The kids would catch them and then feed them to their tropical fish. Greg thinks the old ice skating bowl could still be full of their dormant eggs! He also has fun memories of mischievous boys sneaking onto the Elms grounds to fish in the pond and being chased out by the dogs. Greg



grew up near the corner of Elmdale and Grandin and remembers walking to school with his ice skates looped around his shoulders. He also remembers playing baseball every day in the summer – just sandlot pickup games – in the bowl of Forest Lodge. Greg has stayed in touch with his classmates and has enjoyed playing golf with John Haney, Bernie Hunt and Pat Leary. His most “memorable” teachers were Sr. Seamus and Sr. Rosanna and their choir practices, but he especially remembers Mr. LeHere and Mr. Davies, who were his 8th-grade teachers. Greg also recalls that instead of standing in a corner when reprimanded, misbehaving students would be instructed to, “Go stand out by the Archangel!” He agreed to re-enact this punishment on location by having his photo taken at the statue! Greg also mentioned being an altar boy for Msgr. Zwisler, which in his words was “memorable” as well! His favorite priest during grade school was Fr. Black.

Class of 1973

Lewie Seikel took a moment to share these memories of his days at St. Sebastian Parish School with Foundation Development Director Kathy Holaday. His favorite Teacher was Mr. Cummins, a 7th-grade English teacher who used to stand on his desk and read excerpts from the book assignments – similar to Robin Williams’ character in the movie *Dead Poets Society*. Lewie also remembers the winter and spring recitals on the library stage with Sr. Rosanne, the music teacher. And like many alumni, Lewie remembers skating at Forest Lodge and the Principal’s Office window that overlooked the cafeteria: “when it would slide open, it was like an alarm going off telling you to straighten up and fly right!” Fun fact: Lewie lives on the same street where he grew up!

Class of 1996

George Marino and his wife Melissa have three children, two of whom attend St. Sebastian Parish School: Giuliana (age 6), Angela (age 4) and Vincent (age 1). He is a data architect for Goodyear.

Send Us Your Alumni Updates

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at alumni@stsebastian.org or fill out the online form at <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html>.

You are invited!

Marion Blumenthal Lazan, Author

Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story

**Tues., April 24, 2018
7-8 p.m., Zwisler Hall**



St. Sebastian Parish School is pleased to host a presentation by Marion Blumenthal Lazan, co-author of the book Four Perfect

Pebbles: A Holocaust Story. The book is a moving, first-hand account of Lazan's harrowing childhood, which included imprisonment in Nazi concentration camps. Recent graduates of St. Sebastian will remember reading this book in class with Mr. Rohr or Mr. McDonald.

Lazan is a compelling speaker who shares the dramatic story of her family's life in Germany, from the events preceding Kristallnacht and imprisonment in concentration camps, to liberation in April of 1945 when Lazan was 11 years old. Lazan's mission is to speak to as many people as possible, both students and adults, so they can hear the story directly from a Holocaust survivor. She speaks passionately about the topics of being tolerant, not stereotyping, being true to yourself, and overcoming adversity through positive thinking, creativity and inner strength.

This event is free and open to all alumni, parishioners, and current parents. Students in grades 5-8 from St. Sebastian Parish School will attend a separate session in the morning.

Tacos & Trivia Fundraiser is Full of Fun

In November, the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation hosted Tacos & Trivia: an event designed to bring younger parishioners together for fun and fellowship and also to raise money for the Cornerstone of Our Faith Campaign. The event, which drew a crowd of about 115 people, raised \$2,200! Guests enjoyed a spirited trivia contest and a delicious taco dinner. Big thanks to the following members of the planning team, which included six alumni, for putting on such a fantastic fiesta: Max Bedell '01, Alyson Conner, Kristin Conner, Lindsay Conner, Mary Jo Bedell Kormushoff '98, Michael Kormushoff, Mary Neugebauer, Patrick O'Neill '00, Sarah O'Neill, Chad Rothschild, Melissa Costigan Rothschild '97, Katie Costigan Stahr '96, Colleen Tate, and Dan Tate '96.



Many alumni attended the event, and they even climbed the steps of the stage in Z-Hall for a group photo, just like they were lining up for a school music program



back in the old days! Pictured here are (first row, left to right) Katelyn Holaday '09, Katie Bedell Pirie, Max Bedell '01, Mary Jo Bedell Kormushoff '98; (second row) Tricia Bedell Rothkopf '95, Katie Costigan Stahr '96, Jennifer Leslie McDonald '98, Melissa Johnson Tober '95, Kelly Baugh '03, Luke O'Neill '02, Lauren O'Neill '01, Kathryn Ball Finley '01, George Marino '96, RB Brownfield '99; (top row) Dan Tate '96, Matt Stahr, Melissa Costigan Rothschild '97, Jodie Johnson Jennings '89, Jill Johnson McMullen '87, Dave Baugh '00, Andy Cavileer '00, Pat O'Neill '00, Andrew Almenar '00, Bryan Schmidlin '91, Jack Gerstenmaier '93, Ben Whitney '96.



The Tacos & Trivia fiesta brought together parishioners, alumni and friends for a night of food and fun, and also mustaches, margaritas and photo booth fun!



This team, who dubbed themselves "The Mutants from Table 9," emerged as the victors of the trivia competition, and while they donated their cash winnings to the Cornerstone campaign, they enthusiastically claimed the trophy: a taco wearing a sombrero and a mustache!

Cornerstone of Our Faith: Church Restoration Project Update

Over \$940,000 has been raised toward the \$1 million goal!

We have almost reached our \$1 million goal! As of Jan. 31, 2018, over \$940,000 has been raised for the Cornerstone of Our Faith, a campaign for the restoration of St. Sebastian Church. Thank you to all our parishioners, alumni, and friends of the parish for their amazing support!

Work on the campaign projects is scheduled to begin in early April, 2018 and conclude in time for the parish's 90th Anniversary Celebration on November 10, 2018. Projects include the restoration of the original pews, terrazzo floors, glass doors, and the brass and woodwork. In addition, campaign funds will be used to upgrade the church's accessibility by improving the entrance ramps and automatic doors as well as installing sound loop technology.

It is not too late to donate! A lovely alphabetical list of campaign contributors will be displayed for one year at the main entrance to the church. In addition, the donor list will be printed in the Foundation's annual report, the parish's 90th



Anniversary program, and the parish web site. Pledges may be paid through 2019. To learn more, please contact Director of Development Kathy Holaday (330-803-0667 or holadayk@stsebastian.org) or visit our website for more details: www.stsebastian.org/restoration/index.html

Save the Date: November 10, 2018

St. Sebastian Parish 90th Anniversary Celebration

Pasta Dinner Draws Sellout Crowd

On Jan. 20, the feast day of St. Sebastian, the parish gathered for a pasta dinner to benefit the Cornerstone of Our Faith Campaign. More than 250 people enjoyed a fantastic meal and great fellowship, thanks in large part to "Team Marcy." Led by alumna Marcy Smith '82, this small but mighty group of volunteers not only prepared and served the meal, they also took care of all the set up and clean up. Thank you to all who came out and supported this sold out event and to all who donated food or volunteered. Thanks to you, this event raised over \$1,100! Pictured here with Fr. Valencheck is our wonderful Pasta Dinner volunteer crew, which includes several alumni and parents

of alumni: (standing, left to right) Fr. Valencheck, Jeff Spangler, Karen McCusker Spangler '78, Peg Demboski, Peg Klamert, Mary Beth Furman, Anna Clawson, Peggy Baumgardner Contrera '72, Chris Marks, Tom Smith, and Matt Wyszynski; seated left to right: Terry Tolson, Yvonne Dietrich, Marcy Smith '82, and Grace Smith.



Alumni Scholarship Endowment

The Alumni Scholarship Endowment fund was established by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation in 2013 to provide financial assistance to students attending St. Sebastian Parish School. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the St. Sebastian community, in 2016 the fund received enough donations to become an endowment that provides tuition assistance on a yearly basis. What a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution for the benefit of St. Sebastian Parish School! Listed below are donors who gave to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment fund from February, 2017 to January, 2018. The St. Sebastian Foundation – and the parish school families who benefit from this fund – are deeply appreciative of their generosity!

- Anonymous, in celebration of Generose and Steve Marks
John and Mindy Fulvimar
- 1938** C. J. Swedenburg, in honor of Monsignor
Hilary Zwisler
- 1940** Jeanne Ott, in memory of Conrad C. Ott
- 1943** Charles Kincaid, in memory of Betty Ann Kincaid
- 1944** Thomas E. Dannemiller, Jr., in memory of
Evelyn Dannemiller
- 1944** Mary and John Schumacher
- 1944** Patricia Long Najeway
- 1944** Marie Karg Graham
- 1946** Anonymous
- 1947** Roland and Sara Bertolini, in honor of Joseph,
Louise and Raymond Bertolini
- 1947** Anonymous
- 1947** Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan, in memory of
the Henaughan Family
- 1948** Marjorie Burkley, in memory of Thomas Burkley
- 1949** Susie Straits, in honor of The Meadows Family,
Jim, Bob, Pat and Susie
- 1949** Toni Schapansky, in memory of Stanley and
Bertha Augustyn
- 1951** Charlotte Ann Reymann, in memory of
Charlotte Hummel
- 1951** Richard McGuckin, in memory of Cletus and
Kathryn McGuckin
- 1952** Thomas Gardner
- 1953** William L. Fanelly, in memory of Michael and
Virginia Glenn Fanelly
- 1955** Barbara Farr Brizes
- 1955** Tom and Suzanne Rhodenbaugh
- 1957** John Reichart
- 1957** Thomas Fagan
- 1958** Jeanne M. Harty, in memory of Thomas and
Elizabeth Carney
- 1958** Jim Maurer, in honor of Desi Desman
- 1958** Michael Patnode, in memory of Reynold Desman,
Class of '58
- 1959** Peter and Donna Baldacci, in memory of Paul and
Allwyn Baldacci
- 1960** Dennis and Karen Kucler, in celebration of Dennis
and Karen Kucler 50th Wedding Anniversary
- 1960** Barbara H. Andolsen
- 1961** Diana Schwarz Popovich, in memory of Chuck
and Suzanne Schwarz
- 1961** Michael and Virginia McGuckin
- 1961** Angela Devore, in honor of Angelina Lobello
- 1966** John Hershberger
- 1969** Patty Zachardy Van Pelt, in memory of Jane,
Robert and John Zachardy
- 1969** Thomas and Patricia Mancino
- 1969** Dr. Joseph M. Khoury, in celebration of Doris
Khoury's 90th Birthday
- 1970** Donna Lobello Sapp
- 1970** Thomas Bray, Jr.
- 1971** Julie Tersigni
- 1972** Anonymous
- 1972** Ken and Peggy Baumgardner Contrera, in
honor of Tom and Rita Baumgardner
- 1972** Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rote
- 1973** Kathy Coyne Bergh
- 1973** Kaye M. Rowe
- 1973** Teresa Redle Brostowitz
- 1973** Antonella Pianalto
- 1975** Ray Boshara
- 1979** Cristine Neman Pace, in honor of Barbara Neman
- 1980** John and Nadine Rote
- 1985** Anne Morgan Dennée
- 1986** Paul Hummel
- 1986** Paul Hergenrother
- 1992** Jim and Joe Pfander, in memory of
Patricia A. Pfander
- 2000** Anonymous
- 2001** Maximilian Bedell, in honor of Mike and
Pat Bedell
- 2003** Carley Whitney
- 2008** Sholar Petit, **2009** Maddie Petit and
2013 Olivia Petit, in memory of Jerry Petit
- 2015** Caroline Hummel

