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Spirit of St. Mary's

Capano bleeds blue and gold

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

For student Alexander "AJ" Capano, the heart of St. Mary's extends far beyond the classroom walls and exterior building. To him, it's the people and programs within those walls that make a lasting impression.

"You often hear alumni saying, 'St. Mary's today is a different school than the one I attended,'" said Capano, a senior. "I disagree. It may have the look of a new school, with the Connell Center as the cornerstone, but the spirit is the same. I've had the benefit since I arrived of watching the school evolve and seeing the old values carry on to the new building."

Capano, a Lynn native, entered St. Mary's in the seventh grade and graduated from the junior high first in his class.

Throughout high school, Capano has been an active

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2015 VISION

Strategic planners set sights on St. Mary's future

BY PAUL HALLORAN

The strategic planning process at St. Mary's is moving forward, with seven task forces having met at least once and reported back to the Strategic Planning Committee, which is led by Chair Jack King '66 and Head Of School, Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache '65.

The areas the task forces are exploring are: Academic Program and Faculty Development; Campus Planning; Catholic Identity; Institutional Advancement; Finance and Affordability; Mission, Values and Vision; and Role of Parents.

There has been a serious attempt to make the process as inclusive and transparent as possible. There are 70 people serving on the various task forces, including 30 alumni. Every member of the Board of Trustees is on a task force, as are 27 faculty and staff and 10 parents of St. Mary's students.

"I am really impressed with the substance of what is being discussed on every task force," said King. "In a lot of places strategic planning is done only for show. This is the antithesis of that. The task forces are

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"I come from
the largest
corporation in
the world and
this group equals
any group I
worked with at
Exxon Mobil."

Jack King '66
Strategic Planning
Committee Chairman

We are St. Mary's



**Rev. Monsignor
Paul V. Garrity**

The recent history of St. Mary's High School is truly a resurrection story. In 1992, the most frequently asked question to this new pastor had to do with the closing of SMH. The turnaround came slowly and picked up great momentum when we decided to do some long-range planning in 1999. This first strategic planning process laid out some very substantial goals and forced us to look at who we were and what we wanted to be. We said then and are emphasizing now that our success is intimately tied to our Catholic identity and our mission to shape the lives of young people accordingly.

One of our most important strategic planning task forces is now reflecting on what it means to be a Catholic high school in 2008. On the one hand, we want to be faithful to the Gospel values that we believe are the key to success in life. The moral compass that flows from these values, we believe, is the most valuable gift we give to our students.

At the same time, we want our students to be able to think for themselves and realize that they are moral agents who need to do *what* is right *because* it is the right thing to do. This tension between education and training has never been more important than it is today; nor has it ever been more pronounced than when we think about forming a good conscience and trying to see where God's finger may be pointing.

Our challenge today is to capture in words the essence of what has shaped and guided this enterprise since 1881. With the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is our hope that our present planning process will point us in all the right directions so that we can keep on being a beacon of hope for the young people of Lynn and the launching pad for the servant leaders of tomorrow.

Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity is pastor of St. Mary's.

Success is ours to build upon



**Dr. Raymond A.
Bastarache**

St. Mary's enrollment is growing. That's a wonderful reality in light of the challenges that face many Catholic schools today in the Archdiocese of Boston. Current data shows that elementary enrollments have declined 22 percent in five years with only 10 percent of baptized Catholic children in the archdiocese enrolled in Catholic schools as compared to 20 percent nationally.

Catholic school tuitions rose 35 percent over the last four years, reflecting the increased cost per student caused by decreased enrollments, higher personnel costs, and other factors. It's no secret that many Catholic school buildings are outdated and in need of major capital investment.

So, what's our secret? What does St. Mary's know that many of our fellow archdiocesan schools don't know?

Sorry, but I can't provide a simple answer to my own question, but what I do know is when a school is thriving as St. Mary's is thriving, and hopes to sustain its prosperity, that school must formulate a set of strategies to guide its academic program development, build a solid financial foundation, and prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. In other words, St. Mary's needs a new strategic plan. Vision 2015, when completed, will describe

our school of the future and the basic steps required to achieve that future.

From a personal standpoint, this is my first experience with strategic planning, despite my 38 years in public and Catholic education, and I am very excited to have the opportunity to have the experience. This process will afford me and all our committees and stakeholders – teachers, staff, parents, students, alumni and benefactors – an opportunity to learn more about St. Mary's and to share our perceptions of the school's strengths and weaknesses.

It is a fact that stakeholders make opinion-rich decisions about the overall performance of their school based on anecdote and hunches. I know we will make better decisions about the future of St. Mary's because those decisions will be made after thorough environmental scanning, data mining and trend analysis. Our task forces will have the opportunity to discuss critical issues currently affecting or likely to affect St. Mary's in the future.

It has been said, and I concur, that the time to do strategic planning is when the chances are good that the action items will be implemented. The time is now.

Peace in Christ.

Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache is Head of School.

SMH is a school in demand



Carl A. DiMaiti

In late January, we begin the process of notifying students who have been accepted to our grade nine class. Over the past several years, the number of students applying to St. Mary's has increased at a steady pace. This year is no exception as a record number of applications arrived in December.

Our applicants come from a variety of local parochial, public, charter, and private schools. The students seeking admission are academically talented and reflect the richness of diversity that characterizes our community. All are attracted to a school that celebrates Gospel

values, stresses academic achievement, offers opportunities to provide service, and boasts a physical plant that is second to none.

In order to continue this record of success, it is necessary that we plan well for the future. That is why our current strategic planning process is such a vital undertaking. We are fully cognizant of the pivotal role our last strategic plan has played in bringing us to where we are today.

I am confident that all members of the St. Mary's community share my commitment to this necessary task and that the end product will strengthen the school and help to continue our tradition of educational excellence.

Carl A. DiMaiti is principal of St. Mary's High School.

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Produced by:



Grant Communications
Consulting Group
Boston/New York
781-598-8200
gccg@grantgroup.com

Guest lecturer affirms St. Mary's mission

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A sought-after speaker in the field of Catholic education, Sister Clare Fitzgerald has lectured and presented workshops on the future of religious life and learning throughout the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and England.

In December, she shared her vision with St. Mary's faculty members, as part of the school's fourth annual Mission Integration Day. She presented a brief history of the rationale for Catholic schools in the U.S., and affirmed the Catholic mission of St. Mary's school community.

"Proclaim the love of God to our students," Sister Fitzgerald said. "Provide the pace and time for an encounter with God and each other in our school life. Promote justice and peace in our school curriculum and in our dealings with each other."

A native Bostonian and the third eldest in an Irish family of six children, Sister Fitzgerald is a member of the Northeast Province of the School

Sisters of Notre Dame. She received her bachelor's degree from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, earned her master's at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and was awarded her doctorate by St. Louis University.

She has taught at all levels, serving for nine years as chair of the American Studies Department at Fairfield University, and 12 years as the founding director of the Catholic School Leadership Program of Graduate Studies at Boston College. Some of her recent lecture engagements include St. Andrews's College in Scotland and the University of Cambridge in England.

"Sister Clare was enchanting," said Janet Moriarty, St. Mary's Spanish teacher and department chair. "She is indeed a treasure – such commanding verbal abilities, such a deep spirituality, such sincerity and an extraordinary presentation."

A three-time winner of the National Catholic Educational Association's highest commendation for distinguished service to Catholic education,

Sister Fitzgerald received the prestigious William H. Sadlier Dinger Award in 1994 for distinguished contributions to Catholic education and leadership. In 1998 she received the C. Albert Koop Award for her commitment for excellence and scholarship in the training of Catholic education leaders in the U.S. She was honored in 2003 by Fordham University as one of three visionary leaders in Catholic education and was recognized for establishing Catholic school leadership programs at Jesuit universities. In 2006, she was a recipient of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for significant philanthropic and leadership contributions.



Sister Clare Fitzgerald

Margot Connell honored with Cardinal Cushing Award

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

St. Mary's honored Margot C. (Gensler) Connell with the 12th Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, presented annually to an individual who has vigorously championed Catholic education and whose personal and professional life mirrors the mission of St. Mary's.

The award underscores the significance of Catholic education and pays tribute to the late Richard Cardinal Cushing, the legendary leader of the Archdiocese of Boston.

"The entire St. Mary's family is proud and honored to recognize such a great friend and advocate for our beloved school," said Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity. "Margot Connell, a champion of Catholic education and many other notable charitable causes, successful business person and devoted family woman, personifies the St. Mary's vision and spirit."

A self-described wife, teacher, mother, grandmother and friend, Connell serves as chairman and member of the advisory board of Connell Limited Partnership. She is a member of the board of governors of the Tournament Players Club of Boston and board member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. She is actively involved with St. Mary's High School, Boston College, Emmanuel College and Caritas-St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

Born and raised in Ossining, a suburb of New York City, Connell learned some early life lessons that would later shape her philanthropic spirit.

"Ossining had two claims to fame at that time: one being the headquarters of Maryknoll Seminary, and the other being Sing Sing, a maximum security prison housing the infamous electric chair," said Connell. "Being exposed to the best and worst gave me an acute understanding of people and how education could and should be the determining factor in their life choices."

Connell earned her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University and taught at the elementary level in

New York and California. She married William F. Connell '55 in 1965.

"My connection with St. Mary's began when I married one Bill Connell," she said. "He was unwavering in his support and loyalty to this small Catholic high school in Lynn. Apparently, it rubbed off on me."

Bill Connell, a prominent businessman and philanthropist in Boston, rose from selling newspapers in Lynn's

McDonough Square to becoming the founder, chairman and chief executive of Connell Limited Partnership. The first-ever recipient of the Cardinal Cushing Award in 1996, he remained devoted to

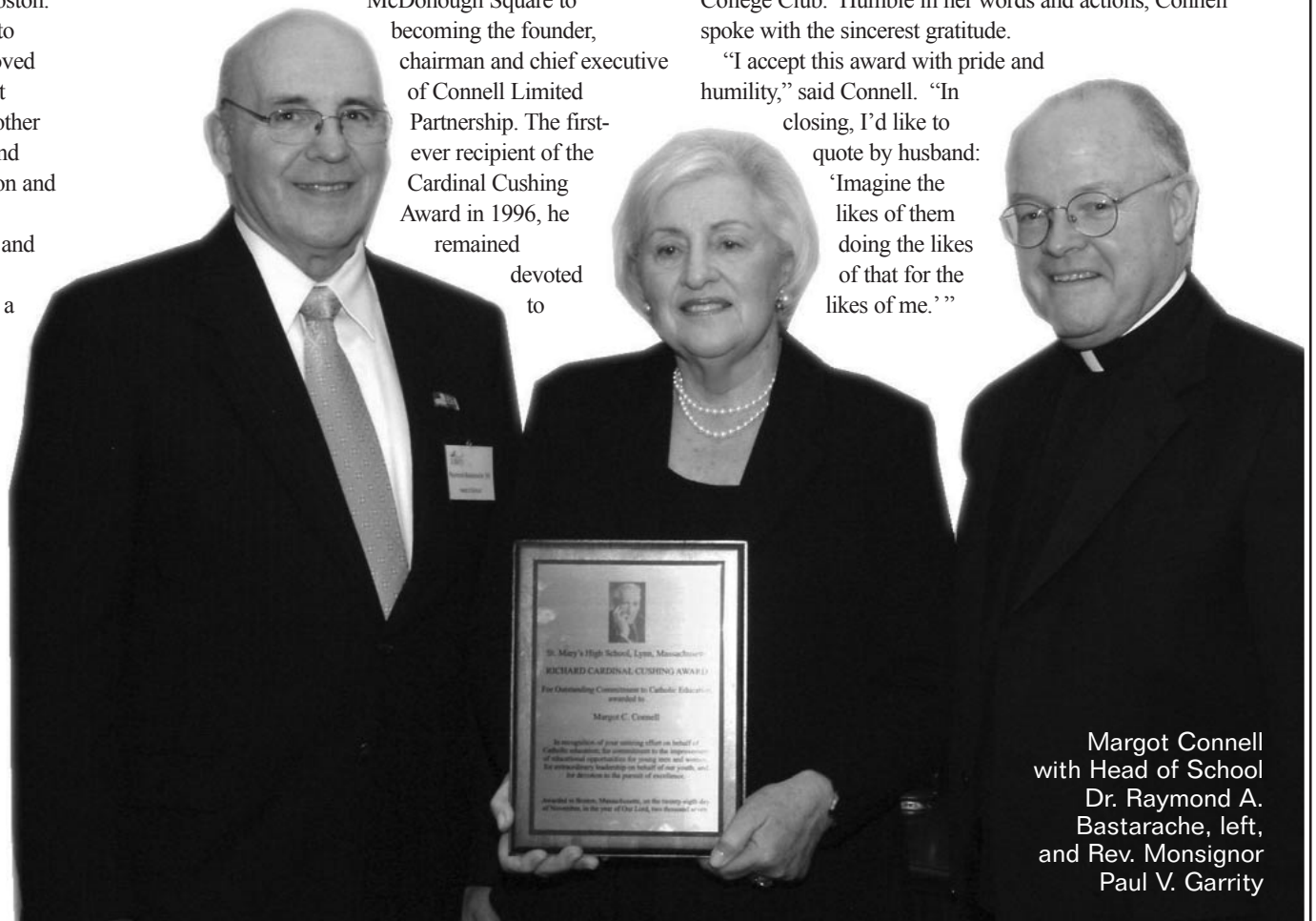
St. Mary's until his death in 2001. Since then, his family has continued his legacy of philanthropy and service.

"When Bill died, all of his hopes and dreams fell in my lap, and almost everything included education in one way or another," Connell said.

Today, the William F. Connell Center stands as the cornerstone of St. Mary's campus, thanks to the Connells' gift of \$5 million – the largest single gift ever made to a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Boston. That gift inspired others to contribute to the school's capital campaign to construct a new state-of-the-art building, upgrade facilities and increase the endowment funding for scholarships, financial aid and faculty salaries. Margot and her six children – Monica, Lisa, Courtenay, William, Terence and Timothy – have remained active members of the St. Mary's family.

Connell was honored on November 28 at the Boston College Club. Humble in her words and actions, Connell spoke with the sincerest gratitude.

"I accept this award with pride and humility," said Connell. "In closing, I'd like to quote by husband: 'Imagine the likes of them doing the likes of that for the likes of me.'"



Margot Connell with Head of School Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache, left, and Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity

Culture of giving attracts Mosakowski to St. Mary's

PROFILE IN GIVING

William S. Mosakowski



BY MEAGHAN CASEY

At 7 a.m. each Sunday, William S. Mosakowski quietly enters his pew at St. Mary's Church, as he has done for the past 25 years.

Mosakowski, president and CEO of the Boston-based Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG), is one of St. Mary's most generous, yet unassuming, benefactors.

He is not an alumnus of the school. He is not a parent of a student. He is not even a North Shore native. Yet, he is a staunch supporter of Catholic education at St. Mary's.

"The thing that's always attracted me to St. Mary's is not only the school, not only the parish, not only the work with the food pantry, but the combination of it all," he said. "The culture that runs through is one of giving and dedication to the community."

A native of Grafton, Mass., Mosakowski became a parishioner of St. Mary's after moving to Lynn in 1982 with his wife, Jane. The couple's children, Rachel (a senior at the College of the Holy Cross) and Nicholas

(a freshman at Boston College), were both baptized at the church. The family moved to Swampscott in 1991, still remaining active in the parish.

Two years ago, when St. Mary's established a board of trustees, Mosakowski was appointed. "The experience introduced me to a broad group of very dedicated, passionate alumni who are committed to positioning the school for success for another 100 years," Mosakowski said. "It's a pleasure to serve with them and with the Monsignor (Paul V. Garrity), and the new Head of School (Raymond Bastarache)."

"Bill and Jane have been great friends of St. Mary's High School and truly understand that investing in young people today is the best investment that we can make in the future of our church and our nation," said Msgr. Garrity.

Mosakowski founded his company 21 years ago as a privately-held healthcare consulting firm. It has expanded to 22 cities throughout the U.S. with 500 employees.

He recognizes his success is in part due to his educational foundation, and is committed to providing

local youth with the same opportunity. Through his annual gift, Mosakowski has established a scholarship fund that provides assistance to students who wish to attend St. Mary's, but could not otherwise afford it.

Mosakowski attended public school in Grafton, but earned his degree from Clark University in Worcester. "After attending a private university, I recognized just how important it is to preserve that option," he said.

In addition to offering tuition assistance, Mosakowski is committed to enhancing St. Mary's academic and enrichment programs. In the fall of 2006, he established a grant to help support professional growth and development at the school. The school was able to host its first Senior Lecture to inspire the graduating class to think about community service and love of others. Last spring, every senior in attendance received a copy of Susan Conroy's "Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity."

Mosakowski will be financing the costs and teacher compensation for a summer readiness program for incoming students, which will prepare them for the new school year.

GOT BOOKS?

Donation of unwanted books will pay off for St. Mary's library

By RICH FAHEY

Got books? Everyone does. And almost everyone has a huge cache of soft or hardcover books they've already read and will never read again, or old CDs and CD-ROMs they're not using, or even VHS tapes.

The St. Mary's Parent Partnership, in cooperation with school librarian Barbara Lichtman, has joined the Got Books? family, hoping to raise funds for the school library by taking in donations of unwanted books, CDs, etc.

Got Books? is a North Reading-based for-profit professional fundraiser and used book seller, founded by Bob Ticehurst. The firm hosts weekly charity book sales at its warehouse and 50 percent of all weekend book sale profits go directly to fundraising partners. Some donated books are given away to local schools and libraries while some are sold online.

The firm also works with non-profit groups such as St. Mary's, which place donation bins on private property and then share in the proceeds from donated items.

Maureen Gambale of the Parent

Partnership works in the same building where Got Books? is housed, and she first came up with the idea of participating at a November meeting.

Lichtman got in touch with the group and the school later signed a contract to set up a donation bin, which is located in the church parking lot.

"I think the biggest thing we have to do is get the word out and letting people in Lynn and the parishioners, for example, know we're here," said Lichtman.

The bin has been in place since early December and is filling. Lichtman expects the school will get \$275 as its

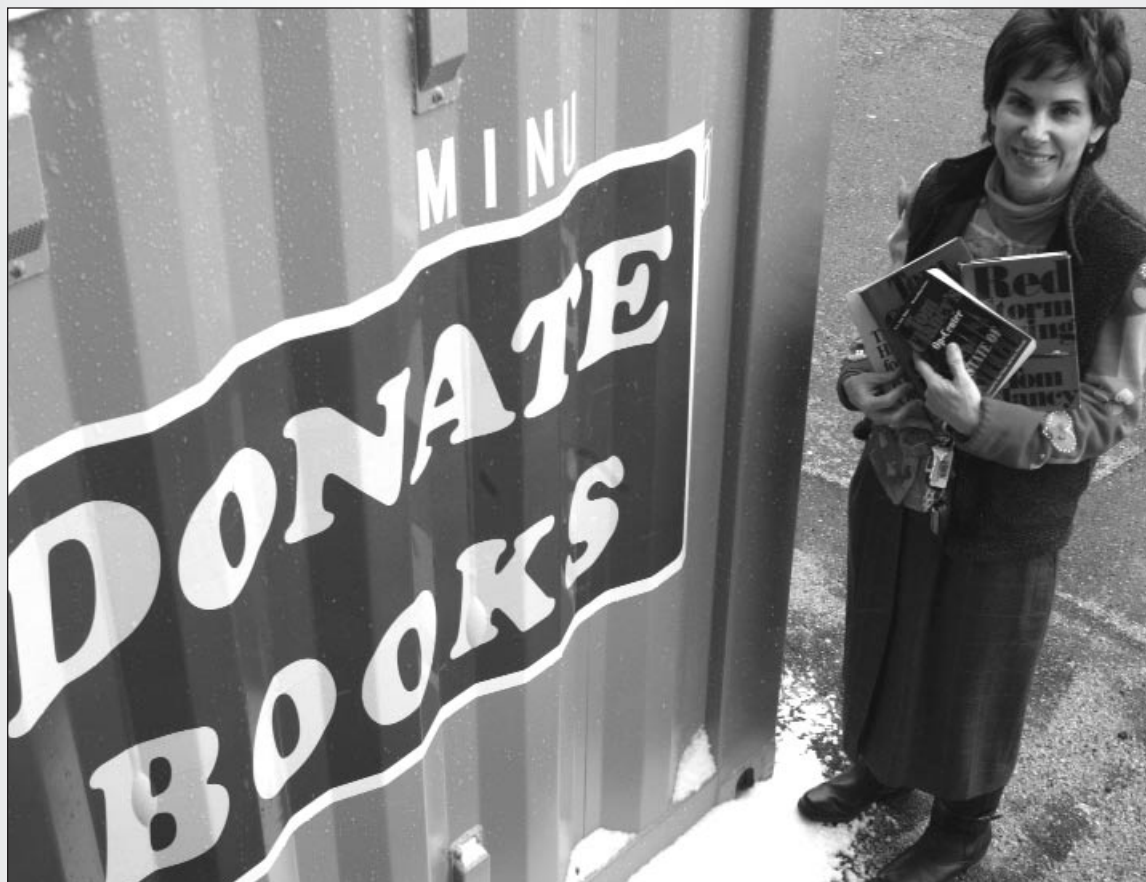
share when the bin is filled and collected.

There is also an environmental lesson to be had through the fund-raiser: Got Books? has been recognized with a Mass Recycle Business Green Binnie Award for "outstanding book collection and processing services to both commercial and residential generators of recyclable material."

At its Friday and Saturday charity book sales from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 35 Concord St. in North Reading, there are more than 50,000 items available, all for just \$1.

Lichtman said those with questions about the program can e-mail her at blightman@smhlynn.org, or call her at 781-595-7885 ext. 361.

While Lichtman is helping to raise money for the library, she and a group of St. Mary's students are performing a valuable community service. Lichtman and 10 or more students journey monthly to the nearby Joi Child Care Center to read to the youngsters being cared for there. Many of the mothers who send their children to the center are teenage girls in need of such support.



Librarian Barbara Lichtman stands in front of the collection bin for Got Books?

January was a great month for this Day



St. Mary's eighth-grader Nick Day was honored by the Lynn Rotary Club.

By RICH FAHEY

Nick Day may not be at the top of his class — yet — but that doesn't mean his effort isn't A-plus.

The Lynn Rotary Club recognized Day, a 14-year-old eighth-grader at St. Mary's, as the school's Student of the Month for January. He joined students from six other Lynn middle schools at a luncheon at the Porthole Pub, received a plaque and a \$25 gift certificate from Borders Books.

Rotary also invites the students, parents, grandparents and teachers to attend the luncheons, which began in 2000.

Teachers at each Lynn middle school select one student who has shown improvement and overcome obstacles to improve their grades each month.

Parents Tom and Leslie Day were very happy for their son. "We're proud of him. He's a good student, but quiet, and he always gives a good effort," said Tom Day, who starred as a pitcher on English High's 1980 state

championship baseball team. "Nick's involved in a lot of different things, but he always makes time for his studies."

Nick plays baseball, basketball and football when he's not in school, and hopes to play all three in high school.

Day said he believes he was nominated for the award by his social studies teacher, Paul LaMonica, and he also enjoys math.

"It's nice to be recognized," Day said. "My dad tells me I have to do well in school if I want to play sports." He attended the Hood School before St. Mary's.

Rotary spokesperson Eugene Hastings said the group honors students who are not yet at the top, but striving to get there.

Founded in 1918, the Lynn Rotary Club is an organization of service-minded men and women engaged in a variety of charitable works, including Camp Rotary in Boxford. For more information, go to www.lynnrotary.org.

FACULTY PROFILE

True calling

Newbury always knew teaching and coaching were in her future

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

As the oldest of five siblings, Colleen (Parker) Newbury always knew that teaching was her true calling.

"I used to play teacher at home with my sister and my brothers, all the time," she said. "Originally, I wanted to go into elementary education."

She earned her degree in elementary education from Salem State College and immediately accepted a position at St. Mary's. Now, after nine years of teaching high school math, Newbury wouldn't trade her freshman and sophomore classes for younger learners.

"It's funny, I'm not sure I could go back to the elementary level now," she said, smiling.

Newbury teaches geometry, guiding her students through formulas for length, area and volume. Her annual third-quarter bridge project is a creative, hands-on approach to applying the fundamentals of the subject. Students are assigned a famous bridge from which they construct a model. Along the way, they must document their progress through photos and prepare a PowerPoint presentation.

Her approach to teaching is similar to her approach to life: Have fun with it.

"The best way to motivate your students is being motivated yourself," she said. "The happier and more upbeat you are, the happier and more upbeat they'll be."

Enthusiastic about her job, Newbury praises St. Mary's unique learning environment as well as the faculty-student and faculty-faculty relationships.

"I love the people I work with," she said. "I have great friendships with the teachers here, and the teachers care about the kids beyond the classroom. Whether it's after-school help or coaching, the students know we're there for them. It's a true sense of community."

A Lynn native, Newbury attended Lincoln-Thomson, Shoemaker and Pickering schools. She then went on to Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, where she was a softball standout. Her team went undefeated (26-0) her freshman year and

won the Div. 1 state championship all four years. In her eighth year as St. Mary's softball coach, she understands just how much of an accomplishment that truly was.

"You don't realize how difficult that is until you look back and reflect," she said. "It was an awesome experience. I had the opportunity to play with so many talented athletes and under Coach Ed Henry, who was just dynamic."

Newbury has drawn from the example of Henry in her current role.

"It's a balance of disciplining, but having fun at the same time," she said. "It was quite a transition to coach. There are certain things you have to look at because all of the sudden you're not just worrying about yourself, you're worrying about nine other people at the same time."

In addition to her coaching responsibilities on the softball field, Newbury also serves as the junior high basketball coach. This winter, she also started an after-school chess club, which meets once a week.

Newbury resides in Peabody with her husband, John, who teaches third grade. The couple married in December 2006.



Colleen Newbury works with students Kristina Burri, left, and Samantha Kiley on a bridge project.

MAKING THE GRADE



St. Mary's athletes excel in classroom

By Paul Halloran

At St. Mary's, the "student" in student-athlete is not only alive and well, but thriving.

There are approximately 115 student-athletes participating on six varsity teams in the winter season. Not only are they tallying more than their share of victories in the arena, but they are also producing outstanding results in the classroom, where it counts most.

Every winter team – boys and girls basketball, boys and girls hockey, coed swimming and cheerleading – recorded an average grade of more than 81% in the second marking period, which ended in late January. The girls basketball team topped the list with an outstanding 91.8 collective average, while the girls hockey team was just under 90 (89.1).

"This is great news," said Athletic Director Jeff Newhall, who researched all the grades of winter athletes. "Our success in the athletic arena has been well documented, but the

performance of our winter student-athletes in the classroom is especially noteworthy."

The athletic director said all winter sports coaches can share in this good news.

"Obviously, our coaches are continually reinforcing to their players the importance of academics," Newhall said. "We have a very good group and everyone is on the same page."

Derek Vecchia, a junior boys hockey player from Revere, said he learned that "school always comes first" from his parents and is constantly reminded of it by coach Mark Lee and his staff.

"The coaches do a good job letting us know that if we don't pay attention to our schoolwork we won't be able to play, and that will hurt the team," Vecchia said. "They stay on top of us."

Girls hockey coach Frank Pagliuca, whose team is unbeaten and ranked first in the state, said he stays in contact with his

players' teachers so that he can address any issues before they become problems.

"We try to stress that academics are their primary responsibility," Pagliuca said. "That's why they're at St. Mary's."

Senior cheerleader Emily McNeil of Lynn said the key to academic success lies in time-management ability. McNeil, who dances and teaches dance in addition to cheering for the football and boys basketball teams, should know. "If you don't put aside enough time to do your school work you're not going to be successful in the classroom," she said.

Junior girls basketball player Nicole Hanlon of Lynn followed both of her parents to St. Mary's. One of the reasons she picked the school is its reputation for developing good student-athletes. "It's a great environment here for learning and sports," she said.

ACADEMIC AVERAGES BY TEAM

Girls basketball	91.8%
Girls hockey	89.1%
Cheerleading	88.5%
Co-ed swimming	84.6%
Boys basketball	83.0%
Boys hockey	81.2%

Photo: Top students from each winter sports team include, from left, Emily McNeil, Nicole Hanlon, Derek Vecchia, Chris Muldoon, Michelle Macchione, and Veronica Collard.

PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

inmemoriam

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Patrick Reddy Scholarship fund grows



BY RICH FAHEY

Patrick M. Reddy's life ended much too early. But the generosity of family and friends will ensure that his name will live on and that future generations of St. Mary's students will benefit from that generosity.

Patrick M. Reddy

The Patrick M. Reddy Endowed Scholarship Fund has been formally established at St. Mary's High School in memory of Reddy, a member of St. Mary's Class of 2006. Reddy died Jan. 8, 2007, at the age of 18 when the car in which he and three Bridgton Academy hockey teammates were traveling went off the road in Maine and crashed into some trees.

The scholarship fund, which now stands at about \$60,000, has been created through the gifts of the Reddy family, many friends and members of the St. Mary community. An annual golf

tournament and other events in his name will continue to raise money for the scholarship fund, with hopes of raising the endowment to \$100,000 or more.

St. Mary's High and Michael and Susan Reddy, Patrick's parents, have agreed on the guidelines for the awarding of the two \$1,000 annual scholarships – one each for a St. Mary's student entering senior and junior year. The first scholarships will be awarded this year. The number and amount of scholarships could increase in the future, based on the growth of the fund.

The criteria for awarding the scholarships will include: consistent academic improvement, financial need, participation in co-curricular activities, a positive attitude and demeanor, leadership, and a willingness to subordinate personal achievement for the benefit of the school, community or team.

The principal of St. Mary's High School will recommend students for the scholarship to the Reddy family based on the established criteria.

The family will then make recommendations to the principal from that list of eligible students.

"Patrick was a young man who was larger than life. He exuded a confidence and joy that was tangible," said St. Mary's Principal Carl DiMaiti. "You could feel it when you were with him.

"He was proud of his family, of being a member of the hockey team, and being from St. Mary's," DiMaiti added. "This is his school and we are humbled that Patrick's family has entrusted St. Mary's with the great responsibility of establishing a lasting legacy to this remarkable young man, whose all-too-short life had such a profound impact on our school community."

"Patrick was a terrific kid who touched every single person he came in contact with at St. Mary's. He was what St. Mary's is all about," said Michele Durgin, dean of discipline and junior high administrator.

Donations to the Patrick Reddy Scholarship Fund can be sent to the Office of Institutional Advancement, St. Mary's High School, 35 Tremont St., Lynn, MA 01902.

Make your 2008 Annual Fund gift today!

We thank the 2,000 donors who supported the 2007 Annual Fund. Alumni and friends contributed more than \$390,000, meeting the fund's goal.

The cost of educating a student at St. Mary's is actually higher than the price of tuition. St. Mary's is able to keep its tuition affordable and still provide a quality education because of generous gifts to the Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund also helps to support academic and extracurricular programs and day to day operations along with keeping tuition affordable.

Please consider making a gift to the 2008 Annual Fund today. There is a gift/pledge envelope included in this edition. Thank you!

WHAT'S NEWS?

Your fellow alumni and friends at St. Mary's share your pride in your accomplishments, so tell us about what you have been up to. If we can, we will put it in the next issue of *The St. Mary's Educator*.

Email us at mmacneil@smhlynn.org or fill out this form and mail to: Mike MacNeil, Office of Institutional Advancement, St. Mary's High School, 35 Tremont St., Lynn, MA 01902.

Name _____ Class year _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Spouse's name (and maiden name and class year if applicable) _____

YOUR NEWS:

SMH alumni gather in Phoenix



Phoenix-area St. Mary's alumni gathered in Scottsdale, Ariz. on Feb. 19 to celebrate St. Mary's, renew friendships and to make a few new ones. SMH Director of Institutional Advancement Mike MacNeil updated the gathering on recent activities and accomplishments at their alma mater. MacNeil also met with alumni in the Tucson area. From left, Helen Stazinski Jaros '51, Susan Connors, Bob Connors '48, Kathy Murphy Green '64, Denny Green and John Foley '44.

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

upcoming events

Golf tourney is back at Gannon

The 14th Annual St. Mary's Golf Open and All-Time Reunion will take place Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at Gannon Municipal Golf Course in Lynn. If you are interested in playing in or sponsoring this year's tournament, please contact Drew Russo in the Institutional Advancement office at 781-599-0696 x217 or arusso@smhlynn.org

reunion happenings

The St. Mary's Boys and Girls High School Class of 1958 will celebrate their 50th reunion on Friday, Sept. 26 and Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel in Danvers. For more information, please contact Mary Lou Robson (charlesrobsonsr@yahoo.com) or Tom Quinn (tomquinnsr@onceanddone.com).

The St. Mary's Boys and Girls High School Class of 1968 will celebrate their 40th reunion on Saturday, July 26 at Gannon Municipal Golf Course in Lynn. For more information, please contact Maureen (Mynahan) Stanton at ladystanton@q.com or Mike and Maddie (Day) Barry at 781-599-6423.

If you graduated in a year ending in 3 or 8, this is your reunion year. Call Drew Russo at 781-599-0696 for more information.

Great time had by all!



The Classes of 1987, 1988, 1992, and 1997 held a joint reunion at the Bayside in Nahant in November. The reunion committee included Marnie Moore, Stephen Spencer, Lisa Jaime and Joanne Mielcarek from the class of '87, Jamie Trahant '92, and Ted Markos and Jen Popowicz from the class of '97. It was the first reunion for the 10- and 15-year grads and it was the class of 1987's first reunion in 10 years. A great time was had by all.

Alumni profile

Paula Plum: Class ('71) act

BY RICH FAHEY

She is the answer to the Boston theater version of the old board game "Clue."

It was a great performance. Who gave it? Inevitably, the answer is Miss Plum.

Lynn native Paula Plum, a 1971 graduate of St. Mary's High, has been for years one of the area's most in-demand actresses, and she doesn't seem to be slowing down. She is currently in rehearsal for Watertown's New Repertory Theatre production of Sarah Ruhl's comedy "The Clean House." She'll follow that up with the Lyric Stage Company's production of Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Three Tall Women."

"I've reached that point in my life where I have a lot going on and I have the energy to handle it," said Plum, who is married to fellow actor Richard Snee.

Since graduating from Boston University's School of Fine Arts and training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, she has become perhaps Boston's most versatile and most honored actress.

She has won several Elliot Norton Awards from the Boston Theatre Critics Association, most recently for her performance at the Lyric Stage last winter in Christopher Durang's manic comedy "Miss Witherspoon." The playwright himself applauded in a visit to Boston to see the show.

In 2004, she received a Norton Award for Sustained Excellence. Her resume also includes honors from the Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE), while in 2003, the BU College of Fine Arts awarded her the

Distinguished Alumna Award, the highest honor conferred by the university upon a graduate.

Plum has never shied away from a challenge as an actress, especially a physical one.

"It's why I've kept up with my ballet and movement all these years," she said, reflecting on a career in which she has done everything from taking on a flying trapeze to being hit by a fire hose in "Marat/Sade."

Very few actors or actresses in Boston get to wear one hat. Plum has done some voice-over, TV and film work, and taught at the Boston Conservatory, Suffolk University, and now UMass Lowell. She also has a private coaching practice.

"You can make a go of it just acting if you travel, but I like being home too much," said Plum.

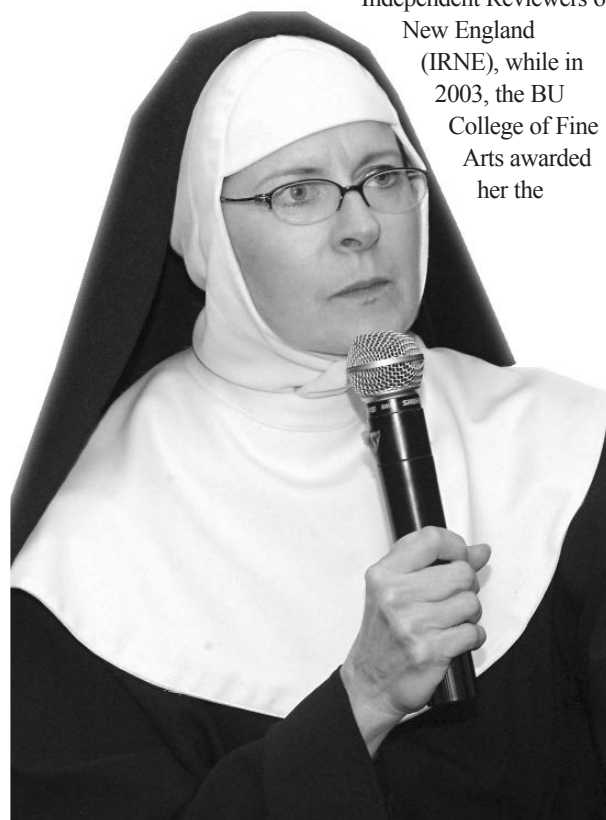
Snee recently earned a master's degree in creative writing at BU and expects to be teaching alongside his wife.

Plum is amazed at the tidal wave of new talent that descends upon the Boston theater scene each year, and she is encouraged by the number of small theater companies constantly springing up to give that talent someplace to shine.

"There's a whole new garden of possibilities each year," said Plum. "I look at Stage Source (a Web site devoted to Boston theater) and it's very hopeful. This is a theater town. Many of our colleges and universities have theater programs, and they graduate hundreds of kids every year. I would prefer they be able to stay here and ply their craft instead of facing the avalanche of rejection in New York City."

Plum hasn't forgotten her roots. She has fond memories of her time at St. Mary's and performed at last year's 125th anniversary gala, playing Sister Mary Basil in a hilarious skit about what it was like when nuns ruled the roost at St. Mary's.

At this point in her career, she finds herself concentrating more on Plum roles — in more ways than one — and working with certain people such as acclaimed directors Scott Edmiston and Eric Engel. She's also not afraid of going where she's gone before, having performed Samuel Becket's "Happy Days" five times, and each time finding new meaning.



Paula Plum '71 performed as Sister Mary Basil at the St. Mary's Legacy Gala.

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

classupdates

1956

Richard D. Brown, Esq. travels throughout Massachusetts teaching law-related education to school teachers. Brown is former director of law programs at the Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University and served as commanding officer of a Judge Advocate General unit in the U.S. Marine Corps.

1959

William McCarron is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. He has been teaching at Texas A&M-Commerce and plans to retire from his second career in May.

1963

John Ford was re-elected to the Lynn School Committee along with **Patricia (Hanscom) Capano '79** and **Jeff Newhall '94**. The committee is chaired by Mayor **Edward "Chip" Clancy '68**.

1965

Ray Bastarache and his wife Mackie are the proud grandparents of Max Hayward, born Nov. 3, 2007. Ray is excited about being a grandfather for the first time and is greatly enjoying his work as Head of School at St. Mary's.

1967

Wayne Quinn lives in Seattle and works as a public health nurse. He has been married for 27 years and has two "gorgeous" daughters, ages 23 and 25. Wayne reports that he is playing in an Irish band with "another Lynn, Mass. exile here."

1968

Allan MacDonald writes that he has been living in Virginia since 1975 and is "loving life." He is looking forward to celebrating at his 40th reunion this summer; see details in the reunion section on page 9.

1986

Yolanda (Armstead) Sanders is living in Virginia with her husband and two children, ages 16 and 14. She has stayed in "the cop family" as her husband works as a police officer at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va.

1987

Mamie Moore and her husband Darrin Ball welcomed their daughter, Catherine, into the world in July 2007. Catherine joins her parents and big sister Caroline, who recently entered kindergarten at Shoemaker School in Lynn.

1988

Kelly (Lavino) and Thomas Finocchio are the proud parents of twins, Mia Noelle and Vincent William, born Nov. 6, 2007.

1991

Kristen (Riley) Luciano and her husband **Mike Luciano '88** just had their third child, Mason James, on Aug. 27, 2007. He was proudly welcomed home by his parents, his nine-year-old brother Michael and his seven-year-old sister Madison.

1994

Patricia (Magrane) O'Connell, her husband James and their son Andrew welcomed the arrival of baby Spencer on Nov. 13, 2007.

1999

Matt Frank was elected to the Chelsea City Council, winning the open seat in District Three with 77 percent of the vote. Frank, who has worked on behalf of U.S. Sen. John Kerry and former State Sen. Jarrett Barrios, looks forward to working on quality-of-life issues for his constituents.

2002

Sarah Russo recently joined the staff of Freedom Home Care in Peabody as office manager.

2003

Rachael Bradley is a senior at Endicott College in Beverly and member of the women's basketball team. Bradley, a starter for the 14-7 Power Gulls, is studying to be a nurse and is interning at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Patricia Tarrance graduated from Harvard University in the spring of 2007. She is teaching fifth grade math at the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood.

2007

Kerri Domohowski completed her first semester at Merrimack College where she was a standout on the successful girls soccer team.



John O'Brien, far right, who served in an elite Army unit in Iraq, was joined at a homecoming party by his parents, John '67 and Patricia.

SMH friends help '67 grad provide hero's welcome for son's elite unit

By PAUL HALLORAN

Like thousands of other parents across the country, John O'Brien '67 spent 15 months coping with the emotional toll of having a child serving in the military in Iraq. The level of angst felt by O'Brien was heightened by the fact that his son, John, was serving in an elite unit that was deployed in one of the most dangerous sections of Iraq — the Diyala province.

The younger O'Brien was serving in the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance, 82nd Airborne Division, also known as Task Force 300 or the "Headhunters." They conducted three major campaigns in the Diyala province, killing more than 600 insurgents and capturing countless others. Their valor did not come without sacrifice as 22 of the 442 paratroopers in the unit were killed in action and more than 90 wounded.

Last fall, the Headhunters headed home. The Family Readiness Group, a support group of wives and girlfriends of the soldiers, wanted to run a welcome-home dinner, but they needed funding. That's where the elder O'Brien came in.

"I volunteered to help out," said O'Brien, the managing director of Aegis Capital Corp., a financial services firm in New York City. In addition to his business contacts, O'Brien reached out to St. Mary's classmate Tony DiCroce and his brother Chuck DiCroce, who attended St. Mary's before transferring to English. Tony DiCroce spread the word to other St. Mary's grads, including Jack King '66.

"The St. Mary's guys were great," O'Brien said.

When O'Brien was done, he had raised \$38,000 for the Headhunter Ball 2007, which was held on Nov. 29 in Fayetteville, N.C. In recognition of his efforts, he and his

former wife Patricia were invited to attend the ball with their son. Other than spouses and girlfriends of the soldiers, they were the only civilians invited.

"It was a pretty emotional night," O'Brien said, adding that five Silver Stars and 74 Bronze Star Medals were awarded. Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell served as keynote speaker, telling the soldiers "Your accomplishments over this last deployment have been incredible ... almost unbelievable ... Your plan, while simple, was extremely effective and now that plan has become a standard for operations in other areas of Iraq."

"It was truly an amazing event," O'Brien wrote in an e-mail to Tony and Chuck DiCroce. "Thanks to the generosity of you and other great friends, the funds we collectively donated turned out to be very substantial, and helped pay for most of the party." O'Brien matched the amount he collected, doubling the total donation.

O'Brien graduated from Boston College and has worked in financial services for more than 30 years. He also owned a chain of computer retail stores in the mid-1980s. He currently raises capital for public and private companies.

He and Patricia also have a daughter, Jacki, who works in theatre and film in New York. Their son, John, was a soccer standout at North Andover High School, graduating in 2001. He spent a year at Northeastern before transferring to UMass Lowell. He played one year at Lowell — 2003 — and was named captain. He decided to enlist in the Army in 2004.

O'Brien served almost four years and was honorably discharged on Feb. 1 of this year. He is back living in Lowell and will return to UMass Lowell this summer. Like most college students, he has plenty of war stories.

Only his are real.

St. Mary's alumni return to reflect on college experience

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Adjusting to the newfound challenges of laundry, campus cuisine, personalized class schedules and roommate compatibility is all part of the college freshman experience.

In January, a group of St. Mary's alumni (Class of '07) returned to the O'Brien Lecture Hall to reflect on their year-to-date and share lessons with this year's graduating class.

Topics of fitting in and making friends were high on the list of

speaking points.

"Get involved with as much as you can," said Melissa Fraczek, a freshman at Saint Anselm College. "There's a lot of opportunity through community service and club sports."

Academics and study habits were also matters of discussion.

"In college, if you like your major, you're going to like your courses. They're going to interest you," said Caitlyn Townsend, a freshman at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. Townsend is

majoring in occupational therapy and earned a 3.9 GPA in her first semester. Her advice: "I discovered the library. It's definitely a better spot versus the dorm, in terms of distractions."

The group agreed time management in college is a much different concept as compared to high school. Most recommended scheduling classes in the mornings to free the afternoon for studying.

"I felt like I had a lot more time in between classes, so you're able to get a lot done during the day," said Nicole Clarke, a freshman at Merrimack College.

Fraczek, who is majoring in biochemistry, confirmed Clark's message, but reiterated that playing video games or watching television won't factor into the formula for success.

"You really need to use your time wisely and commit to studying," she said.

In total, nine alumni comprised the panel, representing schools ranging in distance from Maine to Florida. The students discussed differences among private, public and military institutions and between small and large campuses.



Welcoming religious diversity

On Feb. 8, St. Mary's welcomed Merrimack College professor Dr. Rebecca Sachs Norris, right, for a full-day workshop in the Connell Library. Norris, who teaches religious and theological studies at Merrimack, specializes in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. She brought with her a collection of religious games and toys such as Catholic-opoly; The Journeys of Paul; Exodus, the game of Passover; the Vatican board game in which the winner is elected Pope; a Muslim version of the Barbie doll; and variations of the game Chutes and Ladders. She urged St. Mary's students to view religious studies as a means to understand the world around them and the basic beliefs and convictions of others; explore ethical issues; develop analytic and critical thinking skills; and increase their cultural appreciation of the diversity of our world.



College freshmen who came back to speak to St. Mary's seniors included, front from left, Ellie Miaze, Cassie Dumas and Kyle Beddia; back row, Dan Ruggiero, Caitlyn Townsend, Nicole Clarke and Mary Walsh.

Capano reflects on six years as a Spartan

CAPANO: from Page 1

participant in extracurricular activities, serving as captain of the swim team, member of the varsity baseball team, MIAA student ambassador, sports editor of the yearbook and member of the National Honor Society. He also volunteers with My Brother's Table.

"He's an all-around student, the whole package," said Principal Carl DiMaiti. "But to describe him as that is a grave disservice. He's much more than that. He is the very essence of education in general, and Catholic education specifically."

Capano will attend Providence College in the fall, where he was accepted through the school's early-action program.

"I like that it has the same closeness as St. Mary's," he said, adding that he plans to study political science and pursue a law degree.

"I'm kind of excited to see where I'm going to go with my college and high school education," said Capano. "St. Mary's has given me the academic tools, obviously, but also a sense of morality to make decisions. The most important

value we learn here is the sense of community. We're encouraged to become something outside of ourselves."

For Capano, the St. Mary's experience has also been one steeped in family tradition. His mother, Patricia, vice chair of the Lynn School Committee, is a graduate of the class of 1979. His brother Jonathan is currently enrolled in the junior high.

"My mother is a graduate, my younger brother is in eighth grade and I have cousins who have graduated," Capano said. "It truly is a family environment, and this closeness is the exciting dynamic of being a legacy at St. Mary's."

Capano's advice for the next generation of St. Mary's students is to take advantage of all the opportunities the school offers.

"Make the best of the time you have here," he said. "The more you get involved, the more people you meet, and there are a lot of amazing people here."

"I've been here for six years," he continued. "It's kind of scary to think about graduating, but I know I'll take with me everything I've learned. In a way, it's like I'm never going to leave."

Task is at hand for strategic planners

STRATEGIC PLAN: from Page 1

gathering a lot of data and looking at other schools and how they do things.

"I'm amazed at how many quality people there are involved in this process," King added. "I come from the largest corporation in the world and this group equals any group I worked with at Exxon Mobil."

The task forces were given a goal statement as a starting point, with the understanding they could modify it as they moved forward. The task forces have been charged with developing strategies, an implementation plan and a timeline, while identifying resources to support their recommendations. They made their initial reports to the Strategic Planning Committee on Feb. 13. They will report back again on April 1.

"We hope they finish by the end of April," King said. "We will spend the rest of the academic year integrating (the work of) the task forces. The plan will be finalized over the summer and brought to the Board of Trustees in September."

King said the final plan — St. Mary's 2015 Vision — will hopefully be approved by trustees in October. The result will be a road map for St. Mary's over the next five to seven years.

St. Mary's last embarked on a strategic plan in the late 1990s, with the focus on governance and facilities.

The school was incorporated in 2006, a board of trustees was installed and a head of school was added. The state-of-the-art William F. Connell Center anchors the St. Mary's campus. Last year, St. Mary's completed a year-long celebration of 125 years of Catholic education. Enrollment has increased 70 percent in the last 10 years.



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ICE QUEEN

Gauthier leads Spartans to No. 1 ranking

By PAUL HALLORAN

Prior to the season, Abby Gauthier made history with a stroke of her pen. In mid-January, she did it with a flick of her stick.

Gauthier, who in November accepted a scholarship from Providence College – becoming the first St. Mary’s female athlete ever to receive a full scholarship from a Div. 1 institution – became the state’s all-time girls hockey scoring leader in a game vs. Lexington Jan. 17.

Tapping in a rebound of a Courtney Winters shot, Gauthier recorded the 304th point of her career, eclipsing the mark set by Katie Cox of Framingham in 2001. Through the regular season (21 games), Gauthier’s career mark stood at 344 points, making her the state’s all-time scoring leader, male or female. More importantly, the Spartans were 21-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state heading into the MIAA tournament.

“Abby would have been disappointed if she set the record and we lost,” said Coach Frank Pagliuca. “That’s where her focus is. She is a team player and a great leader on and off the ice.”

Providence Coach Bob Deraney obviously agrees, having made Gauthier one of his top recruits. She is of seven players headed for Providence next season.

“In our sport it is very hard to score goals,” said Deraney, who played goalie at Boston University in the mid-1980s and is in his ninth season as Friars head women’s coach. “Every time we saw Abby play, she scored goals. That was the No. 1 factor.”

“I never thought in a million years this would happen to me,” Gauthier said of the PC scholarship. “I feel like I paved the way for other female athletes at St. Mary’s.”

Pagliuca said he is most proud of the gains Gauthier has made in the classroom. “Abby has done the things she needed to in order to have the opportunity to go to a school like Providence,” he said. “She learned to channel the hard work she put into hockey toward academics.”

Deraney echoed those comments. “Abby really had to work hard academically from when we first started the (recruiting) process going into her junior year,” he said. “She had a long way to go. It’s a credit to her and her family that she was able to get to this point.”

A center who has played in every varsity girls hockey game St. Mary’s has ever played, Gauthier has led the Spartans in scoring the last six years. She has played in 128 games, leading the team to a record of 101-20-7.

Gauthier is the daughter of Brian and Marianne Gauthier of Lynn. She has an older sister, Emily, and a younger brother, Brian, a junior on the St. Mary’s boys hockey team.

Year	Goals	Assists	Points
2002-03	20	12	32
2003-04	28	32	60
2004-05	39	22	61
2005-06	22	27	49
2006-07	28	38	66
2007-08*	38	38	76
Totals	175	169	344

*through 21 games

PHOTO: DOUG HASKINS