

We've been blessed



Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity is widely credited with saving St. Mary's High School from closing in the first few years of his tenure. Wishing Msgr. Garrity well as he prepares to leave St. Mary's are students, front from left, Kaylee Lenner '12, Guychard Samson '12 and Chantelle Cantave '13; back row, Carline Gomez '10, Emmett O'Shea '15, Paul Bedard '10, Monsignor Garrity, Rachel Faieta '11, Pamela Blaise '11, Taylor Faieta '14, Marco Stipanovic '14.

PHOTO: MEAGHAN CASEY

Msgr. Garrity will leave lasting legacy at St. Mary's

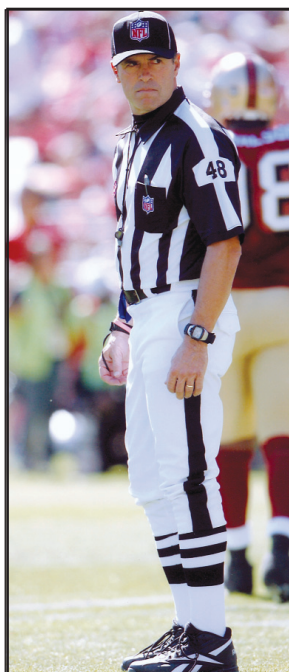
BY PAUL HALLORAN

He did not come to St. Mary's intending to be a "savior," or "superstar," but as Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity prepares to leave after 18 years as pastor, there are many who would say he takes those labels with him.

Msgr. Garrity informed Cardinal Seán O'Malley in February that he would not seek reappointment to a fourth 6-year term as pastor of St. Mary's. His departure on June 30 will mark the end of an era of rebirth and transformation at St. Mary's, both in the parish and school.

"I don't know how you replace a person like Msgr. Garrity with one person," said Ed Calnan, chair of the parish finance

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PHOTO: JOEBROWNPHTOS.COM

EDUCATOR

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A lesson for us all

**Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache**

He sleeps in a storm. Over the past three and a half years, I have tried to use my *Educator* column as a vehicle for spreading some of the good news that happens every day here at St. Mary's. However, for this edition, I want to share some sage advice that I found in reading excerpts from a sermon that was delivered in 1975 by Rabbi Albert Lewis. I came across his sermon while reading Mitch Albom's latest book, "Have a Little Faith."

Rabbi Lewis starts by telling his congregation about a man who is looking for work on a farm. At his interview, the man hands his letter of recommendation to the farm owner which simply states, "He sleeps in a storm." The farm owner is desperate for help so he hires the man. A few weeks go by when suddenly, in the middle of the night, a mighty storm whips through the valley. The owner is awakened by the storm and tries to call his new hired hand, but the man is sound

asleep. In a state of panic, the owner races to the barn but is pleased to find that all the animals are safe in their stalls with plenty of food to eat. He then sprints to his fields and sees all his bales of wheat wrapped in tarpaulins. He runs to the silo and finds all the doors latched, and the grain dry. And then he understands. "He sleeps in a storm."

I thought to myself, what a wonderful lesson for all of us. We surely should be tending to those things that are important to us in life because if we are right with those we love and behave in line with our Christian faith, our lives will not be blighted with unfulfilled business. We will never wallow in the agony of "I could have; I should have." I know all of us can sleep in a storm if we love God, always do our best and make every effort to take care of others. It's what is most important for our school community.

Peace.

Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache is head of school at St. Mary's High School.

St. Mary's has been a great blessing

**Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity**

Eighteen years is a long time. It entails three 6-year terms as a pastor. Earlier this year, I made a prayerful decision that the time was right to conclude my tenure as the pastor of St. Mary's Parish.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley endorsed this decision and agreed to allow me to help identify and mentor my successor. Among many considerations, this was paramount in my decision to leave St. Mary's. In the business world this is called succession planning. We don't do much of this in the church world, so what is taking place this spring is a little bit out of the ordinary.

St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's High School have been my passion since coming here in 1992. My earliest recollection is having to borrow \$100,000 to make the June school payroll. It took a little while to turn things around, but with the grace of God and the help of the St. Mary's family, turn around they did.

Today, St. Mary's High School is firmly established as an outstanding educational enterprise, faithful to its Catholic mission of forming the minds and hearts of young people according to Gospel values and at the same time providing them with a rich and rigorous academic experience that enables them to excel at the next level of education.

As I begin to wind down my time at St. Mary's, I am filled with an enormous sense of gratitude for the blessings that have been mine over these past two decades. The greatest blessing is the opportunity that I have had to help shape St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's High School into a place of welcome for so many. The great friendships that I have made have also been an extraordinary blessing which will continue wherever the Lord leads me. And the list goes on and on.

My prayer and my hope for St. Mary's is that we all continue to value our Catholic faith, live it in service to one another and invite others to live their faith by the examples of our lives. May we all continue to support St. Mary's with our time, our talent and our treasure and continue the momentum that is ours today.

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

Parent partners



The St. Mary's Parent Partnership hosted a faculty and staff appreciation luncheon on Feb. 9. Faculty and staff enjoyed a meal catered by John's Roast Beef, as well as door prizes and raffles. Jim Greeley '67 sponsored the luncheon for the third straight year. Parents Donna Allen Faieta '79, left, and Andree Thorne prepare to serve dessert.

Secret to success

**Carl A. DiMaiti**

The St. Mary's girls hockey team won a third consecutive MIAA Div. I championship on Sunday, March 14. The Boston Globe final rankings found the team in its customary No. 1 position. It has been three years since the team lost a game, a streak of 77 games without a defeat. The three consecutive state titles and the string of consecutive games without a loss are national records for high school girls hockey. This is pretty amazing stuff!

What's their secret to success? It's pretty simple: excellent coaching, talented and committed student-athletes, and a willingness to place team success far above personal achievement. That last ingredient is often overlooked. In a society that celebrates the individual and revels in personal achievement, I find the commitment to teamwork that has become a hallmark of this program both refreshing and important.

Educators are currently exploring ways to develop 21st century skills in our schools. One of the most widely recognized skills is the ability to work as a member of a team. Most teachers will point to cooperative learning classroom activities as the best way to work on team-building skills.

I would point to our girls hockey program as perhaps the best example of instilling in our students the value of working as a team member. The championships and victories will fade as the years pass but the important lessons learned over the course of a challenging season will help these young women to find success in their careers.

It is important to note that much education happens outside the classroom. That is why we support a wide variety of co-curricular and athletic programs and the reason we celebrate participation here at St. Mary's.

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

The new faces of science

W.I.S.E. students explore their futures

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Statistics are made to be broken.

A dozen St. Mary's eighth-grade girls are proving just that, as they stay on track to change a particularly disheartening stat. According to the latest National Science Foundation data, women make up only 26 percent of the country's scientists and engineers.

Addressing that imbalance, the St. Mary's group joined more than 300 young women from 20 different middle schools at Women in Science and Engineering (W.I.S.E.), an all-day conference at Salem State College designed to encourage their interest in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and math. The program was held on March 16 and organized through the Collaborative for Math and Science Education at Salem State.

Each girl attended three presentations by women in the science and engineering professions that ran the full gamut, from an engineer for Boston's Big Dig to a plastic polymer researcher developing new ideas for the plastic industry.

"It's a good age for these girls to start thinking about goals and possibilities," said Brenda Goodrum, St. Mary's science department chair. "It also puts them on a college campus and exposes them to what it's like to go to different classes or workshops on their own."

"It gives you the opportunity to see what your future's going to be like," said student Amanda Donahoe.

"It was a good experience to help us decide what we want to do in high school and in college," added student Hannah Quin.

The attendees, who were selected based on their evident



The St. Mary's eighth-graders invited to attend the W.I.S.E. conference at Salem State College included Courtney Curr, Carol DiMaiti, Amanda Donahoe, Alexandria Fisher, Rachel Hanlon, Gianna Iantosca, Julia Kennedy, Nina Murray, Hannah Quin, Naomi Ronquillo, Stephanie Skouras and Alyssa Vanderpool.

interest in math and science, agreed the all-girls setting was a positive one.

"Since it was all girls, we could learn more and be comfortable with the people around us," said student Gianna Iantosca. "It was a good chance to see if we want to pursue jobs in this field."

"It's important that women should have more opportunities to learn more about these careers," said

student Nina Murray.

Since the inception of W.I.S.E. in 1990, thousands of young women in grades 6-8 have been introduced to inspirational role models and gained a more personal connection to science and engineering pathways. The program encourages attendees to continue enrolling in challenging math and science courses in high school in order to meet their college and career goals.

Students make a difference, one rice grain at a time

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

St. Mary's eighth-graders are joining the fight to end hunger, one grain of rice – and seed of knowledge – at a time.

Two teams in Michele Durgin's grade 8 religion classes competed from Jan. 6 to Feb. 10 in a quest to donate the most rice through the Web site, FreeRice.com. The brainchild of computer programmer John Breen, the site was launched in 2007. Within the first month, it generated more than one billion grains of rice. St. Mary's students produced their own impressive record, generating more than one million grains of rice in a month.

"I like how we can learn from it, but we're helping people at the same time," said student Naomi Ronquillo, who amounted approximately 4,000 grains per night.

The students logged on to FreeRice after school – tackling subjects such as vocabulary, math, science and geography. The site contains a custom-built database of multiple-choice questions at varying degrees



From left, eighth-graders Alec Costanza, Alexandria Fisher, Naomi Ronquillo and Carol DiMaiti participated in the FreeRice effort.

PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA

of difficulty. For each right answer, users advance and donate 10 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Programme, thanks to funding from the site's sponsors. To date, more than 75 billion grains of rice

have been distributed to the hungry in areas such as Bangladesh, Cambodia and Uganda.

"By doing something about world hunger, we're learning to be more like Jesus – humble, compassionate and concerned," said

student Carol DiMaiti.

"It teaches you to be a better person and to give to others," said student Alec Costanza.

At the same time, users are picking up invaluable academic and testing skills – especially useful for students preparing for PSAT or SAT exams.

"The more you do it, it's repetitious, so you start remembering what the words mean," said student Alexandria Fisher.

It is an engaging and slightly addictive method of picking up new vocabulary, or even a new language. DiMaiti experimented with a bit of basic Italian. "It's an easy way to learn some of the words," she said.

Many of the students admitted they are still continuing to frequent FreeRice, even now that the contest has concluded. Grade 8B emerged as victors, winning a pizza party. But taking into account the countless lives they improved and the skills they developed, everyone was a winner in this competition.

St. Mary's and Daniel Lobo: a perfect match

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Daniel Lobo needed St. Mary's – he just didn't know it and even if he did, had no idea how to get there.

Languishing in an experimental program for eighth-graders at a vocational high school, Lobo was a bad actor in a class full of them. "I was constantly creating disruptions and trying to prove how much more I knew than everyone else, showcasing just how immature I was," he said.

Clearly in need of some intervention – divine or other – Lobo seemingly received both one day. When a teacher scolded him and warned he was heading down the wrong path, he responded with a bold and disrespectful outburst.

"I'm going to go to college and be more successful than you will ever be," Lobo shouted.

Rather than send him off to the principal's office, which clearly would have been justified, the teacher told Lobo's English teacher, Anne Brauneis, what he had said.

Brauneis, who had already gotten a glimpse of Lobo's potential through his prolific writing, told him he needed to be in a college-preparatory program. St. Mary's was the obvious choice, except for one issue.

"She and I both knew that I could not afford to attend St. Mary's," Lobo said.

"Though it was right down the street from the school I was attending, St. Mary's seemed like a whole different world, a world that I could never be a part of."

Heading into uncharted waters is something Lobo's parents, John and Maria, literally endured when they emigrated to the U.S. from Cape Verde at the age of 17. Their dreams of higher education were supplanted by the need to work to support their families.

"They have had to work very hard for the past 29 years, and their hardships have been plenty," Lobo said, "but they have proven to be the most inspirational, charismatic and intelligent people I know."

Fortunately for Lobo, Brauneis was intent on making sure that Daniel's educational goals were not similarly derailed. She went to Dr. Raymond Bastarache, deputy superintendent of Lynn Public Schools, who was a few months away from leaving that job

and becoming the first Head of School at St. Mary's. Brauneis gave Bastarache Lobo's writing portfolio.

Bastarache was so impressed with the work he asked to see Lobo, who told him, "I want to go to high school and I would really like to go to St. Mary's."

One call to St. Mary's Principal Carl DiMaiti took care of the admissions piece of the puzzle, but the financial piece was very much in question. That's where the divine intervention comes in.

Bastarache, in his new position, was being introduced to a group of St. Mary's benefactors one night. In his remarks, he talked about Lobo and included the fact that he would need significant financial assistance in order to attend St. Mary's. After the event,

Bastarache was approached by Paul A. Gustafson, Class of 1959, who said he wanted to help with Lobo's tuition. He and his wife, Elaine, paid for more than half of Lobo's tuition for the last four years. (Sadly, Gustafson passed away suddenly in March and will not see Lobo graduate.)

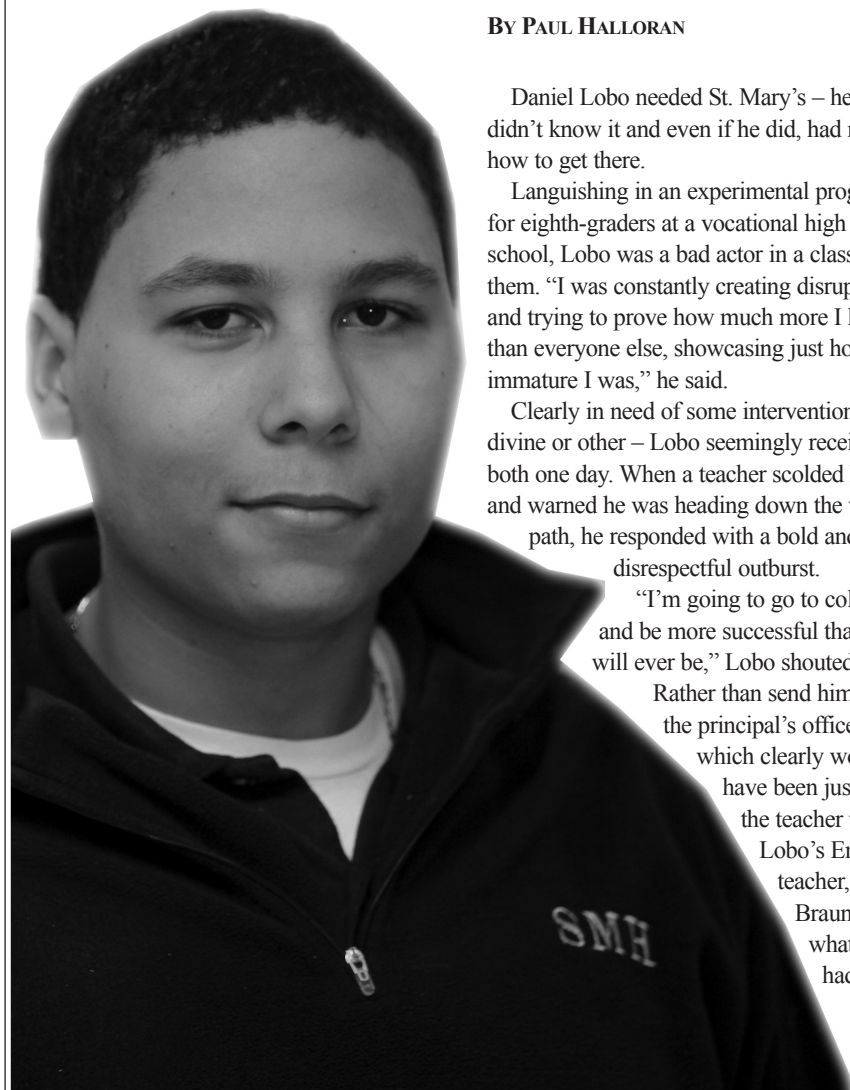
Lobo, a National Honor Society member, has been accepted by the University of Chicago and is waiting to hear from Yale.

"St. Mary's and Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have been a beacon of hope for me," he said.

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St. Mary's has truly proven to be a beacon of hope for me, allowing me to reinvent myself and mature not only as a student, but also as a person.

Daniel Lobo



Monsignor Garrity leaves lasting legacy at St. Mary's

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committee and a member of the St. Mary's High School Board of Trustees.

When Msgr. Garrity arrived at St. Mary's in June 1992, it was the school that demanded most of his attention.

"The school was in dire financial shape," he recalled. "The first thing I had to do was borrow \$100,000 from the diocese to meet the (summer) payroll."

It had not exactly been a secret that the school was struggling, with total enrollment (grades 7-12) as low as 350. For that reason, Msgr. Garrity was advised not to accept the St. Mary's assignment to begin with.

"Some of my closest friends advised me not to take it. They figured I would have to close the school, and that would be something from which you never recover," said Msgr. Garrity, who, fortunately for St. Mary's, looked at the situation differently.

"I thought I could probably do as good a job as anyone else I knew, with the help of God," he said. "I wasn't looking to be a superstar or savior. I tried to set reasonable expectations."

He quickly realized the school needed the exact opposite. It was still adjusting to the change in leadership from the Sisters of Notre Dame to a lay principal. It was in the red and "precariously close to closing," Msgr. Garrity said.

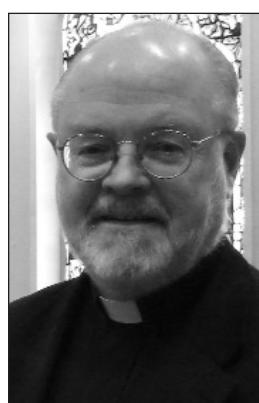
"I saw the school in a gradual downward spiral," he said. "Declining expectations led to declining performance and an erosion of enrollment. We began to ratchet up expectations

across the board to improve the quality of the academic program and make St. Mary's a challenging, college-prep high school."

Msgr. Garrity, a Somerville native who graduated from St. John's Seminary and was ordained in 1973, said a key component in the turnaround was inviting alumni to participate in the rebirth of the school. At the top of that list was Bill Connell '55, who gave the school a \$5 million gift just prior to his death in August 2001. Connell's generosity paved the way for a major capital campaign and the building of the state-of-the-art Connell Center, which transformed the St. Mary's campus.

"Bill had already given St. Mary's \$1 million in the late '80s. That became the cornerstone of our endowment," Msgr. Garrity said. "The gift right before his death propelled us to a level of expectation that we have never dared dream about."

St. Mary's High School was incorporated in 2006, with Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache '65 becoming head of school, Carl A. DiMaiti remaining principal and a board of trustees, chaired by Tony DiCroce '67, assuming the fiduciary responsibility for the operation of the school. That development officially completed the transition from parish



Msgr. Paul V. Garrity

school to independent entity.

While the rebirth of the school – which currently has 680 students – will undoubtedly play a leading role in defining Msgr. Garrity's legacy, he is quick to point out his work in the parish has been equally important. He is most proud of fostering an environment where all are welcome, a policy that is prominently featured on the front of the weekly bulletin.

"The Haitian community and the Congolese community have found a home at St. Mary's," he said. "To see the heartfelt appreciation they have for being welcomed at our parish is most gratifying."

Msgr. Garrity said he will always have a special place in his heart for the many friends he made while at St. Mary's, especially members of the St. Mary's Boys High Class of 1952 with whom he has developed a lasting bond: Jack Bradley, Nick Consoles, Bob Devereaux, Jack Kennedy, Owen Lynch, Tom O'Brien, Ed Collins and others.

He is not sure where his next stop will be, though he is considering a sabbatical. He plans on playing an active role in the selection of his successor, someone who will be coming into a situation that is immeasurably better than the one that was waiting for Msgr. Garrity in 1992.

"Msgr. Garrity brought his talent and passion to St. Mary's and he inspired hundreds of other people to bring their talent and passion," said Jack King '66, chair of the St. Mary's High board of trustees. "He is a multiplier. That's the gem I see. He effectively saved St. Mary's, and through his multiplier effect he is going to sustain St. Mary's."

STUDENT PROFILES

All in the family

Rachel Hanlon is a third-generation St. Mary's student

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

For many students, staff and alumni, St. Mary's equals family. For eighth-grader Rachel Hanlon, that definition – in its truest sense – has been in place for generations.

Hanlon, who enrolled at St. Mary's last year, is the sister of scholar-athlete Nicole Hanlon '09 and the daughter of Marie (Ruggeri) '81 and Dan Hanlon '81, who met and began dating during their high school years. Marie's mother, Claire, also attended St. Mary's.

Though the façade of the building and the technology inside have undergone a transformation in the last three decades, Marie still recognizes the essence of her alma mater.

"I liked that St. Mary's had the feel of a family, and it was good preparation for college," said Marie, who went on to earn her bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University.

Marie currently serves as a lieutenant in the Lynn Police Department, overseeing the domestic violence unit. She is in her 25th year with the LPD. Dan is a funeral director at Peterson-O'Donnell Funeral Home in Danvers. The couple has been married for 23 years. Given their personal



St. Mary's eighth-grader Rachel Hanlon with her mother, Marie (Ruggeri) '81.

connection to the school, the decision to send their two daughters to St. Mary's seemed like a natural one.

"We wanted to let the girls make their own choices, but I was secretly hoping they'd both go here," said Marie.

"It was an easy decision for me, my first choice," said Rachel. "All the people here are really nice."

Her sister Nicole enrolled as a freshman, excelling in and outside of the classroom. She was a three-sport athlete and captain, leading the Spartans volleyball, basketball and spring track teams. She was also a member of the National Honor Society, Rachel's Challenge and Junior Admissions, was an avid ballet dancer and volunteered regularly at Salem Hospital. A 2009 Agganis Foundation scholarship recipient, Nicole is currently a freshman at the College of the Holy Cross and a member of the track team.

"There's more opportunity at the school now for service work, and the athletics program has grown," said Marie, comparing her high school experience to her daughter's. "From the sports angle, I think you can learn a lot about working together, team spirit and how to respect others."

In terms of involvement, Rachel is following suit. She is a member of the soccer, basketball and spring track teams, a National Junior Honor Society and Student Council homeroom representative. She was also one of 12 girls selected to attend the Women in Science and Engineering conference at Salem State College. Her favorite subjects are math and science. She also enjoys skiing and dancing.

"You just have to find the time for everything, but put schoolwork first," she said. "I think the more active you are the better. You meet more friends that way."

Capitol gains

Murkison attends youth conference in D.C.

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

St. Mary's sophomore Dean Murkison was one of 313 youth from across the nation to convene in Washington, D.C. for an inside look at how our leaders are shaping laws and policies.

Murkison, a Lynn resident, attended the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC), a six-day session sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC). Each session is designed to educate, inspire and motivate top high school students by giving them the confidence and leadership skills that will take them into the future.

The theme of the conference was "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today." NYLC participants met with White House advisors, members of Congress, diplomats, journalists and NYLC alumni. They were challenged to assess problems, contribute to group discussions and take on roles in educational simulations.

"We experienced pretty much every position – senators, representatives, lobbyists, you name it," said Murkison. "We got insight into what they did and all the different steps

it takes to pass a bill. We also took on real-life political debates, like the issue of immigration. In groups, we simulated what each side was going through. It was an awesome time, going back and forth. We learned a lot from each other."

During the visit, the students also toured the Roosevelt, Lincoln, Jefferson and World War II memorials, the Washington Monument and the White House. For Murkison, another highlight was the opportunity to bond with peers from across the country.

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The conference opened up my eyes to the political world.
Dean Murkison

"It was interesting learning different backgrounds and accents," he said. "But in the end, we were all pretty similar. Everyone participated, paid attention and was so passionate about being there."

Murkison, a former Breed Middle School student, entered St. Mary's as a freshman. A member of the football, basketball and lacrosse teams, Murkison admits that politics had never been high on his radar.

"Before this program, I never really followed politics," he said. "I watched it on TV, but thought, 'This is boring.' Now, I have a different view; the conference opened up my eyes to the political world. I'd like to go into a career involving debate or law."



Dean Murkison was one of 313 youth nationwide to attend the youth conference in Washington, D.C.

Murkison hopes to remain involved with CYLC and attend its Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) this summer. The GYLC is designed to give students a greater understanding of their roles as global ambassadors, while analyzing concepts surrounding communications, diplomacy, law, human rights, peace, security, economics and the role of the United Nations.

The Lowedown

Teacher/coach educates students on more than academics

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A true Renaissance man, St. Mary's faculty member Doug Lowe doesn't have just one specialty, but four.

Lowe, a 1998 graduate of Boston College, began teaching at St. Mary's in 1999 and has made quite an impact in the departments of math, religion, community service and athletics.

Teaching two subjects – math and religion – he brings a unique perspective to the classroom.

"It's an interesting combination because one subject is so philosophical and the other is so logical," he said. "They both teach you how to think – just in different ways."

One of Lowe's primary goals is making the subject of religion relevant to youth.

"I try to apply our lessons to their lives, making the connection to their faith more personal," said Lowe. "And having such a strong parish

association helps."

He also believes that actions speak louder than words and has worked to develop an expansive community service program at the school.

"Giving to others is a good vehicle to make religion an active part of their lives," said Lowe, who learned that first-hand through his service work as a member of Ignacio Volunteers at BC.

Within the Lynn community, Lowe and his students have actively supported the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Catholic Charities, My Brother's Table and the parish food pantry, as well as events such as the Walk for Hunger and Thanksgiving food drives.

"There are so many organizations right

here in our own neighborhood," he said.

He has also organized trips to Camp Sunshine, a retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The camp, located in Casco, Maine, is the only one in the nation to address the impact of illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease, lupus and solid organ transplants on every member of the immediate family — the ill child, the parents and siblings. It has provided a haven for thousands since its inception in 1984. In the past five years, Lowe has brought 11 different groups of St. Mary's students to volunteer at the week-long camp.

"It holds all of our Catholic values at its core," he said. "It's a place of complete acceptance; no judgment. It gives our students the opportunity to step away from their lives long enough to see how they can reach out and care for one another."

In addition to his extracurricular service work, Lowe also coaches boys basketball and girls lacrosse.

A Salem native, he enrolled in the Lynch School of Education at BC, fully intending to pursue a career in teaching.

"I always knew I'd go into this field," said Lowe.

"My mom was a teacher and I had

great teachers in elementary school and high school. They showed me how rewarding life could be."

And that vision proved to be accurate.

"To see kids come in as seventh-graders and grow, both academically and socially, is a reward in itself," he said. "Then to see them come back during or after college, and to still call St. Mary's home, that's a good feeling."

That sense of loyalty is what keeps Lowe so dedicated to St. Mary's.

"Everyone always says St. Mary's is a family, and it's true," said Lowe. "That's why I continue to work here. It's a small enough community to get to know everyone and create lifelong friendships, but diverse enough for us to keep growing and learning."

Outside of his commitments to St. Mary's, Lowe resides in Charlestown with his wife, Andrea. The couple married in 2008.



Doug Lowe



Adopt-a-Grandparent participants, from left, Brianna Holmes, AJ Katkowski, Vinny Capano, Tommy Deveau and Kristin Moccia.

Grand service

St. Mary's students "adopt" grandparents

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A group of St. Mary's students are proving that friendships truly are ageless.

Approximately 18 students, who are all members of the service group Rachel's Challenge, have been volunteering in the Adopt-a-Grandparent program with Life Care Center of the North Shore. Life Care is a 123-bed skilled nursing facility located on Birch Street in Lynn, where long-term residents and short-term rehabilitation patients receive the care and services they need while maintaining their maximum independence.

The St. Mary's "adopted grandchildren" visit the seniors during their free time, after school and on weekends.

"It's fun learning about them and spending time with them," said junior Kristin Moccia. "They tell us their life stories and lessons."

Every other week, Moccia and classmate Brianna Holmes make the trip to Life Care to see their adopted grandmothers, Connie and Flo. The four of them enjoy talking, eating, watching television and playing Yahtzee. Sophomore AJ Katkowski and freshmen Vinny Capano and Tommy Deveau have had similar experiences.

"We talk about music and sports or look at old photo albums," said Capano. "They're just really nice people. They make us laugh."

The boys have gone above and beyond their visiting duties by fixing a broken watch, making a music CD and bringing in a St. Mary's baseball cap for a resident who takes great pride in his hat collection.

"It's nice to be able to do small things like that and see how happy it makes them," said Katkowski.

St. Mary's teacher Doug Lowe (yellow shirt) annually takes students to volunteer at Camp Sunshine. From left, senior volunteers Briana Marotta, Matt McDermott, Zach Francis, Danielle Masone, Courtney Ahearn, Eva Hynes, Liz Giacchino, Megan Folino, Amanda Belair, Megan Tranfaglia, Danielle Rigol.

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

Class of 2009 donates flagpole



Russell Pacewicz, left, and Cadet Brendan Donovan '09, a freshman at the U.S. Air Force Academy, raise the flag on a flagpole donated by the Class of 2009. Looking on in the rear are, from left, Head of School Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache, Director of Institutional Advancement Michael MacNeil, Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity and Joe Gill '09.

inmemoriam

Sr. Marguerite "Alice" Ledwell, SND '39

Glendora M. (Zachko) Knowles '40

A. Maureen (Nolan) Hines '42

James E. Doyle '43

Roland A. Sonia '43

Catherine T. (Carroll) Hogan '44

Jeanne (Hubbard) Leydon Murphy '45

Agnes (Shanahan) McCarthy '47

Brother Francis Peter Johnson, CSC '48

Raymond W. Levesque '48

Norine M. (Donahue) Bertrand '49

Harold B. "Mike" Craven '51

Marilyn (Fournier) Gallant '52

Robert G. Furlong '53

Mary F. (Russell) Sullivan '55

Paul A. Gustafson '59

Michael A. Leger '67

Charles Neal Boccuzzo '69

Donna F. Garofano '70

Brian J. "Bo" O'Shea '72

Michael Hyde '05

Ed Morrison, Maintenance staff, 1998-2009

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 _____

Address: _____

City

State Zip

Phone

e-mail

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

YOUR NEWS:

[illegible]

Spartan Dollar\$

The annual Spartan Dollar\$ raffle raised \$12,000 for St. Mary's High School. The grand prize winner of \$7,000 in tuition credit was Cheryl DeCosta, left, pictured with her daughter, Jillian DeCosta '11 and Head of School Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache. Second prize of \$1,000 went to Joanne Lemenager and third prize of \$500 went to Frank Crowley, father of Francis Crowley '10. Spartan Dollar\$ was coordinated by Jill Dalfonso, director of Parent Relations and Special Events.

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

alumni happenings

The St. Mary's Girls High Class of 1960 will celebrate its 50th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 2 at Porthole Restaurant in Lynn. For more information, contact Barbara (Coutts) Kupelnick at bajack7@aol.com

The St. Mary's Girls and Boys High Class of 1965 will hold their 45th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 23 at Gannon Golf Course. For more information, please contact Ray Bastarache at rbastarache@smhlynn.org

The St. Mary's High School Class of 1980 will hold its 30th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 11 at Gannon Golf Course. For more information, please contact Dianne (Donovan) Myette at dmyette@northshorewib.com

The St. Mary's High School Class of 1985 will hold its 25th reunion on Friday, July 23 at Gannon Golf Course. For more information, please contact Pat DePalo at patd28@hotmail.com

The following classes and coordinators are planning reunions for 2010. For more information, please e-mail the class contact listed: **1970**, John Magner at magner@hotmail.com or smhs70reunion@hotmail.com; **1990**, Shannon Conners-Burke at shanconburke@aol.com; **2005**, Stephen Stille at ss326@comcast.net

We are waiting to hear from the following classes about reunion plans for 2010: **1950, 1955, 1975, 1995 and 2000.**

If you have information or would like to coordinate a class reunion, please contact Drew Russo in the Advancement office at 781-599-0696 x217 or arusso@smhlynn.org.

Words of wisdom



Members of the Class of 2009 who are freshmen in college returned to St. Mary's in December to speak to seniors about college life. From left are, Lise Wagnac (Bryn Mawr), Caitlin Fitzgerald (Regis), Joe Gill (Saint Anselm), Amy Bozarjian (Providence), John Chambers (AIC) and Sean Desmond (Endicott).

PHOTO: MEAGHAN CASEY

St. Mary's alumni connect



A large contingent of alumni and friends came together at the LaPlaya Beach Resort in Naples, Fla., to celebrate their ties to St. Mary's. The evening may have been cool in temperature, but great personal warmth and camaraderie was evident throughout. Dr. Raymond Bastarache '65 gave an update and thanked all for their thoughtful and loyal support of their alma mater. Others in attendance included: Norma Burke Barbanti '58, Walter '58 and Sally Cuffe, Charlene Smith Betourney '65, Dick MacDonald '50, Joane Markuson Blacker '61, Kathy Lovett Bounopane '64, Ann Ciccarella '65, Pam Beatrice Clenney '65, Roland Dupuis '63, Deb Young Henderson '67, Pat Wilkins Nangle '65, Paula Scharfman '65 Jack Solan '56, Ann Dowling-Green '64, Claire O'Connor '65, Mary Twomey Meedzan '54, Kathy Joyce Walsh '61, Jeanne Mitchell McDonald '68, Kevin Mitchell '65, Patricia Gill Foley '58, Ed '52 and Rita Collins, Jack '52 and Lucille Kennedy, Mike MacNeil and Mackie Bastarache.



On March 10, Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., hosted a lunch and tour for alumni and staff from St. Mary's. John Gallo '54, Senior Major Gift Officer at Lynn University, introduced the group to the university and other administrators. Shown, from left, are: Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache, Joe Maney '53, John Gallo '54, Mackie Bastarache, Delsie Phillips, Director of Admissions at Lynn University; and Michael MacNeil, Director of Institutional Advancement at St. Mary's.



St. Mary's alumni and spouses now making their homes in the Grand Canyon State gathered in Scottsdale, Ariz.. Pictured, clockwise from left are: Susan Connors, Bob Connors '48; Dennis Green, Kathy Murphy Green '64, Mike MacNeil, Fenton McDonough '45, Patricia Faino '60 and John Faino.



On Feb. 19, West Coast St. Mary's alumni gathered at the Marriott Fisherman's Wharf Hotel in San Francisco. From left are: Joan Luise Hill '71, Bill Walsh '62, Gene Skoropowski '62, Carol Camillo Sarno '56, Jack Halligan '51 and Dr. Raymond A. Bastarache '65.

CONNECTIONS

St. Mary's Alumni News and Views

classupdates

1945

Richard McManus has been the president of an outreach center in St. Petersburg, Fla., for the past 15 years.

1946

Ed Ray writes from his home in North Carolina: "I certainly appreciate your publication informing us of the outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments of your students. Having retired as a 40-year principal in Lynn Public Schools, I take great pride that I got Dr. (Ray) Bastarache into teaching. He is an outstanding educator and friend, and this reflects in the great job he is doing for St. Mary's."

1948

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Ray Levesque** in Sierra Vista, Ariz., last fall. Ray had attended several alumni events in Arizona in recent years. His wife, Stephany, said he "always had fond memories of his years at St. Mary's."

1950

Richard MacDonald is a resident of Florida, where he plays tennis and bridge. A retired pharmacist, he is the proud father of four children.

1956

James Perry retired from federal Civil Service for the United States Air Force on Sept. 30, 2009 after 20 years. He was on active duty from 1961-89. He planned on moving to Dallas in late March.

1965

Martin Mamik reconnected with St. Mary's through our recent e-mail search for alumni we have lost touch with. He reports that he is married, the father of three daughters, and has two grandchildren. Now enjoying retirement and his family, he says "life is good."

Patricia Twombly Karakashian recently retired from Air Canada and looks forward to many more exciting trips and having quality time with her four grandchildren.

1967

Dr. Robert Marcantonio continues to practice internal medicine in Sarasota, Fla.

1968

Frank McIntosh recently completed his first book, "The Relational Leader," which will be available in bookstores in April. According to Frank, "The book introduces a relational leadership model that moves leaders to a different style of motivating people and

driving revenue." He was inducted into the Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame in October 2008 after a 36-year career with Junior Achievement.

1970

Brian Corcoran, renowned Irish minstrel, brought a whole songbook of Irish tunes across the Internet and into people's homes with his Song-a-Day Irish Concert on YouTube, which ran through March 17th. You can hear Brian perform traditional Irish songs by typing "Brian Corcoran singer" into the YouTube search box.

1973

Martha Foley is an archivist working in the New York City area. She has resided in Brooklyn Heights for more than 20 years, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

1977

William Hurley is an Army officer with more than 28 years of service to our country. He served two tours of duty overseas in support of the Global War on Terror, in Afghanistan and Kuwait, earning a Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star. He has been happily married for 14 years and has three wonderful children.

1980

Michael Sellers is Director of Publications for Weill-Cornell Medical College in New York City.

1987

Derrick Deluties is the executive producer for Lunchpail Productions, a full-service digital video production company, in South Boston. For the past 13 years, he has filmed every New England Patriots home game.

1992

Marcy Durgin married Clarke Cronin at St. Mary's Church on Dec. 10, 2009. The happy couple now resides in Chicago.

2003

Patricia Tarrance is a math teacher at the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood.

2004

Latisha Brinson is an allocations analyst for TJX Companies, A.J. Wright division in Framingham. She is a 2008 graduate of Temple University.

ALUMNI PROFILE

St. Mary's produced 'NOVA' producer

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Long before she was trekking through the forests of Siberia or attempting to recreate the wonders of Egyptian pharaohs, "NOVA" Senior Producer Julia Cort was regaling audiences right here in Lynn.

The 1980 St. Mary's graduate was a member of the National Honor Society and French Club, and performed in the musical productions "Guys and Dolls" and "Pajama Game," as well as several concerts. "I loved musical theater," said Cort. "It was really a great way to get to know a lot of kids I didn't share classes with."

She also recalled an early fascination with science – an interest she would later fuse with her more creative ambitions. "Anatomy was one of the best classes I took at St. Mary's," she said. "I really enjoyed chemistry and physics as well."

The youngest of 10, Cort grew up in Nahant. Two of her siblings, David and Susan, also attended St. Mary's. Cort went on to attend Harvard, where she developed a passion for filmmaking. In her junior year, she left school to take a job as a production assistant on the television mini-series "Kennedy," starring Martin Sheen. She spent the mid-1980s in New York and Los Angeles working on feature films and television series, including "Tales from the Darkside," "Hairspray" and "Dirty Dancing." She later returned to Harvard to complete her degree and pursue documentary filmmaking. Her thesis film, "A Fine Romance," won the New England Film and Video Festival Student Film Award.

"I loved college when I went back; I appreciated it," said Cort. "At that point, I was more motivated and intellectually hungry. I also knew I wanted to be contributing to films more in the way of content."

In 1991, Cort joined the Science Unit at WGBH in Boston, which produces television's most-watched primetime science series "NOVA" and the magazine-format series, "NOVA scienceNOW." Currently a senior producer for both series, Cort has contributed to more than 40 programs, tackling everything from archeology to molecular biology to string theory. She has traveled deep underground, been blindfolded and driven to secret diamond-making factories, waded into leech-infested swamps, crossed an Andean gorge on an Incan-style rope bridge, searched for the long-lost bones of the last Russian Tsar and replicated Egyptian engineering by raising 30-ton granite obelisks.



Julia Cort '80 says her love of musical theater was born at St. Mary's.

"I slid sideways into this career path," said Cort. "I didn't start out wanting to be a science journalist, but I've always had a strong curiosity about the world and the universe. Now, I'm constantly learning and meeting some of the most creative science thinkers in science."

"NOVA" premiered in 1974 and spawned its sister series, "NOVA scienceNOW," in 2005. Hosted by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, "NOVA scienceNOW" presents fast-paced, timely science and technology stories, including profile pieces on intriguing personalities in the field.

"These projects are intellectually ambitious," said Cort. "Mapping the human genome and string theory are not naturally cinematic or television-friendly topics, but it's so exciting and satisfying to be able to bring them to life and make them entertaining for our viewers."

Cort has proven that she excels at transforming difficult science topics into clear and engaging pieces. Her work has been honored with numerous awards and recognitions, including the AAAS Science Journalism Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, the American Institute for Physics Science Writing Award and National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Award. In 2002, Cort won the News and Documentary Emmy for writing the special "Life's Greatest Miracle." A sequel to the most popular "NOVA" of all time, "Miracle of Life," the program used extraordinary microimaging to track human development from embryo to newborn.

OFFICIALLY SPEAKING

Mello '75 in a (NFL) league of his own

BY RICH FAHEY

Unlike most people, Jim Mello's year ends in July.

That's because as a National Football League official — part of an exclusive fraternity with just 120 members — most of his summer, all his fall and often much of his winter are taken up by his "second job."

"In July, I put the year in the books," said Mello, 52, whose life then becomes an ever-repeating weekly loop for about seven months.

In his case, that loop kept rewinding all the way to last January 23, when he officiated the American Football Conference championship game between the Indianapolis Colts and the New York Jets, and then served as an alternate official for the Super Bowl. He also worked the NFC championship game between the New York Giants and the Green Bay Packers in 2007, played in temperatures well below zero.

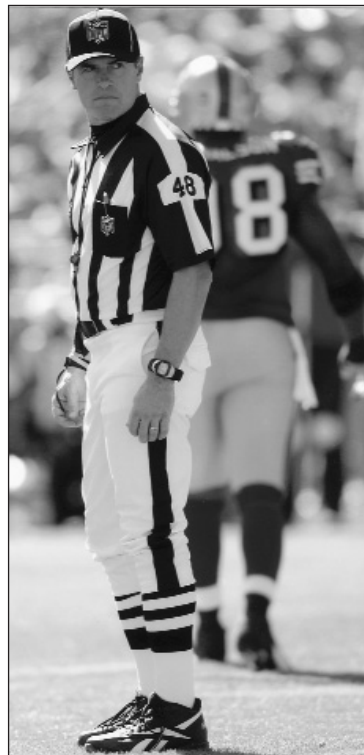
Mello, who grew up on Henry Avenue in Lynn, is a St. Mary's "lifer." He attended St. Mary's Grammar School before moving on to St. Mary's High School and graduating in 1975.

"They were the best four years of my life," he said. "I had a great education and made great friends for life. Even today, after 30 years, we still have the bond."

He recalls physical education teacher and coach Ed Adamowicz, social studies teacher Tom Sowinski and teacher-coach Rick Iarrobino. Mello played football, basketball and baseball at St. Mary's, but really excelled at baseball, enough so that he earned a scholarship to Northeastern University, where he was named all-New England and was signed as a free agent by the Detroit Tigers. He spent a year in the Tigers' system and another year playing in Italy.

Mello played semi-pro baseball with Don January, the former head of the Probation Department at Lynn District Court and a longtime official, who first got him started on his 30-year officiating career.

He actually took the exam to referee high school football while still in college, and soon added baseball umpire and basketball officiating. He spent eight years refereeing football in high school before taking the exam to be a college official, which led to five years working Division II and III games around New England.



Jim Mello '75 is making his mark as a standout NFL official.

That led to five years working Division I-AA games, and another promotion to Atlantic 10 and Big East Division I games. A friend urged him to apply to the NFL, which he did, and in 2001 he received a letter from Mike Pereira of the NFL, who wanted him to join a crew of officials working both Arena Football and NFL Europe games. A dizzying stretch followed in which he traveled around the world, working Arena Football, NFL Europe and college games in the fall.

The pinnacle of his collegiate officiating career came in 2004, when he and Lynn native Gary Dancewicz were selected to work the Oklahoma-LSU Sugar Bowl with the national championship on the line.

In April 2004, Mello was invited to join the NFL. With that came a significant lifestyle change; he essentially works two full-time jobs for seven months each season, as he had to give up officiating other sports.

Mello, who lives in a suburb north of Boston, has been fortunate to work for the same company for 24 years, allowing him to build up the vacation time and flexibility to work for the NFL.

"During the season, it becomes all-consuming," he said.

He emphasizes that it takes an understanding wife — make that a very understanding wife —

to make it work, and pays tribute to wife, Mary, and daughters Michaela, Mackenzie and Madison for their support that allows him to pursue an avocation he loves.

After the Super Bowl, NFL officials are given several months to decompress until May and June, when they learn about rule changes and take more tests. In July he will fly to Dallas for the annual clinic which is the one time all of the officials meet together to get ready for the season. Following the clinic is a visit to one of the 32 NFL training camps to work team drills and scrimmages and inform players about rule changes and how they will be enforced.

Mello, a head linesman on referee Ron Winters' crew, said he feels the intensity and the adrenaline pumping when he takes the field, but says you have to be under control to be a good official making crucial calls such as pass interference or holding in the defensive backfield.

"You don't want to be too quick when making a call," he said. "That's where experience comes in."

A week in the life

A typical in-season week for NFL official Jim Mello, head linesman on veteran referee Ron Winter's crew for the last two years, looks like this:

Sunday: After the game, get a copy of the TV feed to review and start making notes.

Monday: Review a copy of the TV feed to critique his game and make notes of other plays to discuss with the crew.

Tuesday: Receive a copy of the coaches' tape. The game is graded by a supervisor in New York and the grades are sent to each official around 5 p.m. Every play is reviewed and all officials are graded as a crew and individually. Review the grades utilizing the TV and coaches tape to prepare for a crew conference call at 9 p.m. During the call discuss all of the plays that are graded and the referee will formulate a response on how the crew and the official viewed the play on the field which will be sent to NFL the next morning.

Wednesday: Supervisors in the NFL office view all of the plays that are graded taking into account the responses sent in by the crew and then the final grades are sent out that evening to each official.

Thursday: Rules review which includes 50-question test.

Friday: Download and watch training tapes for officials based on plays from previous weeks' games and pack bag for travel the next morning.

Saturday: Fly out to game site in the morning and meet with rest of crew for 2½-3 hours in the afternoon to review the training tapes as a crew and to review tapes of the teams in this week's games, as well as odd plays, formations and tendencies of the team so crew is not surprised by anything; go to dinner as a crew.

Sunday: After a devotional, officiating crew arrives at stadium three hours before kick-off. Mello will mark and test for correct pressure all 32 game balls. Ninety minutes before the game, meet with the visiting coach along with the side judge to go over any special plays the team might be using and the timeline of events before the game. At 70 minutes before the game, Mello meets with the officials who are part of his chain gang. Teams come out to warm up about 50 minutes before the game and Mello will usually warm up himself at the same time. Then he'll return to locker room and prepare to come out with the crew. After game ends, rinse and repeat.

Coach Lee wins 300th



St. Mary's presented a plaque to hockey coach Mark Lee in recognition of his 300th coaching victory. From left, Athletic Director Jeff Newhall, hockey captains James Perkins and Cam Kennedy, Lee, captain Casey Goll, Principal Carl DiMaiti and Head of School Dr. Ray Bastarache.

PHOTO: MEAGHAN CASEY

Girls hockey a triple threat

CHAMPIONS: from Page 12

Memorial, Matignon and Northeast Regional boys squads in that category. St. Mary's also became the first Lynn high school team in any sport to win three straight state championships.

Lynn teams that have won back-to-back state titles include: St. Mary's baseball (1987-1988), boys basketball (2001-2002) and golf (2004-2005); Lynn English boys hockey (1956-1957); and Lynn Classical boys basketball (1992-1993).

Senior Courtney Winters led the way this season with 66 points, giving her 234 for her career. Senior captain Courtney White, who had two goals and two assists in the state final, had 42 points while junior Sabrina Iannetti had 41 and senior Erin McAndrews and freshman Marisa Maccario had 34 apiece.

"We didn't want to be the team that loses," said White, who will play at Southern Maine next year. "That makes for a lot of pressure and a lot of stress."

Obviously it wasn't anything that the Lady Spartans were not equipped to handle.

"It's a tremendous motivating factor for them to prove they are worthy of being state champions again," Pagliuca said.

While St. Mary's loses five players to graduation, there is a great nucleus returning led by Iannetti, who had a hat trick in a come-from-behind 4-3 win over Hingham in the state semifinals. She sounds as if she won't let the pressure of a possible four-peat get to her and her teammates next year.

"We just go out there and play because we love the game," she said. "We don't play for the streak."

They may not, but you can bet their opponents do.



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Triple crown



Coach Frank Pagliuca, left, and the Lady Spartans celebrate their third straight state championship.

Girls hockey makes history with third straight state title

QUEENS OF HISTORY

In compiling three straight undefeated seasons, the St. Mary's girls hockey team has skated in to the record books. Here are some highlights of what the Lady Spartans have accomplished, by the numbers:

- 77** consecutive games without a loss
- 68** consecutive wins, a state record for girls and boys. (Streak was snapped with a 1-1 tie vs. Fontbonne)
- 12** straight MIAA tournament wins
- 33** shutouts
- 5.4** average margin of victory during the streak
- 66** number of wins by three or more goals
- 3-2** score of last loss, to Austin Prep in MIAA Div. I semifinal on March 7, 2007.

By PAUL HALLORAN

Their blades have taken them to a pantheon of greatness not known by any other team in Lynn's storied athletic history.

They are the Lady Spartans of St. Mary's, a collection of hockey players who completed a third consecutive undefeated season (25-0-1), which culminated in a 7-2 rout of Woburn in the MIAA Div. 1 state final at the TD Garden March 14.

"I'm so proud of them as a group," said Coach Frank Pagliuca. "Their legacy is etched in St. Mary's history."

Make that Lynn history, Massachusetts history and United States history.

St. Mary's is the first high school girls hockey team in the country to win three consecutive state championships. It is only the fifth Massachusetts hockey team to accomplish the feat, joining the Billerica, Catholic

See CHAMPIONS Page 11



Angela Dandreo, left, and Courtney Winters are all smiles after the big win at TD Garden.

PHOTOS: JOEBROWNPHTOS.COM



Sabrina Iannetti has her hands full — with a joyful Courtney Winters.