

Winter 2020-21
Issue IX

Seton

Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine



INSIDE:

Katelyn Mockry Christiansen, SCC '04
Melissa Rostak Keating, MAI '89
Amy Rennell Favreau, SCC '93
Danielle Hamel, SJA
Jared Jabaut, SCC '98
Gena Rosenbaum Trombley, SCC '02

Message from the Editor



This edition of our Roundtable is a bit unusual because everything has been different during the past school year and the last nine months. The COVID-19 crisis forced us to abruptly close our doors in March and they remained closed until September when we opened them with out-

stretched arms to begin the school year. Everything about this new academic year has been an adventure. Initially we were the only school in Clinton County to hold in-person classes five days a week, and the fact that we accomplished that was no small feat. Many, many hours of planning went into preparing our building and our staff for uncharted territory.

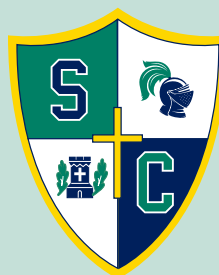
We were excited and anxious when that first day began. We had new duties like taking students' temperatures upon entering the building, wiping down every surface available, wearing masks and maintaining six feet of distance between all desks and students. The cafeteria became a study hall as lunches were delivered to classrooms. Storage rooms were cleaned out to make room for overflow and we created a quarantine room for any student who displayed symptoms.

With all of the changes, one thing remained constant: The unique spirit of our Seton family. Families were happy that their children were once again within our walls, in our protection, learning and growing despite all the pandemic restrictions. We learned that students are very adaptable and mask wearing was not a huge burden for them. They modeled the adults around them and cooperated. Teachers gave up their classroom structure and moved between classes to maintain pods of students and provide stability in the learning environment.

I noticed things more this year. I noticed that students were patient and kind and understanding when they came through the door in the morning. They were happy to place their belongings on the floor in order to disinfect their hands and then pick up their myriad of bags again to make their way to class. They were still cheerful, they were still polite and they didn't grumble. They took the time to say, "Good Morning" and "Have a Nice Day." It makes me so proud of them and what we have at Seton Catholic. We have excelled at making the most of this situation and we have stretched our skills and imaginations to continue teaching and molding our students into the best versions of themselves.

Thank you to all of our faculty and staff, families and supporters who pray for us as we continue to travel this less traveled road. We will do our best to always make you proud.

Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, SJA '77
Editor



Seton Catholic

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Seton Alumni Magazine (Winter 2020-21)

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Who could have predicted how our world would turn upside down during these last nine months? When we closed our doors in March, we initially thought we would reopen them a few weeks later. Weeks turned into months and you know the rest of the story. It was a sad day when we had to say goodbye to our students and rely on remote learning for the remainder of the school year. It was all new to everyone and we didn't have much time to prepare. Luckily, we have dedicated faculty and staff who dove right into the new requirements and led by example.

All of Clinton County was remote for the spring semester. What were other schools doing? How were we doing? Time and time again we heard that Seton was leading the way. Parents were pleased with the way their children were being taught remotely. Word on the street was that Seton had it figured out. That doesn't mean it came without a lot of sleepless nights and anxious days. There were countless Zoom meetings and telephone conferences and too many questions to count, but we persevered. We had drive-by parades and textbook drop-off days, along with a Greet the Teacher Day while we maintained socially distancing. Classrooms were measured and re-measured to ensure that all seats were six feet apart. Enrollment was bustling and we had wait lists for certain grades. Our community wanted in on the Seton experience.

Fall came and we opened our doors and followed protocols. We instituted daily temperature checks for faculty, staff and students. All Department of Health guidelines were put in place and families were happy to have their children reunited with their friends and teachers. Sporting events happened and everyone made the best of a difficult situation.

As we move into the second half of this school year, we remain thankful for our blessings and we remain vigilant to the ever-changing rules of a pandemic. We ask you to keep us in your prayers, as we will keep you in ours. We know that we are "Seton Strong" and together we can get through these challenging times.

Mary Forbes

Principal & Athletic Director
mforbes@setonknights.org

Our Mission Statement

Our Seton Catholic family of faith fosters academic excellence, nurtures personal responsibility, and encourages service to others in the spirit of Jesus.

Class Notes

In Memoriam

Shauneen Ryan Casey, SJA '51 died February 2, 2019.

Troy Trombley, MAI '80 died February 27, 2019.

William J. (P.J.) Pajonas, MAI '61 died March 5, 2019.

Joan M. Carpenter, dedicated volunteer and supporter died July 24, 2019.

Patricia M. Munn, dedicated church and school supporter died July 29, 2019.

Sheila M. Wylie, former St. John's employee and dedicated supporter died September 24, 2019.

Raymond Francis Allard, MAI died December 23, 2019.

Col. Christopher J. Munn, SJA '75 died January 26, 2020.

Joan Manning FitzPatrick, SJA '43 died January 27, 2020.

John Delaney Ryan, SJA '52 died February 25, 2020.

Aimee Harmon, SJA '73 died March 9, 2020.

Paul Arthur Corbiere, MAI '59 died March 26, 2020.

Pauline DeCelle Egan, SJA '44 died March 27, 2020.

Charles Laravia, MAI '57 died June 4, 2020.

Andrew L. Tousignant, MAI '54 died August 13, 2020.

Jill Marie Piche, Salaz Academy died August 27, 2020.

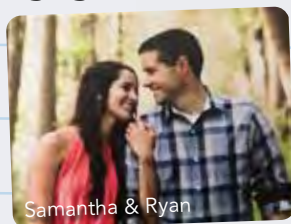
Arthur E. Rock, SJA died September 11, 2020.

Joseph F. Clauss, SCC '08 died October 16, 2020.

Gracemary Branon, SJA '64 died November 14, 2020.

Susan J. Post, OLVA '63 died November 16, 2020.

Engagements



Samantha & Ryan

Ryan Fessette, SCC '05 and Samantha Lavigne were engaged May 13, 2020.

Nicholas Sorrell, SCC '10 and Alissa Momot were engaged July 19, 2020.

Natasha Clark, SCC '14 and Nick Ottati were engaged July 25, 2020.

Alexander Wylie, SCC '09 and Nadia Anwar were engaged August 28, 2020.

Sean Masten, SCC '08 and Amanda Finckel were engaged September 18, 2020.

Matthew Jodoin, SCC '05 and Taylor Reil were engaged September 19, 2020.

Megan Tedford, SCC '11 and John Fountain were engaged September 21, 2020.

Shannon Goldfeder, SCC '16 and Ryan Shippee were engaged October 11, 2020.

Kelsey Doorey, SCC '11 and Patrick Sweeney were engaged December 2, 2020.

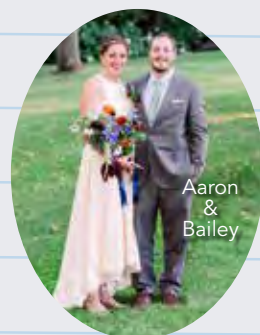
Weddings

Katie Rostak, SCC '06 and Nick Wyand, SCC '06 were married February 12, 2018.

Amanda Sorrell, SCC '06 and Steven Vincent were married October 4, 2019.

Meghan Morelock, SCC '13 and Evan Bresette, SCC '13 were married June 27, 2020.

Claire Deon, SCC '09 and Matthew Rivers were married August 8, 2020.



Aaron & Bailey

Aaron Fregeau, SCC '04 and Bailey Rabideau were married August 14, 2020.

Shea Branon, SCC '09 and Emily Raville were married September 12, 2020.

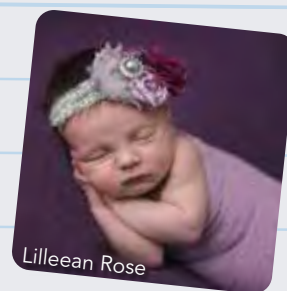
Kathryn "Kat" Tipton, SCC '12 and Michael Swarhout were married September 19, 2020.

Births

Katie Ketcham Rogers, SCC '04 and her husband Paul Rogers welcomed a daughter, Louise Bouyea Rogers on July 22, 2019.

Keegan Frenya, SCC '15 and his wife Sahara Javner Frenya welcomed a son, Robert Lux Frenya, on January 15, 2020.

Daniel Relation, SCC '04 and his wife Katelyn Relation welcomed a son, Daniel Roy Relation IV on August 13, 2020.



Lillean Rose

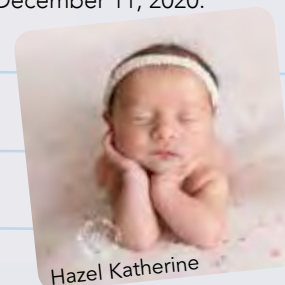
Emilee Collins Quantock, SCC '11 and her husband Ethan Quantock, SCC '11 welcomed a daughter, Lillean Rose Quantock on September 24, 2020.

Peyton Falb, SCC '13 and David Carpenter welcomed a daughter, Vivienne Scott Carpenter on October 9, 2020.

Katie Rostak Wyland, SCC '06 and her husband Nick Wyand, SCC '06 welcomed a son, Luke Wyand on October 11, 2020.

Stevie Fessette-Downen, SCC '07 and her husband Nick Downen welcomed a son, Dax Arthur Downen on October 19, 2020.

Demi Pellerin Cook, SCC '09 and her husband Adam Cook welcomed a daughter, Hazel Katherine Cook, on December 11, 2020.



Hazel Katherine

ACROSS THE POND AND BEYOND

By: Samantha Bashaw, SCC '16

This was not an easy year for the International Program. In March, the shutdown forced many students to quarantine with their host family or fly back to their home country and miss their once in a lifetime experience. Nevertheless, Seton and its century old International Program persisted.

The hope of accepting new students was declining as the first day of classes quickly approached and international borders were not reopening. Then came an opportunity to welcome three bright-eyed European students who didn't want a pandemic to stop them from achieving their study abroad dreams. In October, after weeks of quarantining and multiple COVID-19 tests, Seton welcomed Marine Beauduin from Belgium, Emma Nidasi and Sara Di Patrizio, both from Italy.

All three girls joined Seton's senior class and are making a lasting impact on the school in just the short time they've been here. They've learned about American traditions such as Thanksgiving and even dressed up in inflatable costumes for their first Halloween in the States. We are thrilled to have them here and expand our ever-growing International Family.

Welcoming students from across the globe has always been part of the backbone that makes Seton stand out. With students from China, the Philippines and now Europe, Seton remains a champion of creating and supporting cultural connections despite the hurdles we face.

Let's learn more about our new European international students:

How has your experience been at Seton Catholic so far?

Marine: My experience at Seton has been great so far. Everyone has been so accommodating and friendly. The school is really familial and small, but everyone is so great. We've only been here for a little while, but we already have great friends!

Why did you want to come to upstate New York and Seton Catholic specifically?

Sara: We were supposed to go to Canada first, but with the pandemic, the borders closed. I started researching in the United States and fell in love with New York. I saw Seton's website and really liked it and knew they would take care of us. And that is what they're doing.

What do you love most about being an international student?

Emma: I think it's a 360-degree experience. You really push yourself and you have to overcome a lot, especially this year. The hardest thing is getting out of your comfort zone and that's the biggest challenge. I love experiencing new cultures and meeting new people. It's been amazing, and I can't wait to experience the rest of it.



Samantha, Director, front, Sara, Marine, Emma



Sara and Marine

What's an activity you did that you enjoyed?

Sara: During the first week of November, we had Spirit Week. Monday was College Day, Tuesday was Color Day, Wednesday was Tie-Dye Day, Thursday was Spirit Day and Friday was Crazy Hair/Hat Day. We all wore wigs on Friday! The most fun day was Spirit Day. We wore Seton colors and went outside and ran around the track to everyone cheering for us Seniors.

Emma: There was music blasting and confetti cannons! It was so much fun.

How's living with your host family?

Emma: I live with Penny and Larry Converse and they're amazing. The experience has been great so far. They have a big extended family, so I talk with them a lot too. We have dinner together every day, which is wonderful, where we talk about our day. I have a great relationship with them and I'm grateful to have found them.

Marine: Sara and I live with Marisa DaSilva and the three of us do a lot of activities together like shopping. Marisa showed us the region. It's been great. She has two dogs that we love as well!

Has it been a hard adjustment?

Emma: Not really. The Converse's were extremely welcoming and that didn't surprise me, but it was really refreshing and nice to feel welcomed on the other side of the world. I'm happy and I couldn't have wished for anyone better.

How would you convince a friend in your home country to come to Seton?

Marine: I would first say that the experience of going on an exchange year to another country is great because it gets you out of your comfort zone. Also, the school is great! They welcome international students, and the region is beautiful. The Adirondacks and Lake Champlain are really pretty.

Emma: Everyone should try and experience this. The kids have been nice, and we have a great friend group who we spend a lot of time with. I have a great relationship with my teachers, which is something new to me. We don't really create a great relationship with teachers in Italy. It's more superficial and more professional. There's time to joke and talk here, not just study all the time, which I think is amazing. We see teachers as friends too who you can confide in and you don't have to worry about not being yourself. Just be 100 percent you and you'll do great. ■



Year of St. Joseph

By: Sister Helen Hermann, SSJ



Sister Helen and Sister Cecilia Marie in placing an image of St. Joseph in each classroom. They led the students in reciting the diocesan Act of Consecration to St. Joseph. In these pictures, we see Mrs. Wylie placing the picture of St. Joseph on her classroom bulletin board after showing it to one of her students.

Bishop LaValley said, “We are placing before St. Joseph some urgent needs of our Church, our families and marriages, our communities, our country, nations of the world, and all our hurting sisters and brothers.” Sister Mary Eamon urged the students to “Go to Joseph” with their needs and requests. During this time when we are troubled by the coronavirus, we might turn to St. Joseph and ask his help.

On May 1, 2020 Bishop Terry LaValley consecrated the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph. The year will extend until May 1, 2021. One of Bishop LaValley’s wishes is that a picture or statue of St. Joseph be displayed in a place of honor in every home. At Seton Catholic, Sister Mary Eamon, major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, assisted

For some people, St. Joseph is the third statue in our Christmas manger. He stands in the background. We don’t think of St. Joseph as a teacher or a prophet. Yet, St. Joseph was among the first to proclaim the Gospel of reconciliation. Joseph must have felt betrayed and angry at Mary’s sudden pregnancy. But somehow his love for her was deeper than his hurt and he refused to subject Mary to the brutality of the Law. He took her as his wife and continued to love her—and she him. Joseph taught the first lesson of forgiveness. He modeled the mercy of God who comes in the infant Joseph took into His care. Joseph’s act of reconciliation was prophetic, heralding Jesus’ teachings on reconciliation, mercy, and peace.

During this year dedicated to St. Joseph we are invited to look deeper than the manger statue off to the side and

see the full character of Joseph: Joseph the father, Joseph the teacher, Joseph the prophet.

Action Step: Display a picture or statue of St. Joseph in a place of honor in your home. ■



Tribute to Brother Raymond Fortin

By: Donald Recore, MAI Class of 1972

Only a few times in your life are you privileged enough to get to know or meet the type of person like Brother Raymond Fortin. You are even more fortunate to be able to call him your friend!

For me, it all started when I first met Brother Raymond at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh. There was always something special about attending that school. Little did we know that those Brothers, who dedicated every waking hour to the education and formation of the youth wherever they had a presence, would make such a difference in ours!

As a graduate of MAI, I have always held the Brothers close in my heart. I always felt that I was lucky to have such mentors.

Over the years, Brother Raymond has had a full and generous life and always thought of everyone else first. The phrase “Lead by Example” is perhaps a moniker of his character. In the summer, every blade of grass around MAI and later Seton Catholic, knew him by name. If it rained outside, Brother Raymond would say, “Good for the grass.” Brother Raymond also told me that to him, “My prayers are my work.” I can honestly tell you that he prayed more than anyone I’ve ever met!

Brother Raymond became a member of the Brothers of Christian Instruction 70 years ago! He says, “I’m retired, but my definition of retirement means a change of occupations. Volunteering keeps me busy and gets me up in the morning to do something.”

Brother Raymond always maintained everything that could be maintained. If we had a winter snowstorm, you could always get into the MAI or Seton sidewalks or parking lots.



He would sometimes start at 1am and by the time anyone came to school, everything was plowed, sanded or salted and ready for the hundreds of winter boots that would enter the doors safely.

Brother Raymond was born on May 3, 1932 in Plattsburgh, New York. On August 15, 1950, he began his religious formation in Alfred, Maine.



He first taught in Alfred, Maine and, at 25 years old, became the principal of Detroit, Michigan’s Cathedral High School. In 1960, Brother Raymond made his way back to Plattsburgh and spent 50 years of ministry with a few short breaks, dedicated to the North Country.

If you ventured out in the winter, you would see Brother Raymond—at the young age of 88—cutting snowshoe trails. He snowshoed around homes in Alfred, Maine and will always snowshoe Lyon Mountain if he is in Plattsburgh for a visit. A hip surgery and a few heart problems have slowed him down a little bit, but no, not really! I think the only thing he does a little less of is downhill skiing.

Let’s see—accolades: Many Mission of Hope trips, teaching in Maine, Detroit, Moshi, Tanzania, Tokyo, Japan and Plattsburgh. He has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, driven seniors to medical appointments, worked Bingo with the Knights of Columbus, helped at the soup kitchen and many other tasks that were never asked of him. Man, did he ever pray a lot!

Then there was his “personal time” with family and friends. There were many years when my wife and I were privileged to be invited each year in August to be “guests” of Brother Raymond and the Brothers at their home in Alfred, Maine. This is a unique place. The Brothers have numerous buildings on the grounds, including their newest facility, an infirmary to house and care for the elder Brothers comfortably in their final years. There is a multi-use building right next door and attached to the infirmary that houses a beautiful chapel that the Brothers pray in. The local community also attend daily and weekly mass with the Brothers.

On the left of the infirmary, is Dennis Hall. This is a well-used facility where local groups can meet and where friends like us can stay when invited. When we are spending time with the Brothers, we will venture to special places like “Marginal Way,” the Playhouse in Ogunquit, Maine, lobster houses and of course the homemade ice cream shops. Then back to Alfred for an evening of visits, a few beverages and good times.

Some days, we would go to the Brothers’ “blueberry patch” to pick berries for home and, of course, we would go to Notre Dame bakery for fresh breads, pies and Maine “Whoopee Pies.”

In the last few years, Brother Raymond moved back to Maine from Plattsburgh. The lack of the Brothers’ presence in Plattsburgh has left a big gap for alumni. The number of Brothers in Alfred, Maine has continued to decrease, and the Brothers have turned over much of their facility to the York County Shelters to operate and manage the cafeteria, bakery and shelter buildings used to house homeless York County individuals who have a need. It is a great tribute to see that the Brothers still provide for others at a time when their numbers have declined. Their “mission,” supported by Brother Raymond and his fellow Brothers, continues even in this decline.

I graduated from MAI in 1972. Brother Raymond was an excellent math and geometry teacher. As a matter of fact, they all were excellent teachers, mentors and friends. They were counselors, stand in parents for the Borders, coaches, maintenance people and jacks of all trades.

I believe that there is not a single person who ever went to MAI or Seton Catholic and never had anything to do with Brother Raymond Fortin or ever had any reason to dislike him. Brother Raymond would help anyone who needed it, without hesitation.

A few years ago, after I was Alumni President for many years, Brother Rene Demers was having serious health issues and Brother Raymond would visit regularly and assist Brother Rene as often as needed. One day, I received an invitation from the Brothers in Plattsburgh – Brother Raymond, Brother Rene and Brother Charles, the last three in Plattsburgh—to join them for dinner. On occasion, the Brothers will award someone who has an impact or contributed to the Brothers in some way. They’d present the “Emmaus” award to a recipient they felt was deserving. Brother Rene was in the hospital, but the dinner went on! Brother Raymond Fortin was able to check him out of the hospital for the evening and he joined us all for dinner in his hospital wheelchair where they presented the award to me.

Just a short time after the presentation that I was extremely honored to receive and will remember for the rest of my life,

Brother Rene passed away. I worked for many years with Brother Rene on the Alumni Association. I was asked by Brother Raymond to present the eulogy for Brother Rene at St. Peter’s Church. I always had a hard time going to funerals, but I immediately accepted Brother Raymond’s request. My thought was this, “If Brother Rene got out of the hospital and Brother Raymond assisted him to give me the “Emmaus,” I certainly can do the eulogy!”



My respect for Brother Raymond and ALL the Brothers of Christian Instruction has been a guide for my life. I surely believe the Brother Raymond mantra, “My work is my Prayer.” I have volunteered many hours of public service to the community, church, school, Knights of Columbus and tried ever so slightly to learn from my mentors on the correct way to be a Christian.

Those of you who know Brother Raymond Fortin also know that what I speak about that man is what you also know about him. God has blessed us with the opportunity to know Brother Raymond and call him our friend. I wish him a long life and good health in his elder years. I know he still works (prays) a lot and most likely will never stop. He used to answer the phone with the words, good, good, good and people wondered why? It’s because he is a good person, a good educator, a good religious, a good athlete and a good friend. ■

*God Bless you
Brother Raymond,
Donald Recore*



Tennis at Seton – The Start of Something Good!



Katelyn Mockry Christiansen, SCC '04

I've always been competitive and loved sports, but my time at Seton introduced me to a sport I never thought I would play.

In my Junior year, my basketball coach Peggy Houk, approached me about playing tennis as she coached that team too. I told her I didn't own a racket and didn't know a thing about the sport other than it had a yellow ball. My friend Brynn and I eventually agreed to play if we could be doubles partners. We bought secondhand rackets at Play-It-Again Sports and gave it a go.

While we didn't exactly know what we were doing, Brynn and I were just a tad (okay, SUPER) competitive. We learned the rules from our coach, worked hard, and somehow went undefeated our junior and senior years. Tennis turned into a job as I ended up working for the tennis camp Peggy Houk ran for several summers and took it over when she moved out of the area.

When I went to Saint Rose and heard they were doing tennis team walk-on tryouts, I again gave it a go. I made the team and

played all four years. I now love watching professional tennis, have been to the US Open multiple times, and will definitely teach my daughter how to play.

Thanks to the persistence of my Seton coach, I was introduced to a lifelong sport that has provided me so many wonderful memories and experiences.

One of the best parts about my time at Seton were the friends that I made, many of whom I am still very close with to this day. In fact, four of us recently became first-time moms within months of each other.

Despite living in different parts of the northeast, we frequently stay in touch. Our group text has become like a mom support group as we share all the wonderful ups and downs of being a first-time parent, give each other advice, and provide plenty of baby pictures and laughs.

I feel so fortunate to have this group of women in my life. It's because of our time and wonderful experiences at Seton that we were brought so close together. ■



St. Rose Tennis 2008



Seton Tennis 2004 with moms (L-R): Jean Mockry (former English teacher at MAI), Katelyn (Mockry) Christiansen, Brynn (Fessette) O'Neil and Jody Carpenter) Fessette, SJA 76



Seton Tennis 2004 (with Knutson twins)



Meagen, Brynn, Erica, Katelyn



Seton 2004 (L-R): Erica (Latour) Terhune, Rosalyn (Abbott) Beauregard, Katelyn (Mockry) Christiansen, Meagan (Murray) DeLuca, Brynn (Fessette) O'Neil

Service with a Smile and a Grateful Heart

Melissa Rostak Keating, MAI '89



It's been over 30 years since I graduated from MAI. As a matter of fact, I was the last graduating class (1989) before it merged with St. John's to become Seton Catholic. I loved everything about my experience at The Mount!

Being the oldest of six children, the cost of a private education was a sacrifice financially for my parents. I was fortunate enough to have a job that allowed me to contribute monthly to assist in paying for my tuition. It was never something I ever took for granted.

MAI had a strong sense of community. Receiving a Catholic education instilled a sense of sharing and serving others that continues in my life today. Being able to grow in my religion with friends who shared the same core values and beliefs as I did was a gift in itself. Work Hard, Play Hard, Pray Hard has always been my mission statement. Attending Catholic school not only prepared me academically for the next chapter of my life, but also taught me patience, self-discipline and how to live in faith.

I have been married for 27 years to my husband, Jamie and we have four children. (Christopher 24, Nicholas 22, Jack 19 and Katie 16). We live in LaGrange, Georgia and are members of Christ The King Catholic Church in Pine Mountain, Georgia. We are strong in our faith and live each day thankful for God's daily blessings.

We own and operate EPIC Restaurant, Inc. (www.epiccuisine.com) and Signature Events & Catering by Jamie Keating. We pride ourselves in the quality of our food and our service.

I firmly believe that my Catholic education prepared me for my role as "a servant at heart" in the hospitality industry. The teachers at MAI inspired me to be a Jesus-style servant...to look to our Lord as my guide, my example and my strength, reminding me that small acts have huge impacts. ■

“Receiving a Catholic education instilled a sense of sharing and serving others that continues in my life today.”



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to host our annual Seton Gala in person this year. Instead, we came up with an exciting alternative that enabled us to come together as a community and support Seton Catholic from the safety of our own homes or those homes within our bubble of safety. The date of our Mardi Gras Gala was Saturday, October 24, 2020.

This is how it looked. We structured our fundraiser as a “Dinner for Eight.” The idea was that community members who were interested in supporting Seton Catholic agreed to host a dinner at their home. They would either “purchase a Corporate Table” for \$600 as they would for the in person Gala and invite friends to their home or individuals could host a dinner and then each guest (including the host) pays \$50 to attend. There was a reduced cost of \$25 per person for faculty and staff. The \$25/\$50 per person, or \$600 per Corporate Table would all be direct donations for Seton Catholic. This was also available to all friends and alumni near and

far. Once someone committed to hosting a party, we got the guest list and then supplied the host with a “party basket” of Mardi Gras items to assist in the spirit of the evening. The appeal to this was that homes all around the North Country were celebrating Mardi Gras, sharing a meal with loved ones and supporting Seton Catholic at the same time. In addition, we had our traditional silent auction items presented to everyone in a brochure with photos of the baskets that were available for bids. We also had a larger live auction and a Fund-a-Need Campaign to update the gym bleachers.

The beauty of this type of structure was that how your dinner looked was entirely up to the participants. Everyone could invite as many people as they were comfortable with dining in their home. The model worked really well, and we adapted with the times and restrictions of the times.

We would like to thank our generous donors for their contributions to the Seton Gala. We are already looking forward to the 2021 Under the Big Top Gala, date to be determined! Stay tuned. ■

Mardi Gras



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF SETON CATHOLIC

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| #1 Chinese | Chick-fil-A | Gioiosa's Wine & Spirits | Livingood's Restaurant & Brewery | Pearl Physical Therapy | Studio 518 |
| 99 Restaurant | Clare & Carls | Giuseppe's Pizza Shop | Lowie's Home Improvement | Penny's Home Style Cooking | Subway |
| A Beautiful Mess | Coldwell Banker | GNC | Mainly Lobster & Seafood | Perkins Restaurant & Bakery | SweetFrog Premium Frozen Yogurt |
| A Nails | Comfort Inn | Hampton Inn | Malone Golf Club | Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry | Sweet Treat |
| A-Plus Nails and Spa | Dame's Discount Liquor & Wine | Hannafords Supermarket | Maui North Ski, Bike & Board | Pet Groomers | T-Nails |
| Adirondack Coffee Roasters | Dannemora Federal Credit Union | Harmony Golf Club | Maurices | Pizza Hut | Taco Bell |
| Adirondack Dermatology, P.C. | Days Inn | Hid-in-Pines Vineyard | McDonald's | Pizza Palace | Target |
| Adirondack Golf Course | Della Chevrolet | Hillis' Sugarbush Farm & Vineyard | McSweeney's Red Hots | Planet Fitness | Texas Roadhouse |
| Adirondack Periodontics | Della Honda | Himalaya Restaurant | Michigian Plus | Plattsburgh Animal Hospital | The Conti Family |
| Aleka's | Dick's Sporting Goods | Hobie's Sports Den | Mickey's Restaurant & Lounge | Plattsburgh Pediatrics | The Kabeli Family |
| All Natural Bath & Body Shoppe | Dickie's Barbecue Pit | Holiday Inn | Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham | Play It Again Sports | The Pepper |
| Americas Best | Duke's Diner | Hong Kong Jade Buffet | Mid Century Madness | Price Chopper | The Plattsburgh Parishes |
| Anthony's | Duley & Associates Real Estate | Hungry Bear Restaurant | Mirror Lake Inn | Regis Salon | The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis |
| Archer Bodyworks | Dunkin Donuts | Huttig Nissan | Monroe Auto Service & Tire Centers | RE/MAX North Country | The Slim Family |
| Armitto's | Durocher Jeep | Iceburgh Creamery | Mr. Mikes | Ron's Corner Restaurant | Ticonderoga Country Club |
| Arnie's Restaurant | Eco Car Wash | Inca's Sandwich Shop | Naked Turtle | Rulf's Orchard | Twisted Carrot |
| Ashley's HomeStore | Eddy's of Course | Iris Cafe & Wine Bar | NBT Bank | R W Walker Funeral Home | Valcour Brewing Company |
| Bazzano's Pizza | Elevate 518 Nutrition | Irons | New York Pizza | Sam's Club | Vesco Ridge Vineyards |
| BeauSoleil Tanning | Elf's Farm Winery & Cider House | J Spa | Norma J's Cafe & Bake Shop | Sawatdee Restaurant | Victor and Courtney Podd |
| Bed Bath & Beyond | Escape Room | JoLi Nails & Spa | North Country Co-op | Second Time Around Thirt Shop | Voxx Radio |
| Bluff Point Golf Resort | Fairfield Inn | Kay Jewelers | North Country Creamery | Seton Family Association | Walmart Supercenter |
| Bruce Pellerin Construction | Farmer's Insurance | Koffee Kat | North Country Thoracic & Vascular, P.C. | Sip | Warren Tire Service Center |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | Five Guys | Koto Japanese Steak House | Olive Ridley's Restaurant | Smithfield Wine & Liquor | Wendy's |
| Burger King | Fun Zone | Lake Placid Brewery | Our House Bistro | Snow Farm Vineyard & Winery | Whiteface |
| Busters Sports Bar & Grill | G & G Tire Co. Inc. | LakeShore Candy | OVAL Craft Brewery | Stafford, Owens, Piller, Murnane, Kelleher & Trombley, PLLC | WPTZ-TV NBC5 |
| Butcher Block | Garvey Hyundai | Latitude 44 Bistro | Panera Bread | Starbucks (personal donations) | YAMA Sushi |
| Campus Corner | | Lenny's Shoe & Apparel | Pasquale's | Stewart's Shops | Yando's Big M Supermarket |
| Century 21 | | Liquor & Wine Warehouse | Payson & Stoughton Jewelers | Strand Center Theatre | Zachary's Original |
| Champlain National Bank | | Little Japan of the North Country | | | Zuke's Deli |
| Champlain Valley Electric | | | | | |

Chalk Therapy: Bringing Smiles One Sketch at a Time

Amy Rennell
"Aim"

"When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are, anything your heart desires will come to you."
—Jiminy Cricket



Amy Rennell Favreau, SCC '93

You come from a very long line of Catholic school supporters. Can you tell us a little bit about your family and their history with the Catholic schools in the Plattsburgh area?

I graduated from Seton in 1993. My class was the first to attend all four years of Seton from its merger. My grandparents, Robert and Pauline Egan, were graduates of SJA as are my parents, Tom and Carol Rennell. Until my husband (Scott Favreau) and I moved to North Carolina, my two boys attended SJA and then Seton Academy after its beginning—making four generations that attended SJA. Both my parents and grandparents were constant volunteers working BINGO, the fair, festivals, harvest dinners, etc.

Your parents and your grandparents were always very actively involved in St. John's Academy and Seton Catholic, as well as their parishes. What influence did that commitment have on you growing up?

I honestly couldn't get away with much because they all knew everyone! But in all seriousness, their involvement led me to have a strong tie to the schools, especially SJA. I loved working the fair in the summers with my grandparents, the Carpenter families and others, and the May Festival spinning cotton candy or working the dime

pitch with all my family. It never felt like "work;" it was helping family. During college I worked part-time at St. John's, and later I returned for a period as a Teacher's Assistant and substitute in the schools. My family's involvement made the school a second home for me. My teachers later became coworkers. It was a unique way to grow up.

Tell us about your artistic interests and when you discovered you had a natural gift.

My earliest art memory was in Mrs. Brush's first grade class (SJA). We had a "love bucket" that we would draw names from and make cards for that classmate. Mrs. Brush also made cards and I always tried to recreate the Snoopy dog she was so good at drawing. I continued drawing and focused on it more at Seton in Mr. Gallagher's class, and later took other art classes in college.

Were there any teachers from St. John's Academy or Seton Catholic who stand out who helped develop and encourage your artistic abilities?

I took private lessons with Annette St. Pierre at St. John's. Dan Gallagher was probably the teacher who encouraged me the most. We shared a love of Disney, and he gave me a lot of freedom to create what inspired me. He gave me confidence in myself, even trusting me to help him paint the gym floor in the Seton gym when they needed the letters and Knight painted.

During COVID, you shared your art with neighbors in a very public way. How did the idea come about and how did the project evolve?

Before COVID shut everything down, my grandmother (Pauline Egan) was spending her annual winter visit at our house. My parents came a little early to bring her back home because COVID was starting to



become a concern and we wanted her back home safe. She unexpectedly passed away less than two weeks later. At that point, things shut down and my family could not travel safely to New York for her funeral. That was very hard as my three kids were extremely close to “Gaga” as were my husband and I. Being stuck home, I needed to find something to do to help distract from it all. I got sidewalk chalk and went out with my daughter Kayleen and started drawing. We spent hours outside drawing and talking about Gaga—it was our therapy. A few days into quarantine drawing, Kayleen asked me to draw Stitch (my first Disney character) because he was her favorite and Gaga liked him too. The chalk art took off from there. Disney was Gaga's happy place. She even spent her 91st birthday there with my family and parents, celebrating riding the roller coasters and hugging the characters. I began drawing at least one character a day, often with the help of my daughter. It became our tribute to Gaga. Apparently local moms in a Facebook group started posting our drawings. Neighbors took daily walks to see what was new. I had people travel from over an hour away to see the drawings. Someone sent info to our local Raleigh news station and I was interviewed on my “chalk walk.”

What did you learn and gain by providing such a source of hope and inspiration during the early days of quarantine and lock down?

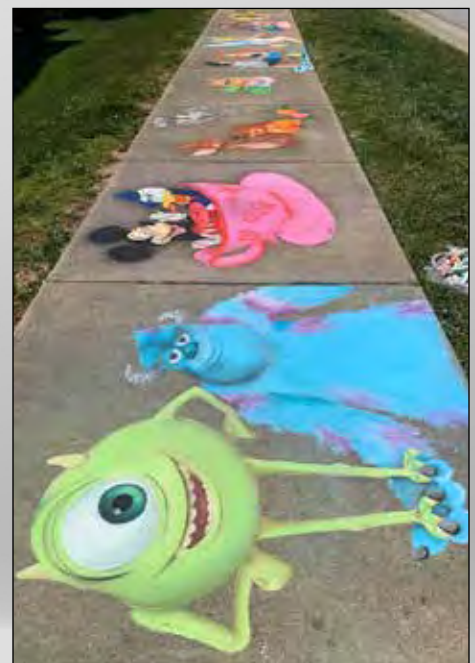
On one of Gaga's visits a few years back, I recorded some of our talks. In one recording I asked her what advice she wanted to give her grandkids and great grandkids for their futures. She looked me in the eye and said, “Use the talents God gave you” and later reminded me that I don't do enough with my artwork. It took losing her to finally listen clearly to her words. As sad and heartbroken as I was being stuck home in quarantine, missing out on a final goodbye, my sadness was lighter each day with every smile I would get from the little kids that visited. I had a couple parents who said their Disney trips were cancelled so their kids dressed up and came to pose with my drawings instead. A few times I even had lines (socially distanced) on my



sidewalk as they waited to get pictures. I drew Thumper (from Bambi) with an Easter egg and kids came all dressed on Easter Sunday to sit next to the drawing because the mall bunny wasn't an option during COVID. I could never have dreamed this would happen. Truly, I believe it was her way of giving my family peace in such a difficult time.

What advice would you give to people who might be hesitant to share their gifts with the greater community?

I never set out to do anything but help my daughter in her sadness (and my own) get through the days. I live on a quiet street in the back of a neighborhood, I never expected my talent to be seen much, let alone shared on the news, social media and all. My advice would be what Gaga told me—use the talents God gave you. By doing that, I was given so much. The gift of friendships with neighbors I had not met before. The gift of support as family and friends from around the country shipped me chalk so that I could continue bringing smiles each day (we actually had a chalk shortage in the area as bad as the toilet paper shortage!). The gift of smiles as I had countless visitors every day show up to walk our chalk walk and smile. The gift of healing as I knew deep down that Gaga had her hand in this to show me we will all be okay. And it helped others. Neighbors told me when their kids stuck at home were challenging, they would get out and take the walk to see the art, so many said it gives them something to look forward to while being stuck at home. By sharing my gift with others, I ended up receiving far more back. I haven't chalked since June when the temps hit 90s and up. I've been asked many times if I will do it again. I'm sure at some point I will, as I have plenty of chalk, but what we had during the quarantine was special and I simply can't recreate that all. But I promise Gaga that I will listen to her advice and continue using my talent in other artistic ways going forward. ■



Reflecting on a Childhood Not Forgotten



Danielle Hamel, SJA



I want to share with all of you something that our childhood buddy, Mary Castine, texted me last week with so much certitude, causing me to reflect on its truth for the first time in the 20 years since I've seen most of you: "I absolutely LOVED our childhood and being completely inseparable. I actually miss those days so much compared to being an 'adult now' and going through this entire mess."

Mary is right. She was the down-to-earth yin that balanced out my hyperactive yang...and I had completely forgotten. Her mother, Carol Castine, became an adopted mother to me, offering many of us a second home to go to (and another set of parental eyes). St. John's Academy was our community. It was a family unit so deeply embedded in our system of values that our classmates became our brothers/sisters, and their parents, an extension of our own. We only knew how to be ourselves without having the foresight to understand life's complexities and the inevitable adversity ahead.



The faces in these pictures make up some of the best memories of our childhoods. Some of those faces are no longer with us. And some of us might be in limbo; waiting for God to give the green light on what path we're supposed to follow next. This is Mary's world right now. She has remarkably persevered in her battle with a complex disease process these past few years, and recently had a prayer answered when Duke called with the news she'd be receiving her kidney transplant on August 6th. Then the end of July she was hospitalized at CVPH with sepsis, an unexpected setback that will take some time to recover from; pushing out the timeline of her transplant as well as watching her previously short road to better health just extend to an ambiguous, longer one. The hope for her transplant is now September, but without having the date locked in, we all know how taxing that uncertainty roller coaster can be on the patient and their family.



Our school might now be gone, but the education we received will never leave us. It taught me that there is no secret to living a

meaningful life: Living to serve others who are suffering and not being afraid to be the one person who shows up when someone is in need. What greater feeling is there? As a young girl, this was first evidenced by watching my father, Drew Hamel, a graduate himself of St. John's, Class of 79'. Many knew him as your mailman for many years. You invited him in to warm up during our brutal winters, a refreshment to cool off in the summers, and offered to share a meal when noticing him through your window as he progressed down his route. It was because your families gave him gifts for his service at Christmas time that he was able to afford one for me every year. This still remains the best memory I have when my family was together. After his unexpected passing 11.5 years ago, I came across boxes of cards he saved from families on his mail routes over his 20 years of services with the USPS. Judging by the overwhelming amount he brought with him to Arizona when he transferred, they were memories of gratitude that clearly meant a lot to him as well.

The 14 years I spent growing up with all of you were the best years of my childhood, just like Mary said. I don't have many pictures anymore but the ones here are enough to make us all laugh and understand now why teachers like Mr. Marino constantly wore an appearance resembling something like a tea kettle about to boil over.

If any of you have pictures from our early days together, please feel free to email them to me: danielle.e.hamel@gmail.com. I'd love nothing more than to create an album of memories for us. Taking a walk down memory lane could be something simple we could all do for Mary as she's enduring a far difficult time than most of us right now. If sorting through old pictures isn't your thing, just outsource it to your parents or grandparents...they're always in need of a reminder that we were once sweet and adorable!

Keep your chin up, Miss Mary! And remember that your family support system includes your St. John's family as well. ■



Pre-Prom Pranks

Gena Rosenbaum Trombley, SCC '02



Gena, Erica, Jess, Mary & Katie

There are so many memories I have between St. John's Academy and Seton Catholic. There are too many to choose just one. However, the one my friends and I always seem to keep coming back to was the night before prom our junior year.

My great group of friends I made at St. John's carried over into Seton. Jess, Mary, Katie and I were and still are best friends. Erika jumped in at Seton so the five of us were real tight. We decided that we wanted to do something different the night before prom. We were always pretty well behaved kids and our parents trusted us, for the most part. So we thought, why don't we camp out the night before somewhere with nothing malicious in mind. Jess had acquired her mom's old caravan named Georgie which would allow us all to fit in.

The location was another random thought. There is a water tower at the top of a long hill in the back of the neighborhood myself, Jess and Mary lived in. So the cops or any other random person would never find us up there. Plus, we would be close to home if something bad did happen. We picked up all the essential junk food that went along with a camp out in a van: chips, candy and desserts. Mary attempted to set up Jess's Fisher Price pop-up tent which she intended on sleeping in instead of the van. That ended up completely failing as she wasn't even close to being able to fit in it.

Even though it was a caravan with six seats, it was still extremely cramped with five teenagers trying to find a comfortable position to sleep in. After a whole night of chatting, laughing and eating, we managed to get zero sleep which in retrospect was the one thing we needed the night before prom. The next morning around 5am, we took off. We figured we would go get a bite to eat before checking in at school. Luckily, Dunkin Donuts was open early for breakfast. After that, we went to Big Lots and

got a bunch of outdoor games to play while waiting for school to open. We rolled into the parking lot, got the first parking spot, grabbed all our activities and began playing in the grassy area right outside the gym.

We looked like absolute crap as students started rolling in staring at us wondering what we were doing there playing in the yard that early. We finally got into school to check in, then left to go Erika's house where her mom did our nails. The rest of the day was a blur, but we got our second wind at night to pull off another all-nighter, just for a better reason this time.

The random night was one for the books and prom was even better as we danced the night away. However, the story continued a few days later when Jess and Mary's moms were chatting and thanked each other for having their kid over to their house. They looked at each other confused as no one had come over to their house and immediately knew what happened. We all eventually told our parents what we had done and they weren't so mad about the lies as they were confused as to why we would even think of doing something so random.

The numerous stories of trips on the mini buses to our sporting events to sneaking around the back of Seton where they used to board students will always make me smile. Senior basement with the bench and lounge, sprinting up four flights of stairs as a freshman trying to make it to homeroom on time, the variety of international students, pep rallies, football games, dances; all the amazing events that should happen in high school certainly did at Seton. With the class size being as perfectly numbered as it was, it made it easy to know almost everyone there, which made it a close-knit school. What a time we had and if possible, I would do it over again exactly the same way. Thanks for the memories Seton, the original North Catherine Street Seton! ■



SETON SEND-OFF: Graduating students recognized with drive-in ceremony

By Joey LaFranca, Press-Republican Sports Editor, SCC '13

The family vehicle of Seton Catholic valedictorian Luke Moore is coated with congratulatory remarks as his family, staying inside the vehicle, looks on as he delivers his speech during a drive-in graduation ceremony.

Seton Catholic held its graduation ceremony Saturday, June 20, 2020 in a way that was not conventional but certainly memorable.

Students and their families, while remaining socially distant and wearing masks, formed a semi-circle with vehicles around a stage placed on the school's practice soccer field for a drive-in event.

Wearing green and blue caps and gowns, students sat in lawn chairs placed in front of their families' vehicles with their loved ones behind them.

Cars were decorated with balloons and various congratulatory remarks in green and blue on windows, bringing a celebratory feeling to the event.

Seton Catholic principal, Mary Forbes, kicked off the ceremony with opening remarks and commended the seniors, noting their sacrifices and triumphs throughout the year and their tenacity they showcased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

One by one, each graduate was acknowledged and welcomed to the stage to pick up his/her diploma resting on a table.

Various forms of applause, and even some car horn honking, gave a liveliness to the unique circumstances.

In some cases, international students from China and South Korea were unable to attend the event because they had already returned home due to unusual scenarios presented by COVID-19 that resulted in virtual learning, but all students still had their names called.

The ceremony was also taped for all to remember.

Ms. Forbes gave her final remarks and once again addressed the senior class to say how all of the students served as excellent role models and leaders for the school.

To end her closing statement, Ms. Forbes left the students with one final thought they will carry with them in their future.

"You'll always have a home at Seton Catholic," she said.

Luke Moore

Valedictorian 2020



Class of

Excerpt from speech: A normal graduation speech might begin with “Good morning parents, honored guests, esteemed faculty, and my fellow members of the Class of 2020.” But this isn’t a normal graduation.

We lost our Senior Year. For years, we’ve watched each Senior Class go through the same traditions, knowing that one day it would be us. We were able to participate in some of those traditions. We got to demolish our teachers in the Senior/Faculty Basketball Game and laugh as Mr. Bilow failed to sink a single shot. We got to see what it was like to sell yearbook ads and plan an entrance for the Pep Rally. We got to experience the Senior Lounge. But we also lost memories. We lost our last season of high school sports. We lost the chance to take pictures for our Senior superlatives. We lost the Lock-In, mum ball games, our Baccalaureate Mass, the Reach Higher Ceremony and our Senior Retreat. Many of us have sat in Hawkins Hall and watched as our older siblings or friends walked across the stage to receive their diplomas and said to ourselves, “That’s gonna be me.”

When you see what’s going on in the world you start to feel almost guilty about being upset over what you’ve lost, because not having a normal Senior Year pales in comparison to something like being judged on the color of your skin, or LOSING your life because of it.

We’ve learned in and out of school that kindness, humility, and respect for everyone are vital to make the world a better place. We all have the ability to help others, and therefore have an obligation to do so. Showing support for the Black Lives Matter movement can take on different forms. Maybe posting on social media isn’t your thing. Then you can attend protests. Maybe you don’t feel comfortable protesting. Then you can make donations. Maybe you’re a little tight on money. Then you can sign petitions. Maybe you feel as if you don’t know enough about the issues to take action. Then you can educate yourself.

At the end of the day, everyone should be striving for equality. I’m asking that we all be decent human beings and do our part in standing up for what is right and just..

As a favorite quote of mine goes, “There is a right and a wrong in the universe, and the distinction is not hard to make.” The message is simple. Do the right thing. Always.

Joshua Waldron Bleaux
SUNY Plattsburgh

Aaron Alexander Bouchard
Saint Michael’s College

Carsen Robert Coleman
Clinton Community College

Lea Amy DeJordy
Queen’s University

Yingyin Fu
University of California, Santa Barbara

Jake Alexander Glicksman
Boston College

Alec Garrison Hemm
Clinton Community College

Logan William Kline-Frenya
Saint Anselm College

KinlanKuang
City U of Hong Kong

Hayan Lee
Undecided

Tianxiu Li
Penn State University

Luke William Moore
Harvard University

Thomas Michael Murray
University of Notre Dame



Jake Glicksman

Salutatorian 2020



Journie Mary Jean O'Dell
SUNY Plattsburgh

Foster Benjamin Ovios
Siena College

Tyler Coulman Reid
Clinton Community College

Jacob Ryan Schiff
Clinton Community College

Alexander Ronald Trombley
Clinton Community College

Avery Shea Turner
University of New England

Sophie Yi Yu Von Bargaen
St. Lawrence University

Yuanzipi Wang
Undecided

Runcheng Wu
University of Connecticut

Mingjie Xu
Michigan State University

Hang Yu
Arizona State University

Ziyu Zheng
University of California, Davis

Excerpt from speech: Today my goal is to bring more meaning to the word positivity. It would be an understatement to say that we, as a class, have been tested in our ability to be positive during the last three months. I thought it'd be positive to go over a few things we can be grateful for.

In October, we brought together one of the best pep rallies this school has ever seen. While Ms. Forbes critiqued our ability to perform a successful kick line, we chose an intro song that encompassed the rest of the pep rally which was "All I do is win," as the seniors won every game that day. Not even two classes and teachers combined could bring us down in a game of tug of war. This was right around the time Mercury spilled in our school. As the fall went on, we got comfy in the senior lounge and pooled enough money to buy a new TV. One of the most dominant senior-faculty basketball games occurred in January where Mr. Bilow scored a grand total of ZERO points. As we rounded the second half of the school year we started finding out where we got accepted to college and began planning our futures. Then...somehow...three months disappeared, and we found ourselves sitting next to our cars on a 90-degree day, 15 minutes down the road from where we wanted to graduate.

Let's be positive today about that fact that Mr. Bilow had the courage to grow a goatee, or somehow, we got Luke to play video games and Carsen to get a 100 on one of Ms. Bacon's tests. Ms. Forbes and Ms. Masten aren't allowed to yell at us for using decimals instead of fractions, Mrs. G. isn't melting in the sun, and Ms. Pombrio can't make us say "May I go to the bathroom" instead of "can I go to the bathroom." I'm most thankful for my friends, my teachers, my parents, my sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles and everyone in between who helped me grow. I urge everyone to be positive about today. Be positive you have tomorrow. Be happy you're accomplishing this task. Be proud of your children and your siblings. Be glad that we have the ability to shape the future. Be positive about what you've been given. Be positive about yourself. Being negative about what has happened will only prevent us from being happy about now. There's a saying that goes "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, and that's why it's called the present."