

# Seton

*Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine*



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Vinh Phu Bui, SCC '13  
Dr. Jon B. Olansen, SJA '83

# Message from the Editor



As the saying goes: “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

We are very proud of our diligence and persistence during the early days and months of the COVID pandemic. We worked very hard to keep instruction in school, while many schools around us were

forced to work remotely. We made it to the end of the year while only going remote for four days and we celebrated! We were hopeful that we could return to school this fall without masks and temperature taking and restrictions for spacing of desks and classrooms. We have had some victories, but like everyone else in the nation, we are still in the midst of COVID and its turmoil. The difference is, we are up for the challenge, and we know how to be flexible and adaptable.

Our teachers and staff have been outstanding throughout all of the trials and tribulations and the students have been remarkable. When we look back at all of the things we did accomplish, it is astounding. How did we manage to fit all of that into a school year like no other? We did it with faith and we did it with confidence that each day was a new day full of possibilities.

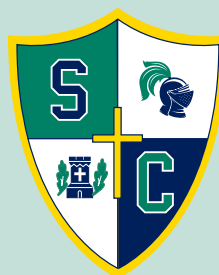
The local interest in Seton Catholic was undeniable. People wanted to know how we were able to continue teaching and learning in person throughout the year. They wanted to know our secret and they wanted to know how to do it. Our enrollment is up and we couldn't be happier about that. We welcomed new families from around the North Country and everyone is settling in just fine. Some said they didn't really know that much about Seton. How could they have missed out for so long?

Our reputation speaks for itself and we are harnessing new energy to keep our mission in the front of people's minds, not the back. Results speak volumes and we have results. We are able to boast that we have both a 100% graduation rate as well as a 100% college acceptance rate. Our International program has grown and we currently have twelve students from across the globe, including China, Thailand, Spain, France, Mexico, Brazil, Belgium, the Philippines and Italy. The cultural awareness they bring to our family is invaluable.

Thank you to everyone who believes in Seton and helps us to spread the word. You have sacrificed your time, and given your talents, by volunteering and supporting in any way you can. Our parents need a round of applause for cheering us on and working with us as we continue to navigate another school year with COVID. We know we can be successful again and we plan on it!

Think of us and pray for us, as we will keep you in our prayers. May you and your families stay well and out of harm's way. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care. You know they are our number one priority.

**Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, SJA '77**  
**Editor**



# Seton Catholic

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Member ..... Kathleen Mast, SCC '95  
Administration ..... Mary Forbes, SJA '68, Principal

### Seton Alumni Magazine (Fall 2021)

Published by: Seton Catholic  
206 New York Road  
Plattsburgh, NY 12903  
518-561-4031  
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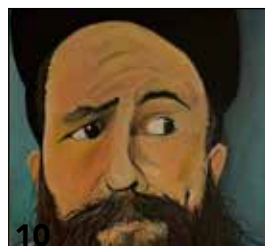
Kimberly Smith, Northeast Print Solutions

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I come to you today with a grateful heart. I am grateful for our families, students and our dedicated faculty and staff who have been leading the way for the last eighteen months. COVID has certainly thrown us a few curveballs, but it has never gotten in the way of us providing the best education around.

I admit that we were hopeful that things would be back to normal this school year, but I guess we have to be patient. Luckily we have also honed our patience skills along with our flexibility. You know you have a great team of people when everyone is on board with the protocol without hesitation.

We have welcomed new faculty this year and with them comes new energy and inspiration. Our

sports teams are up and running and impressing us with their grit. Everyone is ready to get down to the business of education.

We have been asked lately how enrollment is going and how we have dealt with the COVID pandemic. It always makes me proud to say that our enrollment is up and that we have handled the pandemic very well. We learned a lot last year and we have put that knowledge to use going forward. As things continue to change with regulations, we are ready to change with them. We certainly plan on having another successful school year with the least amount of disruption possible.

Thank you for following our stories and our successes and for keeping us in your prayers. We love to hear from alumni near and far and it is a wonderful day when we are greeted with a familiar hello from one of our graduates. We are happy to hear your stories and update you on the latest Seton news.

We are pleased to announce that we have launched a new website with a new look and ease of accessibility. Please check us out at [www.setonknights.org](http://www.setonknights.org) for all the latest and greatest news and updates. Until we meet again, stay safe and be well.

*Mary Forbes*

Principal & Athletic Director  
[mforbes@setonknights.org](mailto: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

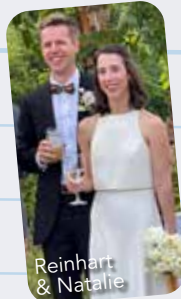
## Weddings



Nat & Rhea

Rhea Breyette, SCC '11 and Nat Abernathy were married July 17, 2021.

Reinhart Meisenheimer, SCC '08 and Natalie Elvidge were married August 29, 2021.



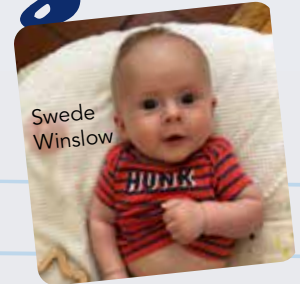
Reinhart & Natalie



Matt & Mary Brigid

Mary Brigid Cannon, SCC '10 and Matt Duranleau were engaged September 2, 2021.

Kelli Ryan, SCC '15 and Daniel Swanson were engaged September 12, 2021.



Swede Winslow

Matt Dickson, SCC '03 and his wife Anna Meisenheimer Dickson, SCC '06 welcomed a son, Swede Winslow Dickson June 11, 2021.

Dylan Raville, SCC '07 and his wife Kayleigh welcomed a son, Sawyer James Raville August 25, 2021.

Amber Smalley Myerowitz, SCC '05 and her husband Zev welcomed a son, Shea Joseph Myerowitz August 27, 2021.

Alexandra Barie Ashline, SCC '09 and her husband Eric welcomed a daughter, Lucie Christine Ashline September 15, 2021.

Katelyn Mockry Christiansen, SCC '04 and her husband, Kyle welcomed a daughter, Madelyn Josephine Christiansen September 26, 2021.

## In Memoriam

Arthur Tremblay, St. Mary's Academy '47 died April 12, 2020.

James Louis Longtin, MAI '53 died May 14, 2020.

Dale Elliott Tremblay, MAI '57 died May 23, 2020.

Terry Joseph Condo, MAI '64 died June 28, 2020.

Margaret Quinn Kennedy, SJA '56 died July 10, 2020.

Continued on page 8...

## Engagements

Patrick Murnane, SCC '07 and Toni Block were engaged December 21, 2020.

Andrew McGill, SCC '00 and Jayme Keable were engaged January 24, 2021.

Kaitlin Hynes, SCC '08 and Wes Paladino were engaged May 16, 2021.

Nic Favreau, SCC '14 and Carly Bania were engaged May 21, 2021.

Abigail Lawrence, SCC '10 and Daniel Seanez were engaged July 13, 2021.



Kevin & Genna

Genna Hartung, SCC '09 and Kevin Phipps were engaged August 13, 2021.

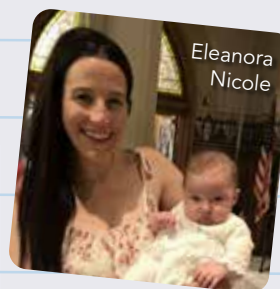
Elizabeth Lawrence, SCC '08 and Casey Palmer were engaged August 26, 2021.

## Births

Zachary Eppler, SCC '06 and his wife, Becky welcomed a son, Ezra Reinhardt Eppler December 15, 2020.

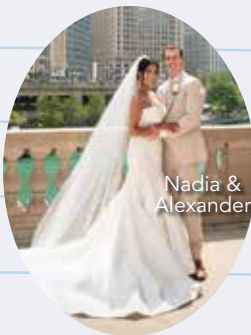
Beck Meisenheimer, SCC '05 and his wife Courtney welcomed a son, Sig Philip Meisenheimer February 17, 2021.

Matthew Seymour, SCC '09 and Renee Egan Seymour, SCC '09 welcomed a son, Cooper Robert Seymour. March 24, 2021.



Eleanora Nicole

Ali Pellerin Kinahan, SCC '07 and her husband Mike welcomed a daughter, Eleanora Nicole Kinahan May 9, 2021.



Nadia & Alexander

Alexander Wylie, SCC '09 and Nadia Anwar were married July 24, 2021.

Cody Quantock, SCC '14 and Abby Palmerton were married July 31, 2021.

Kate Schofield, SCC '12 and Jordan Barriere were married August 6, 2021.

Ryan Fessette, SCC '05 and Samantha Lavigne were married August 6, 2021.

Neal Kirby, SCC '07 and Brittany Place were married August 21, 2021.

# MAI Alumni Association

## Rob Buran, MAI '75



Attending MAI helped me grow up quickly. It changed the way I looked and dressed. I was proud to wear a tie and sports jacket. Those days you were

looked up to by locals who could tell you were a Mountie, by your attire and the way you presented yourself.

Back in the fall of 1984, Jim Goff, MAI '71, called and asked me to join him at a MAI Alumni Association meeting. When I got there, they asked me to be Vice-President. Of course I said yes, immediately.

I have kept participating in the MAI Alumni Association because I enjoyed seeing friends I hadn't seen in years. The alumni were always excited to see the members of the Alumni Association. Reunions were always special and I think we provided a continuity for the alumni. When they entered the room they seemed to look more at ease when they would see us. They knew they were being greeted by friends who shared a common bond.

I would say that the most important gift I received from my Catholic education was just that! My Catholic education has helped guide me through my life both personally and professionally.



Aside from the Alumni Association I have a lot of hobbies and interests. I'm a champion bass fisherman, a licensed ham radio operator,

KB1FWU, and I do all kinds of work with music. I have always been happy to provide a sound system for the reunions since 2003. My buddies in Nashville asked me to be their Executive Producer for their latest project called "Reign Of Blues." And I also enjoy remastering vinyl LPs to CDs.

I am proud of my affiliation with the MAI Alumni Association and the work that we have done to keep in touch with alumni. I am happy to continue that effort with the combined Seton, MAI and SJA alumni. I hope I see you walk through the door at the next reunion. I will be sure to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about our Mountie history.

## Mickey Maynard, MAI '76



My work with the MAI Alumni Association began about 10 years after my graduation. I knew a number of people who were working on the Alumni Association at that time and decided to get involved. Brother Rene was the moderator then, and continued to be until he passed away. I'm a past Vice President and board member.

My interests include family history and my retirement career. I am a fishing charter Captain, now sixteen years in operation. I got involved with my genealogy beginning in high school at MAI, being mentored by Brother Joe Martin. My first career, as a corrections officer, allowed me plenty of time to work on a history project that was spawned from the interest in my family tree. That project came to be known as "The English Settlers of Lacolle, Quebec". I taught myself to write hypertext mark up language by reading a book on the subject. It was my plan to put my history project on the internet, building a website to share my research with others. The book suggested that I first build a practice page. Well, practice I did! My practice website was LakeChamplainAngler.com. This multi-page site was, at that time, the late 1990s, the most comprehensive source for fishing information on Lake Champlain. From that site I began to get requests to take people fishing. Since Lake Champlain is federal water, a Coast Guard license is required. I worked to that end and that license allowed me to be employed as a ferry Captain and tour boat Captain out of Burlington, as well as a tow and salvage operator on the lake. These "novelty" positions were stepping stones as I brought my fishing business to the successful place it is today.

For more information on Lake Champlain Angler Fishing Charters and/or Harris Chain of Lakes please visit <http://www.LakeChamplainAngler.com/>. You may also contact Mick at 518-578-9273 or [captainmick@lakechamplainangler.com](mailto:captainmick@lakechamplainangler.com). Happy Fishing!



## Donald Recore, MAI '72

Having attended MAI was perhaps the greatest blessing I have ever received and it took me a long time to realize just what that was. Today, people have what they think are new ideas such as “Inclusion” “Diversity, and a strong feeling of Community.” What most people never realized is that MAI and the Brothers of Christian Instruction had a vision to “teach all youth” as early as the 1920’s.

In order for their vision to be realized, they had to incorporate students from other countries who paid tuition, room and board. The Brothers also provided activities on a 24 hour a day basis for the students. The Brothers became not just teachers, but the guardians and mentors for all these children.

Local students were allowed to attend MAI and I remember working in the summer to save up enough money. It cost \$300 for my tuition, as my parents had five boys!

In the following years after graduation from MAI, I finally realized that learning about other countries, cultures and life-styles of the student “Boarders”, was a tremendous asset for all of us “Mounties”.

I came back to MAI for the 10th Reunion of the Class of 1972 in 1982, of course. There I met the Alumni Officers: John Trombley —President, Andre Lawliss, Ellen Bouchard, Jim Rood -Treasurer, and of course, Brother Rene Demers. I was almost immediately interested in helping to preserve the history of MAI, and within a few months, I was attending Alumni meetings. We had a great Alumni Room in the basement of MAI with trophy cases, banners, and all of the class graduation photos on display.

I started out assisting Brother Rene with learning how to use a computer, the best lesson in patience I ever had! Rene and I became good friends and we updated and expanded the publications of the Alumni Newsletter called “The Bridge”. Brother Rene would supply various types of information that would help fill the pages of the newsletter, as he constantly searched for news about an alumnus on a daily basis. I would then put the publication together. The Bridge reached its peak when we were mailing out 5,300 issues, 4 times a year, to graduates in 19 different countries. Some of them lived in: Japan, China, Canada, Germany, England, France, Dominican Republic, Mexico—and even New York City (a country of its own)! Talk about that diversity—We lived it, and grew along with it.

Andre Lawliss retired from the Association and Rob Buran joined, John Trombley stepped down as President and I moved up the



ranks. Jim Rood and I became good friends and when MAI and St. John’s merged into Seton Catholic and eventually moved into the current facility on the old Plattsburgh Air Force Base, we had to look at moving the entire Alumni Room to a new facility.

Jim and I started work on a vacant garage behind the new Seton Catholic on the base and we wired, insulated, painted and sheet rocked

the 2-car garage into the “Brother Rene Alumni Room,” in Honor of Brother Rene Demers- long time Alumni Director for the Association. Steve Fregeau did the moldings for us and the entire crew manually moved everything we had from the basement of the old MAI to the new Alumni room.

I have lost track of the number of years that I was involved with the Alumni Association, but I can tell you they were very rewarding and likely totaled over 30 years!

When I look back at my Catholic education, there are many things that I can reflect upon that were great and even a few that were not. I believe that the idea of a “Moral, ethical and tolerant educational experience,” is a model that education should have followed. We were taught, not by books alone, but by the examples of those who taught us. I have mentioned Brother Raymond Fortin in the past and his thoughtful statement that “my work is my prayer,” and I have never met a person who worked (prayed) so hard!

This education has prepared me to adjust to the troubles that happen to everyone. Life is not found in a book, but in a person’s ability to react in a modest way to all things encountered. We learned to bob and weave around the trouble we encounter and that makes us handle things better.

Now that I am no longer at the helm of the Alumni Association, I must say that I do miss the old days and relationships we developed. My wife tells her friends that she married a “professional volunteer”.

While I still operate my own Insurance Agency, I still have a full schedule. My office gets me 45-50 hours per week. I teach NYS Driver Safety Classes, I play golf twice a week in the summer. I believe that I have 4 job titles with the Knights of Columbus currently, with a 38-year involvement with them. I am also very active with the support of my church, the new “Holy Cross” parish in Plattsburgh, NY.

I have been married to my best friend Dawn, for 48 years now and we have two children and three grandchildren. We hope to see many more years together thanks to the blessings and good health that we have been given..

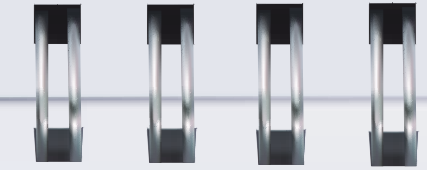


## Donald Moore, MAI '76

Years ago I got a call from Rob Buran, MAI '75, who asked me to join the MAI Alumni Association. I immediately was given the position of treasurer, because of my background as a Certified Public Accountant. When I first became involved, Michael Rubal, MAI '60, was in the Association and Brother Rene was very active. We were also fortunate to have Mickey Maynard, MAI '76 and Donald Recore, MAI '72 bring their many years of knowledge and expertise to the group as well. Jessica Way Dukett, MAI '89, also contributed her time and talent.

We started meeting at the garage that had been converted into the Alumni room behind Seton. Years later we ended up emptying it out and moved to a designated Alumni room at Seton Catholic. When the school needed that room for office and classroom space, we began to meet in my office. We continued writing "The Bridge" and continued fund drives. We also provided annual scholarships and we reviewed the letters from deserving students in need of financial assistance. We awarded as many scholarships as we could. We were always aware that our alumni base was shrinking, but we made every attempt to keep our database updated, so we could keep our alumni informed and connected. We definitely had a loyal base that continued to support the annual fund drives. Don Recore engaged the Alumni Channel to have a place where Alumni could access that database and Alumni news. It was always nice to plan and help with the annual Alumni reunion and get to mix with my classmates and friends from the highlighted years at reunions. I always enjoyed being involved in the Alumni Association and giving back to my fellow Mounties.

In recent years I began a new hobby, riding ElliptiGO bicycles. ElliptiGO is a stand up elliptical bike that combines the motion of an indoor elliptical trainer with the outdoor mobility of a traditional bicycle. I enjoyed riding my ElliptiGO so much that I decided to become a dealer for the company that is based in Solana Beach, CA. Adirondack ElliptiGO sells their many models of stand up bikes and accessories. I plan to ride the 40k bike ride in the Peru Octoberfest again this year and I hope to educate our community about the enjoyment and health benefits of riding these incredible bikes. ElliptiGOs are also for rent at Adirondack ElliptiGO and rental fees will be applied against the purchase price. You can contact me at AdirondackElliptiGO@gmail.com or 518-310-7030 for more information. You can also check us out on our Facebook page, Adirondack Elliptigo LLC. Happy Cycling! ■



# Class Notes

Continued from page 5...

## In Memoriam

John F. Crowley, SJA '51 died  
October 5, 2020.

Lucian R. Bernard, MAI '46 died  
November 3, 2020.

Ann Marie Fresn Usticke, SJA '57  
died December 4, 2020.

William L. Deloria, MAI '49 died  
December 27, 2020.

Joseph G. Verville, MAI '52 died  
January 5, 2021.

John Allen, SJA '43 died  
January 14, 2021.

David E. Canepa, MAI '73 died  
February 10, 2021.

Betty Trombly Pavone, D'Youville  
Academy '45 died February 20, 2021.

Paul Steven Senecal, MAI '53 died  
February 21, 2021.

Charles Lyman Poquette, MAI '58  
died March 7, 2021.

Katherine Jackson Clark, SJA '54  
died March 19, 2021.

Suzanne Carpenter Conners,  
employed by St. John's Academy  
for 30 years died April 6, 2021.

Alfred B. Light, MAI '41 died  
June 5, 2021.

Gregory Camelo, MAI '73 died  
June 25, 2021.

Anne Christine Bell, SJA '73 died  
July 22, 2021.

William George Carr, MAI '61 died  
August 4, 2021.

Edgar Bousquet, MAI '55 died  
August 7, 2021.

Donald L. Racette, Sallaz Academy  
'50 died August 17, 2021.



# One Step and Seed at a Time

## Michael Champagne, SCC '10

Photos by Chase Pellerin, SCC '09



Michael Champagne, SCC '10, was a standout runner during his high school years at Seton Catholic. He came to it naturally as both his parents, David and Kathy Brandell Champagne, SJA '80, were both accomplished runners in their day. Kathy Champagne continues to run and coach Seton Catholic Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track. All three of the Champagne siblings, Michael, SCC '10, Mary Kate, SCC '08 and Meg (Margaret), SCC '16 ran for Seton and continued their running careers at their respective colleges, Iona, Providence and University of New Hampshire. All three were very accomplished and running continues to be a family affair.

In addition to running, farming played a large part in Michael's life. Growing up, he was introduced to farming through his Grandfather, Richard Brandell. Mr. Brandell graduated from St. John's Academy in 1953. I guess you could call Mr. Brandell a local "gentleman" farmer. He had a small farm on Cumberland Head with pigs, chickens and cows and he made a living by collecting, pasteurizing and distributing fresh milk to families in the North Country. The name of his business was Bay View Dairy and it was a staple in the surrounding area. Michael grew up surrounded by the beauty and sustainability of living a self-sufficient way of life. Both farming and running have played a large part in Michael's life and his career.

A summer internship started his journey into farming and there was no looking back. From that internship and long days of hard work, Michael is now managing his own farm and considers himself a vegetable farmer. His specialties are salad greens—spinach, arugula, baby kale, carrots, beets, tomatoes and peppers. Farming is done the old fashioned way, with respect for the soil and the earth. The correlation between the hard work of running and the



discipline of farming run hand in hand. Both require a lot of self-motivation and drive. Michael says "I find myself farming and thinking how similar it is to running. When I am running a lot, all I think about is food, and when I am farming, all I think about is food. My whole life has been surrounded by both food and hard work. They truly go hand in hand."

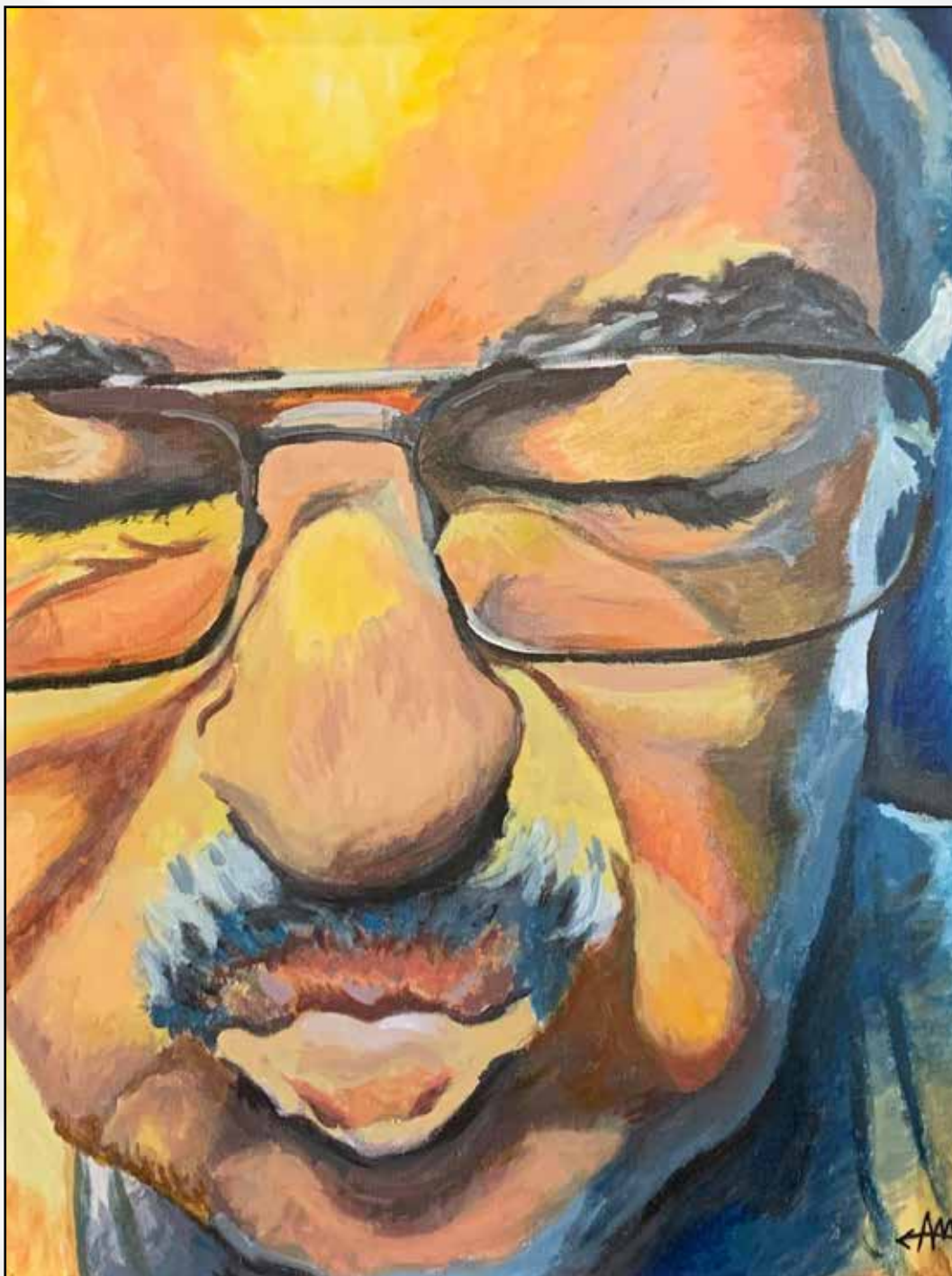
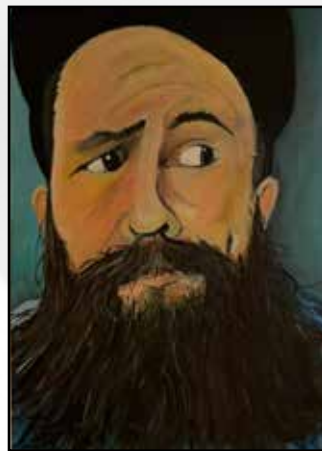
Farming takes up so much of his time that Michael has to make time for running. It still provides stress relief and reminds him of the exhilaration of running races and competing against his own best time. That mentality also drives him to succeed at farming, one seed at a time, one crop at a time. The goal is the product at the end of the season and that is similar to the time at the end of a race. The outcome comes from all of the hard work put into it.

Running a farm in the Hudson Valley has been both challenging and rewarding for Michael. During COVID, people were looking for ways to purchase their food without going to crowded grocery stores. People began to realize that they wanted local food that was grown in their own communities. The pandemic actually provided a boom of sorts for small farms like Michael's.

Stay tuned for the next chapter in Michael's career as he plans to move back to the North Country and farm local land. His vegetables will soon be available in our area and the race is on to see how soon. Good luck Michael! ■

# Squishy Faces

Andrew McGill, SCC '00



Local artist and educator, Andrew McGill, SCC '00, recently started a send-me-a-silly face appeal which led to a series of “Squishy Face” portraits of family and friends. His work was featured at a Pop-Up Gallery Exhibition at the Strand Center for the Arts in Plattsburgh. We asked McGill about the “Squishy Face” project and his art journey.

“I had always had an interest in art from grade school on. My first art classes were at St. Peter’s Elementary. It was then that I realized I loved the tactile experience of “hands on” engagement. My interest in art continued when I attended Seton Catholic. The art room was all the way on the fourth floor at Seton where freshman classes were held. I remember being intrigued by the MC Escher painting on the door of the art room.

High school art was what I was most excited about and my art teacher was Miss Michelle Zerkowitz. She was like most art teachers, very eccentric and engaging. I initially didn’t have much direction as far as what medium I wanted to pursue, but I enjoyed the process of art creation and was very supported in my exploration of the different media by Miss Z. That pushed me to continue my art education

at SUNY Plattsburgh, where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a concentration in ceramics. It was while I was enrolled in the Studio Art program at Plattsburgh, that Miss Z not only came through the art building with her then current Seton students, but was invited and came to see my senior exhibit. That was just another example of how supportive and encouraging the teachers at Seton were.

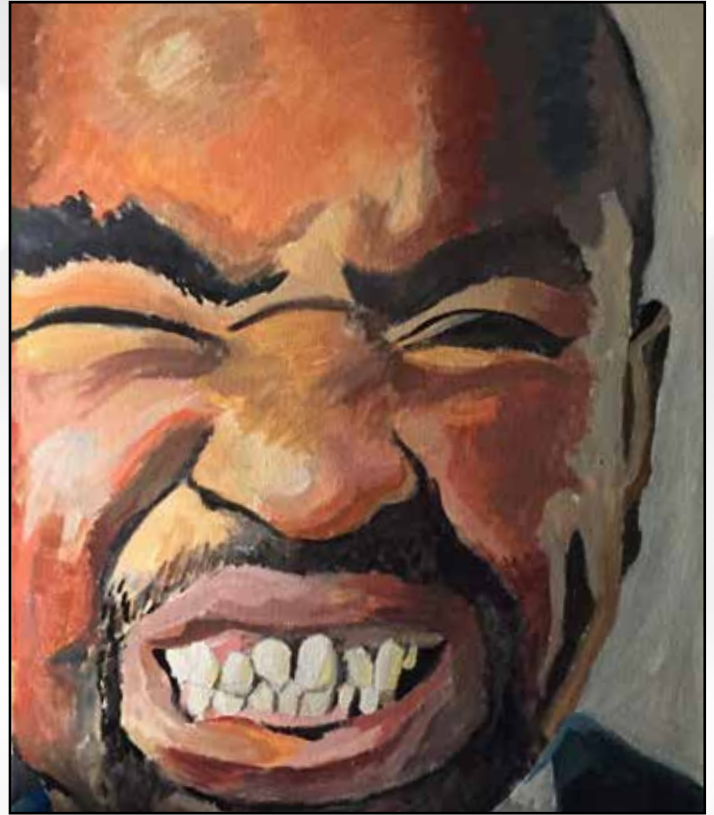


I have fond memories of Seton and how much it impacted not only my education, but also my character. I didn't realize how much I learned there until I was on my own, in college, and responsible for developing my own study habits, schedules, and of course friend circles. I can speak for many Seton alums

when I say that the values that were instilled in us during our high school years played an important role in who we chose to become both in our daily lives and occupations. I am an art educator of 9 years, and can directly link that passion to how I learned from all of my previous art teachers."

McGill continued his education at SUNY Plattsburgh and earned a master's degree in education. From there, he traveled to North Carolina to begin his teaching career. He taught art in various elementary and middle schools in Fayetteville, Smyrna, Atlantic and Harker's Island. A move to Charlotte brought him to Piedmont Middle School which is an IB (International Baccalaureate) world school. It was there that McGill's artistic expression was stretched and he began to develop other artistic mediums.

His "Squishy Faces" series began with a portrait of his father, Patrick, a retired former acting justice of the Clinton County Supreme Court and Clinton County Court judge. Inspired by the challenge of painting someone you know, led McGill to capture one of his father's familiar, silly expressions which resembled a "squishy face."



"I painted it and realized there's just an intimacy with painting not only someone you know but just painting someone else. You really start to study the details of someone's face. I think it's more relevant now, in the times we are in, where we only see half of someone's face. You start to study someone and you become connected to them before you even really know them. The first portrait just kind of flew out of me because it was my dad." When McGill sent out requests to friends and family to share their "go-to-silly face", he began to receive all kinds of photos. The "Squishy Face" series was launched.



In addition to teaching and sharing his latest project, McGill is very involved in local art. He has joined the Outside Art: Plattsburgh Public Art Project, which produces and spreads local awareness of public art projects around the world. Our own Seton art teacher extraordinaire, Les Cosgrove, is involved along with Julia Devine (parent of four Seton students) and Amy Guglielmo, who are both directors. You can see the creativity of their labor in numerous murals around the city of Plattsburgh. You can also check them out on their Facebook page: "Outside art: Plattsburgh Art Project." ■

# PATCH 10

## Brynn Fessette O'Neill, SCC '04



Brynn Fessette O'Neill

### **Tell us a little bit about your years in Catholic school.**

I have nothing but great memories from my time at St. John's and Seton Catholic. From the very beginning, the small classroom sizes gave us the care and attention that contributed to a positive learning environment. Our teachers were exceptional, and I truly feel that they taught us valuable life lessons that we were able to carry with us outside of the classroom. Playing sports has always played a major role in my life and having had the opportunity to play on small teams, under some incredible coaches, was definitely a huge highlight of my time at Seton. Most importantly, I met some great friends at St. John's and Seton. I mean, many of my friendships started way back in PreK at St. John's! Meagan (Murray) DeLuca, Erica (Latour) Terhune and Katelyn (Mockry) Christiansen are some of my very best friends and we have experienced all stages of life together, including our current "kid phase," which ultimately has us laughing all the time. Nothing will ever replace the memories I have from St. John's and Seton and I'm so grateful for that.

### **Where did you go to college and what was your major?**

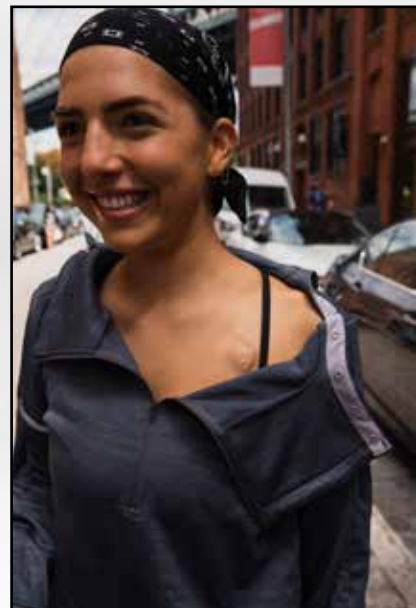
I attended Ithaca College, where I got my doctorate in Physical Therapy. Go Bombers!

### **How did the idea of Patch 10 come about and what was the driving force behind the idea?**

A few summers ago, my sister Stevie and I were visiting my Meme (who has since passed away from Dementia), and we saw how difficult it was for my father to give her a simple shot in the arm. I thought that there had to be an easier way to open up clothing so that individuals can get the medical interventions they need. I remember it vividly- it was an instant "light bulb" moment! That following summer, I spent time on a blood cancer floor at a hospital in NYC to do some market research, where I met some of the most incredible people. I learned their stories, I met their families and I saw that when someone gets a diagnosis, no matter how big or small, their life completely changes. It was in my time with them that I realized that doing one small thing to make someone feel a little bit more like oneself can do wonders for a person. We all hate the hospital gown, so creating garments that can somehow eliminate that need feels like a step in the right direction.

### **What steps did you then take to create and market the product?**

One of the best things about being a PT is that you get to treat so many amazing people. It was even better when I treated people in New York City and made connections to vast networks and people from all different professions. After my time at the hospital,



I reached out to former patients that I knew, who were in design and production and they helped me determine if this was something I could actually pursue. Since then, I've met with hundreds of individuals from all different disciplines so that I could learn and ask questions. I never, ever turned down an invitation or an introduction...EVER! Through all the networking, I got linked up with some skilled designers and knowledgeable advisors and the rest is history! Our first shirt strategically opens up in the chest and sleeves to allow for Port, PICC line and dialysis fistula accessibility. We wanted to bridge the gap between medical functionality and fashion so that you could wear our shirt throughout treatment, but then after it as well.

***How has Patch 10 been received and where do you see the future of the company headed?***

We are new to the market scene, as we just launched last fall, but so far, the response has been great! Patients, caregivers and health care professionals are loving the product, but this is just the beginning. I'd love for PATCH 10 to be the medical clothing company- one that truly transforms the "patient experience" and caters to all types of treatments and diagnoses. It's important to me that we create a strong community of patients and survivors, all while embodying a strong mission of empowerment and self-worth.

***How did the decision to give back a percentage of your profits come about?***

This was always at the core of the company's mission. I was not going to launch the business without it. At the end of the day, I want to make a difference in the world and I want PATCH 10 to make a positive, meaningful impact on society.

***What do you like most about running a business and being your own boss?***

Well, I'm laughing because it's honestly been so difficult. With a background in Physical Therapy, I had no idea how to start a clothing business and handle all the legal and accounting work that comes with it. I also had to learn (still am) all about how design, production and manufacturing work! It's hard, really hard. The greatest takeaway is how much I've learned throughout this process, not only about business but also about myself, in finding my own strengths and weaknesses.



***What advice would you give anyone interested in pursuing their dream of starting a business?***

Do it!! Don't leave room for "What If's". There are good days and there are bad days, and I promise, there are more bad days than good, but just keep moving forward. Take small, achievable steps and doors will open simply because you kept moving forward. There is no set path and there are no right answers, so you have to trust your gut. Don't be afraid to ask for help, because people are willing to help more than you would realize. Surround yourself with individuals who elevate you and push you to be better. Recognize your weaknesses and pull people onto your team who balance out those weaknesses with their strengths. And last but not least, never view failure as a negative thing but instead, use it as a stepping stone for your next big learning opportunity! ■

***Check us out at [www.patch10.com](http://www.patch10.com)***

# Creating and Sustaining Change

## Philip Yang, SCC '17



We have some fabulous news to share about one of our Seton graduates who is doing amazing things. Philip Yang, SCC '17, recently graduated summa cum laude from Villanova University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Geography. In the summer of 2018, Philip traveled on a Villanova abroad language program to China. This experience sparked an interest in him to become a better global citizen and to begin studying environmental conservation and sustainability. During his time at Villanova, Philip most fondly recalls his involvement in Dr. Samantha Chapman's research lab, where he grew as a scientist. He was a member of Alpha Phi Omega and Phi Beta Kappa. In addition, he was an active basketball player and served as the Vice President of Men's Club Basketball.

Philip was awarded 1 of 8 annual Fulbright Student Open Study/Research Grants to perform fisheries research and act as a U.S. cultural ambassador to the Philippines for the academic year of 2021-'22. The fisheries research project he will be joining is called FISH Right and funded by the USAID to do sustainable fishing research in three regions of the Philippines. While in Puerto Princesa City, Philip will also spend time working at a local environmental legal assistance center. Filipinos share his love for basketball, and Philip will use this avenue to connect with the local community—from coaching at Palawan State University to playing pick-up in the streets. Due to the pandemic,

his Fulbright award start date was delayed until January 2022, but Philip remains optimistic it will still happen.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946, and since that time it has changed the lives of over 390,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and professionals of all backgrounds. The fellowship provides a unique opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research while also providing solutions to international issues and concerns. These talented individuals address critical global challenges in all fields. Many Fulbright alumni have been awarded Pulitzer Prizes and the coveted Nobel Prize. We are so proud to have our own Philip Yang join those prestigious ranks.

When this adventure ends, Philip will continue his education by pursuing a PhD in marine science at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (URIGSO) or the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) affiliated with the College of William & Mary. His goal is to provide a better understanding of oceanic and environmental phenomena. Philip would love to eventually work at a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and study coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife. Writing articles for magazines like National Geographic, telling stories and communicating science, would also greatly interest Philip.

Philip's brother, Neil, also attended Seton Catholic and graduated in 2019. His sister, Faline, is currently a Senior and his youngest sibling Alan is attending 7th grade.

Philip says, "I am forever grateful for my experiences at Seton because its community inspired me to become who I was not yet. I hope my own accomplishments motivate others in my community to do what they are truly passionate about, and to dream to reach big goals."

If anyone has any further questions for Philip and would like to connect or reach out to him, he is available through email at [philipyang14@gmail.com](mailto:philipyang14@gmail.com). ■

**For more information on the Fulbright Scholarship check out the links below.**

**Villanova article:** <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/media/pressreleases/2020/0504.html>

**Fulbright website:** <https://us.fulbrightonline.org>

**Philip's undergraduate research lab:**  
<https://www.wetfeetproject.com/>

**A story map Philip made of his life to-date:**  
<https://arcg.is/LrCeP>

# Faline Yang and the Tom McFadden Scholarship



**U**p coming senior, Faline Yang, was recently awarded the first ever Thomas J. McFadden Scholarship! This scholarship is named in honor of Mr. McFadden, whose decades of service and commitment to the cause of Catholic education in Plattsburgh, NY, made possible the education for students past, present and future. The scholarship is awarded only to students who demonstrate leadership to the school community in faith, service, academics, athletics, or music. CONGRATULATIONS, Faline! You are the perfect example of what this scholarship represents and what Tom McFadden was looking for in a student when he made this scholarship a reality with his family. We know you will carry on the legacy that he began at St. John's Academy and continued throughout the history of Seton Catholic. We are so proud of you and are thankful for the continued support and the strong relationship we have with Tom McFadden and his family!



Tom McFadden, SJA '60

***If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship fund  
email Susan Pellerin: [spellerin@setonknights.org](mailto:spellerin@setonknights.org)***

# Nick Palma

## Valedictorian 2021



Well, first of all, I'd like to thank Gillian for setting the bar so high with her speech. I'm glad you felt I needed the extra pressure. In all sincerity though, I could not be more grateful to be standing here in front of you today as a part of our class. You all deserve the biggest thanks and congratulations.

Looking back, I remember joining this class like it was yesterday. I worried everyone would wonder why I was there and think I didn't belong, and coming from a class of mostly boys, I was especially worried about what being in class with mainly girls would entail. And while I have been a part of shared drama and most certainly been subject to a lot of teasing, I know that that 8th grade boy really had nothing to worry about. After joining this class you all soon became the reason I enjoyed coming to school. And together, its not a stretch of our imaginations to say we have had quite the invaluable experience here at Seton Catholic. With its intense school competitions (that we've hardly ever won), amazing teachers (though the Math teachers always seem to get scared off) and Mrs. Bushey's cookies, Seton Catholic has done a great job making this place our home for the last few years. It is most certainly a place to which we owe a great deal of credit for making us the men and women we are today, and to which we all owe our thanks for allowing us to grow together as a class. Granted we have had our ups and downs and I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge what I feel is this class's single most unifying experience: The COVID-19 Pandemic.

Over the past year and a half, our class has had to overcome struggles that no one could have anticipated. We endured going without seeing our friends and extended family for periods of time much longer than any of us were accustomed to. We worked hard to tackle our academics, despite the upsets the virus brought upon us. And we all braved the higher education process in a year where the colleges didn't know what they were doing, let alone us. As if that wasn't enough, we have also been ushered into adulthood during a time of increasingly intense and polar political environments with issues such as the BLM movement, Capitol riot, conflicts overseas and many more events, presenting themselves this year and urging us to take a side. Without a doubt, our senior year has been an overwhelming and difficult one. And yet that did not stop us from making the most of it. We enjoyed celebrating homecoming at Anthony's, dressing up in ridiculous blow-up costumes for Halloween and making Ms. Forbes' room our senior lounge, much to her dismay. We pulled off a last-minute Prom that greatly exceeded all expectations and we had a fantastic time at our senior retreat getting lost because of Mr. Bilow. We also slept in a building that lost power.

As we graduate today, I hope you look back as fondly as I do and that you take pride in what we have done this year. We successfully took on the unprecedented challenges life threw at us and managed to have fun while doing so. We somehow emerged from both a pandemic and high school unscathed, undeterred, and ready for what comes next. That is truly incredible, and it bodes well for each of our futures. Hopefully, you remember all this as proof that struggle can be valuable.

With all this in mind, as I look at this class, and the year we have just overcome, I know without a doubt we are going to change the world; not because we can, but because we have to. And I don't think any one of you would disagree. We can all recognize this need for change, because this world is far from perfect. Though how you will cause this change I cannot say, as that is your prerogative. But if you remember all we have learned here at Seton Catholic and look to the future without fear but with exhilaration, I promise these next steps will be incredible. So please, do make the changes you feel the world needs. Follow your ambitions because you deserve that journey, and the world needs to witness your dreams realized!



**Olivia Lee Barnett**  
University of Rhode Island



**Marine Sophie Beauduin**  
Decision Pending



**Gillian Grace Boulé**  
Lafayette College



**John Michael Conti**  
SUNY Pattsburgh



**Savannah Mae DeJordy**  
Queen's University



**Sara Di Patrizio**  
Decision Pending



**Kolbee Jacob Lapoint**  
Siena College





**Haley Kathryn Murnane**  
SUNY Albany



**Emma Nidasi**  
Decision Pending



**Nicholas Alexander Palma**  
University of Notre Dame



**Morgan Alexis Reid**  
Merrimack College



**Kennedy Christine Spriggs**  
Le Moyne College



**Alexander Michael Wendling**  
Decision Pending

# Gillian Boulé

## Salutatorian 2021



It's funny, as I was walking up here, I was thinking that we all have a lot in common today. You don't know what I'm going to say and neither do I. Why don't we start with this? Not many people can say they graduated from high school with a class of 13 kids. Anytime our small class size comes up in conversation with someone, you always get the same response. It's always the initial shock and then they feel bad for you or see it as a negative. But in my opinion, it has actually been a positive. A lot of us have been together from the start, while some joined in middle school and others only a short time ago. But we've quickly meshed as a class.

When you only have 13 in your grade, it's not just your class. It's like being a part of a large family. There are times when you get along and other times when you simply don't. But when you stop and reflect, you realize how many shared memories we have and how much we've grown together.

Over the years, we've made a lot of great memories; in elementary school, going on all of our field trips to places like the Teddy Bear Factory, Ausable Chasm, and hiking Mount Jo. Now fast forward to senior year. We still managed to make a lot of memories that we didn't expect to make before the start of the year in September.

At that point, everything was unknown. We questioned: Are we going to school in person? Are we going to have sports? Will there be senior activities? Will there be senior outings? Are we going to have a graduation?

On September 8, 2020, we were 100% in person and one of the very few schools in our area to do so, another advantage of having a smaller school.

Not only did we begin in person classes, we had all our sports seasons, although they were delayed, abbreviated, and masked. We had our senior pep rally and homecoming dinner, and to end the year we were able to have our prom and attend senior retreat. One thing about the pandemic is that it affected every single person in some profound way; on some level, it was a shared experience. We had to adapt with the constantly changing COVID regulations and guidelines, quarantining, remote periods. We worried about our family members getting sick, and some lost people close to them. Overall, it was a crazy, life-changing year.

But we have gotten through it, and we continue to move forward together.

And here we are today, on June 19, 2021, celebrating our graduation together, along with our classmates, family, friends, faculty, and staff at the place that has become our home. I think I speak for us all when I say that we are going to miss this place. We are going to miss all the things we've done as a class, like the Senior/Faculty basketball game and our group

Halloween costume event. We're going to miss crushing Mr. Bilow in mum ball every Friday and Mrs. Bushey's chicken fajitas. And we're especially going to miss all the knowledge our classmates have given us; like when Morgan informed the class that Panama is actually located in Japan, and when John told us all that a married man is not allowed to bend over to touch his toes.

It is unique to form such a strong bond with your classmates as well as your teachers in the way that many of us have.

I sincerely want to thank the staff and teachers not only for providing us with an excellent academic framework, but also for the immense role each of you has played in shaping us as caring, responsible young adults. Through this guidance we will be able to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and succeed in whichever endeavors lie ahead.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't single out Ms. Forbes. A special thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We recognize it was an extremely trying, difficult, and stressful year for you. But you pulled it off. You gave us a senior year when the year was in doubt, and for that we will be forever grateful. Thank you all.

2021

# From Seton, Back to Seton,

## Samantha Bashaw, SCC '16



**Where do you go after college graduation in the middle of a pandemic? Home is always a good choice! Sometimes opportunities arise and you have to take a leap of faith.**

In the summer of 2020 Samantha Bashaw, SCC '16, joined the Seton Catholic faculty as the Director of International Students.

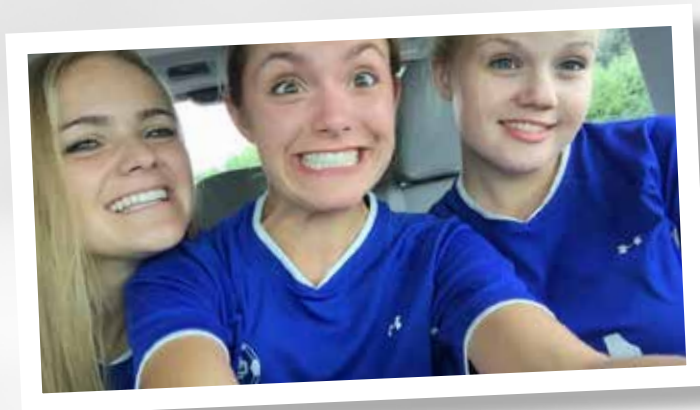
She had a challenging year jumping into this position because of the state of the

world and the pandemic. Our numbers were lower than usual due to worldwide travel restrictions and creativity was needed to infuse new energy into the program. Sam was the answer.

Working at Seton and Target simultaneously, kept her on her toes and left little downtime. It was a year filled with learning and working and it all paid off in a big way. Let's hear Sam's story.

### Can you tell us a bit about your Catholic education?

I attended Catholic school from Kindergarten through 12th grade! I started at St. Augustine's in Peru, and then when it closed in 2006, I transitioned to Seton Academy. It was then in 3rd grade that I met my best friends, Emily and Olivia Nachbauer, who are still my friends to this day! My family was always passionate about a Catholic education and it was a great environment to grow up in. I enjoyed getting to personally know my teachers, be involved in several sports and extracurricular clubs, and learning in a small classroom setting.



### What was the next step after graduating from Seton in 2016?

After graduating from Seton, I attended Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. While I enjoyed growing up in the Adirondacks, I knew that I wanted to explore other parts of the Northeast and I'm glad I did! I received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in journalism and was very involved in orientation and campus activities.

### When you graduated from college did you have a career path in mind?

For most of my life, I thought I was meant to be a writer or reporter of some kind. My dream was to always work for Vogue or the New York Times and live a busy journalist's lifestyle. However, that couldn't be further from what I am truly passionate about. During college, I completed two journalism internships and was an active member of my college newspaper and sports magazine. I enjoyed writing and producing content, but it always left me feeling unaccomplished.

### How did working in a school setting alter your vision?

After graduating during a pandemic, it was extremely difficult to find a job in my intended career field. When offered the opportunity to work at Seton as their Director of International Students, I hesitantly but gladly took it. I never thought that working at



# and BEYOND..

my old high school would change my entire career path. I always knew I loved school and working with students, but never put the pieces together that I could work in education for a living.

## What aspects of your position as Director of International Students provided personal and professional growth?

Being Director of International Students for the 2020-2021 academic year completely changed my future. There was this genuine sense of fulfillment

I received from working with students and seeing them change and grow during my time with them. They all had a deep desire to study in the United States and were fearless in achieving their dreams. I finally felt like I had a purpose in a job, and it wasn't a feeling I wanted to get rid of. Don't get me wrong, it was very hard in the beginning. I felt like I had no experience and lacked the confidence to lead. I knew I was young and had just

graduated from high school four years prior. My former teachers turned into my coworkers and it was difficult navigating in that post-grad, pandemic slump so many of us went through. But my students made it all worth it and I formed a new, clearer vision.

## How would you say your time at Seton both as a student and an employee prepared you for your next adventure at Columbia University?

Seton has always boasted about its excellence. Excellence in the classroom, on the basketball court, and as a global citizen. After working as an employee at Seton, I've also seen the excellence that is required to provide the best education and experience for its students. Columbia University requires that same excellence in its administration, just on a slightly different scale! In my new role as an advisor to graduate students in the School of Professional Studies, I try to instill the lessons of empathy, individuality, and fierce dedication that Seton and my time at Quinnipiac University taught me.

## Would you say your year at Seton was well spent?

Absolutely!! I learned a lot about myself and will never forget the students who impacted my life. I discovered that educational

administration was my passion and am thankful for the stepping stone that Ms. Forbes gave me. It was hard to leave Seton, but I missed being in a collegiate atmosphere and knew that I wanted to live in New York City. My year at Seton taught me that not everything in life goes the way we planned, no matter how hard we try to stick to it. What we discover instead is a life that is much better than we could have ever planned.

## You attended Seton, worked at Seton, and moved on from Seton but find yourself surrounded by close friends and roommates who shared that time with you. What is the strong bond you have with your current roommates and Seton alums, Olivia and Emily Nachbauer?

Emily and Olivia are like sisters to me. We've known each other for 15 years so I can't imagine a life without them in it! We met in Ms. Bleeker's 3rd-grade class and have experienced the highs and lows of growing up together. We've seen each other go from elementary school kids to struggling college students to now full-time working adults, living on our own. We are supportive of one another's goals and honest about our shortcomings. Our friendship really is more like family. Ever since we were in school, we had this dream of being roommates in New York City. I often pinch myself when I realize that we actually made that dream come true!! Life is more fun having your best friends around and I am forever thankful that we crossed paths all those years ago in a Seton classroom. ■



# MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

## Maynard "Ross" Ducatte, SJA '58



**M**aynard (Ross) Ducatte graduated from St. John's Academy in 1958 and was preceded there by his brothers, Cliff and Bob Ducatte. All three brothers played football for SJA and ironically all played the same position. St. John's was an important factor in Ross's life as his wife, Mary Linney Ducatte, also graduated from St. John's in 1958. Let's learn a little bit more about his illustrious athletic career.

In 1956 the St. John's Academy football team had their first undefeated season in the school's history. Maynard "Ross" Ducatte, was a sophomore at the time and the team's running back. It was the beginning of a long and accomplished career in sports for the 1958 St. John's graduate. Football was not the only sport Ross excelled at. After graduation from SJA, he attended the University of Vermont on a football-baseball scholarship.

While a high school athlete, Ross was dubbed "Mr. Speed", by the Press Republican. As a sophomore, he led all Champlain Valley League runners in yardage and managed to score three touchdowns in a game three times. In one seven game season he had fourteen touchdowns. Ducatte recalls that there was a very strong football rivalry between St. John's, MAI and PHS. He notes that at the time the local school districts were very supportive of high school sports. In his senior year the halfback was virtually unstoppable on the football field. He scored 15 touchdowns during that season and ten of them were in three games in the middle of the season. The 1958 season was good to Ducatte. He scored four touchdowns during each game against Moriah and Lake Placid. He credits some of his football glory to

the leadership and guidance of his SJA coach, Barry Branon. He admired him so much that he and his wife, Mary, named their second son Barry.

Football was not the only sport that Ducatte excelled at. He was an asset to his high school baseball team and even played for the Falcons, which was Plattsburgh's entry into the Quebec Senior Baseball League. Ducatte was admired for his tremendous speed and hitting ability. He joined the ranks of other impressive players, some of whom went on to become major league players.

Ducatte's versatility served him well when he went on to the University of Vermont. In football he served as both a running back and defensive back at a time when the NCAA limited the number of substitutions a team could make each half. Because of this, Ducatte played both offense and defense, and played them well. Because of his successes on both the baseball diamond and the football field, Ross was inducted into the UVM Hall of Fame in 1984. During his career at UVM, he earned three letters in each sport and won All-State honors in his junior and senior years.

In his senior year at UVM, the man with the slingshot arm was named an All-New England catcher. That same year the Catamounts won the Yankee Conference Championship. They just missed the College World Series by one game. In 1960 Ducatte was awarded the Charles Stroh Trophy for leading the Cats as their RBI leader. In addition, he won the Seamons Trophy for his incredible history of hits.

Sports were not the only thing Ducatte found time for. During his college career he was the



president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, joined the Boulder Society, was a King Candidate for Kake Walk and was a Brigade Commander of ROTC. He put his baseball finesse to good use while serving in the US Army and carved out time to manage the Fort Devens baseball team.

Ducatte credits sports for teaching him how to be a team player. It served him well during his career in the steel industry. He and his wife raised a family of four, and often found themselves as spectators at their children's sporting events. Their daughter Beth was on the track team, swim team, played racquetball and acted in school plays in high school. Their sons Mike, Barry and John played both football and baseball in high school. All three were starters and did very well in both sports. It appears that the apples didn't fall far from the tree.

Early in his career, Ducatte decided to return to sports and became a high school football referee. Living in Ohio at the time, he was able to ref some very accomplished high schools in Canton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. His career as a referee lasted ten years.

After several work related moves, Ducatte and his wife retired to the Raleigh, NC, area to be near their three sons. His wife Mary liked to travel and they took many trips including visiting Europe, Canada and Mexico. They also took a cross country car trip through the United States and were passengers on ten cruises.

Ducatte says "Attending St. John's was a great opportunity and pleasure for both my wife, Mary and myself." The couple were married for 53 years and were blessed with four children and nine grandchildren. Mary passed away after a long illness on December 24, 2016.



The St. John's connection doesn't end there. About three years ago Ducatte had lunch with a friend of the family and a previous St. John's schoolmate, Bonnie Howell. Bonnie and Ross's wife were friends at St. John's. They both were on the SJA cheerleading team and coincidentally, both attended Marymount College. Bonnie was living in Hilton Head, SC, and Ducatte was living in Wake Forest, NC. After several visits back and forth between the Carolinas, they decided to buy a house together. They moved into a Del Webb community in Wake Forest, NC, last October. On a recent trip to Plattsburgh, they were able to meet and spend time with many friends and relatives. Life has been good!

Ducatte says "For Seton to carry on the history and traditions of our Catholic schools, SJA, MAI, and OLVA, is a great accomplishment; best wishes in the coming years." ■



## Ducatte named to UVM 'Hall'

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Plattsburgh native Maynard R. Ducatte will be among nine former University of Vermont athletes who will be inducted into the UVM Hall of Fame Sept. 26.

The 1984 electees, to be honored at UVM's 16th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame dinner, include Ducatte ('62), football and baseball; Peter D. Baldwin ('68), soccer; William A. Dempsey ('30), football, hockey and baseball; John S. Dimick ('71), cross country and track; Charles A. Foster ('65), football and baseball; William M. "Willie" MacKinnon ('74), hockey; George Minarsky ('71), hockey and baseball; Earl A. Olson ('74), football; and Ann Shaw Savels ('53), skiing.

Ducatte, a standout at St. John's Academy in the late fifties, was one of the top athletes in the Yankee Conference in the early sixties.

In football, Ducatte earned letters three years as an offensive and defensive halfback, and was an All-State selection his junior and senior years.

In baseball, he was an All-New England cat-

cher his senior year (1962), the season the Catamounts captured the Yankee Conference crown. The team was 21-6 (.778), the best winning percentage in the 86 years of baseball at Vermont. He led the club with 32 hits that year and hit over .300 for three consecutive seasons.

Ducatte is still in UVM's top five in 11 offensive categories and his nine career triples ranks first. He was an outstanding baserunner, pilfering 19 bases in 1962.

In 1960, he received the Charles Stroh Trophy (for most runs-batted-in in a season) for driving in 33 runs, and the Semans Trophy (presented to the senior athlete who has gained the respect of his classmates).

Now an assistant district manager of the LTV Steel Corporation in Detroit, he lives in Troy, Mich.

Since the inception of the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame, 104 athletes have been honored at special ceremonies Homecoming Weekend.



Maynard R. Ducatte

# Building Houses in the Sky

## Dr. Jon B. Olansen, SJA '83



Gateway Program at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC). He recently visited Plattsburgh and had the opportunity to spend time with our principal, Ms. Mary Forbes. Let's find out some more about Jon.

**T**here is an incredible amount of interest in space travel these days with new and exciting opportunities for private individuals to participate in a space mission. SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic are coming to a head in a race to be the best in space. We are excited to catch up with one of our own alums, Dr. Jon B. Olansen, SJA, '83, who currently serves as the Production Manager in the

students proffered by the likes of Ms. Forbes, Mr. Barber, Mr. Ryan, and others in the classroom or coaching athletics provided the opportunity for success. Of course, my mom, Jacquie, was also a teacher at SJA through those years...so I guess I had added incentive to behave.

From SJA, I continued along the Catholic school path and attended the University of Notre Dame, for a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. I served in Air Force ROTC during my undergraduate days and then in the Air Force Reserves through my master's degree and early in my career with NASA.

### What were some major influences that peaked your interest in science and eventually space?

From a positive influence perspective, my parents were the basis of support for my educational interests. Having a fighter pilot as a father surely created interest in flight at an early age. So did thoughts of taking that next step to space flight. I don't recall the specific moment I got hooked on space, but it was well before our family arrived in Plattsburgh. I was also interested in medicine and tried to keep both viable as long as possible. For both pursuits, I was blessed to have excellent teachers like Ms. Forbes, who reinforced my interests in math and science, providing the fundamentals I would need throughout my career.

### How did your career path lead you to NASA?

By the time I went to college, I knew I wanted to work in space... even literally. I actually applied only to Notre Dame because of their Aerospace Engineering program (and fortunately was accepted). I initially planned to go into the Air Force to be a pilot like my father and follow that path to a NASA position. But as I progressed through my senior year, I realized I was starting to really grasp how the facets of engineering, math, and physics come together, to understand what I was being taught – which to me meant I was just figuring out how to learn. So, I stayed for my Master's, to build on that revelation.

I was able to get a job at the NASA Johnson Space Center as a contractor once I finished grad school. For my first job, I became a Space Shuttle flight controller. I worked 32 Space Shuttle missions in NASA's mission control room before I decided to go back to school for a Ph.D. in Bio-mechanical Engineering at Rice University - this is where I intertwined my interest in the medical field with my interest in engineering.



### Can you tell us a little bit about your background and Catholic education?

Growing up in an Air Force family, we moved frequently, and I changed schools often. Fortunately for me, we ended up stationed at Plattsburgh long enough so that I could attend SJA from 8th grade through graduation. As a smaller, Catholic school, SJA offered a place to grow in character and core values. Yes, the academics were strong, but the individualized attention for all

When I returned to NASA, I worked in several different positions...still living by the mantra of always learning. I have been very fortunate to lead teams to build spacecraft, design and launch rockets, and advance human exploration in space. I've worked alongside many amazing people - astronauts and engineers, scientists and analysts - extraordinary minds with solid values in pursuit of a greater good.



### What are your current duties at Gateway?

Currently, I lead the Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO) Project Office within the Gateway Program. Gateway is a smaller version of the International Space Station but it is being designed and built to operate in orbit around the Moon. This will give NASA a sustained presence in cislunar space and serve as a home away from home for our astronauts exploring the Moon as part of Artemis.

The HALO is the initial habitable module being built for Gateway. It will be the size of a small studio apartment and serve as the cornerstone of the Gateway, providing environmental controls such as pressure and temperature, multiple ports for other vehicles to dock, and the backbone for command and control and power distribution throughout the Gateway station. The HALO is being built for NASA by Northrop Grumman.

HALO will be launched together with the Power and Propulsion Element (PPE), being built by Maxar, atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket no earlier than November 2024.

I am responsible for the HALO development and certification, the integration between the HALO and PPE, the coordination with the launch vehicle, and the delivery of the HALO-PPE vehicle into orbit around the moon.

### What do you see as the most exciting developments in space?

Exciting developments in space are everywhere. Space is a key part of our everyday lives – from communications via your cell phone to GPS to guide you where you're going. Commercial launches happen regularly from many providers, and satellites

are used to provide all sorts of services we rely on daily. We've had humans living in space aboard the International Space Station for more than 20 years straight! Access to space for space travelers is opening up—Inspiration4 was indeed very inspirational. We have commercial landers being built to transport science and other equipment to the Moon to look for resources there! And we're discovering solar systems light years from our own with planets that might have the right composition and be in viable orbits to sustain life!

NASA will continue to push the boundaries of exploration in space while helping to create a viable commercial market in low-Earth orbit. We have rovers traversing the surface of Mars. We are building crewed vehicles for humans to travel farther into deep space. Orion is the capsule that will take astronauts into space and return them safely to Earth. Gateway will be the living quarters for those astronauts around the Moon. A human lander will bring those astronauts to the Moon's surface from the Gateway and Orion vehicles.

There's so much going on in space...it is truly breathtaking to me!

### What advice would you give to students who are interested in pursuing science as a career field?

This is a great question and I address it often with students. As I found in my own experience, there are some fundamental things that serve as a basis as we each define and pursue our careers, in science, math, space or any other field.

One is our core values...humility, respect, how we treat others will absolutely influence our opportunities. These values come from within. Listen to good people, build good character, and then be the good person you are regardless of what others' think of you. You will find support and opportunities open more freely when you follow these values.



Another is work ethic...we cannot seek to achieve great things without great effort. So pay attention in class, listen to others to broaden your perspective, and be proud enough of yourself and whatever it is that you do to do it well. Science and engineering careers require substantial effort, but the rewards are sky high.

**Continued on page 25...**

# Science, Service and Family

## Vinh Phu Bui, SCC '13



Vinh Phu Bui may have graduated from Seton in 2013 but his ties to the school still run deep. The lessons Vinh learned here have served him well and he is grateful for the experience.

When Vinh first left for college at the University of North Georgia, his plan was to study to become a pilot. His eyes were on the sky. After a conversation with his father, he realized that being a pilot meant extended time away from family and Vinh decided to change his career path to Aerospace Engineering. The Associates degree in Engineering at the University of North Georgia positioned him well to continue his education at Georgia Tech.

His graduation from Georgia Tech was in May of 2021 and Vinh was proud to have his American family, Larry & Penny Converse, attend the ceremony. Ever since arriving in Plattsburgh in the fall of 2011 the Converse family has been Vinh's family. Now, as Vinh begins his career with APiJET he finds himself working remotely, at home in Plattsburgh, living with his American family once again. Let's see just what that looks like.

The company Vinh works for is APiJET and their headquarters are in Seattle, WA. APiJET, specializes in real-time aircraft data analytics. Working with NASA enabled the company to be the first to commercialize Traffic Aware Strategic Aircrew Requests, (TASAR) technology. Think of TASAR as an app for the cockpit of an aircraft that functions somewhat like a Waze-app that we might use to navigate directions for an automobile. The difference is that instead of showing the quickest route to your destination, TASAR provides airlines with information on efficient flight trajectories saving them both fuel and time.

The position came to Vinh after completing an internship with the company in early 2021. He was offered a full time job in May. International students must obtain an OPT (Optional Practical Training) work permit before beginning their employment in



the United States. That process may take up to three months and companies must understand that and agree to the cost when hiring International students. Once they have the work permit they apply for a Sponsorship Visa or H1B. In order to obtain a green card and become a permanent resident, you must work for five years in the United States. Some companies are not willing to complete the paperwork necessary and pay the fees associated with it. Because of this, the job application process can be frustrating and discouraging. Vinh's motto is: "Never give up."

Receiving an education in the United States and living with the Converse family for a number of years has taught Vinh many lessons. It has taught him a strong work ethic and an appreciation for life in the United States. It has also taught him to reflect on his Vietnamese culture and upbringing.

Growing up in Vietnam, Vinh's life was primarily centered on education. There was no time for sports or recreation. As a child, Vinh dreamed of becoming a referee. He thought it was a fascinating career. Attending school at Seton provided him an opportunity to be surrounded by sports and living with the Seton Basketball Coach, Mr. Converse, athletics were also discussed at the dinner table and beyond. During his college years Vinh realized his dream of becoming a referee for both soccer and basketball. Now that he is in Plattsburgh, working remotely, he has picked it up again.

Working as a referee has taught Vinh how to keep his cool under pressure and to be professional at all times. It is all about the love of the game and an appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in sports. Growing up in Vietnam, there were no sporting facilities, weight rooms and recreation areas. In the future, Vinh imagines returning to Vietnam and building a sports complex where students can learn to play soccer and basketball. He knows that it is important to give back. That is something he has learned from his time at Seton Catholic.

What Vinh says he received from Seton was more than an education, more than a diploma. He was given an American family and a school that supported him and his ambitions. He saw in the teachers and faculty a sense of grit and determination to see the students and the school succeed. Seton is truly a family and the family members are dedicated and committed to being there for future American and International students, like Vinh.

Vinh's advice to graduates is to be adventurous. The world is full of different landscapes and cultures. Don't be afraid to try new things and if you experience failure, simply get back up and try again. Your education can take you anywhere if you have faith in yourself and your future. Shoot for the stars!

Keep working hard and setting your sights high, Vinh. Your Seton family is proud of you! ■

### **Dr. Jon B. Olansen, Continued from page 23...**

Finally, never stop learning. Set your sights high to give you direction. I have not yet achieved my original goal of flying in space, but that goal has been my compass, guiding career decisions, enabling an extremely fulfilling career. And I continue to learn from those around me every day, which prepares me for future opportunities. ■

#### **How can our Seton family continue to follow your journey and gain valuable knowledge about space in our time?**

There are several public accounts we use. We'd love to have the Seton family follow us at the following sites:

**Online:** <https://www.nasa.gov/gateway>

**Twitter:** @NASA\_Gateway ([https://twitter.com/NASA\\_Gateway](https://twitter.com/NASA_Gateway))

**Facebook:** NASA's Gateway Program (<https://www.facebook.com/NASAGateway>)

**Flickr:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/albums/72157716027881092>

We also want you to join our team! NASA internships and fellowships leverage NASA's unique missions and programs to enhance and increase the capability, diversity and size of the nation's future science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

workforce. Internships are available from high school to graduate level. Internships provide students with the opportunity to participate in either research or other experiential learning, under the guidance of a mentor at NASA. Visit [intern.nasa.gov](http://intern.nasa.gov) to apply!

Finally, the links below provide some insight into prior projects I've led on NASA's behalf.

**Morpheus Lander:** <https://morpheuslander.jsc.nasa.gov/> or @MorpheusLander

Orion Ascent Abort-2: <https://www.nasa.gov/subject/14622/ascent-abort2/>





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Seton Catholic’s students, faculty, staff and Education Council members humbly thank you for your continued support in helping fulfill our mission to provide an exceptional Catholic education in the North Country.

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# seton to the rescue



I think it is safe to say that the Spring of 2020 was a challenging time for just about everyone and the Goerlitz-Coryer family were certainly not spared. Covid-19 was on the rise and businesses and schools in our region and around the globe were largely shuttered. As my wife Elizabeth and I were coming to grips with running our company, Coryer Staffing, remotely, we were also saddled with the realities of what it meant to shepherd our two boys to their computer-based classrooms on a daily basis for hours at a time. As Lukas was in high school and therefore more responsible in his studies, we found a greater need to focus on our then fourth grader, Rhys. Despite the yeoman efforts, kindness and support of his 4th grade teacher, we soon realized that remote schooling was not a program that would work for Rhys and we warmly embraced the break that the Summer of 2020 would bring. However, like time in general and especially during Covid, July and August flew by and sooner than we desired we were facing the harsh reality that, with the public schools communicating their remote education schedules, we

would soon be back at our kitchen counter directing Rhys through his school lessons on a daily basis. Additionally, our business was operating full-time, back at our offices with seemingly more business than ever. We feared that for Rhys the return to remote learning would negatively impact his academic progress - we knew something had to change.

I don't know why I made the call on Tuesday, September 8th to Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin—Director of Enrollment at Seton Catholic—perhaps it was divine intervention. If my memory serves me correctly, I think I overheard a conversation where somebody said Seton was the only school operating in-person. When Mrs. Pellerin took my call and informed me that there were only a few slots left in the 5th grade class, I almost fell out of my chair. I rushed to complete the necessary forms, called my wife to let her know that Rhys was Seton bound and then began to wring my hands as to how we would inform Rhys that he wasn't returning to public school the following day but attending Seton Catholic

on Thursday. Much to our surprise, Rhys took the news in stride.

Due to the welcoming environment and excellent instruction provided by Mrs. Christine Reynolds, Rhys adapted well. Was the educational experience challenging? Without a doubt. The learning level and pace were more than he experienced prior but Rhys caught up and thrived. The small class size and increased attention made a big difference in his ability to focus on the lesson at hand and truly learn. Furthermore, Mrs. Reynolds would follow up each and every day with an email to Elizabeth and me detailing the day's lessons and homework expectations. For all involved and with so much going on during the workday, this was a big help. Before we knew it the school year was coming to a close and, save a four day stint sometime in the winter months, the entire year was in-person education without a single Covid incident!

Perhaps what was most surprising of all was when Rhys himself requested to return to Seton Catholic for his 6th grade year. After all, at public school his prior classmates would be convening at the popular middle school and it was looking like education would be in-person come the fall of 2021. That didn't matter to Rhys; he said that he liked the people he met at Seton and enjoyed the environment. For Elizabeth and me, we were thrilled. The quality of instruction at Seton was a bargain considering the reasonable expense and we were liking how Rhys was maturing as a result.

As we've now begun the fall '21 semester, we are pleased to report that Rhys is doing well in 6th grade and demonstrating continued maturity and a character of which we are all proud. We can't thank Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin enough for the opportunity and all of the teachers and supporting faculty at Seton Catholic who play a positive role in helping Rhys become the best version of himself. ■

## Coryer Family

**W**e are forever grateful to Seton Catholic and the education and environment it provided for our son, Henry, (Seton '17). We moved back to this area after retiring from the military, and Henry was due to enter junior year in HS. It was a tough time to move for him, after 10 years in the same school system in Colorado, and he was not happy about this change. He was keen



on going to a school with the same look/feel as his HS in Colorado. After a visit to the local public HS and then to Seton, we decided we would let Henry make the decision. School had been a mediocre experience as Henry moved into his teenage years, and we wanted him to have a buy in at this new school. The local HS was a similar look/feel to our previous HS, but Seton was completely different.

We showed up for a visit in early August, and most of the staff & faculty were away. There were no students in the building. Henry was greeted by name and then we proceeded to have a personal tour of the building. We were able to meet a few faculty members who were in their classrooms. I was surprised that without exception, everyone who passed us in the hall, greeted us, looked right at Henry and asked where he was from and if he was considering coming to Seton. It was heartwarming to see the personal way Seton treated potential students with genuine interest. In contrast, we had been checked in and told to walk through the local HS on our own because not many people were around—they didn't seem really interested in showing off their school.

We thought for sure Henry would choose the public HS, because it was larger and similar to the school he left behind. He surprised us and chose Seton, specifically because of the personal way they greeted him and made him feel welcome on that initial visit. It has made all the difference! The small school was exactly what he needed. For an introverted, quiet kid he made friends quickly. Being the new kid as a junior can be a positive thing at a small school—they need folks for teams and other activities! Henry joined the XC and track teams, and we were so impressed with the coaching staff. He continues to run now for fitness, and still sees his coaches on occasion. The international students are a real positive aspect of Seton and our son really bonded with a few international students.

We no longer found we had to check for missing assignments or question Henry about homework or grades. Everyone knew him by name--there is a powerful accountability that goes with being in a small classroom. He even was ok with wearing a tie! His grades for the two years at Seton were the best of his HS years and his enthusiasm for school and friends was remarkable.

We cannot thank the staff and faculty enough for providing high standards of academic achievement and creating an environment of learning and community service. We watched our son really grow up, take responsibility and get engaged with the Seton community.

Seton Catholic expects students to show up, do the work, look nice, respect others and strive for excellence in all areas of life. It's a winning formula.

**Kathy and Mike (MAI '80) Derrick**

## Reunions Continue



**A**lthough we were not able to organize our annual St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic reunion, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some smaller scaled gatherings occurred. We were happy to hear that the SJA Class of 1976 was able to get together to reminisce and catch up. Please remember to give us your current contact information so we can include you in our future reunions and events. You can email Susan FitzPatrickPellerin at [spellerin@setonknights.org](mailto:spellerin@setonknights.org) to update our files. Let's keep those memories alive and stay in touch!



# Seton Catholic

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## *Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine*



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