# Seton

Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine



Grant Schaber, MAI '80 Jake Glicksman, SCC '20 Tom Wray, SJA '77 Gary Ryan Patti Verkey, SJA '71

## Message from the Editor



We have had an exciting year at Seton. We have welcomed many new families to our community and we continue to receive calls for new admissions. We also continue to adapt to the ever changing rules and regulations in the world of education. Once again we are proud to announce that we have

a 100% graduation rate and 100% college admissions. Our graduates never cease to amaze us.

Sports teams are thriving, sometimes merging with other schools and occasionally beginning anew. If a student comes to us and expresses an interest in a particular sport, we do our best to make opportunities available to them. Although we are small, we are mighty. We had a very exciting Section VII Varsity Basketball win this year and it was certainly one for the books. The school spirit was felt resounding throughout the gymnasium as we captured the coveted title. We have had teams of one, or two or more, in sports such as gymnastics and swimming and we are succeeding at those as well. Is there anything our students can't do?

We are forever grateful for the continued support of our donors and the incredible things they help us achieve. This year we completely re-hauled and refurbished our Science lab. Our original lab was adequate but nowhere near as cutting edge as the replacement. With the ever increasing interest in the avenues of Science, it was a timely investment made possible by the generosity of our initial donor and the families and greater Plattsburgh community who helped us finish the project with our Fund A Need at our annual Seton Gala. We also made some exterior improvements to our grounds with new paving of our driveway. This was also made possible by a generous donor.

We were so excited to bring back our special events and reunite in person for the Seton Gala, under the Big Top Tent at Valcour Brewing. We also gathered for an Alumni Reunion of SJA, MAI, SCC and OLVA and had a Gathering for Gary event in honor of Gary Ryan who passed away this past year. We created teams and met on the links of Harmony Golf Course to play in the Carpenter—Ryan Memorial Golf Tournament and shared in that honored tradition. We were so ready to be together again.

At the end of the school year we said farewell to Sr. Helen Hermann and Sr. Cecelia Marie Hermann as they moved to Watertown to reside with their Sisters of St. Joseph and continue work with their community. Sister Helen continues to assist us with our Adopt-A Student Campaign and keeps all of us in her prayers. We are thankful for that.

I hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of our year and the accomplishments of our alumni. If you have an interesting story to share with us, or an update on an alum, please contact me at spellerin@setonknights.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, SJA '77

Editor



#### **Education Council 2022-23**

| President      | Chris Hay, SJA '89                   |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Secretary      | Michael Howley, MAI '70              |
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| Member         | Rev. Clyde Lewis, St. Patrick's      |
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#### Seton Alumni Magazine (Fall 2022)

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# Seton

#### Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine







Jake Glicksman, SCC '20



Tom Wray, SJA '77



Gary Ryan



Patti Verkey, SJA '71

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#### On the Cover: 2022 Boys Varsity Basketball



f you stop by Seton any day of the week you will find a tremendous amount of activity. Most people would be surprised at just how much we can pack into a regular school day. We start our days early and end them late with aftercare and sports practices, games and meetings. Our school population ranges from our 3-4 year old Pre-K students all the way to our 17-18 year old high school seniors. We have a wide variety of academic styles and curriculums in our classrooms.

Our extra-curricular activities include sports programs for grades 7-12 including gymnastics, swimming, soccer, basketball, tennis, golf, indoor and outdoor track and cross country. We have field trips to the pumpkin patch and apple orchard, Great

Escape and local corn mazes. We organize nature hikes and Masses. We have science experiments that take us outside the classroom. We have bottle drives to support our Junior Prom and sports teams and we organize a Christmas dinner for the community. We also have middle school and high school dances, field days, homecoming events and Catholic Schools' Week, just to name a few of our activities.

A community service program requires each student to give back to the school their time and talents. We have one day in particular where we physically go out into the community to help with the needs of local organizations.

The Seton name and spirit are alive and present all around us.

Our Faith Ambassadors group organizes a Forty Days of Hope event, where we raise money for the Mission of Hope. Our Middle and High School students are involved in chorus and the monthly celebration of Mass for the whole school year. This year we are excited to welcome our local priests for weekly visits.

We are a very vibrant and exciting school with constant spiritual and academic learning. You never know what will be happening on a given day but we can assure you it will be filled with the Seton students, faculty and staff doing what we do best, upholding the traditions and expectations of our Catholic faith and mission.

#### **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.

Mary Forbes

Principal & Athletic Director mforbes@setonknights.org

# Class Notes

#### **Weddings**



John Crowley, SJA '77 and Jennifer Bailey were married July 16, 2022.



Genna Hartung, SCC '09 and Kevin Phipps were married August 13, 2022.



Megan Tedford, SCC '11 and John Fountain were married October 29, 2022.

Kaitlin Hynes, SCC '08 and Wesley Paladino were married November 12, 2022.

#### **Engagements**

Reilly Boulé, SCC '17 and Anthony Tebbano were engaged February 19, 2022.

Kerry Cannon, SCC '11 and Joseph Tolosky were engaged April 23, 2022.

Gretchen Raville, SCC '08 and Jonathan LaDieu were engaged June 25, 2022.

Eliza Zalis, SCC '10 and Sean Murphy were engaged summer 2022.

#### **Births**

Kaitlin Branon-Bender. SCC '03 and her



a daughter, Kennady Grace Branon-Bender on January 18, 2022. She joins her big sister, Delaney Joy Branon-Bender, 5 years old.



Shea Branon, SCC '09 and his wife, Emily welcomed a son, Jack Kevin Branon on February 3, 2022.



Jared Jabaut, SCC '98 and his wife, Courtney, welcomed a daughter Jillian Harper Jabaut on February 13, 2022.

Derek Payne, former Seton employee and his wife Elizabeth Lawliss welcomed a son, Malcolm Jude Payne on June 20, 2022.

Matt Walentuk, former Seton employee and his wife Tara welcomed a daughter, Elsie Charlotte Walentuk on June 24, 2022.

Emily Brosseau Jarvis, SCC '11 and her husband Tyler welcomed a son, John Homer Jarvis on June 27, 2022.



Kara Stark Elliott, SCC '08 and her husband Dan welcomed twin sons, Ethan Branon Elliott and Sullivan Joseph Elliott on July 11, 2022.

Kelly D'Souza, former Seton employee and her husband Charlie welcomed a son, Isaiah John D'Souza on August 4, 2022.

Gretchen Raville, SCC '08 and her fiancé Jonathan LaDieu adopted a son, Michael LaDieu on August 18, 2022.



Alexander Wylie, SCC '09 and his wife, Nadia welcomed a daughter, Naomi Alessandra Wylie on August 23, 2022.



Zachary Eppler, SCC '06 and his wife Becky welcomed a daughter, Eliana Grace Eppler on September 7, 2022.

#### In Memoriam

John Allen, SJA '43 died January 1, 2021.

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 8...

# Service, Family and Country

### Grant Schaber, MAI '80



onald and Shirley Schaber believed that raising their children as practicing Catholics was necessary for them to become morally responsible individuals. They instilled in them a sense of giving back and being a part of the Catholic community. That Catholic upbringing fostered a sense of service in all of their children, which was

demonstrated by three Schaber children joining the Air Force. Two of them were career Air Force and three of them have spouses who were also Air Force.

In January 2021 the family lost Grant Schaber, MAI'80. He was career Air Force and worked for the Air Force as a civilian in Albuquerque, NM. On June 3, 2022 the United States Air Force Operational Test & Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) dedicated a conference room at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, in honor of his service and dedication to his country.

We know his family misses him and is very grateful and proud of his service. Here is a recap of Grant's life and legacy.

Mr. Schaber's leadership paved the way for the center to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. The conference room was dedicated in his name as a tribute to his vision, leadership and dedication in fielding operationally ready weapon systems.

He was also awarded the Air Force Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award in recognition of his distinguished performance in support of the United States Air Force from December 16, 2002 to January 7, 2021. Most notably as Deputy Director, Operations Directorate, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. Mr. Schaber's key leadership in the Air Force Test Enterprise significantly influenced every aspect of United States Air Force combat capability for the past two decades. He directed test operations on every modern weapons system to include the current F-35 and F-22. His sage counsel has informed countless major acquisition decisions ensuring the United States Air Force is the most feared combat force on the planet. The distinctive accomplishments of Mr. Schaber culminate a distinguished career with the United States Government and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Mr. Schaber began his Air Force career in September 1980 as a Communication, Navigation and Electronic Countermeasures Systems Technician. During his active duty career, he served in various positions, including Specialist Expediter, Flight line Expediter, and Operations Group, Senior Avionics Quality Assurance Inspector, and later, as Chief Inspector. His assignment locations include, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico and Kunsan Air Base, Korea. He also served in the Gulf War, in combat operations such as Desert Storm and Provide Comfort. He arrived at Headquarters, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) in July 1994 and served as Logistics Manager,



Bomber Systems and Logistics Operations Superintendent. Mr. Schaber completed his last operational tour in 1999 at Kunsan Air Base, Korea as a member of the "Wolf Pack" where he served as Lead Production Superintendent for the largest fighter flying hour program in the Pacific Air Forces.

Mr. Schaber returned to AFOTEC in January 2000 as the Chief Agile Combat Support, Air and Space Directorate, before retiring from active duty in April 2001. He then supported the Air Force and AFOTEC as a Civilian Contractor in December 2002 serving as a Senior Program Analyst for Science Applications International Corporations (SAIC) leading initial test design efforts in AFOTEC's Air and Space Mission Directorate. In 2005, he rejoined the Air Force as a Civil Servant as a Technical Advisor for the Operations Directorate.

In June of 2007, Grant D. Schaber became the Deputy Director of Operations, Headquarters Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC), at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. In this role, Mr. Schaber served as the Director of Operations on numerous occasions while the office of the Director was vacant. His steadfast leadership, commitment and dedication to AFOTEC resulted in a ripple effect of improvements throughout the Center. Mr. Schaber was the Center's focal point for Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) policy and proactive test program management operations. He led the push for early OT&E influence, initial test design, planning, execution, reporting and closeout activities, ensuring efficient repeatable test execution and product standardization. His vast operational test experience was critical to virtually every major weapon system fielded by the Air Force over the past two decades and seven different AFOTEC Commanders relied daily on his sage advice. Grant Schaber loved his country, his family and his friends deeply. He

was truly a great AFOTEC Leader, Mentor, and Friend.





Schaber Kids: (Front) Myrna, Grant, Reba (Back) Wade, Sherry





# Class Notes

Continued from page 5...

#### In Memoriam

**Suzanne Carpenter Conners**, worked for SJA for 30 years, died April 6, 2021.

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

Anne 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 '60 died August 17, 2021.

Carlton D. St. Germain, MAI '54 died October 7, 2021.

Harold J. Ryan, SJA '50 died October 30, 2021.

Mary Stewart-Stiles, SJA '48 died November 11, 2021.

Wayne N. Twining, MAI '53 died December 7, 2021.

Ann Wilson Petrashune, SJA '79 died January 5, 2022.

Gary Ryan, SJA & SCC died January 24, 2022.

Thomas D. Bouyea, MAI '64 died February 28, 2022.

Daniel Stockdale, SJA '65 died March 8, 2022.

Leaneul A. Parrotte, Sallaz Academy '49 died March 28, 2022.

Eleanor Douglas, SJA '54 died April 18, 2022.

Jane Orrise Chagnone, SJA '47 died June 16, 2022.

Robert Peryea, SJA '70 died July 9, 2022.

Thomas McFadden, SJA '60 died July 18, 2022.

John Pelkey, OLVA '61 died August 30, 2022.

Susan Kennedy, SJA '57 died September 9, 2022.

William Jette, OLVA '69 died October 7, 2022

Michael "Mickey" Lacy, SJA '75 died October 7, 2022.

Janet C. Murnane, faithful supporter of Catholic education, died October 31, 2022.

Roger B. Kennedy, Sr., SJA '56 died November 15, 2022.

**Bonnie D'Aust, SJA** and SCC employee, died November 19, 2022.

Msgr. Joseph Aubin died November 19, 2022.

Sr. Cecelia Marie Hermann, SSJ, died November 26, 2022.

## Save the Date...



#### Seton Catholic 2023 Gala "Monopoly" Theme

April 29, 2023

Join us for a festive evening filled with music and dancing, silent and live auctions and lots of laughs!

For more information on purchasing a table or sending a donation email spellerin@setonknights.org.



Seton Catholic, MAI, SJA and OLVA Annual Reunion

May 27, 2023

All classes are welcome to join us for a stroll down memory lane. Catch up with classmates and make new friendships. Contact spellerin@setonknights.org for more information.



# IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE

## Jake Glicksman, SCC '20

### Can you tell us a little bit about your course of study at Boston College?

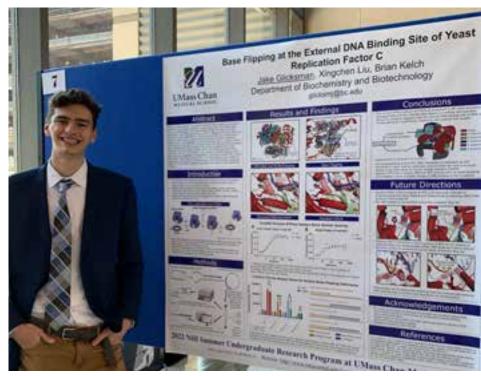
Currently, as a junior biochemistry major, my education has become very intense and subject-matter-focused, with many classes beginning to hone in on my specific area of interest. Within the next year or two, I hope to begin applying to either medical or graduate schools where I can continue progressing forward with my interests.

## We heard you had some exciting research opportunities. Can you tell us about those?

During the summer, I worked in a lab at the UMass Medical School which mainly specializes in structural biology. Using a recently developed strategy known as cryo-EM, the lab I worked in has the ability to resolve 3-Dimensional structures of proteins that are of great importance to the biological systems inside our body. My research was very biochemistry oriented, focusing on understanding the details of a protein known as "Replication Factor C" or "RFC" for short which has been shown to play a role in the repair of DNA in our cells. Ensuring damaged DNA is properly repaired is especially important for the health of any individual and thus the research has very apparent biological connections to our lives.

## How was the transition coming from a small Catholic school to a large university?

Coming from a small school and transitioning to a large undergraduate institution like Boston College came with advantages and interesting challenges which I feel ultimately led to growth. When people ask what size school I come from, I love seeing their reactions to me telling them about my 27-person class. People often ask me what it was like and I relish the opportunity to tell them that everybody knows everybody's name in the school, practically



Jake Glicksman, SCC '20 Pursuing his Biochemistry Degree at Boston College

everyone participates in a sport or club to ensure our teams are complete, and nearly everyone forms very deep relationships with their peers. I find that the deep connections with friends and teachers I made at Seton have helped to keep me grounded. Knowing I always have a group of people who deeply want me to succeed, and who are cheering me on every step of the way is a great support network to have when transitioning to education in a big city or at a large college.

### How did your time at Seton prepare you for your field of study?

I probably owe the most to the members of the science department at Seton, whose classes are the original points I began down the path I'm pursuing today, those being primarily Ms. Bacon and Mrs. Gricoski. Had it not been for them and their unwavering support and encouragement, not

only in high school but continuing through college, I would not be where I am today. The holistic education that other teachers of Seton provided me also prepared me greatly for the education I receive today at Boston College. As Boston College is a Jesuit school, education not only of the mind but of the entire person is an integral part of the experience which Seton certainly prepared me for. ■

## Oh The Places We Will Go

### Tom Wray, SJA '77



om Wray is a 1977 graduate of St. John's Academy. He is the 7th child of 8 in the Wray family. His father, Clayton, graduated from St John's Academy and wed Catherine (Kay) Wray at St. John's Church in 1944. While serv-

ing in World War II as a member of the 101st Airborne, (paratroopers) Clayton fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the purple heart and silver star. When Clayton came home from the war, he and Kay started a family in Plattsburgh. The Wrays were devout Catholics and it was important to them that their children attend Catholic school. Each of their children attended St John's Academy.

#### This is the story of their son Tom's journey after high school and his career at Nike Sports.

After my graduation from St. John's Academy I attended SUNY Plattsburgh and graduated in December of 1981. I then took a job at NCCS high school in Champlain, NY teaching 9th and 10th grade history. I was in this role for two years. Toward the end of my time at SUNY Plattsburgh, I took two courses in Athletic Training, taught by the Head Athletic Trainer. While I was teaching at NCCS, I also began an internship with the SUNY Plattsburgh Athletic Trainer, working with him in the afternoons and weekends to develop my competencies/capabilities in Athletic Training and Sports Medicine.

In December 1983, I resigned from my teaching position at NCCS High School and moved to NYC to take a graduate assistantship position in Athletic Training at Columbia University. I sat for and passed my national certification exam for the NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association) in the spring of 1984 and, shortly afterward, accepted a position at Phillips Andover Academy in Andover, MA as an Athletic Trainer and Instructor in Physical Education. While at Andover, I met my now ex-wife...I was at Andover for six years, from July of 1985 until July of 1991.

In the summer of 1991, my wife and I and our dog moved to Portland, OR and I started my career at Nike. I was hired to set up a sports medicine clinic in their corporate fitness center. After three years in that role, I moved into the footwear product creation organization as a Product Developer, which is, essentially, a project manager for new footwear creation, working with footwear designers and product marketing managers.

Since 1994, I've worked in various roles in footwear product creation. I moved overseas for the company in 1996, working in a similar role at our partner factories in Jakarta, Indonesia (1996-1998) and in Taichung, Taiwan (1998-2000).

In 2000, I moved my family back to the states and have held roles in Nike Basketball, Nike Cleated (Football, Baseball, Softball & Lacrosse) and Nike Running as well as taking on the role of Athlete Craftsman for Nike Basketball.

In 2014, I moved to Asia again, taking on the role of Category Director for Nike Running in Guangzhou, China. I was in that role for three years, moving back to the states in 2017 into the role of Athletes Craftsman and Development Director for Promo Footwear and Athlete Services for the Jordan Brand.

Although I've always considered myself more of a "behind the scenes" person during my time at Nike I have had the opportunity to work directly with many of our elite athletes, including Lebron James, Kobe Bryant, Russell Westbrook, Zion Williamson, Luka Doncic and Jason Tatum. I also worked on way too many shoes to name...and have had the chance to coach and lead some fantastic teams.

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for Nike as it gave me the chance to see parts of the world that I otherwise would probably never have seen....Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Nepal to name a few. One of my biggest highlights was meeting my brother Rob in Nepal and trekking with him to Mount Everest Base camp when I was living and working in South China in 2016.

In short...I've been at Nike for just over 31 years...held seven or eight different roles, built product for four different categories and worked in three different countries in Asia...all while helping to raise two amazing kids....my son Gavin is now 28 and is a firefighter in the Anchorage Fire Department in Anchorage,

AK and my daughter Madison is 26 and in the second year of an MFA program at the Theater School at DePaul University in Chicago. Neither of them can recall much of their travels around the world when they were 3-7 years old and 6 months to 3 and  $\frac{1}{2}$ years old respectively. It's been a great ride and I'm looking forward to retiring soon.









# Adopt-a-Student

ou might wonder how the Adopt-a-Student campaign came to be such a continuous part of our student scholarship program. In 1987 the president of the Home and School Club in St. Augustine's, Peru, got information on the program and presented it to the Administration. We decided to try it and held our breath to see if it would cover the expenses involved. It did and we were more than excited. Consequently we used the program every year thereafter until the school closed in 2006. Each year we had more donors and more revenue for student scholarships.

In 2009 we started the program at Seton Academy and again the people responded very generously. Each year showed an increase in donors and donations. Seton Academy moved to the Seton Catholic campus in 2018 and the Adopt-a-Student program continued. The program has grown over the years and has given us the opportunity to make new friends and assist many families in need of tuition assistance. We are ever so grateful to those people who have joined us in the mission of providing Catholic School education for students in need. They are and always will be in my prayers.

Sister Helen, SSJ



Dear Friend.

Greetings from the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph,

In July, I moved to our Motherhouse in Watertown and I now have the opportunity and privilege of ministering to our Sisters who reside here.

Usually at this time, I get to talk to you about the "Adopt-a-Student" program. Even though I am now in Watertown, I hold this program near and dear to my heart and I intend to support it from a distance. The Adopt-a-Student campaign will still continue.

We are extremely grateful for your past support and pray that you will continue supporting the Seton students. In turn, you can be assured of my daily prayers.

We know that you're blessed with a kind and loving heart.

Just by reading this letter, you are taking the first step to helping our students receive a good Catholic education—and changing their lives forever.

Please let us tell you what's going on, because whether or not you can send a gift today, we need your prayers. We have a number of children who want to attend Seton Catholic, but their families are unable to pay the full tuition amount. School will be starting soon and they need to be able to meet their tuition obligations.

Many people in this area have been blessed with financial security. (Thank God!) We would like to give the people of the Plattsburgh area the opportunity to be our partners in spreading the mission of Seton Catholic by investing in the life of a student. You can be part of the endeavor to form the saints of tomorrow.

Your gift can be made in memory of a loved one or as a gift of gratitude. Participating in the "Adopt-A-Student" program is one way to say "Thank you" to God for His many material and spiritual blessings.

Please participate today in this year's appeal with a generous tax-deductible contribution! Just submit your donation, made payable to Seton Catholic, 206 New York Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12903, or online at https://www.setonknights.org/about/donate. In return, you will be remembered in the prayers of the children and in our own prayers.

You are among our students' most trusted and precious friends. We pray that you can help them. Any amount you can afford any gift that's comfortable for you right now—will become a wonderful and meaningful gift to form the saints of tomorrow.

We are counting on friends like you. Researchers tell us that people have 3 or 4 favorite groups to which they contribute. Please make the Seton Adopt-a-Student program one of your favorites. You will be an answer to our prayers.



Sister Helen Hermann, SSJ Adopt-A-Student

PS Please make your donation today. We need to let parents know whether or not we can offer them a financial packet.

Thank you so very much.

# HOLIDAYS: SEASONS OF BLESSINGS



"Count your blessings count them one by one. Count your blessings see what God has done." The words of this song are in my mind at holiday time and at other times too. We have been so blessed. November and December offer us holidays that remind us of just how blessed we are.

On November 11, we are reminded of our veterans and how much they did to make it possible for us to live in a land of freedom and opportunity. I can't even imagine the immense price

they paid on our behalf. Many of you are veterans, and I want you to know how grateful I am for your service to our country.

Shortly thereafter, Thanksgiving comes along and once again we are reminded of how good God has been to us. I like to write the alphabet on a piece of paper and write a gift from God for each letter. Likewise, I like to write the name of each benefactor whose name begins with a given letter.

At Christmas time we remember the great love God has for us so great that He came to earth to live among us. Is there any gift greater than that? Christmas is also a time to gather with family and friends and the God in them brings us great peace and joy.

We can't forget New Year's Day when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. We reflect on how Mary dedicated her whole life to doing what God wanted. It is traditionally a time for resolutions and promises to improve our lives (with God's help, of course).

Holiday time, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas,

brings out the best in people. It is a time when they are very generous and remember those who are less fortunate. Some people choose to make donations to gift a child with a Catholic school education. We are grateful to those people and all who have donated to Seton Catholic. You are being remembered in prayer, not just at holiday time but throughout the year. I pray for you, your families, your intentions and your deceased loved ones. When I count my blessings, I thank the good Lord for you and all you do for the Seton students. May God bless you abundantly during the holiday season and throughout the year!







hat fun we had preparing for the 2022 Seton Gala and our "Under the Big Top" theme!! We weren't sure having an event under a tent in the Spring would work because of the unpredictable temperatures in the North Country, but we were blessed with wonderful weather, and heaters inside the tent. We had such a festive array of balloon and table top decorations. Each table even had a fishbowl with live goldfish as its centerpiece.

We had baskets galore and many fabulous live auction items such as concert and sporting event tickets with corresponding accommodations, just to name a few. As always, our Seton families and surrounding community provided us with all we needed to RAISE THE ROOF on our fundraising goals for the event.

We chose our new Science Lab as our Fund-A-Need and we were able to provide additional items for the project such as fresh paint for the walls and new flooring.

Thanks to the generosity of the SJA class of 1969 we were able to update all of our lab cabinetry and venting system. We now have a totally refurbished Science lab.

The theme for the 2023 Seton Gala is "Monopoly", and we have already begun to plan the event. We have so many unique ideas in store. The Gala is our largest fundraiser and we encourage our Seton families and all local businesses to join us. Mark your calendars for April 29, 2023 and look for more information to come.

#### Seton Catholic School Plattsburgh, NY



Ms. Mary Forbes, Principal Shallen Wells, Dir. of Guidance 206 New York Road Plattsburgh, NY 12903 Phone: (518) 561-4031 Fax: (518) 563-1193 School Code: 334545 www.setonknights.org

#### Extracurricular Clubs:

Art Club Band **Campus Ministry** Chorus Drama **Key Club International** Mission of Hone **Model United Nations** Nat'l Honor Society Nat'l Jr Honor Society Student Council Yearbook

#### Interscholastic

Sports: Baseball\* Basketball **Cross Country** Football\* Golf Hockey\* **Indoor Track Outdoor Track** Soccer Softball\* Swimming\* Tennis Lacrosse\*

\*Student specific by special mergers

Seton Catholic provides programs of excellence which purposefully design academic, athletic and artistic opportunities preparing our students spiritually, mentally, physically and socially to be leaders for life.

#### **Minimum Graduation Requirements**

| Required Subjects:          |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| English                     | 4 units |
| Social Studies              | 4 units |
| Mathematics                 | 3 units |
| Science                     | 3 units |
| Language Other Than English | 1 unit  |
| Health                      | .5 unit |
| Art and/or Music            | 1 unit  |
| Physical Education          | 2 units |
| Religion                    | 2 units |

Electives: Students must earn additional units of credit to bring the total to the required minimum of 22.5 credits.

Regents Diploma recipients must pass the following:

- 1. English Regents Exam
- 2. Math Regents Exam
- 3. Science Regents Exam
- 4. U.S. History Regents Exam
- 5. One additional Math, Science, or Social Studies Regents Exam

Advanced Regents Diploma recipients must pass the following Regents Exams:

- 1. 1 to 5 as stated above
- 2. 2 Additional Math (3 total)
- 3. 1 Additional Science or Social Studies
- 4. Foreign Language Regional Exam

#### **Grading System**

Grades are numerical with 65 as passing. A letterto-number conversion is used for transfer students, as recommended by the College Entrance

**Examination Board (CEEB)** 

| A+ 98 4.00 | B+ 85 3.30 | C+ 75 2.3  |
|------------|------------|------------|
| A 95 3.82  | B 82 3.00  | C 72 2.00  |
| A- 92 3.70 | B- 79 2.70 | C- 70 1.68 |

#### **Class Rank**

Valedictorian and Salutatorian are designated for each graduating class. A class rank is determined by weight for the remaining students of each senior class. Grades for all courses are factored into a student's GPA.

#### **Class of 2020 Graduation Statistics**

| Graduates                            | 27 |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors | 2  |
| Mastery of Math                      | 6  |
| Mastery of Science                   | 7  |
| Advanced Regents Diploma             | 10 |
| Regents Diploma with Honors          | 0  |
| Regents Diploma CTE                  | 0  |
| Regents Diploma                      | 14 |
| National Honor Society               |    |
| Certificate of Language Study        |    |
|                                      |    |

#### **Post-Secondary Plans**

| 4-year College  | 21 |
|-----------------|----|
| 2-Year College  | 5  |
| Other Education | 0  |
| Undecided       | 1  |
| Armed Services  | 0  |

#### **SAT/ACT Test Results**

SAT Average: 1145.18 CR/WRT: 537.77

ACT Composite: 25.3

Math: 605.18

As Juniors and Seniors, students may qualify to take college level courses through the College Board's Advanced Placement Program and sponsored CAP courses through either Clinton Community College (SUNY) or Paul Smith's College \*Weight is given to AP and CAP courses. Additional weight = .04\*

AP Courses: American History, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, Spanish

CAP/ AS Courses: Accounting, American History, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Intro to Business, English. Environmental Science, Government and Politics, Micro-Economics, Personal Finance, Spanish

#### **International Program**

Seton Catholic celebrates a long tradition of opening our doors to international students from all over the world. These students are fully integrated into the academic and social life of our school. Their presence gives an added dimension to the educational and cultural fabric of Seton Catholic.

#### Accreditation

Seton Catholic is accredited for grades 6-12 by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools.

# CLASS OF





(L-R) Faline Hsing-Lian Yang, Salutatorian and Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad, Valedictorian



Sheikh **Muhammad Ahmad SUNY Binghamton** 



**Dominic William** Allen **Clinton Community** College



Alexander Jacob Coupal North Country Community College



Eric Barbosa-Durham Undecided



**Tonia Moretti European University** 



**Ivy Girl Angcon Pepito** Clinton Community College



**Faline Hsing-Lian** Yang Providence College

#### **Certificate of English Study**



**Lison Becam** University of France



Valentine Deleu Free University of Brussels

This year we said goodbye to a Seton legend, Mr. Gary Ryan. We believe his wife, Jan, describes him better than anyone could. We miss you Gary and we are forever grateful for your leadership.

# Gary Ryan in a Nutshell

By Jan Ryan



ary and I both grew up in Lyon Mountain and went through school together. From the time we started dating (just before our senior year), he took my two youngest brothers (twins Barry and Brent Yanulavich) under his wing and ultimately changed their lives. Sports was Gary's passion, and he encouraged them to get involved, starting with grasshopper baseball when he was their coach.

He sparked their desire to play hockey and worked hard to help create the first outdoor rink in town. The Lyon Mountain Hockey Association was born and, after the mines closed in 1967, he was instrumental in the creation of an actual indoor rink in Lyon Mountain in a building formerly occupied by the Republic Steel Corporation. Now Lyon Mountain was more than a baseball town...hockey became the passion during the long winter months.

After college, Gary got involved with coaching St. John's football (another sports passion) and accepted a teaching position at the school. Now married and still living in Lyon Mountain, hockey was becoming the up and coming area sport. The wheels in Gary's head started turning. He entertained the idea of creating a St. John's hockey team. It worked! Many of the players on that first team (including my two brothers) transferred from Northern Adirondack Central School to St. John's and actually traveled to school each day on a small St. John's school bus operated by Coach Ryan. The word got out that if you wanted to play sports, St. John's was the school to attend. Their football and hockey teams ruled!

Teaching and coaching were Gary's passions, and he was completely dedicated to both. As a coach, he wouldn't even consider missing a practice or game. Later, as athletic director, another level of passion was added. He was sure to attend all home sporting events. His students/athletes had expectations to meet as well. Gary was firm but fair.

Working in a Catholic school was a perfect fit for an athletic director like Gary. He sure knew how to stretch a dollar and balance a budget! And having a lot of "connections" helped, too. He loved

the flexibility of his job and his multi-tasking skills made him highly efficient. He could complete a phone call in mere seconds... Through the years he wore many different hats, including teacher, assistant principal, dean of discipline, head of maintenance, and principal (and most likely more). He sharpened hockey skates, cleaned bathrooms, sanded and resurfaced gym floors, removed birds and bats, climbed to the top of the Seton gym roof in winter to restore the heat, lined athletic fields, plowed parking lots, shoveled sidewalks, and even cleaned the horrid grease traps beneath the cafeteria floor. I recall countless City Police phone calls in the middle of the night; Seton Catholic (MAI building) had been left unlocked and he would have to go and secure it. He was an integral part of the yearly St. John's Festival. Things needed to be done and he did them—period!

We were married just short of 49 years, and during that time I was pretty much the silent partner. Gary could talk enough for both of us! While he was busy for long hours with teaching, coaching and athletic director priorities, I was covering the home front with our three children (Kelly, Amy & Matt) and a full-time job. We were both challenged but we made it work. Gary loved his long days at school; but afterward he enjoyed his evenings in front of the TV watching more sports.

Over the years, I could see something special happening. Gary's tough love was having long-lasting effects on his students. Ideals Gary lived by and stressed included: If you're not ten minutes early, you're ten minutes late; if you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem; whether you think you can or think you can't, you're probably right; make decisions and stick by them; be brutally honest; hold students accountable for their actions; dole out fair but sometimes unusual punishments; don't be average; strive for kindness and respect; be involved in community service, etc. Many students found him a formidable individual. Over the years, however, Gary received countless accolades from students who claimed Gary had positively changed the course of their lives. But this was a two-way street. I could see the pride and love he had gained in return. It was not something he would put into words, but I could see it, nonetheless.

Gary, among other attributes, was fair, innovative, persistent, dedicated, astute, aware, ethical, devoted, determined, punctual, stoic, witty, honest, an excellent decision-maker, a gifted speaker, helpful, multi-functional, and a willing volunteer. He didn't care if his shoes were shined, nor was he overly concerned with his wardrobe. In fact, most of his clothing in those early years was in the shades of green and white with a St. John's logo.

In 1989 the Diocese of Ogdensburg initiated a merger of St. John's Academy with MAI to form Seton Catholic Central High School, located in the MAI building.

Gary was a huge proponent of securing the North Side School on the former Air Force Base for use by Seton Catholic. Initiating the purchase and preparing the long-vacant building for reuse as a school was a monumental task, but with persistence and a lot of hard work by many, his dream became a reality in 2004.

Family was important. Of course all three of our children (Kelly, Amy and Matthew) attended St. John's/Seton Catholic, not far from his watchful eye, and they played sports. It was seldom that he missed any of their events, except in the case of schedule conflicts. After high school, they all went on to graduate from college and beyond, and have successful careers.

I cannot forget summer camp at Hamilton College. For many years, just as summer vacation began, we packed up the family and headed for Clinton, NY, where Gary coached at Hamilton College's summer hockey camp for a few weeks. It would be our summer vacation for the whole family - staying on campus, eating in the dining hall, sometimes taking short side-trip vacations in the area when his schedule permitted. Matt progressed through the camp and eventually became a junior coach.

Gary was a HUGE Red Sox fan. And he cheered for the Bruins. Along the way, Gary managed to fit in many trips to Fenway Park with family to root for his beloved Boston Red Sox and occasionally the Bruins. Most times he made the trip in one day. He was proud of the fact that his family gifted him, on the 100th anniversary of Fenway Park, with an officially inscribed brick describing: "Gary R. Ryan, Plattburgh's #1 Red Sox Fan"; one brick for him and one placed in Fenway.

We did a LOT of hiking through the years, mostly in the Adirondacks. Our most notable, and awesome, hike was with Brother Raymond Fortin in 1999 when we tackled Mount Washington in New Hampshire on an exceptionally clear and fairly calm July day.

Gary never wanted the personal glory. He disliked having his photo taken and would have preferred to be absent from team pictures. He and his sports teams won countless awards over the years. In 2010 he was inducted into the New York State High School Hockey Coach's Hall of Fame. This was a big deal and meant so very much to him.

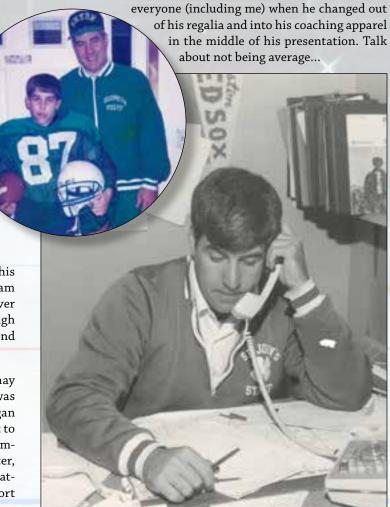
Then came the grandchildren, his real pride and joy. He may have initially been a little disappointed that the first arrival was a girl. However, the next six grandkids were all boys. Thus began skating rinks and hockey skates. Coach Papa Gary went right to work, and he was beaming. Normally Gary scowled for the camera, but not with the grandkids in the photo! There were soccer, lacrosse, basketball and some baseball games too. Figure skating shows were not his "thing" but he would be there to support Audrie. He was instrumental in getting the boys to practices

and even games when needed, and happily coached their hockey teams while his health permitted. Grandchild number eight was another girl, finally....

Gary loved the ocean! When the kids were little we often headed to Maine briefly each summer to enjoy the ocean and various amusement parks. As years went by, it became a family tradition for the whole family to vacation at the ocean together one week each summer. It started with a small place on Hampton Beach in 2005 and continues today. As the family grew (grandchildren) and needs changed, we moved on to bigger and bigger rentals—Salisbury Beach, MA; Seabrook, NH, and most recently, Plum Island in Newberry, MA. Gary made the trip with family for 15 straight years.

Gary was a faithful parishioner of St. John's Church. He helped set up for Sunday masses and served at countless funerals. He was a part of "the three musketeers" at St. John's Church and the team was willing to create, repair or do almost any chore Fr. Tim Canaan dreamed up, including elaborate decorating of the church at Christmas.

Anyone who attended Seton's commencement the year Gary retired (2009) is sure to remember his commencement address, when he stressed the importance of not being average. He surprised



Back in 1994, Gary had been diagnosed with pulmonary sarcoidosis. It was in remission when discovered, and he led a perfectly normal life for years. However, Gary could pinpoint the exact date —November 14, 2014—that everything changed. He went from specialist to specialist, and was on all kinds of medications, in search of a diagnosis for his excessive coughing and sputum. It wasn't until December 2019 that the condition was definitively confirmed as pulmonary fibrosis due to pulmonary sarcoidosis, an irreversible and progressive disease. At this time Gary was dealing with several other serious health issues as well.

Gary lived those many years of ill health with grace, but it was heartbreaking to watch him fail. He had to first give up hockey coaching with the grandkids—a devastating blow. Then coaching football was no longer possible—another big blow. He loved his golf outings with friends, until that, too, was impossible. And then the coronavirus pandemic hit in conjunction with Gary's worsening health. His world was diminished to basically one large room, where he would watch TV, read his magazines and Kindle, and check his online news and sports sites. During favorable weather he looked forward to sitting on the front porch, often with a neighborhood friend. One bright spot was an internet service called: "Live Barn," installed in various hockey rinks. Gary was gifted a subscription so he could actually watch some of his grandkids' hockey practices and games remotely!

Gary carried out the last few months of his reclusive life without complaint. Even when forced to use oxygen for the last year, he took it all in stride. Gary was a fighter. He searched until he found a pulmonary rehab program—in Elizabethtown. From September until November 2021, I drove him to each two-hour session. He struggled but never missed even one of the 22 sessions. That's determination! By this time his oxygen levels were precarious and he needed help (but wouldn't ask) with even basic needs; I had to become a mind-reader. While in the hospital during the last hours of his life, Gary watched his grandsons' hockey tournament via "Live Barn" on a laptop (unable to verbally communicate due to a breathing device), ignoring hospital staff around him, struggling to keep him alive. Up until the end (January 22, 2022), he never shared his feelings or fears. Mr. Tough Guy.

Gary just loved his "job" and made countless friends during his decades of teaching and coaching. After retirement, nothing pleased him more than spending time at Seton watching sporting events and chatting with acquaintances—and occasionally reconnecting with former students. He was knowledgeable about almost everything in the sports world and beyond and could talk your ear off. And make you laugh. He was a people person and just loved his students, athletes, coaches, peers. It's what made him tick. A compliment from Coach Ryan was rare. It was just his style.

In a collection of memorabilia saved upon Gary's retirement, I discovered many documents that I assume had formerly hung in his office. One in particular from Rutgers Football read, WHAT WE DO IN LIFE ECHOES IN ETERNITY. Appropriate and inspiring! That was Gary Ryan!

# Gathering is a Good Thing









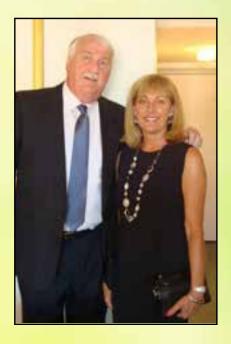
n September 9, 2022, we held a "Gathering for Gary" event at Meron's in Plattsburgh, NY. The purpose of the gathering was to recognize and celebrate Gary Ryan who was such an integral part of the success of St. John's Academy and Seton Catholic, not only in sports but in every department. Gary passed away in 2022 and his friends, family, colleagues, past students and athletes felt a need to get together to celebrate the man, the myth and the legend.

Gary was a humble man and probably would not have liked the fuss but he definitely would have enjoyed seeing the smiling faces and hearing the stories of the good old days. We had retro SJA and Seton apparel available and even unearthed some championship hockey banners that were auctioned off to raise funds for a Seton memorial fund in Gary's name.

The overall feeling was one of celebration and gratitude for the lessons Gary taught, on the field and off. It felt good to honor Gary with laughter and shared respect for all he gave the St. John's and Seton community. We will always miss you, Gary, but will carry your spirit with us as we continue with the mission.

# Always In Our Hearts

## Patricia (Jock) Verkey, SJA '71



Patricia (Jock) Verkey graduated from St. John's Academy, class of 1971. She was a member of the chorus and in her Senior year a cheerleader. Patti graduated from Clinton Community College in 1973 with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts.

She married Donald Verkey in April 1974. Their two children Christopher Verkey (Class of 1996) and Samantha (Trudeau) (Class of 2001) were both graduates of Seton Catholic Central.

Patti was an avid skier, tap dancer, and her favorite pastime was shopping! She loved her family and was so proud of her children. She never missed any of her kids' sporting events, traveling all

over to watch every game/meet all the way through college. You could count on her to cheer the loudest and she would always volunteer to rake the pit at the Seton Track Meets in her purple coat!

Patti worked as a secretary for various businesses. When there was an opening at St. John's Academy, Patti was hired to work alongside her sister, Debbie Jabaut, in the school office. Patti worked for Sr. Brian Marie Latour, RSM and years later Sr. Helen Hermann, SSJ. She loved welcoming students and parents with her beautiful smile and infectious laugh.

Patti was very involved in school and church organizations: St. John's Parents' Guild, St. John's Altar Rosary Society, and as Associate Member of the Sisters of Mercy. She volunteered for the many fundraisers: Harvest Dinner, May Festival, Family Fun Night, The Shamrock Café at the Clinton County Fair, just to name a few. Her love for the St. John's and Seton Catholic Community was apparent.

After her retirement in 2016, Patti faced a devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease. She lived her days at home with her husband Don and her family caring for her. Sadly, she died on August 23, 2022. Her last days were spent at Elderwood at Uihlein in Lake Placid, NY. She now is relieved of the disease which robbed her vitality. May she rest in peace.





# Reunion

emorial Day weekend is the traditional time to reunite with classmates from St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute, Our Lady of Victory Academy and Seton Catholic. We are fortunate that we have a good pipeline of active graduates who reach out to their friends and family and encourage them to join us. It is always exciting to hear who is planning to attend, where everyone is traveling from and what they have all been up to. We have a very involved group from the MAI Class of 1958 who are looking forward to celebrating their 65th reunion. What other classes want to join in the fun?

Save the date for next year's event, May 27, 2023, and help us spread the word. Please contact us at: spellerin@setonknights.org with your current email address and we will make sure we keep you informed. Remember that all classes are welcome and we hope to see you soon!















































These members of the MAI Class of 1967 weren't able to make the Memorial Day reunion so they had one of their own in September.

Pictured here are L-R: Chuck Szablewski, Steve Beebie, Bob Meyer, Harry Neverett ('68), Terry Meron, Dan Curtin, Tony FitzPatrick, and Art Spiegel.











# GOLF TOURNAMENT





# Honor Roll of Donors

Seton Catholic gratefully acknowledges the many alumni, family members and friends who have offered their support in our Fiscal Year 2021–2022. The success of our students, faculty, staff and school is built upon the generosity of these individuals. Their financial support, whether to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student, or, previously, in the form of designated gifts to Seton Academy or Seton Catholic, makes a positive difference in the lives of our students.

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.

# Leadership Council Gold Knights \$5,000 +

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If you made a gift to Seton Catholic during the period 10/1/2021-10/15/2022 but are not listed above. or your acknowledgement is incorrect, please contact us at (518) 561-4031 or spellerin@setonknights.org.



y name is Annie Pearl Jenkins. I am a graduate of St. John's Academy in 1984... yikes!! I just gave away my age. Recently my children and I moved "home" to Plattsburgh from Colorado. I am writing this to express my deepest gratitude to Ms. Mary Forbes, the faculty, staff and students at Seton Catholic School.

Before moving home, my children Ryan (15) and Emily (13), were enrolled in large public schools in Colorado. While they were good schools, both Ryan and Emily were "faces in the crowd". Neither had much motivation or interest in school. They were, however, comfortable with the situation. When we got the opportunity to move to Plattsburgh, I immediately enrolled them at Seton and have been so pleased with that decision.

Starting a new school is never easy, especially midyear. Ryan and Emily were both very anxious and expressed a lot of uncertainty. Little did they know, or did I, for that matter, expect the welcome, support and encouragement from everyone at Seton.

Within weeks both kids felt included, accepted and comfortable with their new school. That comfort has become confidence. Their work ethic and motivation have shown up in their grades. They are taking pride in the work they are doing in school. The academic, Spiritual, and social opportunities have made a very positive impact on our entire family.



So, to Ms. Mary Forbes, the staff, faculty, and students of Seton Catholic School, I would like to say "Thank You", for all you have done for my family. Ryan, Emily and I are so proud and excited to be part of this very special school—Seton Catholic...Go Knights!!

God Bless and Thank you, Annie Pearl Jenkins SJA '84

ur 6 & 8 year old daughters, Keira & Anne Gibson, began attending school at Seton just this September. Everyone has been professional, polite, welcoming and a pleasure to work with. Both girls love their teachers, classmates and the entire Seton school experience. Our oldest daughter was a bit uncomfortable at her previous school, as it was such a large institution, with more students. I'm grateful for the religious teachings and am so pleased the girls get to do the pledge of allegiance each morning among other things. My husband and I feel so good about entrusting Seton with our daughters. We are so blessed to have this option close to home.

Sincerely, Kirsten Pope & Alex Gibson



## WE ARE ALL ABOUT SCIENCE...

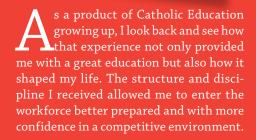
his year Seton was fortunate to receive a generous donation from the St. John's Academy Class of 1969 which enabled the school to completely refresh and rehab the Science lab. The donation covered the cabinetry and updated the venting system. We also received many donations from the Seton Gala supporters, as the lab was designated as the Fund A Need for the event. New flooring was installed and the entire room was painted. New laboratory equipment was purchased to bring the lab up to date.

We are very thankful for all of our donors and want to show you what we can do with your gifts. If one class can raise enough money to accomplish a new lab, imagine what we can do with more class participation. We are reaching out to all of our alumni to consider making a class gift to Seton Catholic.

With your help we can continue to improve our physical space and continue our mission of educating our youth. For more information and assistance please contact spellerin@setonknights.org.







I am proud to say that our SJA Class of 1969 recently donated money to build a new State-of-the-Art Science Lab at Seton Catholic to enable the students to further explore the world around them.

Seton Catholic should always be the school of choice in the North Country. I would encourage all classes to do what they can, no matter how big or small, to keep Seton operating at the highest level.

For a "Wish List" of the school you can contact Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at 518-561-4031.

A Spokesperson from the St. John's Academy Class of 1969.







### Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine

