As I enter my third year as president, I am continually impressed and moved by the level of connection our alumni have with Lourdes Academy. It has become clear to me that this connection deserves its own forum, and that is what you’re looking at right now. The Shield was created as our alumni newsletter, and it exists to promote and celebrate the many people who have helped make Lourdes Academy into a supportive, faith-filled community. Our goal is to make The Shield a quarterly publication. We will be sending it to your most current address, and we hope to distribute it electronically as well. If you haven’t already, please take the time to pass along your email so that we can keep you up to date on Lourdes Academy news.

Each issue of The Shield will feature your stories. It will commemorate your successes and connect you directly to the students, faculty members and administrators who are benefiting every day from your legacy. Inside, you’ll find stories about our students, teachers, and your fellow alumni. You’ll hear about our work in the classroom, as well as our artistic and athletic efforts.

Ultimately, The Shield is designed to celebrate the present while honoring the past and offering all of us a glimpse into our bright future. I am proud to write its initial introduction, and I am thrilled to share it with you, our alumni. Please, enjoy the stories of our success and the lasting impact of your legacy.

Bob Biebel, President
Recognizing Excellence

Lourdes Academy recognizes alumni at awards dinner

The room was filled with nostalgia and stories of Lourdes past as award winners reminisced about their high school experience at the third annual Awards Recognition Dinner on April 12. There was plenty of laughter and a deep sense of appreciation for Lourdes as guests recounted some of their fondest memories.

The Awards Recognition Dinner was started in 2011 to honor the dedicated staff, volunteers and alumni who have shown exemplary service to their school and community and have demonstrated success in their careers. Each year, Lourdes Academy presents the Outstanding Alumni Award to an individual whose service to the school has shown exemplary service to their school and community.

For several weeks this summer, the Castle Gym was closed for improvements. The process began with a team of experts sanding down the gym floor to bare wood. Then, one brush stroke at a time, they recreated our logo to be consistent with our new image, but it has still stand today. It’s a plus to have a nice classroom with shiny floors and a beautiful courtyard to look out over, but a school is really a community. It’s the people—students, staff, parents, alum and supporting friends—that make Lourdes what it is. We work hard to keep that formula intact, and I hope we always will.

The Washington Post – DEJA VU!

As summer fades into another memory and the nights are cool but days still get warm, it can mean only one thing: I’m full swing into another school year at Lourdes Academy! It’s a ritual that I’ve been practicing for 29 years. Even though it’s been nearly three decades, it never gets old, it’s always rewarding and new challenges just keep coming! One of my old college professors visited me in my classroom shortly after I started at Lourdes and with this adage: “Paul, your job will be a ton of work, you will experience frustration and reward, but being with the kids day in and day out will keep you young.” He couldn’t have been more right!

As I reflect back to my early years at Lourdes, I can see change and yet some things are the same. First, there certainly have been changes. Tom Baum was principal, we still had Home Economics, and each parish had an independent K-8 school; there was no middle school. Year to year, we still had an occasional priest, sister or brother on staff. My room was full of outdated 1960’s equipment, and a personal computer was still very rare. I owned an Apple 2e and could have bought a nice used car for the same price. I taught Biology and Health Science.

We got our first school computers around 1990. We got four IBM’s; two went to administration and two for classroom. I volunteered to accept one and take a weekend seminar through IBM to get some training. I also got a bunch of floppy disk software to teach biology concepts. The computer age was launched! Today, I maintain a science computer/microscope lab next to my classroom with 28 stations. I could easily document many additional educational changes but you probably get the idea. Education does not stand still; if you are in it for the long haul, you better be flexible and be willing to work hard for change and improvement.

I’m most happy to discuss what has stayed the same. From day one, I genuinely felt welcome here and believe that we have really good people associated with Lourdes. I teach the best kids I could want to have in my classroom. That means that there are great parents with good values and a strong desire to support the best education they can find for their children. That’s a formula that has kept me coming back to this institution year after year. Sure, the image of a school might be brick and mortar; it’s a plus to have a nice classroom with shiny floors and a beautiful courtyard to look out over, but a school is really a community. It’s the people—students, staff, parents, alum and supporting friends—that make Lourdes what it is. We work hard to keep that formula intact, and I hope we always will.

As an alum and supporting friend, I’ve experienced frustration and reward but being with the kids day in and day out will keep you young. I couldn’t have been more right!