Eighteen students at Lourdes Academy were given the opportunity to explore the field of medicine with the help of the Mercy Medical Center staff.

Lourdes Academy created a new program for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the medical field through the Medical Scholars program. On February 18, the LA Medical Scholar students traveled to Mercy Medical Center to tour the hospital as a way to further their knowledge of medical careers.

During the trip, students toured different areas of the hospital and learned what each job in that area entailed. They were escorted through the emergency room, operating room, and through the lab where blood is tested. Students also toured the pharmacy and the radiation and oncology areas.

“It was a great opportunity,” sophomore and Medical Scholars member Lauren Schiek said.

The Medical Scholars program evolved from an idea from Lourdes alumnus Dr. John Leschke (’76), an anesthesiologist and Chief Medical Officer for Mercy Medical Center. He created the Medical Scholars program because he thought it would help students realize the number of careers in the medical field.

Leschke said that offering a Medical Scholars program would be a great opportunity for students to talk to medical professionals about their careers and to see, hands-on, what it is like to work in the hospital.

Leschke recalled when he was a student at Lourdes, he was interested in a medical career but was not aware of the many different jobs that were available. The late Bill Behring, former Lourdes science teacher, encouraged him to consider becoming a doctor.

There were several other goals in creating this and future programs. One goal is to help students discover areas of interest in the medical field before they begin to select colleges. The program will also help students decide the best choice for their education for their intended field.

Secondly, the Medical Scholars program shows students that what they learn in school can be applied to jobs. Lastly, the program is intended to create awareness about careers and the businesses right here in Oshkosh and in the Fox Valley that offer them.

In the future, Medical Scholars students will also observe other career opportunities in the hospital and will sit down with medical professionals to discuss their careers. Leschke said in this way, the students would be aware of the many job opportunities in health care and the amount of schooling that is needed.

Opportunities for other scholars programs are on the horizon for students who are interested in fields outside of the medical world. According to Lourdes Academy Development Director Karen Boehm who helped establish Medical Scholars, Lourdes is expanding its scholars program to include the areas of business/entrepreneurship, law and computer sciences.

For now though, Lourdes is fortunate that Leschke feels a commitment to the school and to help students navigate their career path into the medical field.
Trophy case displays honor and pride
By Paul Lee – Knight Writer, Student Journalist

Mike, Patti and Kate Frohrib dedicated a new state championship trophy case on February 19 in memory of their father and husband, Patrick Frohrib, who passed away in June.

On February 19, Lourdes Academy dedicated its new state championship trophy case to Patrick Frohrib, an active supporter of Lourdes athletics who passed away June 1, 2014.

During a pre-game ceremony at the boys varsity basketball game, Athletic Director Kevin Wopat dedicated the state championship trophy case, which was donated by Patti (’72), Kate (’01) and Mike (’06) Frohrib in Patrick’s memory. Then, the Frohrib family received the privilege of unveiling the trophy case for all who were gathered outside of the Castle Gym.

Patti Frohrib, wife of Patrick Frohrib, and her son, Mike, and daughter, Kate, were very honored to have so many family and friends join them for the dedication.

Patti Frohrib said, “Lourdes is a key part of our family, and the support of the Lourdes community during this difficult time is very much appreciated.”

Patrick Frohrib’s dedication to Lourdes athletics makes him a special member of the Lourdes family, and it is an honor that the state championship trophy case will be a permanent tribute to him, Karen Boehm, Lourdes development director said.

According to Boehm, Lourdes Academy has envisioned a state championship trophy case, and the Frohrib family made that vision a reality.

“When students, guests, and families walk down the athletic hallway, they will not only be able to see the numerous state championship trophies that Lourdes athletes have earned over the years, they will also have the chance to commemorate a man who poured his heart and soul into Lourdes athletics,” Boehm said. “We are grateful to the Frohrib family for donating this wonderful addition to our school.”

The state championship trophy case and Patrick Frohrib’s dedication to Lourdes are similar; they both display Lourdes Academy honor and pride.

If you have an interest in supporting a project at Lourdes Academy, contact Karen Boehm at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.

Lourdes develops Tomorrow’s Leaders

Twenty-four Lourdes Academy sophomores attended a Leadership and Ethics Conference at St. Norbert College on February 19. The students are part of the newly created Tomorrow’s Leaders Scholarship Program sponsored by the Blevons Group and Northwest Mutual.

During the conference, Lourdes Academy students interacted with other high school students regarding topics such as honor, respect, and integrity. The goal of the conference was to emphasize the combination of leadership and ethics and the role they play in developing character and how they work together to influence their community in a positive way.

One important lesson was that once an individual develops leadership qualities they must have the courage to apply ethical principles to their decision-making.

Throughout the day Lourdes Academy students were given the opportunity to listen to speakers and to participate in small group discussions along with students from five other private high schools. They also were able to spend a day on a college campus. Overall it was a great experience for these students and taught valuable life lessons.

If you would like more information about the Tomorrow’s Leaders Scholars program, please contact Bob Biebel at bbiebel@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org or 920-426-3626, ext. 537.

Lourdes to recognize alumni, volunteers at awards dinner

On Friday, April 17, Lourdes Academy will hold its fifth annual Awards Recognition Dinner at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main Street. During the event, Lourdes will present several awards recognizing outstanding achievements in business, athletics and service.

George and Judi Prescott (’65) will receive the Outstanding Alumni Award. The Distinguished Stewardship Award will be presented to Jeff and Mary McBride. And Dick Sedlachek (’69) and the 1974 State Championship Football Team will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. In addition, Tom Baum (’64) will be recognized as the winner of the Dr. Stanley J. Spanbauer Education & Leadership Award, which he received at the citywide Celebrate Education event in March.

Join us in supporting this year’s award winners. Tickets for the event are $15 each. The event begins with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards program at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by April 8 by contacting Carla Huizenga at 920-426-3626, ext. 540 or carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.
If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

~Chinese Proverb

If you think back far enough, chances are you remember a teacher that influenced the direction of your life—inspired a career path, encouraged you to go beyond what you thought you were capable of and gave you the confidence to succeed in your endeavors. There are few careers that can impact the future like teaching. So this issue of The Shield is dedicated to those serving in the field of education.

The man, the myth, the legend
Tom Baum ('64) recognizes almost every student that came through Lourdes in the nearly 40 years that he taught, coached or was principal, although the names get a little harder to remember. But he does remember how rewarding it was to be a part of the lives of thousands of students and to hope that he made a little bit of difference.

With the exception of a couple years, Baum spent his entire career at Lourdes starting with his own schooling. Larry Van Alstine was his teacher and coach and became a role model for Baum. Baum entered college intending to pursue a degree in physical therapy. He coached a couple of teams, most memorably the St. Mary 8th grade football team, and that convinced him he wanted to be a teacher and work with kids.

While earning a degree in education at UW Oshkosh, Baum coached several local grade school teams, as well as at Lourdes High School.

He married his wife, Betsy, while in graduate school and was preparing to move to Carpenterville, Illinois, to pursue a new job when he received a call from Brother James. The Christian Brothers decided to leave Lourdes, leaving several teaching positions available. That was the beginning of a legacy that continues today with his involvement on the Board of Directors and other committees at Lourdes Academy.

“If I feel a lot of pride in the school itself and what it stands for and what it has stood for all these years,” Baum said. “I've been part of it since it started. I see former students all over the United States. They were great kids then and they still are. I'm proud to be part of that kind of history.”

Tearing down walls to build a class
Amanda (Wenrich) Bernhagen ('01) and Cheryl (Wenrich) Rasmussen ('79) won't let anything get in the way of teaching their 4-year kindergarten students—not even a wall. The niece/aunt team has been teaching together at Davis Child Care for more than a decade and recently renovated a classroom to remove a wall so they could team teach. The cheery space is adorned with tiny handprints, student masterpieces and jumbo letters—a creative environment for developing minds.

Cheryl (Wenrich) Rasmussen and Amanda (Wenrich) Bernhagen, team teach 4-year kindergarten in the Ranger Room at Davis Child Care.

Bernhagen started her teaching career with Rasmussen so the team teaching approach seemed to be a natural progression professionally.

To earn community service hours as a senior in high school, Bernhagen volunteered at Davis Child Care where her aunt worked. She became involved in the Learning for Life mentorship program which engaged volunteers in discussions about teaching strategies and the education profession. The experience inspired Bernhagen to earn her Associates Degree from Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and later a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from UW Oshkosh in 2010.

Bernhagen, who had been teaching in the Scooter Room (1.5 year olds) then Snapper Room (3 year olds) at Davis, moved to the Ranger (4K) Room upon graduation and found her niche.

“I like coming to work every day,” Bernhagen said. “It's always a happy environment, with hugs and smiles. I like the preschool 4K age because we are able to do more things with the kids, they're interactive in a different way—
Bernhagen’s mother and aunt, who were also teachers, inspired her decision to teach. In fact Rasmussen had been teaching at a preschool in Oshkosh when she had the idea to start a preschool for her parish, Sacred Heart. With approval from the board, Rasmussen started Sacred Heart Preschool in 1994-95 and operated it until the Catholic schools consolidated in 1997. She stayed home with her son for a time, then began her career at Davis during which time she earned her associates degree from FVTC. Rasmussen helped create an inter-generation program with Evergreen Retirement Community which opened a daycare classroom at Evergreen from 2003 to 2008. “It was a phenomenal experience,” Rasmussen said. “On a daily basis, our children could go to all areas and do activities with ‘grandmas and grandpas.’ The kids learned old time songs and had connections through music. It was a very positive program.”

Bernhagen’s and Rasmussen’s careers merged, literally, in the 4K program. They had each been teaching a 4K class at Davis when they proposed tearing down a wall and combining classrooms. It’s been a recipe for success.

“My aunt is a good strong role model…she has a lot of experience that I can draw off of,” Bernhagen said. “I tend to be a little more quiet and laid back and she’s a little more outgoing. I bring a lot of technology to the classroom, she has knowledge and experience. We combine old and new.”

Inspired by music

David Poeschl (’73) recalled how much his band teachers, Gary Fontaine and Terry Hathaway, loved music and working with students, and they encouraged him to follow a similar path.

“I was inspired by the ability to make a difference in kids’ and families’ lives,” said Poeschl who studied band with Fontaine from third grade through his junior year in high school. “Now, as a superintendent, to see their growth from kindergarten through graduation and observing them overcoming difficulties and celebrating their achievements makes the field of education very rewarding.”

Poeschl earned a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from UW Oshkosh, then worked in Oakfield as the band director for 10 years under current State Superintendent Tony Evers. During that time, Poeschl earned a Master of Arts with an emphasis in Humanities from UW Oshkosh in 1982 and a Master of Science in Education Administration from UW Madison in 1987. Poeschl then served as principal then district administrator at Oakfield, before becoming the district administrator for the School District of Waupaca and earning his Doctor of Philosophy Degree from UW Madison in 1992.

Poeschl has experienced many changes in education throughout his career, including the influence of politics, the emphasis on testing and the way information is delivered.

“I see education as becoming very different than it was when I went to school. Technology will allow us to knock down classroom walls, eliminate grade levels and teach to what students know and can do.”

Poeschl’s career in education ties back to many positive influences at Lourdes.

“I still remember the names—Tom Baum, Larry Van Alstine, Fr. Mike Carroll, Glen Kemp and Fr. Karl Buresch,” he said. “I remember them very fondly as having been influential in my life and career.”

Giving of herself to make a difference

Maripat Putzer (’71) loved literature from the time she was a child. That set her on a path to earn an English degree from UW Stevens Point where she could combine her passion for literature with her ability to influence young minds.

“Whenever I saw sparks in students, I knew I had touched a nerve and gotten them interested in some aspect of literature or writing,” Putzer said. “I realized that literature could give them some guidance that they could apply in the real world.”

Putzer taught at Sacred Heart School in Appleton for seven years, followed by 31 years in Texas before she retired in 2013.

Putzer reminisced about many teachers who developed her love of literature and influenced her decision to pursue a career in teaching, including Mrs. Wesenberg (English), Mr. Bill Behring (Chemistry), Coach Glen Kemp (Economics), Fr. Jerry Bouressa (Religion), Mrs. Van Vuren (English), Fr. Thompson, Sr. Julian Eymard (Biology) and Miss Ross (French). Much like these teachers influenced her, she has passed on that thirst for learning to future generations.

Lourdes Academy Annual Appeal

Please consider making a donation to the Lourdes Academy spring appeal going out this month. Your support means the world to us.

Show Your Knight Pride!

Customizable apparel shipped right to your door.

ALUMNI, use promo code “Welcome” for $15 off a minimum $75 purchase.

Visit lourdesacademyoshkosh.org and click on the school store link.

Lourdes Academy Annual Appeal
“Anytime you can help another person at whatever level it is, whether it’s to get a spark going to learn something or an example you can give to make them better people, that’s a service,” Putzer added. “Donating money is an easy service. You need to give of yourself and your time to make a difference. When you reconnect [with students], it’s delightful to see them going on to become good, happy and successful people and to know that you had a small part in that.”

Maripat Putzer celebrated her retirement in Las Vegas.

In every building at Lourdes Academy you will find dedicated teachers, administrators and staff who graduated from Lourdes and returned to serve their alma mater. (And we’re so glad they did.) Asked what they love best about their job and who inspired them to pursue a career in education, here’s what they said:

“I love working with the younger children and being able to help them learn how to write their names, teach them to share with their friends, pray before snack and lunch and just help and watch them learn daily! This is the only place that you can work and talk about God and Jesus with the kids! I am very blessed to be able to help shape these young lives.”

Deb (Putzer) Rasmussen (’76) – Preschool Aide
Lourdes Academy Daycare

“The best part about teaching for Lourdes Academy is the support from involved and caring families.”
Carol (Teclaw) Morris (’66), 4th Grade
Lourdes Academy Elementary - Cabrini

“What I like best about my job is being a leader for the children; nurturing, guiding and keeping an open line of communication; giving my best, and learning that receiving is priceless.”

Gabrielle Burns (’07), Administrative Assistant
Lourdes Academy Elementary - Seton

“The best part of my job is seeing the kids come in every morning with smiling faces ready to start another day. It doesn’t matter what happened yesterday or what problem they couldn’t figure out, today is a new day and they are ready to start all over again.”

Luke Spanbauer (’97), 2nd Grade
Lourdes Academy Elementary - Seton

“I love the diversity of my job. Every day is different. It’s a challenge.”

Patty (Putzer) Neubauer (’79), Communications Director

“My seventh grade teacher at St. Vincent’s School, Sr. Karen Anderson SSND, inspired me to go into education. Sister was our music teacher and choir director. She had patience, a cute sense of humor, and was very dedicated to making sure we served others. My class would sing for funerals, weddings, and Easter Masses. I LOVE teaching second grade. As I reflect on my long years in Catholic education, I can honestly say that it’s been a dream come true job. I would never think of doing anything else.”

Mary Ann (Grundman) Wymann (’69), 2nd Grade
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Calling all volunteers
The Summer 2015 issue of The Shield will feature Lourdes alumni who are serving their communities. Tell us about your volunteering experience for a chance to be included in The Shield. Four stories will be selected for the Summer 2015 edition. To share your story, contact Karen Boehm at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.

10th Annual TEE It Up for Kids GOLF Outing
Featuring “PAR-TEE” on the Patio
Benefiting Lourdes Academy PreK-12
Friday, June 19
Lake Breeze Golf Club
6333 Ball Prairie Rd., Winneconne

Golf - $125 per person/$500 per foursome
9:30 a.m. Registration • 11 a.m. Shotgun Start
Includes 18 holes with a cart, boxed lunch served on the course and dinner

Party on the Patio - $25 per person or $35 with dinner
2-4 p.m. (for non-golfers)
Featuring live music, food and drinks on the patio (held in Clubhouse in the event of rain).
Lourdes welcomes the Class of 1995 Reunion to Party on the Patio.

REGISTER TODAY
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Lourdes alumni return to serve

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Special thanks to Bart Putzer, Class of 1984, for assisting with the layout & design of The Shield.

UPCOMING LOURDES REUNIONS

**Class of 1970 - 45 Years**
Saturday, June 13 • Time TBD
Lourdes Academy Commons, 110 N. Sawyer St.

**Class of 1985 - 30 Years**
Saturday, August 8
4:30 p.m.  Tours at Lourdes Academy, 110 N. Sawyer St. (enter Door #7, back parking lot, east side of building)
5:30 p.m.  Cocktails at Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, 1 N. Main St.
6:30 p.m.  Dinner at Best Western Premier
Contact: Sarah Schneider, 414-630-9924 or sarahschneider1@yahoo.com

**Class of 1995 - 20 Years**
Friday, June 19
Gathering at the Lourdes Golf Outing with Party on the Patio (see inside for details on golf and Party on the Patio)
Lake Breeze Golf Club, 6333 Ball Prairie Rd., Winneconne

Saturday, June 20 • Time TBD
Reunion
Becket's, 2 Jackson Street
Contact: Kelly Voss at kellyvoss76@yahoo.com

**Class of 1965 - 50 Years (with Oshkosh HS)**
Friday, September 11 • Time TBD
Tours at Lourdes Academy, 110 N. Sawyer Street

Saturday, September 12 • Time TBD
Reunion at The Waters
Contact: John Dempsey at 920-426-1327 or dempsey2@att.net