Senior boys are learning what it takes to become gentlemen thanks to mentors from the Lourdes community.

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (LOEG) is a new club offered to seniors. Lourdes fathers Mike Pollack, Rob Chartier, KevinRalofsky, Todd Kaull, and Mark Lasky, and Sam Olmsted, an active member of the Oshkosh community, are the parent-mentors who have made this club possible.

The program focuses on teaching young men proper life skills such as how to dress, dine and shake someone’s hand, as well as “indispensable manly skills” such as how to back up a trailer, drive a stick shift and change a tire. According to the mentors, they decided to offer this new program because they saw that many young men do not display these important life skills.

At the first LOEG meeting, the gentlemen-in-training learned basic interviewing and introductory skills including proper handshakes, eye contact, body language, and cell phone etiquette. During the second meeting, the members learned the difference between business dress, formal dress, and casual dress. The most recent meeting was held at Becket’s where the senior boys learned proper table etiquette including how to order an appropriate dinner, where to locate the silverware and glasses on the table, how to properly eat the meal, and how to have an appropriate conversation with a boss or with a girl’s father.

Many seniors are taking the opportunity to learn how to be gentlemen from the volunteer mentors. According to senior Keegan Mains, he joined the LOEG because it sounded interesting. So far, Mains said he has learned the difference between casual, business, and formal dress. Mains also said he enjoys learning from professional men.

Senior Jack Brooks said he joined LOEG because he thought that the group would help him in the future. Brooks said he has valued learning from the gentlemen how to tie a tie and proper etiquette. In addition, Brooks said that his favorite meeting thus far was going to Becket’s where he learned proper table manners.

According to the mentors, in future sessions, the LOEG will focus on topics such as chivalry, haberdashery, critical conversations, appropriate social media posting, and “manly” skills such as how to jump a car battery, drive a stick shift, and grill the perfect steak.

Please stay in touch

To continue receiving the alumni Shield newsletter and other exciting news from Lourdes Academy, please update your contact information on the “Alumni” link at www.lourdes.today.
Alumni establish music fund to honor Kuble

Judy Kuble delighted members of the Class of 1976 with a visit to their 40th class reunion last summer.

Leanne Knobloch Schug (’92) remembers all too well the days she spent in Mrs. Kuble’s choir room during high school.

“Mrs. Kuble inspired her students to achieve their fullest potential,” Knobloch Schug said. “Her teaching style encouraged us to work hard, be creative, and collaborate with each other to accomplish a common goal. She modeled so many qualities to help us become the best versions of ourselves—kindness, service, leadership, appreciation of the arts, dedication and pride in a job well done,” Knobloch Schug added.

Hundreds of alumni like Knobloch Schug were influenced by Kuble’s leadership over the decades through activities such as Chamber Singers, Solo and Ensemble Festivals, Live Nativity, and of course, the beloved spring musical, which now involves nearly half of the high school student body.

It was this life-changing experience that inspired her to start a fund in Kuble’s honor to support the current music program at Lourdes Academy. It didn’t take long before a committee of 13 alumni was formed to help launch the fund.

“I can guarantee that the life skills Judy Kuble gave me (and all her students) are still being used every single day, and that we are better people because of those skills,” said Jens Rasmussen (’88), committee member.

“Words really cannot provide enough context of the breadth of impact Mrs. Kuble made on my life,” added Julie (Scott) Miller (’80), committee member.

Kuble retired nearly 25 years ago, but her legacy lives on in the music program at Lourdes Academy as current students continue the tradition of musical excellence.

“As alumni, we have an opportunity to nurture their dreams just as Mrs. Kuble nurtured ours,” Knobloch Schug said.

In March, the Judy & Tom Kuble Fund was established as a permanent endowment at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation to support the arts at Lourdes Academy. The fund honors Judy, as well as her husband, Tom, who worked alongside her to support her ministry.

Annual proceeds from the endowment will be used to support the Judy Kuble Scholarship, music education and workshops for students, the spring musical and other music initiatives at Lourdes Academy.

“I am thrilled that the Judy and Tom Kuble Fund will ensure their legacy at Lourdes for generations to come,” Knobloch Schug said.

Kuble humbly blessed the fund with the hope that it will continue to inspire the arts at Lourdes.

Alumni interested in supporting the Judy & Tom Kuble Fund, please refer to the donation box below for details. For more information on the fund, please contact Karen Boehm, Development Director, at 920-426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today, or one of the committee members listed below.

Support the Judy & Tom Kuble Fund

Your tax-deductible gift to the Judy & Tom Kuble Fund helps support music and the arts at Lourdes Academy. To make a donation, please send a check (made payable to Lourdes Academy) and include Kuble Fund in the memo.

Lourdes Academy
Attn: Karen Boehm, Development Director
250 N. Sawyer Street | Oshkosh, WI 54902

Or contact Karen to pay by credit card at 920.426.3626, ext. 546.

Judy & Tom Kuble Fund Committee

Linda Leschke Dorsey (’74)
Therese Meidl (’76)
Chris Meidl (’79)
Michael Timmerman (’79)
Julie Scott Miller (’80)
Randy Weddig (’84)
Tom Branigan (’86)
Kerry (Branigan) Mitchell (’88)
Jens Rasmussen (’88)
Erin (Slattery) Black (’91)
Brian Mitchell (’91)
Mike Maslowski (’92)
Leanne Knobloch Schug (’92), Chair
Helping inner city youth reach their potential

By Karen Boehm - Development Director

Before starting his junior year, Greg Darnieder (‘67) spent the summer in St. Louis working with Christian Brother Tom O’Brien as a volunteer in a youth program he ran at St. Theresa’s on Grand Boulevard north of St. Louis University. He knew the second day he was there that he wanted to go into urban education.

“It was enthralling and exciting to me,” Darnieder said. “When I was 15 years of age, I had never met a person of color, never met an African American or Latino. This was happening during the Civil Rights Movement with notable figures like Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X and Kennedy.”

O’Brien’s goal to get kids off the streets and into college soon became Darnieder’s passion, a passion that would eventually take him to the White House.

“It was never my goal to travel to Washington D.C. and work for the federal government, but God opened doors along the way.”

Darnieder wanted to translate his Catholic faith into action by giving of himself to others. He did that first through teaching, then later through direct service.

After graduating from Lourdes, Darnieder earned a sociology and teaching degree from St. Louis University and began his career in education as a middle grades teacher at a Catholic school in St. Louis’ inner city. He ran two summer camps in the Ozarks where inner city students had the opportunity to experience life outside of a neighborhood plagued by violence and poverty. He experienced their plight first hand when both camps were intentionally set on fire.

Darnieder was left to wonder how to turn a situation like that into forgiveness and patience, acknowledging that it’s easy to say how we should act as Christians until we are tested. Darnieder believed this was one of many situations God used to purify his heart and soul over the years for the path ahead of him.

His work took him to Chicago’s Cabrini Green Housing Development where he served for 15 years as the executive director of youth development and college access. In the 1980s, Cabrini was the most violent housing project in the country with a murder rate far exceeding that of today. In 2009, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named Darnieder senior advisor to the secretary on the College Access Initiative of the U.S. Department of Education where he served as a leading voice on President Obama’s 2020 Goal to help low income students achieve a college education.

He worked with First Lady Michelle Obama and her staff developing the department and became a senior advisor on her staff working on the Reach Higher initiative. Through his work, he was able to lead the Chicago Public Schools.

“That work was really powerful. I was able to hire my own staff, many of whom were Christians who shared my belief system,” Darnieder said. “Everyone is created by God with gifts and talents. It’s our responsibility as adults to put a system in place for them to reach their potential.”

Only 43 percent of low income students were going to college when Darnieder started. Now that number is almost 60 percent—one of the largest number increases in a major urban school district in the country.

Over time, God showed Darnieder the signs of his work, and he is publishing a book of his experiences due out next year.

“Social media put me in touch with people in mainstream society who have earned Ph.D.s, are medical doctors, teachers, principals and counselors. These are kids everyone had written off. It’s beautiful to be part of that experience.”

Meris Petek goes to Washington

By Charleigh Reinardy (’19) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

2005 alumna Meris Petek took her interest of politics to Washington D.C. after first becoming interested in government during her time at Lourdes.
Petek said she was involved in one of her first political experiences during her senior year at Lourdes. At that time, she volunteered with a group of her classmates to knock on doors and make phone calls for Bush’s 2004 presidential campaign. Petek said she became especially interested in politics during her last year of college after she had the opportunity to spend the summer interning for Representative Tom Petri (R-WI) in his D.C office.

Petek said she has always been proactive and persistent. She said she wanted to work for Senator Johnson (R-WI) after he got elected in 2010, so she took the initiative to email her resume to his state director at the time. In addition, she said she kept reminding the state director to review her resume until she got a response and eventually received an interview and a job offer.

Currently, Petek is the Legislative Assistant to Senator Ron Johnson and works in Johnson’s D.C. office where she is his top policy advisor on issues concerning agriculture, energy, commerce, and trade. She conducts in-depth background research, drafts legislation, and provides recommendations regarding those policy issues to Senator Johnson in order to help him make the most informed decisions possible.

Petek said she has always leaned conservative. “I think for a long time the majority of my political beliefs came from my upbringing, but as I’ve gotten older and worked in politics myself, my convictions have strengthened and become more my own,” Petek said.

Although Petek said she has never thought about running for office, she says that’s not to say she never will. Since May 2011, Petek said she has never taken for granted that her job allows her a unique opportunity to serve the people of her home state of Wisconsin.

“I get to interact with Wisconsinites every day even though I live in D.C., and I get the privilege of helping shape legislation that makes their lives better. My current role allows me to develop policy and serve the best interests of Wisconsinites without being in the spotlight, and I like that,” Petek said.

During her time at Lourdes, Petek was a member of the National Honor Society, Recycling Club, Key Club, Campus Ministry Student Board, and the citywide student board for Oshkosh Teen Saferides. She also played tennis and softball.

After Petek graduated, she went on to attend Marquette University in Milwaukee where she double majored in Anthropology and Criminology and Law Studies. In May, Petek will complete her MBA through the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

From plays to politics

By Macrina Schry (‘17) - Knight Writer Student Journalist

Chad Metzler is a man who has truly made Lourdes proud. Starting as the young man who graced the Lourdes stage during productions of Camelot and The Crucible, this class of 1990 graduate has carried his Christian values all the way to Washington D.C.

A young man who used to showcase his talents in the fall play and spring musical, Metzler is now the Legislative Director on Senator Angus King’s (I-ME) staff. Metzler said that his Catholic education had a powerful impact on his decision to go into politics.

“My Catholic faith has an impact. I knew I had a duty to the people in society who need help. That called me to get involved in the problems of war and peace and protecting people in their retirement. The solutions to these problems aren't easy, but they're worth working toward.”

Metzler explained that it is a pleasure working toward these solutions, especially alongside Senator King.

“He's very smart and fair, and I enjoy working with him. As an independent, he makes sure to consider both sides of an argument and makes sure we do the same in the office.”

Despite his busy schedule, Metzler still makes family a priority. “My younger brother Mark teaches English as a foreign language to graduate students at the University of Alabama, and my parents are still in Oshkosh, so I get to come home and see them,” Metzler explained.

When this senior reporter, and soon to be high school graduate, asked for some advice about college and beyond, Metzler chose his words carefully.

“It’s important to pursue in your career the things that you enjoy in life. For the next 50 years, you might not do exactly that, but if you can’t find anything you enjoy in what you do, it makes it hard to go to work every day.”

It’s obvious that Metzler has done exactly that. One thing is for certain: Metzler is a wonderful example of following God's call to servant leadership. 🏏
You’re cordially invited to the 7th annual Lourdes Academy Awards & Recognition Dinner

Friday, April 28, 2017
5:30 pm Cocktails / 6:30 pm Dinner & Awards
LaSure’s Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St., Oshkosh

$20 per person (reservations required)
Please join us as we recognize:
❖ Chris & Margaret Keller - Distinguished Stewardship
❖ Joe Rothbauer - Outstanding Alumni
❖ Jamie Zemke - Athletic Hall of Fame
❖ Harold Eichstadt - Dr. Stanley Spanbauer Education & Leadership
❖ Lourdes Academy Retirees
❖ Silver Sword Awards - Outstanding Teachers
❖ Alumni in attendance from the 25th & 50th reunion year classes will be acknowledged.

Please R.S.V.P. by April 14th by contacting Shannon Gibson at (920) 426-3626 ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today. (Space is limited.)

Students travel to Washington D.C.

Eleven Lourdes Academy juniors and seniors traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in March for Life. The group attended mass with Bishop David Ricken prior to the trip.

Lourdes Academy Senior Stephany Beck was selected by 4H to attend the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. on January 20. Beck described her experience as surreal, memorable, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience adding that she had goose bumps seeing the current and past presidents and the representatives from Wisconsin.

Continuing the Tradition

Lourdes celebrates the tradition of Catholic education with the third generation Weber/Tollard family.

REUNIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Alumnus, coach enter UWO Hall of Fame

Lourdes Academy alumnus Amy (Wing) Barber ('90) and Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Brad Clark will be inducted to the UW Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame.

Barber helped the UW-Oshkosh women’s basketball team to three WIAC championships and three NCAA Division III postseason berths from 1991-95. The point guard piloted the Titans to an 89-19 record and an appearance in the 1995 national championship game against Capital University (Ohio). Barber still holds UW-Oshkosh records for both season and career assists while ranking 20th in school history.

Clark concluded his UWO men’s basketball career as one of the most prolific scorers in program history tallying 1,692 points in 103 games to rank sixth on the school’s career scoring list. Clark lead the Titans in scoring and rebounding each of his last 3 years and currently ranks second in WIAC history in free throws made.

Planning a reunion? Contact Shannon Gibson at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today for assistance. Lourdes Academy offers free mailing lists and facilities usage for Lourdes class reunions.

Class of 1962 - 55 Year
September 23, 2017 - Lourdes Academy High School
Patricia (Baier) Schumerth, pmschumerth@att.net

Class of 1967 - 50 Year
October 14, 2017 - Lourdes Academy High School
Randy Walter, 920-231-9675 or rwalter3517@att.net

Class of 1977 - 40 Year Reunion
August 12, 2017 - Fox River Brewery Tap Room
Marianne (Rice) Spain, 513-873-0577 or spains43061@yahoo.com or follow Facebook at Lourdes Academy Class of 1977-Oshkosh

Please contact Marianne if you have information on the following individuals:
Barb Baier • Mike Busha • Ed Darnick • John Foster
Steve Ilk • Larry Kellerman • Pat Kind • Susan Koelbl
Baumgart • Rick Schraa • Alyce Wiese LaFrancois
Melanie Hillenbrand Poznoff