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“These [pit] students have given up many Saturday mornings along with rehearsals during the school week to make sure every note helps transform you further into this great story,” said Conductor Michelle Sorenson.

Tim Kaull (‘21) participated in his second year in the pit. Being in the pit is a skill students can learn that will help them in the future.

“I like being able to come into the Grand and see how a musical is run,” Kaull said. “The production is all student-based. There are no recordings. No one is hired to do the sound and lights. We’re taught to do everything. You learn to work with different people who all come together to do one project.”

Sophia Nielsen (‘21) has also joined the ranks of stu-

By Karen Boehm, Advancement Director

Vibrant colors, upbeat music and dancing, and dazzling costumes were among the highlights of Lourdes Academy’s spring musical. Seventy students in the cast, crew and pit orchestra put their best fins forward to wow audiences in Disney’s production of The Little Mermaid at the Grand Oshkosh. The production involved veteran members in their fourth school musical to new cast members making their stage debut.

Gwendolyn Gruber (‘19) starred as Ariel, a mermaid who is obsessed by all things human. As a senior in her fourth Lourdes musical, Gruber’s goal was to work with younger students to help them get through their first musical and enjoy their experience.

“I love all the different costumes and energy that have to be put into the dances and songs,” Gruber said.

Trent Trofka (‘19) who played the role of Flounder, Ariel’s BFF (best fish friend), has also been involved in the musical for the past four years and enjoys interacting with a variety of people from musical students to athletes who are die-hard music fans.

“Being in musical has taught me how to get along with others and to be myself in front of other people,” Trofka said. “It’s shown me the process of how much goes into a musical production, and it’s taught me hard work, dedication, time management and being open to new things.”

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New to the stage, Calvin Larson (‘19) played Scuttle (left), while musical veterans Trent Trofka (‘19), Charleigh Reinardy (‘19) and Max Lippert (‘19) played Flounder, Sebastian and King Triton respectively.

Ryann Belter (center-‘19) starred as Ursula with Jetsam (left - Rosa Natalia Melendez ‘20) and Flotsam (right - Jacqueline Gruber ‘22).

dents who keep things running behind the scenes in her second year on stage crew. Nielsen loves the friendships she’s created with upperclassmen and underclassmen and running the show behind the scenes.

“I loved the Disney princesses when I was little. To see it come to life is really magical,” she said. “I wanted to get involved but I’m not big on being on stage so being behind the scenes was a good option.”

Whether they’re playing an instrument, running the sound and lights, applying makeup, or performing on stage, the students involved in the production share a common theme. Being part of the musical is like being part of a big family. And this big Lourdes Family worked together to create a fun and memorable experience for the audience.

“Everything you see and hear in the musical is the result of the dreams and dedication of our fabulous Lourdes students,” said Director Julie Ringlien. “They have a hand in every aspect of our productions. Lourdes is truly blessed with students who work diligently and tirelessly to make this show a success.”

Perhaps the most heart-warming experiences came after the show as wide-eyed girls met their favorite Disney princess in person, and children posed with Sebastian, Flounder, Scuttle, Ursula, King Triton and the rest of the cast. And who knows? Those starry-eyed kids may be the next budding actors in our Lourdes Family. ♥

EVERY GIFT MATTERS...

Have you made your gift to the Lourdes Fund?

Every single gift to the Lourdes Fund helps bring learning to life. It ensures that students receive a top quality Catholic education with opportunities for leadership, citizenship and personal growth. It supports:

technology | curriculum | faith formation | facilities
arts | athletics | STEM

Give today at Lourdes.Today/LourdesFund

Charitable Giving Under the New Tax Law

Tuesday, April 30 • 5:30 p.m.
Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson Street
Presenter: Nick Behnke, SBG Financial
Hors d’oeuvres & beverages will be served

Learn strategies to maximize your support of the charities you love and minimize taxes. Topics include IRA RMDs, Donor Advised Funds, Stocks and Securities, and Combining Business and Family Contributions for Maximum Results.

R.S.V.P. to Abby at SBG by April 24 at 920.233.7400 or Abby@SBGFinancial.com.

“Pibb Sure” Fund honors Knobloch

The Rich Knobloch “Pibb Sure” Fund was established last year to honor Knobloch, a dedicated teacher who passed away in March 2018. The “Pibb Sure” Fund will provide an annual scholarship to a student who has shown dedication and commitment in the areas of math or computer science. Your support of the Pibb Sure Fund will help endow this scholarship to permanently support students. Gifts to the fund can be made online at www.lourdes.today/give or mailed attention Karen Boehm at Lourdes Academy, 250 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902. (Make checks payable to Lourdes Academy, note Knobloch Fund.)

Thank you to Andy Ratchman (‘93) of Camera Casino for providing the musical photos.
Alumni Spotlights

A glance through Steven’s lens

By Julianna Calzada, Marketing Intern

As a young boy, Steven Ryan (’70) had an interest in photography. It wasn’t just about an image itself, it was about the people in the image, their interaction and his interaction with them through the camera.

His young adult life started much quicker than he expected, as he headed to college right after high school. Ryan realized early that he wasn’t ready to continue academics, so he went on a hiatus from school. During that time, he was drafted in the 1971 lottery, where he went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1974. After his discharge he went back to UW Green Bay to double major in Communication and the Arts and Business, while working 20 hours a week as a night security guard.

Post-graduation, Ryan pursued his passion for photography and worked for a large commercial studio for seven years. He also received advanced training with the Professional Photographers of America, adding to his professional resume. In 1990, he started his own business, Ryan Photography, as a general commercial photographer, working for businesses and their marketing efforts.

“In my 33 years as a professional commercial photographer I think I have been hired to photograph just about every type of product, in-studio and on location, and have worked for many businesses,” Ryan said.

His photography endeavors evolved into creating high-end architectural and aerial photography, taking him to NYC, Florida, and surrounding states on various assignments. One of his most recent assignments was working with the Green Bay Packers in 2018, photographing game day aerials from both helicopter and a fixed-wing plane.

“I hang out of a helicopter with no door and a leg on the landing skid. Very exciting, too exciting,” Ryan explained.

With his many years of experience, Ryan’s favorite photos to shoot are those he creates when collaborating with talented interior designers, architects, and art directors. The end results are better than reality, when he sees the images evolved to reflect what he imagined at the time of creation.

Reminiscing about his times at Lourdes, the memory that stuck out was playing Sheepshead and Buck-Buck. “I imagine many will need to search online to learn what that is,” said Ryan.

It was a memorable experience to him because it was one of the few opportunities where the boys and girls interacted, due to being a student of segregated classes at Lourdes. He recalled riding to school on the back of his brother’s Honda 90 motorcycle balancing 10 inches of books on one knee and feeling the cold, crisp air in the winter.

People at Lourdes that had a hand in guiding Ryan were Coach Kemp, Mr. Daniels, Coach Van Alstine, Brother Pat, Brother Lawrence, and Father Bouressa. They instilled great values of faith in him that helped during difficult times. Particularly regarding Father Bouressa, Ryan mentioned, “during difficult times I thought about the goodness he saw in me and the spiritual strength he showed. Still today his caring leaves an enduring strength in me and a desire to prove him right.”

Carrick’s career spans earth and sky

By Karen Boehm, Advancement Director

As a young boy, Patrick Carrick (’74) dreamed of being an astronaut. He knew he would need to know about chemistry. After all, rocket propellants are controlled explosives. He became interested in physics and astronomy, and was part of an Astronomy Club run by students at Lourdes High School. He visited the telescope owned by Buckstaff and was part of a network of people that watched the sun and reported on sun spot activity. He still recalls his early introduction to science.

“I enjoyed Chemistry with Mr. Behring,” Carrick recalled. “He was an inspirational teacher because he was so enthusiastic. He had real-world examples of how we were using chemistry.”

Carrick knew he wanted to pursue Physics and Astronomy, and UW Madison was the only school in the area that had both programs, so it was the only place he applied.

“Not a lot of formal thought and planning went into college and career planning, so I got lucky there,” Carrick said.

Carrick earned his Master’s Degree from the National
Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces (now called the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy). The Eisenhower School is a university for civilians and military officers that looks at industry and how it supports and influences the things the military uses for the defense of the country. He then earned his Doctorate in Chemistry from Rice University, where a professor invited him to work on a project with two other scientists that ultimately won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Carrick continued his education completing post-doctorate work at the University of Oregon during which time he ran a shared laser lab with a grant from the Air Force developing advanced propellants. This experience led him to work for the Air Force in a similar program to develop rocket propellants at the Air Force Rocket Lab, located at Edwards Air Force Base in California. There he was responsible for research and for building a lab from nothing, purchasing equipment, hiring staff and ultimately building a program that lasted for a decade and resulted in groundbreaking science. Among his accomplishments were developing propellants used on new spacecraft and testing rocket engines. Carrick also wrote an Air Force policy directive that defined how all research and development was done and engaged with higher levels to implement the policy.

“As the propulsion guy, I managed all propulsion research for the Air Force,” Carrick said. “I learned how the government works, which was a valuable experience, and was responsible for making sure budgeted funds got to the right place.”

In 2004 he applied for the Science Advisor position at the Pentagon for the Secretary of Defense where he worked for three years after the anthrax attacks. The office managed all chemical and biological defense. Carrick was ultimately selected for a Senior Executive Service civilian position working with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for eight more years.

“That office funds universities with grants to do research,” Carrick explained. “Being a senior executive is the equivalent of being a one-star general in the military. I engaged with general officers and senior officials in the Air Force and Department of Defense. I saw amazing types of technology and got to interact with top scientists in the US and around the world. I liked getting deep into science again.”

During his tenure, Carrick ran the office in charge of physics and electronics, as one of three senior officers. He had the unique opportunity to meet with a physicist from Harvard who won the Nobel Prize and give seminars on the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, an instrument sent up to the International Space Station to look for particles that look like dark matter. He also traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to tour the CERN Super Collider. “I saw part of history in the making,” Carrick said.

In 2014, he began working for the Department of Homeland Security as a senior executive and later as the director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA) where he managed a $500 million annual budget and contracted with industry to develop products for Homeland Security. This initiative involved FEMA, Customs & Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, Secret Service, Intelligence, Cyber Defense, and TSA. One of the projects of the department was to develop technology with the Navy that uses fiber optic cable to detect people walking, digging and climbing around the border wall.

“The technology we researched helps develop better communication techniques for border patrol agents,” Carrick explained. “We would develop different technologies and have agents test the technologies out in field.”

After his 40-year career, 31 of those years with the Federal Government, Carrick retired in December 2018 as the Chief Scientist for DHS S&T Directorate.

“My education at Lourdes Academy High School gave me a great start to the path that led to my entire career, and for that I am sincerely grateful,” he said.

Patrick Carrick will receive Lourdes Academy’s Outstanding Alumni Award at the Awards & Recognition Dinner held Friday, April 26 in Oshkosh.

Grabner is advocate for Oshkosh, Lourdes

By Julianna Calzada, Marketing Intern, with Karlene Grabner

Like most 18 year olds, Karlene Grabner (’92) struggled with the correct path for her college career. She knew she wanted to focus on business but was not exactly sure what area she wanted to pursue. In the end, she made her decision based on what she felt would be hardest for her to learn in the outside world. She graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science degree majoring in Economics and a Bachelor’s of Business majoring in Finance.

“With all the years of undergraduate study, I could have had my Master’s Degree by now,” Grabner joked. “That is on my current bucket list for sure!”

Grabner currently serves as the director of donor services for the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

“We are the philanthropic arm of the community and work hard every day to make Oshkosh an amazing place to call home,” she explained. “Over the years I have raised millions and millions of dollars for causes that matter to our donors. Each of our donors has a passion for something, and I work hard to make sure that passion is
Boys Basketball Team brings home silver ball

It’s a Great day
to be a Knight!

Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team for earning a spot at the State Championship game. After finishing a stellar season with a 26-2 record, the Knights advanced to State to beat Osseo-Fairchild in the semi-final game at the Kohl Center. They lost to New Glarus in a hard-fought battle for the state title, but brought home a silver ball. Thank you to the hundreds of students, parents, alumni and fans who came out to support the Knights.

Lourdes Academy recently announced that it has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW GatewayTM (middle school) and PLTW LaunchTM (elementary school). Lourdes Academy is one of just 148 middle schools and one of just 214 elementary schools across the U.S. to receive this honor. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

Lourdes receives accreditation

The Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) announced the accreditation of Lourdes Academy of Oshkosh. To achieve accreditation, schools must complete a comprehensive year-long Self Study during which time they examine every aspect of their educational program, followed by a peer review.

matched with the perfect giving opportunity.”

Grabner has raised money for the youth of our community, community bricks and mortar projects, Lourdes Academy, animals, teachers, music, K9 dogs and parks.

“Every day is different for me, but each day I am fiercely dedicated to the Oshkosh community and make every effort to make this the best place to live,” she added. “The day to day work that I do is extremely rewarding, and I love it. The challenge is knowing just how many issues we have in this great community and how deep and tangled they are to solve.”

One of the most exciting projects that Grabner has worked on to date is the construction of the Pollock Community Water Park. When the community pool had become unusable, city leadership decided that Oshkosh needed a new pool and a destination for families. And it seemed that people in the community agreed.

“We raised $7 million dollars in 28 days - we were on fire!” Grabner recalled. “A great highlight was twice two little kids came into our offices with their piggy banks and emptied them onto our desks to put toward the pool. On opening day, I remember this brought a ton of smiles to all of our faces.”

Among her volunteer activities, Grabner serves as a liaison on the Lourdes Foundation Board, a group that manages endowments and provides support for the Lourdes Academy system. She has assisted in the creation of new endowments to support the system, including the St. Clare of Assisi Fund for tuition assistance and the Bill Behring Staff Endowment Fund, and ensures that Lourdes Academy has a voice in critical conversations about Oshkosh.

“Lourdes has a strong place in my heart as an alumnus and now as a parent of a child here,” Grabner said. “It goes further than that though. Our entire education system in Oshkosh is strong, but individuals need to have options. Those parents looking to move to our city and those that currently live here need to have multiple options for their families in where they want their children to be educated. Lourdes to me has always been about the family values that not only I have, but also that those families surrounding my kids have.”

Grabner recalls her time at Lourdes and the amazing and influential teachers she had. She is especially appreciative of her teachers in late elementary school and middle school who saw her potential and took the extra care to make sure she was making good choices.

“These teachers took much extra time during those years to meet with me (and my mother on the side, unbeknownst to me). I am grateful every day for the extra energy they put into my development and making sure I took a positive path.”

Outside of her career, Grabner enjoys time with family and good friends in the community.

“My favorite past times are yoga, board games and anything that is on the water; kayaking, wakeboarding, tubing, or just hanging out on the water is where I love to be.”
UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Annual Awards & Recognition Dinner
Friday, April 26th @ LaSure’s Banquet Hall, Oshkosh
5:30 p.m. Cocktails | 6:30 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Awards
Cost $20 per person

Join us as we recognize this year’s honorees:
- Outstanding Alumni - Patrick Carrick (‘74)
- Distinguished Stewardship - Rick & Jill Russo and Mark & Julie Beecher
- Athletic Hall of Fame - Joseph Zmolek (‘72)
- Dr. Stanley Spanbauer Education & Leadership - Oshkosh Corporation
- Silver Swords: Carie Kollat (HS), Jill Thurk (MS) & Jenny Haack (ES)

For more information or to register
Visit the Awards Dinner link at Lourdes.today, “Events”
or contact Shannon Gibson at (920) 426-3626, ext. 541
or sgibson@lourdes.today.

14th Annual Lourdes Academy “Tee It Up for Kids” Golf Outing
Friday, June 14 • 9:30 a.m.
Lake Breeze Golf Club, Winneconne

Early Bird Pricing (Through April 14)
$125/golfer | $500/foursome

Regular Pricing (Starts April 15)
$140/golfer | $560/foursome

For more information or to register, visit Lourdes.today or contact Shannon Gibson at 920.426.3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdes.today

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.