

Jottings

The AIC / MHA Alumnae Newsletter
March 2010



Snow melts — winter memories remain

Cindy (Bittner) Mahan has very fond memories of her younger years in Southern Indiana. A few years after graduating from A.I.C. in 1972, she moved east. She lives in Ridgeway in the snowy southwestern corner of Connecticut. Her son and daughter live nearby in Brooklyn, New York. After nearly a dozen years in the corporate world, Cindy went into teaching.

(Excerpts in italics are from Cynthia Rylant's book, *Snow*.)

*Some snows fall only lightly
just enough to make you notice the delicate limbs of
trees,
the light falling from the lamppost,
a sparrow's small feet.*

It's early. Outside this storybook cottage, I see the sun glistening on the frozen lake. The sky is bright blue and cloudless. Fresh snow sparkles on the trees and blankets the ground. It is cozy and quiet...with the exception of the rhythmic snoring of Cocoa, the aging but-still-so-adorable St. Charles Spaniel that I am dog sitting. I sip my coffee and flip through *Jottings*. It invites me to share memories of winter at the Academy, and I recall a morning many years ago that was **not** so peaceful.

I remember being jolted from sleep by shrieks. In the early morning darkness, I saw girls dashing wildly in and around the cubicles of St. Joe dorm. Slowly, reason supplanted sleep, and I understood...our classmates from Central America (including my roommate Martha) were running from window to window unable to contain their excitement at waking up to their first honest-to-goodness snowfall. Going back to sleep at that point was futile. Their euphoria was catching. It also was a reminder of how often we take some of nature's beauty and wonder for granted.

*The best snow is the snow that comes softly in the
night,
like a shy friend afraid to knock,
so she thinks she'll just wait in the yard until you
see her.
This is the snow that brings you peace.*

To this day, I never mind my slumber being interrupted by an announcement of a snowfall's silent arrival. In fact, I welcome it. As a teacher, I typically receive it in the form of a telephone call in the wee hours of the morning — an electronic voice announcing that school will be cancelled, or more often the case, delayed for two hours.

Snow days back in my Academy days seemed few and far between — we could always maneuver from our dorms to the classrooms, no matter how many inches accumulated between the buildings. When students were allowed to be out in it (on weekends or after classes), I remember the fun of bundling up, grabbing one of the remaining, oft-rejected sleds from an upper landing of St. Joe, and heading out with friends to the top of the massive hill beside one of the convent buildings.

Continued



Cindy Mahan '72 and her dog Maggie love playing in the snow.

This is where I experienced a first of my own at the Academy — sled riding! I discovered, too, the fun of piling on a toboggan, even when you're forced to sit at the very front. One day we were so anxious to go sledding that a few of us decided to do it even though the ground was covered more with ice than snow. We didn't stay long — the sliding wasn't nearly as fulfilling, and when we crashed, needles of ice pierced our skin. As bad as that may sound, it is indeed another fond memory of my life on the hill during the winter.

*Children love snow better than anyone does,
and they never complain as they pull on their red boots
and mittens
and make plans to catch wet flakes on their tongues
and roll their small bodies to the bottom of a hill.*

Not all my memories of winter days in Ferdinand are loud and loaded with adventure. Some memories, like snow, evoke silence:
the beauty of grotto hill all cloaked in white;

or majesty:
the chapel's turrets and colonnade sparkling atop the hill;
or solitude:
walks along the icy edge of a pond near Camp Marian.

Some warm the soul with memories of cozy times indoors with friends: learning how to play *Mille Borne* with Sister Mary Philip in the freshman dorm, or playing card games in Father Sebastian's office, or engaging in ping-pong battles with Sister Mary Andrew in the MHA recreation room.

Often, like snow, memories come and go — at some unexpected times.

*And the snow,
while it is here,
reminds us of this:
that nothing lasts forever except memories.*

Sister Marilyn Schroering '64 and Sister Mary Louise Uebelhor '60 enjoy sledding on the hill on the north side of the monastery.



Relive and create memories at our Academy Alumnae Reunion on 'the hill' — June 26-27, 2010

In 1870, 140 years ago, the Academy was established. At our annual Alumnae Reunion this summer, we'll celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Academy and take a walk back into its history.

We will also give special recognition to the final four classes who attended MHA — 2000 (10th anniversary class), 2001, 2002, and 2003.

And we will celebrate special anniversaries with classes whose graduation years end in 0 or 5.

During this Olympic year, when records have been broken, we hope to break yet another record for attendance at our reunion.

Get on Facebook, MySpace, other social networks, your cell phones, e-mail addresses, postal service, pony express, or whatever it takes to contact Academy friends and classmates about plans to meet on "the hill" in June.

As alumnae board member Tina Dalton '82 said, "We're not just about the class we graduated with but about creating a network of women helping each other and the sisters."

The Alumnae Reunion schedule is as follows:

Saturday, June 26

- No scheduled activities on campus
- Day open for class gatherings, memory walks around campus, visiting, creative reminiscing, etc.

Sunday, June 27

- Registration and continental breakfast in the Assembly — 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. EDT
- Mass in the monastery church — 10:30 a.m.
- Dinner (with delicious desserts made by the Alumnae Association board) in St. Gertrude Hall at the monastery — noon
- Annual alumnae meeting (honoring anniversary classes) following the dinner
- Visiting throughout the afternoon

A \$25 fee charged for Alumnae Day helps cover the cost of the meal, set-up, continental breakfast, and other expenses for the Alumnae Association, such as the alumnae newsletter, *Jottings*. Payment may be made when you preregister or when you check in on Alumnae Day.

If you plan to be present for the meal on Sunday, **you must preregister by June 15** to be included in the dinner count given to the caterers. We also need that preregistration count in order to arrange and set up the dining/meeting area.

We will again have a raffle on Alumnae Day — a gift basket filled with goodies and four beautiful art pieces — all items valued between \$25 and \$150 and made and contributed by alums. You can purchase tickets for individual pieces; the winning tickets will be drawn at the end of the alumnae meeting.

If you're coming from a distance and need accommodations, see the next column for a list of motels and B&B facilities in the area. Alumnae board member Tina Dalton '82 doesn't own a hotel, but she has offered space at her house in Jasper for alums to share. Her e-mail is tinadalton@yahoo.com.

Some final words from Tina: "MHA wasn't just the school we attended, it was a piece of us. It will remain until all

alumnae are gone. I figure the last alumnae meeting will be in roughly 2060 or 2070, depending on how healthy the alums stay. But, we can still build strong relationships through AIC/MHA and the alumnae association. Everyone should think about getting back to 'the hill' and reconnecting!"

We hope to see you in June!

Need a place to stay during the reunion?

Check out these local accommodations:

Harvest Moon B & B, Ferdinand.	812-367-1881
Comfort Inn, Ferdinand.	800-424-6423
Baymont Inn, Dale	812-937-7000
Motel 6, Dale	812-937-2294
Sleep Inn, Jasper	800-424-6423
Days Inn, Jasper.	800-742-7482
Camelot Inn, Jasper	812-482-3529
Hampton Inn, Jasper	800-426-7866
Santa's Lodge, Santa Claus.	812-937-1902
Quality Inn, Huntingburg.	800-228-5151
Jasper Inn, Jasper	800-872-3176
Holiday Inn Express, Jasper.	888-465-4329

Tina Dalton '82 has generously offered to accommodate some alums at her house in Jasper during Alumnae Reunion weekend. Contact her at tinadalton@yahoo.com for further information.

Return this form or complete the online form posted on the Academy web site by **June 15**. You may pay now or at the door, but you **must preregister if you plan to attend the dinner**. Send to:

Alumnae Association, 802 E. 10th Street, Ferdinand, IN 47532

Alumnae—\$25 Adult guest for dinner—\$12 Children under 12—\$6

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grad year _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

☐ I will be at the Sunday dinner. ☐ I will bring _____ guests for dinner.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

AIC/MHA Alumnae News

The 50s

Jeral (Malone) Norman '59 lives in Romeoville, Illinois. She is retired.

"Just happened to come upon the alumnae page on the web site and have often wondered about old classmates of AIC. Have very fond memories of my years there and would like to receive a copy of the alumnae newsletter if possible. Have been married to Ken Norman for 43 years and have two daughters, two granddaughters, and one grandson. My sister **Margaret (Malone) Masbaum '58** attended AIC her freshman and sophomore years."

The 70s

Cindy (Bittner) Mahan '72 (see brief bio in feature article) "I'm in my ninth year of teaching (currently first grade), and it continues to be the best job I've ever had!"

Armida Lievana Garcia '73 "I'm so glad I found AIC's Alumnae Association web site! I studied for only one year at the Academy ('70-'71), but I have great memories of the sisters and so many friends I was able to meet during that period of time. I live and work in Mexico City, have been married for 28 years, and have two incredible children, Mauricio, 25, and Isabel, 23. I'd like to know more about my classmates." Classmates can contact Armida at alievana@independencia.com.mx.

Charlene Cooper '75 "I have fond memories of my two years at the Academy (1973-1975). I would love to re-connect with others from my class and to know of any upcoming reunions. I've lived in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1992. I had my own decorative painting company and a line of hand-painted glassware for almost 15 years. I closed production in 2005 and stayed home for about two years, taking care of my daughter and husband and our horses. I just loved it." Charlene says she is now working in sales at a credit union, "until my next adventure comes along."

The 80s

Cindy (Lam) Sing '83 "I'm living in Indonesia with my family — a great husband and my two wonderful sons, Jeffrey, 19, and Bryan, 10."

(Carol) Miling (Ng) '86 lives in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and works as a dental hygienist. She and her husband, John, have a 20-year-old daughter, who

attends the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Miling says, "I love this whole Facebook thing because we're able to connect with so many long-time friends."

Sheri Tidwell '87 had her first child, Jacob Jonathan Muehleman, born on November 20, 2009.

Kerri (Svanda) Dubicki '88 "Through Facebook I have been reunited with many of my MHA friends. It is as though the years apart just melt away and we pick up our old friendships right where we left off so many years ago. There's nothing quite like a boarding school bond." Kerri wrote in September that their son Evan has leukemia. "This has been a difficult year for our family, but I truly believe that the prayers of all of our friends and family have lifted us up and seen us through our lowest times. The times I find that I am most at peace are those that I get to spend in quiet reflection and prayer."

The 90s

Colleen Doherty '91 "I finished my doctorate in biochemistry from Michigan State and now I'm doing a post doctorate in San Diego. After seven years in Michigan, I can say I don't miss the cold weather too much; I miss the snow a bit, but not the bitter cold."

Stormie Tucker '91 "It has been really neat to re-connect with some friends from the past. I have been busy lately with my two girls. I have a 10-year-old daughter, Hannah, and a new baby girl, Lainey Sophia, born December 30, 2009. As far as work, I have been based out of Ferdinand for one year now, working as a sales account manager for Greif Inc. I live in Louisville and work from my home office, but I come to Ferdinand once or twice a month. I have enjoyed a few trips back to Ferdy Flyers and look forward to getting over to Homestead Pizza."

Goretti Kadendi '96 "I live in Burlington, North Carolina, and am married to Theo Kurgat from Kenya. We have two girls, Kellsie, 6, and Kayden, who will be 4 in July. I stay at home and take care of other kids also, two times a week. I am planning to go back to work once Kayden turns 4. I am also actively involved in the lives of Burundian children who live in the streets."

Burundi is currently one of the poorest countries in the world because of long and violent civil wars. Goretti escaped the country and came to the United States in 1994. When she revisited Burundi two years ago and saw so many children orphaned and starving, she said she needed to do something. Since then, she has started a non-profit organization to help them, "so that these kids can go to school and maybe find homes."

Lauren (Sullivan) Kaepfner '97 announced the birth of her first child, a daughter born on November 17, 2009, Mallory Jackson Kaepfner.

Ashlyn (Weaver) Strobel '99 "I'm glad I'm able to find former classmates and good friends on Facebook and MySpace. My boyfriend and I have been together for one year now and I'm extremely happy."

The 00s

Lindsie (Jung) Fransen '01 works as a registered nurse at Children's Memorial Hospital and lives in Tinley Park, Illinois.

Lindsey (Moorman) Healy '01 works for the Greater Jasper Schools as an English as a New Language teacher. She and her husband have a 3-year-old daughter and are expecting their second child. They live in Saint Anthony, Indiana.

Let's keep in touch

Don't forget to send us your new contact information, including e-mail address, if it changes. You can go to the alumnae section on the sisters' web site at www.thedome.org/alumnae and click on "Update Your Info." Also, to stay connected with each other, you can contact many alums on Facebook or MySpace on the Internet. And become a fan of the Sisters of St. Benedict on Facebook and follow them on Twitter. Go to www.thedome.org, and click on the sites at the bottom left on the home page. Let's stay in touch.

Alumnae Association Board Nominees

The Alumnae Association board is submitting the names of three alums — Elaine Baumgart, Tina Dalton, and Ellen Struck Kronfli — for approval as board members for a three-year term beginning in the summer of 2010. Elaine and Tina will be completing their first term on the board this summer. Ellen would begin her first term this summer. At the June 27 meeting, alums will be asked to confirm with a show of hands these three nominees for the board.

Elaine Baumgart '59 (Evansville)

Elaine has been a pharmacist for 35 years and currently works at St. Mary's Hospital, Evansville. She enjoys working in the garden and reading. She is a Benedictine Oblate.

Tina Dalton '82 (Jasper)

Tina works at Fringe Hair and Nail Studio in Jasper, owned by her sister Cheryl '84. She also does a variety of artistic work involving glass, painting, and photography. "I've been honored to work with wonderful women on the board and am very proud of the work the board has been doing, especially in bringing the various graduating classes together."

Ellen Struck Kronfli '82 (Louisville)

Ellen has been married for almost 20 years and has three children. She is currently working at an elementary school as a special education assistant. She also works on the weekends with an organization that helps adults with special needs live independently. "I have returned to MHA for many years for class reunions, and I enjoy seeing familiar and new faces every time."

New board-appointed members:

Lindsey (Moorman) Healy '01 (St. Anthony)

Lindsey is married, has a 3-year-old daughter, and is expecting another baby in July. She is an ENL (English as a New Language) teacher for the Greater Jasper School Corporation. She is an active member of the St. Anthony Church in St. Anthony. She enjoys teaching, being with her family, spending time outdoors, and shopping with friends.

Mary Jo (Boarman) Kaiser '58 (Evansville)

Mary Jo has one son and three grandchildren. She is a retired administrative assistant at Amax Coal Co. Mary Jo has her own business — River City Concierge in Evansville. She is a member of Good Shepherd Church and enjoys reading, golfing, and spending time with her family.



New board members Mary Jo Kaiser and Lindsey Healy were appointed by the board to fill the positions left vacant when Joan Quante '49 and Jennifer Vaal Keller '99 resigned last fall. Mary Jo and Lindsey attended their first meeting in January.

Another Bloomin' Card Party

Sponsored by the AIC/MHA Alumnae Association



Join us for an afternoon of cards, coffee, desserts, and door prizes.

Friday, April 23, 2010

1–4 p.m. CDT

St. Benedict School, Woodward Center

530 S. Harlan Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714

Reservations \$15/person. Checks payable to Sisters of St. Benedict

Proceeds will benefit the senior sisters at Ferdinand and the sisters' scholarship fund for Hispanic women.

For more information or reservations, contact:

Kathleen Boink '58 at 812-479-8896 or at jmjkab@insightbb.com

OR Janie Nunning '58 at 812-625-0999, or mjunning@insightbb.com.

Letter from the Monastery/Alumnae Liaison

Dear Alums,

Once again we are “changing the guard” so to speak. I am completing eight years as liaison between our religious community and the alums. Sister Paulette Seng, Academy class of 1959 and faculty member from 1972-1999, will replace me this spring.

I have surely enjoyed these years, working with our wonderful alumnae board and being connected with the five-year celebrating classes, as well as being in touch with many of you on occasions of congratulations, sickness, and grief over the death of your loved ones. For all these times of bonding, I am very grateful.

As you are aware, our membership is dwindling. Both the closing of the Academy ten years ago and the passing of our members into eternity are taking their toll. Our Alumnae Day theme these past years has been, “Draw Closer to Christ and to One Another.” We are making a concerted effort to stay in touch and to appreciate each other more. We very much appreciate your response as you continue to return for your five-year reunions and the in-between years.

With the closing of the Academy in mind, the alumnae board decided at its January meeting that at our alumnae reunion this year, special emphasis would be given to the class of 2000 — the last class to complete four years in the Academy. In June, they will celebrate their tenth anniversary as alums. We would also like to pay special tribute to the classes of 2001, '02, and '03. We encourage members of these last four classes to make plans to return to the hill on June 27 to celebrate with us.

At this time, too, I would like to acknowledge the pain and disappointment of those women who were unable to complete their MHA education. We want you to know that we count you as alumnae and are eager to stay in touch with you.

As we look back these past ten years, we hope healing has taken place. For our religious community, closing the Academy was very much like a death, which we continue to mourn. For many of you connected with the Academy at that time — students and faculty alike — it was a devastating experience which, I'm sure, you also continue to feel. As for myself, I'm left with gratitude to God for the wonderful experience of having been a student and teacher in the Academy. I am where I am today because of that experience — hopefully, many of you can identify with that feeling.

I have been in touch with the five-year celebrating classes to encourage them to connect with their classmates and make plans for their reunion on the hill the last weekend in June. We look forward to having another record turnout for Alumnae Day.

Know that you are daily remembered in prayer here on the hill.

Peace,
Sister Mary Claude Croteau '49



The following 30-second commercial was submitted by Sister Mary Louise (Gloria) Uebelhor '60, a member of the Sacred Music Endowment Committee.



Angelus, an outstanding vocal group dedicated to the performance of sacred music of various historical periods, will perform a free concert in the monastery church on October 30 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Bring your family and tell your friends. To hear a clip of Angelus, see www.mvhsperformingarts.com and click on the Angelus tab.

May they rest in peace

Alumnae: Katherine L. (O'Brien) Shafranske '38, Selma I. Steltenpohl '41, Betty (Leist) Busing '49, Gloria Marie (Leinenbach) Heeke '50, Joan E. (Meyer) Huthsteiner '50, JoAnn (Lubbers) Uebelhor '52

Husband of: Christina Alig Garrigus '52

Mother of: Juanita “Cookie” (Koch) Singer '60, Jane (Berberich) Pund '61, Penny Lagenour '75

Father of: Rita Rae (Elpers) Beckley '67, Marianne Butler '85, Suzanne (Kempinger) Rycroft '88

Sister of: Sister Mary Karen Hill '51, Barbara (Vogler) Eckert '60

Jottings

March 2010

Published twice a year for the alumnae of
Academy Immaculate Conception/
Marian Heights Academy

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Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239

Dear Alumnae,

"I wish I could do more."

We hear this statement from so many of our alumnae in reference to helping the Sisters of St. Benedict. They are grateful for the profound impact the sisters have had on their lives, but they are also concerned about their own future needs.

Did you know that there are ways to support the sisters and also help yourself? Too good to be true? Read on.

If you are like most investors, you are concerned about the current economic climate. Today's low interest rates are good for mortgages, but they have the opposite effect on CDs and money market accounts. It's nearly impossible to find something that offers a solid income stream.

But there is an option — the charitable gift annuity.

How does a gift annuity work?

A charitable gift annuity has three main benefits: it's a contribution, an income source, and also a way to save taxes. In exchange for an irrevocable gift, you'll receive fixed payments for life that are partially tax free, an immediate tax deduction, possible capital gains tax savings, and the satisfaction of knowing that you have made an investment in the sisters' future.

While many report that their investment income has decreased in these last few years, our gift annuitants have noticed that their annuity payments have remained steady.

Here's an example: a 70-year old making a gift of \$5,000

would be eligible for a fixed payment rate of 6.2% for life, with annual payments of \$310 and an immediate tax deduction of over \$1,700. In addition, a portion of each payment will be tax free through his/her life expectancy.

We offer our annuitants the flexibility of choosing the frequency of their payments and the possibility of creating a one or two life gift annuity.

Why now?

You may be interested to know that the Sisters of St. Benedict have recently raised payment rates on charitable gift annuities! Now might be the perfect time to consider establishing one.

We invite you to partner with the Sisters of St. Benedict for life by creating a charitable gift annuity. If you would like to learn more or receive a no-obligation illustration, please contact me in our Mission Advancement office at 888-649-1121, extension 2638.

Karen Blesch
Mission Advancement Planned Giving/
Gift Officer
Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand



Our Deepest Thanks...

This chart shows the number of AIC/MHA ALUMNAE, according to classes, who have made a financial contribution to the Sisters of St. Benedict between January 1 and December 31, 2009. The sisters express thanks to them and to any other alumnae who have contributed in other ways to help support the mission and ministry of the sisters and the care of the senior sisters. Alumnae are prayed for daily in the sisters' prayers.

Class	# of Donors	Class	# of Donors	Class	# of Donors	Class	# of Donors	Class	# of Donors
1929	1	1945	10	1957	9	1969	13	1982	1
1933	2	1946	2	1958	10	1970	6	1983	3
1934	1	1947	6	1959	16	1971	5	1984	1
1936	2	1948	9	1960	10	1972	5	1985	1
1937	1	1949	20	1961	9	1973	2	1988	3
1938	3	1950	9	1962	5	1974	1	1989	1
1939	6	1951	8	1963	7	1975	2	1990	1
1940	3	1952	14	1964	18	1976	5	1991	1
1941	3	1953	20	1965	12	1977	4	1993	1
1942	3	1954	10	1966	8	1978	5	1997	1
1943	4	1955	9	1967	10	1980	2	1998	1
1944	5	1956	12	1968	6	1981	5	1999	1
								2000	1

The total amount contributed by alumnae and staff for the 2009 calendar year was \$86,911.78

In addition to that amount, the sisters received a total of \$24,109 from bequests from alumnae in the St. Hildegard Society in Fiscal Year 2009, and \$10,343 from a bequest from an alum in Fiscal Year 2010.

Alumnae in the St. Hildegard Society – 46

Living – 32

Deceased – 14

Alums who belong to the Women of the Rule

Philanthropy Circle – 4

Alumnae donors – 355

Teachers/staff donors – 19



Jottings

AIC/MHA Alumnae Association

802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239

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“Listen” It’s here at last!

The latest recording of sacred vocal music performed by Stillpoint, our monastery musical group, is now available. The new CD features original songs written and composed by the sisters in Stillpoint, including compositions by Sister Mary Louise (Gloria) Uebelhor '60 and Sister Anita Louise Lowe '83. Sister Mary Frances Schafer '79 plays guitar and sings on the CD. The recording is available at the monastery gift shop and online at www.forheavensake.org.

While you're shopping at the gift shop or online, don't forget to try some of the delicious cookies from Simply Divine, our monastery bakery. There's no cookie like a Simply Divine cookie!

