

# Jottings

The AIC / MHA Alumnae Newsletter  
Spring 2015



## Putting voice to my blessings

Written by Julie (Uebelhor) Buechler '76

*Christ's peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. (Colossians 3:15)*

I am so thankful for the multitude of MHA memories. Who knew my life's career path really began when I walked through the doors of Madonna Hall at age 13. Sisters Anna and Mary James gave me a wonderful campus tour, yet all the while, I knew I would not be attending MHA as a student. But something about their simple reverence for all people and things changed my 13-year-old mind — yes, I would be attending. There in Ferdinand, Indiana, were the faces of God's world: students from cities and towns, near and far, local and international, all races and religions. Graciela Zelaya and Zunie Castrellon came from Panama; Martica Bacallao brought us many things Cuban via Centralia, Illinois.

Memories...

Sister Carla kept us awake in Latin I. "Get those cobwebs out of your brains," she would say. We were a scared class of six students, so we asked if perhaps we could study ONE year of Latin over TWO years. She thought it was a great idea: TWO years of Latin in ONE year! So as freshman, we studied Latin I and Latin II and prepared for the National Latin Exam. She also taught us useful things like *Ultramundanus es*, which you could say to a young man you really liked. It helped, too, if he were a student of Latin. Oh, yes, translation: "You are out of this world!" Go, Sister Carla!

Thanks to this fine little lady, I am a Spanish teacher by trade and a lover of all things language by interest. I was blessed to have her teach me four years of Latin, two of French and a month-long crash course in Spanish. Thank you, Sister Mary Dominic, for letting Sister Carla "get her way" in scheduling my classes.

Only four of us from MHA got to experience the work and world of the Benedictine sisters in Peru. Barb Holmes and Mary Ann Sabina got to study in Peru the summer of 1974. Marilyn Schroeder and I were chosen to study at Santa Rita's School in Morropón,

Peru, for the next summer. Because of that, Sister Carla and I attempted to decipher beginner Spanish in May of 1975.

Oh, to be 16 and navigating the Miami airport and customs! And then, Lima, Peru, in winter in the southern hemisphere. After an 18-hour bus ride from Lima northward up the coast to Morropón, with a few customs stops along the way, we arrived. In Morropón we had electricity in the evenings, thanks to the Augustinian Fathers' generator. Hot water for showers? No!

What a great bunch of sisters were there: Sisters Barbara Jean, Pat, Rosa Lee, and Mary Leah; and in the mountains, Sisters Romaine and Mary. Who knew that I could say so many incorrect things and still learn to speak an acceptable present tense Spanish with a pretty decent accent. I did so, only because the sisters and the students were such wonderful teachers and friends. Now, 40 years later, I can still sing a pretty good rendition of the Peruvian National Anthem: *Tengo orgullo*



Julie Buechler and husband Tom pose with their daughters, Anjuli and Aimee, in front of the Hesburgh Library at University of Notre Dame, Julie's alma mater.

Continued

*de ser peruano y soy feliz....*

In Peru, I discovered such very happy people! Even though they had next to nothing in material things, they would share their food or whatever they had with us. What simple joy was theirs. “*Hasta luego!*” they would say smiling, “See you later,” even though our paths would never cross again. Marilyn and I got to see Cuzco and Machu Picchu, thanks to a sweet sister from Toms River, New Jersey, who was our tour guide. We also stopped to see Graciela in Puerto Armuelles, Panama. Who knew houses didn’t need glass window panes in the tropics, just shutters to keep out the weather. The whole summer was quite an education for this 16-year-old small-town girl.

My experience in Peru led me to change my intended major at Notre Dame from French to Spanish. Sister Mary James was so kind to tutor me in Spanish the summer before I entered Notre Dame in 1976. Thanks to her, I survived and thrived in the intensive Spanish class geared for students who had taken three or four years of high school Spanish. Go, Sister Mary James! I am forever grateful.

My sophomore year of university was spent at La Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico. I got the chance



*Julie with some of her ELL (English Language Learners) Students at Washington High School.*

to visit with my former MHA roommate Sonia Elizabeth Rodriguez, her little sister Nora, and their cousins. The best way to experience a country is through the eyes of the native-born people. What hospitality was shown me! *Gracias, familia Rodriguez!*

Upon graduation from Notre Dame in 1980 with a degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies, I had no set job and no teaching credential. All I knew was that I wanted to **use** my Spanish, not teach it. Who knew that the Civil Service exam I took that spring would reap benefits. After my interview, I was offered the job of Food and Nutrition Specialist, Department of Agriculture, in Chicago, Illinois, or Miami, Florida. All the time I was thinking, “Aren’t there any other bilingual folks in those two cities?” Since the job started in January, Miami was the obvious winner. Thanks mom and dad for driving with me to Miami and helping me get settled! In one and a half years I learned a lot of new Spanish vocabulary — food stamp language, retail vs. whole-

sale, profit and loss, edible and uncooked, many things Cuban. I realized that no one really wanted to talk about Spanish literature or poetry.

Meanwhile, back at MHA, Mrs. Kay Bretz had died, and Sister Mary Dominic was in need of a Spanish teacher. My name had been mentioned in a conversation with my parents. So, when I was home for Easter that year, I visited Sister Mary Dominic. She gave me a great tour of campus and all things new. I planned to turn down the teaching position if she offered it to me. I liked Miami! She mentioned that a Spanish teacher would be needed for the next school year and that I should think about it. I cried the whole flight back to Miami. Yes, I would return to MHA if Sister Mary Dominic wanted me.

My letter to her was in the mail in less than two weeks. Later, Sister Mary Philip confessed that she had her reservations about me — I was such a serious and quiet student, I might not be a good fit in her foreign language department. I couldn’t have asked for a better job, nor better directors — Sister Mary Dominic as principal and Sister Mary Philip as department chair. Those two fine women fought and won for me a temporary teaching license while I was working on the necessary coursework for my license. Go, Sisters Mary Dominic and Mary Philip!

I began my teaching career at the Academy in the fall of 1982.



*Marilyn Schroeder and Julie show the uniform they wore during their 1975 summer program at St. Rita's School in Morropon, Peru.*

God's world was still in Ferdinand, Indiana, just as it had been when I was a student! Farm girls, city girls, from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Mississippi, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Hong Kong — wonderful, unique young ladies with lovely names like Kristi, Mimi, Brenda, Rie, Janet, Tanya, Amy, Megumi, Jennifer, Laura, Sarah, Ana, Carlina, Yee Yan, Mel, and Julie — were at MHA, all, for the most part, willing to learn and open to the spirit of the Benedictine sisters in that global community.

No, I never wanted to teach, but YES, I wanted to teach at Marian Heights Academy! We could begin each class with a prayer; we could talk about God and our faith. And so I say many thanks to you lovely young ladies who shared your dreams, your culture, your faith, your laughter, your tears. I hope I taught you some

Spanish and English, but, more importantly, taught you to believe in yourself and always trust in God. You have become beautiful young women. You continue to inspire me!

As I look back on these many years, I know God's world is still on the hill at Monastery Immaculate Conception with the Benedictine sisters. For those of us who have experienced AIC/MHA as students or teachers or visitors, we know that God's world is ever present right before our eyes — we only must look. God has blessed my life with such incredible opportunities and will continue to do so — I only must look.

I am truly thankful to the sisters who have touched my life as teachers, mentors, coworkers, and friends. I believe that in those times in my life when I was thinking "no," the sisters were praying for my "yes." I know God listens to their prayers; I have no

doubt! Thank you, sisters, for your prayerfulness, for sharing your home, and for allowing me and my best friend Tom to marry in your chapel that fine summer day. Thank you for sharing Christ's peace with all who enter your door!

*Julie Buechler and husband Tom have two daughters, Anjuli and Aimee, students at Purdue University in Pharmacy and Food Science, respectively. Julie taught at Marian Heights from 1982-1990 and 1997-2000. She has recently taken a position at Washington Junior and Senior High School in Washington, Indiana, as English Language (EL) teacher for the local Hispanic, Haitian, and Burmese students. Her hobbies include spending time with family, rug hooking, crocheting, and reading.*

## Design a tee shirt

We sometimes get requests about shirts and souvenirs of the Academy. The Alumnae Association Board recently discussed this idea and decided to pursue it. Their first task is to get possible designs for tee shirts, which could also be used on other items such as mugs, device covers, etc.

So, here's a fun challenge for any alums interested: create a design to put on a tee shirt. Tina Dalton is checking on some past Academy logos which might be incorporated in some way. She plans to use Zazzle.com in producing the products to sell online only.

If you're interested in creating a design, send Tina (tinadalt@aol.com) a jpeg of your design by April 8. The board will look at the designs at their April meeting and decide the next step. They will probably upload the designs as an album and also upload them to Zazzle.com. When Zazzle completes their process, individual orders could be placed. You could then order the design of your choice as a shirt, mug, tablet cover, etc. But, we're not there yet.

More information will be posted on Facebook as this project develops, and will also be shared at the alumnae meeting at the reunion this summer.

This is not a fund-raising project, but only to provide an opportunity for alums to purchase items with Academy images or designs if they want.

## Ferdinand is celebrating its 175th birthday this year

In observance of its 175th anniversary, the town of Ferdinand has scheduled events throughout the year, culminating with a festival during the week of June 14-21, with a grand parade on Sunday, June 21.

The sisters will participate in the 175th observances in various ways. They will offer a special invitation to the Ferdinand people to an "afternoon with the sisters" on Sunday, May 3, for various activities, refreshments, and a powerpoint presentation featuring the monastery's connection with the town for the past 148 years — since 1867 when four pioneer sisters from the Benedictine monastery in Covington, Kentucky, came to Ferdinand to teach the German settlers and to establish a Benedictine foundation, which eventually became Monastery Immaculate Conception. The sisters will also have a booth (homemade ice cream sandwiches) at the festival in June and will have a float in the grand parade on June 21.

### Request for alums who are reading *Jottings* online

If you do not receive *Jottings* in the mail, we do not have a current address for you; we cannot send you the newsletter or get in touch with you when your class is celebrating a special anniversary. Please send your current address, phone number, and e-mail address to Sister Paulette at [pseng@thedome.org](mailto:pseng@thedome.org), or go to the Academy web page ([thedome.org/alumnae](http://thedome.org/alumnae)) and update your contact information.



# Academy Alumnae Reunion — June 27–28, 2015

Why do so many alums gather on “the hill” each summer?

Each summer alums from far and near and young and old (and in between) converge on “the hill” for a special event — the Academy Alumnae Reunion Weekend. A band of loyal, enthusiastic, and fun-loving women gather for a few hours or a few days to celebrate their “sisterhood,” a unique bonding of phenomenal women who share the “Academy experience.”

This year we have a very special reason to gather as alums. Our Academy Alumnae Association is 90 years old! It was established in 1925 for the purpose of “the perpetuation of friendship among its members, the advancement of their temporal and spiritual welfare, mutual encouragement, and the promotion of the interests of the Institution,” as stated in its original Constitution.

Since 1925, alums have returned to “the hill” each summer for that same purpose. They renew and strengthen friendships, support one another, nourish and rejuvenate their spirit, reminisce and keep the memories alive, share the joys and sorrows of their lives, and have fun.

If you have never been back to “the hill” since you were a student there, maybe you need to discover why alums find it so special to spend a day or two with kindred spirits. We invite you to return this summer. Whether you graduated from the Academy or attended only a year or so makes no difference. You do not have to be a graduate of the Academy to be Academy alum.

If your class year ends in a “0” or a “5” you will be celebrating a special anniversary. And if you’re an in-between class, you’ll fit right in as well.

We issue a special invitation to alums who were in the 2001, 2002, 2003 classes. The final class to graduate from the Academy (2000) will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. Welcome back to all of you, our youngest alums.

## Weekend Schedule for Alumnae Reunion

*(Times are Eastern Daylight)*

**Saturday, June 27** — “Gathering of the girls” in the Monastery Event Hall (formerly MHA gym) from 2 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing and fun afternoon socializing, playing games, sharing memorabilia, memories, refreshments, and more. For Saturday evening, make plans for a dinner with classmates and friends at local venues.

### Sunday, June 28

- Registration from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Assembly hallway — sign in, get dinner ticket, make payment if not pre-paid
- Continental breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Assembly
- Mass at 10:30 a.m. in monastery church
- **Dinner at 12 p.m. in Monastery Event Hall** (formerly MHA gym)
- Annual meeting after the dinner — announcements, reports, recognition and photos of anniversary classes, prizes, visiting, and other fun!
- Visiting throughout the afternoon after the scheduled meeting

- Check out the monastery gift shop (For Heaven’s Sake), newly located in the Monastery Event Hall

**Registrations due by June 15** in order to be included in the Sunday dinner count. Send in registration form included in *Jottings* on page 5, or register online at [thedome.org/alumnae](http://thedome.org/alumnae).

### Points to remember:

- Registration deadline for the dinner count is June 15
- \$25 fee for Alumnae Reunion helps cover the cost of continental breakfast, dinner, setup, and *Jottings* newsletter. Pay when you register or when you sign in on Sunday, June 28.
- Online registration and reunion information at [www.thedome.org/alumnae](http://www.thedome.org/alumnae)
- Alumnae raffle — special items (artwork, jewelry, etc. made and contributed by Alumnae Board members and other alums) will be displayed on Saturday and Sunday. You can purchase tickets on any items for \$1 or 6 for \$5. Winning tickets will be drawn at the reunion dinner on Sunday.
- See **hotel listings below** if you need accommodations for the weekend.

*Let’s celebrate our Academy friendships and make our 90th annual Alumnae Reunion a record-breaking event!*



*The Saturday gathering and Sunday dinner will be in the new Event Hall (former MHA gym.) This sample setup was displayed at its Open House celebration in January.*

Harvest Moon B & B, Ferdinand . . . . .	812-367-1881
Baymont Inn, Dale . . . . .	812-937-7000
Motel 6, Dale . . . . .	812-937-2294
Sleep Inn, Jasper . . . . .	800-424-6423
Days Inn, Jasper . . . . .	800-742-7482
Hampton Inn, Jasper . . . . .	800-426-7866
Holiday Inn Express, Jasper . . . . .	888-465-4329
Santa’s Lodge, Santa Claus . . . . .	812-937-1902
Quality Inn, Huntingburg . . . . .	800-228-5151
Ferdinand Inn, Ferdinand . . . . .	888-950-5062

## News from the hill

### Monastery receives new member

On January 11, the sisters officially accepted Lynn Falcony into the postulancy, the first stage of incorporation into the Benedictine community.

Lynn is from Evansville and most recently had worked as an IV Pharmacy Tech at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Evansville. She lived in the sister’s Evansville discernment house for six weeks prior to moving to the monastery in Ferdinand.

Lynn learned about the sisters after she became a member of Saint Anthony Parish in Evansville. She said, “Upon joining my new parish, I was looking for a way to get involved. I began volunteering with the high school youth group and was introduced to the Sisters of St. Benedict through Sister Teresa Gunter (Sister T), the youth minister at the parish (and former MHA faculty member). After working with Sister T and being introduced to and welcomed by the community, I chose to continue to explore my options. During my time of discernment, I learned a lot about myself and my faith and look forward to learning more and experiencing Benedictine monastic life with these amazing women.”



Sister Charlene Ann Wheelless '59, gift shop manager and Ferdinand Chamber of Commerce member, cut the ribbon during the shop’s grand re-opening in the former MHA gym. The Chamber also did a ribbon cutting for the Event Hall.

from Benet Hall to a renovated section of the MHA gymnasium in October. In January the shop held its grand re-opening in this new location, the same building as Monastery Event Hall.

The Art Building has been leased to two local entrepreneurs who plan to establish a microbrewery in the building. They are waiting to obtain approval for the license to operate a brewery with a tasting room and bottled specialty craft beers. In the meantime, they are moving equipment and other items into the building and hope to open St. Benedict’s Brew Works in May.

Last November the sisters gave their official approval to proceed with plans for the use of Benet Hall. Their intent is to convert Benet Hall into a facility that offers affordable housing for seniors. The building would be reconstructed into 15 two-bedroom/two-bathroom apartments. A market study determined there is an obvious need in the area for additional affordable housing. After much deliberation, consultation, cooperation with the town, legal steps, etc., the sisters submitted their application for this project to the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority in November.

The IHCD received 52 applications for rental housing tax-credit projects and estimated that 14 would be approved. If the sisters’ application is approved for affordable rental housing for seniors, the project would qualify for tax credits and related funding. By late February they expect to hear a decision.

Regardless of the outcome of the Benet Hall proposal, the sisters will continue to dream and work toward new endeavors on the hill.

### Bringing new life to “old” buildings

During the past few years the sisters have been studying, discussing, and assessing how they might “right size” the buildings on campus to use for ministry and for the monastery. They focused their efforts on three structures that have been underused or vacant — Benet Hall, MHA gymnasium, and Academy Art Studio.

As a result of their planning and work, the sisters are bringing changes and new activities to the campus. On January 31, they officially opened the Monastery Event Hall, located in the former MHA gymnasium. After a modest “makeover,” this facility is now available for the public to rent for events such as family reunions, weddings, anniversary celebrations, holiday parties, and other gatherings. (For more information, contact Laura Reckelhoff at 812-367-1411, extension 2635.)

The monastery gift shop, For Heaven’s Sake, was moved

### Alumnae Reunion — June 27–28, 2015 Registration Form

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

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

Or, register online at [thedome.org/alumnae](http://thedome.org/alumnae).

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grad year \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- I will attend the gathering on Saturday.
- I will be at the Sunday dinner.
- I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests for dinner.

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## AIC/MHA Alumnae News

**Barbara (Stader) Nurrenbern '64** said she loves baby-sitting for her newest grandson. "I'm still doing well. I had heart surgery two years ago but still do roller skate dancing at the rink on weekends. I love my church music and did special music for Advent and Christmas Eve. I pray for all the sisters, especially those we used to know and love, and all my classmates, wondering how their lives have turned out."

**Suzanne (Ballman) Whitlock '64** "John and I sold our Indianapolis home of 43 years last September and have moved permanently to Islamorada, Florida, in the Keys. Hope to still get back to the hill occasionally."

**Tina Dalton '82** "I'm back teaching toddlers and love 59 seconds of every minute of it (there is always that one second that isn't so great). I love being on the Alumnae Association Board and meeting with the various generations of grads and attendees. It means the world to me to continue being a part of MHA. I especially appreciate connecting with so many wonderful women who hold the Academy in their hearts as much as I do."

**Martha Rasche '82** After a 25-year career in newspaper journalism, Martha is now self-employed, writing senior citizens' life stories and helping seniors write their own at nursing homes and senior centers. She lives in Jasper, Indiana. Her website is [theseareourstories.com](http://theseareourstories.com).

**Jennifer (Ellison) Cohn '91** is in Indianapolis and in a new position at St. Vincent's Hospital with the Tele-Stroke unit. She and her husband are busy on the weekends with their two boys playing sports.

**Jennifer (Gazda) DeHenes '93** posted on Facebook in November: "Just wanted to send you a message that I have moved. Hoping I can make it down for a visit next year. The cold already is taking its toll on me but I am doing ok. One year cancer free, and I plan on many years to come. I am

getting ready to have a round of tests done to clear me of cancer for the next few months, so if you could say a little prayer for me, I would appreciate it."

**Megan (Ellison) Wilson '93** lives at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with her husband, who is in the military, and their three children. The oldest, Cameron, began high school this school year.

**Michelle Tamayo '96** visited the monastery in November. She had been to Louisville to play the music for Jaime Melendez's wedding. In May of this year Michelle will graduate with a doctoral degree in pharmacy. She lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Michelle visited Sister Helen Maurer and other sisters.

**Lauren (Sullivan) Kaepfner '97** "I took a new job as vice president of sales at a very exciting company — "Everything But the House." My work updates are all the excitement I have for the moment. I am also an adjunct professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati. I teach management, HR, and Operations. It's a fun and busy life. So far, so good. Brian and I celebrate 12 years of marriage this year. Time goes by so fast."

**Bea Forlano 2000** "I'm still in Louisiana, just got a promotion, and took my mom on a fantastic trip to the Grand Canyon for her birthday! It was beautiful and we had a blast. In my 32 years, I've found myself in some wild and pretty amazing places, but this is hands down the most beautiful thing I have ever seen!"

**Lindsie (Jung) Fransen '01** "I

graduated last May from Loyola University Chicago with my Master of Science in Nursing as a family nurse practitioner and have been hired by CVS MinuteClinic. In other exciting news, my husband, Robert, and I welcomed Andrew Edward into our family on September 11. My daughter, Abigail (2 years) is very excited to be a big sister!"



Andrew Edward Fransen

**Kathy Ellison (MHA faculty)** writing as Kate Nixon, author of *The Heirloom Pearls* and *The Heirloom Brooch*: "I want to share some background on my second book, *The Heirloom Brooch*, which came out this month. I started doing genealogy over 30 years ago. I was given an old suitcase filled with my great-grandmother's stuff, including pictures of women relatives who had worn the family heirloom, the garnet brooch. My husband looked at the pictures of my mother, cousin, and aunt wearing the brooch and told me that there was a story there. So I began writing the heirloom series and am working on the third book now, working title, *The Heirloom Locket*."

### Let Us Hear From You!

Please take a few minutes to share some news about yourself — an update on what you're doing or something about your family — in the fall issue of *Jottings*. E-mail to [pseng@thedome.org](mailto:pseng@thedome.org), or send via postal service (address on back cover of *Jottings*), or use the "news link" on the bottom of the alumnae web page ([thedome.org/alumnae](http://thedome.org/alumnae)).

**Deadline for your news/updates for the fall issue is August 14, 2015.**



## Meet alums on Facebook

If you're interested in hearing from and about other alums, consider joining the official alumni group on facebook.com. Search for "Marian Heights Academy/Academy Immaculate Conception Official Alumni Group." Also check the Sisters' Facebook page at facebook.com/Ferdinand OSB.

## May they rest in peace

### Alumnae: Bernadine (Humbert)

Heath '42, Mary Ann (Becher) Potter '42, Rita Mae (Rasche) Oeding '44, Catherine Arvella (Shetler) Kafka Clark '46, Dolores (Fernandez) Kummerfeldt '48, Sister Mary Roman (Theresa) Dall '52, Mary Jane (Borho) Petik '58, Kathy (Esarey) Hammond '68, Linda Gesenhues '74, Susan (Bosso) Roberts '77, Betsy Jimenez '89

### Husband of: Carole (Blume) Tabor '64

**Mother of:** Sina Kay (Hollis) Murphy '59, Mary Ann (Ryan) Hesler '64, Mary Jeannine Kristan Gillis '66, Patty (Stippler) Whitehouse '67, Catherine Clark '68, Becky (Stippler) Tarvin '68, Marianne Hart '70, Mary Margaret Stippler '70, Patty (Hart) Shinness '76, Marie (Hart) Reed '77, Diane Hart-Dawson '80, Jennifer (Hash) Bradley '80, Deborah (Acker) Wagler '83

**Father of:** Clarissa Dancel-Warren '78, Mariegiselle Areco Perez '81, Michelle Dancel-Light '82

**Brother of:** Sister Phyllis Backer '49, Jean (Gettelfinger) Krejci '51, Mary Jo (Backer) Uebelhor '51, Margie Backer '53, Sister Norma Gettelfinger '54, Carol (Gettelfinger) Chappel '58, Rita (Mattingly) Elliott '64

**Sister of:** Elsie (Borho) Hatcher '63

## Our deepest thanks!

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, I express our heartfelt gratitude to all the student alumnae and former staff members who have so generously contributed financially to our community and our ministries in the past year. Your donations increased from last year by \$51,364.22

In our Mission Advancement database, we have current addresses for 1604 Academy alumnae, including 123 former staff members. Of that total number, 311 (19%) contributed \$160,289.20 to the Sisters of St. Benedict in 2014.

Here is a summary of the top contributions by classes and by percentage of donors in each class from January 1 through December 31, 2014.

Classes with the highest percentage of members who made contributions:

1960	52%
1941	50%
1963	48%
1952	44%
1948 and 1953	43%

Top five classes for total contributions:

1950	\$16,900.24
1943	\$16,390.00
1956	\$14,064.95
1965	\$12,634.36
1961	\$10,287.00

Many alums are involved in various levels and ways of giving to the Sisters of St. Benedict. Currently, 12 alums are members of the "Women of the Rule" philanthropy circle, 44 are "Partners of the Sisters," and 49 are members of the St. Hildegard Society, a planned giving group. Other alums give in honor of or in memory of someone or in answer to an appeal letter or fundraising project.

We know our alums want to make a difference in people's lives. Through your prayers and gifts for our mission and our ministries, you not only sustain a vibrant Benedictine community, but also serve God and change lives. You are indeed making a difference.

If you're at a point in your life where you are willing and financially able, I ask you to consider making a contribution to the sisters, if you haven't yet done so. You can learn more about ways to give by visiting our website at [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org) and clicking "Make a Gift."

We thank you for your support, not only financially, but in other ways. Some of you have become volunteers with the sisters, helping with various tasks at the monastery — in the bakery, housekeeping, outdoor work, painting, driving sisters to appointments, helping with mailings, serving on committees and boards, and much more. We appreciate your generosity in doing these services.

We are happy to be associated with you and to count you, our alums, as part of our Benedictine family. Together, we can chip away at making the world a better place.

We pray daily for you and ask that you do the same for us.

May God bless you.  
Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz  
Prioress



## Jottings

Spring 2015

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Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239



# Jottings

AIC/MHA Alumnae Association

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Ferdinand, Indiana  
Permit No. 15  
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## 2015 Alumnae Reunion Weekend

“Meet on the Hill” on June 27-28!

*More details on page 4.*

### Introducing the new *Simply Lemon Cookie!*

***Lemon lovers rejoice!***

Simply Lemon is the newest cookie to be added to Simply Divine Bakery’s menu of gourmet cookies baked by our sisters. They are just like Grandma used to make, a little crispness, with a light lemon flavor. *Simply lemon. Simply divine.*

Buy them anytime online at [forheavensake.org](http://forheavensake.org)!



### Upcoming Spirituality Programs

**Check the web site for program details: [thedome.org/events](http://thedome.org/events)**

- April 6-8    Come Away Retreat
- April 16 and 30    The Labyrinth: Walking Our Way to Wholeness
- April 18    Who Is My Neighbor? The Challenge of Living a Life of Justice
- April 25    Basics of Bread from a Benedictine
- May 2    Wise Women in the Benedictine Tradition
- June 29-July 3    Private/Personal Retreat