

Jottings

The AIC / MHA Alumnae Newsletter
September 2009



Curiosity leads alum to explore the world

The "Academy experience" has educated alums and helped shape their future experiences in diverse ways. We asked Susan (Lola) Shiebler '92 to share how the Academy shaped her future ventures as a world traveler and how her learning continues through her travel experiences.

When I was a student at Marian Heights Academy from 1990-1992, I was always curious and excited about meeting the ESL (English as a Second Language) students. MHA was a special place, affording its students opportunities to learn among and befriend people from all over the world. It was culturally diverse. We had students from all corners of the globe.

I remember learning about Ramadan when the Muslim students would fast from dawn to dusk, and the proctors would take great care to make sure they received meals when the rest of us were sleeping soundly. I also remember a Korean student showing me beautifully drawn anime and comic books. Or how the Saudia Arabian army kids would discuss having to wear head scarves and the long black cloak called the abayah when they were back home in Riyadh. I remember being particularly affected by seeing a beautiful kimono that one Japanese student wore to the graduation ceremonies. And last but not least, I still have CDs and mix tapes of some really excellent Mexican disco music.

I think these experiences cemented within me an awareness of the huge world outside of our American lives. And I got bit by the travel bug. I wanted to see all the places I saw pictures of and wondered about.

Over the last 15 years I have been globetrotting as much as I possibly can. MHA weekend trips to an Evansville mall or Kings Island roller coaster park have been replaced with whimsical excursions to Costa Rican volcanoes or hopping down the Amalfi Coast on a vespa in Italy.

I like getting out of my comfort zone. I love and need to explore. I

think it's given me a greater appreciation for the life that Americans take for granted. Who needs a pair of two hundred dollar jeans when I have these vivid memories of young children in Soweto crowded under a corrugated tin roof in the dilapidated townships outside of Johannesburg, Africa?

There was a sense of compassion instilled in us at MHA. There was a sense of community that extended beyond Ferdinand, and I was anxious to see it.

I have lived in New York City for the past 14 years. It is called the capital of the world for good reason. But there is a soaring elation in traveling by plane and stepping out of the sliding doors of the customs area into the cacophony of taxis and throngs of families at the arrival areas in airports far away from home.

Upon arrival in a country, I queue up at the airport ATM to get some local currency and peruse the line for fellow backpackers who may want to share a ride into town. There, we compare information about possible accommodations and form an alliance. I am comfortable staying in affordable hostels around the world. The dorm living in Madonna Hall prepared me for that! I recommend hostels highly. There are communal kitchens, Inter-



Lola, standing above the coastal town of Hermanus, South Africa

net, and common areas where you can meet fellow travelers and share advice and itineraries. I have a proclivity for camaraderie, and exploring foreign lands with other travelers gives me another set of eyes and ears that can broaden my experience.

When a friend and I decided to go to South Africa, we drove the southern coast up to Cintsa where the Xhosa tribes are located. One day during a tour of the area with our local guide, we were driving past a beautiful village, and children began running alongside our Land Rover. I had some apples in my lunch bag and threw them out the window into their waving arms and smiling faces. One child caught an apple, took a bite, and handed it to the kid running next to him. He then took a bite and did the same to the friend behind him. I asked the tour guide about what I had witnessed — the selflessness, the sense of community. The tour guide explained it simply, “This season you may have many crops, but next season you may not. You help your neighbor because someday your neighbor will help you.” Right on!

Living in New York, there can be some exasperation with the hustle and bustle, with getting ahead and staying there. Sometimes we forget that meeting (and being) a generous spirit and sharing stories are more rewarding. That is why I travel — to remind myself of how big the world is and yet how much we all require the same things — how much we have in common, but also the vast divide between the financial haves and have-nots.

The latest trip I took was to Argentina. During my six weeks there, I flew down to the southern tip to Patagonia to climb the Perito Moreno Glacier. I met some fun people while on the tour, including a native Argentine named Gesica from Buenos Aires. She didn’t speak a lick of English, but my conversational Spanish was enough to determine that we were like-minded, and we laughed and explored the glacier park.

It was absolutely breathtaking to see huge chunks of ice break away and crash 10 stories into the water. The sound of ripping ice would echo between the mountains, and we would hoot and applaud with excitement and fear.

Gesica became a good pal for the duration of my trip. On one occasion she went to extreme measures to retrieve my clothes from a Laundromat that was closed when I needed to

leave for the airport. She brought them on a later flight to Buenos Aires, where I waited anxiously. She came in at midnight smiling and holding my laundry bag above her head in victory. Who goes out of their way like that for a stranger? New Yorkers rarely see that kind of benevolence. We still keep in touch!

I also keep in touch with my friend Paco in Buenos Aires. We would talk and listen to soul records on days when I wasn’t sight-seeing. One day my camera got broken, and Paco offered

to let me borrow his for the rest of

my trip. These Argentine people are amazing! I vowed that if I ever saw a tourist in NYC needing help, I was going to be their superhero. Pay it forward, people.

I travel because I need a reprieve from the stress of the daily routines. I travel because I’d like to meet a few more people. I travel because it’s so important to decompress and rejuvenate ourselves.

Whether your idea of a vacation is lying on a sandy beach counting your freckles and sipping on a piña colada or taking a cultural excursion to a place rich in history and architectural marvels, it need not be expensive. Find that bargain airline ticket, stay at a ten-dollar-a-night hostel, and immerse yourself in the local scene.

Sometimes I can’t wrap my head around all the extraordinary places I’ve been to. I feel very lucky. I’ve eaten pig brains for dinner in Beijing the night I climbed the Great Wall. I’ve been 10 feet away from elephants, leopards, and giraffes on safari in South Africa. I bought a beautiful kimono in Japan and wore it as I ran around Kyoto taking pictures with geisha as they were walking to tea ceremonies. I swam with nurse sharks off the coast of Belize. I visited temples and paid alms to monks in Thailand. I guest bartended at an Irish Pub in Tokyo. I am always struck with how fortunate I am to have had that seed of curiosity planted within me during my formative years at Marian Heights — when a weekend night in Jasper was living it up!

Someday, I will travel back to the convent on the hill in Ferdinand — I’ve gone back for a few reunions — it will forever be in my heart as a favorite place on Earth.... It’s where I became who I am today.

(Susan Shiebler, aka Miss Lola Belle, lives and laughs in Brooklyn, New York. She says she will throw a dart at a map soon to decide where her next adventure will be.)



Lola dons her new purchase — a traditional Japanese kimono — for this photo with a geisha in Kyoto.



Lola poses in front of the Perito Moreno Glacier at the southern tip of Argentina.

'Remember the stories....don't let the memories fade'

"Remember the stories, pass them on, and don't let the memories fade," alumnae board member Tina Dalton advised in her Facebook entry the day after this year's alumnae reunion. Looking ahead to next year's reunion on June 26-27, she wrote, "Encourage everyone you have contact with to come back to share the memories."

Memories and stories seem to be what the reunion is all about.

Kathy (Walter) Koch '64 sent a note to her classmates. "This past weekend for me was the best alum weekend I have been to since we graduated. The older I get, the more I appreciate my friends. We had a lot of fun, laughter, memories, and, of course, good food!"

To someone who's never been to an alumnae reunion, it's difficult to describe the spirit at the gatherings. Whether it's two roommates reuniting after years of absence, an anniversary class remembering and celebrating their stories, or the entire assembly of 150 former students and staff buzzing over dinner, the gatherings are animated and memorable.

As in past years, anniversary classes celebrated throughout the weekend at locations on and off the hill. But wherever they met, their experiences were similar.

"I always feel such peace when I am on 'the hill!' I enjoyed our time at the guest house and the great dinner in Jasper on Saturday night. We sure did laugh a lot! It is always so much fun to catch up on everyone's lives," shared Jeanne Thompson Bartell '59.

Doris (Giesler) Chandler '59 hadn't been to a class reunion since leaving the Academy after her sophomore year. "Our 50th class reunion on 'the hill' held true to the harmony and peaceful thoughts that I still remember after 52 years from afar. Amazingly, these years quickly melted away as one classmate after another reunited on June 28. It was a grace-filled, special day for me."

Also from the class of '59, Barbara (Braun) Zenthoefer and Joyce (Zirklebach) Calhoun, who both attended the Academy one year, said: "It really was great seeing everyone after 53 years. Joyce and I talked about it on the way home and wondered why we waited so long to go back. We won't make that mistake again." Joyce added, "It was like our friendships just picked up where they had left off. It was a memorable weekend."

The Alumnae Association Board



Class of '49

The second annual art raffle raised \$167. Alums bought tickets for beautiful art items created and

members coordinated the activities on Sunday of the reunion weekend — the Mass, delicious dinner, and annual business meeting with its highlights.

Special prizes were given to the oldest and youngest alums present — Sister Asunta Highbaugh '33 (93) and Jill Ebert-Lasher '93 (30); alum with most grandchildren — Firmina Young '54 (30); and alum who travelled the farthest — Sister Rosemary Huber '49, California. Attendance prizes went to Martha Miller '49 and Jody Trimble-Windsor '69.

donated by Tina Dalton '82, Janice Greene '69, Sarah Tucker '81, and from Sister Francesca Brogan's collection. Winners were Connie Egloff '73, Joan Quante '49, Mary Messmer '69, and Mary May '55.

The class of 1964 had the largest attendance — 21. The 50th anniversary class had 20 present. These classes continued a tradition begun by a celebrating class a few years ago — giving

a class gift to the Benedictine sisters. The class of 1959 gave \$575 and the class of 1964 gave \$1,058.

Past president Kathleen (Bohm) Boink '58 received special thanks and recognition for completing nine years of service on the Alumnae Board.

Alums revisited former classrooms and other hangouts on campus before saying their goodbyes, accompanied with promises of keeping in touch.

Jeanne Bartell reflected on her leaving. "After everyone left on Sunday evening, I walked the grounds by myself. I was on the colonnade, back in the church, down to the grotto, and then through the convent cemetery.

It was a great time for me to think back on the four years that I lived there...and again, I felt such peace and thankfulness

Class of '64

for those four years."

Kathy Koch summed up her visit. "There is something about 'the hill' that brings out the best in everyone. When-

ever I think about the Academy days, words that come to mind are serenity, forever friendships, compassion, prayerfulness, wonderful teachers, and, of course, fun. Being there always leaves me with a powerful feeling of peacefulness and humbleness, and I am so thankful that I was able to attend such an awesome place."



Class of '59



Class of '64



Class of '69

For more photos, go to thedome.smugmug.com/Parties/Alumnae-Reunion-2009.

AIC/MHA Alumnae News

The 50s

Janice (Neyenhaus) Schriefer '53 lives in Irving, Texas. "I'm retired for the past nine years and have done a lot of traveling. I have two children, Lisa and Travis, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I have just survived another cancer surgery — that makes a total of nine. I've always said I'm in God's hands and my faith is strong."

Philly (Jones) Gogel '57 and her husband, Jack, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 6.

Kathy (Ziliak) Hollander '59 sent an update for her classmates at the reunion. "Each year Ron and I spend about seven months in Florida and about five months in Evansville. I am healthy and stay active...walk, play golf, bike ride, play a little bridge, and Mahjong. I also participate in watercolor classes and art fairs in our Heron's Glen community while in Florida."

The 60s

Linda (Little) Wenning '64 works as an administrative secretary for Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc., in Madison, Indiana. "The reunion was a smash — thank you so much!"

Ann Klem '66 "My new business is keeping me very busy and I'm having the time of my life with it. If you are interested, you can check out my work at www.annklemreflections.com." Ann does finely-crafted glass jewelry. She is a member of the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, a member of Kentucky Art Guild, and a juried member of the Louisville Artisans' Guild. More information about Ann is on her web site.

Dorothy Rasche '69 retired from her work as a teacher for the U.S. Department of Defense in June. After many years in other countries, she is now back in Jasper, Indiana.

The 70s

Ann (Higgins) Wiegand '74 lives in Morton, Illinois, and works as an administrative case reviewer at Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in Peoria.

Gina Nardoni '77 lives in Querétaro, Mexico, and is a university teacher. She sent greetings to the sisters she remembers from her Academy days.

Angela Eisele '79 lives in Brackettville, Texas, and works as a deputy US marshal in Del Rio, Texas.

The 80s

Nora Rodriguez Mirelles '80 "I got married 21 year ago and have two daughters, Valeria, 19, and Brenda, 14. Valeria is going to study a year in Canada, and Brenda will be participating at a cheer leader event in Orlando next April. Everything is well here."

Carolyn Day '81 "After a close call for one of our classmates with breast cancer a couple of years ago, my career as a massage therapist in Louisville took a new direction. For the past year I have been massaging cancer patients and their caregivers. Usually I am in my office giving massages, but one day a week I give hand or foot massages to cancer patients in the hospital or while they are receiving chemotherapy. This service is provided free to cancer patients through the Norton Cancer Institute. It is the most beautiful, most rewarding work I could ever do, and I am so blessed to be doing it."

Alice Bruck '82 lives in Hazel Crest, Illinois, and works as a cashier at a Wal-Mart store and also as a crossing guard for the City Of Hazel Crest.

Alison J. Logan '82 is assistant city attorney in Corpus Christi, Texas. "I frequently think about my two years at MHA and want to take my daughter to visit sometime soon."

Prudence (Bumpus) Milner '83 lives in Morgan, Georgia, and works as a project coordinator for Advent Business Interiors in Albany, Georgia. "I so miss MHA. I hope to find everyone that I have missed for so long. MHA was my family!"

Alesia Hsiao '89 currently lives in Menlo Park, California, after living and working in Los Angeles and in San Jose. She works as a writer for Franklin Templeton. She and her husband, David, have been married for 12 years. Upon reading



New CD and specialty cookies in gift shop and online

"Listen," the title of the latest recording of sacred vocal music by the monastery musical group, Stillpoint, is scheduled to be released in late October. This CD, featuring original songs written by the sisters in Stillpoint, will be available at the monastery gift shop and online at www.forheavensake.org.

The monastery's "Simply Divine" bakery has added two more varieties of cookies to its line of specialty cookies — a shortbread cookie and a buttermint cookie, which was juried as an Indiana Artisan product in May. The sisters' anise-flavored springerles, almerles (an almond-flavored counterpart), and Hildegard cookies have all received the Indiana Artisan designation, which recognizes high quality art, crafts, and food products made in Indiana.



AIC/MHA Alumnae News

in *Jottings* about Sister Carla Mitchell's death, Alesia wrote: "Sister Carla was a strict teacher but I loved her as a teacher (Latin). I took three more years of Latin in college because she had instilled in me a love for the language. I did well because of how and what she taught me. You teachers put me in a world that is endlessly fascinating and new, and shaped me into the person I am today. For that, I am forever grateful."

The 90s

Kristi (Pnacek) Bonilla '90 "It's amazing how much strength you can find in the memory of the peace and the family that grew out of our time at the Academy."

Zuleika Aizpurua '91 "I am doing well. I am married and live with my husband in Panama City. I would love to visit Ferdinand and remember the good times when I studied at the Academy. I am really enjoying hearing from all of my Academy friends on Facebook."

Colleen Doherty '91 sent an update through Facebook and said: "Facebook should have a warning when you sign up: 'this is highly addictive, and if you stop for even a month, you will have so many requests for friends you haven't

talked to in years it will take you forever to catch up — and people will be mad because you don't respond immediately.' I have to set a strict policy of 'only on Facebook when I catch up on most everything else.' Things are great here. I'm working at University of California, San Diego. I finished my degree in biochemistry at Michigan State last year and now I'm doing a post doctorate out here. I'm really enjoying science." Colleen said her sister **Maureen Doherty '94** is doing well and has three children.

Deanna Caudillo '92 wrote on her Facebook page: "I loved being at MHA. I still dream of it sometimes when I am totally stressed out. It gives me a sense of peace and comfort that I could have found only within those stone walls. I am so glad I found this site."

Meg (Fortney) Cornelius '94 "He's here! Gavin Cole Cornelius was born on July 15. Bree is geared up to be the perfect big sister."

Vanessa Gonsaud '95 "I was really sad to hear about the closing of the Academy. I studied there in 1992 and had the best time of my life. I'm looking forward to updates on my classmates." Vanessa lives and works in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Goretti Kadende '96 "I graduated

from Mississippi State in 2000 and got married to Theo (from Kenya) in 2001. We have two girls, Kellsie, 5, who graduated from kindergarten, and Kayden, 3. Most of my time has been spent at home with them. I am also starting an organization to help kids in the streets of Burundi. So, I would say my life is about taking care of kids and helping other kids whenever I can. I really miss MHA. It was a beautiful place, and I hope I will be able to return one day."

Amie (Keller) Schultz '98 "I am doing well. I am currently managing a group home for the disabled in Minnesota. I have been working for the same company and same house for almost nine years."

Former faculty

Leslie Graves "I think of you all and the monastery so often. Those were wonderful times for me. I enjoy going to your web site and receiving the newsletter. After a few towns and cities, we are now living in Columbia, Missouri. We've been here for four years. John is the CEO of Callaway Hospital in Fulton. I ran into **Anna Sheridan '02** when we first moved here and also saw **Joan Sheridan '00**."

May they rest in peace

Alumnae: Vivian (Metzger) Stemle '34, Sister Angela (Mary Therese) Sasse '38, Georgianna (Schmitt) Tepool '43, Margaret Flispart '53, Beverly Diane (Lowe) Welton '55, Carolyn (Lasher) Lee '57, Janet Sieveking, '58, Joan Ann (Lauer) Porter '61, Theresa Donis '98

Husband of: Dorothy (Johanneman) Vaal '49, Shirley Garza '53, Connie (Knies) Schroering '62, Magdalen (Brosmer) Ward '65

Sister of: Sister Marge Sasse '52

Brother of: Ruth (Stipper) Rice '38, Sister Theresita (Imelda) Schenk '38, Lillian (Stippler) MacGregor '39, Bernadette (Schenk) Montgomery '41, Mary Faye (Brahm) Welp '52, Kathy (Brahm) Thomas '55, Sister Marilyn Schroering '64

Mother of: Mary Jane (Stemle) Rummel '65, Tara Gannon '94

Father of: Jane Schroeder '74, Marilyn Schroeder '76

Daughter of: Mona Fay (Holland) Seidel '51

Son of: Norma Jean (Farmer) Lennartz '49



*Spend a weekend with us
to reconnect with yourself.
With your thoughts.
With your faith.*

Life gets hectic.
We're pulled in a hundred different directions. It's important to make time for yourself. To reflect and recharge. That's what our Spirituality Ministry is all about. Take part in a variety of programs — a Saturday Morning at the Dome, centering prayer, compassionate healing, retreats; enjoy the peace and beauty of our grounds; join us at prayer. Return home renewed.

For a complete list of programs at Kordes Center, visit thedome.org/programs.



Sisters of St. Benedict • 802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, IN 47532 • thedome.org

News from 'the hill'

(For additional news, check the news desk entries at www.thedome.org.)

The sisters welcomed a new member into the monastic community on Sunday, August 23. Alexandra Larsen, 28, a native of Madison, Wisconsin, entered the postulancy, the first stage of membership in the community. Alex graduated from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina, in 2003 with a degree in educational studies and early childhood. For the past six years she has been working in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, as an infant and early childhood teacher.



Eight sisters who have special connections with the Academy — as former students or faculty members — have celebrated or will celebrate special anniversaries of their monastic profession this year.



Sister Susan Ann Necas celebrated the 25th anniversary of her profession of monastic vows on July 18. She taught religion and music at the Academy between 1991 and 2000. Currently, she teaches music at the Washington Catholic schools in Washington, Indiana.

The five sisters who observed their 50th anniversary of monastic profession on July 4 are all Academy alums. These sisters have served as teachers, admin-

istrators, consultants, missionaries, parish ministers, administrative assistants, and in support services at the monastery.

Sister Mary Austin Blank taught math, proctored, and served as admissions director in the Academy between 1966 and 1986 and was president of the school from 1999 to 2000. She currently works as an online academic instructor for the University of Phoenix and Harrison College and serves as receptionist and switchboard operator at the monastery.

Sister Mary Emma (Henrietta) Jochum, class of 1958, has been ministering as director of religious education at St. Paul Parish, Tell City, Indiana, since 1993.

Sister Mary Cheryl (Alice) Uebelhor '58 taught math at the Academy from 1977-1988 and served as the school's



From left, Sisters Rosa Lee, Mary Emma, Mary Cheryl, Mary Austin, and Mary Oliver.

first president from 1993-1999.

Sister Rosa Lee Koch '58 taught in the Academy from 1963 to 1965. She currently works as an assistant in the monastery Business Office.

Sister Mary Oliver (Jo Mary) Reising '46 currently does various services at the monastery, including reflexology, as well as artwork for the gift shop.

On October 25, Sisters Helen Maurer '39 and Dolorita Libs '41 will be observing their 70th anniversary of monastic profession. Sister Helen, who taught music in the Academy for 15 years, currently gives music lessons and does music ministry at the monastery. Sister Dolorita, who served as the receptionist in Madonna Hall for 16 years, currently does monastery service and quilting.

"The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand are Twittering with excitement about their 142nd anniversary." That was the lead for an article by Susan Orr in the *Evansville Courier & Press* online on August 21, the day following the sisters' observance of their founding in 1867.

The sisters celebrated Founders Day on August 20 with a prayer service and simple tree planting, symbolizing their desire to remain rooted in their Benedictine traditions and spirituality and to branch out in their service to others. Their strategic plan uses the words "renew, revitalize, and reach out" to focus their future direction.

The sisters used Founders Day for the public launch of their new visual identity (logo, tagline, mark and colors) and their presence on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/FerdinandOSB](https://twitter.com/FerdinandOSB), on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FerdinandOSB, and on Youtube at www.youtube.com/FerdinandOSB.

You're in for special "tweets" when you view the sisters' page on Twitter — a series of 142 daily tweets giving facts about the religious community. And you don't need to sign up for an account on Twitter, Facebook, or Youtube to view the pages or read the tweets.

The sisters are using these social media sites to build greater public awareness of their community, and to reach potential new members, supporters who want to partner with the sisters in their ministries, and participants in spiritual and personal-growth programs offered by the sisters.

The marketing efforts also include a new look for the sisters' web site (www.thedome.org) and their new magazine called "Seek. Pray. Share." that you'll be receiving soon. New billboards and signs will also be appearing on Interstate 64 in a few months.



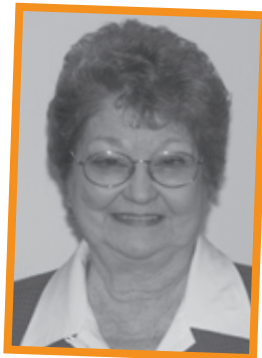
Sister Kristine Anne Harpenau '67, prioress, and Sister Jane Will, subprioress, steady the tree as monastery grounds workers pack soil around the roots during the tree planting on Founders Day. "May this tree be a symbol for us of our desire to root ourselves in you and to grow in your love." (From the prayer for the blessing of the tree)

From the Alumnae Association President

Dear Academy Alumnae,

It looks like we are saying farewell to summer and embracing fall — or as some say, autumn. Fall means different things to different people. To some, it's children going back to school, swimming pools closing, less weeding and cleaning up the garden, digging out the long sleeve shirts (and sweatshirts), cooler weather, making homemade soups, etc.

The summer has brought the AIC/MHA Alumnae Association many exciting projects. We now have a unique opportunity to join the sisters in funding a scholarship program to help women pursue a higher education. The sisters have established a scholarship fund in collaboration with Vincennes University Jasper Campus and Vincennes University Foundation to provide up to four scholarships each year for Hispanic women. What a great way to thank the sisters for the education they have given us.



Checks payable to:
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On-line gifts: thedome.org/alumnae

Another opportunity for involvement is Women of the Rule, a women's philanthropy group dedicated to making a difference in the world by supporting the mission and work of the Sisters of St. Benedict. (See page 8.)

We had great attendance — over 150 celebrating alums and friends — at our Alumnae Reunion on June 28. The alums had a wonderful time rekindling fond memories. What a good example of our motto, "Draw Closer to Christ and One Another." Please circle June 27 on your 2010 calendar for the next Alumnae Reunion.

Via the *Jottings* magazine, we try to keep you abreast of ways you can become involved in the alumnae organization and to keep you updated on alumnae news. But to do that, we need you to inform us of changes in your postal and e-mail address and to continue sending news about yourself.

Also, please inform us when any of your classmates or immediate family pass away. We always recognize and pray for our dearly departed alums and their family members at the Alumnae Reunion as well as publish their names in *Jottings*. We apologize for missing the names of some of the deceased when we commemorated alums at the meeting this summer.

Wishing you a good autumn. Enjoy the beautiful colors — surely God's gift to us.

Peace,

Janie Nunning (Mary Jane Spahn) '58



Alumnae Association president Janie Nunning, right, and past president Kathleen Boink present a check for \$2,724 to Prioress Sister Kristine Anne Harpenau to be used for the needs of the retired Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand. That contribution represents the proceeds from the spring card party Janie and Kathleen helped coordinate in Evansville last April.



Linda Sutton '77, second from left, poses with three of her siblings as they take a quick lunch break during the sisters' seventh annual Dome Golf Classic on August 24. Linda said she was motivated by three good reasons to sponsor a team for this special fund-raising event for the sisters: to help support the sisters, to spend time with her siblings, and to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play on one of the most innovative, dramatic, and challenging modern golf courses in the country, the new Pete Dye Course at French Lick Resort. Linda's team was one of 34 teams that contributed to the golf event. The sisters appreciate the participation and contributions of all involved in the 2009 Dome Golf Classic.

Jottings

September 2009

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Sister Paulette Seng, Editor
pseng@thedome.org • 802 E. 10th Street
Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239



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AIC/MHA Alumnae Association

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Academy alumnae know the power of women!

Imagine the impact of women joining together and pooling resources to make a difference in the world! That is exactly what is happening with the new initiative of the Sisters of St. Benedict, Women of the Rule, a women's giving circle.

Women of the Rule is in reality a "giving and receiving" circle because the members give financial support AND receive opportunities for personal enrichment through programs centered on Benedictine spirituality and values. Here's how it works:

- Each member (or member group of up to four) makes an annual gift of \$1,000 payable in a lump sum or in installments up through June 30th each year.
- Two or three times a year members are invited to special programs designed to provide social time and spiritual nourishment.
- Each year the Sisters of St. Benedict will submit to the Women of the Rule members requests for funding for specific areas of their work and ministries. The membership will vote on what project(s) they would like to support.
- A celebration will be held typically each November with the recipients of the funding.

You're invited to "be a person of influence" by joining this philanthropy circle.

Participants in the special inaugural event sponsored by the Women of the Rule in June formed a philanthropy circle — literally. They used the circle for an introductory activity.



To learn more, or to join, please contact Sister Barbara Catherine Schmitz at 812-367-1411, ext. 2649, or send her an e-mail at barbarac@thedome.org, or visit www.womenoftherule.org.