



Transforming Lives



Our Mission

In the spirit of Saint Joan Antida Thouret, we prepare young women to lead and serve in a global society through a values-based Catholic education.

Our Vision

Saint Joan Antida High School is the gateway to educational excellence and service for young women who will live and lead in a multicultural world.

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2012 Winter Newsletter

SJA Welcomes New Head of School, Paul Gessner!

2012! Another new year has begun. Time seems to fly by so it is my custom to slow down for some time of prayerful reflection to thank God for the blessings of the past and look forward with hopeful anticipation for the new gifts that will grace the future.

Mr. Paul Gessner. He brings a life experience of lived faith and 15 years of teaching and visioning in an urban setting at Rufus King High School. I look forward to experiencing all the blessings and graces his leadership will bring to the present and future for our students at SJA.

As I reflect on the past seven years of ministry to our young women at St. Joan Antida High School, I am very grateful for the loving and dedicated service of our former Head of School, Ms. Cindy Marino. Her vision, passion, and belief that all young women can learn and achieve, if given the opportunity to participate in a rigorous curriculum and values-based Christian, Catholic education, is the legacy of her ministry among us. Her love for our girls was evident by her desire to raise funds in order that the school had



the best facilities, programs, and faculty and staff to make her dream a reality. We thank you, Cindy, and ask God's continued blessings on your future.

I wish us all - Cindy, Paul, students, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, volunteers, and benefactors - a very blessed and grace-filled 2012!

As I reflect on the future, I am excited to welcome our new Head of School,

Sr. Anne Marie Baemmert, SCSJA Provincial

A Letter from the Head of School:

Paul T. Gessner

Dear SJA Community,

As I write this I am completing my first week as Head of School and I can report that I have had the opportunity and pleasure to meet many of the girls. I am so impressed by the light that shines brightly from within the students as I interact with them each day. Whether they are simply greeting me in the halls or

Get to Know Paul!

- Paul received a B.A. in Broad Field Social Studies, History, Secondary Education from Cardinal Stritch in 1997.
- He received an M.S. in Educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch in 2003.
- Paul taught Advanced Placement Government & Politics and U.S. History at Rufus King High School from 1997-2005.
- In 2005 he was promoted to school administration at Rufus King and served as a Curriculum Generalist and Assistant Principal until February 2012.
- Paul's first day as Head of School was Monday, February 13, 2012.
- As a lifelong practicing Catholic Christian, he is "excited about the opportunity to share my faith with students and openly proclaim the Word of God as we mold young people to embrace their community and each other."
- Paul says he has devoted his entire professional career to his passion: "working with children from an urban setting to obtain a quality education to empower students for success in life after high school."

telling me that they had me "checked out" by their friends at Rufus King, they all have that light that demonstrates a desire to learn and be a leader for the world. They have a drive to learn and succeed in their high school careers.



I look forward to meeting parents, volunteers, and our educational partners over the weeks and months to come. It is impossible to meet these young women and not become driven by the mission to make their high school experience one of quality that is unparalleled in secondary education today. Our girls have embraced health education and engineering and are demonstrating a desire to become technically literate in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) for the 21st Century. As we move forward, we are exploring ways to enhance the academic successes we have realized and expand them beyond STEM to include an established rigorous liberal arts program.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our girls and their families as the steward of the vision and mission of St. Joan Antida High School. With your help, we will spread our vision and live our mission so it is visible to the entire world around us. Thank you for your commitment to St. Joan Antida High School and for your support of our work in expanding academic programs for our girls.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Gessner
Head of School

We want to hear from you!

- Would you prefer to have this newsletter emailed to you? Would you like to receive SJA's email news blasts?
- Contact Renee Klaas at rklaas@saintjoanantida.org or (414) 274-4728 to clarify your preferences and update your contact information.

Greetings from the Principal: *Maria Schram*



the goals to create a culture for learning and increase student achievement. We continue to refine Scholastic Opportunities for Students (our intervention block), engineering and other

Dear SJA Supporters,

As we begin a new year, I often wonder if anyone makes New Year's resolutions anymore. Most people never keep them and I have made many resolutions that I let slip away. Thankfully, as a school, I believe our New Year's resolutions are alive and well and worth noting.

First, we continue to embrace improvement. As a staff, we monitor our academic achievement through various forms of data collection. We discuss, analyze, and create goals to support those actions. We are successful in many endeavors and in some we own up to our disappointments as we recognize it is the first, painful step on the road to something better. It is continuous improvement.

Second, as we change semesters it is a good time for reassessment. How did last quarter go? Last semester? What do we want to do differently within our program? How do we tweak and continue on the course for success? These are questions that are at the forefront of what we do. Whether working in our Communities of Practice, departments, or Student Services, each teacher is keenly aware of

STEM courses, scheduled academic support for our students, and Saturday School.

Third, we teach our students to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. We believe in the power of prayer and the wisdom that God's strength can see us through much – through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment. Our campus ministry program involves our students in community outreach and faith retreats. I am pleased that four of our faculty members have joined together to become SJA's Faith Formation Team to meet the spiritual needs of our staff and students.

Our school and student culture are becoming stronger with each semester and each new year. We continue to work on our goals and resolutions that support our vision and mission. St. Joan Antida High School continues to travel the path toward success for each and every one of our students.

Sincerely,

Maria Schram
Principal

SJA Calendar of Events

Mar. 17	SMART Team presentation @ Medical College of WI
Mar. 22	National Honor Society induction
Mar. 26	4th Quarter begins
Mar. 28	3rd Girls in Engineering Fair
Mar. 29	Health Fair
Mar. 31	STEM Open House
Apr. 3	Prayer Service
Apr. 5	Staff Retreat - No Classes
Apr. 6	Good Friday - No Classes
Apr. 9-13	Easter Break
Apr. 18	Board Meeting @ 7 AM - *Open to the public*
Apr. 20	College Fair
Apr. 27	Auction Prep. - No Classes
Apr. 28	“A Night Under the Stars,” SJA’s 19th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction!
May 4	Pep Assembly
May 5	Prom
May 7	A.P. Chemistry and A.P. Psychology Exams
May 11	A.P. U.S. History Exam
May 14	Closing Liturgy
May 15	A.P. Government Exam
May 16	A.P. English Exam
May 17	Overnight Senior Retreat
May 18	Destiny Day
May 21-22	Senior Exams
May 23-25	Senior Wrap-Up
May 25	Seniors’ Last Day
May 28	Memorial Day - No Classes
May 29	Senior Cap & Gown Pick-up
May 30	Honors Day
May 30	Senior luncheon
May 31	Senior Graduation Practice
June 3	Class of 2012 Graduation!
June 9	ACT Exam
June 11-13	Exams
June 13	Last Day of School
June 20	Board Meeting

A Message from the Dean of Students:

Elizabeth Lingen '93

Dear SJA Students, Families & Friends,

What an exciting start to the year! The young women of St. Joan Antida High School continue to amaze me with the gifts that they bring to school each day. Our faculty members continue the great work of helping to shape these talents so that our students see their true potential and envision their bright futures. The joy of student life at SJA is really reflective of the diversity of our students. They bring many different interests to us each day and, as adults, we have the privilege of watching those interests in our activities.

In the fall, we continued some of our most popular service activities, including: Blood Drive, Restorative Justice program, Fall Festival and the "Sleep in a Box" fundraiser with Pathfinders. Additionally, our Homecoming Week in October was great fun for everyone. It included some silly competitions and dress up days throughout the week and ended with a pep assembly planned by GO MAD. Following the fun week, over 100 girls and their guests attended

our Homecoming Dance here in the SJA gymnasium.

We also have enjoyed the return of the Destiny Day program at SJA. Destiny Days are four designated days throughout the year during which students participate in a variety of leadership, service, retreat and academic opportunities. For the two Destiny Days in the fall students worked on issues related to homelessness, social justice, church service, and assisting the elderly. Both Destiny Day and Saturday School also provide wonderful opportunities for students to receive extra academic support from their teachers and tutors outside of the traditional classroom setting. You can read more about all of the service projects going on at SJA on page nine of this newsletter.

Although the start of our year has been full of fun and exciting opportunities, there are many more such experiences awaiting students this spring. Of course, we look forward to annual



Elizabeth Lingen with students Britani Beamon-Whitlow '13 (left) and Alexis Lockett-Glover '12 (right)

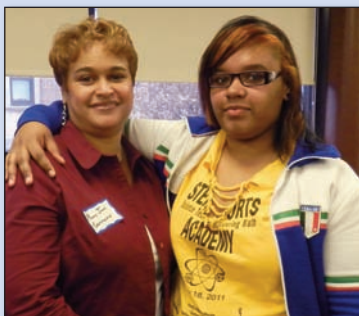
events such as Senior Retreat, Cultures Week and Prom. However, we will also be adding in two additional Destiny Day experiences for students to really understand more about themselves and how they can contribute back to the community around them. Students will also begin working with teachers and administration on planning even more student activities for future school years. All of our weeks are exciting here at SJA and I hope you have a chance to join us for one of our many activities throughout the year!

Elizabeth a. Lingen

*Elizabeth (Stengel) Lingen
Dean of Students
SJA Class of 1993*

Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2012

The theme for National Catholic Schools Week this year was "Faith. Academics. Service." Students had an opportunity to exemplify that theme throughout our week-long celebration. The freshmen put their faith into action through class activities where they spent time reflecting on the diversity of SJA and how they can give back to the school community through their unique gifts and talents. Juniors and Seniors had time to put their faith into service by creating Valentine's Day cards for residents of the Milwaukee Jewish Home and the Open Door Café.



On "Bring Your Parent to School Day," parent(s) had the chance to spend the morning in classes with their daughter, tour the building, and talk with teachers. For the parents, this was an opportunity to really get a glimpse into the daily lives of their daughters. *Pictured above: Mary Jane Serrano and her daughter, Sara Carter '10.*

In addition to faith through service, all students had an opportunity to express their faith in a traditional church setting. Fr. Brian Mason from Three Holy Women Parish celebrated Mass with the 9th and 10th graders and SJA Campus Minister, Mrs. Julie Trzebiatowski, created a mediation and reflection experience for 11th and 12th graders.

Of course, the week could not end without celebration of our students and teachers! All four grade levels had honor assemblies to cheer on those classmates who received honor roll and high honor roll status. As the week drew to a close, everyone seemed to feel full of excitement and celebration for what OUR Catholic school means to us!

Pictured: A group of Freshwomen on "jeans day" with their awards from the honors assembly.





Pilgrims Embark on Spiritual Journey

Every now and then we have an experience that we know will stay with us for a lifetime; that shapes who we are and what we will become.

During Christmas break this year 25 students from SJA had one of those rare, life-changing experiences during a ten day visit to the hills of Umbra, Italy. The Franciscan Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome was much more than a vacation for the students. Throughout the days there they walked through history, reflecting on the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare. Their faith journey led them to new insights about themselves, their relationships with their parents and families, and a growing awareness of the love of God acting in their lives.

The days in Assisi were filled with visiting historic sites in the lives of the two famous saints. One of the most touching places for the pilgrims was at the birthplace of St. Francis in the room where his father was chained up for being a “bad son.” The girls shared reflections on how much this impressed them and made them realize that what their parents are “demanding” of them comes out of concern and love.

The girls enjoyed lighter moments as well. For a few hours each afternoon they perused the shops, coming back to the hotel with their finds and stories of how they talked down

prices. And we can be certain they will never forget the gelato they savored.

As the days in Assisi unfolded we saw the gradual transformation from giggling school girls into serious young women on a spiritual quest to deepen their faith and love for God. Every evening we gathered to share “Graced Moments” to talk about how each of us encountered God that day. In the personal revelations we listened to how faith and family have taken on new meaning; how the sense of peace and calm permeated the days; how silence was not something to be feared but a place to come to know yourself and God in new ways. Rosa Sanchez ‘12, a two-time participant, shared, “Being silent is...very revealing of oneself.. We are so busy trying to fit in and be in the ‘it’ group that we forget who we are. In silence my true, best self is revealed.”

Responses from parents after the Pilgrimage confirmed what the adult chaperones witnessed during it. One mother said, “My daughter came back a powerful woman of faith. She is not the little girl I dropped off that morning. She now constantly reminds me to be more spiritual. I am so proud of her.”

Thank you to the donors, parents, chaperones, Franciscan Pilgrimage Program, and everyone else who helped make this life-changing experience happen for these 25 girls. The pathway to Assisi was formed through your generosity, two years of ongoing fundraising, and hours of study about Sts. Francis and Clare; **the transformation that happened was by the grace of God.**

*Sr. Jennifer Daul ‘69
Franciscan Pilgrimage Advisor,
SJA Guidance Counselor*



Pictured from top to bottom: Sr. Jennifer Daul imparts her wisdom on two pilgrims; two pilgrims reenacting St. Francis' renunciation of his inheritance; the Franciscan Pilgrimage group and chaperones in front of the Vatican.



SJA Receives 1st Accreditation Award

On October 28, 2011, SJA was recognized by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, a division of AdvancED, for “50 years of continuous accreditation.” SJA is the *first and only* school to receive this recognition from AdvancED! We thank AdvancED for commending us for this accomplishment, as we are proud of and will continue our “long-term commitment to quality and continuous school improvement.”

A Night Under the Stars

ST. JOAN ANTIDA HIGH SCHOOL'S
19th ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012
at THE PRITZLAFF
5:30 PM

Join us for an evening of camaraderie, sumptuous dining, unique items and lively bidding in support of the girls of St. Joan Antida High School!

Our 2012 goal is to raise \$200,000 for academic scholarship, financial aid, technological upgrades, special projects, and scholastic enhancements.

RESERVATIONS

\$125 per person | \$100 per alumna

THE EVENING INCLUDES

5:30 PM	Silent, Wine & Art Auctions Hors d'oeuvres Cash bar	7:30 PM	Dinner catered by Bartolotta's Deus Solus Award Presentation Live & Scholarship Auctions
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A SAMPLING OF OUR EXCITING AUCTION ITEMS

- Dinner for eight featuring the Italian cuisine of chef Elissa Franke at Steve Kohn & Colleen Henry's beautiful lakeside home
- A week's stay in Breckenridge, CO in a luxurious condo that sleeps 15
 - Signed Donald Driver helmet and Green Bay Packers tickets
 - Bocce Ball and Dinner and Drinks for eight at the Italian Community Center with Fr. Tim Kitzke and Ken and Janice Biel
 - Bamboo collection signature Gucci cuff bracelet
 - UW-Madison football tickets

FANTASTIC SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Gold level Sponsor (includes table of 10): \$3,000 Personal table of 10: \$1,500
Ads in Auction Catalog: Full page - \$300, Half page - \$150

View full sponsorship opportunities and details at saintjoanantida.org/underwriting

the Pritzlaff

333 North Plankinton Avenue | Milwaukee, WI 53203
On the corner of North Plankinton Avenue and West St. Paul Avenue

OUR NEW EVENT VENUE

Due to the continued success of our Benefit Dinner and Auction we have outgrown the space of our school! With the desire to continue to grow, we have moved our event.

We know you will love our new venue, the Pritzlaff building - "Milwaukee's Oldest Venue." Situated along the river, the Pritzlaff boasts a beautiful architectural structure of arched windows, massive wood columns, and high wooden ceilings enveloped in authentic cream city brick. But that's not all - we can't wait for you to get inside where we will have transformed 18,200 square feet into an exquisite "Night Under the Stars." We hope you will join us during this special year of transition for what is certain to be an evening to remember! The Pritzlaff is handicap-accessible and valet parking and a reserved lot will be available.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTED GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS!

The Berg Investment Consulting Group

iStream Imaging

Johnson Controls

Marquette University

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Park Bank

Robert W. Baird

Sisters of Charity of SJA

VJS Construction

WaterStone Bank

ST. JOAN ANTIDA HIGH SCHOOL WISH TREE

Help SJA students and teachers by granting wishes chosen specifically by them to strengthen the school's programs and activities. Some of this year's wishes include:

Inside Out: Introduction to Psychology DVD set (\$399)

Illustrated math dictionaries (\$150)

Bus fare for 12 students for one day of Saturday School (\$25)

Electronic Analytical Balance (\$160)

Young Adult books for the library (\$100)

The complete Wish Tree can be found online at saintjoanantida.org/wishtree.

FREE ALUMNAE BUSINESS LISTING IN AUCTION CATALOG

New this year! To support our valued alumnae, we are offering a free listing of alumnae businesses in the Auction Catalog. Simply submit your business information to be included.

WE'D LOVE YOUR ATTENDANCE & INVOLVEMENT!

Get your name/business "stamped" on our exciting Benefit Dinner & Auction!

All underwriters and in-kind donors are recognized, at minimum, in our Auction Catalog.

To make a reservation, secure your sponsorship, obtain detailed underwriting benefits, fulfill a wish, donate an item to the Auction (we love certificates, tickets, or any item), or have your alumnae business listed in our catalog, contact Renee Klaas at rklaas@saintjoanantida.org / 414.274.4728 or visit saintjoanantida.org/auction.

SJA Robotics Team Bowls Over Competition

The SJA 2011-12 Robotics Team, “RoboChix,” has had a busy year so far. The season kicked off in September with a pizza party and the unveiling of this year’s competition, “Bowled Over,” in which the girls must create a robot that can move a bowling ball, as well as racquetballs and crates.

Leadership Lunch Guests

Bridget Viohl (picture below center), owner/operator of Milwaukee’s Buffalo Water Brewery, spoke at a recent Leadership Lunch about the value of entrepreneurship and owning your own business. The girls were intrigued with Bridget’s stories about getting to where she is now and what owning a business is like.



In the fall a group of SJA students traveled to the Brady Corporation for a leadership lunch where they were given a presentation about Brady’s engineering program and a tour of their Brown Deer facility. Brady Corporation is an international manufacturer and marketer, who in the fall fulfilled their first installment of a three-year, \$180,000 total grant for SJA’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program.



Other leadership lunch speakers this past year have included Phyllis Piano ‘73, former Executive at Amgen Corporation in California; Pat Goeden, retired adolescent psychiatric nurse; Cheryl Hill, V.P. Human Resources, Columbia/St. Mary’s Hospital; and Inshirah Farhoud, Nurse Practitioner, Medical College of Wisconsin.

Rockwell Automation Fair - November 16, 2011



The team was chosen to represent FIRST Robotics at their First Tech Challenge booth at the Rockwell Automation Fair in Chicago. The RoboChix did SJA proud! The students spoke to convention attendees about their robot design and programming, their “wonderful” school, the FIRST Robotics programs, and their future aspirations.

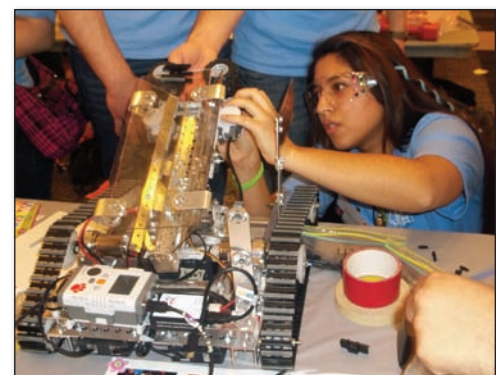
Some highlights of the day included:

- Lola Adewale confidently approaching the CEO of Rockwell and inviting him to take a look at their robot.
- Jackie Ruiz-Velasco, hoarse from talking all day, was still able to discuss the programming code in Spanish to gentlemen from South America.
- Fatima Yacoob connecting with the editor from Automation Magazine, who asked the team to send pictures of their progress during the rest of the year.
- Ana Salas, the team leader, marketing FIRST Robotics to an interested father by pointing out their scholarship programs.

FTC Championship Tournament - February 4, 2012

The RoboChix packed up their Robot and headed to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus to compete in the FTC Championship Tournament in February. The girls easily passed the first part of the competition, software and hardware inspection. The next day the competition with other teams began and with every qualification round that took place, the RoboChix gained more confidence and better control of their robot. At the end of their first competition as a team, the girls took 15th place; only three places away from qualifying for the championship round.

The RoboChix displayed gracious professionalism, the main credo for FTC, throughout the day as they shared parts and ideas with other teams, exhibited good sportsmanship during all times, and exuded excitement throughout the day. On March 31 the RoboChix will highlight the STEM Open House at SJA from 1:00-3:00 PM. We hope you will stop over to witness the RoboChix in action!



Pictured above left, Team RoboChix: from left to right: Ana Salas, Lola Adewale, Lissette Delatorre, Ashli Harris, Gladys Mora, Kellie Miller, Fatima Yacoob, Jackie Ruiz-Velasco. Pictured above right: Mercedes Pena ‘12 fixes the “arm” of the robot.

How Our Girls Give Back: Service at SJA

Service is an integral part of student life at SJA this year and there are a number of initiatives and efforts in place to build service into daily school life. So far this year students have participated in the following community-based activities: Open Door Café meal program, House of Peace Holiday Food Drive, visits/manicures with residents of the Jewish Home, tutoring and classroom assistance at St. Josaphat School, assembling prayer kits for St. Josaphat Parish, Training for Restorative Justice Peer Mediation program, and the “Sleep in a Box” event with Pathfinders to raise awareness about teen homelessness.

In addition to service in the community, our students “give back” right here at SJA. At our annual Fall Festival and Spaghetti Dinner more than 75 of our young women served their school through waitressing, delivering carry-out orders, preparing salad, making sauce and cleaning tables. Students also frequently volunteer to assist at sporting events, help teachers in classrooms, recruit with our Admissions Office, and decorate our school environment. We are blessed that our students feel so strongly about giving back to those around them!



Students and Sr. Marie Grohall on Destiny Day making prayer kits for St. Josephat Parish.



hung them on doorknobs around the neighborhood. A few weeks later students went back around the area to collect items left for the food drive. Advisories also worked together to collect additional food for the food drive. Altogether, SJA collected enough food to complete 20 holiday meal boxes, plus a few boxes of additional supplies for the HOP food pantry. After a few students dropped off the food at the House of Peace, student Andi Lira-Landa ‘13 commented, “I feel like the service we do at SJA really affects people. It’s not service just to say we’re doing service work.”

Pictured above left: Theology Teacher Julie Trzebiatowski and students distribute doorknob hangers around the neighborhood. Pictured above right: Two students create Food Drive sign advertisements.

Students & HOP Feed Needy

Every holiday season the House of Peace (HOP) hosts a food drive to provide 1,000 needy households with holiday meals. During this year’s first Destiny Day in October Fr. Perry McDonald of HOP talked to our freshmen students about our call as Christians to charity and justice and how the HOP fulfills this call. Freshwomen then spent the afternoon decorating door hangers that advertised the food drive, as well as the SJA Fall Festival, and



Fall Festival Fills Up Guests for 56th Year



Another year, another successful Fall Festival & Spaghetti Dinner at St. Joan Antida High School! As we continue to celebrate our 56th year of this strongly held tradition, we give thanks to the SJA community – parents, students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and community members – who came together and volunteered their time to ensure the positive outcome of this important fundraiser. A special thank you goes to Lisa Hanson, Ken Smith and the Pompeii Men’s Club and friends for going far beyond our expectations in contributing to the success of this extraordinary day. Mark your calendars for 2012’s Fall Festival & Spaghetti Dinner, to be held on **Sunday, November 4, 2012!**

Pictured left: The Pompeii Men’s Club and friends make meatballs. Pictured right: Student volunteers put on smiles and make cleaning up fun!



1st Nursing Fair Draws Success

Anticipation was high as SJA got ready for its 1st Annual Nursing Fair, which was inspired by the success of SJA's Girls in Engineering Fairs. On January 25, 2012 more than 65 Milwaukee area middle school girls came together at SJA and participated in fun-filled activities to bring awareness to and spark interest in careers in nursing and its related health fields. Through dynamic break-out stations, girls worked in teams to become more aware of skills that are integral to the nursing profession such as nutrition awareness, how to read vital signs, administering self-exams, infant care, and more.

The student guests were welcomed by opening remarks from SJA Principal Maria Schram and Dr. Deb Jenks, Department Chair of Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) School of Nursing. The Fair's guest speaker, Clover Barnes, RN, BSN, MBA, Chief Operations Officer at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. addressed the students about the role and importance that nurses have within the health system. MSOE nursing students and area health professionals were also in attendance and worked with the SJA Student Ambassadors in running the break-out stations.



Student Ambassador Monique Brown '12 (middle) and senior MSOE nursing student Raymund Garay (right) at the Vital Signs Station, which measured blood pressure, pulse, temperature and respiration rates.



MSOE School of Nursing student volunteers, area health professionals, and SJA staff and student ambassadors who helped execute the Nursing Fair.

SJA's next fair will be the 3rd Girls in Engineering Fair on **March 28, 2012** (a day before our Health Fair). For more information or to register your daughter for the upcoming Engineering Fair or a future Nursing Fair, please contact Marcela Garcia, Director of Admissions at: (414) 274-4709 or mgarcia@saintjoanantida.org.

Jaguars Tear up the Court

The 2011-12 basketball season is finishing up strong! This year the team has a great group of athletes committed to exceeding not only on the court but also in the classroom. The students' success in both areas is commended by Athletic Director Carlos Rojas, who has worked this year on motivating the girls to focus on academic achievement.



Meet the Coach:

The team has been working under the leadership of head coach, John Cunningham. He has ignited the spirit of the team with a positive attitude and a high level of dedication. Coach Cunningham, 39, father of three, currently works as a Special Education teacher at Roosevelt Middle School and is finishing his Master's degree in Special Education. Despite his busy schedule, he runs practices two hours a day, five days a week. Now near the end of the season, Coach thinks that he and the team have had the best of the three seasons that he has had as Jaguar Head-coach.



The 2011-12 SJA Jaguar Basketball team with Coach Cunningham.



Meet the Seniors:

Tamara Holifield (left) has been part of the team for two years. Her strongest motivation for doing well is her family, especially her brother and two sisters. Tamara wants to be a veterinarian and is expecting to be accepted either at UW Waukesha or Alverno College.

Jasmine Henry (middle) is a family-oriented athlete who wants to set a good example for her brother and sister. She wants to be either a history teacher or a lawyer and has been accepted to Alverno College, UW-Waukesha, and Silver Lake College.

Roxanne Davila (right), the captain of the team, has played basketball for SJA all four years. She wants to be a physical therapist and has been accepted to Concordia University, Marian University, and UW- Whitewater.

Up next is the 2012 spring soccer season with Coach Carlos Rojas. For volunteer opportunities with athletic events or for more information about SJA's athletic program, contact Carlos Rojas at crojas@saintjoanantida.org



In Loving Memory: Rose Fricano Hofman SJA Class of 1968

A loving mother and wife
A caring friend
A generous supporter
And truly missed by everyone
she touched with her presence.

Class of '68 Catch Up with Teacher

In fall a group of 1968 alumnae had a wonderful lunch at Parkside 23 with former SJA Biology teacher, Mrs. Anne Goyette.



Pictured in backrow: Carmen Torres Nans, Ruth Gulobich Burczyk, Judy Dougan Hurley, Kathy Cotter Stone, Anita Analla Forrett.
Pictured seated: Mrs. Anne Goyette and Christine Emery Weidner.

Grads Gather at Alumna's Café

A group of SJA alumnae met on a Saturday morning in January for breakfast at the Cosmos Café in Wauwatosa, which is owned by SJA 1987 alumna, Helen Benezis-Tselentis and her husband, Theo. Representatives from the class of 1958 (SJA's first graduating class) through 1993 were in attendance to socialize and talk about the good times they had at SJA. Carol Carpentier, class of '81 said, "We talked about how our common connection with SJA gave us the education, the



Picture above right: Denise Sanfelippo '81, Marilyn Venturi '60, Elizabeth Lingen '93, and Anna Lancaster '93. *Pictured above left:* Lynn Geraci '81, DiAnne DeSoto '81, Cindy Kotlarek '72, Barb Ruchs '66, Marilyn Venturi '60, Carol Carpentier '81, and Susan Werner '81.

sense of ownership and the faith that we needed to build our lives. We hope to pay it forward and hope that the current students of SJA have the same blessings 30 years from now."

Where Are They Now?

Sr. Nancy Marie Dragotta

When Sr. Nancy entered the convent, she was sent to Mount Mary College to learn to be a teacher. "Teaching was the last thing I wanted to do," she said, "but I had no choice." This inauspicious beginning led Sr. Nancy to a life-long love and passion for teaching.

Sr. Nancy originally began her teaching career at St. Rita Elementary School, but in 1964, she was re-assigned to St. Joan Antida High School. This, too, was not her choice. She remained at SJA until her retirement in 2007, with only a 10-year break while doing work in Pampa, Texas. Sr. Nancy holds a Master's Degree in Education and a minor in Theology, but she taught everything from Freshwoman and Junior English to World History. Her favorite subject, however, is Theology, which she taught to Freshwomen.

While Theology is her favorite academic subject, Sr. Nancy's favorite memories are from her time as a study-hall monitor and as the school newspaper advisor. "I was strict in the study halls; I required absolute silence," Sr. Nancy recalls. "Every study hall there would be this humming. I would walk up and down the rows of desks trying to figure out where it was coming from, but I could never hear it. As soon as I would sit back down at my desk, it would begin again. The memory of those two humming girls still makes me smile."

Sr. Nancy still corresponds with two of her newspaper students. "I loved being with the girls after school. The atmosphere was so relaxed and we had so much fun. I used to sneak down to the kitchen after school and bring the girls cookies...I loved those girls; they gave me as much as I gave them."

At 86, Sr. Nancy has an insatiable appetite for reading and knowledge (and chocolate!), and is never seen without something to read. Nancy said that the one word she would use to describe her teaching career is "rewarding." St. Luke's words are truly befitting of Sr. Nancy: "The laborer is worthy of her reward" (Luke 10:7).

If you would like to contact Sr. Nancy, she can be reached at:
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