



SETON

SPRING 2024

Educating in the Spirit of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

CHANGING LIVES

We believe in second chances





“God’s goodness is abundant, and we recognize His grace in every part of the school and community.”

KATHY ALLEN CIARLA '87
KAREN KLUG WHITE '92

Dear Alumnae, Parents, Students and Friends,

As we head into warmer temps and signs of spring, we are reflecting on how fortunate we are to be surrounded by so many blessings. God’s goodness is abundant, and we recognize His grace in every part of the school and community. We are so grateful to Him for our supportive alums and for all the opportunities afforded to our students.

We feel very blessed with incredible alumnae and friends of Seton who exemplify so much kindness through a compassionate and loving model of how they do business, resulting in incredible success and growth. In our cover story, you will be inspired by Debi (Scully '74) and Dan Meyer and Nehemiah Manufacturing Co. This local business has changed the lives of hundreds of second-chance employees. Read about this inspiring organization and some of the lives that have been transformed because of Nehemiah’s mission on pages 4-7.

God has given each one of us unique gifts, and it is wonderful to see how, with the help of our teachers and classroom experiences, we discover these talents and find careers in which we can excel. Read how Charniqa Stephens-Davis '17 has found a career path where she can grow through her experiences and gratitude on pages 18 and 19.

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week in January and had some wonderful Sisters join us during our lunch bells to spend time sharing stories with our students. See some familiar faces on page 8 from the Sisters of Charity who continue to show their love, prayers and support here at Seton.

We are thrilled to welcome 177 freshmen to the Class of 2028. Please pray for our newest Saints as well as our current Saints, staff and administration. Thank you for your strong support as we continue to live out the mission of our patroness, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Thank you!

Kathy Allen Ciarla '87
President

Karen Klug White '92
Principal



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PHOTOS: (Left) Every Friday morning before school, students and staff are invited to spend time in our beautiful chapel to say a rosary together. (Middle Left) We are very proud of these Saints who attended the Ohio March for Life! (Middle Right) Two of our seniors, Gretchen Goettke and Gretchen Hughes, participated in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center High School Science Symposium where they spent the day learning more about medical careers. (Right) Congratulations to the following Saints who are part of Seton's Academic Team and competed in the GCAL Academic Team Winter Tournament at Cincinnati State. Way to go, Isabelle Hageman, Gretchen Rollinger, Grace Awad & Anna Hinker!

ON THE COVER: Dan and Debi Scully Meyer '74 stand in the hallway at Nehemiah Manufacturing Co. located in Queensgate.



SETON

Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Seton High School, a Catholic community in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, through the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, develops a diverse population of young women for a life of faith, service and leadership and engages them in achieving academic excellence in a college preparatory environment.

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CHANGING LIVES

It was a high school love story that began just like any westsider would imagine. Debi Scully Meyer '74 and Dan Meyer (Elder '74) met when they were freshmen right outside the hallway from the Seton cafeteria doors. What made this match even sweeter was that the two were introduced to one another at a Seton 'mixer' by Dan's older sister, Rita Meyer Kettler '71, who happened to be Debi's senior 'Big Sister' at Seton. "It is a wonderful memory, and I thank my sister-in-law for that meeting any time I can," said Debi.

Debi's fond memories of high school include more than finding love, of course. She was a leader on student council and was involved in various clubs and activities. "This enabled me to volunteer my time and talent," Debi said. "I found that these activities helped me to feel more connected to what I believed in and what I felt called to do and be." She credits some teachers for empowering her as well. "I had wonderful teachers," she said. "Mr. Pharo, Sr. Elizabeth, Mr. McKiernan, Sr. Judith Metz – just to name a few."

One of Debi's favorite places to spend time was in Seton's chapel. "I really enjoyed and found comfort in being able to visit the chapel as often as I needed. Being at Seton further cemented my love for my faith," she explained. The value of Catholic high school was instilled in both Debi and her brother, Tim by their parents, Thomas and Carole Scully. "I remember recognizing how important it was for my parents to provide me and Tim with a Catholic education. I was aware it would have been financially easier if my parents chose public education," Debi said. "They sacrificed a lot for me and Tim to go to Seton and Elder."

After high school, Debi went on to Miami University and earned her degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy while Dan attended the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. They were married in 1980 at St. Dominic church in Cincinnati. Debi had been working



Debi Scully Meyer '74

part time in the Hamilton City School District and getting her Master's in Speech Pathology and then began working with infants and toddlers at the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services. "I loved this program!" said Debi. Dan was working at P&G in Cincinnati, and then the couple moved to Chicago so he could take a job with Quaker Oats. Debi was hired as a speech pathologist with a team of special education teachers and therapists. She also worked in two different private practices. "I wanted to gain experience in other types of therapies and population," she explained. Dan's next career move was to The Drackett Company, and they found their way back to living in Cincinnati.

The Meyer family had grown to include three daughters – Jennifer, Kaitlin and Kristen. Debi worked at this time as a home health therapist. "This gave me some flexibility as the girls grew and started doing sports," she explained. Dan traveled a lot for work, and their daughters continued doing sports year-round, so when their youngest was in third grade, Debi decided to stop working outside of the home.

Dan had 15 years of corporate experience from which he gained education and skills in marketing, sales and running a division, in addition to the knowledge and confidence to know how to successfully build brands. He had always wanted to start his own company, and in 1994 that became a reality. Changing Paradigms was created with the mission to change how consumers thought about private labels. During this time, his company developed a partnership with P&G who asked Changing Paradigms to take on some of their smaller brands, or 'orphan brands', and develop products. "We did this for 12 years," explained Dan, "and along this journey the good Lord blessed us, so we were able to tithe the company and give 10% of our profits back to inner-city ministries."

As the Meyers' daughters continued to grow older and head to college, the decision was made to sell the business. Debi and Dan were fortunate to have a lot on the table, investment-wise. Dan knew that he wanted to offer employment within the urban community and make a difference. "We were discerning with the Lord what would be next. We knew we wanted to give back time, talent and treasure," said Dan. "We always say we knew the why before the how."

In 2009, Nehemiah Manufacturing Co. was founded. Nehemiah is a prophet from the Old Testament who said, 'with God we can rebuild Jerusalem one brick at a time.' "We had our 'why', and now we needed our 'how'," said Dan. The mission of Nehemiah was clear – Building Brands, Creating Jobs, Changing Lives. But now was the time to figure out exactly how to have a successful business with that mission. They initially wanted to build in OTR because they wanted to build manufacturing so that people could live and work in the same area. The first facility was built at the corner of Findlay and Dalton. Because of the relationship with P&G, Dan and his business partners

were able to ask if there were any products that P&G was looking to take out in the market to license; and with that, they had their



Dan and Debi by the Kandoo Wipes frog

first product – Kandoo Wipes. You can find the big, green frog at the entrance of their main manufacturing building today. It is a reminder of how it all began.

During this time, Dan met with former CEO of Western & Southern Life, Tom Williams, to discuss carrying capital, and found what Dan calls, 'someone who believed in us.' He then reached out to Cincinnati Works and Jobs Plus of City Gospel Mission to help Nehemiah find people in the area who were in most need of employment. "We thought initially that 'changing lives' was just providing sustainable employment for those in need in the area." But God had bigger plans. After about a year and a half while the company was still very small, Jobs Plus asked Dan if he would hire someone with a felony. "So, true to our mission, we thought, if these are the folks most in need then we're going to give them a chance," said Dan.

And so they did. However, as it turns out, just giving someone a job opportunity isn't enough. "We were too naïve to understand that it is bigger than a job and there is more that is needed than just human resources," explained Dan. He received valuable advice from a good friend and fellow Elder grad, Nick Hahn, who was serving as the chairman of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services. "Nick explained to me that a social worker would help remove barriers. So we basically rented a social worker from him, and that was a game changer. This was an ah-ha moment for us," Dan added.

That led to a business model that has proven to be of great success for Nehemiah. With the support of 15 local non-profits that support their efforts, this model consists of eight pillars of support: Building a Community, Affordable Housing, Transportation, Legal Services, Spiritual Wellness, Financial Wellness, Health and Wellness and Continuing Education.

"We want them to know that they are a 'family member' from day one," said Dan.

"We ask them, what weighs on your mind and your soul that prevents you from being the best you can be when you walk in this building and when you walk out? I don't care about your past. It's about your dreams and your future, and how do we get you there."

DAN MEYER



That sense of community comes through at monthly company-wide meetings where family members eat dinner, celebrate birthdays, share milestones and prayer intentions and talk through the business financials. A different non-profit that they work with is in attendance each month also. Another special way to build community happens each December at the annual Nehemiah Christmas party.

The social workers on staff at Nehemiah help family members find housing. “We have one-on-ones with our family members about where they are now and where they want to be,” Dan explained. The company also offers a matching program and works with each individual on budgeting. “Many have no credit because of their time in prison, so we work with True Partners on 0% loans or with one of our local banks to help them,” he said. There is also a multi-family unit that the company owns so they are able to rent at a lower cost than the rest of the market.

Nehemiah is on a bus line, so this helps initially with transportation. “When they’re ready to buy that first used car, we work with a couple of local non-profits that help us in this area,” said Dan. And one can only imagine the legal challenges that are faced when coming out of prison. The company works with an attorney and her staff that offer legal advice and services to family members who may need help.

Once someone has these basic needs, they can then thrive through spiritual wellness, financial wellness, health and wellness and continuing education. Every family member gets help with their taxes on the company’s dime. There is a fitness center on site as well as bible studies that are incorporated into the workday. Nehemiah also partners with City Gospel, Women Helping Women and The Eve Center to help with mental health and triggers. A few years ago, some family members said that they wanted to create an in-house restore, renew and refresh program. “It’s called 180 Degrees, and we have six family members who got certified through City Gospel Mission to do fellowship,” explained Dan. “They see people working who need a safe space and someone to talk to about things. The individuals who do this say that this is their way of giving back, which is pretty special,” Dan said.

The company has 225 family members, and 160 are ‘second chance’ employees. The education range of the staff at Nehemiah goes from a 4th grade education up through college. “We work with everyone to see where they are at individually,” said Dan, who added that they are currently working with UC to have everyone recalibrated. “We had two family members graduate from college

last year. One got an accounting degree and now works in our accounting department.”

Debi has found that watching Nehemiah grow has been transformative in so many ways. “I have personally witnessed so many ‘God moments’ – seeing relationships develop, seeing people feel confident in themselves, seeing promotions where someone moves on to a job here that they have dreamed about for many years, seeing them buy their first cars and first homes and so much more,” Debi said. She also values what it has done for her own family. “I love watching my daughters and their families being impacted by the people who work here and then giving back their own time, talent and treasure. They participate in whatever way they can to help Nehemiah, including our oldest granddaughter who works here during the summer,” Debi added. “My parents were also involved with donating, buying gifts and creating a Cincinnati Reds room for the company.”

The business case of Nehemiah has proof in the data. As Dan simply puts it, “When you treat people with love, dignity and respect, you get twice that in return. In the manufacturing world that means hard-working, dedicated people showing up on time, which equates to a low turnover and high productivity.”

In an industry where the average turnover rate is close to 50%, Nehemiah’s is only 15%.

Nehemiah continues to grow. Other businesses ask how they scale this, and there have been case studies that are taught at universities, including Harvard and Yale. “We share how we do this,” said Dan. “It has been a real movement to make policy changes within the business community. In corporate, everyone says it all comes down to the bottom line and that the most valuable asset is your people,” he added. “I would say that if you just focus on the people and work your butt off to take care of them, they will create great products and great advertising, and our salespeople will be second to none. Everyone within the organization will be busting their tails every day, and that will drive your bottom line; and it is proven.”

As Nehemiah comes up on 15 years, Debi and Dan feel that this organization has been a calling and that the Lord has taken them where they are. As Dan reflects on this milestone, the passion for the company’s mission is very evident, and there is emotion in his voice when he says, “We believe in what St. Francis says, you have to preach what the gospel says every day, but only when necessary, use words.”

MEET A FEW OF THE NEHEMIAH FAMILY MEMBERS



VIC HARRIS

Vic grew up in Cincinnati, attended Colerain High School and went to college at the University of Findley. During her senior year she dropped out of college and got into hard drugs over the next 12 years. "I thought I was a 'functioning addict,' and then got into harsher drugs like heroin," she said. "I then got my first felony charge and decided to check myself into rehab."

She spent the next three months there and was living sober for about six months and working at a gas station here in Cincinnati. She wanted to do better for herself and decided to search on the internet for businesses that hired felons, and she came upon Nehemiah. "I got hired and quickly moved up the line," she explained. "I am now a second-shift supervisor, graduated last year with my bachelor's degree, and I am in the homeowner program here on my way to buy my first home," said Vic, who is coming up on three and a half years with Nehemiah. "It has been like a family – a confidence booster," she said. "All the roles that I have taken on here have been because someone saw something and believed in me. I have had a lot of failures, but it has only helped me to work my way up."



APRIL BENNETT

"I had a pretty normal life until my early 40s," said April, who had a very good job during this time. "My first husband passed away from drugs and suicide. I was also using drugs at the time and got into another relationship and even more drugs." She started using heroin and at the same time began stealing from her company. As one of only three employees who had access to the banking at the organization, April knew she would get caught. "It was a matter of when I would get caught, but it was not my concern at that time." In 2012 she lost her job. She faced four felony charges and 27 years in prison. "I didn't even try to fight my case," said April. She took a plea deal and ended up with a six-year sentence. "I learned a lot while I was there, and it was not a bad experience," she explained. She went to school and got to leave the actual prison during the last three years of her sentence with a group to do manual labor.

In 2018 she got out of prison, and one week later she started working at Nehemiah thanks to a relative who had knowledge of the company and knew the Meyer family. "With the crime that I had committed, I really didn't think I would ever be able to get a job," she said.

April started working on the line and early on was offered a line captain position. She then moved up the ranks quickly. "I've always had a good work ethic," she said. She went to an assistant supervisor position, and now, six years later has the title of production planner.

"God does for you what you cannot do for yourself," said April. "Prison took me out of that relationship and took me away from drug addiction. Nowhere did I ever perceive this is where I would be and the path I would take, but I am here (at Nehemiah) for life."



MIKE TAYLOR

Mike recalls a great childhood and education at St. Susanna and Moeller High School. He said he was the teen who would do anything. Without a good group of friends, he looks back realizing that there was always a drive to be liked or popular, and he took that mentality to college where he found himself drinking any day of the week.

"I had a good GPA during my freshman and sophomore years and it dropped my junior year," said Mike. "I failed out my senior year. I tried heroin and within a week I was shaking – I was addicted." Mike was charged with a breaking and entering felony. He was driving the car with a group that stole and sold valuables. "I served eight months in jail, and I thought it was long enough to get my head straight," said Mike, who added that he always felt loved and supported by his parents throughout all his struggles. "One Sunday morning my mom told me to go to church with them. She said if I didn't go, she would kick me out of the house. It was the first time my mom ever really put her foot down," he explained. At Mass that day Mike was introduced to someone who worked at Nehemiah in production. "He told me they had work for me," said Mike, who admits he felt reluctant. But he started working at Nehemiah, and on day one, Dan Meyer welcomed him. "I felt like I could be myself," said Mike. "People here saw in me something that I didn't see in myself, and I wanted to be the person they saw. I had to realize that I had done a lot of bad things, but I was not a bad person."

Twelve years later, Mike has climbed the ranks and is now the director of operations. He met his wife at Nehemiah, owns a home and he feels that it has all come full circle. "Now I see in others what people saw in me that first day. I can sit down with someone, talk to them, give them a life-changing bonus and so on – those fill the tank up," explained Mike. "We've been there. We can truly understand, and if we can do it, so can you."

Seton is honored that Debi and Dan Meyer have established The Thomas and Carole Scully Scholarship Fund in honor of Debi's parents. The Scullys were passionate about Catholic education, and a named scholarship is a wonderful way to honor a loved one.

To find out more about establishing a scholarship, donating or on Planned Giving, please contact:

**Seton High School President
Kathy Allen Ciarla '87
513-471-2600
ciarlak@setoncincinnati.org**



Seton Spirit

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is always a week full of positive vibes, and this year was extra special as we hosted some of the Sisters of Charity for lunch in our Halo Café! It was such a wonderful afternoon of sharing stories and learning for our Saints. Thank you to the Sisters of Charity for their continued prayers and support!



ACT 30 Plus Club

Congratulations to the following group of Seton seniors who are all part of the ACT 30 Plus Club! These amazing Saints all scored a 30 or ABOVE in the ACT: Chloe Banta, Ruthie Darnell, Ava Glahn, Isabelle Hageman, Greta Harmeyer, Ella Herrmann, Anna Hertzfeld, Kristen Link, Allison Lipps, Josie Riestenberg, Tessa Riestenberg, Gretchen Rollinger, Ryan Schroth, Hailey Wills and Liz Woelfel.

WAY TO GO, SAINTS!





Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first annual Seton Reunion Night! What an awesome night for our amazing alums from the following classes: 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Next year's reunion here at Seton will be for the years ending in 4 and 9! If this is your year, please save the date!



Alumnae Father Daughter Dance 2024

The sweetest memories and the best dance moves were happening at Seton High School at the Alumnae Father Daughter Dance in January! Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special evening!



Girls' Schools Unite

We are headed into the 5th year of the Girls' Schools Unite campaign and we are relying on our amazing alums to show their continuous support and enthusiasm! The friendly fundraising competition includes six all-girls Catholic high schools – Mercy McAuley, Mount Notre Dame, Notre Dame Academy, Seton, St. Ursula and Ursuline Academy. Thanks to our alums, Seton has won the competition three out of the past four years! We want to be back-to-back champions this year and hang on to that trophy! The fundraising campaign calls on alumnae from each school to make a gift to their high school alma mater. The high school with the highest percentage alumnae participation will be named as the winning school. We will be relying on your support again! The GSU Campaign will take place April 22-24, 2024. Stay tuned! Let's win this again, Saints!

Girls' Schools Unite!



"Seton High School is such a special place. My daughter Charley '27 now joins our Seton legacy that includes myself, my grandmother Mary Huesman Schroeder '33, my mom Sue Schroeder Schotte '66 and my sister Sara Schotte '04. I continue to support Seton so that my daughters and Future Saints can have a place to grow academically and spiritually while becoming strong, confident women. I want Seton to have the resources they need so that every Seton Saint can build a strong foundation and create memories that will last a lifetime. Please give to Girls' Schools Unite today! "

- RENEE SCHOTTE MOEDELL '94

Seton Spirit

Welcome and Congratulations to the Class of 2028!

We welcomed 177 new Saints to the Seton Sisterhood on registration day in January. Please join us in congratulating these exceptional young ladies and please keep them in your prayers.



Here at Seton High School, we are continuously blessed to have supportive alumnae and friends of Seton. In addition to our Honors Program Scholarships, Admission with Merit Scholarships and 31 Women Scholarship, we are proud to offer additional scholarships. The Alumnae Super Saint Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who demonstrate school spirit, leadership and service to others. The Mark Neumann, SC Seton Sisterhood Scholarship honors the legacy of former Seton Principal Mark Neumann, SC, and is awarded to incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who exemplify the true meaning of the Seton Sisterhood and are active in extracurricular activities. The Spirit of Seton Scholarship is awarded to a current sophomore who exhibits qualities of kindness and impacts others in a positive way. Teachers, coaches, academic advisors and staff members nominate students for the Mark Neumann, SC Seton Sisterhood Scholarship and the Spirit of Seton Scholarship.

Service Update

2023 Youth Justice Award

The Seton Helping Saints philanthropy club received the 2023 Youth Justice Award and a \$500 grant from the nonprofit organization Ignite Peace! Past and current student board members were honored at a banquet for their work within our school, community and local nonprofits. Congratulations on this great honor, Saints!



Mission Trip

A group of Saints and chaperones went on a mission trip last fall to Louisa, Kentucky. They stayed at the Fr. Beiting Appalachian Mission Center and did various service projects, including cleanup, painting and light maintenance. The group also had reflection time each evening on the day's work and the lives they were positively affecting.



Keep Going 25 Illumni-NITE



Seton participated in the Keep Going 25 Illumni-NITE which is inspired by the life of Michael Curran. This event is about bringing light, hope and love to those in our community who are going through a difficult time and bringing God's light and love to those searching for it. We were able to illuminate seven different families from our community and illuminated Seton to recognize all of the families in need of support. What a powerful and inspiring experience that our students could participate in!

Seton Sweepstakes

12 Months of Prizes... 12 Chances to Win!

Thanks to the incredible success of Seton's 12 Months of Giveaways over the past two years, we are thrilled to have brought it back for 2024!

For \$25 per chance, you can win an incredible prize package. Chances will be sold throughout each month, and the winner's name will be drawn on the first day of each month.

For more information, visit setoncincinnati.org.

THANK YOU!

36th ANNUAL
AP District
Honor Roll
Recipient



Seton High School has earned Silver recognition on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results. We are proud to be among only 30% of high schools nationwide who received this recognition this year!

Sports Update

SAVE THE DATE

Seton Athletic Boosters Golf Outing

The 15th Annual Seton Athletic Boosters Golf Outing will be held on July 15, 2024 at Aston Oaks. For more information about registration and sponsorship, please contact Seton Athletic Director Wendy Zureick Smith '90 at smithw@setoncincinnati.org.



Congratulations to the following Aqua Saints who qualified for STATE this year: Maddie Roos '27 (50 Free and 100 Free), Hailey Wills '24, Josie Aull '27, Camille Smitherman '26 and Maddie Roos '27 (200 Free Relay). The 200 Free Relay finished 16th overall at State! The Saints also set new school records at Districts – Maddie in the 50 Free; and Camille, Hailey, Josie and Maddie in the 200 Free Relay! Amazing job, Saints!

National Signing Day



Congratulations to the following 11 seniors who signed their National Letter of Intent for athletics and academics at the collegiate level:

- Kenzie Carle - Bellarmine University, Soccer
- Millie Cluxton - College of Charleston, Soccer
- Greta Harmeyer - Northern Kentucky University, Soccer
- Anna Jung - Bethel University, Soccer
- Alli Kirch - Lake Erie College, Volleyball
- Maddie Lambers - Campbell University, Volleyball
- Maria Meade - Evansville University, Soccer
- Hannah Scheland - Thomas More University, Lacrosse
- Riley Tarvin - Stetson University, Soccer
- Myla Wolf - Malone University, Stunting
- Aly Young - Ashland University, Lacrosse

Varsity Dance

Your Seton Varsity Dance team took 2nd PLACE in Small Varsity Pom at the UDA National Dance Team Championship in Orlando, Florida! Amazing job, Saints!



Back-to-Back Regional Champs



Congratulations to our Seton Varsity Soccer Team who were the 2023 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS! With a 2-1 win over MND, the Saints became Regional Champs for the second year in a row! The Saints advanced to state and lost in the semifinal game.

Bowling



Congratulations to Sami Hasselbeck '25 — GGCL Bowling Player of the Year!!



The title of GGCL Tournament Champions goes to your Seton Varsity Bowling Team! Way to go, ladies!

JV Dance



Seton JV Dance Team clinched 1st PLACE in BOTH Pom and Hip Hop at the SuperNationals in Louisville, Kentucky! They also earned Grand Champions for their Pom routine. Congratulations, ladies!

Performing Arts Update

Thank you to everyone who supports our performing arts throughout each year!



BRAVO!

The Seton-Elder Drama Club received rave reviews for their fall play, *Murder for Dummies!* Congratulations to the talented cast and crew!

Congratulations to these amazing Saints who competed in the Ohio Music Education Association voice competition! Among these talented young women, there were 12 Superior ratings and three Excellent ratings! Congrats to Grace Broxterman '24, Sheila Dao '25, Nora Darnell '25, Ruthie Darnell '24, Lauren Eisenmann '25, Kaylee Gindling '27, Sophia Kelley '26, Sienna King '27, Francesca Lanter '27, Catherine Mazzella '25, Alyssa Meyer '24, Reagan Niederhausen '25, Gillian Ray '25, Lily Schutte '27 and Maddie Williams '25.



Congratulations to Ella Bill '25 and Claire Pfeiffer '25 who participated in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) solo and ensemble competition for musical instruments. Both students earned the highest possible recognition - Ella on oboe and Claire on clarinet. Way to go, ladies!



The Saints in the Elder Winter Guard participated in the Mid East Performance Competition where they finished in 2nd place out of seven groups in their class and 2nd overall out of 18 Regional AA/A Guards. Way to go, ladies!



Join us for a musical favorite of all ages! Shrek's world is thrown into chaos when a group of storybook characters take over his swamp after being exiled by Lord Farquaad. If Shrek rescues Princess Fiona, then the fairytale creatures can return to their homes. With many laughs and sing-along songs, you'll follow Shrek and his donkey sidekick on a wonderful adventure!

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.

All tickets are \$15 and reserved seating. For more information, visit www.setoncincinnati.org.

Seton Sisters

Class Notes

40's

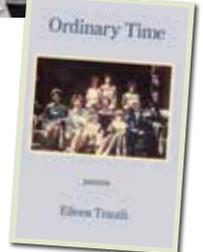
Marie Berding Swartzel '41

celebrated her 100th birthday at Great American Ballpark watching her beloved Cincinnati Reds defeat the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-1. Marie often reminisces about attending Cincinnati Reds games at Crosley Field on Ladies Day during her high school days with her Seton friends. Her 100th birthday celebration was held in a suite behind home plate with 40 family members from various parts of the country coming to celebrate with her. She wore her special Cincinnati Reds jersey and her Mother Seton necklace.



Sisters Suzanne Truth '67 and Eileen Truth '69

shared the podium for a book reading and signing event on October 5, 2023 at Roebing Books & Coffee in Newport. The theme was "Family". Eileen's poetry collection, *Ordinary Time*, is a memoir about a mother-daughter relationship, and the care-giving role reversal between their mother Martha Donelan Truth '34 and her six daughters at the end of her life. Martha passed away in 2020 at the age of 103. Suzanne's novel, *What Remains of Love*, blends one family's history with today's times, offering insight into two generations and the depth of love and sacrifice made to honor a promise. It was inspired by a French woman befriended by their Aunt Rita Donelan Truth '32 at the end of World War II. Several of their Seton sisters were in attendance.



Patricia Murray Shibinksi '49

is feeling the love and support as her family, friends and community members are combining their efforts to have a gymnasium at Mount St. Joseph University named after her. For more information on supporting these efforts, go to www.msje.edu/pat.

60's

Class of 1963 Christmas lunch



70's

Class of 1973 Reunion gathering



Patricia Rhoads Boyle '74 moved from Indiana to Florida in 2019. She loves the sun, beaches, fishing, Disneyworld and more.



Are you interested getting involved in the Seton Alumnae Association?

Contact Christina Coffaro McCarthy '95 to learn about upcoming opportunities!

Email: mccarthy@setoncincinnati.org or call 513-471-2600 x 2423. Thank you!

80's

Congratulations to **Sang Nguyen Tran '87** who was honored as one of the West Chester 2023 Women of Excellence!



(L-R) Matthew, Lauren, Phuoc, Sang, Anna and Thomas Tran



(L-R) Mai Nguyen '84, Janet Breitner '64, Sang Nguyen Tran '87, Gina Hoffman Hornback '86, Megan Nguyen Daniels '15, Anjelica Nguyen '07, Truc Nguyen '79



Kelly Wittich '88, Senior Vice President of Wealth Management for the UBS Financial Services, was recognized as a 2024 YWCA Career Woman of Achievement! Congratulations, Kelly!

90's

Dr. Erin Mallory Hofmeyer '99, PT, DPT, GCS completed nine years of service on the OTPTAT Board, and received a proclamation of gratitude from Gov. Mike DeWine. Hofmeyer is an assistant professor and the Assistant Director of Clinical Education in the Department of Physical Therapy at Mount St. Joseph University.



00's

Megan Burgasser Sleater '02 has been working at Local 12 WKRC-TV for more than 13 years. She is currently the health/medical producer. She loves that the news business has something different every day! There is a lot of writing, and she relies on her Seton fundamentals to help her succeed.

10's

Kathryn Eary '17 was recognized at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine 13th Annual Research and Service Symposium as the Outstanding Merit Awardee in the Clinical Surgical category. The award was for research that she presented on the long-term outcomes of Genicular Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) for chronic knee pain.



Daniella Lucas '19 has been certified to become a District Sales Leader for Frito Lay in the Greater Cincinnati Zone. She is excited to expand her leadership and sales skills in this role.



20's

Gabrielle Kemper '20 recently had her research project published in the Royal Society of Chemistry Journal.

Seton Sisters

Weddings

Congratulations to the following Seton graduates and their spouses on their recent nuptials.

Sam Dresmann Perrmann '11, August 26, 2023

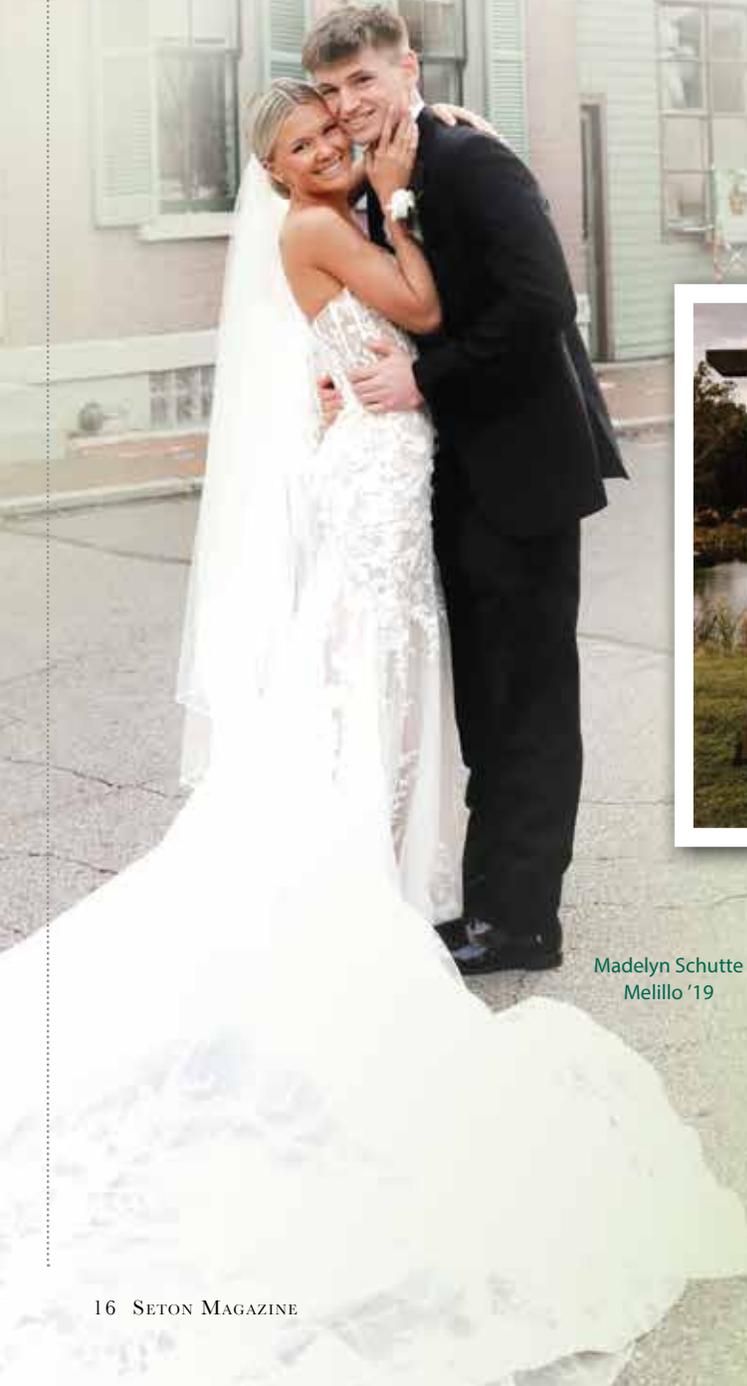
Margo Morgan Holloway '18, October 7, 2023

Ashley O'Brien Faillace '14, October 21, 2023

Madelyn Schutte Melillo '19, December 15, 2023

To submit a class note or update, please fill out the "Update Your Information" form at www.setoncincinnati.org, email alumnae@setoncincinnati.org or call (513) 471-2600.

Ashley O'Brien
Faillace '14



(L-R) Madison Morgan '16
Margo Morgan Holloway '18
Hailie Morgan '20

Madelyn Schutte
Melillo '19



Sam Dresmann Perrmann '11

Births

Congratulations to the following Seton graduates on the addition to their families.

- Marianne Tscheiner '04, daughter Aurora, January 29, 2022
- Madelyn Schutte Melillo '19, son Jax, December 20, 2022
- Chelsey Williams Geiser '12, son Graham, born August 23, 2023
- Jessica Kane Toepfer '09, son Dominic Richard, October 4, 2023
- Mackenzie Dugan Goins '16, son Gus Michael, October 11, 2023
- Robyn King Minnelli '10, daughter Leah Robin, February 3, 2024

Dominic Richard Toepfer



Graham Geiser



Gus Michael Goins



Leah Robin Minnelli



Marianne Tscheiner '04 and daughter Aurora



Jax Melillo

Passings

Our sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

- Edna Hamberg Kohnen '44
- Mary Lou Gavin Niehaus '45
- Vera Stalf Andriot '48
- Dolores Priestle Weichhand '48
- Betty Rethman Wetterer '48
- Leonora Feld Helmers '49
- Nancy Kaulfersch Kathman '49
- Ann Young '49
- Dolores Barket Waters '50
- Ellen Fischer Burke '51
- Patricia Flynn Holscher '51
- Mary Comer Listerman '51
- Mary Ann Hilvert Brandhorst '52

- Nancy Schiller Timon '53
- Marcella Schmuelling Murray '54
- Carol Keller Whitaker '54
- Helen Berson, SC '55
- Ann Arnold Sauber '55
- Lois Lubke Re '56
- Mary Willman Geckle '57
- Caroline Crowe Lemmink '57
- Mary Lou Holthaus Holtel '58
- Carol Wentworth Linneman '58
- Carol Wright Ebert '59
- Patricia Collins '60
- Joyce Haas Davoran '60

- Mary Louise Faeth Gist '60
- Rosemary Riedel Arbino '61
- Pamela Bronnert Killinger '61
- Rosemary Perrino '62
- Mary Jo Ciampone Wittich '62
- Eileen Brennan '63
- Gail Hoffman Westendorf '63
- Mary Naberhaus Fanning '64
- Nancy Mayer Hogue '64
- Miceli Riehle '64
- Mary Ann Wenstrup Toole '64
- Joyce Juergens Bowman '65
- Mary Weber Schaefer '65

- Virginia Luckey Witte '65
- Kathleen Brennan Mullen '66
- Charlene Foster Cavanaugh '67
- Donna Bley Maley '68
- Eileen Herman Coleman '69
- Mary Durbin '69
- Pamela Ciolino Cook '70
- Sharon Monk Grawe '70
- Tina Beebe Gatliff '76
- Mary Pat Mullen Hendy '78
- Doris Mohs Kohlmeyer '82
- Jodie Bender '89

Giving Our Time and Using Our Gifts

Wherever it may be that alumnae choose to live in this world, Seton High School has prepared them to excel in life, to hear God's voice and to do God's will.

Here you can read about Saints doing amazing things all over the world.

Alumnae Spotlight

Charniqa Stephens-Davis '17



One of the silver linings in life that we learn as we grow is that tragedy and tribulation can spur positive change and personal growth resulting in a greater appreciation for all the possibilities that come with each day. For Charniqa Stephens-Davis '17, this was how the weeks rolled out as she began her freshman year at Seton

High School following the passing of her father.

"My dad passed away two weeks before I started my freshman year at Seton, and in dealing with this, I was completely unprepared for school. I didn't even have a school uniform," said Charniqa, recalling her first day as a student sitting in the bleachers for the Big Little Sister Picnic. "I remember sitting there during orientation feeling so overwhelmed and lost. Even though I had not yet opened up about the sorrow I was feeling, the seniors in the group I was sitting with were aware of my situation and asked me if I needed anything. I no longer felt embarrassed or ashamed to ask for help, and no one ever questioned why I needed it."

During those first few weeks she had the opportunity to meet with that same group of seniors and connect with them. "After hearing other people open up about their struggles and fears, I felt compelled to share my own experience of losing my dad," said Charniqa. She had not really mourned the death of her dad yet at that point. "It became real for me the moment I was able to pour my heart out to strangers. That was the push I needed to start my healing journey. I needed that moment,



Charniqa and her mom at Mother Daughter Breakfast her senior year

and I will always remember how Seton was able to give something so valuable to me," she added.

Over the next few years, Charniqa began to recognize her interests with the help of her teachers and school opportunities. "Seton helped me grow academically through a curriculum that challenged me, emotionally through retreats that provided much needed healing, and socially through volunteering outside of the classroom."

Two of her teachers, Mr. Tom Kellerman and Mrs. Christine Brookbank, were a great source of empowerment for her. "They knew how to encourage students and emphasize our strengths," she explained. "They both made me feel good and confident about my writing and presented me with opportunities to explore outside of the classroom. They helped me see writing as a gift rather than just another hobby," she added.

When Charniqa was young she dreamed of becoming a journalist, so by her senior year when she took the yearbook class she felt like it was a dream come true. She became very close with her classmates and loved all that came with the responsibilities of the yearbook. "We had so much fun designing, collecting quotes, coming up with superlatives and asking local businesses to buy ads," she said.

As she moved on to college at Mount St. Joseph University, Charniqa knew that she wanted to major in communications. While she wasn't sure exactly how this would play out for a specific career, she knew that she wanted to incorporate writing and communications into her future job. It was during one of her co-op jobs during college that she had a realization. The job was with DePaul Christo Rey and she and two other classmates were tasked with securing \$1,500 of household essentials that would be donated on behalf of the school to the Bethany House. "It was a very rewarding experience for me and helped me to realize that I belonged in the nonprofit world," Charniqa said.

Her last internship in college was with Price Hill Will, and it was the perfect pathway to her current career. She was hired on part-time after graduation and is now working full-time as the communication coordinator. She promotes major projects, events and programs through



Charniqa working at Price Hill Will

newsletters, press releases, social media, websites and other digital marketing platforms. Price Hill Will is a nonprofit community development corporation serving neighborhoods of Lower, East and West Price Hill. Charniqa said that she loves the work environment there. “I feel comfortable in our space and confident in our staff’s abilities,” she explained. “With a staff of less than 20 people, the organization does big work in commercial real estate development, affordable housing, community engagement, the arts and education.” She added that she loves the diversity of their efforts and the eagerness of their neighbors to be a part of it. “There are several moving pieces to help a community thrive, and Price Hill Will is one of those pieces. I simply love what we do,” said Charniqa.

“But to make a positive difference you must put yourself out there to address issues, propose solutions and work with others to implement changes. I plan to continuously do that,”

CHARNIQA STEPHENS-DAVIS '17



Charniqa helping a child painting at the Free Arts Program and Event Series' Yoga & Art event for kids.

She has been a part of many successful events and activities with her current role. “This past summer I was the proudest I’ve ever been when I witnessed the success of our music festival. There were 300 people in the community that came to our venue to experience music together and 65 local musicians were given a space to share their talents,” she explained. “It was so beautiful to see.”

Charniqa sees herself continuing to make a positive impact on the world through nonprofit communications. She described her younger self as someone who found solace in writing and had always struggled with speaking to people. “But to make a positive difference you must put yourself out there to address issues, propose solutions and work with others to implement changes. I plan to continuously do that,” Charniqa said. She added that Seton helped her to recognize her strengths and how to share them. “Seton, for me, was a gateway to so much positivity and growth that I didn’t know was personally possible,” Charniqa said. “Witnessing so many talented young women accomplish big things forced me to stop looking down on myself, and instead, start making a space for myself – wherever that may be!”

Seton President Kathy Allen Ciarla '87 serves on the board of Price Hill Will. “To witness Charniqa’s dedication and efforts to Price Hill Will and the community brings me a great sense of joy and pride,” Kathy said. “She was a great student and a quiet leader at Seton and to watch her thrive in her career is so inspiring to me.”





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2023-2024 Alumnae Scholarship

SAINT ON-THE-GO BUNDLE

\$100 Includes your **choice** of one t-shirt, Seton hat and purse, and includes an additional \$10 donation to the Alumnae scholarship fund!
Purchase any item separately for **\$30 each**.



ALUMNAE LOOSE FIT V-NECK - \$30

Ladies League worn-in, loose fitting V-neck in heathered dark green, laid back style. Available in sizes S-XL.

-OR-



ALUMNAE TRI-BLEND JERSEY TEE - \$30

Classic cut tee, made in luxurious tri-blend jersey, perfect combination of soft stretch and the traditional comfort of cotton. Available in sizes XS-3XL.



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Classic unstructured Nike twill cap with a contrast underbill, Nike Swoosh and self-fabric closure with buckle on back. One size fits all.



SETON STADIUM-APPROVED PURSE - \$30

Versatile crossbody purse featuring an adjustable and detachable customized Seton strap. This stylish clear purse will work perfectly for sporting events and concerts.

To purchase alumnae items online or for more information about upcoming events, go to
www.setoncincinnati.org

Thank you for your support!