



February 2022

Academy Alumni Newsletter

a newsmagazine for alumni of The Grosse Pointe Academy and the Academy of the Sacred Heart

Dear Friends,

The challenges of the past year and a half have created a sense of gratitude for many things that we once took for granted: the value of being together with family and friends, hugging grandchildren and grandparents, sharing a meal, attending concerts and religious services, the list is long. It has also forced us to be creative, adapting new ways to communicate, teach and learn, provide support for one another and sharing joy and heartache. The Academy family has fared very well thanks to the dedication of our administrators, faculty and staff, parents, and students.



After a year-long hiatus, our Alumni/ae Board has reconvened with great joy and our first meetings were filled with energy. Being back in the Lakeshore building conjured up memories of years spent in this unique place with its creaking floors, beautiful vistas, and warmth. We feel at "home" again. We are determined to provide meaningful communication, enhanced support for the school and events to promote our common bonds as Alumnae. Our strength is renewed as we continue to draw upon the benefits we received as Alumni/ae of the Academy of the Sacred Heart and The Grosse Pointe Academy, two institutions that share a very similar mission.

As we inch back to a more normal daily routine, I hope that we can use the lessons learned from our recent challenges to inspire our compassion, our desire to learn and our support of one another. I am always reminded of the sentiment that "all of us are better than each of us". Together we can remain relevant in an ever-changing world as we continue to support an education that strives to nurture curiosity, intellect, empathy, integrity, and social awareness.

With gratitude,

Rosalie Bellanca Posselius '73
Alumni Association President
AASH National President 2019-2021

Dear Alumni,

When I arrived at The Grosse Pointe Academy six years ago, my goal was to work closely with all stakeholders; administrators, faculty, parents, alumni and trustees to develop a vision to help the Academy become the leader in Pre-K through Grade 8 education in the country.

Through the development of both an updated strategic plan in 2020 and the creation of the Academy Cornerstones (see the Cornerstones on page 2) in 2021, we have been able to establish an environment that not only provides each student a strong academic and social-emotional foundation, but also fosters the ability for each student to apply the knowledge that they have acquired to authentic "real-world" contexts.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that we have created several new learning spaces on campus that will support our students' applied and experiential learning opportunities.

The newest addition is the Academy Greenhouse, dedicated with a student-led ribbon cutting ceremony on January 12, 2022. This greenhouse will allow all students, from Early School to Grade 8, to have a dedicated space to learn about the production, processing and distribution of plants and foods, as well as the importance of environmental sustainability, nutrition and economic development. Whether it is used for growing food for our Farm-to-Table classes, developing vertical planters in STEM or running a farm stand in our financial electives, the greenhouse will have cross-disciplinary uses for students and faculty at every age and stage of their Academy experience.

Thanks to the generosity of Tony Soave and Andrea and Chris Provenzano, Academy students will soon have access to a state-of-the-art STEM lab right on our campus. Construction will soon begin converting what was formerly the large music room in the Fieldhouse into a STEM lab for Grades 1-8. The new lab will provide another project-based and experiential learning space for our students. As an extension of our math/science curriculum, this classroom will provide students the opportunity to learn about the engineering design process and how these concepts can be applied to their daily lives.

As alumni of the Sacred Heart and the Academy, I welcome the opportunity to engage more fully with all of you as the Academy continues to grow in the coming years. Please feel free to contact me at tadams@gpacademy.org, if you have any questions about the school.

Best,

Tommy Adams
Head of School



THE ACADEMY CORNERSTONES

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY

- IT IS** Genuine love of learning about a wide variety of topics and ideas
A thirst for knowledge
Always asking questions and seeking answers
- IT IS NOT** Just about getting the right answer
Just about getting good grades
Just about doing well on standardized tests



EMPATHY



- IT IS** Recognizing and valuing others' perspectives, opinions and struggles
Recognizing our point of view and how it affects our decision making
Making sincere connections with others
- IT IS NOT** About sympathy
About you
About your emotions

LEADERSHIP

- IT IS** Modeling good behavior
Ability to adapt, pivot, and collaborate
Celebrating others' achievements
- IT IS NOT** About being in charge
About popularity
About power



INDEPENDENCE



- IT IS** Self advocacy
Self direction
Risk taking
- IT IS NOT** About being selfish
About doing it all on your own
About being afraid to ask for help

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

- IT IS** Understanding the wider world and his/her place in it
Respecting all cultures
Environmental and community stewardship
- IT IS NOT** Just about traveling
Just about fulfilling community service
Just about being bilingual



ACTIVE LISTENING



- IT IS** Being present
Understanding intent
Reflecting
- IT IS NOT** Just about hearing
Just about remembering facts
Just about taking notes

CRITICAL THINKING

- IT IS** Analyzing and synthesizing multiple resources and perspectives
Applying knowledge and creativity to problem solve
Having perseverance
- IT IS NOT** A quick response
Just about filling in the answer
Just about agreeing



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



- IT IS** Sharing in a clear and concise manner
Speaking confidently in front of others
Writing competently with purpose
- IT IS NOT** Just speaking to be heard
Writing words to fulfill an assignment
Oversharing

ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Academy Alumni Association awards two scholarships each year. The Helen Healy Scholarship and the Alumni Advantage Award.

The Helen Healy Scholarship is a partial tuition scholarship that was established in the early 1970's by the Academy Alumni Association to honor Reverend Mother Helen Healy, R.S.C.J., the former Headmistress of the school when it was the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Funds are raised through the Bridge Marathon and donations. This award is given to a current legacy student in grades 1 - 8 of a graduate of the Academy of the Sacred Heart or The Grosse Pointe Academy.

The Alumni Advantage Award is given annually to an Academy alumnus/a, graduating from high school. This award, in the amount of \$1,000, is given to the college of their choice. To be considered, you must submit an essay entitled, "The Value of The Grosse Pointe Academy Experience and How It Changed My Life". This scholarship is presented at the Academy graduation.

The Alumni Advantage Award

This award, in the amount of \$1,000, is given annually to an Academy alumnus/a, graduating from high school.

All interested alums from the Academy class of 2018 must submit an essay entitled, "The Value of the Academy Experience and How It Changed My Life."

The essay, along with a completed application, must be submitted by April 15, 2022.

For more information please contact:

Muffy Milligan **muffym@aol.com**

Roselie Posselius **detactgld@aol.com**



CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

2020

Charles Becker	Father of Alumni/Former Trustee
Briggs and Logan Connolly	Sons of Alumnus
Mary Goodrow Daas	1949
Katarina Goitz	2008
Mary Lousignau Goodheart	1973
John King	Father of Alumni
Robert Liggett	Father of Alumni
Angela Cody Gonzales	1969
Larry Reeside	Father of Alumni/GPA Assistant Headmaster
Barbara Reynolds Terry	1942
Clune Walsh	Father of Alumni

2021

Janet Bellanca	Mother of Alumna
Shiela Book	Mother of Alumni/Children of Mary
Marie Brady	Mother of Alumni/Former Trustee
Fay FitzSimons Buhl	1952/Parent /Grandparent
Harris Bunker	Son of Alumna
Jerry Burke	Husband of Alumna
Nancy McKenzie Frost	1949
Richard Gagnon	Husband of Alumna
Nini Pugliesi Galbo	1956/Children of Mary
James Griffith	Husband of Alumna
Martha Haggarty Bolognini	1950
Suzanne Hickey Howell	1951
Harriet Howenstein Hull	1947
Suzanne Sutherland Jehle	1944/Children of Mary
Gene Kornmeier	Husband of Alumna
Dick Kozlowski	Husband of Alumna
Stan Kramer	Husband of Alumna
Juha Merikowski	Husband of Alumna
Pat Moore	Former Faculty
Chrissy Oldani	1968
Joan Piccone	1951/Children of Mary
Donald Stein	Brother of Alumna
Ann Sullivan	1953/Children of Mary
Mary Sullivan	Former Faculty
Julie Fisher Taylor	1967/Children of Mary
Annette Zipple, RSCJ	Former Faculty

"Life faces you with courageous challenges at every step of the way. You are on the path, exactly where you are meant to be right now...and from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing, of courage, beauty, wisdom, power, dignity and love."

Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ



2020 Scholarship Winner

Maria Fields

Maria is a 2020 graduate of University Liggett School enrolled as a Sophomore at the University of Michigan.

2020 Scholarship Winning Essay

"The more you know the more you grow" perfectly describes my eight-year adventure at The Grosse Pointe Academy. It wasn't until the seventh grade that I wove this phrase together as the motto of the non-profit peer-to-peer tutoring program I began at GPA while reflecting on the nurturing community fostered by the friendly GPA faculty and staff. Every year I was able to grow in academics, achievement, and ambition which smoothly translated into high school.

For example, my passion for STEM developed in GPA's classrooms: from Math Minutes with Mrs. Ahee in second grade to mastering the Big Four, daily math practice questions in Mrs. Wolney's third-grade class, to completing my first science fair project as a fourth grader with Mrs. DeBoer. Throughout high school, I have participated in robotics and the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit. I was accepted into a computational biology research program at the University of Michigan as a sophomore and started a computational biology research club which I have maintained for the past three years. And this year I had the honor of being named a finalist in the Regeneration Science Talent Search competition, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science competition for high school seniors.

In general, the education I received at GPA enabled me to excel academically in high school, landing in the top ten percent of my grade every year. It has also influenced my future. I was accepted into Harvard, Yale, the School of Engineering at the University of Michigan as a Stamps Scholar, and was selected as a Morehead-Cain Scholar to attend University North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

I have expanded my non-profit, which started as a homework help club at GPA. I created a volunteering club for high school students to read to elementary students before school, sponsored by my non-profit, freshman year. I have hand-delivered more than 600 school supplies and packed backpacks and donated over 2,000 books through an annual book drive to organizations and schools across Detroit. I read with kids everywhere—after school programs, homeless shelters, and foster care living facilities.

I was immersed in the performing arts at a young age—singing for Grandparents' Day (Special Friends' Day), plays, and musicals. Fast forward to senior year, I have been active in my school's theater program for four years, getting my breakout role junior year as the comedic yet intuitive detective in Game's Afoot and having the opportunity to perform at Detroit Music Hall in Twelve Angry Jurors.

The value of my GPA experience manifested throughout my time there and in high school, as the opportunities and accolades, I was blessed to be given. In fact, in February, I was named by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce a Pointer of Distinction. GPA is the gift that keeps on giving, and to whom much is given much is expected, and I plan to honor that. After all, as stated in the GPA cheer, "from east to west the bulldogs are the best."



2021 Scholarship Winner

Christina Thomas

Christina is a 2021 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and is a Freshman at Harvard University.

2021 Scholarship Winning Essay

I shiver as a cool, evening breeze travels through me; the sound of students chattering dissolves as I focus on the stunning sight before me: gazing at the radiant city of Paris from atop the Eiffel Tower, I am awestruck by how grand the world really is. Then, a voice from behind pulls me out of my reverie. "It's beautiful, isn't it?" the tour guide whispers reverentially, her French accent thick but melodious. "Absolutely," I respond with equal respect, "I'm lucky to see it. Not every French student has the privilege." "How long have you been studying it for?" she asks, this time speaking in her native tongue. I say in French, "I've been studying it since I was three years old."

"Three years old!"

For a moment, I panic. Anxiously, I ask her if I said something wrong.

"No, no," she begins emphatically, "you said it wonderfully. I'm just surprised—I haven't met many Americans that have studied it for that long."

At the Academy, I was fortunate enough to have that experience. It was in Madame's room that my small class would always giggle with excitement at each lesson; describing something in another language was like unraveling another layer of ourselves, and learning simple phrases felt like winning the lottery. In that same room, I found myself crowned queen of the class as I led my table to victory during the memorable medieval unit. Just next door, I'd find out what a postulate is and how it can be applied outside of math. Up above in the art room, my character began to form alongside the self portrait I had painted. I'd stay late to help decorate the building or clean up. I began to realize that sometimes being kind to others meant taking the initiative—not always easy, but always right.

Every school is required to have math, English, and science classes. These are not unique to the Academy. But I am a firm believer that education is about more than just adding numbers, stringing together a set of words, or combining chemicals. Education is about acquiring a passion, a set of morals and beliefs, and forging oneself from scratch. I discovered my love for creative writing during those quiet interludes in class—I wrote short, silly stories and appointed anyone who would listen as my editor. I felt a sense of purpose in art class—not because I was any good at it (I wasn't), but because I fell in love with community-building. And while mathematics never clicked for me like other subjects did, it was in that first Algebra class I took in middle school where I learned about the value of hard work.

I will take these lessons—inextricably linked to who I am—beyond The Grosse Pointe Academy, even beyond my next destination at Harvard College. I will cherish all the memories I gained. From working on my number scroll in preschool, to that final trip to Cedar Point in eighth grade, they will each last me a lifetime.

The AASH 43rd Biennial Conference

"Hearts in Motion"

by Patricia Kolojeski

The National Biennial Conference was held this past April, hosted by the Detroit-area Sacred Heart schools. Roselie Bellanca Posselius (GPA 1973), Patricia Eldredge Kolojeski (ASH Grosse Pointe 1962), Barbara Brown Lopiccolo (ASH Bloomfield Hills 1962), and Andrea Briefs-Ferris (ASH Bloomfield Hills 1975) co-chaired the four day event. After many months of planning for a live conference, in October 2020 the chairs decided to go virtual. This was a challenge, but being Sacred Heart women, we met it head on!

Over 250 Alumnae registered for the conference, including 28 religious. Many more young alums were able to attend with programs being live streamed and via Zoom. The guest speaker was Desiree Cooper, *"Sustaining Change: Your Role in Global Transformation."* Panel guests included: facilitator, Korin Visocchi, ASH Bloomfield Hills; with panelists, Pamela Alexander, ASH Bloomfield Hills; Crystal Glass Ashby, GPA & ASH Bloomfield Hills; Reema Hasan, ASH Bloomfield Hills and John McInerney, Kensington Hall.

During our regional breakout sessions, we chose our **Call to Action** to reflect what we could do for our environment.

"The Central Region have resolved to make personal actions to reduce our Carbon Footprints in order to arrest the alarming growth of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, thereby halting the global warming of our planet."

At this conference, the **COR UNUM** award is presented to one person from each Region: Therese Gorman Mayer, Lawrence Avenue received the award from the Central region; Kathleen Gibbons Favrot, Rosary from the Southern region; Bonnie Walsh Stoloski, Newton, from the Eastern Region and Corky Treacy Thompson, Manhattanville from the Western region. A special **Hearts in Motion** award was given posthumously to Annette Zipple, RSCJ, for her lifetime work for Social Justice.



The **Women of Conscience Awards** were given to Fran Gimber, RSCJ, and Lynn Osiek, RSCJ. The **Mary Liz DeVito Lincoln Service Award** was awarded to Ani Haaroian, St. Charles.

Shelagh O'Dwyer, Point Gray Convent, made a legacy gift to the AASH Endowment Fund, with the provision that \$5,000.00 be used to host the opening reception. Registrants were sent a "Cocktail Party Box" of an engraved wine glass, with Michigan snacks and information about Shelagh.

By being a virtual conference, we have been able to have the whole conference available to all by going to aash.org. Go to *News* and scroll down to the bottom and you will be able to click on any event, including choirs from Bloomfield Hills and The Grosse Pointe Academy, and songs from the Detroit Youth Choir.

Unable to go to St. Anne de Detroit church, we attended the closing Liturgy at Bloomfield Hills chapel. Instead of a program, this year we went with a virtual "Flip Book" which can be seen on line. There were 32 generous ads placed, honoring all awardees.

Please go to aash.org to learn more about the conference. See you in 2023 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island at St. Philomena, the newest Network school.



THE GROSSE POINTE ACADEMY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

(Due to the pandemic, this has been the first opportunity so share these words with you.)

On Friday, October 4, 2019, loyal Academy supporters, past and present, gathered to celebrate the Academy's 50 years. Roselie Bellenca Posselius, class of 1973 and President of the Academy Alumni Association welcomed the guests with the following words:

"1969 was a year to remember. Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Nixon took office. The Concorde and the 747 took flight. Gas was 35 cents a gallon. Surgeons transplanted the first artificial heart. Woodstock was the event of the summer and the Beatles made their final public appearance. We were introduced to The Brady Bunch, Monty Python and Sesame Street. The Academy award went to Oliver. Teenagers were wearing tie die and bell bottoms while listening to pop hits like Sugar, Sugar and Honky Tonk Woman.

Here in Grosse Pointe, growing up was great....we were getting our school shoes at Mr. McCourts, our cool clothes at Kay Baum or the Campus Shop. We went to Gene's party store after school for hot toothpicks and Jolly Ranchers and to the Punch and Judy on weekends. We loved the GPUS carnival and warm days at the Pier. But, in the Summer of 1969, as students at the Convent of the Sacred Heart – we were wondering where we were going to go to school in September.

When I first walked through the doors of the Lakeshore building in 1966 with my parents, I could tell this was an extraordinary place. Back then we were taught by Sacred Heart nuns who we called "mother" to instill that sense of love and family. And, we did feel loved. We learned about the history of our school that dated back to the French Revolution when St. Madeline Sophie founded the Society of the Sacred Heart to educate women to become leaders. We learned about her philosophy of teaching the whole child: mind, body and spirit and that education should inspire people to transform society. We learned about St. Philippine who bravely brought Sophies ideals to America in 1818 and how their devotion and courage allowed them to overcome unsurmountable hardships. And... that their faith ultimately led to the existence of over 200 schools in 44 countries around the world and we were one of them. Although, as children we didn't really understand the magnitude of this legacy, we felt as though we were a small part of an ongoing, important story.

Now imagine being told that this story, our part of the history was coming to an end. We couldn't imagine that our beautiful buildings and chapel were scheduled for demolition or that the trees brought by the nuns from their homes across the world would be gone....it was devastating to us and to our parents. And, the clock was ticking... St. Madeline Sophie said: "Courage and confidence! I cannot repeat this war-cry too often. We should make it our support in our life of conflict." Thank Goodness Toni Robinson and Carole Peabody were listening..... It has been said and I quote, that "those two women could have taken over operations at General Motors without a problem". Echoing Sophie and Philipppines' courage and confidence their hard work, dedication and faith inspired other alumni families to pool their resources and together they overcame the immense obstacles and gave us all a reason to celebrate together tonight.

Arriving on the first day of class at our new school was thrilling. Most of my Sacred Heart classmates were still here, there were many familiar faces on staff, the classrooms felt the same, the chapel floor creaked the same way, the smell of lunch coming up the back stairs was the same, gouter was now called morning break but we had the same cookies and milk as we had before. It felt like a relatively seamless transition to us except for one thing....the boys. And, it was weird and it was exciting! We really didn't know what to do about these invaders. It was life-changing for us.....and while dodge ball was never the same, the boys became an integral part of a new family. Most importantly, we still knew that this was a remarkable place, made even more evident by its ability to endure and flourish. It's a little difficult to describe but the energy was palpable. Our teachers, administration and staff had a shared constancy of purpose and it was working. They were dedicated and cared about us and this school and they had that familiar courage and confidence. Incidentally, everyone also seemed to be having a lot of fun! There was joy in our classrooms and in our halls: a comradery that paid off. They were happy, which meant we were happy, which meant our parents were happy. We still felt loved and valued and that made all the difference in our education. The story that we thought was ending had a second volume and it was called - The Grosse Pointe Academy. On behalf of our Sacred Heart Alumni and 50 years of Grosse Pointe Academy Alumni I can't think of a better way to show our gratitude to all of you who made this possible than with the words of St. Madeline Sophie who said: "Your example, even more than your words will be an eloquent lesson to the world."

Making a Difference Through Philanthropy

Spotlight On Two Academy Alums

By Mary Jo Johnson

Two of our Academy Alums from different decades, Reba Uthappa, (now Reba Dominski), Class of 1984, and Christine Jacobs, Class of 1993, have pursued career paths that led them to leadership roles at major U.S. foundations: Reba is Executive Vice President, Chief Social Responsibility Officer at the US Bank and the President of the U.S. Bank Foundation; Christine is Deputy Director for External Affairs and Communications at the Kresge Foundation. Both Reba and Christine are also graduates of Grosse Pointe South High School.

Here are their thoughts about working in this noteworthy field which we thought might be of interest to alums.

How did you become interested in philanthropy?

Reba:

I was raised by a single mom. My mom raised my sister and I with two core values: 1) the importance of education, and 2) the importance of service. Every morning while eating my breakfast, I stared at a poster that hung on the wall of my mother's kitchen with a quote from Rabindranath Tagore, "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and found that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." My mother's lessons and that quote brought me to the work that I do today and there is no greater joy than service to others.

Christine:

I first became acquainted with philanthropy in my previous job at the Brookings Institution, a think tank based in Washington, D.C. Brookings receives major grant support from corporate and private foundations. So, in that role, I was first exposed to how philanthropic organizations operate and how public and private foundations are setting the policy agenda in this country and around the world. I saw all of that, and I was like: "I want to eventually enter into that field." I then set about identifying private foundations whose missions and values aligned with my own eventually joining the Kresge Foundation, which is focused on expanding opportunity in U.S. cities and also based in my hometown!

What are the biggest challenges? the biggest rewards?

Reba:

I think one of the biggest challenges in philanthropy today is balancing immediate needs (food, shelter, climate justice) with the need to change systems so that they help and do not hurt people; we need to do both to improve the human condition and drive equitable outcomes. The biggest reward is impact. I get to leverage the human and

financial resources of a Fortune 500 company to help people and the planet.

Christine:

While it seems counterintuitive, giving away large sums of money – in Kresge's case about \$150M in grants and social investments a year – is quite challenging. We want to ensure we are making the highest and best use of the \$4B endowment with which we've been entrusted. We have a serious duty to ensure that our grant dollars and social investments have the greatest impact and serve community in the best possible way.

As a communications professional, my main goal is to tell Kresge's story – how and why we invest in community, people and cities and how we think community development at the municipal and federal level should be implemented.

It's a rare joy to work at a place that has such a direct and immediate impact on the economic, social and health well-being of people who live in America's cities. There is no greater joy than knowing that your organization is making a difference in the world.

What preparation would you suggest to young people thinking of careers in this field?

What academic background and other experience is conducive to careers in the field?

Reba:

I was an English major and I think a liberal arts education has helped me tremendously. When I was in college, there were not many options for Corporate Social Responsibility of nonprofit degrees, but I think that has changed. I would also encourage anyone interested in a job in philanthropy to seek real world experience by spending time in community, volunteering through an experience like City Year or the Peace Corps.

Christine:

There are two main ways to secure a job in philanthropy: (1) Become an expert – academic or a practitioner – in a particular policy area such as the arts, community development, public health, global development, national security, etc. These experts are usually in a good position to become a program officer, the person who decides which nonprofit organizations to fund and who should receive money; (2) gain valuable experience in professions such as administrative support, human resources, communications, finance, facilities or investments. Foundations are like any other nonprofit - they need professionals in all of these roles to make the organization run.

Making a Difference Through Philanthropy

Spotlight On Two Academy Alums

continued

What stands out among your memories of the Academy?

Reba:

The incredible teachers and faculty and the friends I made.

Christine:

The GPA was at the center of my childhood and my fondest childhood memories. Christmastime at the GPA was very, very special. The teachers and staff made such an effort. I always loved the "Hanging of the Greens," the entire school gathering on Mondays in the Chapel to sing songs, putting our shoes out for French candy and Mrs. Vitols' unreal Santon display. And I also loved all the school trips we took including the visit to Washington, D.C., Camp Storer and our trip to France with Madame Franco.

How did your GPA experience prepare you for your career?

Reba:

The Academy taught me the importance of hard work, discipline and service as well as seeing a world that is bigger than yourself.

Christine:

The GPA trains you to think critically. I also think this special school instills in you a sense of duty and service to others. I have worked primarily in the nonprofit and governments spaces, and I think the GPA made me attuned to those lines of work. And while painful, Ms. Fetterman's grammar training was unparalleled.

What do you like about working in Minneapolis? in Detroit?

Reba:

Minneapolis is an incredibly vibrant community with many significant challenges. The murder of George Floyd in my hometown was a catalyst to address many of the longstanding issues of race and equity. It is not easy, but I love the challenge and it is inspiring to work alongside a team and so many community leaders with big brains and big hearts!

Christine:

One of the cities in which Kresge invests the most is Detroit. As such, I get to see and experience the benefits of our investments as a resident. It's really a joy to ride the QLINE, walk the Dequindre Cut, shop at Eastern Market or visit the DIA....and be like: "Yup, where I work helped create this." Detroit is one of the country's most important and unusual cities, and it is very rewarding to see it thrive again.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Bobby Karle, SJ



On Monday, November 22, 2021, The Grosse Pointe Academy welcomed Academy Alumnus, Fr. Bobby Karle, SJ, to lead our students at Chapel. He spoke to the students about kindness and giving. After the presentation to the students, Fr. Karle said mass for Alumni and faculty followed by a

small reception. A 1999 graduate of The Grosse Pointe Academy, Fr. Karle's dedication to understanding people by learning and living with them in their environment exemplifies several of the Cornerstones of an Academy education. After graduating from the Academy, he attended U of D High School and discovered yoga, which has been an element of his life ever since.

While Fr. Karle first thought about the priesthood in high school, it was his time as a student at DePaul University in Chicago and later volunteering as a Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Belize, that really advanced his discernment. "I really enjoyed facilitating retreats in the villages," Fr. Karle said. "Along with Jesuits and local lay leaders, I developed and ran day retreats for the teachers and students throughout the 30 different Catholic schools in the southern district of Belize. I rode on a motorcycle out to the villages with a guitar on my back and was fortunate to spend time with many families from diverse cultural contexts."

Fr. Karle started the Ignatian Yoga organization while in regency at Fordham, incorporating Ignatian spirituality into a practice that has its roots in ancient India.

Fr. Karle spent his time in Belize learning from others, trying to understand their culture and building himself up spiritually. He joined the Jesuits in 2010 and during his first two years as a novice, he made a 30-day silent retreat, lived in a L'Arche Community, made a 30-day pilgrimage with just \$35 and spent five months on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. He professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in August 2012.

Fr. Karle's first assignment is at St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, a diverse community that serves University of Michigan students and full-time Ann Arbor residents and has a sizable Hispanic community.



171 Lake Shore Road • Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

ALUMNI BOARD

Mary Jo Johnson
Patricia Eldredge Kolojeski
Molly Oldani McDermott
Mary Alice O'Brien Mecke
Nancy Neville Miller
Muffy Boomer Milligan
Erica Frost Panagopoulos
Carole Jatkoe Peabody
Roselie Bellanca Posselius
Debby Wolney

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Children of Mary Day of Recollection

TBD

Action Auction

Saturday, May 7, 2022 6:00 PM

Blessing of the Little Ones

Friday, May 20, 2022 11:30 AM

Alumni Annual Meeting and Mass

Sunday, June 5, 2022 10:00 AM

Grosse Pointe Academy Graduation

Friday, June 10, 2022 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday, December 24, 2022 4:00 PM