



ALUMNI Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

Spring 2012

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A Message from Our Principal



Jim Lee Principal

Dear IHM Alumni:

Last summer, as I prepared for my move to Atlanta, I began to look through the boxes of memorabilia that I have kept over the years, mostly in an attempt to get rid of the clutter. One of the treasures I unearthed was my Kindergarten class picture. I remember the name of the girl, who at the time was the love of my life, Linda Petraveto, but I was unable to pick her out of the group shot. I just remember she had curly hair. So much for first loves but it did take me back to a simpler time. It was a call to come home and a call to remember the important

aspects of my life's journey.

Today we are in the season of Lent. This is a time when we examine who we are and take a good look in the mirror. Again it is a call to come home. We examine our hearts, connect with who we are and embrace our journey. The time you spent at IHM was certainly an important stop on the way to the future.

This spring we invite you to come back to IHM to re-visit where it all began. Join us on Saturday, May 19 for the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass as we celebrate the Eucharist together as

an Alumni family. Immediately following Mass, the Alumni Committee is hosting a reception in the Lower Level Room. It will be a time for celebration, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

I look forward to meeting many of you at this Mass. Please join us and take the time to reconnect with your IHM family.

God Bless,

Jim Lee
Principal

IHM Alumni Committee

IHM School formed an Alumni Committee in the fall of 2011 with the objective of eventually creating an Alumni Association, complete with by-laws and a Board of Directors.

The committee seeks to advance the mission and strategic plan of IHM School by providing a continuing communication of mutual benefit between IHM School and its alumni and parents of alumni; to bring back and foster a feeling of identity with IHM School among its alumni and parents of alumni; to support and advance the interest of IHM School education in general; as well as promote fellowship among its alumni.

The IHM Alumni Committee also seeks to support and advance the interest of IHM School education and to this end encourages alumni and parents of alumni to participate in giving to the IHM Endowment Fund. The Alumni Committee is also responsible for maintaining and increasing the alumni and parents of alumni database.

Meet the IHM Alumni Committee Members

The Alumni Committee currently consists of seven members representing alumni, parents of current students, and parents of alumni. Please contact Jennifer Sedlack at jsedlack@ihmschool.org if you are interested in assisting us with this important work.



Chris Buechner is a 1987 St. Pius X graduate and received his degree from Georgia State University. He is married to Jill and they have two boys, Whitman, age 4, and **Mercer '13**. He is also uncle to **Lauren Buechner '97** and brother to current IHM first grade teacher Laura Holmes. Chris is a substitute teacher at IHM, serves as moderator of the Middle School Writers Club, is a baseball coach, poet and "Do it all Dad." Chris offers the Alumni Committee the perspective of

being a parent of a current IHM student.



David L. Buechner '69 attended IHM School from 1961-68 before moving away for a short time. David and his family returned to Atlanta and he graduated from St. Pius X Catholic High School in 1973. David graduated from Georgia State University in 1982. He is currently the Development Director at St. Pius X Catholic High School where he was previously the Alumni Director from 2001-2008. David is the father of **Lauren Buechner '97** and the brother of current IHM teacher Laura Holmes. He brings his wealth of alumni relations experience to the IHM Alumni Committee.

Jennifer Schaefer Hogan is a long time IHM parishioner and her daughter, **Schaefer '17**, currently attends IHM. Jennifer attended Catholic schools in Atlanta and Milwaukee from elementary school through college, having graduated from Marquette University. She had an excellent educational experience in the Catholic school system and is happy to help IHM provide an avenue for alumni to maintain a connection with the school and its students. Part of her professional background lies in fund development and she is especially excited to see the impact the alumni can make on the Endowment Fund.



Cristina C. León '84 is a 1988 graduate of St. Pius X Catholic High School and is a long-time member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Her older sister, **Consuelo León Bills '82** serves on the IHM School Advisory Council and Consuelo's two children are IHM legacies, **Alina '10** and **Ethan '12**. Cristina earned her B.S. with Honors from Georgia Tech and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Cristina is the Senior Director of the Southeastern division for the Partners Group, a national legal search firm dedicated to assisting law firm and corporate clients find, attract, and hire talented attorneys. At IHM Church, Cristina serves as a Lector at Mass as well as a teacher in our parish school of religion. Having wonderful memories of her time at IHM school, Cristina hopes to reconnect with IHM alumni and work with them in ensuring that our beloved school continues to live its mission of being "a diverse, Catholic Christian community . . . that models Gospel values while striving to achieve excellence, in order to develop positive, productive Christians serving society."

Elena Mowiser Murphy '80 has been fortunate to be a part of the IHM community both as a student in the 1970s and now as a parent. Elena graduated from IHM in 1980 and then went on to St. Pius X Catholic High School. She attended St. Mary's College in Indiana and works for the U.S. Department of Treasury as a Consumer Affairs Analyst. Her favorite role is being mother to **Kyle '14** and **Maria '17** and wife to Tim. Elena is excited to be a part of the IHM Alumni Committee and hopes to encourage others to get reconnected, have fun, and support IHM.

Frank Tracy '67 and his family moved to Atlanta in 1963 from New York. Frank and all seven of his siblings attended and graduated from IHM School spanning 1965 to 1979. In addition, Frank's mom, Rose, served as the school secretary for seven years. Frank graduated from St. Joseph High School in downtown Atlanta in 1970 and graduated from Christian Brothers University in Memphis in 1974. After college, he returned to Atlanta and served as IHM Assistant Athletic Director, JV Football Coach and Basketball Coach of the 8th Grade travelling team for five years. Frank recently retired from Georgia Power Company after 21 years as a Comptroller. He has three children, is a member of the IHM Men's Club and is a firm believer in the value of a Catholic education.

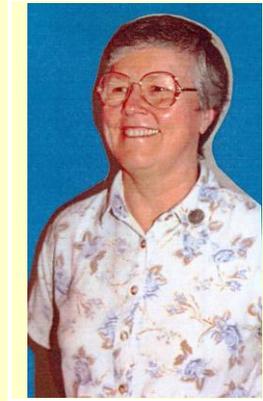


Bob Zimmer and his wife Martha have been members of IHM Parish since 1965; both are products of Catholic education. They have six children, all of whom attended IHM School, spanning 1971 to 1990. Currently they have two grandchildren at IHM School. Bob has been actively involved in several IHM Church ministries and is a member of the Archdiocesan School Council. He is dedicated to promoting Catholic education and helping IHM School in various ways including development and fund raising. He would like to reach out to parents of IHM alumni through the Alumni Committee. He is retired from Georgia Tech.

Thanks for the Memories...and Blessings

By Sister Kay Purser, GNSH, Congregational Secretary for the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in Yardley, PA

Being missioned at Immaculate Heart of Mary School has been a special blessing for me. My first introduction to IHM was when I taught seventh grade from 1966-67. Among the Grey Nuns on staff then were Principal Sister Mary Loyola, (deceased); First Grade Teacher Sister Robert Therese (Dottie Miller, deceased); Fourth Grade Teacher Sister Mary of Providence, (Sister Sheila Stone, counselor/case worker, Buffalo); Sixth Grade Teacher Sister Terence Marie (deceased); Eighth Grade Teacher Sister Donna Lord (hospital chaplain, Buffalo) and Sister Rose Mary Cauley (working, Motherhouse, Yardley, PA.) Back then we wore modified habits.



Sr. Kay Purser

The addition of the middle school, library, and gym came in 1969. I returned as principal, following Sister Frances Whitman (retired, Motherhouse) in 1976. By then it was post-Vatican II and we were wearing contemporary clothes and a religious symbol. My fondest memory is of eager, happy students; wonderful, supportive parents, volunteering everywhere in the school; and terrific, dedicated teachers. I have special memories of school Masses, field days, Science Fairs, Christmas and Junior High plays, and library programs, among other events. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the student council. We had an active Board of Education, with Mr. Bob Zimmer, who is currently on the newly established Alumni Committee, as our chair. During that time we renewed our SACS accreditation, led by Mrs. Balaum, who is now deceased.

My other fond memories include Monsignor Kiernan, our former pastor who is now retired, and his altar boys who wore colored sashes depicting different rankings. The older altar boys were always helping the younger ones by teaching them what to do. I can also remember the teachers not appreciating the boys missing class for altar boy meetings! Our First Communion services were so special, with each student having a family pew, their parents accompanying them to Communion. The Student Safety Patrol made arrival time go so smoothly and dismissal time move like clock-work.

I also remember our faculty and staff well, who were so grateful for the PTA scholarships which enabled many of them to go on for advanced degrees. Here is a list of those I remember and know about their whereabouts from my time at IHM:

- Mrs. Darden taught first grade and is now retired but still substitute teaching at IHM.
- Mrs. Fries taught second grade and is now enjoying her grandchildren.
- Mrs. Ruffin is a writer living in north Georgia and enjoying her grandchildren.
- Mrs. Hynish lives in north Georgia and is enjoying her grandchildren.
- Sister Carol Bartol taught remedial/enrichment reading/religion in the primary grades and is still working. She resides at the Motherhouse.
- Mrs. Planas taught third grade at IHM and is enjoying her grandchildren.
- Mrs. Teresa Westwood-Smith is teaching at Morningside Elementary School in Atlanta.



Mrs. Laura Hynish (2nd),
Sr. Kay Purser (Principal), Mrs.
Kathy Fries (2nd)

- Sister Ann McKee taught fourth grade at IHM and is still working. She resides at the Motherhouse.
- Mrs. Chandonia is a teacher in Atlanta.
- Mrs. Moran taught fifth and sixth grades and is now in real estate.
- Sister Mary Ellen Hoen made her final vows as a Grey Nun in 1977 while at IHM. She now serves as a volunteer in Buffalo, NY.
- Mrs. Pat Griffin taught seventh and eighth grade and still substitute teaches on a regular basis at IHM.
- Sister Karen Marie is a teacher in Buffalo, NY.
- Mrs. Ruttenbur is now retired.
- Ms. Kerner taught art and is still teaching in Atlanta.
- Ms. O'Meara taught physical education and is still teaching in Atlanta.
- Mrs. Tracy is now deceased. She was our beloved secretary and mother to Frank Tracy '67, a member of the newly formed Alumni committee.
- Mrs. Baker followed Mrs. Tracy in her role as the school secretary.



Mrs. Laura Hynish (2nd), Mrs. Abrenda Planas (3rd), Mrs. Joan Moran (5th/6th), Mrs. Pat Griffin (7th/8th)

So many memories, so many blessings! I am a richer, better person because of my time at IHM! Why don't you go down memory lane and tap into your blessings?

If you would like to contact Sister Kay Purser, she can be reached at kpurser@greynun.org.



Mrs. Pat Ruttenbur (7th/8th), Mrs. Rose Tracy (Secretary), Mrs. Abrenda Planas (3rd)

My Memories of IHM

By **Joyce Gilman Rumsey '64**



Joyce Gilman Rumsey '64 in 6th Grade

After reading the winter edition of the Alumni Newsletter and enjoying **David Hughes' '64** account of his time at IHM School, I felt moved to share my own experiences. I, too, came from Christ the King, and started third grade when IHM opened.

We lived on Mt. Royal Drive, right across the street from IHM, and would walk down the hill and past the convent each morning as we made our way to school. Quite often, our mother would cut huge bouquets of flowers for us to take to school and sometimes we would share the flowers with the nuns.

We would proudly carry them, the morning dew still clinging to the petals.

I remember sitting outside at recess and crying with my friends during the Cuban Missile Crisis, as my older brother Ralph was in the Navy, and I was worried for his safety. And I remember the day the loudspeaker crackled on, and our tearful principal announced to a disbelieving



Graduation Day
1964: Standing: Eileen O'Rorman, Anne Messner, Ann Lombardi. Kneeling: Patty Catanese

school that President Kennedy had been assassinated. She told us that school was canceled and we were to go home. Normally that would usually bring whoops and hollers from the kids, but we filed out of the door with tear-streaked faces, students and faculty alike.



Joyce's Sister, Judy
Gilman Cloman '67



Joyce's
Sister, Susan
Gilman Nagle '70

While it was a challenging time for our country, most of my childhood memories include many happy memories of IHM, including Church Bazaars, school talent shows, good friendships, and teachers who opened our minds to the world before us.

My mom was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society and my dad was an usher. They both helped with many school functions. I went on to St. Pius X High School in 1964 and in the summer of 1966, my father died suddenly. We packed up our belongings

and memories, and moved to my mother's hometown of Elmira, NY. I soon lost touch with my friends from Atlanta, but they always remained in my heart.

I have worked for the last 38 years at a Ford dealership, where I am the Office Manager. I was married and had twin sons in 1970. Unfortunately, my husband died in a motorcycle accident in 1984, and I lost both sons to alcoholism, Mike in 2001 and Ken in 2007. I still have my mother, who is now 90 years old. Most of my family lives in Elmira near me including my sister Susan, while my brother and mother are in nearby Horseheads. My sister Judy lives in Massachusetts. My siblings are very close to me, and we are each other's support and strength. I sing with a women's a capella group called the Crystal Chords, which keeps me busy, along with my two precious miniature dachshunds, Angel and Penny.



Joyce's
Friend, Ann
Lombardi '64



Joyce's Friend,
Linda Orvy '63

I would love to reconnect with former classmates and share memories and catch up. I can be reached at joyper224@yahoo.com.

IHM Graduate Keeps Head in the Clouds

*Reprinted from the December 27, 2011 edition of The Champion Free Press
By Daniel Beauregard*

When he was a child, **Colin Martin's '08** mother **Mary Pat (Warner Martin) '82** took him to play on the playground at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK). Now, she gives a friendly warning to the parents there. "You better watch out," Mary Pat said. "I used to bring him here to play too when he was a child, now flying is his hobby."

Four years ago, at the age of 13, Colin and a friend of his participated in a Young Eagles Association event at Briscoe Field in Gwinnett. The event was designed to get young people interested in aviation. Apparently it worked. Colin said after he went up in a plane the first time he was hooked.



Colin Martin '08

"It's probably just in my blood. My grandfather was a private pilot," Colin said. After his experience at Briscoe Field, Colin began looking for flight schools and found one at PDK. To pay for his lessons he mowed lawns and did other odd jobs. "I thought the money would get to him because as much as we would have loved to pay for it for him, that was just not something we could do, but he found a way," Mary Pat said.

Colin, 17, is a senior at St. Pius X High School and recently got his private pilot's license. Mary Pat is afraid of flying, but after Colin got his license she had to make good on a promise she made four years ago. "I told him if he got his license I would be the first one in the family to go up in the plane with him," Mary Pat said. "I thought it was just a fad."

As Colin stood by the small Cessna he did his first solo flight in, he said the experience of being alone in the plane for the first time was surreal. When he took his first solo flight, Colin's entire family came out to PDK and sat on the bleachers next to the playground to watch.

"The instructor said, 'We'll go up a couple of times and do some touch and go's and when he's ready I'll get out on the runway and he'll do his first [solo],' " Mary Pat explained. So, the family sat and watched patiently as Colin's plane took off the runway, circled around, and touched back down. After an hour, Mary Pat began to wonder if Colin would be able to take the solo flight.

"We watched him do it seven times and we thought, 'He's not going to do it, he's too nervous.' But sure enough, all of a sudden we saw the door open and the instructor got out," Mary Pat said. Colin said when his instructor stepped out he pretended he was still there. In the air, the plane felt a little heavier, and at times was so silent it seemed as if the engine wasn't on, Colin said.

There is a ritual among pilots, Colin said, where after his or her first solo flight the instructor and their friends cut the back of the pilot's shirt. "That goes back to when people trained on biplanes and they did that to remind you there's no one behind you. Usually, they write on it but they couldn't write on mine because it was so sweaty," Colin said. Now his shirt hangs in a hallway in the flight school at PDK, with all of the other students who have completed their training.

Mary Pat and Colin's father James said that they trust their son completely in the air by himself. Mary Pat finds comfort in the fact that Colin's instructor trusts him enough to let him fly such an expensive plane alone, and James, whose father was a pilot, said at times it was a little "unnerving." He's so responsible and so mature about the methods he follows, I know he's doing stuff the way he's told to so I trust him," James said.

Colin saved nearly \$7,500 to pay for his pilot's license and plans on going to college to make a career of flying. He said he plans to attend either Middle Georgia College or Auburn to obtain his commercial pilot's license. He wants to work for Delta or another major airline.

To date, Colin has spent nearly 60 hours in the air (the FAA minimum to obtain a license is 40). He said his favorite thing about flying is the freedom it offers him. "I've come here and taken friends from St. Pius up just for fun flights around and sightseeing," Colin said. "It's neat just to be able to just come out here and go fly."

Mary Pat said it would probably be a while before she stepped on another small plane with her son, but it was still nice to have a pilot "on call" in the family. "He said, 'Mom, I could rent a six person plane and we could fly to Florida,'" an option Mary Pat said she was all too happy to think over.

Alumni Updates

Dennis W. Kelly '67 is the director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo, and oversees the 163-acre facility in Rock Creek Park and the 3,200-acre campus in Front Royal, Virginia. Dennis is responsible for the operations of the public zoo in Washington, which has nearly two million visitors a year, and manages the Zoo's research programs, including groundbreaking work by Zoo scientists in conservation biology around the world.

Sisters **Vivian Adán Lowe '90** and **Alicia Adán Harwell '92** stopped by IHM School recently with their children including Vivian's twins Chesley, Jr. and Brander, and Alicia's daughter Gwendoline.



Vivian Adán Lowe '90
Alicia Adán Harwell '92



Christopher Murphy '93 (red shirt) posed with IHM students during the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. Christopher was one of the facilitators for the event.

James "Christopher" Murphy '93, married his wife, Barry, in 2005 and in 2008 their daughter Kate arrived. Christopher's wife, a kindergarten teacher, inspired him to return to college and finish his degree. He studied at Georgia State University and earned a degree in Early Childhood Education. Christopher is now in his third year of teaching at Montgomery Elementary. He teaches fourth grade and is involved with the Reading Bowl, Science Olympiad, the after school program, and next year he will be the coach of the math team. Christopher has truly loved being in the classroom. He comes from a long line of IHM alumni as one of 11 kids to graduate, spanning from the 70s to the 90s. His mother and grandmother still live in the neighborhood and Christopher makes his home in nearby Tucker. Says Christopher, "I look forward to being a part of the IHM family again and hope I can help with whatever the school may need!"

Jaymee Marston Morris '98 and her husband Everett Morris coached the IHM 8th grade girls "2" team to victory when the team beat St. Jude (31-30) in double overtime in the semi-final game of the 2012 Catholic League Championship. The team went on to win the league title with a win (32-28) over the two time championship team from Our Lady of the Assumption. Jaymee was also on a championship basketball team

when she attended IHM.



Catherine Morris, daughter of **Jaymee Marton Morris '98** and Jaymee's husband, Everett, are pictured with the winning team.

Katie Mannen '08, together with her teammate, has qualified to represent St. Pius X Catholic High School at the National Forensic League tournament held in Indianapolis in June. They qualified with their performances at the district championship in February.



Katie Mannen '08



Frank Martin '09 and **Grayson Holt '09** wrote, filmed, recorded, and edited a promotional film for St. Pius X Catholic High School. Click here [Domini Sumus](#) to watch it.

Erin Cavalli '08 was chosen as St. Pius X Catholic High School's Star Student for 2012.

Alexis Connors '08 will attend Campbell University, **Devin Hurley '08** will attend Birmingham-Southern College and **Drew Morgan '08** will attend Rutgers University, all on soccer scholarships. These students currently attend St. Pius X Catholic High School.

Jessica Aponte '09, **Kateri Goodwin '09**, **Maggie Smith '09**, **Kate Wildman '09** and **Haley McDaniel '10** are performing in the "Pictures in Motion" Spring Dance Concert 2012.



Pictured here, clockwise left to right from the back row are **Alicia Guyton '09**, **H. Buot '11**, **Craig Schwartz '11**, **Abby Banks '10**, **Paloma Young '10**, and **Clara Suarez-Nugent '09** who performed in The Sound of Plaid at St. Pius X Catholic High School in March.

Upcoming Events

Derby Day Auction: April 21

Join us on Saturday, April 21 in the IHM Historic Church/Parish Hall for IHM School's Derby Day Auction. We have a special reduced rate of \$40/ticket for alumni and will be recognizing alumni during the event. The ticket price includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. We will be auctioning off a wine tasting trip to Sonoma, a Braves Game Suite for 16 people, weekend lake excursions and so much more!



Purchase tickets here: [Derby Day Auction](#)

Senior Assembly: May 11

We will host an all-school assembly and reception on Friday, May 11 at 2:00 pm at IHM School honoring all graduating seniors who are members of the IHM Class of 2008. Please join us for this event as we wish our graduates well.

All-Class Mass: May 19

An IHM School All-Class Mass will be held on Saturday, May 19 during the regularly scheduled 4:00 pm Mass at IHM Church. The Alumni Committee is hosting a reception afterward in the Lower Level Room immediately following Mass. Tell your classmates and make plans to attend!

School Highlights



Josh Forbes Named a Davidson Scholar

Josh Forbes '12, currently an 8th grade student, was recently named a Davidson Scholar. As a scholar Josh has been given a personal consultant who will provide support services in the areas of educational advocacy, talent and interest development, as well as peer connections all over the country and throughout the world. There is also the possibility of financial assistance to help meet his educational goals.

News From the Development Office



Make Your 2012 GRACE Contribution Early

The mission of GRACE Scholars, Inc. is to provide children from families with financial need throughout the State of Georgia with greater opportunities to secure a quality

PK-12 Catholic education. IHM has ten students who are currently receiving GRACE scholarships. Funding for the scholarships comes from Georgia state taxpayers like you! Donors can allocate up to \$2,500 of their state income tax to the GRACE Scholars program. A donor receives 100% credit against his state taxes, meaning the donor is reimbursed 100% of his donation. Money that would have gone to the State is now supporting Catholic schools in Georgia.

For the first time since GRACE Scholars was founded, the 2011 \$50 million cap was reached before calendar-year end, nearly two months early, leaving a number of would-be IHM donors out of the process. The GRACE office expects the 2012 cap of \$51.5 million to be reached even earlier this year.

Please begin the GRACE application process early this year so you don't get caught in the rush! Keep in mind that once your contribution has been approved by the Department of Revenue, you have 60 days to send in your check. For example, if you send in your form now and are approved on say, April 1, your money is not due to GRACE until May 30.

Applications are available online at www.gracescholars.org. If you have questions, please call GRACE at 404-920-7900 or you may contact IHM Development Director, Jennifer Sedlack, at 404-636-4488.

Celebrate Easter at IHM Church

Passion Sunday: March 31, April 1, 2012

Vigil Mass (English) at 4:00 pm
Masses (English) at 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 5:00 pm
Masses (Spanish) at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

The Tridium: April 5-7, 2012

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper
5:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper (Spanish)
7:30 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper (English)

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
5:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (Spanish)
7:30 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (English)

Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil
9:00 pm The Great Vigil (Spanish and English)

Easter Sunday: April 8, 2012

Masses (English) at 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 11:30 am
Mass (Spanish) at 1:30 pm

Prayer Requests

Do you have a particular pastoral need? Visit the church's bilingual website at www.ihmatlanta.org.

Would you like to be added to the School Prayer List? Send your request to **Consuelo Bills '82** at consuelobills@hotmail.com.

Stay Informed - Stay Connected

Stay connected with former classmates by "Liking" us on Facebook at

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Keep up with current school news at [IHM School Facebook](#) and www.ihmschool.org.

We love to get news from our graduates. If you have news to share contact Jennifer Sedlack at jsedlack@ihmschool.org.



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