

From the  
**Director**

By Ann Comstock, Oblate

*“We’ll always come to thee again,  
when Alma Mater calls”*

**Reunions**

Two classes, 1955 and 1960, met this past summer for their reunions. Both groups had well-attended celebrations with classmates that were great fun. These two classes are faithful to a five-year reunion schedule and have stayed united through thick and thin for over 50 years. Such relationships are to be valued and admired.

Carolyn Peters McLean '60 wrote a letter expressing her classmates' thanks to Sister Pat McGreevy and the Benedictine community for their help in arranging for Glinodo Center to be the site of their Reunion. At the suggestion of Joyce Motty, one of her classmates, the class make a donation to the Benedictine Sisters as a Memoriam for their deceased class members. According to Carolyn, “Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we were blessed by the weather.” In the future, they have decided to use the Spring Weekend or the Christmas Party for their gatherings. So glad to hear they plan to stay in touch.



**The SBA Class of 1961 will celebrate their 55-year reunion at the 2016 Alumnae Spring Luncheon:**

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

Ambassador Conference Center

Mark your calendar for this special event!

For more Information:

Judy Allison at 814-838-4938

**Keep in Touch...**

We want to hear from you! Class reunions every five years are a tradition with SBA alumnae. We will gladly include information regarding your reunion on our website. Send us the facts and we'll post them as soon as we get them. We'll send you an updated class list from our database and a set of mailing labels. Please provide us with any follow up stories and photos (digital, please) you might wish to share and we will post them on our website (ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum). Classes who are planning reunions are eligible to receive a \$35 check to help defray mailing costs. We ask that you provide us with new or updated addresses for the database. It is one of the best ways we have to keep in touch.

Please contact Ann Comstock. Call 814-899-0614 ext. 2573 or contact by email: sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org

**“SPIRIT OF SBA”  
IS ALIVE AND WELL.**

**Let us pray...**

**For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—**

- Constance Lipinski Sulecki ..... '51
- Joan Dolores Alamenciak Jersey ..... '52
- Therese Toflinski Walter ..... '56
- Rosemarie Bieniasz Mannarelli ..... '59
- Bernice T. Traphagen ..... '60
- Mary Jo Longo Motty ..... '61
- Susan K Granetto ..... '67
- Margaret Riazzi Kightlinger

## AN SBA *Christmas*

I was happy to hear that this year's December *The Mount* magazine would highlight "the lived spirit of Christmas." I say this because Christmas is a very special time for the Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association for so many reasons.

A goal of our Association is to promote and maintain the bond of our members. What are those bonds? The obvious one is our attendance at SBA. The not so obvious bond is the shared relationship of being a graduate of SBA. There is just something special about that. People often say to me, "I don't get it. Why do you girls stick together the way you do? Why do you go all out at Christmas time when you don't even have a school anymore? What's the secret?"

Maybe the secret is our shared experiences at SBA, the fun we had, the education we received, or maybe it's our shared Benedictine values. Perhaps it's our joy in getting together and remembering, catching up, laughing together and partying together. It's our sense of family. We are family when it comes to SBA. We might be the older sister or the youngest, it doesn't matter. We are family and families stick together and celebrate together, especially at Christmas.

The Alumnae Association supports the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters. SBA was once a ministry of the sisters. We were educated by the Benedictines and schooled in Benedictine values. We see those values represented today in the Neighborhood Art House, Sister Gus' Kids Cafe, Emmaus Ministries, Saint Benedict Education Center, Saint Benedict Child Development Center, and the Saint Benedict Community Center. They exist today in the same geographic area where we once went to school. We have seen the values we were taught come to fruition in these ministries and we support them in any way we can.

Christmas and its celebration at our annual Christmas Party is central to renewing the bonds of our members and supporting the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters.

Every year close to 450 of us gather to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season and each other at a huge Christmas Party. Each year we sponsor one of the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters, consistently raising over \$6,000 for that ministry. Hours and hours are spent planning the event. Large groups of alumnae volunteer each year to put this party together. It's a great big wonderful party! It is our SBA's wonderful Christmas tradition. We miss those family members who cannot be with us but we know they celebrate with us in spirit.

### Please visit our Website

Visit [ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum](http://ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum) for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your email address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at [sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org](mailto:sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org) to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use email, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA, 16511. Whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article or jot down the details then call, write or email us the information so we can share the news with all our members.





CLASS OF 1965

## Spring Weekend

A new tradition has begun – the SBA Alumnae Association Spring Weekend celebration appears to be catching on with our members.

For the past few years the Alumnae Association has hosted a special celebration during the first weekend in June. The celebration begins on Saturday with a luncheon and marketplace gathering at the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie. A select group of 10 to 15 vendors are invited and alums have two hours to shop prior to lunch. It has been quite successful – for the vendors and the alums doing the buying.

At the luncheon the winners of the annual Alumnae Scholarships for Catholic Education are chosen. Twenty scholarships of \$250 (totaling \$5,000) are awarded to relatives of alumnae members who will be attending Catholic schools (grades K - 12) the following year.

In the past, tours of the old Academies on 9th and 10th streets have allowed alumnae members to visit and remember days spent at their school.

The celebration continues on Sunday with Liturgy at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. A social gathering following liturgy invites alumnae members and sisters to reconnect and to remember the good times spent at SBA.

Several classes have begun to use this Spring Weekend as part of their class reunions. Classes planning future reunions might want to consider this. It's a nice way to get together, have fun, and do some serious shopping!

### A SAMPLING OF VENDORS

