



ALUMNEWS

SUMMER 2016, ISSUE 2



CO-EX GRANTS BENEFIT STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

SOUTH BEND STUDENTS ARE benefiting from the Alumni Association's Co-Ex Grants, but the community is benefiting from the service they perform in exchange for the money.

The grants help to supplement budgets for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

So far this year, the Co-Ex Committee has awarded almost \$40,000 in grants to nine schools. We have helped to pay for baseball jerseys; electronic equipment; robot parts and travel expenses; cheerleader uniforms; T-shirts; golf equipment; and other items.

The Drama Club at Hamilton Traditional School received a \$1,050 grant to help stage "The Big Bad Musical," described as "a howling courtroom comedy." "The grant helped us to pay for the ShowKit from Pioneer Drama, which included scripts for the students, production manuals and performance CDs and royalties," said Karen Payton, club sponsor. The play was staged in

March and the production raised \$315.76, which was donated to Hello Gorgeous!

Brown Intermediate Center received a \$1,095 grant to help pay for a cultural field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. Adrienne Hurt, art teacher at Brown, said the students "were surprised at the age of the works, the size, the detail (or lack of detail), the material, the manner of display, the origin and the content of the art." In exchange, the students created banners for Keller Park and did a variety of clean-up/spruce-up projects at Brown. "If you want something you gotta work for it," said Bethany. "You have to do work to get to places," agreed classmate Tamara.

Perley Fine Arts Academy received a \$500 grant for its Girls on the Run program. They collected books and created activity kits for Memorial Children's Hospital in exchange for the funds. "Our patients love them," said Tracy Bayliss, Child Life coordinator at Memorial. The students also participated in a clean-up project at Perley.

The WHS golf team received a \$2,000 grant to help pay for clubs, bags and other equipment. "I work at South Bend's highest poverty school," said Brian Ginzer, golf coach. "It's a struggle to field a team when you run up against financial difficulties of the families I serve." Team members have been helping to maintain a local Unity Garden in exchange for the money. "I feel it is in my student athletes' best interest to volunteer time out in the community," Ginzer said. "It provides lessons and feelings that we experience on the golf course, like gratification, integrity and honesty."

Students at Lincoln Primary Center participated in a neighborhood clean-up in exchange for a \$1,000 grant to enhance its Accelerated Reading program. Students earn points by reading books, and exchange the points for items in an AR Store. "The improvement in our reading levels and increase in the amount of time students spent reading outside the classroom was amazing," said Lori Miller, literary coach at Lincoln. ■

Adams – Clay – Riley – Rise Up Academy – Washington – Central – Greene – Jackson – LaSalle – North Liberty – SB High – Washington Clay – Wilson



SBAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Paul Laskowski, Chairman – Washington
Jessica Brookshire, Vice-Chair – Adams
Ryan Kring, Secretary – Washington
Lauren Davis, Treasurer – Adams

TRUSTEES

Tim Baker
Jack Champaigne
Eric Crittendon
Dave Dunlap
Kevin Fautz
Joseph Fragomeni Jr.
Angela Hall
Vicky Holland
Greg Humnicky
James Kapsa
Susan Nufer
William Przybysz
Dan Schmidtendorff
Connie Varga
Duane Wilson

STAFF

Steve Luecke, Executive Director
Nancy Sulok, Office Manager



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dear Alums,

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Ten years is a long time in the life of every human being. Because time is the most precious gift at our disposal, being of all gifts the most irreplaceable, the thought of time possibly lost disturbs us whenever we look back. Time is lost when we have not lived, experienced things, learned, worked, enjoyed, and suffered as human beings. Lost time is unfulfilled, empty time. Certainly that is not what the past years have been.”

This year the South Bend Alumni Association celebrates not 10 years of existence, rather 30 highly-successful years. During that time, many dedicated individuals have focused on the honorable task of providing significant and meaningful assistance to K-12 students in South Bend. Because those same individuals have been so committed to helping others, for three decades, area students have learned and experienced things they likely would not otherwise have been able to if not for those who enjoy “making a difference.”

During more than 10 years as a board member and the past two as chairman, I have been personally humbled as I watch and work alongside men and women who lose nor waste any time. When it comes to accomplishing the mission of “supporting education in our schools by funding extra- and co-curricular activities that are not tax funded and by instilling an awareness of the need for student service in the community,” our volunteers are second to no one.

As we prepare for a leadership transition during the annual meeting in September, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our executive director, Steve Luecke, board members and extraordinary volunteers. It has been through their tireless efforts and long-standing commitment we continue to award annual scholarships and fund co-curricular activities at record levels. During this fiscal year we are on track to extend over \$100,000 in financial support to dozens of individuals and school groups. This is the largest annual total to date.

In September, the association will welcome Jessica Brookshire as she begins a two-year term as board chair. Those who know Jessica recognize she is a delightful individual who has been recognized by several organizations for her volunteerism and results-driven leadership. The organization will be in good hands with Jessica at the helm.

In summary, I concur with Bonhoeffer. The South Bend Alumni Association and those who serve the organization and the students who benefit from our work can be assured we don’t allow unfulfilled, empty time. “Certainly that is not what the past years have been.”

Paul Laskowski
Board Chair

ACE FOR SCIENCE TENNIS TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Teachers who received checks from the tournament proceeds were awarded them at a reception in April at the School Administration Building.

THE ACE FOR SCIENCE DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT IS A fun and effective way to support STEM programs in South Bend schools, according to Michelle Engel, school board member. She not only participated in the tournament, but also persuaded her husband, Alan, and son, David, to take up the challenge. Alan Engel, in fact, won the 7.0 Division with his partner Dan Bardayan.

Twenty teams participated in the third annual tournament April 23 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at Notre Dame. The College of Science co-sponsors the tourney with the Alumni Association. Proceeds are awarded as grants to teachers to support science, technology, engineering and math programs in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

Deanna Ponsler, who won the 8.0 Division with Ram Ramanan, said they both work at Notre Dame and like to support South Bend schools. Ponsler coaches tennis at Saint Mary's College. Winners of the 6.0 Division were Carolyn Shirey and Gabe LaBonia. Contenders ranged from 8-year-old Evan Knapp, who played doubles with his mother Jennie, to a couple of post-retirement-age players.

Thanks to the participants and sponsors, the SBAA was able to award \$9,500 in Ace for Science grants to local teachers. Recipients, who received their checks in May, were Emily Zablocki of Adams High School for a CO₂ system for fruit fly research; Sarah Torzewski, Clay High, for an AP biology lab experiment bundle; Jeanne Jasper, Darden Primary, for a Lego set for the STEM lab and other equipment; Danielle Brinkerhoff, Harrison Primary, for a trip to a conservatory and visit with zookeepers; Mary Thorpe, Madison Primary, for after-school STEM Action kits; Cy Werntz, Madison, for digital microscopes and private eye loupes; Lisa

Vukmirovich, Marquette Montessori, for hands-on magnetic play kits; Denise Domonos, Monroe Primary, for iPads and OSMO kits; Rose Calhoun, Riley High (New Tech), for water quality test kits for Hoosier Riverwatch; Susan Sakimoto, Riley, for kits for a Team American Rocketry Challenge; and David Barnes, Rise Up Academy, to update flight simulators and purchase lab supplies and equipment. ■



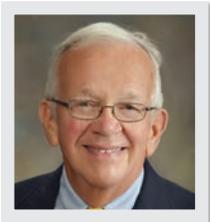
School board member Michele Engel, left, and her son, David, consult with Margaret Dobrowolska-Furdyna after competing in the Ace for Science tennis tournament. Dobrowolska-Furdyna was an organizer of the tournament.

HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

THE SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY HALL OF FAME will mark its 30th anniversary this year. Since the first banquet in 1987, the Hall of Fame has honored 189 individuals, 14 couples and three families for their contributions to our community.

Seven individuals will join this elite group when they are inducted on November 17 at Century Center, announced HOF Chairman James Kapsa.

2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



BRUCE BANCROFT

A former partner with the Barnes & Thornburg law firm, Bancroft has had extensive involvement in community affairs. He served as a leader of the South Bend Jaycees, Michigan State University Alumni Club of St. Joseph County, Memorial Hospital of South Bend, South Bend Symphony and Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County.



HOWARD BUCHANON

An Adams High School graduate, he served 38 years with South Bend Fire Department. He retired as chief in 2012, having had a staff of 252 firefighters. Buchanan has been an active member of the Downtown Rotary.



LOIS WHITACRE CLARK

A well-known community activist, Clark served for nearly 40 years as a parent and community involvement coordinator for Head Start. She has been a familiar face in local efforts to promote world peace. She is a member of Muslim/Christian Women's Dialogue Group. She received the F. Jay Nimtz Award for exemplary public service in 2013.



JOSEPH LUTEN

Luten, who died in 2012, was a graduate of Central High School. He received a master's degree in education from the University of Notre Dame in 1956. He was a teacher and principal in South Bend schools until his retirement. He served on the YMCA Board of Directors and implemented programming for minority youth, which became YMCA Urban Youth Services.

The Community Hall of Fame is sponsored by the South Bend Alumni Association. Proceeds from the banquet support our Co-Ex Grants program, which helps to fund co- and extra-curricular student activities that do not receive tax dollars. ■



ANN PUZZELLO

A teacher for 22 years with the South Bend Community School Corporation, Puzzello served 12 years on the South Bend Common Council. She was the Council president in 1989 and 1994. She left the Council in 1995 but was re-elected in 2003. In 2012 she received the 2012 Monk Malloy Award for her work with Northeast Neighborhood Center.



GABRIELLE ROBINSON

Robinson is a retired professor at IUSB, where she was the head of international studies. A historian, she was key in establishing a sister city relationship between South Bend and Arzberg, Germany. She has authored several books, including some that focus on South Bend's history.



FLORENCE TROEGER

Troeger will be the 2016 historical inductee. In 1943, she became the first woman golf pro in the state of Indiana. Two years later, she revived the City Junior Golf Tournament for students age 17 and younger. She introduced hundreds of youths to the game with clinics and lessons at Studebaker Golf Course before retiring in 1963. Troeger died in 1980.

2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

In addition to the inductions, several awards will be presented at the banquet to honor individuals and organizations for their contributions to our community. They are:

IDEAL BALDONI DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD – JOHN VOORDE

A member of the South Bend Common Council and long-time civic leader.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – PEG DALTON

The owner of Le Peep Restaurant and promoter of the downtown community.

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AWARD – ELECTRONICS, INC.

A Mishawaka company owned by Jack Champaigne that has been a strong supporter of education and arts in the community.

DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – REAL SERVICES

An agency that provides a variety of assistance to the elderly. REAL is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

23RD ANNUAL TCU/SBAA SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



A golfer from the Laven Insurance team follows through with his drive during the TCU/SBAA Scholarship Golf Tournament at Elbel Golf Course.

THE 23RD ANNUAL TCU/SBAA SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT raised about \$29,000 to support the SBAA's scholarships, announced Susan Nufer, Golf Committee chairperson. Thirty-one teams played in the tournament, held May 19 at Erskine Golf Course.

The foursome from OJS Building Services took first place in the tournament with a score of 57. Team members were Steve Meyer, Bill Keim, Mike Rutenbar and Vic Budd. Second place honors went to the Abonmarche team, comprised of Mike Harding, Bob Orłowski, Fred Evans and John Linn. Third place went to Martin's Super Markets, made up of Bill Gadeski Jr., Bob Bundy, Tom Smith and Bill Gadeski Sr.

A new contest was added this year. Players could place bets on whether they could land their drive within a circle on the green. If they succeeded, they received double their money back. Winners of other contests were: Bill Waite of the Action Mortgage team, straightest drive; David Szklarek of TCU, longest putt; Bill Keim of OJS, closest to the pin, Hole 4; Kyle Pletcher of Umbaugh, closest to the pin, Hole 6; Curt Pletcher of Umbaugh, closest to the pin, Hole 14; Kelli Kalisek of Technical Water Treatment, closest to the

pin, Hole 17; and Brian Sweeney of Tepe Sanitary Supply, closest second shot, Hole 12.

More than 40 companies signed on to sponsor holes at the tournament. KSS helped underwrite the cost of the golf shirts given to each player. Gates Toyota sponsored a hole-in-one contest, with a car as the prize, but nobody scored an ace.

Plans are already underway for the 2017 tournament. Ms. Nufer hopes to return to Elbel Golf Course for that event. ■



The team from OJS Building Services won the tournament, and also won some raffle prizes. From left are Steve Meyer, Bill Keim, Mike Rutenbar and Vic Budd.

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTED DR. CAROLE SCHMIDT with a life membership as she retired from her role as superintendent of the South Bend Community School Corporation. Her last day was June 30.

Steve Luecke, SBAA executive director, said in a letter to Dr. Schmidt that she "faced the challenges of a difficult job with grace, dignity and, when needed, a sense of humor." He said the Alumni Association has appreciated the support received from her and her staff.

The SBAA welcomed her replacement, Dr. Kenneth Spells, as he became superintendent in July. A welcoming reception was held for him on July 1, to be followed later by meetings with various department heads, including Luecke.

"We look forward to working with Dr. Spells to reinforce the important role that co-curricular and extra-curricular activities play in the growth and education of SBCSC students," Luecke said.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



Jacob Arndt



Cassidy Balciunas



Connor Balciunas



Lucas Bonek



Jennifer Firehammer

GOING TO COLLEGE IS A GOAL FOR MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. Paying for it is a challenge. Sixteen students received scholarships this year from the South Bend Alumni Association to help them meet that challenge.

Recipients of the TCU/Superintendent's Scholarships are Jennifer Firehammer, Adams High School; Jacob Arndt, Clay; Kayla Jackson, Riley; Mariah Housing, Rise Up Academy; and Dayonni Phillips, Washington. The scholarships are worth \$4,000 each, payable at the rate of \$1,000 a year for four years.

Marissa Koehler of Adams received the \$5,000 Jack Champaigne Scholarship, underwritten by Mishawaka business and SBAA board member Jack Champaigne. He also is renewing the scholarship for the 2015 recipient, Danielle Krug, an Adams graduate. Champaigne scholars are required to attend Purdue University.

Recipients of Endowed Scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each, are Anand Agtey, Riley; Cassidy Balciunas, Adams; and Lucas Bonek, Buchanan High School.

Chariauna Foster, Adams, received the \$1,000 Lauren Davis Scholarship, while Conner Balciunas received the \$1,000 Joseph Fragomeni Scholarship. Madeline Logsdon received the \$500 South Bend Press Club Scholarship.

In addition to scholarships, the Alumni Association awards grants. Vikas Agtey received a \$1,000 Kurt & Tessye Simon Grant to continue his studies at Purdue University.

Second Chance Grants were awarded to Andrew Gnot, Notre Dame; Taylor Jackson, Oakwood University; and Brianna Warren, Xavier University.



Chariauna Foster



Mariah Housing



Kayla Jackson



Madeline Logsdon



Dayonni Phillips

PAST RECIPIENTS EXPRESS GRATITUDE

PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE HELP they received from the SBAA.

"This scholarship serves a significant role in my pursuit of my college goals and dreams of studying management and pursuing a career in sports," said Zachary Booher, who received a four-year Superintendent's Scholarship in 2015. He is attending Purdue University. "It takes some of the ease of worrying about finances so I can focus on the importance of classes, finals and trying to have a somewhat normal social life as well," the 2015 Riley graduate added.

"This scholarship has eased some of the financial stress that comes along with going to college full-time," said Kelsey Weber, an Adams graduate who received a Superintendent's Scholarship in 2014. She will be starting her junior year at Valparaiso University. "So far," she added, "I have been able to pay off some of my student loans, making it easier to focus on my studies. I greatly appreciate the South Bend Alumni Association for awarding me this scholarship."

UPCOMING EVENTS

THUR
11
AUG

Lunch Club

WHERE: Elks Lodge, 3535 McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN

WHEN: August 11, 2016

Entertainment will be provided by the Silver Stars Dancers. Call 283-8153 before August 9 to make a reservation.

WED
21
SEPT

SBAA Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

WHERE: South Bend Chocolate Café

WHEN: September 21, 2016

The meeting will include the election of officers and six board members who are up for re-election.

THUR
17
NOV

South Bend Community Hall of Fame Banquet

WHERE: Century Center

WHEN: November 17, 2016

The SBAA will host a banquet where seven individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

LUNCH CLUB

A LIVELY SCHEDULE OF ENTERTAINMENT IS TAKING PLACE for the summer Lunch Club gatherings, according to Chairman Bill Przybysz.

Candace Butler and Teresa Naomai from the Casaday Costume Company spoke at our June lunch. They brought a sampling of the thousands of costumes in the historic collection, which committee members and members of the audience were recruited to model. They gave an update on the collection and how it has grown over the past year, since it moved to new quarters at the LaSalle Academy. The company's fundraising efforts have made it close to being self-sustaining.

The program for July featured selections from "The Little Mermaid," performed by the Summerfly cast. Summerfly is an annual theatrical project directed by Candace Butler. Students from all over the South Bend area can audition for a role. Their talents are amazing, and the Lunch Club members always respond enthusiastically.

The program for August will feature the Silver Stars Dancers, all of whom are over the age of 65. We have invited the new school superintendent, Kenneth Spells, to speak at the September lunch. Student performances will resume in October.

The Lunch Club is open to graduates of any high school. Luncheons take place on the second Thursday of each month except January. The cost is \$12 for SBAA members and \$14 for non-members. Reservations must be made at least two days before the lunch by calling 283-8153, or registering online at www.southbendalumni.com. ■



Teresa Naomai, dressed as Captain Hook, shows one the bridal dresses available for rent from the Casaday Costume Company.

South Bend Alumni Association

Phone: 574-283-8153 · Fax: 574-283-8037 · Web: www.southbendalumni.com · Email: sbaa@sbcsc.k12.in.us