



# EAGLE ECHO

For alumni of Bishop LeBlond, Christian Brothers & Convent of the Sacred Heart

## Shifting priorities after September 11

Stacey Simpson '84 heard what she thought was a "low engine sound," then felt a shudder and watched out her 11<sup>th</sup> floor window as debris fell past it. In the midst of preparing for a sales presentation at a large investment firm in lower Manhattan, she went to the hallway to see what was happening. There she joined a stream of hotel guests leaving the building. She left behind her purse, all identification and money, her luggage and her sales materials. All she carried with her was a pack of Dentyne gum.

Within a few hours she'd consider herself among the most blessed and fortunate despite her meager possession.

A regional sales manager for TALX, an application service provider of employee services for payroll, HR and benefits, Stacey is in New York City at least twice a month to make sales calls and presentations. Her usual hotel of choice was the Marriott World Trade Center, a 22-story hotel wedged between the twin towers of the World Trade Center. And that's where she was the morning of September 11, 2001.

She made it down the 11 flights of stairs and onto the plaza surrounding the World Trade Center. Still not aware of the gravity of the events unfolding, she sought a phone to call that day's client. "I wanted to get word to people that I'd be late," she said.

She went into Tower 2 to find a phone. "People were still going

about their business as I went up the escalator," she said. "I asked if I could use the phone and then someone talked about evacuating the building." She left that building and ran toward the water, pausing to watch the first tower burn. It was only then that she felt the magnitude of the event. "I saw people jumping from the first building - your mind is not made to compre-

the local post office and was taken in by the postmaster. She spent the day in the postmaster's office, watching events unfold on television. The



Stacey Simpson '84

postmaster even took her to his home for dinner with his family. Her sister, who lives in Connecticut, came and picked her up that evening.

Stacey said she saw none of the hard-edged New Yorkers that we Midwesterners perceive. "It was consistent with what I've known for years," she said. "People are

basically the same wherever you go, they are kind and generous - but in the East they are in more of a hurry."

The beneficiary of many acts of kindness that day, Stacey says the experience focused her on the

(continued on back page)

**"We need to take stock of what's truly important - family, friends and faith."**

hend that, it was just unreal."

Still searching for a phone and still assuming that no one would know why she was late for her sales call, she went into a chapel and called her office. She was talking to company representatives in St. Louis when the second plane hit.

She left the chapel and ran to the pier where ferries take passengers to the Statue of Liberty and to Hoboken, N.J. Having begged and "borrowed" money from strangers in the streets, she took the ferry to Hoboken. "There were so many people just standing around taking pictures and videotaping on the streets of Manhattan. All that footage you saw on TV, I saw the people shooting that."

Once in Hoboken, she went to

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Fall, 2001

# Improvements, renovations begin

Dear Alumni,

We hope this issue of the Eagle Echo finds you safe and peaceful. The remarkable events of the past few months have caused us all to stop and take stock of the truly important parts of life. Please know that our students pray for our alumni regularly wherever life's paths have taken you.

As you'll see in one of the stories in this issue, LeBlond graduates were directly affected by the events of September 11 and continue to be affected as many of our alumni serve in the armed services. Our students spent most of September 11 in prayer, reflection and quiet discussion.

We continue to pray for justice and peace. Academic and extracurricular life at LB have returned to normal. The fall sports season has again been a successful one for our student athletes. The girl's volleyball team won the district championship, as did our girl's cross country team.

As you'll note from the photo on page three, the first phases of our renovation/expansion project are under way. The new windows offer a better view both for us looking out and for passersby. Many guests and visitors have commented on the great new look for the building. We'll probably enjoy the new

windows most this winter when they keep out chilly air and keep down heating bills.

Another improvement is one you can't see driving by, but you can see by visiting us on the information highway. Over the summer we installed new phones, wiring and computers in each classroom. Faculty are now able to be in contact with the office, parents and students by phone or email at all times. Faculty even turn in the absentee lists via email in the mornings. These technological enhancements improve communication and offer increased safety as well. Please visit the LeBlond website at [www.bishopleblondhs.com](http://www.bishopleblondhs.com)

Finally, I want to welcome Kerry Neylon Shepherd '82 back to LeBlond. Kerry joined us in late September as director of alumni relations and marketing. She will be responsible for producing the *Eagle Echo*, all LeBlond alumni relations and our marketing/enrollment initiatives.

Kerry earned her bachelor's in journalism from the University of Missouri and her master's in journalism from the University of Nebraska. She has held a variety of public relations/marketing positions in higher education and corporate

communications. She worked in public relations for the University of Nebraska and Benedictine College. Most recently,



**Corrine Connelly RSM**

she was the media and community relations coordinator for Heartland Health.

Diane Slentz '61 will continue as LeBlond's development director. She also will continue to direct alumni relations for our Christian Brothers and Convent of the Sacred Heart graduates.

We encourage you to stay in touch and to update us as you progress in your careers and lives. We're also happy to help you stay in touch with fellow graduates. Just send us an email, or give us a call and we'll help you renew friendships and reconnect.

Yours for LeBlond,

*Sr. Corrine Connelly RSM*

Sr. Corrine Connelly RSM

## Golden Eagle Basketball

Mark your calendar to attend the annual LeBlond Holiday Basketball tournament December 27th through 29th at Missouri Western State College.

Alumni also are invited to attend Bishop LeBlond's basketball courtwarming (homecoming) game, Friday, February 1, 2002. The Eagles will take on Brookfield High School beginning with the junior varsity game at 6 p.m. in the gym.

Both the girls' and boys' teams return several starters and are expected to do well this season. Kansas City-area alumni are invited to support the boys' team at St. Pius on February 7 and the girls at St. Teresa's January 2.

## LeBlond Staff

### Principal

Sr. Corrine Connelly RSM  
[cconnelly@bishopleblondhs.com](mailto:cconnelly@bishopleblondhs.com)

### Development Director

Diane Slentz '61  
[dslentz@bishopleblondhs.com](mailto:dslentz@bishopleblondhs.com)

### Alumni/Marketing Director

Kerry Neylon Shepherd '82  
[kshepherd@bishopleblondhs.com](mailto:kshepherd@bishopleblondhs.com)

## New view, better technology too

Bishop LeBlond High School students and faculty arrived for classes this fall to find upgrades to the computer and phone systems. More than \$125,000 was spent to purchase 45 new computers and 15 printers and wire the classrooms for phone, data and internet access. Each classroom now has its own computer and printer. New computers and a laser printer also were purchased for the computer laboratory. The new system offers enhancements for computer, accounting, marketing and yearbook classes.

The upgraded phone system now includes a phone in each classroom and links the school together through a phone intercom system. Each faculty member has email and voice mail access to enable better communication between students, parents and



**New windows dramatically change the look at 36th & Frederick.**

faculty. Faculty can even send daily attendance reports via email to the administrative office, eliminating the need for reports to be hand-carried.

There is a new view at LB. Students and faculty members can now look outside through new windows. The new, tinted, energy efficient windows are a dramatic

change from the nearly 40-year-old windows being replaced. The windows are one of the first visible improvements to come from the "Miracle on 36<sup>th</sup> Street" capital campaign currently under way. The \$175,000 window replacement project will help cut energy costs and enhance the visual appeal of the building.

## Fall Homecoming royalty feature alumni connections

Erica Matthias, daughter of Moe and Bridget Matthias was crowned LeBlond's fall homecoming queen. Riley Atha, son of Patti (Shalz) '71 and the late Raymond Atha '71, was named king.

Attendants were: Nicki Kiddoo, daughter of Chris '80 and Mary Ann Kiddoo '80; Amanda Buckman, daughter of Michelle Cobb and Brian Buckman '78; Stephen Lutz, son of John '72 and Barbara (Harrell) Lutz '72; and Andy Gardner, son of Curtis and Sheron Gardner. Nicki Kiddoo's sister, Katie, was homecoming queen in 1999. Amanda Buckman's aunt, Paula Buckman Neely '72 was homecoming queen, and her cousin, Tiffany Pasley was a member of the court in 1996. Riley Atha's aunt, Mary Shalz Ott '70 was a member of

the homecoming court, as was his sister, Summer Atha, in 1995. Stephen Lutz has two aunts who were homecoming royalty at LB -- Nancy Harrell France '74 and Connie Harrell Smith '88.

LB prevailed over North Platte in the football game on Sept. 28.



**2001 Football Homecoming Royalty**  
Front row, from left: Nicki Kiddoo , Erica Matthias, and Amanda Buckman. Standing, from left: Stephen Lutz , Riley Atha and Andy Gardner.

# Bishop LeBlond in 2001

Whether you graduated from a St. Joseph Catholic high school in the 1940s or the 1990s, many things have changed as LeBlond and high school education have changed. These two pages offer a glimpse of what life is like at LeBlond in 2001.

**Accreditation** - LeBlond is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the State of Missouri.

**Enrollment** - Current enrollment is 250.

**Faculty** - Bishop LeBlond has 27 faculty members, including administration. Nine hold master's degrees and one has a doctorate. The student faculty ratio is 11:1.

**Students** - LeBlond attracts students from all areas of St. Joseph and the surrounding communities, from Catholic and public schools. More than 90 percent of LeBlond students pursue a college degree. Approximately 75 percent of all students are involved in an extra-curricular activity. An average of 45 percent of LeBlond students are on the honor roll with at least a 3.5 grade point average.

## Athletics remain key component of LeBlond life



### Fall

Cheerleading - Sponsor Vicki Irsik  
Co-ed Soccer - Coach Ken Girard  
Cross Country - Coach Ken Konz  
Football - Coach Harry Elder  
Girls Tennis - Coach Chris Losson

Pom Pons - Sponsor Cathi Adamson  
Softball - Coach Wayne Miller  
Volleyball - Coach Bob Drake

### Winter

Boys Basketball - Varsity Coach Steve Vertin  
Girls Basketball - Varsity Coach Randy Grosdidier  
Cheerleading - Sponsor Vicki Irsik  
Pom Pons - Sponsor Cathi Adamson

### Spring

Baseball - Coach Greg Kastner  
Track - Coach Harry Elder  
Boys Tennis - Coach Randy Grosdidier  
Co-ed Golf - Coach Pat Clark

## Extra-curriculars offer enrichment

Academic Team  
LB Ambassadors  
Concert Choir  
Debate  
Drama  
National Honor Society  
SADD  
Science Club  
Forensics  
Newspaper  
Yearbook  
Student Council  
Pep Band

## Tuition & fundraising

2002-2003 **tuition** is \$3,100 for a student whose family is a member of a Catholic parish. It is \$3,600 for those who are not members of a Catholic parish. (Bishop LeBlond receives support from the Catholic parishes and the Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph.) Tuition for Kansas City area Catholic high schools such as Rockhurst High School and Notre Dame de Sion is \$6,800.

Current fundraisers required of all students are: carnival tickets, calendars, Walk-a-thon and bingo (parents work at bingo five times per year).

### Financial Assistance

Diocesan tuition aid and scholarships are available to those who apply and who demonstrate need. Applications are taken in the spring for the following school year. No deserving student will be denied an education at Bishop LeBlond High School because of financial need.

# Commitment to Excellence

Due to the combined commitment of LeBlond's administration, faculty, parents and students, the tradition of academic and extra-curricular excellence has flourished. LeBlond students are active community citizens, academic achievers and competitive athletes. Our graduates are regularly accepted at esteemed colleges and universities and the service academies.

**Lauren Van Vickle**, a five-time state champion in track and cross country was named a Missouri State Finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. This means she is one of the top 10 female student-athletes in Missouri. Lauren is a standout in the classroom, carrying a 4.4 grade point average in a rigorous college-prep course load.

There were seven **Bright Flight Scholars** in the class of 2001. (Achieved scores of 30 or more on the ACT)

Out of 58 seniors in 2001, 31 garnered 114 scholarships worth more than **\$980,000** over four years.

**Three** out of 20 area students honored for the St. Joseph **Cotillion of Achievement** were from LeBlond.

LeBlond athletes won **five district championships** in the 2000-2001 school year. Cross country, girls' track, girls' and boys' basketball, and baseball teams took home district championships.

One LeBlond **vocal soloist** qualified for **state**.

LeBlond's **academic team** has had at least one All-District competitor since the program began in 1992. We also have had two All-State "players" during the same years. In 2001, LeBlond won 1st place at the Pioneer Bowl sponsored by Leavenworth High School. LB student Andy Doran was **All-District** last year.

The **baseball** team won the **2001 district championship**. **Michael Evans** was first team **All-State**, six players were named All-District and five were All-City.

LeBlond's **foreign language** students earn college credit in foreign languages by taking a national exam. Last year four students took the exam and earned a total of **44 college credit hours**.

The 2001 **girls cross country** team took 5th place in State after winning their fourth **district championship**. **Lauren VanVickle** was second in district competition after winning it the prior three years. She **finished 13th in state**. **Gary Black** was the boys' **district individual champion** and finished third in state. Both **Gary** and **Lauren** were named **All-State** runners.

LeBlond's inaugural girls softball team placed three athletes on the **All-City** team: **Erin Coyne, Holly Whetsell and Jennifer Kempf**.

The volleyball team won the **2001 District Championship**. Cassandra Bernard and Ashley Dickens were named All-City. **Cassandra Bernard** earned All-District honors.

The **boys' and girls' track teams** sent several athletes to state competition in 2001. The girls team finished 2nd in state. Five girls placed in individual competition. One first place, two seconds, a third and two sixths. Two **boys** placed, in third and sixth place.

The 2001 soccer team had four players earn **All-City** honors and two named to the **All-District** first team. **Brian Jaynes, Michelle Seufert, Clayton Sanger** and **Tim Seufert** were All-City. **Michelle Seufert** and **Brian Jaynes** were All-District selections.

## Some of the colleges and universities LB graduates currently attend

Benedictine College  
Central Missouri State Univ.  
College of Charleston  
Creighton University  
Drake University  
Kansas State University  
Marquette University  
Missouri Western State College

Northwest Missouri State U.  
Rockhurst University  
St. Mary College/Notre Dame  
Southeastern Louisiana Univ.  
Southwest Missouri State U.  
Truman State University  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
University of Kansas

University of Missouri-Columbia  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
University of Missouri-Rolla  
University of Notre Dame  
Westminster College  
Wichita State University  
William Jewell College

# The view from the Hilltop

The Convent of the Sacred Heart Alumnae Association recently held its annual fall luncheon and meeting with nearly 140 in attendance.

Diane Tracy Slentz '61, development director at Bishop LeBlond, was the featured speaker. Slentz attended the Convent her freshman, sophomore and junior years. Her senior year, 1960-1961, classes were held in the Convent building, but the school had become Bishop LeBlond. The topic of her speech was "The Transition Year." Citing many changes, Slentz stated, "Our senior year, we had no traditions, we had no roots.

Looking back, Slentz said it was a sad time, but the members of the Class of 1961 were also able to be trailblazers, and the Benedictine nuns continued to offer a quality academic and religious education that had been made available to young Catholic women in St. Joseph by the Religious of the Sacred Heart since 1853."

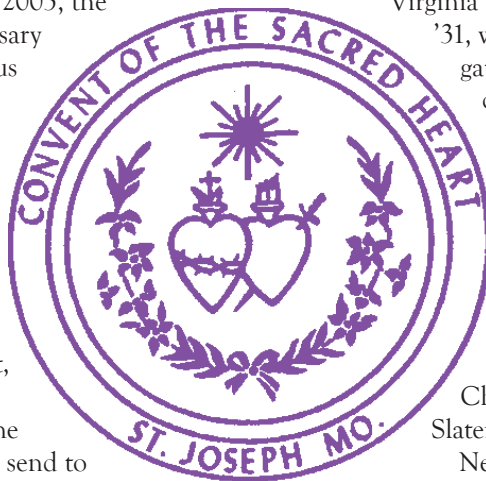
On her first visit to LeBlond last year, Alumnae President Joyce Sherman Comfort, while being impressed with the wall of pictures containing 73 composites of CB graduating classes, was dismayed that there was not a Convent wall of pictures. It was explained that when CB closed, LeBlond was given the 8½ x 11 composites, but none were handed down to from the Convent.

Comfort has taken on the ambitious project of gathering the Convent composites. She is very grateful to all of the donors who have generously scoured attics, basements and scrapbooks, contributing originals and /or copies. Missing years are: all prior to 1921; '22, '25, '26, '27, '28, '30, '57, '58 and '59. Her goal is to complete

the project by 2003, the 150th anniversary of the Religious of the Sacred Hearts' arrival in St. Joseph.

Anyone wishing to donate a composite, please mail to Joyce Comfort, 6503 Indiana Ave., Gladstone MO 64119, or send to Diane Slentz at LeBlond.

A highlight of the luncheon was a donation of an 1895 Convent Highest Honors Gold Medal that was earned by Mary Virginia Hilgert. The medal will be part of the Convent "wall" at LeBlond. It was donated by the recipient's niece,



Virginia Hilgert Voltmer '31, who attended the gathering with her daughter, Marilyn Voltmer Oothout '56. Another mother-daughter attending were Eileen Kneib Nelson '29, and Charlene Nelson Slater '52.

Next year's luncheon will be held on October 19, 2002.

In other Hilltop news, the annual Mass of the Sacred Heart will be on June 2, 2002, 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's, followed by a continental breakfast and an alumnae meeting.

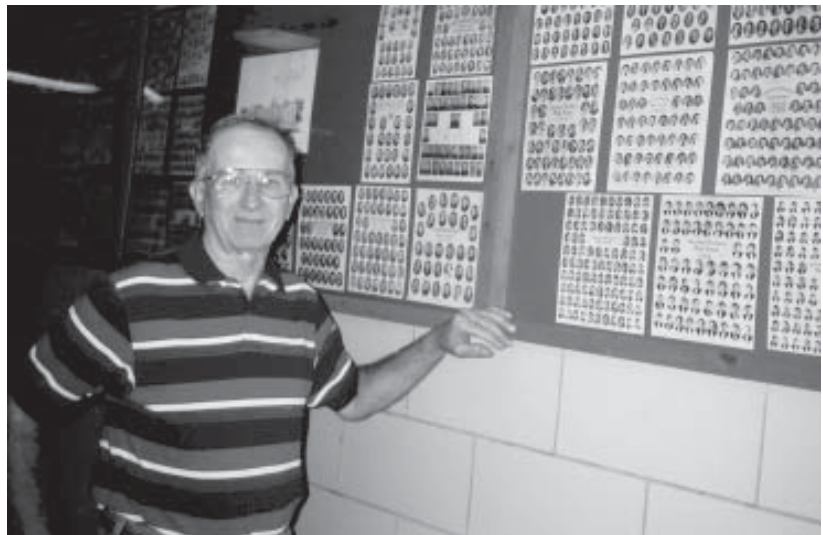


**Convent of the Sacred Heart Alumnae officers, all from the class of 1948: from the left, Joyce Sherman Comfort, president, Donna Lehr Lindgren, recording secretary, Connie Cates Bokay, vice-president; and Roseann Borkowski Muehlbach '46, board member. Not pictured are: Monica Consodine, treasurer, and board members: Virginia White Kneib '44, Winnifred Sharpsteen Nash '43; and Janet Burrowes Schiesl '56.**

# 50th reunion plans taking shape

The Golden Jubilee Class of 1952 is finalizing plans for the 135th Christian Brothers Alumni Banquet, which will be held on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend (May 26, 2002) at the Holiday Inn.

The group is coordinating the weekend with a committee of the 50th year class of the Convent. CB committee members are Norman Clark, Larry Halter, George Haskey, John Schultz, Francis Talbot and Pete Wertin. Hilltop organizers are Pat Farris Fountain, Rosemary Komer Rezac and Charlene Nelson Slater. In addition to the annual banquet, get-togethers are planned on Friday and Saturday evenings, but for 1952 class members only.



Francis Talbot checks out his class, 1952, on the Christian Brothers "wall" at LeBlond.

Everyone is invited to attend the 4:30 Saturday Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, which will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Danaher '52, who also will be the speaker at the Sunday banquet, where Paul Messbarger '52 will serve as master of ceremonies. All alumni of Christian Brothers will be receiving detailed information after the first of the year.

The committee's first priority has been to update classmates addresses. They are still searching for: James Parks, Bobbie Baker Culbert, Frieda Kiefer Schriener, Carol O'Mera Thompson, Kay Libel



Pearcy, Margot  
O'Donoghue Baca,  
Phyllis Dahl, Mary Hines Parks, Rhonda McDonald and Charlotte Salerno. Contact Francis Talbot at [ktalbot@ponyexpress.net](mailto:ktalbot@ponyexpress.net) or 816-253-9819 if you have information about those missing.

## Remembering the good old days

James M. Hart '36 writes that after graduating from Christian Brothers in 1936 he went to Kansas to work in the oil fields. He went on to spend his entire career there with the exception of four years served in the U.S. Army.

"I did about every kind of job ~ working on an oil rig, operating a bulldozer, driving oil field trucks, as well as mechanic work in the shop," he wrote.

He retired from R.C. Williams in Pratt, Kan., in 1983. Since then, he and his wife of 63 years have traveled for several years to numerous places throughout the country as well as to many foreign countries.

On January 20, 2000, while crossing the highway in his pickup truck, his vehicle was struck by a semi-truck. Since then he has been in and out of the hospital on numerous occasions. Recently, he has been staying at home keeping his wife company and enjoying life to the best of his ability.

He and wife Cecilia have five children and numerous grandchildren living in various parts of the United States.

James would enjoy hearing from "anyone who may remember him from the good old days." Write to James at 314 North Ninnescah, Pratt, KS, 67124.

## Eaglets

September 23, 2000

MaryAnn Irene Trapp, daughter of Joe & **Criss Lehman Trapp '87**

October 3, 2000

Emory Elizabeth Swafford, daughter of Michela & **Tim Swafford '85**

October 20, 2000

Alexander Rainier Howard, son of Michael & **Cara Silliman Howard '87**

October 31, 2000

Nicholas James Caulley, son of Rich & **Laura Udelhofen Calley '89**

January 20, 2001

Alexis Jolene Poirier, daughter of Tammy & **Glenn Poirier '86**

January 25, 2001

Carly Frances Howard, daughter of Dave & **Kathleen Doolan Howard '86**

March 12, 2001

Zachary James Todd, son of Tim & **Amy Bullimore Todd '88**

March 27, 2001

Tyler James Dorsey, son of Matt & **Angela Pfleiderer Dorsey '86**

April 5, 2001

Gabriel Alexander Robertson, son of Jill & **Matt Robertson '89**

May 8, 2001

Riley Kathleen Mattox, daughter of Craig & **Tracy Grable Mattox '92**

May 30, 2001

Caroline Elizabeth Fink, daughter of Alex & **Janet Heckman Fink '87**

Jack Michael Sanders, son of **David '80 & Sally Morin Sanders '85**

May 31, 2001

Kalissa Helen Castanedo, daughter of Josh & **Rebecca Zebelean Castanedo '97**

June 2, 2001

Laine Elizabeth Robertson, daughter of Tracy & **J.L. Robertson '81**

June 6, 2001

Bernadine Jane Stevenson, daughter of Sarah Jane & **John Stevenson '87**

July 8, 2001

Hope Elizabeth Euler, daughter of Todd & **Michele Roseberry Euler '90**

July 12, 2001

Aleah Denee Killion, daughter of Christopher & **Denée Marie Poirier Killion '91**

July 31, 2001

Clare Vivian Chambers, daughter of Mindy & **Chris Chambers '87**

September 27, 2001

Miranda Clair Nill, daughter of Chuck & **Sheila Purtek Nill '97**

## Weddings & Anniversaries

February 2001

Anjanette Spence & **Steve Warner '82**

August 2001

John Wahlert & **Maryjean Lawhon '72**

Marilyn & **William T. Hamer '40** celebrated their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

September 2001

Leigh Kiernan & **Susanne Renée Poirer '93**

November 2001

Bernice & **Edward J. Salata '43** celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary November 16, 2001.

## In Loving Memory

**Madeline Hoppe McGarry**, a 1942 graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, died Aug. 25, 2001. Survivors include two sons, David McGarry '72 and Dennis McGarry '74 and a brother, Paul Hoppe '36.

**Raymond L. Roseberry**, a 1943 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, died Nov. 8, 2001. Survivors include daughters Gayle Roseberry Roe '72 and Judy Roseberry Wiedmaier '76.

**Anthony J. Cianciolo**, a 1944 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, died Oct. 18, 2001.

**John J. "Jack" Salanky**, a 1945 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, died Oct. 31, 2001. Survivors include children: Mary Salanky Beattie '68, Kathleen Salanky Watkins '69, John '72, Jim '73, Joe '75, Jeff '77, and Maggie Salanky Marriott '80.

**Michael J. Saulan**, a 1990 Bishop LeBlond graduate, died Oct. 7, 2001 following a lengthy battle with cancer. Survivors include his parents Henry '57 and Patsy '58 Saulan, and sisters Christine Saulan Puckett '83 and Kathleen Saulan '85.

Submit class notes  
information to:  
[kshepherd@  
bishopleblondhs.com](mailto:kshepherd@bishopleblondhs.com)

## Beyond LeBlond

### It's all academic

**David Fox '89** received a master's degree in geography from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May. He is working at Missouri Western State College (MWSC) as an academic advisor.

The following LeBlond graduates recently earned degrees from MWSC.

**Amy Miller '92**, bachelor of arts in English

**Sheree Miller '97**, bachelor of arts in English (public relations)

**Kara Thacker '95**, bachelor of science in elementary education

**Carissa Young '96**, bachelor of science in nursing

**Brooke Rasco '97** graduated magna cum laude from MWSC with a BS degree in history. She also received the James R. Jordan History Honors Award and was named outstanding graduate by her department. She is enrolled in graduate school at Northwest Missouri State University and has an assistantship with the Talent Development Center.

**Anne Baack Irizarry '86** received her master's in elementary education from Baker University in May. She teaches fourth grade at Coleman Elementary School in St. Joseph.

**Jackie Roseberry Kibler '91** received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas and is an assistant professor in the Dept. of Psychology, Sociology and Counseling at Northwest Missouri State University.

**Tiffany Pasley '96** earned a double master's degree in international relations and human resources from the University of

Missouri-Kansas City. She has accepted a position with Arthur Andersen.

Midshipman **Thomas J. (TJ) Bauer '97** graduated cum laude from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y. He received an engine merchant marine license at the ceremony. He was commissioned as a Naval Reserve ensign and awarded a bachelor of science degree in engineering and shipyard management.

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class **Rachel Kovac '00** recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Three alumni from the class of 1997 earned baccalaureate degrees from Benedictine College in May. **Elizabeth Didde** earned a BA degree in accounting; **J.W. Jones**, a BA degree in business administration and **Ellen Fitzpatrick**, a BA in accounting and business administration.

**Lori Swymeler Weber '80** received a master's degree in education from Lindenwood University. She teaches literature at Buerkle Middle School in the Mehlville School District of St. Louis.

**David Grable '97** graduated cum laude in May from Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU). He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology with a minor in history.

**Kristy Grable '97** was named to the dean's list at SMSU for spring 2001. She is majoring in early childhood education.

### Work & Play

**Ben Weddle '70** of Ben Weddle & Associates Photography/Production in Kansas City, Mo., recently completed location photography for both the Wal-Mart and HNTB Architecture annual reports.

**L. Frank Burke '58** retired after 31 years with Burke Awning Company Inc., in Tucson, Ariz. He and wife Marie built a home in Hereford, Ariz. to become full-time caretakers of the "Our Lady of the Sierras" shrine and new retreat center. Their two sons now manage Burke Awning.

**G. Michael Fenner '62**, a professor at the Creighton University School of Law, taught a Supreme Court seminar with Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court.

**Ruthann Harris Gray '83** recently started working at East Buchanan Elementary School in Gower, Mo. as a paraprofessional.

**Brian King '83** of St. Joseph recently joined the staff at Direct Mortgage as a loan consultant. He came to Direct Mortgage from King Appraisal Group where he worked for 10 years.

**Steve Swymeler Jr. '83** ran the Twin Cities Marathon in October. It was his first marathon. Steve lives in Minneapolis and works for Target Corporation in their community relations department.

[www.bishopleblondhs.com](http://www.bishopleblondhs.com)

## Alumni challenged to commit

Throughout our current capital campaign and in previous fundraising efforts, we have heard from some alumni who say "I don't live in St. Joseph, and my children will never go to LeBlond, so why should I give?"

We ask all alumni, be they in St. Joseph, or elsewhere, with children or without, to consider what they have gained from their Catholic high school education in St. Joseph.

Do you ever hear one of the Christian Brothers whispering in your ear, or one of the Benedictine sisters challenging you to "listen with the ear of your heart?" Are some of your best friends today those that you met and cultivated while in high school?

Perhaps you are in a career today that you developed an interest and skill for while at LeBlond. Maybe you met a business associate or partner while you were in high

school. Many in St. Joseph receive special consideration when applying for jobs because they went to LeBlond - we take care of our own.

Did you meet your spouse while in high school? Is there one fact or lesson learned in the classroom that you carry with you today? Do you find yourself quoting your high school teachers as you help your children with homework?

Whether you attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Christian Brothers or Bishop LeBlond, your high school experience is a part of who you are today. In ways you may never observe, you are a product of those high school years.

The challenge, then, is not to think of giving to LeBlond as an investment to reap rewards in the future, though it certainly will do so for the St. Joseph community. Rather, you might consider it as a repayment for an investment made

in you. Tuition payments and fundraisers have never covered the actual costs of education. The true value of a Catholic education cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

We ask, then, that you consider carefully what it is worth to you. How have you benefited from your experience at the Convent, CB or LB?

Finally, we ask all alumni to consider the power of multiplication. If we could get 50 percent of our 4,000 alumni to commit to sending \$20 per month for five years, we would raise \$2.4 million. Finding \$20 per month may mean giving up a dinner out, a night at the movies or a new CD. But for most of us, thanks to our many blessings, finding \$20 per month is not a challenge.

The challenge is in making the commitment.

### "Miracle on 36th Street" update

To date, we have received \$2.4 million in donations and pledges plus the \$2 million from the diocesan "Gift of Faith" campaign. More than 700 donors have given including alumni of Christian Brothers, Convent of the Sacred Heart and Bishop LeBlond, grandparents of students, St. Joseph business and community members, memorials, trusts and present as well as former parents.

We have received 100 percent participation of the LB faculty and Board of Directors. To those who have already pledged or contributed, thank you for your generosity.

Those still considering making a pledge, are encouraged to do so prior to December 31, for your tax deduction advantage.

### Gifts of time, talent valuable

We often hear from alumni and friends of Bishop LeBlond who want to help, but do not have financial resources to do so. Monetary gifts are not the only way alumni and friends can support LB.

Gifts of time, talent and treasure are always welcomed. There are many ways individuals can give to LeBlond.

We are always looking for businesses and organizations in St. Joseph offering job opportunities for our students and graduates. Students also are seeking volunteer and service opportunities.

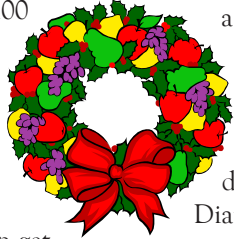
We also encourage alumni and friends of LB to participate in the life of the school by volunteering to assist with events and activities at the school. Many of our classes welcome speakers who can discuss their career or life experiences as relevant to specific subject matter. For instance, a World War II or Vietnam War veteran could address an American history course, an accountant could discuss modern accounting practices, etc.

The opportunities are limited only by the imagination of our alumni and friends. Please call us at 816-279-1629 if you would like to help.

**Gifts to LeBlond are tax deductible**

## Holiday Tournament Ads Available

Join the more than 100 families who place ads in the Holiday Basketball Tournament Book. It's a great way to support LB, and a great way to advertise.



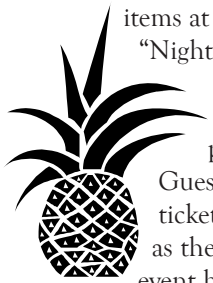
a quarter page ad. It's \$50 for a half-page ad and \$100 for a full page. You can submit your ad camera ready, or we can design one for you. Call Diane Slentz at 279-1629.

For only \$25, you can get

## Carnival 2001

The 30th annual Bishop LeBlond carnival netted \$17,875 which is a slight increase from the 2000 carnival. The PTO food booth brought in \$6,400 in cash and ticket money. Special thanks go to Anthony '72 and Melissa Zawodny, PTO presidents and to Bob and Debbie Sanger for their leadership.

## Barn Party Goes Hawaiian Style



One of the popular items at LeBlond's annual "Night of Golden Stars" dinner and auction is the party board. Guests can purchase tickets to parties such as the \$100 per couple event held at the "barn" of Steve '58 and Patty '59 Culver. This year's party was a luau theme complete with Hawaiian decor and a roasted pig. More than 200 attended the event and danced to music by Jesse Barbosa '63 and Friends. The Barn Party netted \$12,220.

## Join the 2002 Calendar Club

Purchase an LB Calendar for \$30 and you have a 1 in 3.765 chance of winning your money back. There is a \$30 drawing each weekday, two \$50 drawings each Saturday, a \$100 drawing each Sunday, a \$250 drawing on December 25 and eight \$500 drawings during football homecoming week in the fall.

You can win more than once and it's a great way to support LeBlond.

Call (816) 279-1629 to order a calendar, today. They make great Christmas gifts ~ the gift that keeps on giving.

## Holiday shop with Schoolpop, LeBlond gets a gift, too

It's the gift that keeps on giving. Earn "double credit" with your holiday shopping. LeBlond has registered with Schoolpop, an innovative program that helps schools across the country raise money.

The Schoolpop concept is an easy one. Simply register with Schoolpop and when you shop at any of the more than 300 stores, catalogs and online merchants, a percentage of each purchase is

given to the school you choose.

Go to [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) to register LeBlond as your school and LB receives money for each purchase. Shop at merchants such as [gap.com](http://gap.com), [Barnes&Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com), Eddie Bauer stores, Sharper Image catalogs and more.

To date, schoolpop has given back \$3,929,706 to schools for classroom supplies, computers, books and more.

## St. Joe Mailboxes Inc. to donate \$1 per parcel shipped in December

Mailboxes, Inc., 3609 Faraon, St. Joseph, 279-6245, is donating \$1 toward the Bishop LeBlond Capital Campaign for every parcel shipped by them through UPS or FedEx during the month of December. Mailboxes Inc. is operated by LeBlond alumna Whitney Henton '95.

**2002 Night of Golden Stars  
April 20, 2002**

**Civic Arena**

**Contact Diane Slentz '61**

**816-279-1629 or**

**[dslentz@bishopleblondhs.com](mailto:dslentz@bishopleblondhs.com)  
for tickets, or to donate items.**

Etc.

(from front cover)

important parts of life. "It allowed me to realize that I've benefited from so much help along the way and that I need to give back. We need to take stock of what's truly important - family, friends and faith."

She drove to St. Louis and on to St. Joseph the week after the terrorist attacks. "I found that as I drove west toward St. Joseph that the energy from the attacks diminished," she said. "It is not as real the farther you get from New York."

Her nerves were still a bit raw as evidenced when she overreacted to tornado sirens sounding in St. Joseph during her visit.

Upon returning to her home

in Salem, Mass., she wrote a check to Bishop LeBlond's capital campaign as part of her plan to "pay back" some of her life's good fortunes. "I've been very fortunate," she said. "I have a wonderful family and friends and these events convinced me not to take that for granted."

*Editor's Note: This story is an exclusive to the Eagle Echo. Stacey Simpson has not been interviewed by any other media regarding her experiences Sept. 11, and wishes not to sensationalize her story.*

**The faculty, staff and students of Bishop LeBlond High School wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2002!**

### Alumni Update

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First)

(Maiden)

(Last)

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Check if new:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

News for **Eagle Echo**:  **Wedding**  **Birth**  **Class notes**  **In memory of**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Bishop LeBlond High School, Kerry N. Shepherd '82, Alumni Director, 3529 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506-2999 or kshepherd@bishopleblondhs.com

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