HELLO:
HAPPENINGS AT BASIL...
DEAR BASIL FAMILY,

In October 2015, I attended my first Pennsylvania Women’s Conference in Philadelphia. What a wonderous experience to be surrounded by so many successful women who came together to share their wisdom on feminine leadership. Professional soccer player Carli Lloyd, chef, author and media personality star Rachael Ray, Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, actress and entrepreneur Jessica Alba, and writer and women’s activist Gloria Steinem discussed topics such as the science and art of negotiating, and the courage to think innovatively and creatively. Collectively, these women identified how change stems from an awareness of how the times we live in necessitate new approaches and new solutions to old challenges. They believe that left to women, the world would thrive. On October 12, I attended the PA Women’s Conference again this year, accompanied by 11 wonderfully talented seniors who are just beginning to make a mark on their community.

In our efforts to mesh the Basilian tradition of spirited, young leaders with the demands of a global and technical society, this year SBA began offering courses that would engage young leaders in real-world scenarios. The Women Leadership Seminar, Applied Math in Physics, and Personal Finance courses offer students the opportunity to bring real-world perspectives to their classwork. Through this new approach, SBA is empowering its young women to be the spark of the 21st century, honing their creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills, and in doing so, ensuring that its students “leave things better than they found them.” We have connected with alumnae who are most eager to create networking and job shadowing experiences for our students because as leaders themselves, they understand the necessity for young women to expand their experience and knowledge beyond the classroom.

This issue of The Basilian Legacy highlights the many women, including students, faculty, alumnae, and coaches, who through their entrepreneurial spirit and drive are equipped to address the changing needs and demands of the world. With this success, though, they bring a willingness to give back, and to share their many talents with the SBA community.

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of these Basil women, remembering that as poet Marquesha Babers’ inspired us in her poem That Girl, that these women, through the God-given power within themselves, are strong enough to carry the world on their backs and fierce enough to be great. Your continued support of the Basil community ensures that we remain steadfast in inspiring young women to be the leaders of tomorrow!

With peace and joy,

CONNIE D’ANGELO
Principal
DEAR SAINT BASIL ACADEMY ALUMNAE,

In their 2014 book, *The Confidence Code*, authors Katty Kay and Claire Shipman explore an alarming truth: there is crisis of confidence among women. While, they concede, women control more than 80 percent of spending in the United States, comprise half the workforce, and are closing the gap in middle management, their research shows that too often, women’s self-assurance is lacking. Kay and Shipman argue that the effects of this confidence crisis can be devastating. A frightening amount of women, they found, don’t consider themselves ready for promotions, predict they’ll do worse on tests, and tell researchers that they just don’t feel as confident in their jobs.

The findings of Kay and Shipman lingered in my mind. As I entered my sixth year working at Saint Basil Academy, the concern resonated. The raw data was unarguably true; I had at times, experienced many of the same challenges in my own career. I looked at the students around me and couldn’t help but feel the outlook was disheartening. And yet…

As I began in my new position as Director of Alumnae Relations, I began meeting women who have graduated from Saint Basil Academy. I met business owners and heads of corporations. I met lawyers and healthcare workers whose passion was palpable. I met teachers who spoke fondly of their own education, crediting those who taught them to leave things better than they found them for their own desire to change the lives of young people. I met students whose drive to learn was germinated in the classrooms at Saint Basil, and those whose faith was nurtured by the Sisters. I met mothers, whose love and sacrifices have paved the way for future generations, some of whom are preparing to step into our hallways as students in the coming years. These were not women in crisis.
I’m not sure where each woman’s confidence stems from. For some, the trail was blazed the first time they stepped onto the stage in the school musical, after countless hours of rehearsal. For others, it was cultivated on the courts and the fields, along with a drive to succeed and a deep appreciation for teamwork. Still others became pioneers in the classrooms, and continued to break ground as they continued to question, research, and succeed in their colleges and universities. Regardless of where it stemmed from, the women from Saint Basil Academy exuded confidence, and that gives me hope.

As the Director of Alumnae Relations, it is my job to continue to support our alumnae and provide opportunities for that confidence to grow and build. Our exciting new programs, like the Basil Business Alliance, aim to create spaces where women can network and develop in their careers. Our first panel discussion, *Five Exceptionally Powerful Ways Women Succeed at Work*, fostered discussion about the importance of getting a seat at the table. I also hope to connect you, the inspiring women of today, with tomorrow’s leaders through mentor programs with our current students.

We cannot tackle the confidence crisis alone. We need you, the women of Saint Basil Academy. You may notice the words on the cover of this magazine. They are the values and attributes that were cultivated during your time here, according to the responses of our alumnae survey. Please consider supporting us in any way, and helping us to continue to create an environment that nurtures strong, passionate women. Share our mission with those around you and on social media, join us and tell your story to current students, and, if you can, participate in our 2018-2019 Annual Appeal. By supporting Saint Basil Academy, you light the way for a new generation of confident, compassionate leaders.

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Basil Academy.

EMILY DOMINESKE
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WHEN ASKED TO DEFINE THE MISSION AT SAINT BASIL ACADEMY, ONE MIGHT LOOK TO THE OBVIOUS, TO EDUCATE. THAT WOULD BE CORRECT, BUT THE MISSION IS CLEARLY DEFINED AND TARGETED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TODAY’S SOCIETY. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, TECHNOLOGY CHANGES CONSTANTLY. THOSE TECHNOCICAL ADVANCES IMPACT EVERY FACET OF EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND CORPORATE AMERICA. THOSE ADVANCES DIRECT US TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE MISSION AT SBA. THAT MISSION IS TO BUILD THE MINDS OF LEADERS THROUGH SERVICE AND COMPASSION.

THIS YEAR THE CURRICULUM AT SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IS ENHANCED WITH THE ADDITION OF BUSINESS EDUCATION COURSES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO EQUIP STUDENTS WITH SKILLS THEY CAN APPLY IN REAL WORLD SCENARIOS.

Personal Finance teaches best practices on how to be financially smart and independent. The course is taught by Anatoli Murha, Business Development and Marketing Manager at the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (UKRFCU). Mr. Murha enjoys engaging students in conversation about their needs in order to empower their financial education. He holds a BA in Corporate Communications & Public Relations from the University of Michigan and an MBA in Strategic Management from the Villanova School of Business at Villanova University.
The concept of “Why Money Matters” will be covered through lectures and insightful guest speakers who provide real life advice based on professional experience that will guide students in making better financial decisions. Topics will include making personal finance decisions, saving money, budgeting, banking, credit vs. debit, taxes, insurance, types of financial institutions, retirement, investing, repaying student loans, home/mortgages and cyber security. From his expertise, Mr. Murha is aware that everyone will face numerous financial decisions in every stage of life and that knowing the options, will facilitate wiser decisions.

The Women’s Leadership Seminar/Introduction to Business course, team-taught by Mrs. Connie D’Angelo and Ms. Emily Domineske, focuses on understanding the contemporary opportunities and challenges surrounding women in business, building basic business and leadership skills, and discussing the ways in which young women can create leadership opportunities in their lives. SBA students will meet women across many industries and hear their stories of success. The purpose of this seminar is to provoke discussion surrounding a business topic, as well as to introduce, practice, and implement real-world business skills in order to prepare for college and beyond. The course also examines the facets of the business world, including management, finance, marketing and human resources. Students will be presented with real world situations and apply their knowledge to find plausible solutions.

The course includes reading and discussing the political, economic, social, and cultural history of feminism and restrictions placed on women in antiquity. It examines the ways women have influenced society for the common good. Components of the curriculum will include independent research and community outreach. Students will earn credit in a professional, off-site work setting as part of a mentoring/job shadowing experience. Students will learn through classroom and online instruction, independent research, team projects, and job shadowing. Guest speakers from different industries will bring real-world perspectives on the following topics: teamwork, leadership, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, management, corporate social responsibility, and branding.

In addition to the classroom curriculum, students in the Women’s Leadership class will attend the Pennsylvania Conference for Women. Over 100 speakers, including Amal Clooney and Serena Williams, will be featured. Students will join women from around the area as they attend breakout sessions designed to offer inspiration, motivation, personal development and community.

These new courses are strengthening the skillset of our future female leaders so that they may make contributions to society and improve the world. We are most confident these SBA students will honor that commitment with the same compassion that carried them through their time at the Academy.
BASIL STUDENTS STAND OUT AT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Basil students look to excel in areas of leadership because they want to make SBA and the world better places for others. When students Grace Comas and Caitlin Ponert were selected to attend the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference as ambassadors this past summer, they knew their perspectives were about to change.

The mission of HOBY is to inspire and develop the global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Students like Grace and Caitlin attended the three to four day conference to develop leadership skills. They engaged in workshops, activities and discussions. Both students were inspired to lead and serve. Caitlin is prepared to implement the leadership skills she learned into volunteering. She also has a few ideas to share with Basil students this year! Although Grace was excited to attend, she was not prepared for the future effect of the conference. Through sessions with keynote speakers and leadership workshops it became clear that to be a leader is to listen to those around you, to do what is right regardless of the challenges, and to compromise. Grace summed it all up by saying, “HOBY changed me from being a leader occasionally, to a leader always.”

Basil students Mikhala Frankunas and Teressa (Tess) White returned to HOBY this past summer as volunteers. They had attended as ambassadors in the summer of 2017 where they learned that to be outstanding is to “stand out”. Mikhala and Tess had the opportunity to share that message with the current ambassadors as they facilitated student groups on their own leadership journey. Both agree they gained a new perspective and were rewarded by this chance to give back to the HOBY community in order to contribute to the change they wish to see in the world.

Grace Comas also attended Boston University’s New England Center for Investigative Reporting Program. After the application process, Grace was excited to learn she was selected to spend two weeks as a student reporter.

The NECIR program provided Grace the opportunities to report local Boston events and act as a real-life reporter. Each day she took a basic journalism class and then spent time in a newsroom to discuss upcoming stories. Through this program she was able to meet Senator Elizabeth Warren and Boston Globe Spotlight investigative journalist, Sacha Pfeiffer.

After sitting in on a Massachusetts town hall meeting in July, Grace found herself at the front of the press line interviewing Elizabeth Warren about the GDP Growth and her plan for the upcoming election. “Whether I was reporting on an Immigration protest at the Massachusetts State House or reporting the Red Sox vs Phillies Game and sending out inning updates on Twitter, I appreciated every minute,” Grace said. The Boston University NECIR Program gave her the skills to tell other people’s stories and shine light on those who can’t speak. Grace believes she can be a leader through her writing with these investigative reporting and journalism skills.

These Basil students have enhanced their foundation to lead and to serve with compassion from the skill set they gained from summer workshops. SBA looks forward to them sharing and implementing what they have learned with the school community this year.
SBA FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SAINT BASIL ACADEMY FACULTY PURSUED A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS THIS PAST SUMMER. THEY ARE EXCITED TO EXPLORE NEW RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THEIR STUDENTS’ LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM.

• JASON ZEGESTOWSKY attended an Advanced Placement Summer Institute for AP Calculus at La Salle University.
• JEAN CASTELLANO attended a workshop at the Gilder Lehrman Institute at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland on Thomas Jefferson and the Enlightenment. She also attended a seminar at the Freedoms Foundation on Entrepreneurs & American History in Valley Forge.
• JENNA VIOLI attended the Bearing Witness Program at the Daylesford Abbey, which is a symposium about the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism.
• TOM MEANY attended classes for extended training in Microsoft Surface Pro at the Microsoft Store in King of Prussia.
• KIM FINA attended the NCEA New Directions Assessment Conference, workshop at the Freedoms Foundation, Building the Nation: Entrepreneurs and American History, and AP US Government APSI at MCIU.
• JEN CLEMENTE attended the NCEA New Directions Assessment Conference, Enhancing Instruction with Technology workshop, Classroom Communication workshop, and Creating a Culture of Respect and Rapport.
• THERESA HARTEY took a summer course entitled “Real-World Applications for Algebra” which discussed the adaptation of traditional algebra lessons to incorporate modeling and project-based learning, how students come to develop problem-solving skills and designing authentic modeling tasks/lessons that foster critical thinking skills.
• LINDA SMITH viewed various webinars sponsored by Hobson’s Naviance and the College Board on college admissions topics including admissions, legal and ethical issues, and the use of testing data to guide instruction and counselor’s best practices for academic success. Linda also reviewed “Belonging and Becoming – The Power of Social and Emotional Learning in High Schools.”
• MARK MYKYTIUCH attended a physics course focused on the integration of hands-on learning through lab components. The course focused on using Interactive Learning Demonstrations and programs such as Active Physics, Workshop Physics, Vernier Video Analysis to help students observe the phenomena of physics.

Confidence Conference

Last year, Saint Basil Academy introduced its first Confidence Conference and Shadow Visit for seventh grade students who scored in the top 10% on the high school practice exam. Besides meeting with student leaders throughout our school community, these seventh-grade students attended a seminar hosted by SBA alumna, Barbara Mooney ’83. The conference focused on finding one’s voice, maintaining a positive perspective, and what it means to be a confident, self-aware young woman in today’s society. The origination of the Confidence Conference coincides with the Women’s Leadership Seminar, which began this year. The seminar examines women in leadership and the ways that women have positively influenced society. Seminar students will mentor and job-shadow in a specific industry, and be exposed to professional skill-building, interviewing and networking opportunities with SBA alumnae.

By providing these young women with the Confidence Conference and the Women’s Leadership Seminar, Saint Basil Academy is aligning itself as the premier academy for young women’s leadership training.
MAKING SCIENCE RELEVANT FOR STUDENTS

What studies are relevant for a student’s future in science? That is the question that comes up frequently for students in class. Students are not motivated to learn anything new if they don’t recognize it as relevant to their lives. This is the framework for defining a new direction at Saint Basil Academy.

Saint Basil Academy is forming future women leaders in science by providing a solid science curriculum taught by faculty with industry expertise in the field of science, as well as experience in business.

The notion of relevance paired with industry experience is how Applied Mathematics in Physics, or AMP, at Saint Basil Academy has come to fruition. Students are surprised that they need to use their math skills in science. “It’s really another case of relevance. Understanding math is critical to being able to solve problems in science. In AMP, a student learns math through scientific study, so it becomes instantly relevant, because it is part of the students’ understanding of the world,” so explains Mr. Daniel Cipolla, who will be teaching AMP this year at SBA. Mr. Cipolla held several engineering positions at PECO and then used his engineering knowledge in the business world at KEMA-Powertest, Inc. For the last eighteen years, Mr. Cipolla has been teaching Advanced Placement Physics as well as other science courses at La Salle College High School and has also taught physics at La Salle University. In teaching material that is relevant to students, he provides them with empowering information.

Another faculty member that is bringing real world experience to the classroom is Mr. Daniel DiMarcella. Mr. DiMarcella comes to SBA with a background in the pharmaceutical and clean air industry for Dimensional Pharmaceuticals. Following his experience in industry he pursued a career in education as his true passion. Mr. DiMarcella will apply that knowledge while teaching chemistry and Algebra I.

Ms. Amelia May, SBA Class of 2014, will be teaching Environmental Science. Ms. May graduated with a B.S. in Marine Biology and a physics minor from the University of Rhode Island. Ms. May brings with her research experience, authoring of articles in the Journal of Chemical Ecology, a scuba dive master and sailing instructor certification.

Over 15 years of experience as a senior scientist and as an environmental consultant, Ms. Dana McLaughlin will be teaching AP Biology. Ms. McLaughlin earned a B.S. in Environmental Science with a concentration in biology from Philadelphia University. She also served as a laboratory teaching assistant for undergraduate students.

With our science curriculum and faculty, SBA is providing the resources for what is relevant for a student’s future in science. Our students will get an understanding of real-world practice with science and math and decide how they want to incorporate that knowledge into their own career path.
SBA RECEIVES TRANSFORMATIVE GRANT FROM THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PHILADELPHIA FOR STEM

As the only Ukrainian Catholic high school in Philadelphia, Saint Basil Academy looked to the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia Transformative Grant as an opportunity to expand our STEM curriculum and in turn, promote the school's academic excellence based in Ukrainian heritage and values.

Saint Basil Academy gratefully received a $5000 transformative grant from the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia. The funds will be used to organize a Robotics Club for competition this year. The Robotics Club, in conjunction with the SBA Science department is incorporating more technology into the science classrooms and developing more modern lab spaces with interfaces and sensors.

There are many opportunities that STEM education offers to the Academy. It brings recognition that a college preparatory high school steeped in Ukrainian traditions and Basilian spirituality pursues academic excellence of its young women through 21st century science programs.

The education at Saint Basil Academy is centered on the mission and values of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great and their commitment to fostering the Eastern Catholic Church with its Basilian tradition from Saint Basil and Saint Macrina.

SBA ALUMNA APPLIES SCIENCE TO “LEAVE THINGS BETTER THAN SHE FOUND THEM”

An important lesson that continues to influence SBA Alumna Bridget Sweeney Blakely in her personal and professional development is the constant reminder from her high school days, to “leave things better than you found them.” Whether it is through research or practice, Bridget always embarks on a project in a school, with a student, or elsewhere to leave things better than she found them. “It is a reminder that I am part of a community, and I want to see that community grow. Hopefully, I can be a part of the community’s growth, specifically in the fields of education and behavior analysis.”

Bridget Sweeney Blakely ‘99, is Assistant Clinical Professor at Drexel University in the School of Education, teaching Applied Behavior Analysis. Her own practice is focused on systems-level changes in school districts. Bridget is a nationally certified school psychologist, as well as a board-certified Behavior Analyst. She has blended this training together to offer support to schools that have been identified as struggling or failing. Bridget has worked as a consultant to local school districts supporting their implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). These frameworks are used by schools to identify students at risk for school failure due to academic or behavioral challenges. Through the full implementation of these systems, schools are able to both identify and intervene to support struggling students before it is too late.

Bridget conducts her own research surrounding these frameworks and has done research on different screening tools that can be used to identify students struggling with grade level reading comprehension, as well as learning growth rates associated with different characteristics of students.

She has evaluated different classroom management strategies that can be used to facilitate an enriching learning environment for all students. In addition, she has the opportunity to conduct research with her students focusing on self-management strategies as well as ways to improve consultation interactions.

Bridget looks back to Saint Basil Academy for providing her the foundation to constantly improve and achieve. Her teachers, counselors, and coaches always encouraged her to strive for more and provided support throughout those endeavors. With gratitude, Bridget says, “I have benefited immeasurably, and I hope to continue the goal of SBA to leave things better than I found them. SBA has definitely achieved that goal with me!”
BASIL GLOBALLY

SBA FACULTY INSTILL GLOBAL MINDEDNESS

The concept of global mindedness comes from the thought of exploring new ideas and perspectives, as well as humility to learn and willingness to work with people around the globe. One of the goals of Saint Basil Academy is to create that globally minded student. The cultural experiences that some of our faculty bring to SBA students are the foundation for building globally minded leaders.

Janet Iafrate, who returns to SBA this year in the English department, received her MA at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in Northern England. Ms. Iafrate tells us, “Traveling to other places should do more for us than provide great Instagram posts.” Being abroad reminds her that the world is not solely her house, job, and social life in Philadelphia. “Being outside of the country, even if you speak the language, means that you are always on your toes, always more than present in the moment, always vividly aware of the variety of cultures, customs – really, of human beings – that occupy our planet.” She says that these are moments that create growth, change and transition which in turn help an individual to gain a better understanding of oneself.

Nathalie Wille joins the faculty this year to teach French and Spanish. Nathalie brings multicultural and linguistic exposure that she was able to experience firsthand. Ms. Wille has lived in Madrid, Norway, and Geneva, Switzerland. She has three mother tongues (English, Norwegian, and French), has attended school in Switzerland and France and has a degree from the Glion Institute of Higher Education. In addition, Ms. Wille has lived in the U.K. and traveled quite a bit. Her students will benefit from her belief that studying a foreign language is an expression of openness to the world beyond one’s doorstep. “It is an indirect recognition of that which is different and unfamiliar; a vehicle of communication with the global community which, despite the appearances, grows interconnected and interdependent every day.”

Ms. Wille looks forward to sharing her international background with her students to help them not only to speak other languages but also to develop a sense of curiosity about their world and its wonderfully diversified peoples.

SBA History teacher, Mrs. Jean Castellano, adds to the global minded perspective from her summer travel this year. Mrs. Castellano attended a workshop at GLI Institute at the University of Edinburgh. She said it was an amazing opportunity to study Thomas Jefferson and the Enlightenment. “As a history teacher it was beneficial to study the Scottish Enlightenment and how it influenced the American founders.”

Mrs. Castellano also chaperoned one of two groups of SBA students to Costa Rica with Travel for Teens. SBA has been working with Travel for Teens for many years. It is a program designed to offer authentic travel with hands-on experiences to inspire and teach teens to be astute travelers. Their trips spark a love for travel, hunger for learning, and an appreciation of different cultures. She said it was a great experience for students and chaperones, giving insight to Costa Rica’s beautiful geography as well as the culture of Pura Vida, the pure life. It provided the opportunity for students to step out of their comfort zones through community service and other activities.

OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL ABROAD HELP MRS. CASTELLANO IN THE CLASSROOM BY PROVIDING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES AND CONNECTIONS. “A GOAL IS THAT I CAN BRING THESE EXPERIENCES BACK TO THE CLASSROOM AND MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO ALSO BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GLOBALLY MINDED AND HOW IT CAN SHAPE YOUR WORLDVIEW.”

Mrs. Jackie Kazimir brings her own global experiences to her history classes. As a French minor in college, she had always wanted to study abroad. After graduation, she received her teaching certification in Social Studies, and decided to go live in France. The thought was daunting, but in the end so rewarding in learning more about herself and gaining self-confidence.

As an English Language Assistant for the French government’s Ministry of Education, Mrs. Kazimir worked at Lycée Montesquieu, a magnet high school in the center of Le Mans, France. She traveled to English classes in the school to take over each class once a week, teaching lessons on conversation and grammar skills, literature, and American culture and history.
SERVICE IMMERSION IN COSTA RICA

SBA students kicked off the summer with a service-based trip to Costa Rica run by Travel for Teens (TFT). Grace Comas was one student on the trip to experience the culture, embrace the lifestyle, but also to share her talents and provide service. From riding waves in the North Pacific Ocean to riding the bus to Playa Lagarto, they tackled every day with a positive attitude.

In Playa Lagarto, students cleaned up a local beach and provided a path for the turtles. To add color to the beach, signs and rocks were painted. By picking up plastic and sweeping up weeds and dirt, SBA transformed Playa Lagarto into a home for turtles and travelers.

Along with their service at Playa Lagarto, the students worked with animals at Proyecto Asis Animal Rescue Center. They cleaned cages, fed animals, and learned the importance of the jungle.

Grace sums up the total experience, “These two service projects allowed students, teachers, and TFT counselors to experience the beautiful country of Costa Rica through the eyes of locals. Just as we will always remember Costa Rica, SBA left our mark through service.”

SBA ALUMNAE SHARE STUDY ABROAD INSIGHTS

Erin Breen ’15
South Africa
“Media & Cultural Studies,” Saint Joseph’s University

“I chose to study abroad because I knew it was going to be different. I didn’t want to go somewhere and take a class I could take in the US and then go see what every other American college student sees. I wanted to be challenged, empowered, and stretched by the experience. My favorite part of being there was that such a focus was placed on paying attention and being present. Meals would last hours with everyone chatting and just being present. The whole time I felt uncomfortable, unfamiliar, and challenged – but in the best way possible.”

Shae-Lynn Blizzard ’15
France
“Summer in Paris Program,” New York University

“At first, I thought living in Paris would be similar to living in New York City: fast-paced, loud, and gritty. However, I quickly realized the French culture is very different. Parisians value their leisure time, taking a meal or coffee “to go” is completely taboo, and no one ever seems to be in a rush to get anywhere. Paris really is the opposite of New York!”

Kiera Peters, ’16
England
Health Practice & Policy, City University of London

“Living in another country and traveling throughout Europe presented me with the opportunity to learn new things about the world. Being able to live in London for the whole semester showed me a new aspect of life and opened the door to many opportunities in the future.”

Marta Penkalskyj ’16
Ukraine
History Major, Ukrainian Catholic University

“I value my Ukrainian roots enormously. The culture and tradition captivate me, and my ancestors’ stories motivate me to contribute to the country’s progress. I firmly believe that studying abroad will help me gain a broader outlook on world affairs, and will allow me to see, and understand, the world at a somewhat different angle than before.”
Women’s Leadership Mentors on the Track

Saint Basil Academy does not limit the scope of women leaders to the classroom. SBA students are mentored on the field, as well. Last year, SBA track and field coaches and team members all played pivotal roles in a very successful year of competition. One of the coaches making a positive impact on students is Teri Bizzle. Teri has been involved with the sport not only as a coach but a former runner since the age of 12 through college. “Track and field is my passion.” Teri’s late father, Sydney J. Russel Jr., started and coached the Mount Airy Track Club in 1975 until his passing in 1988. Teri would watch him come to practice sick every day, and his passing has been the key factor in her passion for the sport. A few parents took over the team until Teri moved back to Philadelphia in 1992.

Since 1992, she had been the head coach, assisted by co-coaches. They have coached many All American’s and AAU National Youth Champions over the years including the world record holder in the 13-14 year old girls 4x800 relay. Teri believes that coaching youth athletes gives an opportunity to those who otherwise wouldn’t have a chance to excel in the sport, something positive in which to be involved.

SBA Head Coach Lloyd Sharpe approached Teri to come to coach at SBA. Although hesitant at first, she says it has been a great experience. Considered to be the dynamic duo, Coach Lloyd and Teri have been coaching together at two other high schools as well as the Mount Airy Track Club for many years.

Teri is a firm believer that the track program not only is an activity to run, jump and throw. “SBA track and field builds friendships, teamwork, mental and physical toughness, strength, encourages hard work, competitiveness and definitely helps athletic students understand that their schoolwork is the priority. We are building strong female champions in the classroom and on the track field!”

Team Work Ethic Leads to Success

The 2017 soccer team captured the title of District 1 Champion. They advanced to the state finals held in Hershey, PA where they lost a heartbreaker to Mercyhurst Academy 1-0. It was the first time in school history that a soccer team played in the State Championship game.

Student athletes look to mentors as examples of leadership and inspiration. Those mentors create a vision for how students can lead and inspire others, as well as be a good role model. Brooke Shissler ’18 was goalie for the soccer team, as well as captain in her junior and senior years at SBA. She believed that Saint Basil Academy was full of leadership opportunities, and she wanted to take full advantage of those offered to her. When Brooke was a freshman trying out for the team, she was inspired by a senior player who took the time to encourage and support a struggling new player. That is when Brooke decided she wanted to be just like that senior and be the best leader for her team.

Brooke knew that success of the team depended on each player knowing how valuable they were to the team. “We all worked and played hard for each other and our school, and I really believe that is why we had such tremendous success in my senior year making it to the state finals.”

Earning the role of captain her junior and senior years meant that her teammates and coaches saw her as the leader. Brooke learned to be confident and believe in herself because others looked to her for guidance. During challenging times, she was a positive influence for the team.

“Every day I am growing and learning something new about myself. I wouldn’t be who I am today without the opportunities given to me and the people I have come to love and appreciate while at SBA. I am so very grateful to all of them.” Brooke has traded in her SBA goalie gloves for new ones as the starting goalkeeper on the women’s soccer team at Immaculata University.

Tia Taylor

The track and field team had a successful season last spring, capturing 1st place in the Catholic Academy League and finishing 2nd in the District 1 Championships. Tia Taylor won the title of State Champion by winning a gold medal in the 100m hurdles. We asked Tia what makes her successful on the field. “Basils has taught me to manage my time and my ability to do things very well between homework and tests.” Tia believes it is hard work but staying on track with schoolwork and giving 100% at practice is important. Preparing before the season begins, staying in shape during the season and keeping up with academics helps Tia stay focused. “I worked hard every day and with the help of Coach Teri, Coach Lloyd, and my fellow teammates, I was able to accomplish my goals.”
2018 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Maureen (Murphy) Brophy, 1992
Melissa (Bates) Razler, 1996
Jessica Posimo, 2006
Melissa (Vassalotti) Twist, 2007
Jacqueline Thompson, 2011
Laura Kuhlmeier, 2012

2006 State Championship Cross Country Team
Rachel Morelli, 2008; Katie Barrett, 2008; Elizabeth Barrett, 2010;
Kathleen Davies, 2007; Christina Morelli, 2007; Rachel Mack, 2009;
Emily McCrea, 2008; Colleen Gilmore, 2009

Coaches Greg Green and Mary (Crossin) Esposito ’01
Coach Steve Sonneborn, Softball

BASIL COMMUNITY RAISES FUNDS FOR NEW PANTHER MASCOT

After looking through the yearbooks and realizing our Panther had reached her twenties, we knew it was time for an upgrade. Finding that vibrant shade of royal blue was no easy feat, but eventually we found the perfect match complete with a pair of white and gold saddles. The only question that remained was who would fund this purchase?

Luckily, we have an awesome faculty and staff who teamed up in January with the Wet Whistle in the Abington Club to host “The Panther Pour”, a celebrity bartending event. With the Eagles beating the Falcons in the playoffs, faculty, staff, alumnae, and parents celebrated the evening and raised over $1100 towards our new panther mascot. It was a great event for our community and we look forward to having another this year.

NEW INDOOR SCOREBOARD

Saint Basil Academy is grateful for the installation of our new scoreboard in the gym! Many thanks to the Ems family (State Farm Insurance) and the Jones family (Paddy Whacks Irish Sports Pub) for helping to make this happen.
SAINT BASIL ACADEMY’S 2018 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES WERE HELD ON JUNE 2. MRS. CONNIE D’ANGELO, PRINCIPAL, WELCOMED THE SBA COMMUNITY WITH INSPIRING WORDS FOR THE GRADUATES, “THE TYPE OF LIFE YOU CHOOSE TO LEAD AND THE WORLD YOU MAKE FOR YOURSELF ARE ROOTED IN THE VALUES YOU HAVE LEARNED. I HOPE THAT THE PAST FOUR YEARS AT SBA HAVE HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON YOUR WORLD VIEW AND THAT THE FRIENDSHIPS YOU HAVE GAINED WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN AFFECTING THE CHANGE IN YOUR LIVES. LET CHARACTER, COURAGE, PURPOSE AND FAITH BE THE KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL AND FULFILLING LIFE.”

Mary Campion, Valedictorian, and Madeline McCrea, Salutatorian, addressed the Administration, faculty, Board of Advisors and family members with their own memories of SBA and the excitement they have for what lies ahead. Mary reflected on the idea of transition. “Transitions in life are often difficult, rarely fun and usually a lot work. We are tasked with a choice: settle in complacency or grow and learn. SBA has instilled in each of us the desire to continue to learn, to share what we know with the world, to ask questions and constantly push limits.” With fond memories of SBA, Madeline reminded her classmates, “With our celebration, there is also a need for gratitude. We owe thanks to our parents and God for our time here. It is a blessing that we have received the opportunity to attend this academy.” Madeline concluded, “Don’t think of today as the day where we simply part ways. Even though our time here is over, we will never truly leave one another and Basils will forever be in our hearts.”

SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IS PROUD OF THE CLASS OF 2018 AND WE WISH THEM WELL AS THEY BECOME LEADERS OF TOMORROW.
Amanda O’Brien received a full scholarship to attend The University of Pennsylvania through the Questbridge National College Match program. Amanda shares some thoughts on her high school career and her award to Penn.

My attendance as a Saint Basil Academy student was actually one of the culminating achievements of my work during grade school. My goal was to pursue the best education possible—something I achieved upon entrance to the Academy. I believe that the decisions I have made throughout my high school career can directly be attributed to the influence of my teachers and classmates alike. Throughout these past four years, I have been surrounded by incredibly talented people who challenged me to be the best friend and student I could be. At SBA, I learned how to truly be myself and be comfortable with who I am, something I do not believe could have happened anywhere else, and because I felt at home with those surrounding and supporting me I was able to accomplish everything I had set out to do since my freshman year.

A crucial component to my motivation throughout my life has been my status as a low income student, and, as I enter college, a first generation student. While this status in itself is a reason why I was a recipient of a Questbridge scholarship, it also has molded my personality in such a way as to motivate me to forge my own path moving forward. Rather than relying on the power of privilege, in all of its various forms, to carry me to success, I have consistently believed in the power of hard work to create the future I want for myself and for my family. This belief, and ultimately this hard work, has been rewarded in the forms of my acceptance to SBA four years ago and the absolute honor of being selected by Questbridge and the University of Pennsylvania to move into college as a Questbridge Scholar.

Throughout my life, it also has been important to acknowledge that my family has been and continues to be my biggest motivation in my pursuit of education and success. The hard work that I have put into my education is not just to forge a better life for myself, but to create a better future for my family, and that is the hope that continues to motivate me as I prepare to start classes at the University of Pennsylvania.
The Saint Macrina Award was presented at graduation to senior Ciani Kensey because she best exemplified the spirit and heart of Saint Basil Academy. The award is presented to the student who most embodies generosity of heart, leadership, Christian compassion and caring for others, and a permeating attitude of faith and love of God in how she approaches her life choices and interactions with others.

Ciani Kensey gives some insight into the meaning of receiving the Saint Macrina Award.

Being awarded the Saint Macrina Award gave me a feeling like no other. I was surprised to receive the award, because I had only attended SBA for two years. Upon hearing the description of the award, I recall having related to this so much! I am a believer in the saying “those that give respect, will receive respect in return.” I like to be a good listener in every conversation. Others place trust in me when they share their thoughts, and I appreciate that. I think about the leadership aspect of the award and the track team comes to mind. There have been times when my teammates and I would have difficult workouts. Knowing that actions speak for themselves, I encouraged my teammates with positive words rather than negative energy, which could come toward the end of a workout. I wanted to remind the others that we could do this! Sometimes you just need someone there to give you support and that is how I felt every step of the way on and off the track.

It was important for me to support my classmates during the school day by placing an uplifting quote or word on the affirmation wall that would make someone feel relieved or happy. Getting to know those around you is amazing. When things get rough I always take one step back, settle down and pray! I know I can put my trust in God’s hands for everything to be alright. I am grateful for this award and I know that I will continue to make these qualities a part of my life.

Anya Bohatiuk is attending The University of San Diego this fall. Anya explains why she chose to attend college on the west coast.

From my first day at Basil’s, we were all taught to be strong, independent and empowered young women. We were always encouraged to work hard and chase after our dreams. I really believe that the support I got from my teachers over my four years at Saint Basil Academy gave me the confidence to be able to look at a school that I never imagined that I would attend. My plan never was to go to college across the country, especially somewhere as far as California. But last year in July, while on vacation visiting my grandparents in southern California, that all changed. On a whim, I asked my Dad if we could go visit some colleges. Before I knew it, we were in a car heading south on a California highway, on our way to the University of San Diego. I’m not sure what made me pick the University of San Diego, but I really believe that something guided me there.

When I started my freshman year at Basil’s, I was not very confident. I had never really strived for anything extraordinary; I was content with the status quo. I was happy being in the background and just blending into the crowd. After four years, however, I achieved and accomplished more than I ever thought imaginable. SBA provided me so many opportunities to grow each year as a person and a community leader. It was through volunteering at places like La Salle Academy and the Ronald McDonald House, becoming a class representative my freshman and junior year, and working with the student hospitality committee, that I was able to understand how important it was for me to step up as a leader and a mentor to the underclassmen. By my senior year, I was a captain of the field hockey and lacrosse teams, along with leading my school to raising over $32,000 for childhood cancer.

I have gained confidence that I know will stay with me in college and beyond. I owe all this new-found confidence and motivation to the teachers that continued to push me, challenge me, and believe in me during my four years at SBA. My teachers supported when I needed them the most, especially throughout the college process. When I was applying to colleges all over the country, I questioned whether I would get accepted, especially to a university on the west coast. SBA not only motivated me to strive and set my goals high, but also stood by me and always believed in my abilities as a student.
SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IS PROUD OF THE CLASS OF 2018 AND WE WISH THEM WELL AS THEY BECOME LEADERS OF TOMORROW!

Lauren Baldo
Widener University

Anya Bohatiuk
University of San Diego

Mary Campion
Boston University

Chandler Chavarria
The Pennsylvania State University / Abington

Grace Clement
St. John’s University

Molly Deal
Temple University

Meghan DiDomenico
Widener University

Cheyenne Edwards
The Pennsylvania State University

Lynsey Ems
West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Abrielle Fafara
Thomas Jefferson University

Emily Farina
Johnson & Wales University

Madeline Farrell
The Pennsylvania State University

Priya Felix
Drexel University

Erin Gilson
Monmouth University

Taylor Grabowski
DeSales University

Brionna Grimaldi
San Diego State University

Juliana Gur
University of the Sciences

Julia Harkins
West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Katelynn Hendricks-Coyle
Manor College

Julia Hirth
Bucks County Community College

Amanda Hostetter
Alvernia University

Michelle Hostetter
High Point University

Celia Hutchinson
University of the Sciences

Carly Jensen
Alvernia University

Ciani Kensey
Ursuline College

Katharine Kleinbrahm
University of Pittsburgh

Lauren Kuhn
La Salle University

Paige Larini
High Point University

Morgan Layfield
Clarion University

Jennifer Levito
Temple University

Grace Majkut
Drexel University

Molly McAndrew
West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Emily McCarrick
University of Pittsburgh

Madeline McCrea
University of Pittsburgh

Kelly O’Brien
Immaculata University

Teagan O’Hara
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

CONGRATULATIONS! THE CLASS OF 2018 HAS BEEN AWARDED $8,430,040 IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS!
SBA SOPHOMORE MAGGIE JUNKIN ’21 EMBODIES ALL THINGS BASIL: LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND COMPASSION.

Maggie has been an equestrian since she was four years old and began competing at a national level at the age of seven. Through her experiences with riding, she has learned about responsibility, hard work and advocating for her passions. Maggie has always had an interest in service. With a special place in her heart for animals, she is an advocate for animal rescue. Merging her love for riding and her passion for homeless animals has led Maggie to aid animal shelters. She started an initiative called “Mags For Wags” in 5th grade. What began as a grassroots fundraising initiative to help her favorite rescue Danny and Ron’s Rescue, Mags For Wags has grown to serve animal shelters throughout the country. She organizes supply drives, money collections and social media promotion. Her largest is a six-week fundraiser for the Humane Society of South Mississippi.

For the past two years, Maggie has also been involved as a Junior Changemaker helping to fundraise and promote the documentary Life in the Doghouse which is a film that tells the story of the founders of Danny & Ron’s Rescue. Maggie is the movie captain for the Philadelphia area screening which came to Moorestown, NJ on September 13. In this role, Maggie designed plans for a 1,000,000-kid campaign to reach out to communities to inspire change for animal rescue. She promoted the film through social media marketing, fundraising and public relations.

Her compassion does not end with homeless animals. Maggie also aids homeless people. With her riding competitions comes many hotel stays. While on the road, Maggie packs her own toiletries and collects the mini toiletries supplied by the hotel. By year’s end, she has accrued a substantial supply of toiletries that she then packages in individual hygiene bags to be distributed to the homeless.

Maggie has plans to expand her initiative to help the homeless population in Philadelphia. She has noticed over the years that many of the homeless have a dog companion. Maggie would like to work with area pet stores to make dog food readily available at food pantries. Maggie would also like to work on having the University of Pennsylvania’s mobile vet clinic do a community outreach to the homeless providing well visits and basic vaccines for their pets. Her hope is to continue to see the Mags For Wags initiative grow and expand to help animals in all capacities. Maggie’s personal goal is to see Mags For Wags become a non-profit before she finishes high school. This busy honor student, also finds time for student council, taking part on the SBA tennis team and drama. She enjoyed taking part in two SBA service trips this past summer. The first was a service trip to Costa Rica where she helped at an animal sanctuary and a community service project. She also joined the girls at the Mount in a service trip to West Virginia where Maggie helped with several home-building projects.
HELENA MAZUR ’61 DONATES $1 MILLION LEADERSHIP GIFT

Mrs. Connie D’Angelo, Principal, and members of the Saint Basil Academy Community are grateful and pleased to announce a $1 million Leadership Gift from Mrs. Helena (Olijnyk) Mazur ’61. This transformational gift, the largest gift in the history of Saint Basil Academy, promotes new educational programs, continues facility improvements, and has established the new Learning Commons area. The Learning Commons will provide an environment for collaboration and construction of knowledge for 21st century learning.

Many facility improvements were made this summer, including the following:

- **NEW** Counseling and Academic Support spaces
- **NEW** Admissions office
- **NEW** Institutional Advancement space
- **NEW** Finance Director office
- **NEW** Learning Commons
- **NEW** carpeting, paint and lights in hallways
- **UPDATED** logo, new paint and floor resanding in gym
- **INSTALLATION** of 10 interior safety cameras and monitor in the main office
- **NEW** exterior doors
- **NEW** signage for classrooms and office spaces
- **INSTALLATION** of white boards in all classrooms and learning spaces
- **UPGRADED** technology and training for faculty

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mazur were honored at Saint Basil Academy on Friday, May 11, 2018. They were welcomed and thanked by Mrs. D’Angelo along with members of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, the Board of Advisors, parents, alumnae, students and local dignitaries. “Mr. and Mrs. Mazur, your actions and commitment to the Academy will offer our girls the opportunity to think big, to aspire to personal goals, and to continue the bond of our SBA sisterhood,” Mrs. D’Angelo said. “There has been so much change in education in the past 20 years, with a great need for having to respond to teaching and technological advances, and yet, the foundation of sisterhood, academic excellence and challenge of young women to reach their greatest potential remain the same today in 2018. Your gift, the largest gift every given to SBA, will enable the Academy to forge ahead in meeting those changes.”

MR. AND MRS. MAZUR BELIEVE THERE IS A PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

Grace Clement, 2018 Graduate, expressed gratitude to Mrs. Mazur by saying, “It is evident the education, values and grace you learned at Saint Basil Academy will carry us well through the next chapter of our lives.” This gift will ensure that the foundation in Catholic education at Saint Basil Academy comprised of faith in God, compassion for others and a love of learning, will continue for current and future students.

This school year brings new teachers, and new courses that empower young woman to not only reach their potential, but to value the responsibility of making this world a better place. Saint Basil Academy hopes that others see the immense value that we offer young women and that this generous gift propels others to help us continue excelling in what we do best.
WHAT DOES SAINT BASIL ACADEMY LOOK FOR IN PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS? WHAT QUALITIES DEFINE LEADERSHIP?

When someone thinks of a college preparatory private school and the admissions process, there are probably a few questions that immediately come to mind: Do grades matter? Does the score on the HSPT matter? What scores are needed for acceptance? Does a lower score eliminate the possibility of acceptance?

The admissions selection process offers various opportunities for determining what makes a student a great fit for Saint Basil Academy. While all of the above items matter, they are merely a snapshot of the student in question. It’s our job to piece the snapshots together into an album, evaluating the whole student and determining potential. It is through teacher recommendations, school attendance records, comments, and grades, that this potential is determined. Work ethic, diligence, and respect for peers and teachers, while more subjective in nature, may enhance objective scores. Our mission values the individual student, their skills and personality, and the opportunity to maximize their individual success. We closely evaluate the academic skills of prospective students. By valuing the student as an individual, we also see what they can offer, how hard they will work, and how we can help shape these students into young women with a worldview based in leadership, service, and compassion.

To learn more about the outstanding tradition of excellence in education that Saint Basil Academy has to offer, contact… Kimberley Clearkin at 215.649.9083 or email admissions@stbasilacademy.org

www.stbasilacademy.org
NEW FACULTY

WE WELCOMED MANY NEW TEACHERS TO THE SBA COMMUNITY THIS YEAR!

Dan Cipolla – teaching freshmen AMP class (science and math)
Elena Cipolla – teaching an art class
Terry Dillinger – teaching a drama class
Dan DiMarcella – teaching chemistry and Algebra I
Kaitlin Freiling – academic support coordinator and teaching a section of 9th and 10th grade English
Janet Iafrate – returning to SBA to teach 9th grade English and AP Language
Bridget Mahon – teaching 10th, 11th, and 12th English and a section of Social Studies
Amelia May – teaching environmental science
Dana McLaughlin – teaching AP biology
Anatoli Murha – teaching Personal Finance
Nathalie Wille – teaching French and Spanish

LOOK WHAT’S NEW AT SBA!

We are excited with the many changes at SBA this year! Many campus improvements were possible through the generosity of the Leadership Gift of Mrs. Helena Mazur ’61, new faculty members with professional and teaching experience have joined our community, dress slacks have been added to the winter uniform and our very own Basil Panther now has his own Facebook page!

BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT: HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BASIL.PANTHER.5

NEW FOR 2018 WINTER

NEW Straight-leg, Flat Front Slacks for Ladies in charcoal.
THE BASIL BUSINESS ALLIANCE (BBA)

Donna Kendrick ’91 has helped spearhead the Basil Business Alliance to connect alumnae so that their professional experiences, knowledge and talents can be shared among members empowering Basil graduates through sisterhood and mentorship.

The BBA is an outreach of Basil alumnae that will help to provide connections in the professional space for our graduates. In simple terms, networking, but it is so much more than that! The BBA creates opportunities for alumnae to connect with one another and share experiences from their occupation and continued education after graduation from Saint Basil Academy. In continuation of the ability to meet, share, and prosper with fellow alumnae, the BBA works to help mentor current Basil students as they choose careers and become leaders of the future. Women in leadership is not a new concept, Basil graduates have been examples of that since walking the halls of Saint Basil Academy. Alumnae are now capitalizing on it through the BBA.

So far, the BBA has worked to create opportunities for its members to meet one another and develop their own professional identities. The BBA hosted a panel discussion at the Knowlton Mansion entitled 5 Exceptionally Powerful Ways Women Succeed at Work, which is the first in a series of leadership workshops. Panelists included Donna Kendrick ’91, Kimberly Beck ’93, Katina Sawyer, PhD ’03, and Beth Hanssens ’86. Our first networking night was held this summer in Center City, with another coming this winter.

The BBA needs you! In this world of social media, alumnae can connect like never before. Please use your Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram pages to invite those who want to build themselves professionally, or simply personally. Sign up with the BBA at www.stbasilacademy.org/alumnae/bba. We have events that are fun, educational, and a great place to establish relationships with graduates who can enhance your career.

LET THE BBA HELP YOU CONTINUE YOUR LEGACY.
CAREER DAY

SBA CAREER DAY WAS ANOTHER AWESOME EVENT! We welcomed back alumnae to share their experiences with current SBA students. Introductions were made in the auditorium and students then selected the classroom presentations they wanted to attend. The wealth of knowledge and experience presented that day provided our students with fantastic opportunities and some insight into their own prospective futures! There was much positive feedback from both alums and students alike. At the end of the day, we hosted a get together with the alums so everyone could ‘catch up’!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH OUR STUDENTS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE ALUMNAE RELATIONS OFFICE AT SBA. WE ARE PLANNING TO HOST ANOTHER CAREER DAY EVENT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2019.

OUR THANKS TO OUR ALUMNA PRESENTERS FROM LAST YEAR:

Kimberly Beck ’93, Vice President, Corporate Strategy & Communications, Envestnet
Jennifer Hermansky ’00, Lawyer, Partner, Greenberg Traurig
Colleen Doll ’79, Compliance Manager, PECO
Mary Lou Eckerle ’81, Strategic Director of Operations Control, SEI
Seanna Bruno ’99, Managing Director, Partnerships at the One Love Foundation
Jane Ann Lombard ’80, Managing Attorney, Swartz Campbell, LLC
Donna Kendrick ’91, Financial Advisor, Reiner Financial
Veronica Kennedy ’07, Producer at WPIX
Beth Hanssens ’86, BCH Consulting, LLC, Owner, Independent Contractor
Lynn Morelli Meklin ’05, AFP Program Manager at The Vanguard Group
Barbara Mooney ’83, CEO, Sparkling Pool Services
Donna Pancost ’83, Shared Compliance Manager, NJ Credit Union League
Katina Sawyer ’03, Assistant Professor of Management at The George Washington University – School of Business
Julianne Shillington ’08, Assistant Vice President, Munich Reinsurance America
Celine Watko ’11, Speech-Language Pathologist, Theraplay, Inc.
BASIL ALUMNAE
THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE 2018 BASILS AT THE BEACH! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN WILDWOOD

BASILS AT THE BEACH ATTENDANCE BY YEAR

1960’S
Kathy Borkowski 1964
Claire DiLullo 1966
Marge McCollum 1966
Mary Buoncristiano 1969
Monica Hodgetts 1969

1970’S
Sharon Imperiale 1972
Marianne Walker 1972
Rita Ann Gilson 1974
Donna Zanneo 1977
Eileen Clauss 1978
Toni Bonsera 1979
Kelly Stevens 1976
Donna Goepfrich 1977
Kathy Borkowski 1978
Claire Courduff 1979

1980’S
Claire Courduff 1980
Kerry McNamara 1981
Kathy Mahoney-Cooney 1990
Shannon Stevens 1990
Ann Marie White 1990
Annemarie Logan 1990
Brandi Cooper 1990
Donna Kendrick 1991
Kimberly Beck 1993
Lola Chychula-Dubenko 1991

1990’S
Christine Geiger 1990
Kathy Mahoney-Cooney 1990
Shannon Stevens 1990
Ann Marie White 1990
Annemarie Logan 1990
Brandi Cooper 1990
Donna Kendrick 1991
Kimberly Beck 1993
Lola Chychula-Dubenko 1991

2000-2010
Christine Geiger 2010
Kathy Mahoney-Cooney 2010
Shannon Stevens 2010
Ann Marie White 2010
Annemarie Logan 2010
Brandi Cooper 2010
Donna Kendrick 2010
Kimberly Beck 2010
Lola Chychula-Dubenko 2010

2011-2015
Chelsea Blake 2011
Christine Dignam 2011
Kaitlin Schnaizer 2011
Nicole Coccia 2011
Katie Gallagher 2011
Laura Greenberg 2011
Lucy Jalor 2011
Laura Kuhlmeier 2011
Mary Ellen McCollum 2011
Noreen Forkin 2011

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019
FLIP FLOPZ BAR AND GRILL
WILDWOOD, NJ

SAVETHEDATE...
STAY CONNECTED TO SAINT BASIL ACADEMY!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SBA.

Send us your updated contact information, so we can keep you informed of reunions, networking events, happy hours, as well as other Basil Alum information.

Visit https://www.stbasilacademy.org/alumnae and click the button to update your contact information!

Share your life events with fellow alumnae through the SBA website.

Visit https://www.stbasilacademy.org/alumnae/alumnae-news/

Let us know how we can help with your reunions!

Contact Emily Domineske, Director of Alumnae Relations
(215) 885-3771 x124
edomineske@stbasilacademy.org

UPCOMING CHALLENGE: SHOWCASE YOUR SPIRIT!

SBA will be kicking off a six day giving campaign which will culminate on #GivingTuesday, November 27, 2018.

Showcase your spirit in leaving Saint Basil Academy better than you found it.
WAYS TO GIVE

DIRECT YOUR TAXES AND SUPPORT SAINT BASIL ACADEMY

Participation in the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) allows a company, place of employment, private business, and even personal salary income taxes to be directed to Saint Basil Academy for student scholarships. Join fellow alumnae and friends and participate today.

Beth Hanssens ’86
SBA Board Member
BCH Consulting LLC
Owner/Independent Consultant

“The EITC program allows me to give back to SBA in a meaningful way using my state tax dollars. I encourage all of our SBA alumnae to learn more about the EITC Program and how easy it is to help SBA continue to educate the leaders of tomorrow.”

Pennsylvania’s EITC program is truly a win/win opportunity for businesses and individuals alike to contribute to and to support Saint Basil Academy. I participated in the EITC program for over four years with SBA and will continue. I highly recommend joining the EITC program; the process is easy, it keeps my tax dollars local, and it provides a tremendous benefit to our students and the Academy.”

Michael W. Tantala, PE.
SBA Board Member
Tantala Associates, LLC, Engineers & Architects

“Saint Basil Academy gave me a great roadmap for life. Finding a way to give back in a meaningful way was a goal. When I realized I could direct my state taxes straight to SBA though the BLOCS program I was thrilled. It was an easy process; a little bit of paper work and done. Now, the Academy benefits from my contribution that otherwise the state would have used as they saw fit, not as I did. Thank you, SBA!”

Sharon Imperiale ’72
CCI Consulting
President

“For the past 8 years we have been blessed enough to call SBA our second home. Saint Basil Academy has given so much to our daughters in terms of love, support, confidence and an excellent education. Because of what SBA has done for our family, we have decided to participate in the EITC program. This program allowed us to allocate our Pennsylvania State Taxes to a Catholic School or private school of our choice. The money given has been used to grant need-based scholarships to students of SBA. The process to participate in the EITC program was very easy and rewarding. We were able to turn our PA Tax liability into scholarships for Basil students seeking a memorable high school experience.”

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Ryan
Past and Current parents

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EITC PROGRAM, PLEASE CALL:

Pat Brabson
Saint Basil Academy
Institutional Advancement Coordinator
(215) 885-3771 x114

Fr. Joseph Campellone, OSFS
Saint Basil Academy
Advancement Consultant
(215) 651-4303

Alumna Designates to Saint Basil Academy

In October 2017, SBA received a bequest from the estate of Olga Marie Maksymchuk, Class of 1948. Olga, or “Maxie,” as she was known while a student at SBA, was a talented clarinet and saxophone player. Olga played in the orchestra and band and sang in Glee Club. As part of her last wishes, Olga designated SBA in her will, contributing a significant gift because of her love for the Academy.
SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IS PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BY SHARING SBA CAMPUS FACILITIES WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. AMONG THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE THE UKRAINIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL, THE JENKINTOWN COMMUNITY BAND, AND THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CHORALE.

UKRAINIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL
The Ukrainian Heritage School, which grew out of two separate Ukrainian Schools started in Philadelphia by the post-World War II immigration, has made its home in the Ukrainian Educational Cultural Center for nearly thirty years.

The main objective of the Ukrainian Heritage School has been and is the education of its students in Ukrainian language and culture in order that they may retain their Ukrainian heritage. The school has been able to instill in these students a strong sense of their identity as Americans of Ukrainian descent, and an understanding of their responsibility to carry forward Ukrainian traditions.

This mission has become even more relevant with the 1991 independence of Ukraine. As of the last few years, the school has received an influx of new students from Ukraine who desire to retain their cultural heritage as they assimilate into American culture. Students who are second or third generation Ukrainian-Americans now have more opportunity to use the knowledge gained in the Ukrainian Heritage School on their visits to Ukraine, and in colleges and universities as they pursue higher levels of education.

Saint Basil Academy and The Ukrainian Heritage School communities are both pleased with the new relationship. As Saint Basil Academy supports its mission with ties to the Ukrainian heritage brought by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, the Ukrainian Heritage School also felt immediately at home in the school where they saw the relationship of maintaining one’s cultural, historical, and religious traditions within the scope of the larger educational community.

The weekly program, which meets on Saturdays, runs from September to early June, and serves approximately 420 students. Having exceeded the space available at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center at 700 Cedar Road, the students attend classes in two locations simultaneously: K-7 students attend classes at the UECC, while the 8-12 students attend classes at Saint Basil Academy.

JENKINTOWN COMMUNITY BAND
Over the past five years, the JCB has rehearsed and performed at Saint Basil Academy, which has in part enabled the ensemble to grow to the impressive numbers that it enjoys today. Because of its commitment to a strong and vibrant arts community, the wonderful auditorium at SBA is a great fit for the JCB. The JCB came together because students of its founder and director, Alex Schmauk, were looking for an outlet that would bring a greater challenge for them musically. To reach that goal, experienced adults were included from the community. Since those beginning years, the word quickly spread to the surrounding schools and the band quickly grew.

The JCB has three facets which include the Academy Winds, (a smaller ensemble which tackles the most challenging repertoire) the Concert Band, (the general ensemble that includes intermediate and advanced musicians) and the Young Artists Ensemble, (a band that allows middle school students a chance to perform during the Summer Pops Series).

JCB shares great music with the community by bringing together musicians of all ages and a wide variety of musical abilities.

THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CHORALE
The Pennsylvania Youth Chorale is a community children’s choir program that provides high-quality choral music training and performance experience to singers in grades 2-8 in Bucks and Montgomery counties. PYC is incredibly grateful to Saint Basils for their hospitality, and the idea of “opening their door to a neighbor in need.” PYC previously had rehearsal and office space at another location that could no longer accommodate the group. PYC happily moved to Saint Basils in February 2017. PYC appreciates the willingness of the SBA community to open its doors to them.
The Office of Institutional Advancement extends its thanks and gratitude to the many generous donors who support our school, clubs, and teams through events and our Annual Appeal. The continued support of our alumnae and friends will help to ensure a bright future for our school.

Events such as Night at the Races, the Auction, and the Spring Musical, and additions to our school such as the new scoreboard in the gym, simply would not be possible without your assistance, donations, and participation.

This year’s 2017-2018 Annual Appeal brought in $114,666. We also received $35,000 towards tuition through the EITC/OSTC program. Please continue to support us this year by sending your gift in the enclosed envelope or make a secure credit card donation online.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE DONATIONS TO SAINT BASIL ACADEMY DURING THE 2017-2018 YEAR.

EITC/OSTC/LLC
James Broussard
Beth Hanssens Cameron 1986
Sharon Imperiale Haney 1972
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald McGoldrick
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tantala

MAJOR GIFTS
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard and
Helena Mazur 1961
Mr. Richard Welsh
Hon. Diane (McMonagle) 1972 and
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tantala

SOCIETY OF THE BASILEAD
Beneficial Foundation
Meryl Towarnicki 1981
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Visit https://www.stbasilacademy.org/alumnae and click the button to update your contact information!

Share your life events with fellow alumnae through the SBA website. Visit https://www.stbasilacademy.org/alumnae/alumnae-news/

Let us know how we can help with your reunions!

Contact Emily Domineske, Director of Alumnae Relations  
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edomineske@stbasilacademy.org

UPCOMING CHALLENGE: SHOWCASE YOUR SPIRIT!

SBA will be kicking off a six day giving campaign which will culminate on #GivingTuesday, November 27, 2018.

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IN MEMORIAM

REGINA (FELTE) WYERS ’02

Saint Basil Academy lost a bright light on May 9, 2018 when Regina (Felte) Wyers, Class of 2002, succumbed to her year-long battle with breast cancer. During her years at SBA, Gina was involved in Art Club, CSC (now known as SBA Cares), and wrote for the Basilianette but also could be found on the SBA stage in parts ranging from chorus in The Sound of Music to Cinderella in the Princess Plays to Phyllis in 42nd Street. She was an accomplished musician, playing the xylophone at many SBA concerts. Gina continued studying music, graduating in 2006 from Moravian College with a dual major in music and business, and where she met the love of her life and husband, Kevin. Gina simultaneously worked full time, volunteered as an EMT at Abington Hospital and attended the University of Penn for Post Baccalaureate Studies. She furthered her education at Arcadia University in the Physician Assistant’s Program and went on to work as a PA at Lehigh Valley Hospital in the Pediatric Emergency Room along with teaching a PA class at Arcadia. In 2017, she started work at CHOP in the Pediatric NICU. Her biggest accomplishment by her own admission was being a mother to her two beautiful children, Benjamin and Cora.

HER SENIOR YEARBOOK QUOTE WAS FROM DR. SEUSS, “YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES. YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE. YOU’RE ON YOUR OWN AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW, AND YOU ARE THE GUY WHO’LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO.”

Gina always accredited her academic drive and success to Saint Basil Academy and especially Ms. Boagni’s English class. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to her husband, Kevin, her children, Benjamin and Cora, her parents, Richard and Donna, and her brother, Zachary. Gina, you will be missed!

Vincent Filipone, father of Lisa Filipone ’88, Sharon Filipone ‘89, Leslie Filipone Ryan ’93, Sheila Filipone Proudman ’01
Alicia (Longshore) Flannery ’93
Regina (Felte) Wyers ’02
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Samuel Mass, father of Nancy Mass Porterfield ’67 and Alice Mass ’71
Anna Czujko Rozij ’71
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Richard Stover, father of Karen ’90 and Beth ’91
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