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# THE BERNARDIAN HERALD

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL INTEGRATION

By Luke Merrill

At the beginning of this year, St. Bernard Middle School and St. Bernard Preparatory School integrated further for the purpose of creating a greater streamlining of the processes of the school day.

“What we had last year was a merging of the middle school lunch and the first of the high school lunches because of timing. We split the lunch originally to minimize the time it took for the middle school to clear out of the line and to allow less of a detriment,” said Mr. Baillargeon. “Rather than having one hundred and eighty students go through at once, we have three groups of about sixty students, thus making things easier. ...It’s come to the point where we’re actually able to eat in a reasonable time and get to class without any problems in anything else.”

The middle school is now under the leadership of Mr. Baillargeon. He spends time there every morning before prayers. He also tries to be at the first lunch, as that is the one that is somewhat meshed with that of the middle school.

As a sign of further integration, this year middle school students are attending all Masses with the high school.

The former middle school headmaster, Mr. William Calvert, is now the St. Bernard Athletic Director. This was a lateral movement agreed upon by both parties. This allows for more competent leadership over the sports arena as well as easier coordination for Mass days and other events.

“The Athletic program has grown in the last year exponentially. It only made sense at that point to have more leadership at that end, while we had one governing body handle the day-to-day operations of the middle school,” said Mr. Baillargeon.



## HOUSE SYSTEM CHANGES

By Graham Sanders

The House System has received mixed reviews since its implementation at St. Bernard.

The faculty is trying to create a more positive attitude towards the Houses with some changes this year, such as wearing house shirts on every fourth Friday, and one random competition a month. They hope these changes will make students appreciate it more and lead to increased participation.

According to Mrs. Miller, one of the central points of the changes is to help the House leaders become leaders. The leaders meet once a month for a leadership meeting to help them be more productive and give them advice. The House leaders must submit a short written agenda before regular meetings in order to make the meetings go more smoothly.

A faculty committee was also created to help improve the House System. The committee is creating a formal job description for House leaders and an official email address for each House to increase organization and send out random competitions, such as the recent photo scavenger hunt.

The opportunities for House points are also greatly increased this year, as Houses gain or lose points for tardies, uniforms, having materials for class and checking out library books. Attendance at every St. Bernard home game also counts towards House points.

Each House is responsible for a social event, a service event, and a fundraiser. The number of required events has been decreased from last year to make it easier to organize and implement these events. Each House also has an opportunity of an off-campus trip. When planning these events, House leaders have a rubric with up to twenty points available.

With the increased availability of possible points, the committee plans to update the House standings often, posting them on a bulletin board.

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the week before exams. This will feature food, drinks, and Benedictine trivia.

One event that is planned for this semester is a trivia night

The overall goal of the House system is for it to be enjoyable for the students. Because of the many complaints received about it, the faculty is looking for ways to improve it. With the improvements made so far, the House system looks to be poised for success.

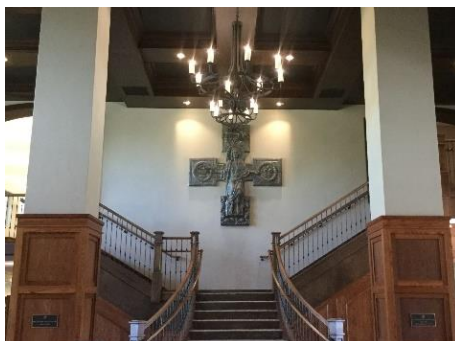
## HEIDRICH CHANGES

By Lexiss Gallegos

A new school year always brings some changes, but the 2016-2017 year at St. Bernard Prep is especially marked by the addition of the Heidrich Library Building to the campus.

With tremendous help from benefactors and support from other parties, the newly renovated building opened its doors to provide not only an improved library and additional classroom space, but also meeting areas and study areas for students to use outside of their class time. As SBP looks to expand its Advanced Placement offerings and other elective courses, the additional space is necessary.

Since for the first time high school classes are now in multiple buildings, the opening of Heidrich



also affects the overall community life of the school.

Sky Pang, a senior and third year international attendee of SBP, thinks the building cuts off communication between students. "Everyone is separate, we don't eat together, and we don't talk together like we used to," said Pang.

Jesse Ramirez, a junior and second year attendee of SBP, believes that

Heidrich helps the community life because "Everybody feels more comfortable."

Kedi Mo, a senior and fourth year attendee of SBP, believes that Heidrich has separated people, because "In the past everyone went to one building for high school, and we had closer relationships with each other because of it. Now, however, the long walk in between classes doesn't leave time for that social communion."

The new, longer commute between classes changes numerous aspects of both student and faculty life at SBP. Email [bernardianherald@gmail.com](mailto:bernardianherald@gmail.com) to voice an opinion on how Heidrich affects student life and community.

## 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Cade Broadley

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 23-25 brought many visitors to campus. The weekend began with a reception in the Byre on Friday, where faculty, alumni, and guests enjoyed each other's company.

Tours of the grounds were given by Father Joel on Saturday, enlightening visitors with the rich history of Saint Bernard. The Family Fun Celebration was also on Saturday, when families came to enjoy bounce houses, games, and food. The Gala Saturday evening offered guests an excellent meal as

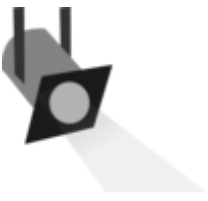
well as the opportunity to dance and socialize. The auction during the dinner was a success, and the monks of Saint Bernard received an abundance of monetary contributions which will be used for their education.

On Sunday, the newly renovated Heidrich building was rededicated and blessed, and there was also a ribbon-cutting ceremony. On Sunday evening, the Saint Bernard choir put on a magnificent performance in the Abbey Church.

The Mass celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary took place on Monday, and was followed by the Benefactors' Luncheon.

The four-day stream of celebrations brought the close-knit Saint Bernard community even closer together, which is why it has succeeded for 125 years.





# SBP SPOTLIGHTS

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MISS GILLILAND

By Darby Dickinson

Miss Catie Gilliland is a new teacher at SBP this year, but she has had an interesting connection to SBP for years.

She was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she lived until moving to Mobile, Alabama, at four years old. When she was sixteen years old she moved to New Orleans, where she attended high school.

She attended college at Birmingham Southern, where she majored in English with a minor in gender and women studies.

Although Ms. Gilliland thought being a teacher would be great, she did not originally pursue teaching as a career because of the problems in the

American education system. Instead, she worked in business before coming to teach at SBP.

Her fiancé brought her to SBP five years ago and she liked the Catholic atmosphere, rigorous schooling, and small groups of motivated kids.

She now teaches Freshman English, Foundations of English, Psychology, and World Literature. When asked how she likes teaching at SBP so far, she responded by simply saying “I love it!”

When asked what she would like her students to take away from her class, she said: “I hope students learn to find those profound universal truths they can identify with when they read.”

Ms. Gilliland said the one piece of advice she has for SBP students is that she hopes they see everything they have here as opportunities, because being at this school is amazing, and not to view things as a chore or burden, but as exciting opportunities.

When asked what class she would teach if she could teach any class, she said a literature class all on poetry because poetry is frustrating to many at first, but is actually really rewarding. She loves what she is teaching now, though.

Be sure to give Ms. Gilliland a warm welcome to SBP the next time you see her.

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: CASEY GUTHERY

By Graham Sanders

SBP Senior Casey Guthery has had substantial success so far this season, finishing second at both the Montevallo and Chickasaw cross country meets.

Guthery felt the first race went very well because of his PR (personal record), and is excited for the rest of the season.

While he does not expect the team to be undefeated, he expects them to compete in every meet this season.



The team’s biggest competition is Cold Springs and Westminster, but he focuses on himself.

When asked what he likes most about running, Guthery said: “I like the competition; in cross country there are no fluke plays, no buzzer beaters, just pure guts. Whoever works harder and wants it more wins.”

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY WU

By Darby Dickinson

Senior Sherry Wu is a seven-day boarder born in Suzhou, China, and who lived there for eighteen years before attending St. Bernard Prep.

Sherry discovered SBP when her uncle who lives in Birmingham told her mother about SBP, who then visited and thought it was a very nice school. Sherry said that she came to SBP because Chinese study was too hard for her.

This is her third year at SBP, and once she graduates, she hopes to attend a smaller college in the United States. About her future career, Sherry says: "I hope I can be an office lady. I want to go to work then go home; not a busy life."

Sherry's favorite subject is art, especially drawing. She does not like sports whatsoever. Her hobbies include sleeping, watching only very good television shows, and playing



badminton, which she says is a popular game in China. She does not like watching movies or playing board games.

When asked how she likes living in the dorms, Sherry says it is boring because she can't go out and "America has so many insects!"

She says the hardest part about being away from home is the language and the lifestyle in America when she first arrived. Sherry explained that the food in America is very different from in

China. She said, "We can even cook grass in China!"

"We have to talk very loudly in restaurants in China because there are about ten people around the table. It is not happy in restaurants in the U.S. at dinner." She said the restaurants in Cullman that are the most similar to authentic Chinese food are Mt. Fuji and Ninja, even though they are Japanese restaurants.

When she first came to America, Sherry landed at the Chicago airport and could not read a single sign and did not know how to ask anyone for help. She finally found a kind Chinese lady who helped her get to her terminal. Sherry said, "I still remember my terminal was terminal C." She wishes she had the lady's phone number so she could thank her for helping her so she didn't get lost in the airport. Now, traveling from China to the United States is not a problem for Sherry.

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: INTERACT

By Katelyn Cowie

SBP's Interact club does several things to benefit the community, and provides students an opportunity to serve others, as it is primarily a service organization.

The club also does a wide variety of projects. The money to execute these projects is typically received from the Cullman Rotary club.

Each year the students and officers select the projects they wish to

accomplish. One project almost every year is assisting the Rotary Club with clients of the Margaret Jean Jones facility to attend the Cullman county fair.

One night the Interact Club usually goes with Rotarians and rides the rides with a client or do whatever the clients want to do at the fair.

In the past, they have prepared trick-or-treat bags and Easter baskets for the

pediatric patients at CRMC and Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham.

Other things the club has done include collecting food during Thanksgiving and providing gifts for several children from the Angel Tree each year during Christmas.

Mr. Nuss hopes more students will join this fun and service-oriented club. He began Interact club at SBP in 1991.

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: ASTRONOMY

By Lexiss Gallegos

With the guidance of Brother Benedict, the new SBP astronomy club has begun learning about stars,



constellations, and planets near and far from Earth using telescopes, heavy duty laser pointers, and unfathomable universe description videos.

Astronomy is not only Brother Benedict's favorite science, but also the oldest science in the world.

The plan for this year's astronomy club is to "Explore our planet, expand out from the inner solar system to the outer solar system, then, to the stellar realm

and then to the area of galaxies and galaxy clusters. Our solar system to the Macro-universe," said Brother Benedict.

Also, Brother Benedict wants to tell anyone considering joining the astronomy club: "You don't have to have any previous experience, you just have to show up. Just be ready to look up into the night sky, enjoy it with us, and learn about it." Take heed aspiring astronomers!

## THE FUTURE OF SBP'S CHOIR

By Thao Nguyen

Last year marked the first official SBP choir, and with that comes a flood of expectations for the choir members and their overall performance.

Mr. Agnew initially aspired to "build a foundation for the future." He also wanted to incorporate his desire to teach the students easy and enjoyable music as a gateway to a higher self-confidence and build from that. After the first year, the choir seems to have exceeded his hopes.

Mr. Agnew states, "Most start-up choral programs don't explode to over one third of a schools' population in just one year!"

According to Mr. Agnew, the choir members' performance "make a wonderful sound" as a result of their attention and focus. He says that having repeat members from last year contributes to the choir's ability to create a great sound more quickly.

With a new school year comes new plans for the new year of choir, and Mr. Agnew has planned for the entire Fine Arts Department to attend a trip to Dollywood. The members of the department plan to perform at Dollywood in the Smokey Mountains.

The new year of choir also brought in a Chamber Choir, in which the members will sing a more difficult

collection of music than the fifth period choir.

In addition to the high school choir, Mr. Agnew also directs middle school students in the Fine Arts Department. The middle school choir is a full choir with twenty-eight voices.

By Christmas, Mr. Agnew plans to advance the SPB choir to make music at a higher level. He also plans for the members to comprehend basic music theory, to help them become better musicians.

All in all, he wants the choir to be entertaining and to "glorify God" as well.

## BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE

By Cade Broadley

The senior class started off the new school year by hosting a successful Back to School dance for high school students. The senior class officers wanted to host this dance to get everyone excited about the new year and help everyone get

acquainted with one another. The dance was a huge success, with over 60 students attending.

The senior class hopes to sponsor more dances throughout the year, the nearest one being a Halloween

Dance. Be sure to come out and enjoy the next dance!



# SHERIFF'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

By Darby Dickinson

Seniors Sarah Anna McCarthy and Darby Dickinson represented SBP at the week-long first annual Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA) this summer.

To be eligible for the Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy, both had to be completing their junior year, fill out an application, and write an essay on why they wanted to attend the academy.

Once accepted into the academy, participants had to read *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara and write an essay on the book, as well as watch videos on Iwo Jima and the Battle of the Bulge.

Each day throughout the week started at 4:30 A.M. for both seniors to be ready to start physical training (PT) at 5:45 A.M. After PT was over at 7 A.M., they went home to

shower and eat breakfast before returning to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office to start class promptly at 8:30 A.M.

Throughout the mornings they listened to speakers such as veterans who fought in Iwo Jima and the Battle of the Bulge, local judges, and investigators.

After the class time was over for the day, there were physical activities in the afternoon, such as rappelling forty-eight feet from the top of a building, participating in S.W.A.T. team scenarios, watching a dive team demonstration, attending the R.O.P.E.S. course, learning how to properly use a firearm at the shooting range, and playing paintball.

When asked what one thing was she took away from this week, Sarah

Anna said it was "an incredible experience with new friends."

Darby said "It was a great learning experience that tested you until you were just about ready to give up, and encouraged you to push past your differences to work together as a cohesive team that supports one another."

Both girls would suggest this academy to other SBP students because it was an amazing experience that forges stronger people and better leaders.



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