



Spring 2013

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A Message From Our Development Director

Dear IHM Alumni,

Our Alumni Committee is two years old and we've accomplished a great deal thanks to the involvement of dedicated alumni, parents of alumni, current parents, and of course YOU! Our second annual Alumni Mass and Reception in February was a terrific success, the open rate on our quarterly newsletter is phenomenal, and we're reaching so many of you regularly on Facebook. Thank you for responding so positively to our efforts. You are an important part of IHM's identity and our plan is to continue to foster our connection with you and your fellow classmates.



In addition to promoting fellowship among alumni, we are committed to advancing the mission of IHM School by growing the IHM Endowment Fund. We recently sent you a request, asking for a gift of at least \$55 to the Endowment Fund in honor of IHM's 55th year. If you haven't already, please consider making a [contribution](#) today.

Top 3 Reasons to Give to the IHM Endowment Fund

1. Giving back is a great way to say Thank You. If you feel like IHM was a positive influence on your life and where you are today - a gift of \$55 this year is a wonderful way to show your gratitude. You can even give your gift in honor of a teacher or priest who had a lasting impact on you.
2. Your gift is forever. A gift to the Endowment Fund will have an everlasting impact on our school as only the interest income is used. Your investment will still be there when IHM turns 100 and beyond.
3. Your donation impacts future generations of IHM students. Help IHM be the best through technology, facilities, and staff. The Endowment Fund keeps all facets of the school in top shape.

Thank you for supporting IHM School. If you have contributions or article ideas for this newsletter, please [e-mail](#) me. I look forward to sharing more great news of our growth with you in the next issue.

Warmly,
Jennifer Sedlack, Development Director

Brendan O'Connell '82 Finds Success as an Artist

(Biography courtesy of <http://www.brendanoconnell.com/>)



Brendan O'Connell '82 is a quintessential American painter who explores the everyday through contemporary art. A 1982 graduate of IHM School, Brendan was raised in Tucker. He spent his summers in Europe learning languages as an exchange student. After graduating from Emory University with degrees in Philosophy and Spanish literature, he moved to Paris to teach languages and write a novel about painters. At twenty-two he picked up a pencil and discovered an innate ability to draw and paint. Six months later he quit his language-teaching job to devote himself to painting.

A British painter invited O'Connell to live in his castle in the south of France. There he spent a couple of winters alone, painting and thinking. In the summers he earned a living doing portraits and caricatures in the street in front of Notre Dame and in the south of France, an arduous task that increased his skill and deepened his commitment to personal expression. By nature O'Connell is a colorist. His work ranges from abstract expressionistic to photo based paintings. His interests rove widely between popular culture and mystical traditions.

Inspired by the iconic American painters, Marsden Hartley and Edward Hopper, after an arts education in Europe, O'Connell returned home to paint America. For the past seven years, among other projects, he has been executing paintings about Wal-Mart, the quintessential contemporary shopping experience.

He is one of the founding partners of everyartist.me whose purpose is to spark next generation creativity. In 2013 everyartist.me will launch a national art event. Brendan appeared on The Colbert Report on March 6 and on Sunday Morning CBS on March 24, and he was recently featured in The New Yorker for his Wal-Mart Series:

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/02/11/130211fa_fact_orlean?mbid=social_retweet

Presently he works out of a barn in rural Connecticut where he lives with his wife, landscape painter, Emily Buchanan <http://www.emilybuchanan.com/index.html>, and their two children. Brendan's brother, **Ricky O'Connell '85**, owns Personal Touch Lawn Care and manages IHM's grounds. Brendan's mother, **Pat O'Connell**, taught for many years at IHM and Brendan's niece and Ricky's daughter, **Annalise O'Connell '19**, is a second grader at IHM.

IHM Graduate Earns Highest Honor at St. Pius X High School

IHM delivered another Valedictorian to St. Pius X Catholic High School.* **David Spratte '09** was named Class of 2013 Valedictorian. David has numerous achievements during his years at SPX. He is the holder of multiple scholarships recognizing his academic, service, and leadership abilities. Most recently he was offered the Georgia Tech Presidential Scholarship, the university's most prestigious merit scholarship which is offered annually to about 50 outstanding high school seniors. These students have demonstrated superb leadership, scholarship, progress, and service and show promise of continuing such performance in college and beyond.



David is Co-President of the student body, Team Captain of the Golden Lions Football team, and a leader in the Lion Leaders peer mentoring program. He founded a Rosary Club which meets regularly to pray the rosary. David has been accepted at many colleges and will reach a decision in April. We know that whichever college he chooses will be very fortunate to have him.

Both at IHM and St. Pius, David is a student who truly exemplifies IHM's mission of "modeling Gospel values while striving to achieve excellence in order to develop positive, productive Christians serving society." Congratulations to David and all of the IHM Class of 2009 who will be graduating this spring.

* **Lee Kaufman '07** was Valedictorian for the St. Pius Class of 2011.

Alumni Mass & Reception a Big Success!

Members of the class of 1961, IHM's second class of graduates, rubbed elbows with IHM's most recent graduates as we celebrated the second annual Alumni Mass and Reception. It was a wonderful bridging of the generations as alumni came together to rekindle friendships, meet new friends, and reminisce about their alma mater.



Theresa Kingery Forman '75 and
Parent of Alumna and Legacy Grandmother
Martha Zimmer



Phil Sedlack '84 and Karoline Brennan '78

Held on Saturday, February 9, nearly 100 people attended including alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents of current students, and current students. Graduates from all six decades were present. **Father Kevin Peek '84** concelebrated the Mass with Monsignor Jim Schillinger, and IHM alumni served as lectors and gift bearers during Mass. Monsignor Schillinger bestowed a special blessing on our alumni and all those who have benefited from Catholic school education were asked to stand, with nearly a third of the congregants receiving the special blessing.

After Mass a reception was held in the Lower Level Room and Principal Jim Lee and **Marie Field Spies '87**, a member of the Alumni Committee, spoke and encouraged those in attendance to remember IHM by staying in touch and supporting the school.

Next year's Mass and Reception is set for Saturday, February 8, 2014. The Alumni Committee plans to expand the event to include tours of IHM School so be sure to make plans to join us!



Jennifer Schaefer Hogan, Sophia Lentini Clanton '81, Michelle Field '83



Alumni Committee: Elena Mowiser Murphy '80, Development Director Jenn Sedlack, Chris Buechner, Marie Field Spies '87, Jennifer Schaefer Hogan, Frank Tracy '66 (not pictured: Bob Zimmer)

Local Alumnus Opens DRAFT on Briarcliff Road

Interview by Marie Field Spies '87



Hans Bendeck from the IHM Class of 1990 recently opened his own business- DRAFT Filling Station. He's located right down the road from IHM in Atlanta and we caught up with him to get the scoop.

Q: When/how did you get the idea to open a beer growler?

I have been an equities trader for 12 years. During that time, I have seen several "market corrections" and the introduction of computer trading and other market nuances that have rendered personal trading more difficult. So about 18 months ago, my friends and I decided to look into starting a business. We all love beer and have enjoyed the craft beer explosion of the last couple of years, so a growler beer store was

a logical step. While we started DRAFT Filling Station about a year ago, the permitting and licensing process as well as our build out took the better part of 8 months. We were finally able to open our doors in January of 2013.

Q: How does it work?

First, let me begin by saying there are four main things that break down beer. Sunlight, warmth, oxygen and time. For this reason, most beer experts believe that draft beer tastes best. At DRAFT, our beer comes from kegs. It never sees sunlight. We keep it cold the entire time and it arrives at DRAFT soon after kegging with no oxygen exposure. So our beer is as fresh as possible.

We sell draft beer in growlers to go. The growlers come in two glass sizes - 32 oz and 64 oz [2 pints/4 pints]. Each glass has a one-time cost of \$5. They are exchangeable so if you buy a 32 and the next time you want a 64 ounce fill, there is no additional charge. Most of our customers have at least one of each. Then, all you pay for is beer.

Before filling the growler with your choice beer, we eliminate the oxygen from the bottle and replace it with heavier carbon dioxide and nitrogen, thus further preserving the beer until you are ready to drink it. We then seal the bottles and you are ready to go.

Most of our beers are not readily available in bottles and as such your easiest access to them is at a bar/restaurant. We try to keep our fill prices to be about half of what you would spend there. And the best part...You get to take your fresh draft beer home to enjoy with your family or friends. We also have a small selection of wine.

Q: What is the best thing/worst thing about owning your own business?

The best thing about owning my own business is the fact that I can make it exactly the way I dreamed. I get to work with folks that I enjoy working with and I get to meet new people every single day. I get to spread a little bit of my knowledge and love of beer to our customers and better yet, I get to meet several other beer lovers who know a lot more about beer than me. This is by far the best thing about working at DRAFT and something I sorely missed during my 12 years trading equities.

There aren't many bad things about owning my own business, but the one that pops up is the fact that each day I am accountable for making sure the product quality is at its best

and that I get enough customers walking through the doors to keep them open AND take care of our four [so far] employees.

Q: Is there something from your IHM education that prepared you for this venture?

One of the best things that I learned in my nine years at IHM is to respect the environment. I love the science classes that touched on chemistry and physics and biology. All of which are very prevalent in the beer world. Our store produces about ONE 13 gallon bag of trash per week. Many times, the bag is not full. We recycle and donate everything else. We use mostly environmentally conscious cleaning products and all the lights in the store are energy efficient. In fact we recently switched all the light bulbs in our showroom to LED's - we have 50 of them....thus cutting our wattage use from 1750 to 350! [not to mention that LEDs are UV free which further protects your beer!]

I am sure everyone from IHM recycles their cans and bottles, but do you know what is "earth-friendlier" than recycling? Re-using! Your growlers can be reused each time you empty them - year after year. And when you do need to finally get rid of your growler...it is 100% recyclable! We believe drinking craft beer from growlers is the responsible way to enjoy great beer!

"Like" DRAFT on Facebook at www.facebook.com/draftfillingstation.

Visit Hans at or stop by and get your fill at 2162 Briarcliff Road, NE. around the corner from the LaVista Whole Foods. www.draftfillingstation.com

DRAFT Filling Station will donate 10% of all IHM Alumni sales back to the IHM Endowment Fund. Please support him while enjoying great beer at the same time!



Hans and Katie Bendeck

The IHM Alumni Committee would like to thank Hans for taking the time to share this exciting news with our community and for his generous support of the IHM Endowment Fund.

Current School Events and Notables

Read Across America Day Brings Alumni/Former Faculty Back to IHM



Cheryl Mure and former teacher Cassie Jones co-authored a book entitled "Ahoy Titanic! A Child's Tour of the Great Ship."

Read Across America Day saw several alumni and former faculty gracing the halls of IHM once again. Organized by beloved librarian Sandy Wilson, six professional storytellers and authors joined a large group of parents and special faculty and staff who read to students throughout the day. Students wear their pajamas and slippers and spend the majority of the day reading and having stories read to them.

Cassie Jones, a former Middle School teacher here at IHM, co-wrote a book entitled "Ahoy Titanic! A Child's Tour of the Great Ship." Cassie read to our fourth grade students. You can find more information on her book [here](#).



John Beavin '61 is a professional storyteller.

John Beavin '61 returned again this year to read to first and second grade students. John returns each year to take part in this annual event.

Former faculty member **Pat Darden** is a regular substitute teacher at IHM School and was present as we celebrated Read Across America Day.



Pat Darden is a substitute teacher at IHM School.

IHM Legacies

IHM School has 53 students, more than 10% of our school population, whose parent or parents attended IHM School. These parents' graduation years span from 1971 to 2002. Last year we began recognizing legacies during graduation ceremonies and we have seven legacies in the Class of 2013.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Living Stations of the Cross

March 27

Beginning at 8:30 am

School Parking Lot

Join our school in observing the Living Stations of the Cross hosted by our 7th graders.

Senior Assembly & Reception

May 10

2:00 pm

Gym & Library

All 2013 high school seniors who attended IHM School are invited to attend and be honored at our last assembly of the year. Invitations will be sent via e-mail. Please plan to attend.

Alumni Updates

The St. Pius X girls' basketball team took the GHSA girls' Class AAA basketball title in their 77-55 state championship win on March 8, 2013 at the Macon Centreplex. St. Pius seniors **Mackenzie Garrison '09** and **Laura Redmond '09** are members of the team.

Kateri Goodwin '09 was recently featured in the DeKalb Medical Center's winter publication "Pushing Beyond" for her role in the teen volunteer program at DeKalb Medical.

Daniel Walton '11, a sophomore at St. Pius X, has been selected for induction into the National Honor Society.

The Hellenic Dance Group "Asteria" (Stars) featuring **Parris Skiouris '12** and **Eleni Demos '12** received the Superior Medal (2nd place) in the Advanced Junior category at the Hellenic Dance Festival held in Winston-Salem in January. There were over 15 groups from all over the southeast area of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta participating in this category in the two day competition.

Ariel Kim '12 attends Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire and is a regular contributor to the campus newspaper, The Exonian.



The St. Pius production of Beauty and the Beast, presented in March, included a large cast of IHM students, both current and recently graduated.

Back Row (l to r):

Eleni Demos '12, H. Buot '11, Abbi Banks '10, David Spratte '09, Alicia Guyton '09, Clara Suarez-Nugent '09, Raphael Caraballo '10, Paloma Young '10

Center Row (l to r):

Nathan Banks '14, Neal Belden '15, Annie Martin '14, Sabrina Guyton '13, Richard Guyton '13, Nicolas Bartholomai '15, Craig Schwartz '11

Front Row (l to r):

Joey Williams '17, Sarah Forsstrom '15, Joshua Bartholomai '18, Jessica Forsstrom '17 and Lucy Williams '15

Prayer Requests

Please pray for healing for Harriet McDevitt, mother of **Harry '75, Patrick '77, Sean '80, Julia McDevitt Jones '81, Emma '85** and **Brian '88**.

Do you have a particular pastoral need? Visit the church's bilingual website at

www.ihmatlanta.org. Would you like to be added to the School Prayer List? Send your request to Melissa Petersen at pmabpetersen@bellsouth.net if you would like to place someone on our prayer list.

Obituary

Marianne Johnson, mother of **Sarah Johnson Sloan '87** and Jonas Johnson, and wife of Stephen, passed away on December 18, 2012. [Click here](#) for more information.



Stephen and Marianne
Johnson

Harry McDevitt, father of **Harry '75, Patrick '77, Sean '80, Julia McDevitt Jones '81, Emma '85** and **Brian '88**, and husband of Harriet, passed away on December 27, 2012. Mr. McDevitt's granddaughter **Isabella Jones '17** is currently in fourth grade at IHM. Mr. McDevitt's obituary can be found [here](#).

Julia Skrynecki, mother of **Robert Skrynecki '72** (deceased), passed away on January 25, 2013. Mrs. Skrynecki donated the Mother Mary and Jesus Statue, located across from our Guidance office, in memory of her son Robert who died at the age of 22. Ms. Skrynecki's obituary can be found [here](#).



Mother Mary and Jesus Statue
donated by
Julia Skrynecki

Frank O'Connor, father of **Chris '67, Mary Ellen O'Connor Van Horn '68, Patrick '70, Tom '75** and **Mary Beth O'Connor Baker '79**, passed away on January 8, 2013. Mrs. Eleanor O'Connor passed on November 9, 2012. Mr. O'Connor's obituary can be found [here](#).



Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Connor

Melissa Burg, mother of **Alex Burg '07** and **Mikayla Burg '10**, died on February 1, 2013 at the age of 56. Her obituary can be found [here](#).

Dr. Steve Thacker, father of **Maria Thacker Goethe '94** and **Gabriella '97**, died on February 15, 2013 at the age of 65. The Thacker Family's website link can be found [here](#) and an article on Dr. Thacker's life can be found [here](#).



Dr. Steve Thacker

Elizabeth Lumpkin Rouse, wife of Stan Rouse and mother of **Stacey Rouse Coker '72, George Stanford Rouse Jr. '75**, and Scott Matthew Rouse, passed away on March 14, 2013. Mrs. Rouse's obituary can be found [here](#).

Stay Informed - Stay Connected

Stay connected with former classmates by "Liking" us on Facebook at

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Keep up with current school news at [IHM School Facebook](#) and www.ihmschool.org.

We love to get news from our graduates. If you have news to share contact Jennifer Sedlack at jsedlack@ihmschool.org.

