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Upcoming Events

Jan. 29-Feb. 4
Catholic Education
Week

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Open House

Feb. 3
CEW Mass

Annual Auction
Mar. 31 Family Night
April 2 Gala

Apr. 22
Stations of the Cross

April 8
Talent Show

June 9
Graduation

Check our website
www.stvs.org for
details.

St. Vincent Alumni Update

WWW.STVS.ORG

JANUARY 2011

Distinguished Graduate: Amy Davidson

Feature Article by

Michael Barbarossa

St. Vincent Graduate 2010

While many children contemplate early in their lives what career path they wish to pursue, Amy (Williams) Davidson discovered her interest in chemistry during her high school years. From a young age, she considered being a Park Ranger, but after having a very enthusiastic chemistry teacher and taking some fun and interesting biology classes, she chose to follow the path of science. Recently, Amy received her doctorate degree in chemistry studies from the University of Washington.

Dr. Davidson began her education at St. Vincent's, and then attended Holy Names Academy in Seattle. From 2001-2005, she studied at Gonzaga University in Spokane, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, with a biochemistry option. Continuing on to the University of Washington, Amy centered her research on the development of novel anti-HIV drugs that target the viral RNA. Completing the program in mid-August, she stayed for a month as a post-doctoral research associate in order to tie up some loose ends on a publication. "The number of pub-

lications you produce as a grad student and where the research is published can be very important for scientific careers," Amy said, "so it was worth the extra time."

When determining what path to follow, Amy was drawn to chemistry for a variety of reasons. "I had a very enthusiastic chemistry teacher in high school who started me down this path, as well as a very supportive thesis mentor in undergrad who encouraged my application to grad school," she said. "Besides these influences, my family has always been very supportive of education, I enjoy doing my best at my work, and I found out that I was good at chemistry, which helps to make it fun."

As she begins to search for a job, her long-term goal is ultimately to "provide something really productive or helpful to the world." This can be summed up pretty well by a passage from a book which her dad often read to her as a child called "The Lupin Lady:" – "do something to make the world a more beautiful place." Currently, however, she is taking a few well-deserved months off to spend time with her husband and one-year old son.

Pursuing a Ph.D. is a demanding, difficult, and time

consuming venture. While each area of study is a little quarters to be spent on classes pertaining to your specific field of study. For Dr. Davidson, this was organic chemistry. Following the completion of these courses, the focus shifts to research, and all students are expected to join a lab and perform their studies under the guidance of a permanent university faculty member. After the end of the first and second complete years of research, both oral and written exams are taken to ensure that students are able to explain all aspects of their research, justify any techniques used, and discuss any related topics. All in all, the average doctorate program for health science or chemistry takes around six or seven years to complete.

However, "it doesn't have to be as time consuming as you might think," Amy said. "It's true that there are plenty of grad students in the sciences who are very involved in and absorbed by their research, but there are also many who are very devoted to other aspects of their lives. The trick is to find the balance that fits your personality, research and career goals, but still enables you to progress through your work." Dr. Davidson is a good exam-

Distinguished Graduate

St. Vincent de Paul School-wide Learning Expectations:

- A faith-filled Catholic
- A life-long learner
- A responsible member of a global society

(cont. from p. 1) considering she was able to accomplish so much simultaneously, with her recent marriage and new baby. "My grad school experience was so much better because of the presence of my husband and son," she said. "They helped me to remember during the weeks of failed experiments and non-progress that these frus-

trating experiences really didn't matter that much and certainly weren't worth spoiling the rest of my day."

Even though pursuing a Ph.D. is a lofty goal, it is definitely achievable through hard work and perseverance. Aside from her wonderful academic skills, perhaps one of Amy's greatest gifts is her ability to keep things in per-

spective. While it would be easy to get caught up in the prestige of this achievement, recognition does not seem to be a strong driving factor to her. Indeed, this is evident in the fact that this year she will still simply sign her Christmas cards "Amy."

*Amy Williams Davidson
St. Vincent Class of 1997*

St. Vincent Annual Fund

• What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is a yearly fundraising campaign designed to meet the current and future tuition assistance needs of our parish families. Up to 50% of all contributions to the Annual Fund will be directed to the Principal's Tuition Assistance Fund in order to meet current tuition assistance needs. The balance (at least 50%) will be directed to the permanent Endowment Fund to meet future tuition assistance needs.

• Who contributes to the Annual Fund?

We all do. The philanthropic support of St. Vincent's current and past parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff, friends, and the overall St. Vincent de Paul Parish community is essential for the school to continue its mission of educating the whole child through a loving, supportive environment, high academic stands, and traditional Catholic values.

• Ways to Give

There are a variety of ways to support the Annual Fund.

- Outright gifts by cash or check.
- Credit card gifts made through the website.
- Pledges / Letters of Intent
- Matching Gifts
- Gifts of Stock or Appreciated Securities
- Planned Gifts Through Wills and Trusts

We ask you join us in supporting Catholic education at St Vincent's. It is our goal that no child will be denied an education in our Parish School because of lack of family finances. Please make a commitment today.

For additional information on the Annual Fund, check the school website, www.stvs.org



*Fly Me to
the Moon*

Annual Auction

Family Night

March 31st

Gala Dinner &

Oral Auction

April 2nd

Call 253-839-3532

for Tickets.

Congratulations Class of 2010

Class of 2010

The eighth grade of 2010 celebrated their graduation Mass on June 10, with 28 graduates being recognized. The following students received special honors:

Christian Citizenship Scholarship Awards

These awards are given by the Parents Club to one boy and one girl, selected by their peers and teachers, who model through their daily lives Christian qualities such as respect, responsibility, and service. This year's winners were Sydney Beach and Chase Raquer.

Academic Scholarships

These awards are given by the School Commission to the students having the highest grade point averages. The Salutatorians were Larisa Robic and Mahal Johnson. Valedictorian was Michael Barbarossa.

Spirit of Learning Awards

These awards are given by the staff to students who reflect the essence of the subject and demonstrate a joy-filled spirit of learning in class.

Religion	Emily Fuller
Music	Michael Barbarossa
Math	Haleigh Wanchena
Physical Education	Chase Raquer & Larisa Robic
Science	Michael Barbarossa & Franz Jacob Hernandez
Social Studies	Franz Jacob Hernandez & Tracey Trinh
Writing	Michael Barbarossa & Franz Jacob Hernandez
Reading	Nathan Filbert & Julia Modarelli
Technology	Michael Barbarossa

Victor Heinlen Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Michael Barbarossa, Mahal Johnson, and Rachael Mannikko

Scholarships from Catholic High Schools

Kennedy Catholic, Principal's Award:

Michael Barbarossa

Bellarmino, St. Robert Bellarmino Award:

Rachel Mannikko

Holy Names Academy, Academy Scholarship:

Mahal Johnson



Class of 2010!

Alumni!

We'd love to hear from you!!

Visit our alumni page on the St. Vincent School website, www.stvs.org.

What are you up to? Submit your information at www.stvs.org to be featured in our next newsletter.

Interested in coordinating alumni information? Contact Mrs. Stewart at stv-stew@msn.com.

Do you know the addresses of any of these alumni?

Patrick Allen	Charlotte Allen
Karen Amer	Paul Andrews
Noelle Andrews	Michael Andrews
Angela Banker	Corey Barella
Danielle Barnes	Bernadette Becker
Jeffrey Bickford	Allison Bilnoski
Lauren Bilnoski	Robert Black
Tiffany Black	Lawrence Bliss
Lyndsay Borrelli	Allison Botham
Terrance Boyle	Timothy F. Boyle
Michael Boyle	Aubrey Brewer
Jordan Brewer	Christine Brown

Renovation of the Playfield

Thanks to friends and families attending our last two Annual Parish Auctions for Education, donations to the Fund-an-Item provided enough money to renovate the playfield. Renovation began in June, and students will be able to use the new surface in the spring.

Here's the renovation schedule!

- When school was out in June: The field was sprayed with a weed killer and two weeks later another application of weed killer was applied. The water supply was finalized.
- During July: The grass was cut to just above the roots and the field was over

aerated to penetrate the hard layer of dirt. Construction of the irrigation system began.

- During August-September: The irrigation system was completed. Cedar Grove compost was applied to fill in the low spots and give the playfield a slight crown. Time was given for the new dirt to settle. The entire field was seeded and watered so that the seed would germinate and stay healthy. Soon it will be open for use!

Thanks to the facilities personnel, Jim Day and Marty Krause, for their assistance with the project.



Ground Breaking Ceremony was in June. Ben Bowman, 7th grader, and Jaeger Davis, kindergarten, are waiting to make the "first dig" for the renovation of the playfield.

We hope to have the Blessing of the Field in March. Check the school website for the date.

St. Vincent Alumni Update
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