



The Amplifier

A Quarterly Newsletter from the
Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance
"Truth in Beauty"

Spring Edition 2015

Sometimes Showing Up Is Everything!

Nearly a year has passed since Mark Duray, Guerin Catholic's Director of Fine Arts, asked if I would launch the Guerin Catholic Fine Art Alliance (GCFAA) as a "booster club" for the fine arts program. When I asked for volunteers for the steering committee, I targeted wonderful people I knew would serve cheerfully and energetically. Their names are listed on the next page, along with our gifted and dedicated fine arts faculty who provided invaluable input and effort, as well. If you are reading this, you will appreciate the wonderful work of Meredith Cummings, the *Amplifier* editor. I am so glad that she generously shared her talents this year, spreading the good news about GCFAA. Thanks to all who volunteered – chaperoning, selling concessions, baking, serving, mending, greeting, setting up, tearing down, shopping, fitting, meeting, organizing, hauling, typing and doing everything else a busy fine arts program needs to survive and thrive. Thanks also to the administrators and faculty for supporting our work with the development of the new logo and their visible presence at our events. And, of course, thanks to our wonderful musicians, actors and visual artists whose art enriches all of our lives and gives us a purpose to come together.



Some members of GCFAA – Beth Dunlop, Barb Gallina, Marcia Murphy, Karen Dutcher, Donna Arrivo, Caroline Van Atter, Meredith Cummings and Mark Duray.

We had many more good ideas than we could possibly accomplish in a year, but we made a good start. We raised the visibility of the work of our talented student-artists, raised money to support their efforts and raised interest in volunteering to support the program. Much work remains, but the group continues in steady hands under the capable volunteer leadership of endlessly devoted parents like Barb Gallina and Caroline Van Atter and many others, returning and new. In the arts, we like to ask for prayers from St. Cecilia, St. Gregory and St. Genesius, but when I think about volunteer service, I turn to the saint I heard informally described as the "patron saint of showing up" – Mary Magdalene. Sometimes showing up – to help, to work, to serve, to love – is everything!

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2015 Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
5/21	Spring Concert At St. Elizabeth Seton – 7 pm	All
5/28	Baccalaureate Mass At St. Maria Goretti – 6:15 pm	GoldenVoice
5/31	2015 Commencement In Gym – 2 pm	GoldenVoice Wind Symphony & Orchestra

JOIN US!
Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance

*Watch for membership sign up in the
back-to-school online packet later
this summer!*

Events Worth Noting

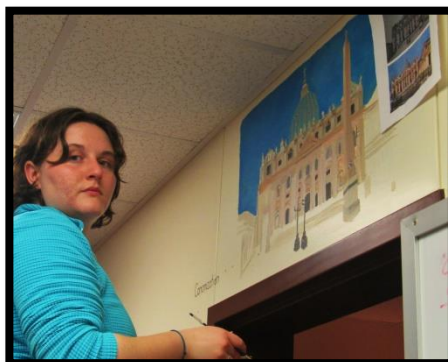
Spring Art Show – The 2015 spring art show featured the work of students in ninth through twelfth grade in a variety of mediums including ceramics, pen and ink, acrylic, 3-D art and much more. Below is a sampling of their talent.



Art Club Honors St. Theodore Guerin – Members of the Guerin Catholic Art Club were commissioned by Campus Ministers Scott McNamee and Amy Vaiana to paint scenes in the Campus Ministry and Student Life Office illustrating the life journey Mother Guerin traveled in answering the Lord’s Call. Club members including Alicia McCann, Laura Zerla, Maci McClain, Ellen Cech, Jeni Ginder, Megan Elisha, Susi Peredo, Maggie Kroeff, Sam Gorsage, Mary Elise Dorsett, Angelica Vaiana, Mitch Fetters, Annie Skarbeck and Katherine Lindsay have worked on the project for months, and it’s not been easy. The students stand on desks and counters to paint the detailed scenes that run below the ceiling and above the doors in the room. Some illustrations include the ship that carried Mother Guerin to America, the harsh Indiana winter she endured, the fire that destroyed the first school, the building of Guerin Catholic High School and her canonization in Rome.



Freshman Laura Zerla adds the finishing touches on an illustration of the abbey where Mother Guerin worshipped in France.



Senior Alicia McCann stands on a table in the Campus Ministry Office to paint a scene of the Vatican where Mother Guerin was canonized.



Senior Megan Elisha illustrated the likeness of St. Theodore Guerin for the project.

An Art-Full Summer – 2014 Guerin Catholic alums Emma Dunlop (Kenyon College) and Charlie Cummings (Ball State University) head to Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan this summer. Dunlop will work as a counselor for the camp’s institute program and Cummings will be in charge of a cabin of intermediate boys. Another 2014 alum, Tim Van Atter (Central Michigan University) will attend the 12th International Orfeo Music Festival in Vipiteno, Italy, for two weeks in July as a vocal soloist. Also, Guerin Catholic freshman Annaleigh Cummings will travel to Italy with the Indianapolis Children’s Choir to sing at the Vatican.

What? You “Graffittied” Your Shoes?!

A few of us who grew up in the 70s and 80s may remember the voices of frustrated mothers who discovered, with dismay, that during a moment of pure boredom in algebra class, we might possibly have taken to doodling on the soles or the sides of our high tops with a blue ball point pen or a black Sharpie. A mother’s exclamation, “I paid good money for those shoes, and you think you can graffiti all over them?” might have been heard at one time or another by several of us before we had to fork over our own money for the next pair of shoes.

Fast forward forty years, and now students are actually encouraged and, in some instances, even paid to get creative with their footwear, thanks to the company that manufactures *Vans* shoes. *Vans* has partnered with several other companies, including the skateboard company *truth*, the national charity *Americans for the Arts*, the retail clothing store *Journeys*, and the Laguna College of Art and Design to present a creative art challenge to United States’ high schoolers known as *Van’s Custom Culture*.



This year, three Guerin Catholic High School students rose to the challenge. Junior Susi Peredo and seniors Elizabeth Murray and Miran Brooks received four white *Vans* shoes from the company in March. They had a month to come up with their creations base on required themes. Peredo choose the theme *local flavor* and incorporated Indiana agriculture and city life onto the blank canvas shoes with colored Sharpies. Classmate Elizabeth Murray illustrated a music theme on her shoes using the song “Ride” by pop artist Lana Del Rey. According to Murray, the song represents freedom and being true to oneself. In addition to using marker, Murray glued denim to the sides of the shoes, which she felt represented the American dream. At the same time, Miran Brooks designed two pairs of shoes. With the high-top *Vans*, she focused on an art theme, but she hated her first attempt, whitewashed the shoes and started over. The end result was an improvised rainbow tie-dyed tiger/Native American design. “I was trying to create the whole vibe of being young, wild and free-spirited... the whole yolo (you only live once) thing,” Brooks said. Brooks also is into skating, so with the second pair, she used acrylic to paint images of some of Indiana’s top skateboarders. She even painted the soles and the inside panels of the shoes in intricate detail.

When they were finished with their creations, Peredo, Murray and Brooks put together a video that highlighted their work and their thinking behind each design. They also sent high-quality pictures of their shoes into the contest. While their *Vans* designs did not make it into the national finals, the girls and their art teacher Beth Wagoner are extremely proud of their work. To see the official video the trio made this spring, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe3uyFHxQVY>.

Alumni Profiles – Academics with a Side of Art

Normally in this column, we focus on Guerin Catholic alumni who have earned an arts-related degree and hold an arts-related job, such as teaching music, composing, cartooning or directing. This month, however, we focus on several alumnae who are currently in college pursuing degrees in public relations, science or languages. They love their studies, but that hasn't stopped them from finding time to be "artsy" on the side.

Natalie Weber with Purdue University's Comedy Improv Team *The Crazy Monkeys* – 2014 Guerin Catholic graduate Natalie Weber completed her first year at Purdue University as a public relations major. She hopes to land a job someday handling PR for a big city. That's a career that can bring a lot of stress. Weber wanted to balance her major/potential career with a little fun, so she joined *The Crazy Monkeys*, a comedy improv team on campus. The group performs a free monthly show, and they've landed a few paid gigs, too. According to Weber, "A little laughter can cure anything. Whenever I'm having a rough day, and I'm with my improv group, I feel so much better.

Making people laugh is my favorite thing in the world. My big goal would be to join Chicago's famed improv group *The Second City*." Weber got her start in improv in Mike Panasuk's theater arts class as a freshman, and then junior year, she joined the school's *Comedy Sportz* team. "Mr. Panasuk watched me blossom through four years at Guerin Catholic. He gave me so many tips on how to capture an audience through my acting and improvisation."



Connor Ney with *University Singers* at Ohio Northern University – Connor Ney never sang until high school, but with the encouragement of Mark Duray, he joined Golden Voice and every other choir at the school. In addition, last year, he assumed the role of "The Mean Old Lion" in the musical production *The Wiz*. According to Ney, "Practicing and singing in many different styles allowed me to gain knowledge about different kinds of music. This helped me jump right into choir in college, despite being surrounded by many music majors." And that's the thing. Ney is not a music major. He's double majoring in environmental/field biology and Spanish. Music is something he does on the side, rehearsing four times a week with the *University Singers*. In March, Ney traveled with the choir to the United Kingdom. They performed in Glasgow, Manchester, Cardiff and London. "Singing is my outlet," Ney said. "Although rehearsal for my choir is technically a class, I see it as a break in my day where I can relax and do something I truly enjoy."

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Emma Dunlop with Kenyon College Theater Groups – Emma Dunlop did a little acting and quite a bit of directing when in high school at Guerin Catholic thanks to the encouragement of Mr. Panasuk and Marcia Murphy. So it was a no brainer for the freshman English major to get involved in theater at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. She joined three groups, *The Kenyon College Dramatics Club*, *Renegade Theater Company* and *Stage Femmes*. In between all the studying, she appeared in three plays and was nominated as "Newcomer of the Year" at the school's annual Tommy Awards (Think Tony Awards for college). According to Dunlop, the theater experience "helps form confidence and presence in everyday activities, presentations and interviews, and it is fun." It's so much fun that Dunlop will most likely double major in English AND drama beginning next fall.

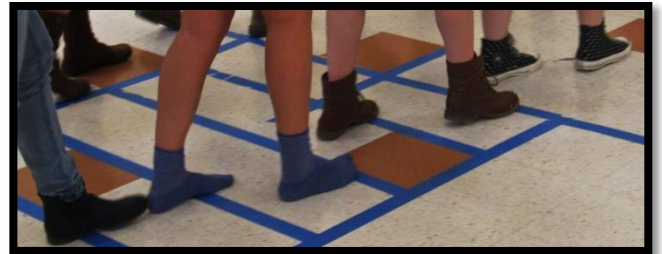


Oliver! All that Work! Rehearse! Rehearse! Rehearse!



This was the scene on set in the Guerin Catholic cafeteria one week prior to opening night of the musical *Oliver!* Director Marcia Murphy, Musical Director Mark Duray, Choreographer Beth Dunlop, Costume Designers Karen Kennedy and Barb Gallina, along with Student Director Michaela Salazar watched and worried about the progress of the show. Not everyone knew their lines. Many didn't know what they were supposed to be doing on stage. A few had yet to be fitted for costumes. Asked to describe where she felt the play was that particular night, Mrs. Murphy sighed and whispered, "Help!" And 48 hours prior to opening, Mrs. Dunlop cried, "Chaos!"

Yet this scene isn't unusual at Guerin Catholic or any other high school. The kids involved in this production are learning lines, playing sports, completing IB exams, making last-minute college decisions, competing in Comedy Sportz, and, believe it or not, trying to stay on top of their nightly homework, too. Freshman Lily Smith, who played The Artful Dodger, admitted she still had work to do. "The Dodger is very dynamic, so trying to be everything at once, funny, serious, (oh, ya, and a boy!), takes a lot of work. I still think I need to grow into my character some." Freshman Michael Bailey, who played the lead role of Oliver, also admitted he had a way to go. He wasn't worried about the acting, but the dancing, well... "I'm bad at it. Mrs. Dunlop has come up with some very challenging steps."



The reality, though, is that by opening night, theater-goers usually see a great show without realizing all the "blood, sweat, and tears" behind it. And so, we thought we'd offer a glimpse of the play before opening night, when things were still a bit rough, and then the night of the premier, when they truly did shine.



Sam Vondesaar memorized song lyrics, Karen Quay reviewed the script, and Aubrey Budzenski finished homework in between scenes.



During a short break, Lily Smith took a funny selfie to show her friend how the show was going at the moment.

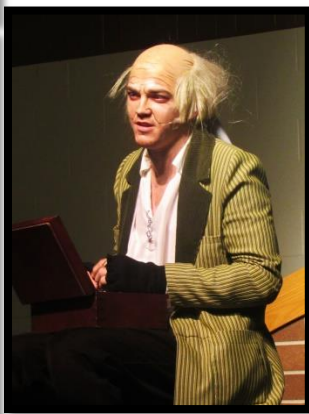


A day before the show, everyone finally had a costume. Aubrey Budzenski helped Hannah Banks get used to his fat suit.



Costume designer Barb Gallina helped Tristan Zavaleta, who played the gluttonous Mr. Bumble, get used to his fat suit.

Oliver! All that Magic! Shine! Shine! Shine!



Emma Rund – Art is Enough

As Guerin Catholic senior Emma Rund was growing up, her parents Rex and Cathy limited TV and internet. They believed there were better ways to spend one's day. They would sing around the house, so Emma would sing, too. When she tired of singing, she'd find other entertainment. "I'd get out the glue and Popsicle sticks or paint or draw." And, of course, there were lessons – art lessons, piano, oboe and voice lessons, choir rehearsals and play practices. Saying Rund has spent her life fully immersed in the arts paints an accurate picture of the young woman who just finished portraying the lead in the school musical *Oliver!* and who is headed to Ball State University in the fall as a Whiting Scholar majoring in theatrical studies and minoring in voice. According to Rund, the arts shouldn't just be about expressing oneself or creating something beautiful. "I want to teach people through the arts; make them question the rules of society or think hard about the best ways to confront issues through art, music and theater." It's evident through Rund's work that this is exactly what she does.

Art – Colored pencils are Rund's favorite tools of the trade because it's easy to blend colors and get very detailed in color and shading. Many of her works are created in colored pencil, including a piece that isn't exactly "pretty" to see. Rund purposely sends a message with this piece. The drawing features a girl dressed in a modest skirt and top looking into the mirror, but she doesn't see a beautiful young woman. She sees a woman who has suffered sexual abuse and is racked with guilt, sadness and self-hate. "I was trying to show that sexual abuse can make a person feel like she deserves to be abused; that it's ok to be treated like an object," Rund said. "I hope this work makes people think."



Music – For me, singing is a safe kind of high," said Rund. "When I sing, my mind fills with the music, and I get lost in the words and the melodies." Rund has been involved in all the choirs and a girls' a cappella group at Guerin Catholic and also has sung with the National Honor Choir at the biannual American Choir Directors' Association (ACDA) convention in Dallas in 2013 and most recently at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. "It's amazing to come together with 300 musically trained singers and premier pieces written by some of the greatest living composers."

Theater – According to Rund, acting gives one the unique ability to share life experiences with an audience. "I love helping the audience feel the atmosphere and gain empathy for the characters," Rund said. "Theater makes both the actors and the audience more understanding people." The young actress has been in over a dozen plays in high school and community theater. Most recently, she had to work hard to do justice to the character Nancy. "*Oliver!* was not a funny show. I could not be goofy. I had to really block everything out and dig into past emotions to become her."



Rund is quick to point out that even though the arts make it possible to "escape" from the realities of everyday life, it's important not to forget who you are. "There's a quote by my one of my favorite actresses, Sierra Bogges, who played Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*. She said, 'You are enough. You are so enough, you have no idea how enough you are.' To me, that means that you gain confidence in expressing yourself through the arts, but don't ever pretend in real life. Just be you. That is enough."