

TIGER GOLD



Fifty Years Later

Senior Class Luncheon

A joint luncheon between the Class of '71 and the Class of '21 took place at the Aycock Barn in Arabi. The students were divided into groups of 5 or 6 and paired at a table with a member of our class.

The students talked of their time at Holy Cross and what their future plans were and the Class of '71 regaled them with tales of 50 years ago and the impact Holy

Cross had on their lives.

Class members who participated in the event were John Tessitore, Roy Scott, Greg Goodson, Don Duplantier, John Glorioso, Darek Guichard, Charles Vanek, Gary Lonatro, Donnie Maheu, John Fiorito, Billy Arsenaux, and Donnie Meyer.



Gary Lonatro and John Fiorito

All of the students I had at my table were polite, well-mannered and respectful. And about half of them were playing with their cell phone. One of the kids said he wanted to go into cyber security.

I gave them positive reinforcements about their future telling them that they had to create their own destiny and that the sky's the limit. All they had to do is work for it to reach it.

Gary Lonatro

We talked about the old campus on Dauphine St, the history of the school, and a little about Br. Melchior. They told me where they planned to go to college

One of them brought up that one day they'd be in our shoes talking to the class of 2071.

My grandnephew who played on the baseball team was at my table. The luncheon was enjoyable and I believe they enjoyed it too.

Donnie Meyer



Tahj Johnson - Valedictorian and Harvard bound

We had a nice little group. We talked about where they were going and what their major was going to be. One of them was going to Harvard and a couple of them were going to LSU.

They wanted to know how it was when I was there. I told them that my dad and uncles and two sons went to Holy Cross and I asked how they decided to choose Holy Cross.

None of them had any family members who had gone there and they said they just wanted to try it.

John Fiorito



Billy Arsenaux

I talked to them about what Holy Cross meant to me and the experiences that I had while in school. I told them that the education I received prepared me for life. I told the group that while I was in high school I had to work on campus to help pay for the tuition. That experience taught me the work ethic I had throughout my working career,

The students asked about the old campus and what was it like. The students told me about themselves, the colleges they were going to attend, and what they would be majoring in.

I told them not to worry - that the academic education they received at Holy Cross has them very well prepared for college.

I shared my story of starting as a part-time associate at D.H. Holmes department store while attending Holy Cross, which developed into a full time career ending as a Corporate Director and retirement from Dillard's after a combined 51 years of service.

We had a good conversation with a lot of interaction. I don't know who got more out the luncheon - the students of 2021 or the grads of 1971.

Billy Arsenaux

Snakes! Why did it have to be snakes? photo by Les Anticich



The students asked what Holy Cross was like when I was there. I told them there was no school bus transportation so we took public transportation. Also, there was no air conditioning in the old building.

They wanted to know why I chose Holy Cross. I told them that I honestly didn't know; my parents made the decision due to the school being in our neighborhood and easily accessible.

All of the students at my table were going to college except one. I asked him why and he stated that college was not for him. He was going to work with his father, who is an electrician, has his own business, and eventually take it over one day. The student impressed me with his response. He had a head on his shoulders and knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life.



Roy Scott

The school did a good job with the event and I think the students appreciated it. In addition to the Senior Lunch, the students had a full day ahead. Later that evening was the baseball team's playoff game, and then the Senior Prom.

Roy Scott

I told them what Holy Cross meant to me and described the bond that the Class of '71 has. I was impressed with the students at my table. All of them had big plans and they knew what they wanted to do.

One was going to New York to study music, and another one was going to the Maritime Academy to become a pilot.

I told them that everybody has their burden to bear. The class of 1921 had the Spanish flu, we had Hurricane Betsy, and they had to deal with Covid. I also told them that in about a month you will be leaving Holy Cross, but it is not going to leave you.

I can't imagine the idea that someone from the Class of 1921 would come to any of our events when we were in school. I think that having people who graduated 50 years ago to come talk about what Holy Cross meant to them impressed the Class of 2021.

Donnie Maheu

I told the kids at my table that they were just beginning life and hadn't really scratched the surface of what life's about. And that throughout their life up to now, they've always had a safety net in their parents and their school.

In college, teachers don't take attendance. It's on you. It's where self-discipline comes in. And if you live in a dorm, you don't have to come back at a certain time – you don't have to come back at all.



Greg Goodson

12th grade.

Then they asked questions about the legends like Coach Kalbacher and wanted to know what the football team like back then. I explained that football may be the most difficult sport to maintain excellence as it requires the most players. Rummel and Shaw eroded Holy Cross' influence on the Westbank and in Metairie.

They also asked how many Brothers were teaching 50 years ago. I said we probably lost 50% of the brothers between 7th and

And about the story of Br. Melchior picking up a student in a desk and threatening to drop him off the balcony. And how Br. Melchior would pick up a piece of chalk, draw a hook on the board to hold his hat. When it fell on the floor he'd say "They don't make hooks like they used to."

I also told them that we had an appreciation for things other than football, like the band and the Bulletin.

One kid said he looked at old yearbooks in the library to get a feeling as to what Holy Cross was like.

Greg Goodson



John Glorioso and Charlie Vanek

At my table the students were talking about their experiences at Holy Cross. There were a couple of band members and a couple of athletes.

They said they enjoyed their time at Holy Cross and were looking forward to college. They asked me about what my experience was like.

I was honest with them and said that I didn't really appreciate my education until I became a senior. And that I had to buckle down in college. I was fine with math and the sciences, but English and history were rough because of all the reading.

John Glorioso

Everybody from our class said in their own way what Holy Cross meant to us. The message we all seemed to send was that our class has formed brotherhood and to remember Holy Cross after you graduate.

The question I was asked by the seniors was what was Holy Cross like when I was there. I told them that we



John Tessitore

had brothers as teachers. They gave us discipline, were demanding, and made you work.

The most asked about was the Legend of Brother Melchior and him holding a kid out over the balcony. I told them “Well, I wasn’t there but that’s the legend . . . “

John Tessitore

During the lunch we talked about whatever the kids wanted to talk about. It was mostly about college choices, careers, and life in general.



Darek Guichard

would be that you both went to Holy Cross, but that could develop into a brotherhood.

Darek Guichard

After lunch some of us gave what was supposed to be a 2 minute speech, but we all talked for longer than that. We shared our experience on what Holy Cross meant to us.

I told them that throughout their life the chances are good that they will meet other people that went to Holy Cross – either from grades above you or below you.

Initially the only thing you would have in common



Donald Duplantier

I talked about life lessons. I told them that not everything was great at Holy Cross, but we went for an education and a brotherhood developed among us.

Donald Duplantier

New Video:

Friday Night Lights: Mark Kalbacher . . . https://youtu.be/dl0S_34FYbg

"Their passes are mostly directed to split end Mark Kalbacher, a very shifty lad." - -
John Joly, Times Picayune

Wine Down with the Rockets Reunion



The Holy Cross Class of 1971's 50 year Wine Down Un-Official High School Reunion will be held on Saturday, the 13th of November 2021. (Wind, Wine, or Whine, your choice)

Mike Strohmeier booked the Rockets, a West Bank band that plays 60s and 70s music. They'll be

playing from about 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Once again, Tommy Tommaseo has reserved the Sicilian Room of Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant and Bar. Naturally spouses, HC faculty, friends of our class, etc. are all invited and the dress code is very casual.



At Chateau Estates . . . John Glorioso, Ty Yokum, Louis Reuther, David Falgoust, Steve Ferrer, Al Waguespack, Mark Kalbacher, Kenny Duke, Dennis Delaney and Louis Saltzmann

Chalkboard

Cheryl and Bobby Dawson's oldest grandson, Brody, graduated high school in the upper 19% in his class with a 3.92 GPA and 17 college credits.



Noralee and Darek Guichard's grandson, Jacob HC26, is the only two time winner of the Cross and Anchor Award. The award is presented "for outstanding achievement in modeling the Holy Cross Man."



Gail and Mike Strohmeyer's grandsons Cruz HC28 and Haven HC31 found a new friend!



Rene Bull is looking for photos from our 10 year reunion. He may be contacted at CookingBull@gmail.com

Boys To Men ~ ~

Alvin Albe, Louis Reuther, and Mike Strohmeyer spearheaded a fund-raising campaign for Holy Cross' Annual Fund. Using email, phone calls, snail mail, and face-to-face persuasion, our class reached 100% participation.

Tommy Hoffman's daughter Victoria just graduated from Texas A&M Corpus Christi.



Ron Blitch recently talked with Michael Boyd (Brother Michael). Boyd lives in Huntington Beach, CA, south of Los Angeles. He just turned 80 and fondly remembers our class - and the surprise of the class bringing his parents to our Senior Prom. If anyone wants his contact info let Ron know.

Paula and David Hardin's grandson, Spencer, graduated from Seven lakes High School in Katy TX



Ty and Cindy Yokum welcomed his first grand daughter, Ellieanna Yokum



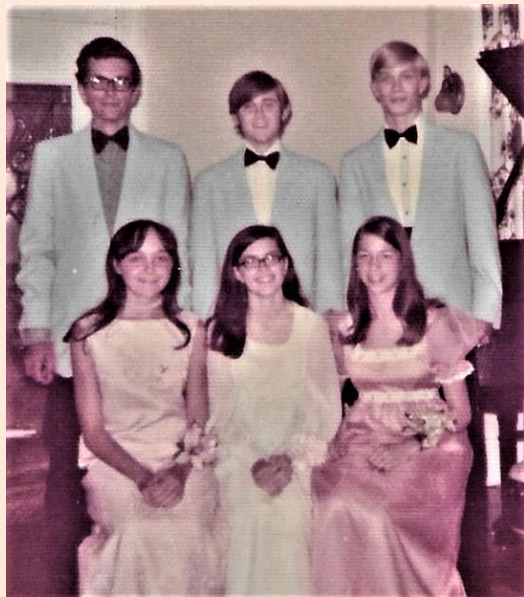
Steve and Claudia Schulz took a trip to Yellowstone



David Falgoust recently shot his second career hole-in-one.



Another prom shot of couples that are still together: Claudia and Stephen Schulz . . . Peggy and Brian Salathe



Graduation Day ~ ~ May 23, 1971
Danny Colomb and Floyd Comberrel



Anniversaries

13th for Rhonda Todoroft and Phil Kessling

35th for Dan and Annelle McGovern

45th for Steve and Claudia Schulz

16th for Billie Kay and Robyn Miller

Same Gazebo . . . Same Friends . . . Reunited on Sacred Ground



Golden Reunion Friday night saw a gathering Under the Oaks at the Paris Ave campus drawing classmates from California to Massachusetts and all points in between.



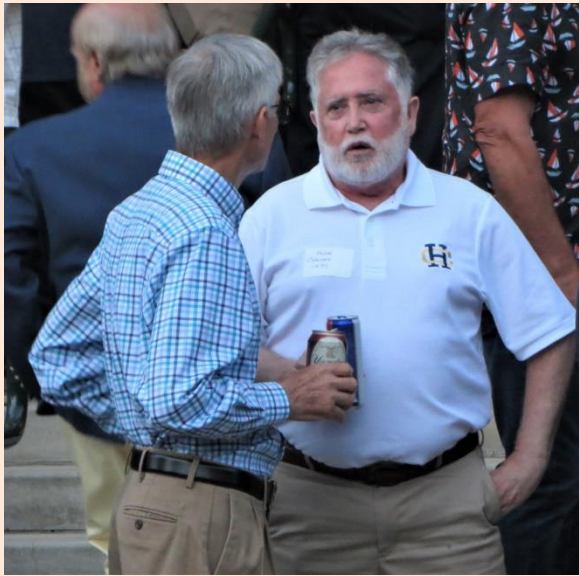
Rene Bull, Kenny Duke, Bobby Wahl, Donald Hergert



Billy Arcernaux, John Fiorito, Ricky Zimmer



Donald Duplantier, Roy Scott, Danny Colomb



Randy Caire, Jesse Carlock



Louie DiVincenti, Charlie Kothmann, Tomie Magee



David Authement, Paul Winters



Dan McGovern, Steve Schulz, Robyn Miller, Humberto Brocato



Michael Leach, Charlie Vanek, Steve Williams



Mike Strohmeyer, Ty Yokum, Donnie Maheu

Red Sky at Night .

. photo by Mike Strohmeyer



New Video

The Play that Made Mike Strohmeyer Famous

"Safety John Glorioso took the ball in and under a head of steam raced all the way - 74 yards - for a touchdown, but there was a Tiger infraction at their 30 and Holy Cross suffered a 15 yard penalty back to their own 15." - - John Joly, Times-Picayune

<https://youtu.be/qCdxZx1-iCM>

In the Tiger's Den



Golden Diploma ceremony in the Holy Cross Student Center



Pursuit of Excellence

Members of the Holy Cross Class of 1970 and 1971 received their Golden Diplomas in a ceremony in the Student Center on the Paris Avenue campus on May 22, 2021. The closing address was delivered by Eric DesOrmeaux '95, Chief School Officer. This was his message:

Bringing hope, being family, finding community, and building respect are the four tenets of the Congregation of Holy Cross and four mainstays of Holy Cross's mission. Your reflective balance in life comes from your pursuit of excellence we at Holy Cross demand of ourselves.

Our theme this year is building respect.

Recently the 43rd president of the United States was quoted as saying "Too often, we judge other groups by their worst examples - while judging ourselves by our best intentions. And this has strained our bonds of understanding and common purpose."

At the beginning of this school year I challenged our student body to respect each other by finding their common purpose.

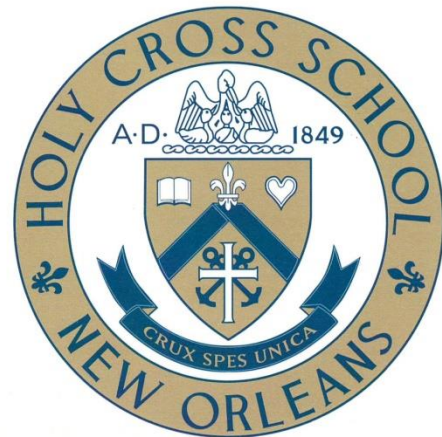
To know that the mission of Holy Cross, our power, and our grace is demonstrated by the convictions of our hearts translating into the action of our hands directed toward others.

Translating the conviction of your hearts and actions can only be accomplished by challenging our young men in the classroom.

If our true goal is intellectual perfection, being uncomfortable is just part of their journey. It is through that journey of discovery to find the best way to identify articulate that love for family friends and community.

And now, your first homework assignment in 50 years: I challenge you to carry the mission and experience of Holy Cross to the world.

Be fearless.



**Class of 1970 & Class of 1971
Golden Diploma Presentation
Saturday, May 22, 2021**

Remember to be a gentleman who lives by faith.

Remember who you are and what you represent.

Go Tigers!

Eric DesOrmeaux '95

Video was Live-Streamlined by Dan McGovern

<https://youtu.be/sEnnxgHb7Og>



Ninety-three diplomas were awarded at the ceremony, including 8 awarded posthumously.

Accepting Golden Diplomas for our deceased classmates were Paula Moll (Jules), Missy Comberrel (Floyd), Kristi Bohnenstiel (Kenny), Jason Rabalais Jr (Jason Sr), Myra Weber (James), Steve Juan (Clifton), Dr Johnny Green Jr (Johnny Sr), and Roy Scott (Larry Franz).



The DeSalvos



The Comberrels



David Jemison, Kenny Duke, Mark Kalbacher



Gary Theriot



John Glorioso, Roni Sumich

A Very Special Diploma

Taking graduation photos is a time-honored tradition, so it was no surprise to see members of the Class of '71 holding their Golden Diplomas in front of a camera.

For one member of the class it was a very special moment because, unbeknownst to him, it was a very special diploma.

With the help of Debbie Sumich and Rhonda Glorioso, a sleight-of-hand trick switched John Glorioso's Golden Diploma for one that Roni Sumich made especially for John.



Before the ceremony, Debbie slipped Rhonda the fake diploma hiding it in a bag. At the conclusion of the ceremony Roni asked John to take a picture with him holding their diplomas.

While the guys were clowning around, Rhonda pulled out the fake diploma and it was handed to John with the back of it facing him.

Dr. Johnny Green

What a blessing it was to share my big day with my nephew, who attended the 50 year reunion ceremony with me to accept his late dad's Golden Diploma.

Johnny, I will always treasure the memories of the too-short time I had with your dad...my best friend and brother-in-law.

And I know how proud he would be of you on this day, as you also became DR. Johnny Green.

I am sooo proud of you, and I thank you for making my special day even more special, and more memorable.

Gary Vinturella



Dr Johnny Green, Gary Vinturella



Humberto Brocato, Bob Wallace, Bill Pedeaux

Fifty Years Later . . .



Humberto Brocato, Bob Wallace, Bill Pedeaux



Al Perry, Ron Blitch, Br. Michael Boyd, Ricky Zimmer

Fifty Years Later . . .



Ron Blitch, Al Perry, Ricky Zimmer

Fifty years ago *We entered as boys and left as men*



Special thanks to Patty Legendre who took most of the photos in the Chateau Estates and Aycok Barn sections of this newsletter and the online albums.

Chateau Estates Country Club

. . . the celebration continued



Ron Blitch, David Falgoust, Chris Rogers



Charlie Kothmann, Tommy Giroir



Donnie Meyer, Mark Kalbacher



Sherry and Rocky Buras



Nikki Brocato, Gary Lonatro, Shirley Tessitore



Steve Ferrer, Dennis Delaney



Ricky Zimmer, Shirley Tessitore, Raymond Wilkinson



Peggy Jones, Larry Folse, Gary Theriot



Harry Schmidt, Louie DiVincenti



Dan and Annelle McGovern



Jerry and Gigi Lacuira



Pam and Donnie Meyer



Billie Kay and Robyn Miller



Dan Simpson



Jacques and Carol Miramon



John Tessitore, Humberto Brocato



Louis and Yvonne Saltzmann



Charlie and Michelle Vanek



Ty Yokum, John Glorioso



Steve Williams, Virginia Boulet



Donald Duplantier, Gary and Shelli Vinturella



Donnie and Lynn Maheu



Raul Viera, Donnie Meyer



Charlie and Frances Kothmann

Instilling a Brotherhood

One senior's thoughts on how Holy Cross has made him the man he is and the man he hopes to become.

For the past seven years, I have spent more time at Holy Cross than I have spent with in my own home. But, from early mornings to late nights, every minute has been worth it. Through the good and bad times, I would not trade the time I have spent here for the world.

Growing up, all I have ever wanted to do was go to Holy Cross. My older brother, class of 2016, used to tell me about the good times he was having at Holy Cross; ever since



I have gotten here, I have loved it. I bleed blue and gold and would do anything for this school.

Holy Cross has instilled a brotherhood into its students that you will not see anywhere else. We are one big family from faculty to students to alumni. I am close with past graduates and I'm close with younger students who still have plenty of time left here. Not many schools can say they instill that kind of environment. Each Holy Cross student is taught to have one another's back. This loyalty

runs very deep and is the most important characteristic Holy Cross instills into its students.

In addition to the familial bond, Holy Cross has also taught me integrity. This trait is something that separates a boy from a man. Integrity caters to honesty, having strong moral principles, and being a good person. One who lacks integrity is not a Holy Cross Man.

Seniors were recently inducted into the Alumni Association for Holy Cross. That has always been a goal of mine. I am now a part of a long history of Holy Cross brothers. Although I am happy I achieved this goal, I am also saddened at the thought of my time at Holy Cross officially ending.

When I got to Holy Cross, I was a boy, but through every aspect of life, Holy Cross has helped me become a man preparing me for the rest of the chapters of my life. Thank you.

Gavin Shulz, '21

Under the Boardwalk

photo by Jeff Junker



More New Videos

Fifty Years Later - - a four minute combination of photos and video looking at the Golden Reunion weekend. <https://youtu.be/7HX3j7Z8mBq>

Friday Night Lights: *Charlie Spitalie* - -

"Charles Spitalie burst loose for 51 yards on a kickoff with a determined run and the Tigers were on fire." - - M.L. Largarde Times Picayune <https://youtu.be/Gp2IGjAEeAs>

Over 200 photos of our recent events can be found online at the links at the end of the newsletter

You have to join the HC71 FB group to view it.

Thanking Tommy



Danny Kattan, Louis Saltzmann, Tommy Tommaseo, Roni Sumich, Keith Treuting, Greg Goodson

As many of you know we just had a fantastic weekend at the Aycock Barn in Arabi LA to honor and thank Tommy Tommasseo for his unselfish contributions to our class and our class reunions over the years.

What we wanted to happen did.

Thanks to Tommy's daughter-in-law, he thought he was going to be attending a tourist promotion being held by Lt Governor Billy Nungesser. It was a total surprise to Tommy until he drove up and saw all our familiar faces.

Tommy unfortunately missed our Golden Diploma weekend, which he always said was going to be his chance to kick back without working and enjoy visiting with all his classmates.

We wanted to give him what he missed and it worked out great. He



was presented with his Golden Diploma, a special plaque done by Roni Sumich, and a framed embroidered "HC" done by Rhonda Glorioso and presented by her husband John.

We had approximately 68 attendees, which included classmates and spouses. Tommy got to kick back, visit, and be fed by us and he enjoyed it very much.

As the idea for this event came to me during my drive home to West Monroe after our original Golden Diploma weekend, I couldn't be more pleased and in awe at the way this came together, as well as for all the help, participation, and contributions that poured in for this event.



Roni Sumich, Tommy Tommaseo, John Glorioso

Special thanks to John Tessitore, Danny McGovern, Jeff Junker, Roni Sumich, Mike Strohmeier and many others who helped put this together in just two weeks.

But here's the best part: In order not to have any issues with getting this done Danny and I fronted the cost. John and the rest helped with contacts and set up. Everyone else contributed so graciously on the day of the event that we collected more than the cost of the event.

What a fabulous group of people our class has become. To me we just might be the best of the best from Holy Cross bar none.

Finally, thank you all for attending this event. Mine was the idea, but yours was the success. I think it was something that Tommy will cherish and never forget. Just as we do him. Holy Cross Brothers for Life.

Larry Folse



Jacques Miramon, Donnie Maheu



Greg Goodson, Dennis Delaney



Gail and Mike Strohmeier, Louis Reuther



Patty and Harry Legendre



Louis Reuther, Frank and Marcia Marengo



Gary Ritzmann, Peggy Jones, Larry Folse, Annelle and Dan McGovern, Bobby and Kathy Turner



Billy Arsenaux, Tommy Tommaseo, Greg Goodson



Donald Hergert, John and Rhonda Glorioso, Donnie and Pam Meyer



Randy Caire, David Authement, Bobby Dawson



Donnie Maheu, Frances and Harold Veith



Glenn and Gretchen DeGruy, Gary Ritzmann

West Point Cadet

Charles Sauerwin III HC21 was the recently graduated senior who addressed our class at the Golden Diploma ceremony. He is now a West Point Cadet.

While at Holy Cross Charles was a member of the wrestling team, student body president, and Salutatorian.



Links to the four photo albums covering our activities for this past May and June.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.317716223240031&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.533746047810188&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.533809954299020&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1998003260349995&type=3>

*The Holy Cross Class of 1971
Facebook page can be found at:*

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HolyCross1971/>

*The Holy Cross Class of 1971 You
Tube Channel can be found at:*

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UEwLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber

*The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Web
Page can be found at:*

* <http://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>