

# CATCHING THE LIGHT



Jerry Lodriguss

## **The Luckiest Man Alive**

"I'm probably one of the luckiest people who ever went to Holy Cross," Jerry Lodriguss said. "I had it all." Laughing, he continued, "Still do. Both the good and the bad."

Lodriguss describes himself as an "overachieving Yat from the Ninth Ward."

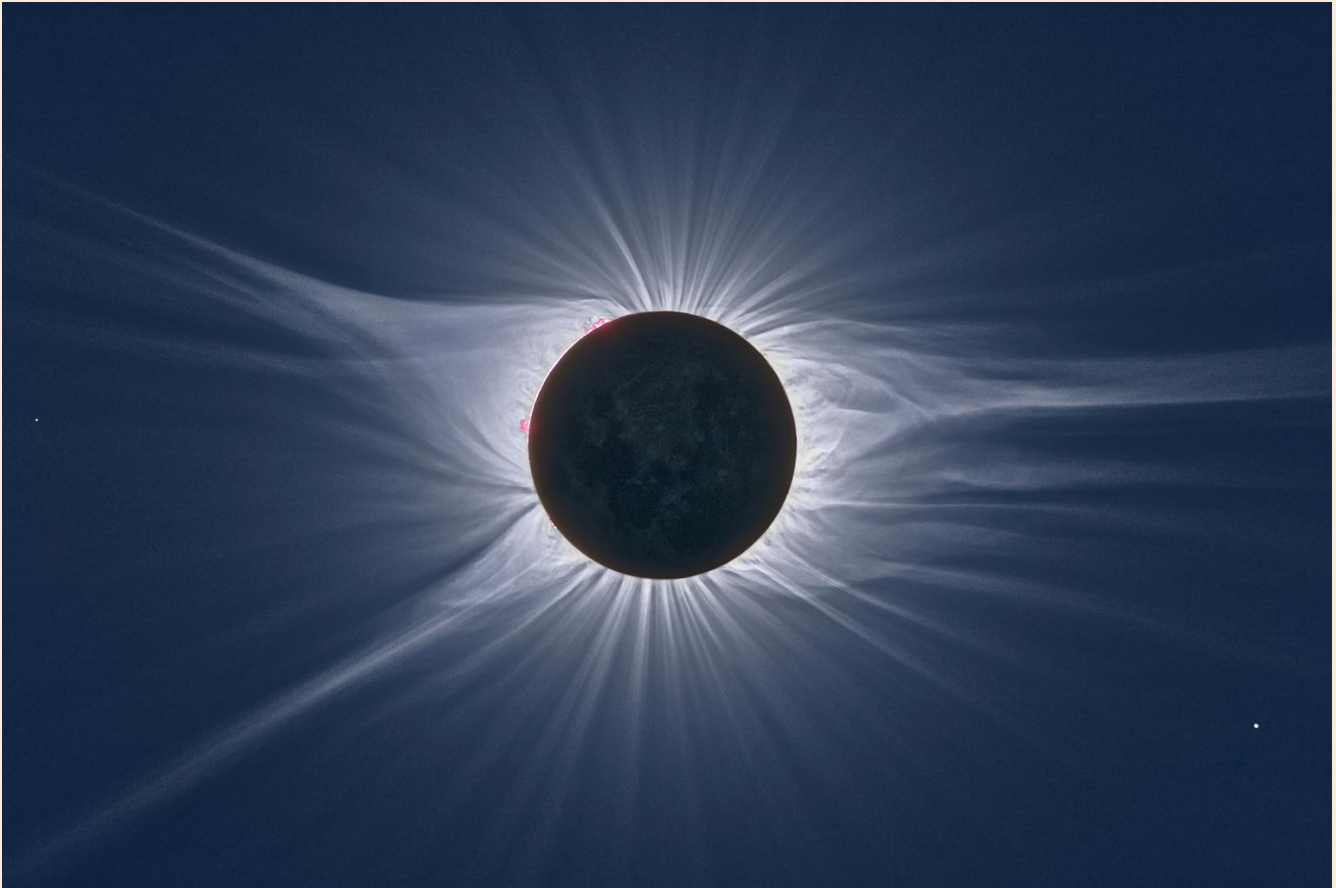
Looking back, he said, "I had a hell of a career and life, but everything came down to luck, hard work, and love."

"I met the love of my life in high school; we had two great sons, and we are still going strong."

"I've had two successful careers in completely different fields – photography and writing. And I had a great hustle going – getting paid to do what I loved."

"The best part of my job was that I covered something different every day. I've photographed everything from hopscotch to the Olympics."

Lodriguss has captured some of the most iconic moments in sports, including the only bottom-of-the-ninth, come-from-behind, walk-off home run to win the World Series, and three last-second shots that won NCAA men's basketball national championships.



*The subtle and ethereal beauty of the corona, the Sun's outer atmosphere, is seen in a High-Dynamic-Range composite image of the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017 from Bandit Springs, Oregon in the United States.*

Reflecting on his career in astrophotography, he said, "I've seen some amazing things in the sky. I've seen meteors falling like rain with exploding fireballs that left smoke trails. I've stood with my jaw agape at the Milky Way stretching across the entire sky from one of the darkest observing sites in the world at a campsite at 12,000 feet in the Andes mountains in Peru. I've stood in the Moon's shadow and seen the Sun go out during a total solar eclipse."

His legacy is not just in the photographs he has taken but also in the impact he has had on others. Lodriguss has taught and mentored aspiring astrophotographers, encouraging them to pursue their dreams and develop their skills. He has also educated and inspired people with his writing on astronomy, making the wonders of the universe accessible to everyone.

## Youth

Since his early days, Lodriguss has had two major interests – sports and astronomy.

He first became interested in astronomy at the age of seven when he looked through a "spyglass" at the moon and was astonished to see that it had craters.



*Jerry's Stallings Center Biddy basketball team poses with the trophy after winning the city championship with an undefeated season.*

"Lying down in my grandfather's boat, I can remember looking up at the stars and thinking about how incredibly far away they were and wondering if someone might be looking back at me from a planet going around one of those stars," he said.

His other youthful interest was sports. He loved basketball and baseball. He even played on a couple of championship basketball teams when he was twelve.

From there, he played junior varsity baseball as a sophomore, and varsity basketball as a junior at Holy Cross.

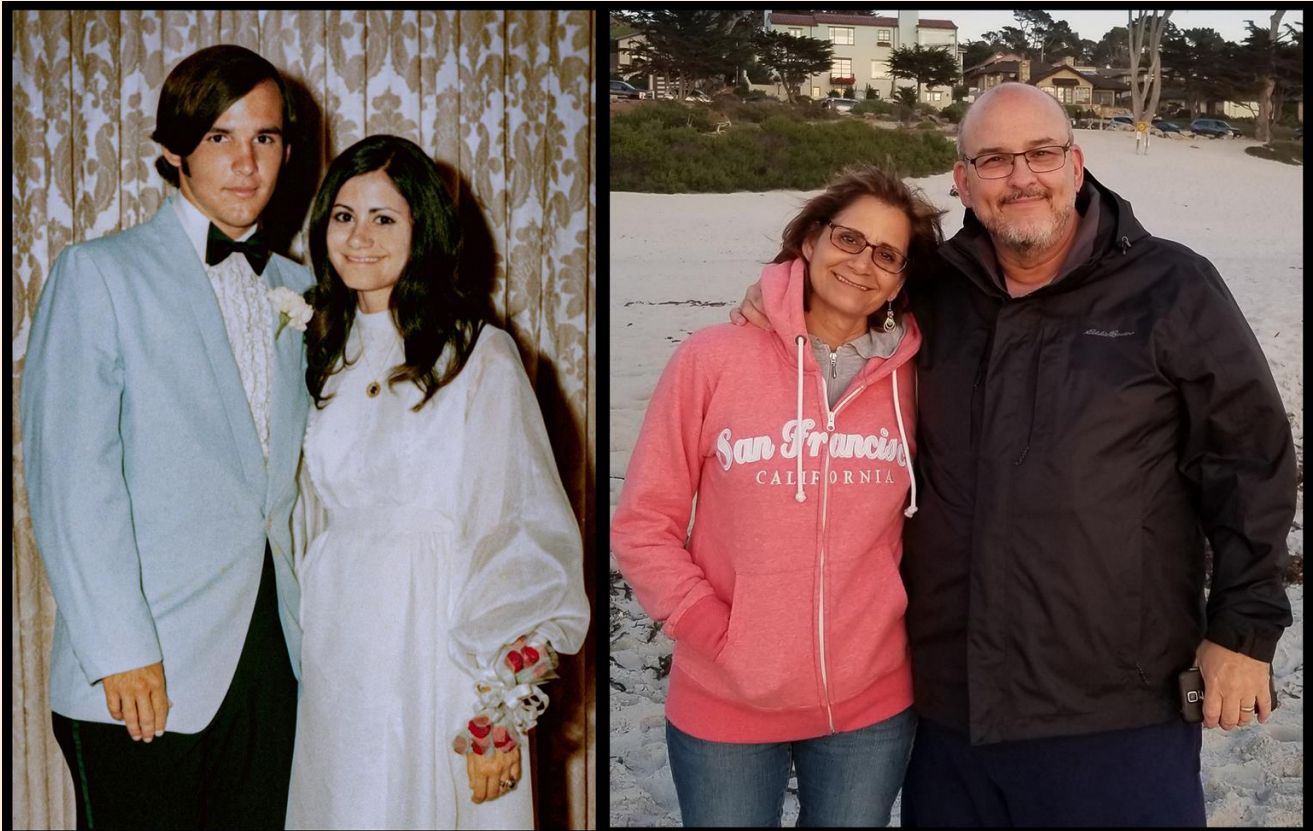
He looks back fondly on the pickup games at Holy Cross' gym during the annual Seasonal Holiday Invitational Tournament (SHIT) played with his friends.

He says, "I loved sports and was very lucky to find a way to make a living shooting them."



## Family

"I met Kathy Lecce on a blind date. I fell in love with her when I first looked into her smoky dark eyes and was mesmerized. More than 50 years later, we are still crazy in love."



*Jerry and Kathy at the Holy Cross Senior Prom in New Orleans in 1971 and on the beach at Carmel-by-the-Sea in California 50 years later.*

"Kathy means everything to me," Jerry said. "She's always been there for me through the hard times. I love her kindness, her understanding, and especially her laugh. I feel incredibly lucky to have found her, raised two great kids, shared a lifetime, and grown old together. She gave me my life."

Kathy and Jerry have two sons, Brandon and Michael.

Brandon got married to Sarah Alonzo in a secluded redwood forest in California during the height of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kathy and Jerry were unable to



*The Lodriguss Family: Sarah, Brandon, Michael, Kathy, Jerry.*

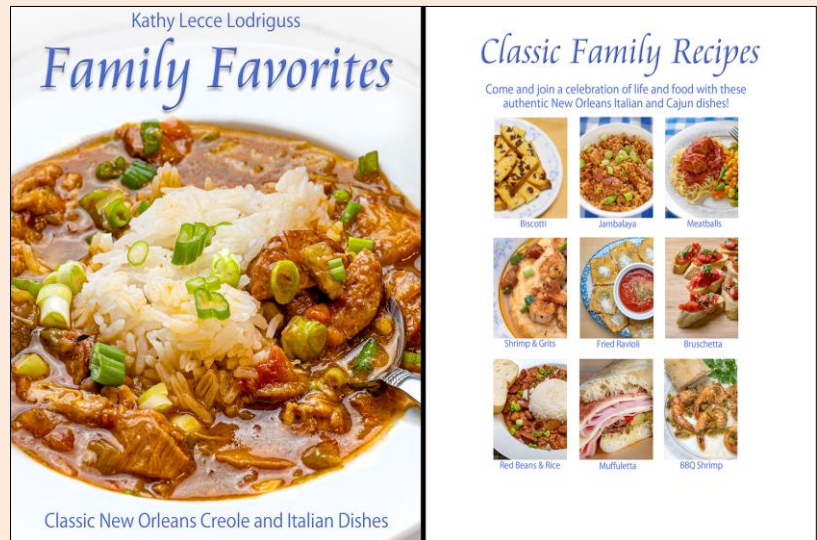


travel because Jerry was severely immune-compromised and the vaccines had not come out yet.

Brandon now works as the CIO for the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Sarah works as a Senior Sourcing Recruiter and Southeast Sales Team Lead for Slack Technologies. Michael works as a systems engineer for the American Board of Internal Medicine.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kathy caught a different kind of bug from her husband – writing.

After a lifetime of cooking classic New Orleans Creole and Italian dishes at home, she finally put together a cookbook, "Family Favorites," with all her family's secret recipes.

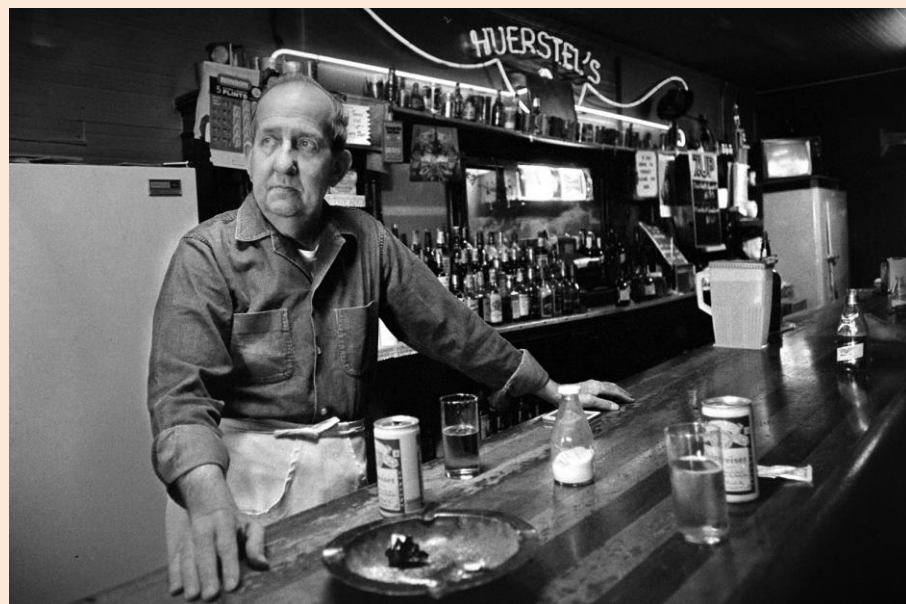


*Kathy's "Family Favorites" cookbook.*

## College

After graduating from Holy Cross, Lodriguss drifted through college at the University of New Orleans, changing majors every semester for the first three years because everything interested him. He started with geology, then moved to physics, computer science, philosophy, English literature, psychology, film and video, finally ending up in journalism.

"I thought I wanted to go into science, but calculus thought differently," Jerry said. "I even quit college at one point and drove a truck. I worked in a restaurant until I burned five gallons of the chef's signature turtle soup, and he made me



*Clem Huerstel behind his bar on St. Claude Ave. in the ninth ward. For the Times-Picayune.*

clean the toilets. I didn't have a clue about where I was going in life, what I was doing, or what I was going to do."

When he had earned about 100 credit hours in 1974 at the University of New Orleans, he had to choose a major and stick with it. He chose journalism at Louisiana State University because he had always enjoyed writing, and UNO didn't offer it as a degree program.

"I had no thought of being a photographer when I got into journalism. I was going to be a writer," he said. "It's funny that after all of those years making my living as a photographer, I'm ending my career as a writer."

## **Career**

Lodriguss bought his first 35mm camera in 1971 to take pictures through his homemade 10-inch telescope. He started taking pictures of other things too and fell in love with photography. On weekends, he shot high school football games for \$5 per photo for a suburban weekly newspaper.



*Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham flies through the air on the way to a touchdown against the Green Bay Packers on December 16, 1990 at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.*

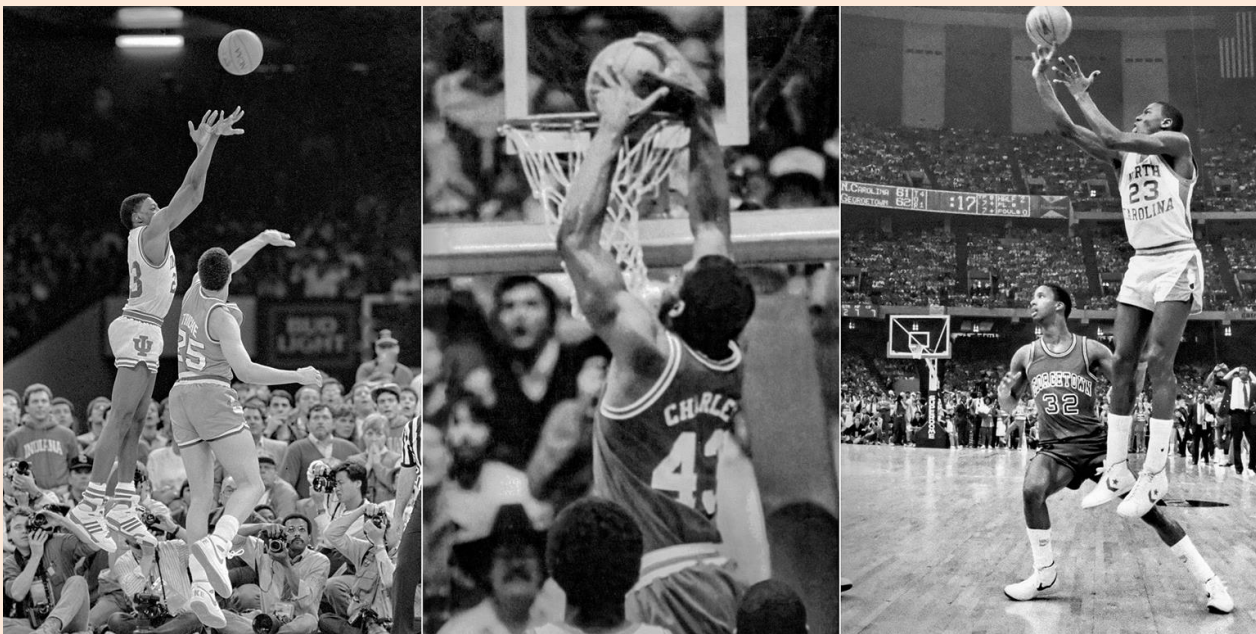
In 1975, he started the journalism curriculum at LSU and applied for the job of staff photographer on the *Daily Reveille*, the school's newspaper.



"The sky was on fire when I walked out of the journalism school building after I got that job. It wasn't a portent or omen though; I don't believe in that kind of stuff. But it was an unusually spectacular volcanic sunset and a cool coincidence," Lodriguss remembers.

"I got that job with no previous photography experience!" Jerry said. "There was a new editor that year, and she did not like the previous staff photographer. That was the incredible stroke of luck that changed the course of my career and the rest of my life."

He had started his last semester at LSU in September 1975, with nine credit hours left before graduating. He planned to be a staff writer for the *Reveille* that semester, but a new suburban daily newspaper, The *Jefferson Parish Times*, started publishing in Metairie and advertised a staff photographer position. Lodriguss applied, got the job, and quit school. He did return to UNO ten years later and finished his degree in communications, with a focus on film.



*Left: Keith Smart hits the game-winning shot with five seconds left to give Indiana a 74-73 victory over Syracuse in the NCAA men's basketball championship game in New Orleans on March 30, 1987. For the New York Times.*

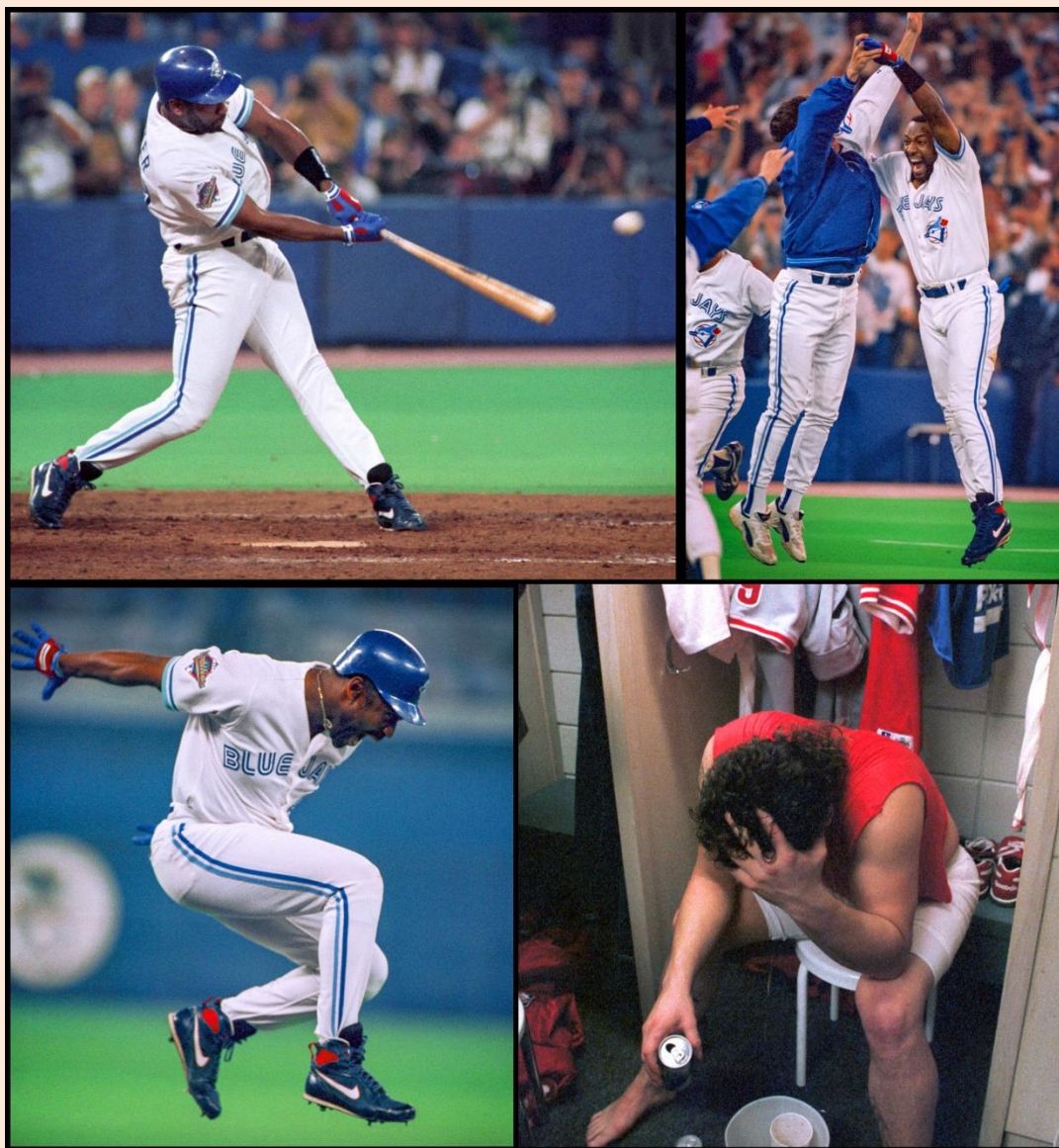
*Center: North Carolina State's Lorenzo Charles dunks the ball at the buzzer to beat Houston 54-52 to win the NCAA Men's basketball tournament national championship in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 4, 1983. For United Press International.*

*Right: With 17 seconds left, Michael Jordan hits the game-winning jump shot to beat Georgetown 63-62 and claim the 1982 NCAA basketball national championship for North Carolina in New Orleans on March 29, 1982. For United Press International.*

In January 1978, a little more than two years after quitting school, Jerry was shooting game action on the sidelines of Dallas' win in the Super Bowl and Alabama's national championship in the Sugar Bowl, both held in the Super Dome that year.



In an article on sports photographers in the October 1982 issue of *American Photographer*, Rich Clarkson, one of the deans of American sports photojournalism, said, "Lodriguss is one of a handful of American sports photographers who combines great timing with a keen sense of graphics in both his action and subtler sidelines work. He is an excellent editor of his own work, and when taking a second look at negatives, will often choose an image that reveals the impact of high-action play in an unusual but straightforward fashion. He is one of the unique talents in American sports photography today."



*Toronto Blue Jays' Joe Carter hits a Mitch Williams' fastball over the wall in left field in the bottom of the ninth inning, leading his team to the World Series victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday October 23, 1993 at Skydome in Toronto. At bottom right, Williams sits in his locker after the game with his head in one hand, and a beer in the other.*

*It was the first bottom-of-the-ninth inning, walk-off, come-from-behind, series-winning home run in the history of the World Series. For the Philadelphia Inquirer.*

## Career Timeline

- 1975 Jan – Sept: LSU *Daily Reveille* staff photographer.
- 1975 Sep – 1976 Oct: *Jefferson Parish Times* staff photographer.
- 1976 Oct – 1979 Apr: *Times-Picayune* staff photographer.
- 1979 Apr – 1980 Nov: Freelance AP, UPI, *New York Times*, etc.
- 1980 Nov – 1984 Oct: UPI Louisiana NewsPictures Bureau manager.
- 1984 Oct – 1987 Sept: Freelance Time, *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times*.
- 1987 Sep – 2008 Dec: *Inquirer* sports photographer and sports picture editor.
- 2008 Mar – Present: AstroPix LLC

(Below) Jerry covers flooding in uptown New Orleans right outside the front door of his apartment on Palmer Ave in 1980. Photo by G. Andrew Boyd.

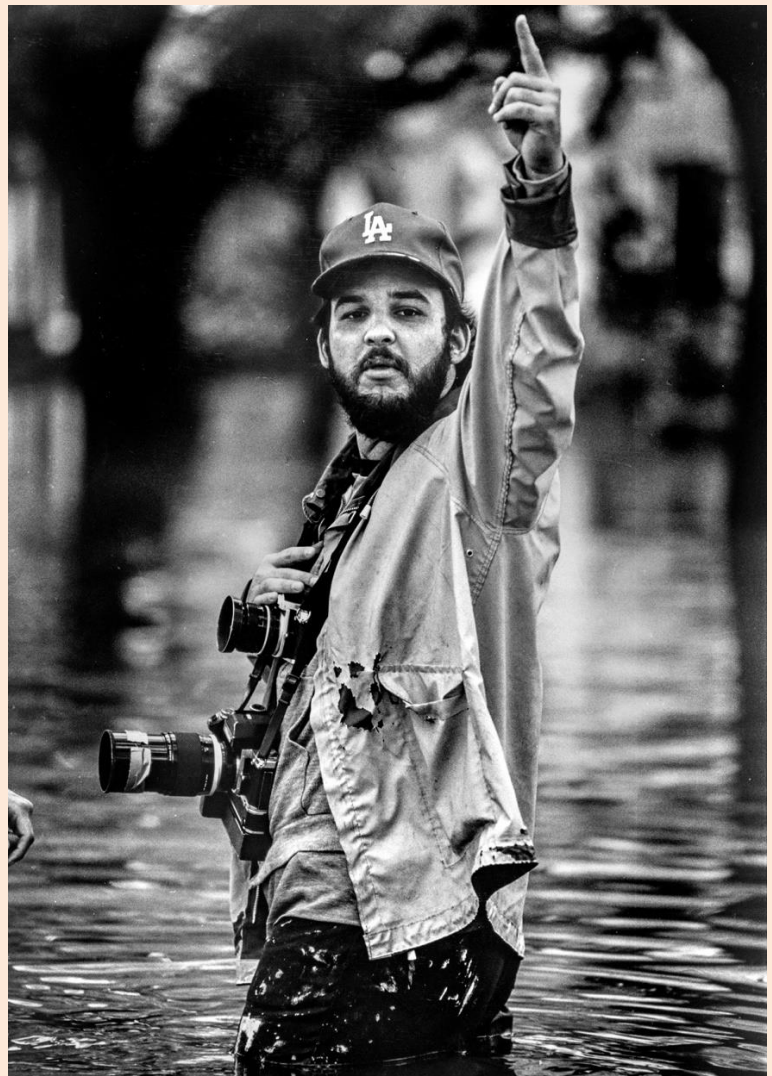
## F/8 and Be There

Shooting sports and astrophotos weren't the only things he captured with his camera. At the beginning of his career, he also covered various subjects as a general assignment photographer.

He chased breaking news stories, such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes, and covered high-society Mardi Gras parades and balls, ribbon cuttings, debutante coming-out parties, the Jazz Festival, national political conventions, and more.

One major news story he particularly remembers is the crash of Pan Am Flight 759 on July 10, 1982. Wind shear downed the passenger plane during takeoff from Moisant International Airport in Kenner, killing 154 people.

He recalls that day: "It was a typical hot summer Friday in New Orleans. It was crazy humid, like always. And





then the thunderstorms started rolling in.”

“I had taken off early that day because it was slow, and nothing was going on. I went to my mom's house to help my brother take some junk to the dump. But when we got there, it started to rain like a hurricane. We sat there in the downpour for half an hour smoking a joint before we decided we were nuts and drove the trash back to my mom's house.”

“Then I got the call from the UPI office that a plane had crashed. My mom's house was in New Orleans east, all the way across town from the airport. I drove like a maniac to get there. All three lanes of traffic were stopped on the interstate in Metairie, all the way from the parish line to the exit for the airport, so I drove on the shoulder of the road.”

“The trick to getting pictures from a disaster like this is to arrive at the scene before they close the perimeter. If someone says you can't be here, you say 'yes sir' and you find another way in.”

“I shot a roll of color and a roll of black-and-white film and headed back to the UPI bureau in downtown New Orleans to transmit. Getting these pictures out fast was the most important thing.”



*A child's stuffed animal sits in the rubble as a house burns in the background after a Pan Am 727 crashed on takeoff into a residential neighborhood in Kenner, La. killing 154 people on July 9, 1982. For United Press International.*

“There was a deadline every minute somewhere in the world, and on a story like this, everyone was waiting for the pictures. You are on an adrenaline high, but you have to be able to temporarily turn off the empathy center in your brain to cover something like this.”



"I transmitted the images analog to the rest of the world. This was long before digital. In those days, it took eight minutes to transmit one black and white image. For color, you had to transmit three b&w images, one each for the red, green, and blue channels. That took almost a half an hour. And you could only transmit one picture at a time to everyone across the world, and they could only receive one at a time."

Whenever someone would ask Lodriguss how he got a particular spot news image when all hell was breaking loose, he would say, "f/8 and be there."

He explains, "That's from a photojournalism proverb. F/8 refers to a setting on a lens. But that was not what it really meant. It meant that camera equipment didn't matter if the content was good enough just from being there in the right place at the right time when the important stuff was still happening."

His best advice for taking better pictures, in general, is in two parts: "Stand in front of something more interesting." and "Practice a lot."

## **Making a Living with Hand-Eye Coordination**

Photography was quite different back then when Lodriguss first got started. He says, "The old-timers would sit around in the print darkroom and have a couple of shots of whiskey when they got off at 5 o'clock. They would kid me about how easy I had it with a camera with a motor drive that could shoot 36 frames at 3 frames per second. They'd say, 'You kids have it made. We could only shoot one frame at a time with a Speed Graphic!'"



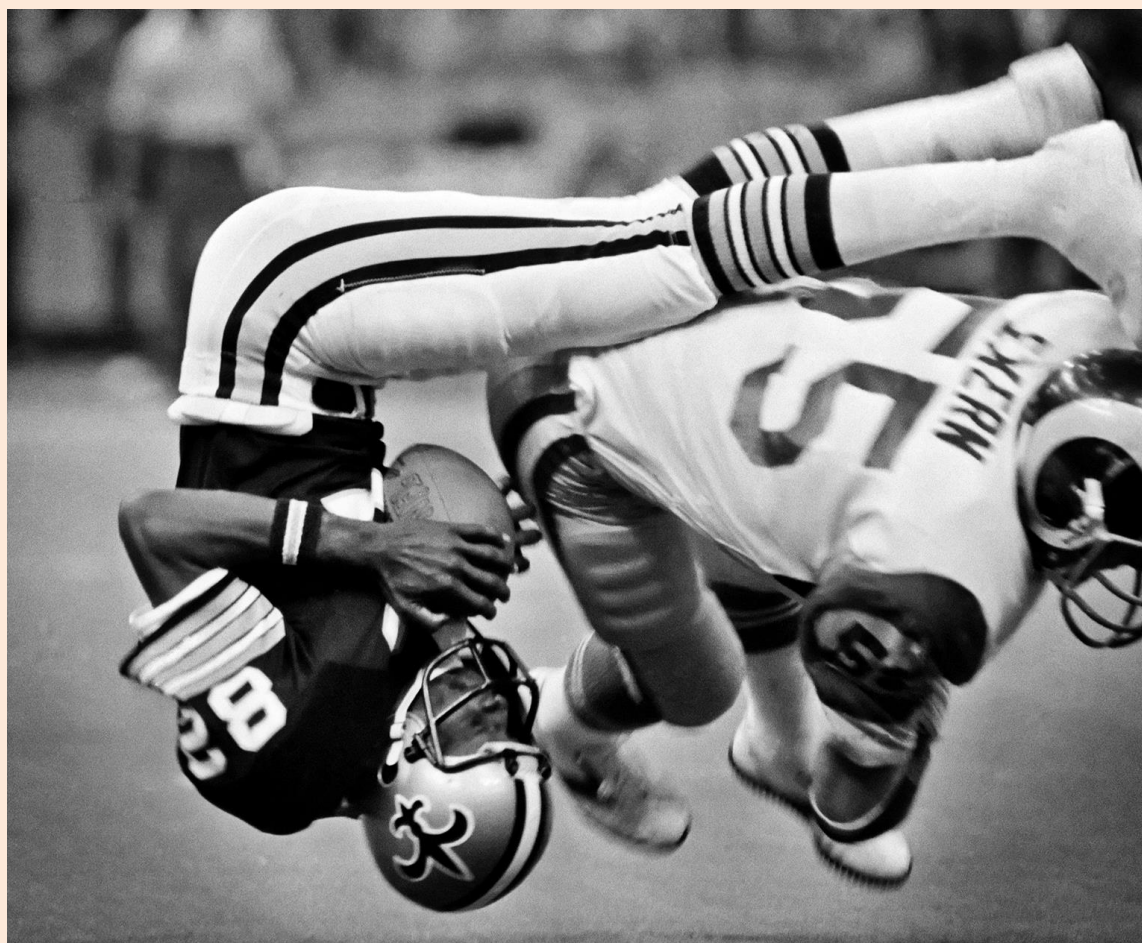
*Sweat flies from Victor Galindez' head as a punch lands in his fight with Marvin Johnson on November 30, 1979 in New Orleans. For the Times-Picayune.*

"Nowadays, I'm the one telling the youngsters, 'You have it easy! You have digital cameras that can shoot 200 frames per second and store thousands of images on a single memory card. And you have autofocus!'"

Lodriguss explains that taking sports photos in the old days was a challenging task, even with a motor drive, as it was done using manual focus cameras. To get closer to the action, he used large telephoto lenses with long focal lengths, which made focusing extremely difficult.

"The old-timers only had one frame, but they didn't have to focus. They pre-focused everything!"

In football, he would start by following the quarterback after the snap, but when he passed the ball, Jerry had to remove the camera from his eye and figure out where the ball was going. This required excellent hand-eye coordination – he had to pick up the receiver, put the camera back up to his eye, focus, and press the shutter button almost simultaneously. All of this happened in the blink of an eye.



*New Orleans Saints' Ike Harris flips upside down but holds on to the ball during the Saints - Rams game on November 25, 1980 in the Louisiana Superdome. The Rams' Carl Ekern made the hit on the play, and the Rams went on to win 27-7 as the Saints lost their 12th game.*



"There was no time to think about it. It was all muscle memory. Luckily, I was very good at the hand-eye coordination required for manual focusing. In those days, focusing was what separated the pros from everyone else in sports action photography," he continued.

One of those hand-eye coordination moments occurred when he was covering the Saints-Rams game in the 1980 season. Saints player Ike Harris caught a pass and was flipped over by a Rams defensive back right in front of Lodriguss, so close that the receiver would have been out of the frame if he hadn't been bent in half. That photo, seen above, won the 1981 National Football League Photo of the Year prize and hangs in the NFL Hall of Fame.

"That picture should have been out of focus," Lodriguss said. "The camera was out of alignment. Every frame I shot ringside with this camera the night before at the 'No Mas' Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran fight was out of focus." Lodriguss continues, "Of course, I took full credit for the picture anyway, but it was really just luck."

## **The Philadelphia Inquirer Years**

Lodriguss' path eventually led him to *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1987, where he worked as the staff sports photographer and a picture editor for 21 years.



*With a spectacular view of the city of Barcelona in the background, 29 year-old Mary Ellen Clark of Newtown Square, Pa., wins a bronze medal on her final dive in the women's 10-meter platform competition during the 1992 Olympic Games. For the Philadelphia Inquirer.*



"It was a great gig. I got to sit in front of the \$1,000 court-side seats at the NBA Finals. At Phillies baseball games, I literally sat next to the Phillies' manager. They sent me around the world to cover the Olympics."

"But it wasn't all fun and games," Lodriguss recalls. "You wouldn't think that sports photography was dangerous, but it could be. You could get run over on the sidelines of a football game if you didn't pay attention. We used to say it was only funny until someone got hurt – then it was hilarious."

"One time, I was shooting a hockey game through a hole cut out of the glass at ice level for photographers. As I bent over to get a lens out of my camera bag, an errant puck came flying through the hole and hit the woman seated behind me in the mouth, broke her teeth, and sent her to the hospital."

"At the Phillies' games, I was closer to the batter than the pitcher. It was very thrilling being that close when a 100 mph line-drive foul ball would come screaming into the dugout. I had friends get hurt like that. But that danger kept me awake during some boring games."

"Shooting sports was glamorous, but it was also a lot of hard work. It was a lot like playing the game. You had to know what was going on, and you had to have your head in the game on every play."



*Best friend Tommy Hoffmann assists Jerry on the sidelines of Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville, FL on February 6, 2005.*

"I've done some crazy things to get pictures into the paper on deadline. I've developed film in a hotel bathroom and washed prints in the toilet. I've shot a night playoff football game and developed the film in the car on the way back to the paper."

Lodriguss continues, "Covering the Olympics by yourself isn't easy either. *The Inquirer* sent four writers. But I got to pick what I covered, so I shot all the best stuff."

"Working 18-hour days at the Olympics for three straight weeks puts you on an endorphin high, that's for sure. At least until you get back to the paper, and everyone thinks you've been on vacation because they didn't see you in the office."



*Jerry is doused with Champaign after the Phillies won the 2007 National League East division title.  
Photo by Yong Kim.*

Lodriguss' sports photography has won numerous awards, including first-place prizes for feature, action, and photograph of the year in the National Football League Hall of Fame Contest. He has twice won first-place honors for Sports Portfolio in the National Press Photographer's Association / University of Missouri Pictures of the Year competition.



THURSDAY  
OCT. 30, 2008

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

75¢  
\$1 in some  
locations outside the  
metropolitan area

WORLD  SERIES

# WORLD CHAMPS!

## 28 years later, Phillies again are baseball's best



**Brad Lidge and Carlos Ruiz** celebrate after Lidge struck out the final batter in the ninth inning. The victory gave Philadelphia its first major title in any sport since 1983. JERRY LODRIGUSS / Staff Photographer

*The Philadelphia Inquirer's Front Page after Phillies 2008 World Series Championship shows pitcher Brad Lidge and catcher Carlos Ruiz celebrating after the last out of the Phillies victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.*

*In the 21 years that Jerry covered sports for the Inquirer, this was the only major sports team in Philadelphia to win a championship.*



## Astronomy

Lodriguss explains a little about the process of shooting his out-of-this-world photos: "Astronomical photography of the night sky – stars, planets, comets, nebulae, and galaxies— can record beautiful astronomical objects that are too faint for the human eye to see, even through a powerful telescope."



*The Horsehead Nebula, B33, is the dark nebula in front of the bright red emission nebula IC 434. Along with the Orion Nebula, these nebulae near the Horsehead are part of a very large complex that is a stellar nursery where stars are forming out of the dust and gas. Located about 1,500 light years away, this complex is the closest star forming region to our own solar system.*

"But some of this stuff is very faint, so you need long exposures and dark skies. And you have to use a special camera mount to compensate for the Earth's rotation to avoid star trailing. It gets a lot more complicated when you use long focal lengths in telescopes. Then you need a lot more equipment, and you have to computerize everything."

A typical night of astrophotography for Lodriguss in New Jersey involved researching and planning the framing of the object to be shot, determining the best time to shoot it, equipment checks, packing his compact car to the gills with equipment, and driving an hour or more to a local observing site in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. It would take him an hour to set up his



equipment, and then he would spend all night taking pictures. He would pack up at dawn and drive home, trying to stay awake and not hit any deer or rabbits in the road.



*Jerry's equipment for a night of astrophotography at a local observing site included 18 cases and 300 pounds of equipment.*

In the winter, his work nights could be 16 hours long. In the freezing cold. For one or two final images.

With the popularity of smartphones these days, not everyone is interested in using a big camera and lugging around 300 pounds of equipment, as Lodriguss did for 40 years. Amazingly, the camera technology inside smartphones is now good enough to take pictures of the sky at night, so Jerry's latest book is "Smartphone Astrophotography" on Kindle.

Lodriguss' astrophotos have been featured many times on NASA's Astronomy Photo of the Day and included in the book "Through the Lens: National Geographic's Greatest Photographs." His work was also included in the exhibits of:

- The National Geographic Society
- The Space Telescope Science Institute's Hubble Heritage Program
- The Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum
- The American Museum of Natural History



## Comet Hale-Bopp

"In 1997, Comet Hale-Bopp appeared. It was spectacular, and I shared a special experience with my sons while photographing the comet," Lodriguss recalls.



*The photographers two sons, 12 year-old Michael (left) and 15 year-old Brandon, watch C/1995, Comet Hale-Bopp, on April 1st, 1997, the day of the comet's perihelion, its closest approach to the Sun. For National Geographic.*

"The comet would be visible in the west just after sunset. The problem was that light pollution from Philadelphia made it difficult to view from New Jersey. So I found a fellow astronomer who graciously allowed me to use his observatory located west of Harrisburg, PA, under a dark western sky."

"The only drawback was that it required a three-and-a-half-hour drive, one way, through heavy rush hour traffic in both Philadelphia and Harrisburg to get there. But this comet was going to be worth it."

"The day before perihelion, when the comet was closest to the Sun and at its brightest, we had a blizzard here, with substantial snowfall to the north. Luckily, there was very little snow to the west around Harrisburg."



"Contemplating the weather while the storm was raging, I wasn't optimistic about getting a photo on that day, but the storm cleared all the haze and pollution. April 1st, the day of perihelion, turned out to be cloud-free with remarkably transparent skies. Humidity in Harrisburg was very low, at 19 percent. So I knew this would be the day, even though it was going to be very cold and windy in the mountains where the observing site was."



*Brandon, Jerry, Michael.*

"I asked my two sons, Brandon, 15 years old, and Michael, 12 years old, if they would come along so I could take a photo of them in the foreground looking at the comet."

Lodriguss continues, "Naturally, being smart kids, they wanted to know what was in it for them. I said I would treat them to McDonald's. They laughed at me when they found out it was a three-and-a-half-hour drive, followed by a couple of hours of shooting, and then a two-and-a-half-hour drive to get back. I appealed to their sense of duty, their loyalty to their old man. I got howls of laughter in return. I tried to make them feel guilty, reminding them of all the things I had done for them. Repressed snickers and giggles."

"Finally, I offered them a financial incentive to get them to agree. Fifty dollars each. Bingo! Their eyes lit up, and they got their winter coats. When all else fails, cold hard cash will work every time."

"They really earned their money that day. Between the driving time and standing in the freezing cold and bitter wind for about an hour while I ran around taking pictures, they barely made minimum wage. But the effort was worth it. I was very happy with the final photo because it combined a human element and a real sense of scale with the comet, instead of just a tree or building in the foreground."

"We got a chance to see the comet of a lifetime in a truly dark sky. A couple of months later, the photo was published across two full pages in National Geographic Magazine. I received a big check that I shared with them. At the time, National Geographic was the largest circulation magazine in the world, with tens of millions of readers."

## Astropix LLC

"After I left the *Inquirer*, I worked full-time on AstroPix LLC. I started the business while working at The Inquirer. It ended up being two full-time jobs at the same time," Jerry said.



"When I started consistently making a lot more from AstroPix than from the Inquirer, I left," continued Lodriguss.

"Deciding to leave wasn't hard. Like almost every other magazine and newspaper at the time, they were being put out of business by the internet. And they were filing for bankruptcy."

Jerry and Kathy turned AstroPix LLC into a highly successful company. By that time, he was one of the top astrophotographers in the world.

He was a contributing editor to Sky & Telescope magazine, the leading amateur astronomy magazine.

His AstroPix website ranked number one on Google search for years. He sold digital copies of his books to the public and licensed his images to publications around the world.

*Jerry's eight books on astronomy and astrophotography were published by AstroPix LLC, a publishing company that he and Kathy started.*



## Comparing Sports and Astronomical Photography

Lodriguss photographed spot news, sports, features, and weather for newspapers, magazines, and wire services. He also captured astronomical events and wonders in the sky for books, magazines, and stock sales.

He says, "My career went from the ridiculous to the sublime – from covering athletes making hundreds of millions of dollars for playing kids' games to shooting the subtle beauty of nature in the night sky."

"Sports and astronomy were as different as night and day," he said with a laugh. "I used exposures in milliseconds for sports and as long as 28 hours for astronomy."

"For sports, I worked in gigantic stadiums under the lights with 80,000 screaming fans. For astronomy, I usually worked alone at night, in the dark, in the woods, in the quiet, out in nature, by myself. It was transcendent. And I loved it."



*Jim Sweeney assists Jerry on the sidelines of an Eagles Game.*



*Jerry works alone in the woods at his laptop controlling his telescope and camera as the rest of the universe passes overhead. The constellation of Orion, and the Hyades, Pleiades, and Venus set in the west.*

## Retirement

"I didn't really have any personal goals in life except getting through each day and making a living to support my family," Jerry said. "I took it one breath at a time."



*Jerry, Kathy, and Cosmo enjoying retirement at their home in suburban Philadelphia.*

And what does he have to look forward to now that he is retired?

Without hesitation, he replies, "Eternal rest!"

He explains, "I don't have a bucket list. I've done everything I ever wanted to do. At 69, I'm out of gas. Like Yogi Berra said, 'You give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and if that isn't enough, in the second half you give what's left.' That's me. I gave 100 percent. I've got nothing left."

Now, Kathy and Jerry are retired, enjoying the good life at home. "We enjoy simple pleasures like each other's company, eating her good food, relaxing, reading, listening to music, walking the dog, and watching a lot of movies – especially comedies."

"We are catching up on all the time we missed together when I was out of town or working nights and weekends."

"Old age has finally given me some perspective on life. Instead of trying to make everything perfect, I've finally learned to embrace Wabi-Sabi—the Japanese aesthetic philosophy that



values the beauty of imperfection, impermanence, and simplicity. Wabi-Sabi emphasizes the importance of finding contentment in the present moment and accepting the transience of all things."

## Reflections

"I've learned how extraordinary and full of wonder life is. It is sublime, vast, gigantic, incomprehensible, mysterious, brilliant, and fantastic. We live in a universe that has natural wonders beyond imagination."



*The Perigee Supermoon of November 14, 2016 sets behind the Philadelphia skyline.*

"Incredibly, our eyes can sense individual photons, fundamental quantum particles that exist outside of time and connect everything in the universe."

"Most amazing of all, we live in a cosmos that has produced consciousness that can contemplate itself!"

And what makes life worth living? What gives it meaning?

Lodriguss answers, "The love of a good woman, a family, an interesting job, a smile, the laughter of children, puppies, videos of people doing stupid things and falling down, the caress of a hand, time spent together, beauty, nature, science, hobbies, friends, loved ones,

chocolate, literature, art, a good story, jokes, alcohol, good food, music, sports, moments of transcendence, ice cream, cookies, peace, and quiet.”

"I have learned that love and understanding from someone who really cares about you can help you get through anything. With the help, support, and love of Kathy, I eventually got back up after every time life knocked me down.”



*The meaning of life? 42!*

"I had some dark times, but Kathy was always there for me, so my accomplishments are hers too," Jerry said. "I doubt anyone will remember me or them in a hundred years however. Heck, I don't know if I will remember them in ten years.”

"I've learned that there isn't any substitute for simple dumb luck, and my good luck has been astonishing. Kathy, kids, job – I had it all.”

"Plus, I've cheated death more than once.” He continues with a sly smile “But that's a story for another day.”

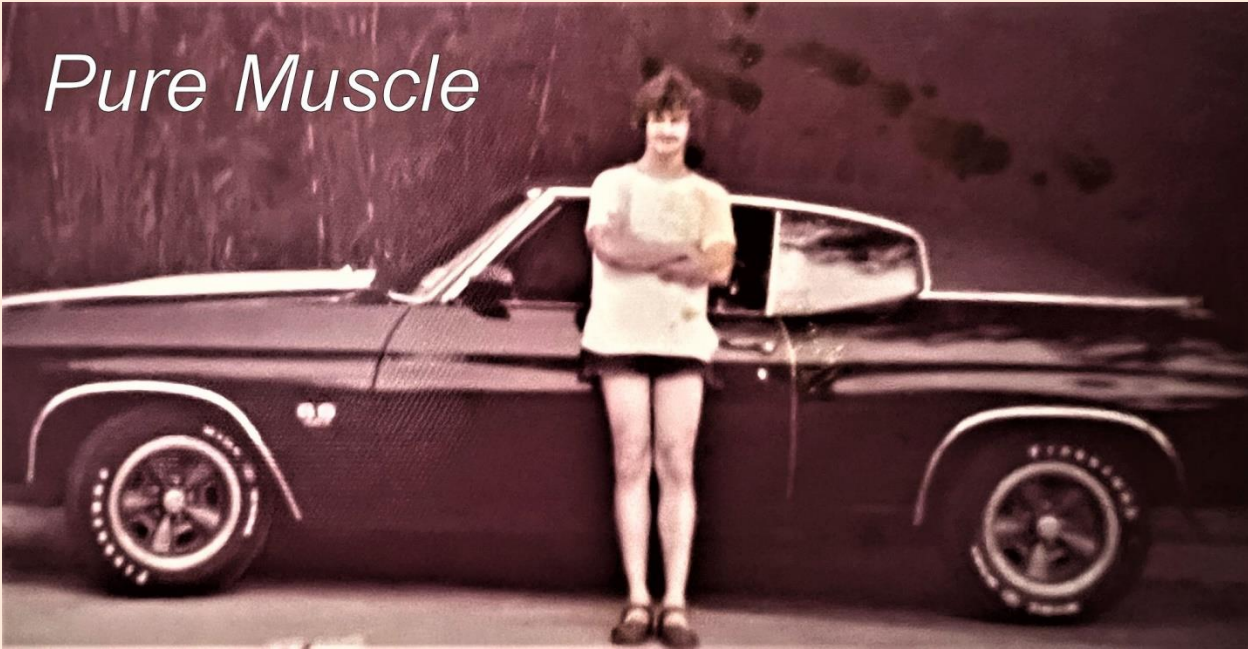
“What else is there?” Lodriguss asks.

After some thought, he replies, "Well, we would like some grandchildren...”

This article has been adapted from Jerry's coming autobiography - “Racing the Dawn.”  
You can find Jerry's photos online at [Lodriguss.com](http://Lodriguss.com)



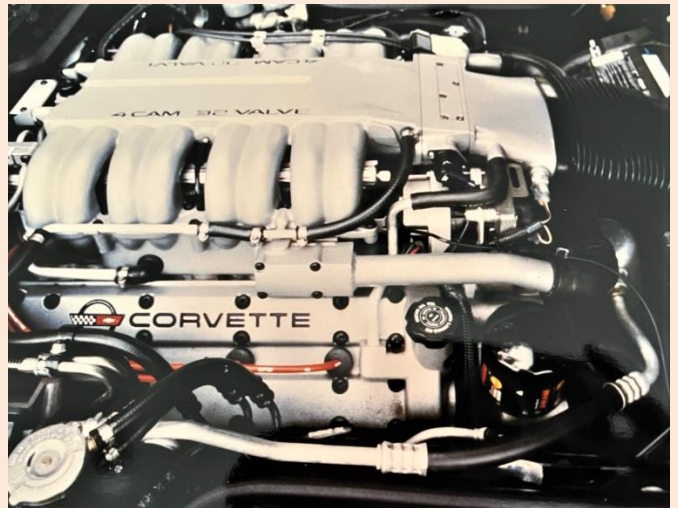
# Pure Muscle



Gary Theriot and his 1972 Chevrolet SS454. It had a V8, 454



He also had a 1990 ZR1 Corvette with a Mercury Marine LT5, 425 hp. It took a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in 1996 Greater New Orleans Corvette Club's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual extra-VETTEganza.





Turn me loose, set me free, somewhere in the middle of Montana . . . photo by Bobby Wahl



## Guichard Awarded Scholarship



Noralee and Darek Guichard's grandson Aaron '24 was awarded an HC Faculty/Staff Scholarship

Of the award mom Belinda says, "Even before this enormously kind gesture my boys thought the world of so many of their teachers. We truly have some gems on staff! You all are so very important to these boys and most of them understand how lucky they are."

(Left: John Tessitore, Darek Guichard, Aaron Guichard and dad Scott '95)



The scholarships were chosen to be given at transition years for students moving into their next phase of Holy Cross Education. Students were nominated by faculty and staff who also voted on the finalists' essays as part of the criteria for the award. Aaron was also elected president of the Class of '24, following in his dad's footsteps. Scott was president of HC95.

## Managing For Life

*By Rick Ranson*

My introduction to Holy Cross occurred on a cold night in 1963. My friend Tommy Whittenburg invited me to go to Tulane Stadium where the Tigers were playing Jesuit for the state football championship. I'll never forget how impressed I was with the band. I'll never forget how huge the football players looked to ten-year-old me. As I'm sure everyone knows Holy Cross became state champions that night by defeating the Blue Jays 14 to 6. Beginning that night, my dream was to attend Holy Cross and to become a member of the football team.



Three years later my dream came true when I stepped foot on the campus as a fledgling eighth grader. What a different world! I had ventured out of my comfort zone at St. Andrew School in Algiers to a place full of people I didn't know. In those days, even getting to school from the West Bank was a daily adventure! I spent that first school year settling in and making new friends. One of those friends was Jules Moll. Even though we came from different neighborhoods, we had a lot in common. Little did I know what an influence Jules would have on me.

As I entered the ninth grade, I was prepared to try out for the football team. I don't remember when it happened but somewhere along the way Jules mentioned to me that he had become a Manager for the varsity football team. He invited me to join him. Although hesitant at first, I decided to give it a try even though I had no idea what a Manager did. I assumed it was a glorified water boy. How wrong I was!

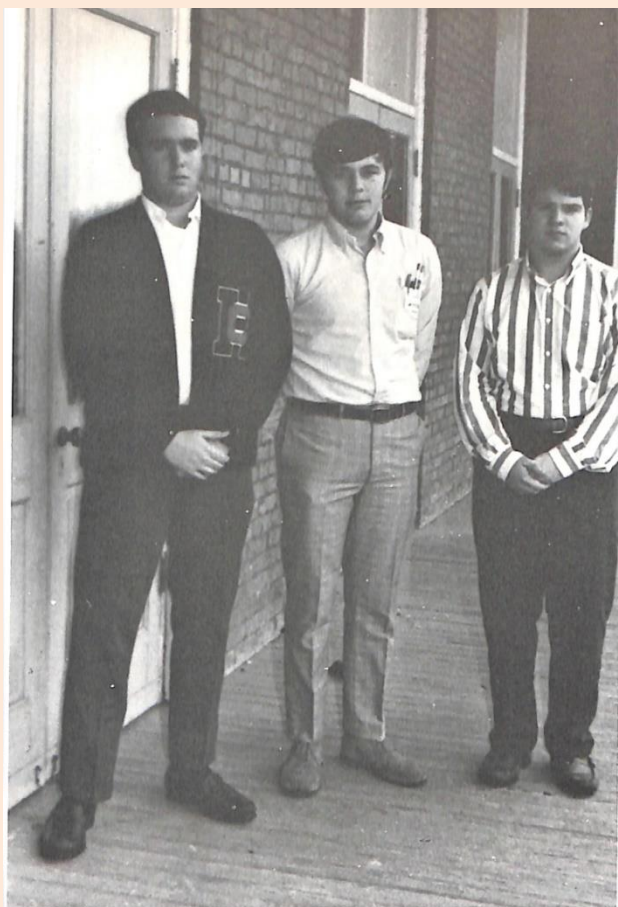
Pat Touchard was the Head Manager. I remember how intimidated I was of Pat. He took pride in his work, and he instilled that pride in us. He demanded our absolute best, and we did everything we could to meet that standard. I remember my first days on the practice field - Coach Kalbacher, Coach Clements, Coach Schneider, Coach Seither, Coach Faust, Coach Arms and others leading the organized chaos at practice. Each was responsible for getting the absolute best out of their players.

So, what was the Manager's job? First, let me say the job was titled correctly. We were Managers! At practice we were responsible for reading the daily schedule and getting the right equipment to the right place at the right time. That meant arriving well before practice

began and staying well after it ended. We also attended training sessions to learn such things as taping ankles and caring for minor injuries. And, yes, we were responsible for making sure all the players were properly hydrated. We also repaired helmets, shoulder pads and other player equipment. We sometimes handled arrangements for out-of-town trips.

On game day, we made sure each player had their correct uniform. We loaded the bus with equipment and supplies needed for the game. Upon arriving at the stadium, we unloaded the equipment and prepared the field for the team's pregame routine. We were a well-orchestrated team that took pride in our work. Everything had to function perfectly.

Once the game began, our role was to deal with any injuries and equipment problems. We also kept the sideline neat and organized. During time-outs we sprinted onto the field with Gatorade bottles in hand. Throughout the game we patrolled behind the bench constantly encouraging our players and keeping their spirits high. We were so busy we really didn't see much of the game.



Football managers are Richard Ranson, Randy Rasch, and Jules Moll.

I have so many game memories it's hard to select the highlights and lowlights. The best memories involve the camaraderie and traditions associated with the team.

When you work so hard for so many days to achieve a goal, you form a special relationship with your teammates and coaches. We really were like a family.

I think about the bus rides to the stadium with Brother Mary Joseph Siok at the wheel and the sounds of "Hogan's Goat" and the Fight Song piercing the silence of the intense concentration and pregame jitters.

Of course I remember the many football games. I remember the 1967 State Championship game played in Shreveport. It had rained most of the day and the temperature never got above freezing. The playing surface was a grassless

frozen gumbo and more resembled a skating rink than a football field. We kicked off to start the game and their star player Eric "The Red" Kilpatrick ran it back for a touchdown. Our guys were slipping and sliding and could not get enough traction to tackle him. I have never been colder in my life!

I remember the elation every time we beat Jesuit and St. Aug. I remember the sounds of the band, the Fight Song, the Alma Mater and the cheering fans. I can still hear Coach Kalbacher barking on the sideline! Looking back those many years, I've realized that all the football memories are good – even the losses – because they made us what we are today.



Perhaps the best memory for me did not involve a football game. My friend Jules Moll became the Head Manager in our junior year. Back then, only the Head Manager was awarded the Football Letter Jacket. Of course, as a kid in high school, that jacket was a treasured possession. In our senior year, unbeknownst to me, Jules told the coaches to award the jacket to me. I'll never forget how shocked and excited I was to get the news. And I'll never forget that unselfish act of Jules. I still think of him from time to time. He left us far too early.

A lot has happened since 1971. I graduated from Louisiana College where I was Student Body President. For the next five years I worked for the Rapides Parish Assessor where I converted the entire office from a manual system to a computerized one. Our work was recognized internationally, and IBM hired me to write a manual on computerized property assessment.

I then went to work for Security Bank (now Regions Bank) as Head of Technology. I stayed there 24 years and worked my way up to bank president. During this time, I had the honor of serving eight years on the Alexandria City Council. I tried retiring, but that was not for me. I worked in the Economic Development field and was Head of the Economic Development Department for Cleco. I tried retiring again (for good) but was called to service by Alexandria's newly elected Mayor. So, on December 5, 2022, I became the Director of Economic Development for the City of Alexandria.

I have said on many occasions that I would not have had these wonderful opportunities had it not been for my experience at Holy Cross. I learned just as much outside the classroom as I did inside. The classroom prepared me academically to take on the world. Being a Manager taught me about accountability, discipline, teamwork, and organization. It gave me the confidence to take on new challenges.

I used to wonder where I'd be if I had tried out for football instead of taking Jules up on his offer to become an Athletic Manager. I don't think about that anymore. I am thankful for the role I played in helping our teams achieve success. And I am thankful for the friends I made and the many lessons I learned.

*Rick Ranson*



Dr. Pierre Espenan and Randy Rasch attend to ailing Tiger Ed Ludman.

“Sometimes as players we didn’t realize how important the managers were.

We started practice and everything is set up and we assume God did it, but it was really Jules and Rick. When there was thirst it wasn’t our mothers, it was Jules and Rick that put the ice and Gatorade inside in those containers so we could survive. And it was also them that watched the clock so they could blow the whistle moving us to the next drill under Coach Kalbacher’s ‘waste no time’ policy of football practice. They were the ones that taped you up if you had an injury both before and during the game. They also gave you Gatorade during the game when you needed it. Sometimes you didn’t notice, but they were always there to help the team - both coaches and players. They were part of the bigger picture called successful program.” - - *Dennis Delaney*

“We never had to ask twice for anything. Most times we never even had to ask. Whatever the need, it was always there!” - - *Louis Reuther*

“Needed a ‘bull ring’ on my helmet because the bridge of my nose was always getting busted - they took care of it. One thing is sure, they both took their jobs seriously.” - - *Bobby Wahl*

“Jules and Rick made sure we had all the field equipment we would need for practice (dummies, footballs, scrimmage pullover shirts, water jugs). I think they also had to wash game uniforms to be ready for the next week. As I recall they also assisted with all the first aid stuff in practice and on sidelines during games. When I broke my arm as a sophomore, one of the managers broke one of the game signs to obtain the handle to be used as an arm splint for the ride to the hospital.” - - *Steve Ferrer*

“Jules and Rick were to the Tiger football team as Radar was to the Colonel in MASH. Equipment was always ready. Tape, ointment and that delicious green Gatorade was within arm’s reach. They were one step ahead. Great guys!” - - *Mike Strohmeyer*

## The Pedeaux Family



“Today was the first time ever that we had all the kids, their spouses and the six grandchildren together at the same time.”

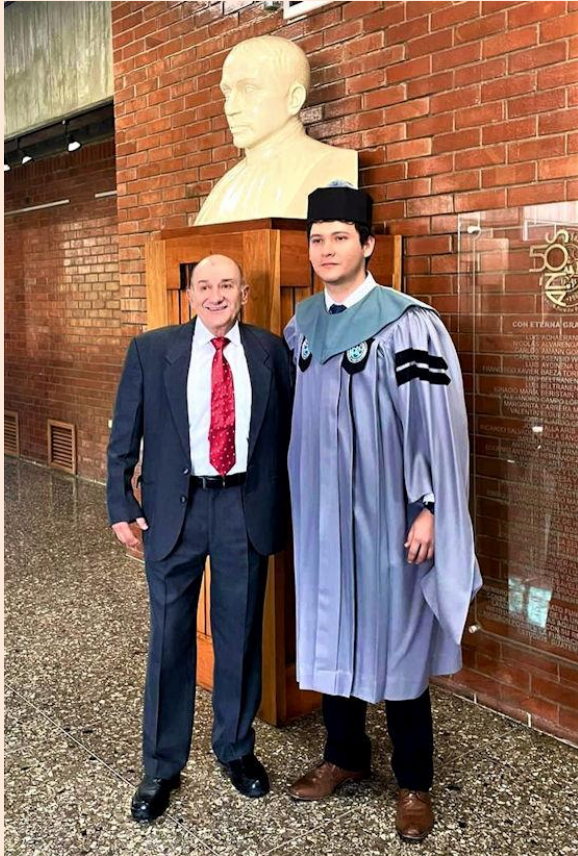
- - *Bill Pedeaux*



# Chalk Board

## Graduation . . .

Oscar Gomez with grandson Rodrigo, who graduated Cum Laude from Universidad Rafael Landívar in Guatemala City, Guatemala as an industrial chemical engineer.



## Crawfish Boil . . .

The 52nd Un-Official Holy Cross Class of 1971's Reunion Part 1 will be another crawfish boil to be held at the Los Isleños Museum Complex in St Bernard Parish.

Date: Sunday, 07 May 2023  
Time: 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM

## Day at the Races . . .

Members of the Class of '71 attended the Day at the Races at the Fairgrounds.



## 14 Years . . .

Tommy Romig celebrates his 14th year at SSP America, a commercial food service company.





*Zip Line . . .*

Wayne Crumhorn zip-lining in Canopy VA, Eden, Mexico



He comments that Eden is the village that Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Predator" was filmed.



Rouse's Grocery has named Rocky & Carlos roast beef po-boy to their "Best Dressed" list.

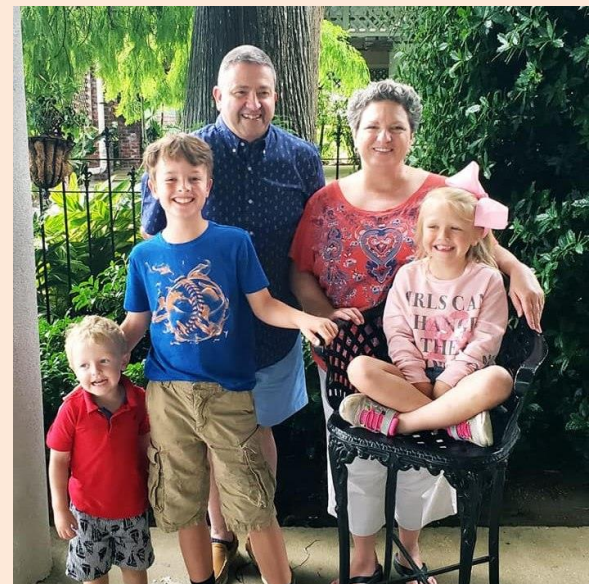
The roast beef po-boy at **Rocky & Carlo's** in Chalmette is topped with the same brown gravy that's very popular on the restaurant's veal cutlet, stuffed peppers and, of course, their famous baked macaroni.

*And the Oscar goes to . . .*

Debbie and Roni Sumich's son Darren, who was on the animation team that won an Academy Award for their work on Avator: the Way of Water.



Gigi and Jerry Laciura with their grandkids





Carol and Jacques Miramon's daughter Brooke had a beach wedding in Cancun.



Debbie and Roni Sumich – and their family - spent a week in London



50 Years . . . Sherry and Rocky Buras

*Anniversaries . . .*

- Gayle and Frank Galle 51
- Sherry and Rocky Buras 50
- Cheryl and Bobby Dawson 51
- Debi and Dan Colomb 26
- Toni and Gary Ritzmann 49
- Kathy and Robert Turner 39
- Sarah and David Falgoust 41
- Mignon and Keith Treuting 49
- Suzie and Bobby Wahl 50
- Kathy and Jerry Lodriguss 47
- The Magees 47



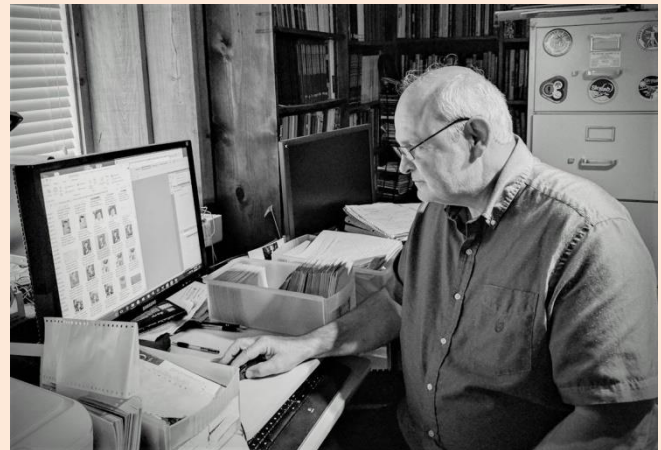


## The Islenos

Francisco Carbo came to America in 1778 as one of many Canary Islanders hired by Louisiana's governor Bernardo de Galvez to fight against the British in the American Revolutionary War. Entire families made the voyage and were awarded land grants and building materials.

The Islenos, as they came to be known as, settled in four areas: Galveztown on the Amite River, Valenzuela along Bayou Lafourche, Barataria in what is now the Barataria National Wildlife Preserve and San Bernardo which is now called St. Bernard. These communities were established to protect the city of New Orleans, since it was strategic to controlling the Mississippi River.

Carbo is Dennis Delaney's ancestral grandfather. He says that the Islenos are a hardworking people who brought their traditions and culture with them - their language, their food, and their expertise as healers. They also fought in the War of 1812 and the American Civil War.



*Dennis Delaney: tracing Isleno roots*

"It's an unknown topic in the school systems, which is a shame, because the Isleno immigrants played an important part in the development of Louisiana," Delaney said in a 1997 Times-Picayune interview. "They fought in the Battle of New Orleans and also defended America against the British at Baton Rouge, Pensacola, and Mobile."

Delaney became interested in genealogy and began tracing his Isleno roots visiting Tenerife in 1995. Tenerife is the largest island in the Canary chain.



He and a cousin founded the group Canary Islanders of Louisiana with the help of the St Bernard group in 1998. Delaney took photographs up and down Bayou Lafourche all the way to Baton Rouge.

“The Bayou Lafourche group of Islenos grew sugar cane. Those that settled in St Bernard attempted growing sugar cane, but preferred farming, trapping, and fishing,” he said.

There is an historical museum on the 30 acre site that includes 9 structures, some of which are original. The museum showcases Isleno culture and traditions displaying maps and costumes.

For a preview of the complex watch Terry Flettrich’s video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj8wToHKQ2o&t=1s>



Fingernail . . . . .  
*photo by Charles Pennison*

# The Story Teller

*By Tomie Magee*

Most families have a trusted person who has knowledge of key events, places, dates and especially people that were influential in the history of the family. This person is typically an elder who by their natural curiosity and attentiveness has the ability to recall and bring family stories to life.

So for the Holy Cross Class of '71, Jeffrey Junker has voluntarily served as our informal class historian. He helped chronicle some of the most cherished moments of our Wonder Years in print and photo. We much appreciate seeing the old videos and photos of our time together at Holy Cross.

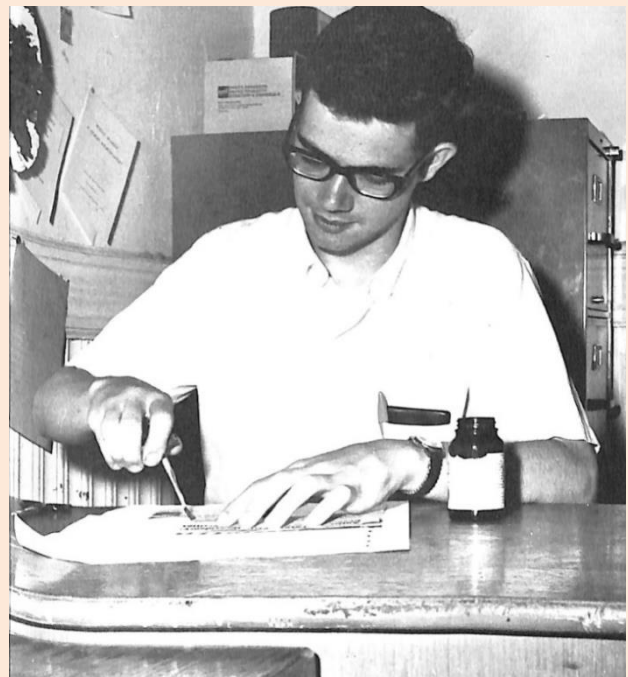
What is truly fascinating is the passion that Jeff still has for telling the stories of the '71 Tigers some 50-plus years after we all graduated and pursued life as Holy Cross Men.

Everyone has a story to tell - none greater than the other - - and Jeff has made it his personal mission to preserve our history of time spent at Holy Cross and tell our personal stories that fill the time gap between graduation and present day. Therefore, it is only fair the spotlight is turned on Jeff - this quiet, humble yet intriguing and determined personality.

Jeff started at Holy Cross while in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, coming from grammar school at St James Major in Gentilly. He reflects with a hint of lament that "Unlike most of my other classmates who grew up together in the Lower 9<sup>th</sup>, Arabi, St Bernard and Chalmette, I was the only one from St James that year. I didn't know anyone; I felt alone. "

Over time he settled in, adjusting from a world where he knew everyone to one where he knew no one.

He distinctly recalls when he decided to join the school newspaper: it was one summer day during the driving portion of a driver's education class in between freshman and sophomore year.



*Jeff Junker . . . pasting-up an issue of the Bulletin*



“I saw so many students on campus that summer - Air Force Junior ROTC cadets drilling, the marching band practicing, and the football team running through drills on the field. It was a school that never slept,” he said.

He was surprised and impressed with the level of campus activity and student involvement. It was then as he recalls: “I wanted to be a part of that – and what better way than to write about it.”

Jeff joined the student journalism organization, which had responsibility for regularly publishing the school newspaper: the *Holy Cross Bulletin*.

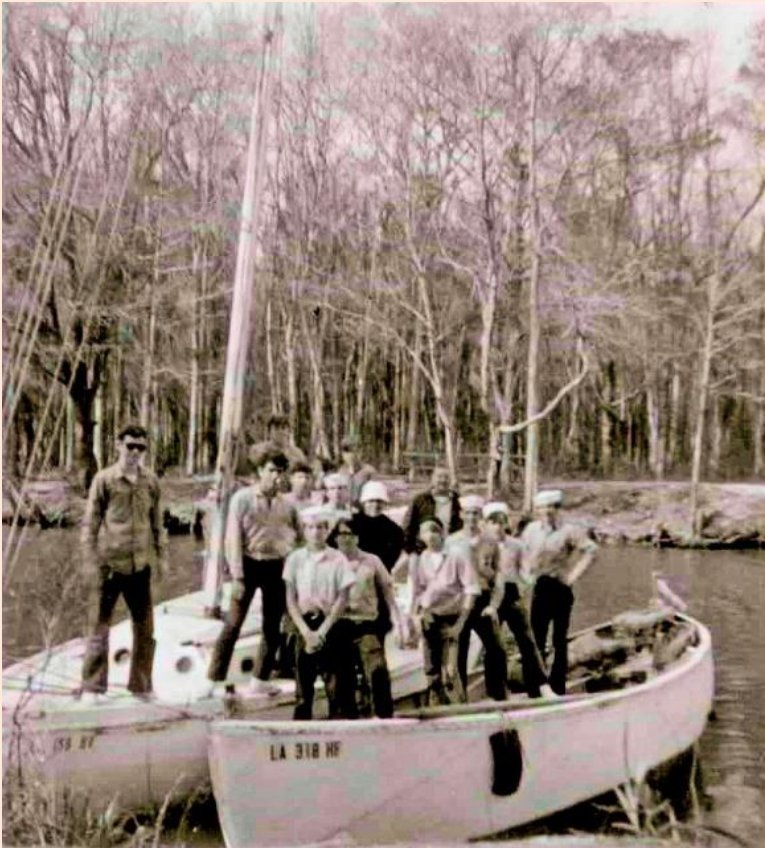
The relationships that he built outside the classroom is apparent since he freely admits that he doesn’t remember much about what went on inside the classroom.

“But several teachers had an impact on me. From Mike Boyd, I learned perseverance; from Mike Leach, I learned how to be a better writer; from guidance counselor Harry McKnight, I learned time management. And from Ken Hechler – what can I say – he was a true mentor. From him, I learned how to be organized and how to ask questions, which has served me in every story I’ve ever written.”

Hechler was the faculty adviser for the *Bulletin*, but as he assumed the role of a Dormitory Prefect, more responsibility shifted to the student editors. By Jeff’s senior year he was the Editor-in-Chief and he and the other senior members of the staff were trusted by Hechler for their leadership to maintain the high standard set the previous year.

In response, the staff met all of its deadlines and received State and national recognition for the publication. Jeff is proud of the team effort that was achieved in meeting the standard of excellence expected by Ken Hechler.

Following his time at Holy Cross, Jeff attended the University of New Orleans and received undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration yet continued his journalistic interest. He wrote for, edited, and later advised a newsletter for the Explorer Division of the Boy Scouts of America, wrote for and later edited a monthly publication for the New Orleans Power Squadron, a safe boating organization. He also wrote full length feature stories for his business’s website. Here’s the direct link to the stories: <https://hubhobbyshop.com/featured-stories/>



*Sea Scouts on the Tchefuncte River . . . Jeff standing at the far left next to classmate Albert Alexander*

Jeff was also involved in other extra-curricular activities

He participated in the Sea Scouts for 18 years, spanning his time at Holy Cross and beyond college. His very first trip on the 83' converted Coast Guard Cutter *M/V Viking* as a 15 year old was an eventful experience.

The vessel left the Municipal Harbor, locked through the Industrial Canal, and headed to Venice near the mouth of the Mississippi River. The original plan was to return by way of the Rigolets but weather reports indicated that there was going to be rough water in the Gulf. The decision was to head back up the river and dock at the foot of Canal Street. The ship had returned to shore only six hours before Hurricane Camille made landfall on the Gulf Coast.

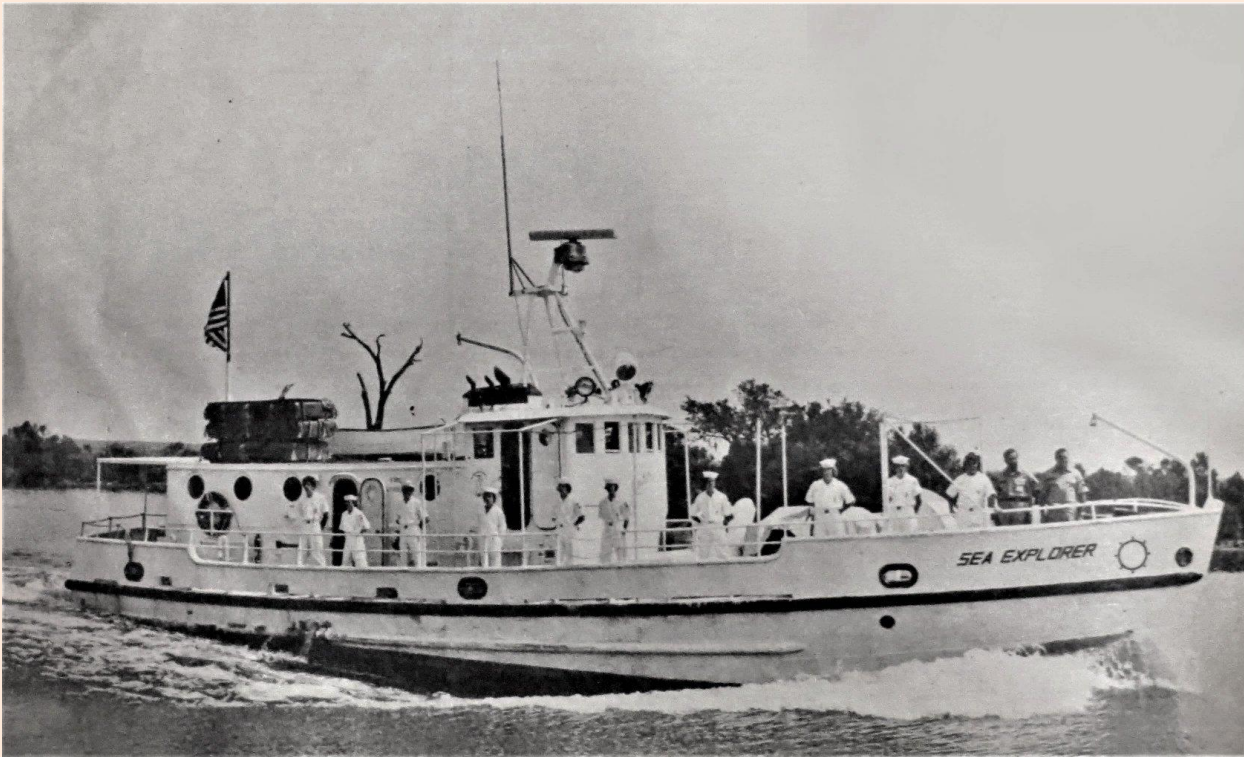
He confidently confides that "As a teen I could use a sextant to fix the boat's position in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico."

When asked why he stayed in Sea Scouts for so many years, he replied that mentoring the youngsters in seamanship was a way of paying back and emulating the leaders who had helped him during his time as a sea scout. Jeff ultimately was named Skipper of the unit.

He traded-in his sextant for a camera and uses his "navigation" skills in search of the perfect nature and wildlife photos in hardwood bottomlands and swamps.

He said, "When not working at the hobby shop, I'm in the swamp taking wildlife and nature photography."





*M/V Sea Explorer . . . In service when Jeff was skipper of the unit*

He was a photographer on the National Geographic Your Shot (NGYS) platform until Disney bought National Geographic and discontinued it.

Once as an NGYS photographer, one of his photos was trending in the number 2 spot. It wasn't unusual for him to have several photos trending in the top 100. Alligators are his favorite subject but he has had occasion to capture other animals on his photo excursions.

He once spotted a juvenile bald eagle on the ground near the levee. It remained there for some time appearing to pose as Jeff was taking photos

Eventually the eagle took flight rewarding Jeff with a flyover only feet above his head. He recounts, "I had my camera ready and experienced a rush of adrenaline as the eagle flew in my direction."



One amazing photo captures the turbulence on the water from the air pushed beneath the eagle's wings.

Jeff distinctly has a knack for surprising animal subjects where they lay as was the case when he came within inches of stepping on a coiled cottonmouth snake. He got the shot without getting bit.

"I wanted to get a clear shot of a particularly picturesque scene, but trees and undergrowth blocked part of the view," he related. "I was looking through the viewfinder as I was side-stepping. If I hadn't found the 'perfect' shot, my next step would have been into the center of a moccasin's coil."





When Jeff takes time to “uncoil” at home, unlike that cotton mouth snake, he creates melodic sounds!

He composes music, plays guitar and keyboard and records his own songs, some of which he has used as sound tracks for his YouTube videos. An example is this video he made using photos taken by his aunt and uncle of Mayan ruins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYVM9j62lQQ&amp;t=74s>

His songs are copyrighted and are in the Library of Congress.

Jeff makes his living as owner of a 72 year old business, the Hub Hobby Shop located on Air-line near Cleary in Metairie. The business was originally a small appliance repair shop located in New Orleans which was bought by Jeff’s uncles in 1951. His uncles’ hobby was Radio Controlled airplanes, so they started selling stick and tissue planes and radio control items.

“It was a perfect fit, as in the early days of vacuum-tubed RC units, my uncles were well prepared to service what they sold. It wasn’t long before the hobby side of the business eclipsed that of the appliance repair business, which was eventually phased out,” continued Jeff. “They changed the name of the shop from “Hub Appliance” to “Hub Hobby”. From a 700 square foot space, they expanded to over 2000 square feet of sales-floor. The origin of the name “Hub” comes from looking at a 1920s map, when the building was constructed: The location was smack dab in the center of the city with the streets radiating from Broad and

Washington like spokes on the "Hub" of a wheel. The current focus of sales is model cars, boats, planes, and trains."

The business has a well-established client base spanning three generations with a few fourth generation customers. In fact, Jeff says "I don't consider the people who come to the hobby shop as customers; they are more like family."

He recalls that many of his customers came to help him clean-up his store after Hurricane Katrina, despite their own homes being flooded.

At one point, it was questionable if the business would reopen but with determination, perseverance and help from friends, Jeff was able to relocate to Metairie and reopen only four months after New Orleans opened their zip code for re-entry.

And until Katrina, Jeff not only sold but he built and flew his own wooden radio-controlled airplanes. He also co-designed a flying model based on Burt Rutan's *Voyager*. It won a model aircraft design competition sponsored by Model Airplane News, a world-wide modeling publication.



"My favorite thing about being at the hobby shop is that it's not like working at all. Every day is different; every day is interesting; every day flies by quickly. The strangers that walk through the door eventually become friends. Occasionally someone will ask me when I plan on retiring. To which I usually reply 'Retire from what? I've never worked a day in my life!'"

He also maintains a website and YouTube channel for the hobby shop where he writes full length stories about some of the projects completed by his customers.

In consideration of Jeff's many passions, it is inconceivable to contemplate in 2023 where the Holy Cross Class of '71 would be in terms of its social media presence without the efforts of Jeff in maintaining multiple online class sites.





*The Story Teller . . . in his natural habitat*

Jeff becomes unusually animated if you point to him as the reason for the popularity of the Class of '71 sites; he adamantly rejects this notion! He attributes the contributions of so many fellow classmates who are dedicated and working behind the scene as the reason that the '71 Class is truly leading Holy Cross Alumni in its communication and connectivity. Our Glory Days live on, thanks to many caring classmates.

With the spotlight having been fondly turned on Jeff, our class historian, a few consistent themes are revealed: Jeff gives 100% at whatever he endeavors - whether it be seamanship, journalism, photography, music, or his business. He willingly gives back by providing his time and talents to classmates, friends and family. The common thread in his world is that Jeff finds enjoyment in all that he does.

## *Tomie Magee*

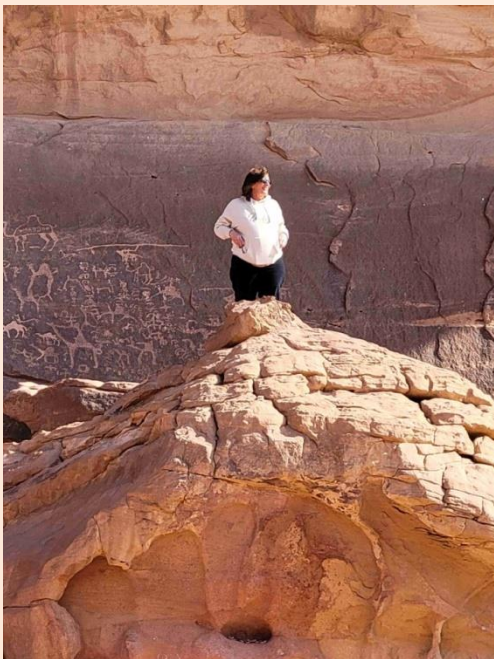
## *Golden Anniversary . . . . . Suzie and Bobby Wahl*



# Hello World!

*By Rhonda Glorioso*

A trip to the Middle East totally changed my thoughts about Israel. Before the trip I thought of Israel as a land of conflict, but it was nothing like that. You had Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox Greek, Roman Catholic, and Christians all living in the same area as neighbors and getting along. We observed the Sabbath where the practicing orthodox Jews followed the laws and reverted to no motor transportation. The practicing Jews did not work on Friday. Everything shut down at sundown Friday and didn't open till sundown on Saturday. Sunday was a normal day. I learned that being Kosher is not just the way they eat - it is a lifestyle.



I spent 13 days in the Middle East traveling to Israel and Jordan. We flew from MSY to Chicago then had an overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Landing there in the afternoon, the tour group had some time to hang out and explore before our welcome dinner and settling down for the night.

The next morning we started our journey in Haifa continuing on to Jaffa with a visit to St Peter's Church. We visited the ancient theater and hippodrome of Caesarea and the Knights' Hall in the Crusaders fortress of Acre. Other sites were Haifa Bay, Stella Maris Monastery, the hanging Baha'i Gardens, Lake Tiberias, Megiddo, Nazareth's Church of the Transfiguration, and Canna's Wedding Church.

The group also visited the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum & Tabgha, and the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. We cruised the Sea of Galilee,

Yardenit, and baptismal site Jordan River.

Then it was on to Jerusalem via Jericho, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane. Visiting a Bedouin camp, we had dinner with a local family. More sites visited were King David's tomb and The Upper Room site of the last supper.

We walked through the Jewish quarter and visited the Western Wall, Church of the Nativity, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a Mosque, a synagogue, and Muslim and Christian quarters of Jerusalem.

The highlight of the trip for me was the Dead Sea between Israel and Jordan, where I floated for about an hour and a half. After leaving Israel we went to Jerash in Jordan travelling along the Jordan valley seeing Roman ruins. We had a guided tour of Mount Hor and a walk through UNESCO World Heritage Site.



We continued on to Petra and took a long treacherous walk to the Treasury. Riding in the back of jeeps through red sand dunes we saw landscapes and petroglyphs in the Jordanian desert. We also visited Amman where we saw the city of mosaics, St George's Church, and Mount Nebo - Moses' burial place.

While in Israel I rode on a donkey, a camel, and in Jordan rode a horse. After a farewell dinner we boarded a late night flight to return home. We were in the desert the entire time in Jordan and the campgrounds were full of camel – they roam around like dogs do here.



My next trip will be to Egypt from February 23, 2024 - March 4, 2024. It departs on February 22, 2024 from MSY. I am a tour coordinator with EF Go Ahead Tours and here is what the and Nile River Cruise package includes:

- 6 nights in handpicked hotels
- 4 nights aboard a Nile River Cruise.
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 9 dinners with beer or wine
- 11 sightseeing tours
- Egyptologist, who's also your Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 On-tour flights

Included highlights:

- Pyramids of Giza
- Great Sphinx
- Museum of Egyptian Antiquities
- Temples of Karnak and Luxor
- Luxor Museum
- Valley of the Kings
- Felucca sailboat ride

*Day 1* board overnight flight to Cairo

*Day 2* arrive in Cairo & transfer to Giza included dinner (3 nights)

*Day 3* Sightseeing tour of Cairo included meals Breakfast & Welcome Dinner. Visit citadel, Mohammed Ali Mosque, Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, houses masks of Tutankhamun

*Day 4* Sightseeing tour of Giza included meals breakfast, lunch Pyramids of Giza, Great Sphinx, Saqqara, pharaoh's royal graveyard, carpet factory

*Day 5* Sightseeing tour of Luxor & cruise embarkation included meals breakfast, lunch, dinner. Fly to Luxor visit Luxor Museum, (King Tutankhamen's Tomb, board cruise ship. Visit Temple of Karnak & Luxor. Walking tour Karnak Temple, see the Precinct of Amun Re, walls of hieroglyphics, and Temple of Khonsu. Visit a papyrus shop, walking tour of Luxor Temple located on banks of Nile River, view obelisks, statues, and the Abu Haggag Mosque.included dinner on ship

*Day 6* Sight-seeing tour of Nile's West Bank included meals breakfast, lunch, dinner. Explore valley of Kings, tour Temple of Queen Hatashepsut, Colossi of Memnon, sail to Edfu



*Day 7* Sightseeing tour of Temple of Kom Ombo, included meals breakfast, lunch, dinner. Sail along the Nile, Dock in Kom Ombo. Visit Temple of Kom Ombo, Sobek and Horus, go to city of Aswan

*Day 8* Felucca sailboat ride included meals breakfast, lunch, dinner. Ride past Elephantine Island. Panoramic views of the water from the Mausoleum of Aga Khan

*Day 9* Aswan 1 night Disembarkation & sightseeing tour of Aswan included meals breakfast, dinner. Visit the Aswan High Dam, board a boat and visit the temples at Philae, located on an island of the Nile River

*Day 10* Flight to Cairo included meals breakfast, dinner. Free day in Cairo

*Day 11* Sightseeing tour of Cairo included meals breakfast, farewell dinner. Explore ancient churches, ornate mosques, Hanging Church, Ben Ezra Synagogue

*Day 12* Departure - fly home

Cost of the trip to Egypt, including roundtrip airfare, is \$4,909 each. This does not include the extension to Jordan, which is an additional \$1,229.

If you do the extension to Jordan, fly to Amman Jordan and continue to Petra included meals breakfast, dinner

*Day 13* Sightseeing tour of Petra included meals breakfast

*Day 14* Amman via Madaba & Mount Nebo included meals breakfast, dinner. Visit Madaba to tour the city of mosaics and St George's church, Mount Nebo, Moses' burial site and Adi Mujb

*Day 15* included meals breakfast, lunch. Visit Jordanian capital, float in the Dead Sea, late night flight home.

The number to call to reserve your spot is 1-800-438-7672 and reference Tour # 70789789.



If you book the tour and for some reason are not able to attend there are cancellation options.

You can download the EF GoAhead Tours app. or go to [goaheadtours.com](http://goaheadtours.com) and read more details, or you can just call me. There is a lot of information about the tour and the cancellation policies. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

*Rhonda Glorioso*

[journeywithrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:journeywithrhonda@gmail.com)

(225) 329-9990

Buttermilk Falls . . . . .

*photo by Les Anticich*



## I've got faith to believe I can do anything

In a Kenner restaurant during the summer, a bunch of older gray haired gentlemen came in wearing baseball shirts and baseball hats. They had just finished a softball game. The waitresses adjusted a couple of nearby tables so the team members could sit together.

The men looked to be in their late 50's. They were laughing and spoke with the usual mix of baseball bravado and humility, sounding much like an amusing lunch time conversation in a high school cafeteria. They had been playing baseball together since their New Orleans high school glory days.

One gentleman expressed awe and admiration for the powerful hitters on a rival softball team in their same age bracket.

"Did any of ya'll see their game last week? Even at their age, everyone in their line up can still CRUSH the ball!"

Another teammate chimed in:

"Those guys have ALWAYS been incredible long ball hitters. Did they win?"

The first fellow answered.

"No, none of them can run anymore. They all got thrown out at first base."

*Steve Glaviano*

St Aloysius/Brother Martin '71

***St James Major:***



Patrick Navarre  
Ann Marie Schultz  
Jeffrey Junker  
Rosemary Hooter  
George Majoue





Lawrence Sorensen  
Amy Druen  
Gerald Hebert  
Brenda Clark  
Robyn Miller



Cynthia Parche  
Donna Petit  
William Pinto  
Daphne Randazzo  
Rudolph Urbeso

***St Mary of the Angels:***

Donald Hergert, Donnie Meyer, Jesse Carlock, Roy Scott, Larry Franz, Steve Glaviano, Roy Schmidt, David Jemison





**St Cecilia:**

Pat Wolfe, Jerry Lodriguss, Raymond Wilkinson



**Faith of the Heart**

*Diane Warren*

It's been a long road  
Gettin from there to here  
It's been a long time  
But my time is finally here

And I will see my dreams come  
alive at night  
I will touch the sky  
And they're not gonna hold me  
down no more



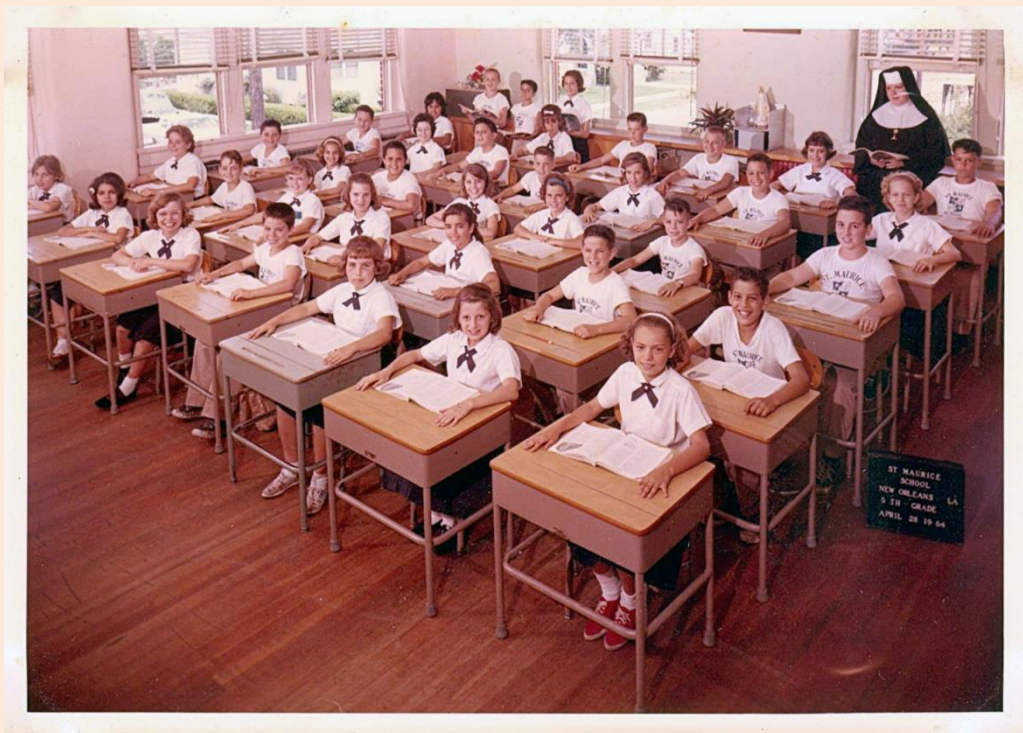


No they're not gonna change my mind

'Cause I've got faith of the heart  
I'm going where my heart will take me  
I've got faith to believe  
I can do anything  
I've got strength of the soul  
No one's going to bend nor break me  
I can reach any star  
I've got faith  
Faith of the heart

***St Maurice:***

John Fiorito, Phil Kessler, Gary Weber, Dan McGovern, Gerard Carollo



St Maurice





The Schulz Family



David and Sarah Falgoust . . . at the Place Vendome in Paris



## Vice Chancellor

Ron Blich has been elected as the 2023 Vice Chancellor of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows.

He spent 2017 through 2019 serving as Chair of the Regional Representatives for the AIA College of Fellows and served as the Burse for 2021 and 2022.



## Holy Cross School Site has new developer

A developer has a new, \$8 million plan to redevelop Holy Cross School site Landmark Lower 9th Ward property vacant and deteriorating since Hurricane Katrina

\* By STEPHANIE RIEGEL | Staff writer, *Times-Picayune*

\* Mar 26, 2023

A new owner with revised plans is breathing life into a long-stalled effort to redevelop the historic Holy Cross School property, a beloved local landmark that has been vacant and deteriorating since it was damaged during Hurricane Katrina.

North shore developer Tim Baudier of TED Enterprises acquired the 127-year-old building in the Holy Cross neighborhood of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward from architect Angela O'Byrne in August for an undisclosed price and has scaled down her controversial plans to put 144 apartments in the school administration building and two new structures she wanted to build next to it.



Baudier has scrapped the plans for new buildings, and is focused only on renovating the four-story administration building into 59 apartments, most of them one-bedroom units.

Because of the changes, the project, originally estimated to cost \$15 million, is now around \$8 million, not including the cost of the land, said consultant Zach Smith, who represents Baudier.

The one-bedroom units will average around 600 square feet and be offered for lease at a market rate of \$1,200 to \$1,500 a month, Smith said.



Permits are in place and construction has already begun securing the building's structure and repairing its roof.

For the full story:

[https://www.nola.com/news/business/holy-cross-school-site-has-new-developer-8-million-plan/article\\_ce355f22-c9c1-11ed-9383-7f0140794ca3.html?fbclid=IwAR30nYWI3KgIKEKbpTC7RoyHJsMgJvHan9oRQoN8yXZipVcqgUOO-legHUY](https://www.nola.com/news/business/holy-cross-school-site-has-new-developer-8-million-plan/article_ce355f22-c9c1-11ed-9383-7f0140794ca3.html?fbclid=IwAR30nYWI3KgIKEKbpTC7RoyHJsMgJvHan9oRQoN8yXZipVcqgUOO-legHUY)

### *Gary Mikel Lonatro, Sr.*

passed away on November 17, 2022 at the age of 69. He was a graduate of Holy Cross High School, Class of 1971. He was a member of the Vineyard Wednesday Men's Group. He was an animal lover and enjoyed spending time with his family. All family gatherings will have a little more leftovers and the table will be empty longer. His sense of calm and his wisdom will be missed by all. Survived by his son, Gary Lonatro, Jr. (Amanda); beloved former spouse, Gerardine Hughes Lonatro; grandchildren: Joshua Lonatro (Kennedy), Sydney Holman (Denzel), Bailey Lonatro (Seth), Katlyn Strassel (Alanis), William "Billy" Sevin, Joshua Sevin (Jessica), and Ronnie Sevin (Kaley); great grandchildren: Cameron, Addilyn, Josslyn, Jaelynn, and Jolena; "His Little Minion" Karter; and sister, Lauren Lonatro



### *George Clarence Zimmer, Jr*

died Sunday, January 22, 2023. George was a native of Arabi and moved to Prairieville a year ago. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He worked at Louisiana Power & Light from 1974 to 1979 and then Murphy Oil Refinery, which became Valero Refinery for approximately 30 years until he retired.

George worked in operations and was a member of the firefighting team. He was a graduate of Holy Cross High School, New Orleans, LA 1971 and Delgado College New Orleans, LA where he received his Associate Degree in Electrical Technology – 1974. George was active with the Boy Scouts of America from 1982 until 2002 having achieved Eagle Scout in July 1970. George was active in the Knights of Columbus from 1994 to present, having served in various offices including Grand Knight of the Father C.L. Hug Council # 10554 in Arabi, Louisiana from 1996 to 1997.

George also served in various offices of the St. Bernard Assembly # 2181, Chalmette, LA including Faithful Navigator from 1997 to 1998. George served as Knights of Columbus Master



of the District of Louisiana from 2004 to 2006. George was involved in many Religious, Civic, and volunteer organizations including semi-annual attendance at Manresa Retreat House in Convent, LA since 1994,. Abbey Youth Festival, St. Benedict, LA, Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster for Troop 84, Our Lady of Lourdes, Violet, LA, 1982 to 1989; United Way for Greater New Orleans Annual Campaign and Louisiana Right to Life.

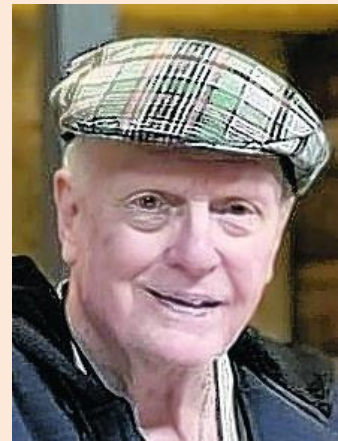
He was formerly a member of the Krewe of Freret and Krewe of Babylon. George was invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 2002 and a member presently attaining the rank of Knight Grand Cross. He has travelled on Pilgrimages to the Holy Land multiple times proposing to his future wife, Ida LeBlanc Zimmer at the Church of the Wedding Feast at Cana in 2015. George was the Lay Master of Ceremonies for 8 years and was currently serving as Section President for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He has received the Order of St. Louis IX Medallion from the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 2007. He also received the Order of St. Louis Award from the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus in 2004. George was a member of the Order of the Fleur de Lis, a Catholic service organization, invested in 2017 attaining the rank of Commander.

Survived by his loving wife, Ida of 6 years; his four sisters: Mary Ward (Robert), Theresa Wilfert, Geralyn Suhor (John Gerry), Barbara Sicard (Paul); 3 step-children, Danielle Waguespack (Wade), Renee Bigner (Wade) and Kyle LeBlanc (Joy); 11 step-grandchildren; and 7 nieces and nephews.

## Jon Anthony Craig

passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, October, 22, 2022 in Covington, LA. A native of Chicago, IL and longtime resident of Folsom, LA. Beloved husband of 50 years to Kathleen Mary Addotto Craig. Loving father of Kathleen Mary Craig Holmes and her husband Michael. Devoted grandfather of Kristen Holmes and Jon Holmes. Loving brother of Karen Craig Wassel

Jon entered into his freshman year at Tulane University in 1960, taking leave to join the Peace Corps in 1962 before returning to complete his degree and graduate in 1965. He began his career in education at Holy Cross School, New Orleans, which started his long devotion to teaching science. He then taught at Chalmette High School, before moving with his wife Kathleen to Folsom in 1977 and beginning his 31 year tenure at Saint Paul's School in Covington. He joined the Knights of Columbus, Council #10176 at St. John's Catholic Church in Folsom, LA in 1989.

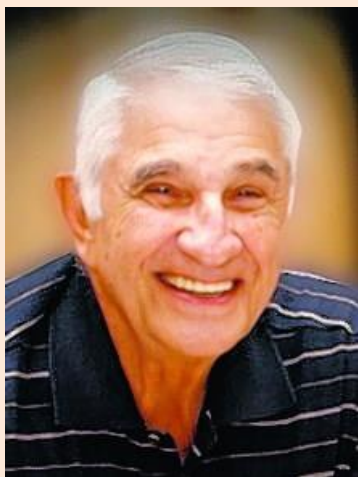


Awarded the Order of St. Louis in 2014 for outstanding service to the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He was given Affiliated Status by the Order of Christian Brothers in 1998.



## Thomas Cosimo Tomba,

of Covington, Louisiana, peacefully entered eternal rest on April 5, 2023 surrounded by his family. Tom was born Sept. 18, 1931 in Morgantown, West Virginia. After high school, Tom joined the United States Air Force, and while stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, he met and later married Barbara Ann Whitney of New Orleans, Louisiana on November 15, 1952. Following his service in the USAF, Tom and Barbara settled in New Orleans and raised their family. He was a successful businessman who possessed a vibrant sense of humor.



With his unrelenting work ethic and engaging, infectious personality, he worked tirelessly in the two-way radio communications industry, eventually becoming a partner in Communication Services of Louisiana (CSL), before founding Tomba Communications and Electronics in 1974, which became a Motorola Service Station, the largest in Louisiana, serving federal, state and local public safety communications in Southeast Louisiana, and numerous other customers in the community.

He is survived by his four children, Thomas C. Tomba, Jr. (Jean), Bobbie Tomba Breaux, Susan Tomba Augello (Frank), and Nicholas Tomba, his grandchildren, Thomas C. Tomba, III, Daniel Nicholas Tomba, Nicola Cosimo Tomba, Gabrielle Whitney Tomba, Jared Augello (Lisa), and great grandchildren, Jillian Augello, Lyla Augello and Jordan Augello.

## New Videos on the HC71 YouTube channel since the last newsletter

I'm a Believer

Friday Night Lights: Henry Wagner

Surf's Up

Headmaster's Address to the Class of '71

<https://www.youtube.com/@holycrossneworleansclassof1971>

Raptors . . . . . photos by Mike Strohmeier



Yearbooks Online:

All four years of our high school days can be found on Dan McGovern Google drive located at:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1--F4KLMT8hfN1ojGkcV556B1E8S1E3o9?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1--F4KLMT8hfN1ojGkcV556B1E8S1E3o9?usp=share_link)

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

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

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

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