Powers Catholic High School
Fenton, Linden and Holly graduates
Class of 2019

* High Honor

Ben Affrica*  Chandler Blom*  Brayden Choate-Grossi  Miles Cramer*  Annie Davis*  Luke Evo  Jackson Foguth

Katherine Gretch  Thomas Hagerman  Lauren Hall  Alex Harris*  Heidi Hering*  Sonia Hong  Catherine Jenkins

Benjamen Kehoe*  Lauren LaClair*  Bryn Macksood  Cole Malenich*  Jacob Malenich*  Mya McHallam*  Matter Millard*

May you continue to develop your gifts and grow in faith, hope and love.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL STAFF & STUDENTS
wish you all the best!
GRADUATES 2019

Camryn Murlick
Kennedy Myers*
Sydney Nemer
Abbey Polakowski*
Alison Polakowski
AnnaGrace Rachor*
Anthony Sardo
Katherine Shaw
Alanna Straffon
Sophia VanTol
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Powers Catholic
Class of 2019
Powers grad living out her dream one chapter at a time

By Sharon Stone

Most people dream of a two-week vacation in Hawaii, where they can enjoy the sites, beautiful weather and daily adventures. One Powers High School graduate took that dream to the next level by working with animals on the islands for about three years.

Shannon Scheving, a Fenton native, and 2010 graduate of Powers, earned her bachelor’s degree in Companion and Exotic Animal Biology from Michigan State University. To complete her degree, she was required to complete an internship working in an animal related field. She was drawn to internships that studied animal behavior.

She accepted an internship with Dolphin Quest and lived for nine months in Bermuda to work with dolphins, sea turtles and an African grey parrot. She then accepted a job as an animal behavior specialist with Dolphin Quest’s branch in Hawaii.

It was her job to offer daily care and enrichment that each animal needed. “I was able to work with dolphins, black tip reef sharks, various fish species and a painted turtle,” she said. “It was extremely satisfying to see them participate voluntarily in their own health care. For instance, having a pregnant dolphin lay on her side in the water for you to get an ultrasound and see the first heart beats of the fetus. This was not only amazing but critical in being able to care for her properly.”

Scheving said the animals became family and watching them grow and learn was “so indescribable.”

“Dolphins are some of the most intelligent creatures I have had the pleasure to work with. They each had their own identity and my job consisted of having to study and learn about each one. Being able to create a bond with the dolphins meant I had to put in time and effort with them.”

She was also responsible for training certain behaviors with each animal. The different types of behaviors consist of husbandry (medical), mentally stimulating and physically stimulating.

“One of my favorite behaviors I trained was a mentally stimulating behavior with a dolphin named Lehua, who was about 4 years old. The behavior was called ‘copy’ and it consisted of asking Lehua to copy what another dolphin was doing. Watching her get so excited when she figured it out was something I will cherish forever.”

In addition to working with the animals, Scheving worked with the Make a Wish Foundation to help fulfill others’ life-long dreams of meeting a dolphin. “This job was so rewarding because it allowed me to work hands on with some amazing animals, but it also allowed me to share my passions with others,” she said. “To sum it up, this job was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done, and I am forever grateful.”

Now back in Michigan with her two dogs, Scheving said she will miss the adventures in Hawaii the most. Her biggest adventure was diving with manta rays. “They are so amazing to watch, and it is still one of the coolest things I have done in my life so far,” she said.

Scheving is enrolled in Oakland University’s accelerated second-degree program working toward a bachelor of science in nursing. “I should be graduated next year and then I hope to go into traveling nursing,” she said. “My future goals involve me getting my masters or doctorate in an advanced practice in the nursing field.”

Scheving offers advice for this year’s graduates. “It is ok to not know what you want to do for the rest of your life. Don’t let the pressures of trying to make this decision get in the way of enjoying this next chapter of your life. Give time for yourself and when you find what you are truly passionate about go after it.”