

Cultural Self-Study:

M. Elizabeth Schababerle

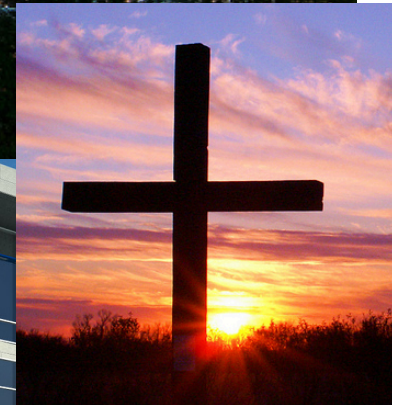
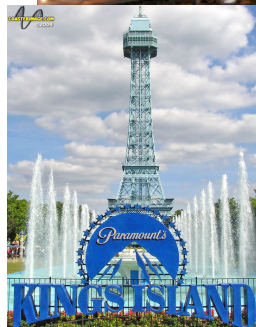


I am a Cincinnati-born German-American Christian

On my mom's side, I am a 3rd generation German-American. My grandmother still has cousins in Germany, and knows many recipes from the old country, passed down to her from her mother and father. My dad's family arrived between the 1890's and 1915. When they first arrived, they owned a hardware shop, and though I'm not sure where the street was, we have an old street sign in our basement from "Schababerle Hill Rd". The majority of both sides have stayed in Cincinnati, though there are branches in Texas and San Francisco.

Both sides have been German-Roman-Catholic for as long as anyone can remember. Though I have kept many of the traditions I grew up with, I tend to stay away from labels, and consider myself Christian rather than Catholic.

In my experience, it is very rare for someone to grow up in Cincinnati and not be proud of it. Once known as the Queen City of the West, it continues to be well-known for its unique culture.



I am part of my family

I am a member of (quite a large) family. My oldest cousin is now in his thirties, and my youngest cousin is not yet five years old. As children, we spent much of our time in our grandparent's pool, driving their golf cart around, laughing and playing together. As we get older, we strive to be role models for our younger cousins.

Each one of us is respectful. As we enter the real world, our eyes are opened to many different lifestyles. We all make an effort to be a positive influence on others in today's changing world.

Each one of us is driven. My mom's dad built a now-international company from the ground up, and my parents, aunts, and uncles have always taught my sister and I the value of a hard day's work.

Each one of us is a testament to our family's values. As we get older, we find ourselves at opposite ends of the country, and at times on opposite sides of the world. No matter where life takes us, we know we bring the heart of our family with us.

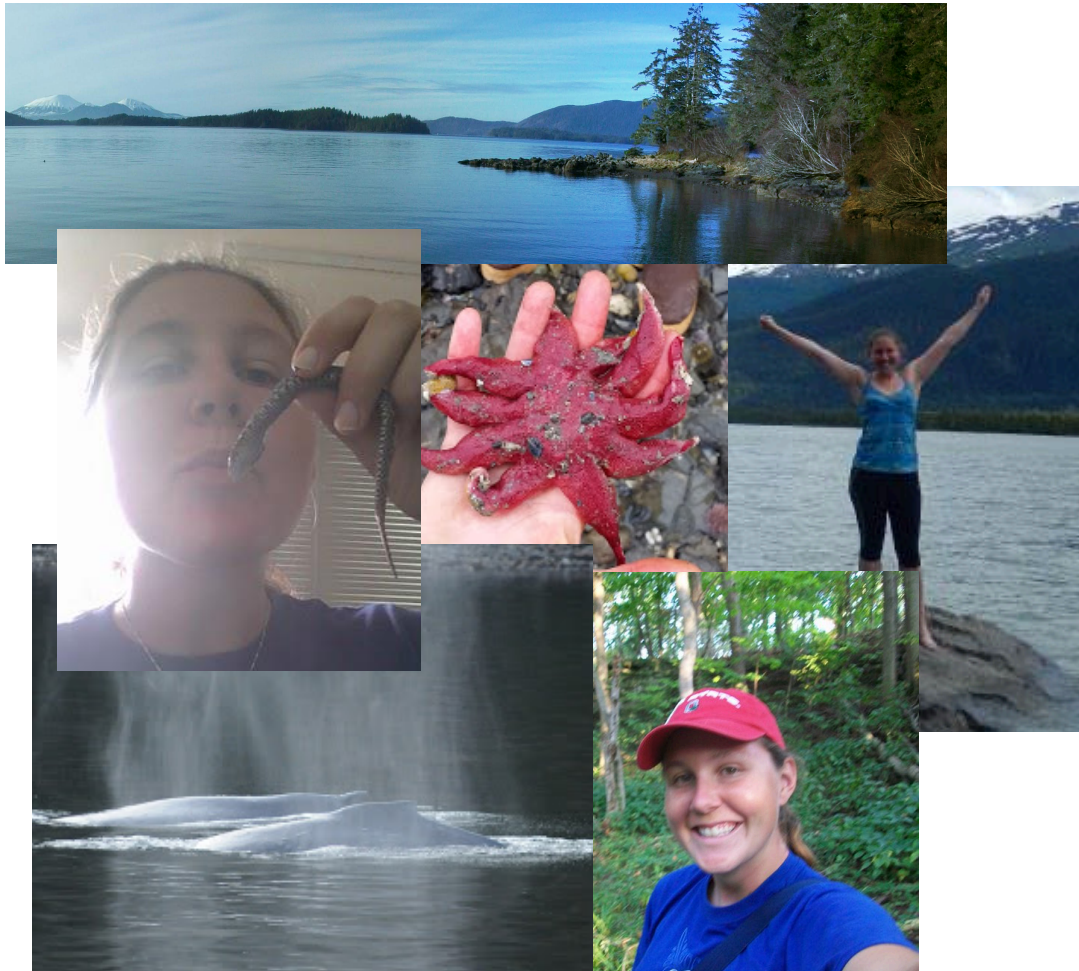


I am a caring friend

In my experience, the more you care for others, the more they will care for you. I have been blessed with many wonderful friends over the years, and many of my friends have become my extended family. I love and appreciate all of them, and would go to the ends of the earth for them. One of my favorite quotes is that “good friends are like stars, you might not always see them, but you know they’re always there”. I could not agree more with that statement. There are times when we are all so busy that we don’t talk for months, when we do reconnect we pick up right where we left off, as if we had never missed a day.



I am a nature enthusiast



I consider myself a “hydrophilic ecologist”. In other words, I LOVE water. I am amazed by the awesome power it holds, the life we can see in it, and the mysteries we have yet to discover. I grew up in Ohio saying I want to be a “Marine Biologist”. During my undergraduate career I studied aquatic biology, and after graduation found myself teaching about the life in and around Lake Erie.

My desire to explore the world of marine biology had not ceased, though, and at the suggestion of a friend I packed up and moved to Sitka, Alaska to follow my dream. During my first summer here, I was lucky enough to be an intern at the Sitka Sound Science Center, working with world-renowned researchers.

Living in Alaska has allowed me to rediscover my adventurous side, and more often than not my free time consists of climbing mountains, kayaking, fishing, exploring the intertidal zone, and otherwise enjoying the great outdoors.

I am a Buckeye.

I started my freshman year at Ohio State as a Biology major, one of the largest majors at the University. I found myself in classes among pre-professional students, and didn't quite feel at home.

After the first quarter of my sophomore year, I switched to the College of Engineering to be an Ecological Engineer. There I felt I had found my calling. I loved the detail we went into in my math and science classes, and enjoyed learning the thought process of an engineer.

The basic idea of engineering is that we figure out how to make things work. Architects, researchers, and technological enthusiasts come to us with amazing ideas, and we figure out how to make their ideas a reality.



I am a teacher.

Throughout my life, I have been lucky enough to be surrounded by people who care about my health, my well being, and my future.

In each job I have had, I have found myself in the position of teaching other people various skills. Many of them have come back to me and said I helped them in ways they didn't know were possible. Over the years, I have realized nothing gives me greater joy than making a difference in someone else's life.

As a teacher, I hope to be a positive influence on my students. I hope to open their minds to all the possibilities life brings. I hope to give them a safe environment to learn, grow, and become the best version of themselves. I hope I can make a positive impact on each of their lives, everyday.

