It was a trip to remember . . . and cherish. I was privileged to travel to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12-13 to help represent our school at The National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony. Skutt Catholic was one of 50 private schools in the country to receive this award, and it is considered to be one of the most prestigious honors in education. It was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, a magnificent, historic building that is known for inaugural balls, visiting presidents and senators, and top name entertainers that have been part of its history for over 75 years.

As I sat in the plane on the way to D.C., I thought back to the first days of Skutt Catholic with 120 students, half-empty hallways, and about a dozen staff members. In some ways it seems like long ago, but in other ways only yesterday that we were welcoming our first students coming through the doors. The school has grown tremendously in 20 years, and it is one of the joys of my life to have witnessed the transformation.

At the conference we were told repeatedly that we are now in elite company. The schools represented there are the best, and we were encouraged to try to share our excellence with other schools in order to help them be the best as well – that was the message. I was long ago convinced that our school is one of the best around, and this only confirmed what I believed. It was a great honor, but also a heavy responsibility. We are called to maintain, and even improve, our performance as well as to try to influence other schools to achieve the same level of educational excellence that exists here.

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COVER STORY

Green and Black Goes BLUE!

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Those of us who were here at the “beginning” hardly imagined that someday our school would be a Blue Ribbon School. It is the fulfillment of a dream and a product of a vision that started with Archbishop Sheehan and Monsignor Gilg, was continued through the hard work of many faculty, staff, parents, and students and was brought to fruition by Patrick Slattery and the current administration and staff at Skutt Catholic. As we waited to receive the award, I felt that I was representing all of those people who worked so hard to make Skutt Catholic what it is today. It was an honor to be able to represent so many exceptional educators and certainly one of the high points of my educational career. It was the best day ever to be a SkyHawk!
Skutt Catholic began its twentieth year of educating young women and men with the announcement that the school had been named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The honor is among the highest academic accolades that can be earned by a school in our country. The U.S. Department of Education summarizes the award as follows:

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students’ levels of academic achievement. Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored America’s most successful public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities.

Not all schools can apply for the Blue Ribbon “Exemplary” schools award. Only schools whose ACT/SAT test scores are within the top 15% of all school scores nationwide (public & private) are eligible to apply. Even then, most who apply in any given year will still not earn the Blue Ribbon award. Skutt Catholic’s ACT averages are at an all-time high and within that 15% mark. More than 325 private schools registered to apply for this award in 2012, and Skutt Catholic was one of the top 50 to emerge from the very competitive group!

Skutt Catholic is the only high school in Nebraska with more than 400 students to earn this national award in the past decade. The Council for American Private Education, who initially screens the applications, also commended Skutt Catholic for our “commitment to providing modifications and support to educate students with learning needs.” A significant number of private high schools that earn this award typically possess a narrower admissions policy, which limits enrollment to only more high-achieving students. Skutt Catholic works with a broader range of ability levels than many other Blue Ribbon high schools, and 100% of our students are included in the test data that qualified us for this award. As Jon Burt, principal, has previously stated, “this [Skutt Catholic] quality education is offered to many levels of students. As an Archdiocesan school, Skutt Catholic embraces its moral obligation and Catholic mission to provide a ‘universal’ educational experience for students of many ability levels.”

The top one-quarter of our graduates average a composite score of nearly 31 on the ACT. The top half is averaging more than a 29. The top three-quarters of graduates are earning nearly 27.5 on the ACT. Looking back through data over the past four years, we note improvements each and every year. The data shows that our average ACT scores have steadily risen 0.66 over this time frame when the state and national averages have both dropped by 0.1. The entrance exam scores of eighth grade applicants have not varied over the same time period, thus our annual ACT increases cannot simply be attributed to accepting higher performing students.

Standardized testing results are certainly not the only indicator of academic success, nor are they necessarily/arguably the most important. They are, however, one commonly accepted method to assess academic progress and learning, both on the individual and institutional level. They also continue to be highly valued by most colleges and universities when it comes to setting admissions guidelines. Our school’s annual ACT scores are a “metric,” among many, that show that Skutt Catholic’s educational program is accomplishing its academic purpose. As we continue to modify our program to meet the needs of a variety of learners, we expect that our upward trend will only continue.

Beyond this Blue Ribbon Award, our twenty-year-old community celebrates 2,309 wonderful alumni, the 387 full ride collegiate scholarships earned, the 74 National Merit Scholars, and the 35 state championships won. We all celebrate an enrollment of 700 strong, an enrollment that has seen a 12.3% increase in the past decade when the national average for Catholic high schools has dropped by 10%. We take pride in having developed the most comprehensive, Catholic, college-preparatory curriculum in the state while remaining among the most affordable of Omaha’s private high schools. Just as our first twenty years was founded on hard work, perseverance, a core vision, and a strong Catholic mission, so will our next twenty years. While recognizing our success, we will humbly move forward and improve this program to even greater levels for the benefit of all students who walk our halls.

Sincerely,
Patrick Slattery
President

President’s Letter
As we celebrate Skutt Catholic’s 20th anniversary and our recognition as a Blue Ribbon school, the effort, innovation, and compassion of our faculty cannot be overlooked. One of the highest privileges a school administrator has is the opportunity to see top professionals in action on a regular basis, and at Skutt Catholic our teachers rarely disappoint.

Here’s a glimpse of the “action” I witnessed in our classrooms recently during just one afternoon of unannounced drop-in visits:

• Advanced Pottery and Sculpture students working independently on a project of their own design utilizing core techniques they learned in class. The students were kind enough to take a few moments to show me a few pieces they were working on and explain the technique they were utilizing. They were very knowledgeable and open to the process.

• Novice Speech students celebrating their first dip into live speech competition – sharing their stories of fear, embarrassment, and triumph. They spoke openly and in detail about what they witnessed, how they felt and what they now hope to achieve . . . what energy. We may need to make room in our trophy cases for more state titles!

• Honors English 9 students dissecting the art of crafting a solid five-paragraph essay. I know this topic gives us adults the shivers, but in just 15 minutes of class nearly 75% of the students participated. They spoke intelligently and passionately about thesis statements and supporting points. The instruction was engaging but systematic. Our 9th graders are receiving fine instruction in writing.

• Honors Geometry students examining proofs for congruency using a wonderful interactive piece of Smart Board technology. I wish I took Geometry in 2012!

• AP U.S. Government students exploring political action committees during the build-up to the Presidential Election.

• American Studies students appalled by the social injustice of foot-binding – asking question after question of their instructor as they processed through the history and the psychology behind such a custom.

• Art I students using repetitive geometric design to create vibrant paintings.

Make no mistake about it; Skutt Catholic has experienced two decades of success in large part because of its excellent faculty. They are why our ACT cumulative scores have risen by nearly one point in the last five years and nearly two points in the last ten years. They are why our students speak so highly of their teachers and our school; their hard work and compassion are the reason we are able to educate a wide range of learning abilities. They are why we regularly receive positive feedback from our alums – such as this note from a recent graduate:

“Skutt honestly made the biggest difference in my life and prepared me for college in ways that I would have never expected and did not fully understand or appreciate until now! Thank you!”

Our faculty truly Make a Difference every day and have led us to become a Top 50 school in the United States. The next time you have a chance, please congratulate our teachers on a job well done!

Sincerely,
Jon Burt
Principal
Happy Holidays!

2012 was a year to remember for many: from alumni engagements and the welcoming of new family members, to seeing the power of prayer through God’s hands, and the acknowledgement of the great success of a school that we all love. All of these memories symbolize who we are as a Skutt Catholic community and what we value in our daily lives.

This year Skutt Catholic hit a major milestone of excellence in education for 20 years. Twenty years that have been driven by success and high achievement of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff who pride themselves on being the best they can be and believing that the sky is the limit. Nothing is impossible with the community that has been built over the past 20 years, with 2,309 alumni, 74 National Merit Scholars, 35 state championships, and now being selected as a Blue Ribbon school. These amazing achievements should make us all feel proud and honored to be SkyHawks and carry on this legacy for years to come as alums.

It was a successful year not only for the school but also for the Alumni Association. The annual Flight for Excellence welcomed over 100 alumni, friends, and family and in return raised over $4,000. This money allows the association to plan and organize events such as the alumni basketball tournament and the free alumni homecoming event that is held every year.

This year homecoming was celebrated on a chilly Nebraska night in the beginning of October. Even with the cold temperatures, many alumni and their families joined us for the fun festivities as Skutt Catholic hosted Roncalli. The children enjoyed bouncing around in the castle bounce house as a way to warm up, while alumni and friends gathered together to reminisce about old times. In attendance were members of the Class of 1997 who were celebrating their 15-year class reunion. They were able to enjoy a tour of the school by Mrs. Monica Baxter and see the many renovations the school has made over the years.

For those of you who would like to update your current contact information including email and home address, please send all updates to: Sally Brittan at smbrittan@schools.archomaha.org. She would be happy to make sure you are receiving emails from the school and a copy of Our Legacy magazine that is published twice a year.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for your constant support to the association, without you we could not plan and organize all of these exciting events. Also, be on the look out for more information about an alumni trivia night within the next few months.

If you want to become more involved or help with any of our upcoming events please email me at skuttcatholicalumni@gmail.com.

Kelsey Sievers ’09
Skutt Catholic Alumni Association President
Kelly McAleer ’97 and John McMannama ’97 are engaged and plan to marry in Omaha in June 2014. Kelly will be moving from Phoenix back to Omaha in early 2014.

In April SC alumni gathered at Dante (owned by Nick Strawhecker ’97) in west Omaha. Pictured from left to right are: Tom McGuire ’97, Alison Dempsey Bayse ’97, Nick Strawhecker ’97, Sara Neneman Weller ’97, Tara Hollenbeck Henkenius ’97, and Elizabeth Spitsnogle McGuire ’97.


Michelle Mimick Phillips ’99 is one of three state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. She will find out this spring if she will represent Nebraska in Washington, D.C. for the award ceremony. Michelle currently teaches 5th grade at Dundee Elementary in the Omaha Public Schools district.

Colin Wagner ’04 and Jamie Volz were married July 14, 2012. He is Communications Manager for the Alzheimer’s Association of Omaha. Jamie is pursuing her doctorate in Economics at UNL. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica and they currently reside in Lincoln.

Sarah Menghini Percival ’00 is currently the Vice President and President-Elect of the Nebraska International Languages Association and a French teacher at Westside High School.

On Nov. 6, Patrick Leahy ’01 was elected to the Natural Resources District Board, #7 seat. John Murante ’00 also won his race for the Nebraska Legislature in District #49.

Tomi Diederich ’04 and Matt Farrell ’04 had their first child on June 21, 2012: Nickson Cash Farrell. Nickson was named in memory of his beloved Aunt Nicole (Nikki) Farrell and Tomi and Matt’s very dear friend Cash Coolidge ’04.

Kate Thomsen ’99 married Johnny Major on Sept. 1, 2012 at St. Wenceslaus Church, a reception followed at Hilton Omaha. Skutt Catholic alumni in the wedding party included: Maureen Thomsen ’03, Melanie Sapikoski White ’99, Michaela Odorisio Jones ’99, and Luke Langer ’99. Kate is currently a product manager with Fifth Third Bank and Johnny is a minority owner and software developer at CNX Corporation. They live in Chicago, IL.
Jeff Armstrong ’02 recently moved back to Omaha from Kansas City and is the production manager at Sleight Advertising.

Eric Ramirez ’02 has a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. After initially working as the law librarian at the Douglas County Correction Center, Eric made the decision to pursue a more adventurous career as an English teacher in China. In early August 2012, Eric left for Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he trained as a teacher for four weeks in preparation for his teaching assignment in Weinan, China. Eric is now teaching Chinese elementary school students in two schools in Weinan. He teaches with two British colleagues and one other American, as well as a staff of Chinese teachers.

Laura Christiansen Larson ’02 and husband Ben had their first child, Evan Christian Larson, on Oct. 2, 2012.

Anita Fuchs Downing ’04 is a CPA and was recently promoted to Assurance Senior Associate at McGladrey, LLP in Kansas City, MO. She continues to focus on financial statement audits in the Indian gaming, financial institution, and not-for-profit industries.

Meghan Phelps Sullivan ’04 and Nick Sullivan welcomed daughter Lucy Elizabeth on March 26, 2012.

Jared Bolding ’04 and Michaela Masching Bolding ’04 had son Cooper James on April 13, 2012.

Danny Hames ’04 graduated from Creighton Medical School in May of 2012 married Jessica Yager on June 2, 2012 and took up his pediatric residency at Boston’s Children’s Hospital. Matt Hames ’06 graduated from University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 2010 and is working for the Wineman Communications Group in Lincoln as a copywriter. Bridget Hames ’12 is a freshman at UNO and a member of the UNO Forensics Team.

Sara Welniak ’05 graduated from College of St. Mary’s with a Master’s of Occupational Therapy and is currently working in Lincoln at Bryan-LGH in the ICU. Sara ran the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 7, 2012 with a time of 04:37.

Lauren Naughton ’08 graduated Summa Cum Laude from Creighton University in May 2012 and was inducted into the Jesuit Honor Society Alpha Sigma Nu. Lauren is currently employed by the Spanish Ministry of Education as a cultural ambassador and is living in Madrid, Spain.

Catheryn Amenta ’08 graduated from UNL with a Biological Systems Engineering degree. She is working as a Project Manager for Epic, which is an electronic medical record software company in Madison, WI.
Alumni Updates

Katie McIllece Meints ’05 married Jason Meints this past March in Des Moines, IA at Saint Francis of Assisi. A few months later, Katie graduated with a Masters in Organizational Leadership in Business at Grand View University and Jason Meints earned his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Des Moines University. Jason is working at Physiotherapy Associates and Katie is employed as the Housing Director at Grand View University.

Ryan Borchers ’05 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Creighton University where he was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and was editor-in-chief of the Creightonian. He received his MA in English from Creighton in 2011. He taught rhetoric and composition at Creighton last year. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at George Mason University in Northern Virginia.

Erin Borchers ’09 is currently a senior at Creighton University. She is majoring in Economics and Physics with minors in Business Administration and Mathematics. She is currently a finalist for a Rhodes scholarship. If she wins she plans on spending two years at Oxford studying economics and working on a MBA. At Creighton she is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society, and has recently been selected as one of 13 members of Creighton’s first ever Phi Beta Kappa chapter. She was recently awarded a NASA grant to study dark particle matter and has written and presented economic research on the effect of taxation on small business at the state level. She is the president of CU STARS the Creighton tour guides, a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, and is employed by Union Pacific Railroad in the fuel conservation department.

Catherine Haller Koth ‘07 married Alex Koth on July 21, 2012. The couple currently lives in Kansas City where Catherine works as a business analyst for Cerner Corporation and Alex is an engineer for Kiewit Power Nuclear.

Kylee Polsley ‘10 received her Associates in Arts Degree from Iowa Western Community College where she also played college softball. She is currently continuing her education at Chadron State College where she is also playing softball.

Kelsey Stratman ’12 won Co-Freshman of the Year Award and named to the All-West Division team for the Great Lakes Valley Conference after leading the conference and ranking 16th in the country with 1.29 blocks per set. Stratman is a middle hitter at Rockhurst University.

Aaron Large ’08 was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy upon his graduation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on May 13, 2012. Aaron is serving on board the USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) as the Anti-submarine Warfare Officer and recently completed a deployment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

(From left to right) Catie Yuhas ’10, Chase Gorham ’12, Bailey Lathrop ’11, Rachel Platz ’11, and Paul Troupe ’10 completed the Omaha Marathon on Sun., Sept. 29, proudly wearing their old Skutt Catholic Cross Country uniforms.
SC softball players attended the “Strike Out Cancer” fundraiser for Sue Hartigan in September. Sue is the mother of Erin Hartigan ’05, Amy Hartigan ’08 and wife of Skutt Catholic softball coach Timothy Hartigan. Sue passed away on Oct. 9, 2012 and this year’s softball team has dedicated their season to her.

Pictured: Katie King ’02, Karla Harpenau Hamilton ’02, Katie Lakovic Snyder ’99, Regina Mackevicius ’08, Laura Flanagan ’98, Kelly Baumert ’06, Taylor Jonas ’11, Ashley Jonas Banke ’06, Angelee Dougherty ’08, Allison Wedige ’11, Erin McGonigall ’12, Traci Flanagan ’06, Sahra Kaboli-Nejad ’11, Lindsey Wiehl ’05, Amy Hartigan ’08, McKenna Setlik ’10, Rachel Bulkovec ’05, Andrea Batenhorst ’09, Jamie Weis ’09, Grace Peska ’09, Emily Banghart ’11, Taylor Pick ’11, Ellen Homan ’10, Keri Koley ’11, Elizabeth Bartak ’05

Coach Keith Engelkamp, Taylor Jonas ’10, Ashley Jonas ’06, Emilee Jonas ’12 and Coach Larry King celebrate at the wedding of Ashley Jonas ’06 to Tim Banke ’06. All three Jonas sisters played softball for Coach Engelkamp and Coach King.

Driven To Excellence

Driven to Excellence Faith, triumph, and tragedy...the story of the Omaha Skutt Catholic wrestling program by Craig Sesker was released on Sat., Sept. 15 at Skutt Catholic’s Angel Flight fundraiser. Guests of the event were able to purchase a copy of the book for $20. Both Craig Sesker and SC wrestling coach, Brad Hildebrandt, were on hand to autograph copies.

The book can now be purchased on skuttcatholic.com.

An easy-to-find link on the site’s homepage leads directly to an online purchase order and payment screen. Cost for online purchases is $20 plus shipping and handling.

It was the fall of 1993 when Brad Hildebrandt and R. J. Nebe walked into the office of Fr. James Gilg, President of the brand-new V. J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska. Gilg got an idea of what lay ahead with the two enthusiastic young coaches. “We will win a state championship within five years,” Hildebrandt proclaimed.

“I sure hope it happens,” Gilg said. But he had his doubts. And indeed the first season began unceremoniously---in one of its first events, Skutt went a combined 0-24. Undeterred, the two young coaches, armed with an unwavering work ethic and a steely determination, set about creating one of the most successful sports programs in Nebraska history. But while the Skutt program was breaking records, it was also dealing with a series of tragedies that struck the very heart of this tight-knit wrestling family. This is their story...

This gripping story will inspire young and old alike. Get your copy while supplies last!

Coach Brad Hildebrandt and author Craig Sesker sign copies of Driven to Excellence at Angel Flight 2012.
Amanda Olson, Shannon Schrader, Matthew Pohlman, Zachary Pohlman, and Annie Moylan were each accepted into the National American Choral Director’s Association Honor Choirs. Matthew will participate in the Junior High Honor Choir, Amanda and Shannon in the High School Women’s Honor Choir, and Zachary and Annie were selected for the High School Mixed Honor Choir. They were chosen by audition for the three different ensembles from entries across the country. They will travel to Dallas for the Honor Festival in March of 2013. Their selection represents that they are among the top 36 singers across the U.S. on their voice part.

Congratulations to senior, Haley Eck, who was selected first trombone in the 2012 Nebraska All State Band; to sophomore, Marie Wagner, who was selected for clarinet; and to sophomore, Matt Schaefer, who was selected as an alternate trumpet player. Congratulations, also to junior, Grace Ellason and senior, Annie Moylan for making the 2012 Nebraska All State Chorus. Haley, Grace, and Annie are all two-year all-staters!

Skutt Booster Club commissioned artist, Peggy Karr, with the assistance of Proforma Identity Marketing Group of Omaha, to create a unique piece of glass fusion art based on a photograph by junior Ceara Kirkpatrick, Skutt Catholic Class of 2014, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Skutt Catholic. Ceara has captured an angle of Skutt Catholic High School that is recognized by anyone who holds SC close to their heart. Plates can be ordered through the front office.

SC Dance attended UDA Summer Camp at Creighton in July and brought home tons of awards, including:

- UDA Leadership Award as voted on by all other teams at camp.
- 1st place in the Large Varsity Home Routine Competition.
- Five All-Americans were selected: Caitlin McDermott, Madison Lynam, Abby Krone, Sienna Scott, and Katie Pohlman.
- The “Drill Down Queen” winner was Abby Hoffman.
- The “Pin It Forward” recipient was Abby Jonas.
- The “Superior Trophy” for receiving a perfect score for our individual routines.
- Team Full Out Award given to the team whose Team Routine choreography was unique and “full out.”
- Our three seniors were asked to apply to be UDA instructors next summer!

At the UDA camp the Skutt Dance Team attended this summer Madison Lynam was named an All-American. Because of that designation she was eligible to participate in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade. She submitted her application and was accepted!

Colleen Bernal was accepted for the China Bridge 2012 Summer Camp, funded by the Confucius Institute at UNL. The Confucius Institute will pay all expenses for two weeks while in China and the Nebraska group will start in Beijing and also visit Xi’an (TerraCotta Warriors).
2012-13 started off with Girls Golf. **Coach Mike Stolarsky** greeted 17 girls but that number dwindled to about ten that finished the season. The girls finished 3rd at the RCC meet, 3rd at Districts, and 11th at State. **Katherine Slump, Teresa Kaiser, Emma Sheridan, Nyashadzaishe Kamhaka, and Holly Schumacher** all qualified for the State Meet. Biggest obstacle - getting to practice! With only one senior, not very many of the girls were old enough to drive. That bodes well for the future.

> “Dear Lord, in the struggle that goes on through life, 
> we ask for a field that is fair,

The Boys Tennis team, coached by **Sheryl Vaughn**, won their 7th straight RCC team championship. With experience and tradition behind them, the state competition arrived with high hopes. There were some setbacks, but each match was extremely hard fought. **Brian Carmody & Andrew Johnson (#1 Doubles) finished 2nd, Zachary Pohllman & Griffin Sehring (#2 Doubles) were 3rd, Zach Legband (#2 Singles) finished 4th while sophomore Skylar Lowe (#1 Singles) won his first match and then ran into a tough player from Lincoln Christian. The team finished as State Runner-ups for the 4th time in school history!

> a chance that is equal with all the strife,  
> the courage to strive and to dare;

Coach **Keith Engelkamp** and the 2012 Softball team finished the season with a 27-5 record. Included in that run was their 2nd consecutive RCC Softball Championship. The team swept through the district competition fighting off a tough Ralston team. At state, the girls finished 3-2 and grabbed 3rd place. Great year girls!

We all thought it was hot and dry this summer, but the SkyHawk Cross Country team ran and ran and ran during summer workouts. The boys and the girls began the year with mixed team results, however, personal goals continued to be in reach. At the RCC Meet held at SC, the girls were victorious, while the boys finished 2nd. A week later at districts (also at SC), the girls were 1st again and the boys were 4th. At state, our top individuals finished 12th (Abbey Lenz & Todd Leutzinger). For a runner, there are always more roads to conquer.

> and if we should win, let it be by the code,  
> with our faith and our honor held high;

Football in Nebraska! Enthusiasm at SC was high this year. Opening the season with eight straight wins, **Coach Matt Turman**’s group started quick. In the last game of the regular season a tough minded Gross Catholic Cougar team came to SC and squeezed out a 14-7 win. The program now had reached the state playoffs nine of the last ten years. In the 1st round, the SkyHawks faced Ralston at home and came away with a 28-0 victory setting up a rematch with the Cougars. In a hard fought, but disappointing battle, the SkyHawks came up short on a last minute field goal by the Cougars to lose 9-6.

November always begins with the final days of the Volleyball season. **Coach Renee Saunders** began her second season with the leadership provided by seven seniors. Up against perennial power, Gross Catholic, the SkyHawks finished 2nd in the RCC tournament. A tough district brought a #3 seed and a huge win over the top-seeded Gross Catholic Cougars. However, the SkyHawks couldn’t “seal the deal” and fell to Gretna in the district final. The team finished the year with a 22-17 record and plenty of memories.

> and if we should lose, let us stand by the road  
> and cheer as the winners go by.”

2006 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011 = Four state championships in the last six years! No one can accuse the Mock Trial team of resting on their laurels. Each achievement has only made them hungrier. This December proved their ability when Mock Trial defeated Ainsworth to win their fourth straight state title, bringing them to a grand total of five state championships!

Knute Rockne said it well in his *Prayer to Play Fair in the Game of Life*. High school athletics are all about playing hard, playing fair and carrying your head high - win or lose. In this 20th anniversary year, SC should be extremely proud.
Skutt Catholic High School’s annual fundraiser, Angel Flight, was held on Sat., Sept. 15 and welcomed 620 parents, alumni, and friends of SC. This year’s event, themed Under Southern Skies, An Evening of SkyHawk Hospitality, grossed nearly $410,000. A record-breaking amount — to support the school’s general operating expenses. The event also commemorated our 20th school year and recent blue ribbon award.

Chairs for the event were Tom and Kathy Koley, Mike and Maryann Litz and Charles and Jen Olson. Joe and Judy Graham and Diane and Rick Mead were recognized for their dedication to Skutt Catholic as this year’s honorary chairs. This year’s Outstanding Alumnus was Kathleen Merkel, a 1998 graduate of Skutt Catholic. She was honored for her work with Catholic Relief Services, where with teams of people from all different religious, cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds she lends a hand to various communities’ own efforts to improve the lives of their children, neighbors, and themselves across the world.

“We are honored to be a part of the Skutt Catholic family and are always amazed at the generosity and support for this event from past and present parents,” says Tom Koley. “This annual event raises much more than dollars, it is the future for our children.”

Thank you to all of the parent and student volunteers who made the event a success and for your generous support at the party, it was a great day to be a SkyHawk.
March 22 & 23, 2013
Skutt Catholic Alumni Basketball Tournament
Start organizing your teams and watch for online sign-ups at skuttcatholic.com

June 28, 2013
Skutt Catholic Alumni Association’s
Flight For Excellence
Pacific Springs Golf Club
Noon shotgun start

June 29, 2013
Save-the-Date for
Skutt Catholic High School
Class of 2003’s 10-Year Reunion
As Skutt Catholic High School enters its 20th year of service to the Omaha community, it is a wonderful time to reflect on our past, diligently manage the present environment, and to plan for the future of our school. We began as a great vision by many of our early leaders, filled with faith and optimism to create a new Catholic high school in west Omaha. We had humble beginnings as a new school with only 122 students enrolled but knew our future was bright. Those students, faculty, administrators, parents, and benefactors created an outstanding facility, structure, and community in the school, which has flourished over these 20 years. I would personally like to offer our most sincere thanks to these people, with a special debt of gratitude to those faculty and administrators who have been at Skutt Catholic High School from the beginning.

As one would expect, over these 20 years we have had successes and challenges and have learned profound lessons from both. In our history, we have celebrated the successes of 2,309 outstanding alumni, earned 387 full ride collegiate scholarships, been awarded 74 National Merit Scholars, and won 35 state championships. Those statistics highlight only a small snapshot of the growth and character that students of Skutt Catholic have demonstrated in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. We take pride in having developed the most comprehensive, Catholic, college-preparatory curriculum in the state while remaining among the most affordable of Omaha’s private high schools. We celebrate the fact that the school’s ACT averages are at an all-time high.

Skutt Catholic High School was recently awarded the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Award for Exemplary Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. This honor places our school in very select company, as only 50 private schools were selected for this most prestigious award. Our faculty and administration deserve a great deal of credit for this award, which recognizes the excellence that our parents and students have already witnessed in Skutt Catholic’s twenty-year history.

The administration and Board of Directors are committed to be responsible stewards of the resources, which we are responsible for. Maintaining and improving our campus and facilities is one of many important tasks that we face. The commons and school hallways remodeling project, along with the installation of synthetic turf at Moylan Field this past summer are examples of this plan. The administration does an outstanding job of managing the school finances in a responsible manner, while keeping sight of our goal of maintaining a world-class education for our students.

The accompanying Annual Report provides a look into the finances of the school for the preceding fiscal year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our thanks to the many benefactors who have made this mission possible. Through your generosity, we are making it possible for the next generation of Skutt Catholic High School graduates to “Make a Difference!”

Respectfully,
Scott C. Drvol
Chairman of the Board
2011–2012 Annual Report

The 2013 Annual Appeal is underway and we are striving for 100% participation from our parents. The goal for this year’s appeal is $140,000. The funds raised assist our operational costs and help keep tuition as affordable as possible. The Annual Appeal helps make up the difference between what a family pays in tuition (approximately $8,000) and the actual cost ($10,000) to educate one student. Your support at a level meaningful to you will make a difference towards our overall goal. Thank you for your consideration and support of Skutt Catholic High School!

Operating Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$5,940,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Financial Aid &amp; Scholarships</td>
<td>($856,540)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$5,083,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Assessments</td>
<td>$278,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>$103,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Activities</td>
<td>$125,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue</td>
<td>$5,591,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operating Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructional</td>
<td>$3,350,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>$611,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Activities</td>
<td>$84,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>$876,326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$344,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$772,822</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>$178,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$6,217,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Loss</td>
<td>($626,598)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gains, & Losses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Investment Income, net</td>
<td>$48,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Fundraising Income</td>
<td>$914,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Fundraising Expense</td>
<td>($400,603)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gain, &amp; Losses</td>
<td>$562,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: ($64,308)

NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year: $10,713,448

NET ASSETS, End of Year: $10,649,140
Donors

Guardian Angel - ($50,000+)
Doug and Janice Pick

Angel - ($25,000+)
Anonymous

Archdiocese of Omaha
Patron Saint - ($10,000+)
Anonymous

Trevor and Andrea Barton
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Anonymous

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Charlie Lynn Wurtz
Bill and Kirsten Yates

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Anonymous

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Bishop Business
Brandeis Catering
Monte and Jenise Brown
THI and Lisa Diederich
Greg and Melanie Doeschot
HEC Lawn & Landscaping, Inc.
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Chris and Maureen Klotz
Tom and Kathy Koley
Scott and Diane Lawrence
Vincent and Paula Lenz
Fimi and Lynette Maggen
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Andy and Beth O'Daniel
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Charlie and Amy Sievers
Mrs. Sandra Silverman
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Doug Thompson
Jim and Kathy Welniak
Werner Enterprises

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Colleen Anson
Tom and Cheryl Blies
Clark and Kathy Bogseth
Mark and Sally Brittan
Mike and Dee Dee Carmody
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Central States Indemnity
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David and David Sunnrel
Barbara Teets

President’s Club - ($2,500+)
Anonymous

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AGP Major Accounts Learning Services
Steve and Amy Beran
Hicks and Clare Bissnette
Mike and Beth Boler
John Bystrek
Bill and Nancy Cartier
Dave and Laura Croonquist
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Lou and Kathy D’Ercole
Chas Devetter
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Steve and Stacey Harrison
Tommy and Anna Healy
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Bruce and Sherri Hove
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John and Felicia Hubnick
Dan and Joyce Keller
Rodney and Celia Kempkes
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Gay and Keven Kiser
Elizabeth Klawitter
Dan Kluhe and Roxanne Alter
Dan and Michelle Koralesski
LaVonne Kruise
Robert and Colleen Lange
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Jim and Jackie McCaslin
John and Pamela McElderry
Dana and Penny Mertz
Bob and Tammi Masching
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Millard Hills Dental Health
Mulhafa’s
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Paul and Kathleen Olines
Craig and Nicole Olson
Zach Ondro
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Cifittono and Angela Poling
Diane and Kathleen Polodno
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Mark and Dolene Poloski
Tom and Bev Richards

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Pati and Sphafer
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Skepchik
Dan and Tracy Silva
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Tom and Jennifer Smith
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Chuck and Christine Stevens
Mark and Donelle Stokes
Kelly’s Carpet

Turtle’s Carpet

Kinderling & Beissel - Kingswood Cobras

Kelly’s and Nola Kleinwasser

Knights of Columbus Council No. 10160

Knights of Columbus Mother Teresa Assembly 2561

Barrett and Kristine Knudson
Dan Krali
Mike and Susan Krause
Michael and Elizabeth Kreekos
Rick and Joni Leach
Mike and Sarah Legelhaar

Liz Business & Technology Solutions

Love’s

Mahogany Prime Steak House
Mama’s Pizza
Joseph and Ann Mangiamele
Mercury Insurance
Matthew Marash
Dave and Janice McPline
Jim and Janet McCaslin
Chris and Katie McDonald
Brian and Bar McGrath
Greg and Renee McHale
Shann and Jacky McKeever
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National Orthodox Hospital

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Nelson News/Century

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Terry Patton
Petersen and Company
Greg and Leslie Peterson
Jim and Kate Pieper
Richard and Colleen Piovov
Dick and Dolores Podraza
Tracy and Jill Podraza
John and Cathy Quandahl

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Dennis and Ruth Riesserman
Nate Ruffino
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James and Amy Simhoff
Kyle and Deanne Schlautman
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Palfin and Ione Scholz
Mark and Kimberly Schumacher
Dale and Kim Scott
SE KA

Christopher and Alison Sehring

= Donors who have given to the school for 3 - 5 consecutive fiscal years.
+ = Donors who have given to the school for 6 - 9 consecutive fiscal years.
++ = Donors who have given to the school for 10+ consecutive fiscal years.
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St. Robert Bellarmine Parish
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Al and Peggy Zach
Randi and Patti Zerzan

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All About Dogs Grooming Salon
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Dimitic Die & Tool Co.
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Joe Hebestreit
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Thomas and Annette Luedtk
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Magnus Builders
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Paul and Linda Marek

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Margaret and LeRoy Martin
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Scott and Laurie McCarthy
McCarthy’s One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning
Mitch and Rosemary McDermott
Timothy and LeAnn McGinley
Bernie and Mary Ann McGrath
Tom and Mary McGuire
Tom and Terri McLaughlin
Maddie McPherson
Joe and Mary Kay McClain
John and Mary McVey
Robert and Sara Meralith
Meck Partnership for Giving Mesh
Perry and Katherine Mettling
Jeff and Jackie Mikek
Mike and Diane Micek
Michael Dayer Photography
Midwest Laboratories, Inc.
Millard Athletic Baseball
Dave and Deb Molek
Mark and Michelle Moore
Stephen and Joy Morris
Kevin and Colleen Moseman
Moylan - Tranquility IcePlex, LLC
Scott and Kris Munsch
Debi Myhre
Bruce and Donna Nedrow
Ann and Matt Nelson
Tom and Pat Nelson
Rich and Karen Neenan
Mark and Jennifer Newcomer
Melvin and Joyce Nicholson
Nicola’s
Noteworthy
Novita Consulting, Inc.
Michael and Carol Nowak
Tim and Brandy O’Brien
Elizabeth Ordorico
Marcus Ordorico
Olive Market Limo
Charles and Jen Olson
Craig and Kay Olson
Steve and Angie Olson
Omaha Concert Club
Omaha Performing Arts Center
Omaha Symphony
Patrick and Deborah O’Malley
On a Whim
Brian and Joan O’Neill
Michael and Racha O’Neill
Kathie Onnka
Opera Omaha
Scott and Kate Putschke
Panda Inc.
Panera Bread
Larry Pavel
Pawlski
Mary Persinger
Paul and Ann Peterson
Scott and Denise Pfeifer
Pines Country Club
Joseph and Heidi Plance
Ken and Bex Poff
Karol and Arlene Porzelt
Professional Carpet Cleaning
Mary and Denise Prucha
Denny and Laura Purcell
James and Beckie Rago
Mark and Beth Rasmussen
Sharon Rasmussen
Red Zone
Jake Richers
Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel
Brett Rinder
Rentalworld
Kelly Richard Conway
James and Paula Richtstein
John and Nadine Ries
Jeff and Anna Riesseman
RNDC-Falcon Division
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Franklin and Mary Roh
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Gene and Lisa Schlegel
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Mel and Susan Schrader
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Irene Smith
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Mike Smith
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Southwest Tire Co
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St. Leo the Great Parish
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
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Ann and Dan Stobbe
Kevin and Jeanne Swain
Timothy and Lynn Sweaney
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Alvin and Maria Terrell
Jean Tatten
Trez Solar
Dick and Nileen Thelen
Loretta Thibeau
Mark and Patricia Thibeau
Shon and Teresa Thielens
Thirty-One
Gary and Ann Thomsen
Tigers Baseball Association
Jim and Jackie Tischer
Lorene Trausch
Trips’ Salon
United Rent-All
Dale and Beth Van Gent
Hincs and Karen Vanparren
Tom and Vicky Walz
Marl Clare Mills Burton
Walt and Colleen Wellwood
Chris and Vicki Wenke
Mike and Lisa Wenley
West Omaha Braves Baseball Team
Tim Wiebelebus
Ray and Mary Willerding
Ben and Alissa Worthington
Randy and Veronica Wright
Bill and Cindy Yost
Fran Zaner

Ninety-three Club - (>$1+)
Ace Hanlon
Scott and Rita Adams
Vicki Altic
Americas Gramophone
Tim and Vicki Anderson
Dennis and Michele Anderson
Kevin and Kim Anderson
Anthony’s Restaurant & Lounge
Applebee’s
Ed and Shirley Arkel
Joe and Mary Arkel
Jeff Armstrong
Lisa Atkinson
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Steve and Jeanette Augustyn
Auto Zone
Baker’s
Sharon Balis
Perry and Catherine Barnhart
Matt and Mary Jo Basset
Tim and Paula Bastian
Cetus Title & Media Baum
Jennifer Baumert
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Father Tom Davis
Beauty Brands
Matt and Shelby Bever
Caroline Bevill
Bella Boutique
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Delores Bies
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Brad and Juliana Dinslage
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Ronnell Doodle
Ann Donelson
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Mallory Ecker
Bettina Elbers
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Egemenir Wealth Management Group
Marshall Egmenir
Paul and Mary Ehlinger
John and Debi Ehrensa
In this annual report, V.J. & Angela Skutt Catholic High School gratefully acknowledges the many ways in which donors supported our school from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. It is with a great deal of care and pride that we have prepared our donor list for this publication. Please contact the Advancement Office at (402) 333-0818 if there are any omissions or misrepresentations.
Skutt Catholic Gets Vocal

About 20 Years of Excellence

by Lucy Smith

It was out there; on billboards, in print, on the television, across the web! Skutt Catholic commercial messaging was seen around town. In honor of our 20th year and the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon designation, we got a little vocal across the city about our notable accomplishments! Notable accomplishments that include:

- 2,309 Alumni
- 387 Collegiate Full Rides
- 74 National Merit Scholars
- 35 State Championships
- 1 Blue Ribbon

All that excellence accomplished in 20 short years!

Not a bad run. Our commercials and advertisements acted as messengers of good news and were seen in several different places.

The Omaha World Herald ran a two-page ad in its post-election Wed., Nov. 7 issue. Omaha.com posted Skutt Catholic online ads promoting our Nov. 11 Open House and our Jan. 12 eighth grade test date. Skutt Catholic sponsored Prep Zone during state fall play-offs. Skutt Catholic’s logo hung out on Omaha.com’s navigation bar for an entire month. If you clicked on the logo, you would land on skuttcatholic.com’s homepage.

A 30-second commercial aired on the Cox Cable networks. Cox.com ran Skutt Catholic Open House online ads. Print ads were spotted in a variety of publications across the city. Additionally, a Skutt Catholic billboard announcing our U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon designation was seen on I-80 during the months of October and November and a Skutt Catholic dasher board proudly hangs next to the rink at Moylan Ice Plex.

We hope you enjoyed the messaging. We trust that the community took notice. Our Open House attendance numbers were up 15% over last year – and anticipate that higher Open House numbers will translate into more students taking our eighth grade test. Our 20th year was the perfect opportunity to celebrate publicly the achievements and accolades Skutt Catholic has received over the past two decades.
It was 104 degrees, the humidity was high and there was not a cloud in sight. We had no air conditioning; no cooling breeze and no ice cream treats to help beat the heat. But by the second day, we didn't even notice.

Last summer's service trip to Rosebud Indian Reservation was one for the record books: both in weather and in spirit. A group of 21 students and four chaperones spent five days dedicated to service work and faith building. I was happy to be one of the chaperones this year; it was a glance through the looking glass as I watched my students do the same service work that I did when I was a student here at Skutt Catholic. The experiences they had were incredibly similar to those that I had, but the way all of the relationships, work projects, and prayers affected them was unique to each person. My personal faith grew as I saw God at work through my students and their spirits glowed brighter and brighter as they watched the progress on their work sites and felt the love from the children.

The heat only intensified as our hearts continued to burn with God's love; it was an incredible sight to see a room of high school students, their hands lifted in song, praying to Jesus for hope, forgiveness, relief, and support.

On the last night we were there, the skies opened up and rain beat down as a cooling breeze brought us comfort. We united as a school and as brothers and sisters as we sat and sang for hours, enjoying each other's company and satisfaction of a job well done. Being able to come full circle and serve, as a chaperone on a trip with my students was an incredible thing.

It's amazing to see the SkyHawks, once again, making a difference.
Viktor Chebotarov, Skutt Catholic Class of 2012, was born in Ukraine. He was raised in an orphanage where the living conditions were indescribable. His only high school experience was when he attended a brick laying school in Ukraine for two years.

Seven years ago on the other side of the world, Omahan Kelly Lytle made the decision to adopt Viktor and two other Ukrainian orphans. Unfortunately, before the adoption process was complete, Viktor turned 16 and was too old to be internationally adopted. But in Kelly’s heart and mind, Viktor was her son and in Viktor’s heart and mind, Kelly was his mother and the other boys were his brothers. When faced with these inconceivable circumstances, Kelly could not and would not leave him behind; so, four and a half years ago, Kelly officially adopted the two other boys (now ages 12 and 13) and brought Viktor to live in the U.S. with them on a student visa.

After a year in an OPS ELL program, Viktor transferred to Skutt Catholic. His life experiences were very different from other teenagers and families who are in our school community. His family unit, his upbringing, and his past were all unique. At the time of his transfer to SC, he had only been speaking English for a year. Despite the differences, while Viktor was a student at Skutt Catholic he grew to be a very typical Nebraska boy. He loved his family, did his homework, liked to go to high school football games, and as a senior in high school was making plans for his postsecondary education. However, given the temporary nature of his student visa status, thoughts about his future were so uncertain that at times it was almost impossible for the family to bear.

The thought of Viktor returning to the Ukraine was unfathomable. Most frightening was the danger that awaited him if he returned. Prior to Kelly taking Victor out of the country, Ukrainian authorities attempted to keep Viktor from leaving. Since that day the authorities have repeatedly contacted Viktor and his family and threatened arrest and imprisonment upon his return. Viktor is a gentle soul. He is insightful and introspective. He is also cautious, quiet, and reserved. As an orphan living in a country that cares little for people in need, his childhood was stripped from him. He witnessed the unspeakable and survived the unimaginable. Kelly, with her generous heart and her love for those in need liberated him and has given him a life he could never have had otherwise. No one could imagine him being forced to return to a country where he had nothing and no one.

Viktor is very smart, hard working, and very well mannered. He had come so far, learned so much, and has so much to offer. His teachers all enjoyed working with him and appreciated the perspective he added to their classes. While attending Skutt Catholic and participating in a very challenging college prep curriculum, Viktor earned a 3.6 GPA. In addition to working hard in the classroom, Viktor also participated in the work-study program. By the time he graduated he had worked nearly 500 hours at our school to help offset his tuition. His work supervisors were always impressed by how hard he worked and how pleasant he was to be around. He is truly a young man with dreams for his future and a drive to achieve them. As he neared graduation, we feared that all of that would be wasted if he were forced to return to Ukraine where it is difficult for even a well-established person to find employment. It would be nearly impossible for someone who began life as an orphan, has no connections, and has been targeted negatively by the authorities to find a meaningful job in Ukraine.

Upon graduation from high school, the best option for Viktor’s family to keep him safely in the United States was for him to continue his education and to remain on a student visa. However, being a single mother of three children and the mounting debt that this had caused made Viktor’s financing of postsecondary education very difficult. Based on his international status, Viktor could not qualify for most traditional types of aid. That same year tragedy struck when a student killed Vicki Kaspar. Dr. Kaspar was an administrator at Millard South High School and in her honor the Millard Business Foundation established a scholarship titled “We Are All Patriots.” The scholarship was intended for a student who attended a Millard area school and who had shown success in overcoming adversity. After everything he had been through and everything he had accomplished, Viktor was the perfect candidate for the scholarship. He was nominated and was selected as the scholarship recipient.

“The Skutt chapter of this miracle is enormous…. If SC hadn’t been so encouraging and cared about Viktor’s needs, which allowed him to bloom, this miracle wouldn’t have happened.”

South High School and in her honor the Millard Business Foundation established a scholarship titled “We Are All Patriots.” The scholarship was intended for a student who attended a Millard area school and who had shown success in overcoming adversity. After everything he had been through and everything he had accomplished, Viktor was the perfect candidate for the scholarship. He was nominated and was selected as the scholarship recipient.

The monetary value of the scholarship was minimal, but the scholarship award was the start of a whole new chapter for Viktor and his family. Viktor accepted the scholarship with grace and humility in front of more than a hundred community leaders at the Millard Business Foundation dinner in the spring of his senior year. No one could have known that in that audience was the very person whose
political connections would lead Viktor and Kelly to an attorney who would ultimately bring them to the realization of their dreams.

After working tirelessly for so long, on July 6, 2012, Viktor and Kelly had an interview at the U.S. Immigration Office in Omaha. They expected this to be their first interview and were advised by their attorney that they would likely be denied based on the history of the immigration officer they had been randomly assigned. They walked into her office; sat down and then...Kelly believes God took over.

The immigration officer they had expected to be difficult was very gracious. She asked Viktor a question and despite his fears and nerves, he answered perfectly. She paused, patted the file and said, “Okay then, everything here looks okay. I am going to go ahead and approve this today.” Viktor and Kelly were stunned. The officer moved on, talking to Viktor about when to expect his Green Card in the mail.

IT WAS OVER! A six and a half year battle was done. The whole appointment took seven minutes. Seven minutes and one signature erased so many injustices and traumas, so much fear and so much unfairness that Viktor had experienced in his life. He is now safe. He is just Viktor, a Skutt Catholic student, a member of a beautiful family, and a permanent resident of the United States! Viktor will be granted citizenship in five years.

Kelly believes, “The Skutt chapter of this miracle is enormous. If Skutt Catholic had not been so welcoming when I had to transfer Viktor, this miracle wouldn’t have happened. If SC hadn’t been so encouraging and cared about Viktor’s needs, which allowed him to bloom, this miracle wouldn’t have happened. If the teachers and staff hadn’t invested so much time and interest in Viktor, this miracle wouldn’t have happened. If a generous anonymous donor hadn’t helped with Viktor’s tuition junior year, this miracle wouldn’t have happened. If Viktor hadn’t been nominated for the “We Are All Patriots” scholarship, this miracle wouldn’t have happened.”

Kelly and Viktor wish to thank all of those who played a part in his experiences at Skutt Catholic. To his classmates, teachers and staff, donors, parents and everyone in the Skutt Catholic community, “Thank you for playing your part in God’s amazing plan to keep Viktor safe and lead him to finally see justice and security in the future.”

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In Memoriam

The following names are friends of Skutt Catholic who have passed away since January 1, 2012. If you have an immediate family member who has passed away recently, please contact the Advancement Office. We would be honored to include them in the Skutt Catholic Book of Remembrance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trino Alvarez</td>
<td>maternal grandfather to Taylor Bullins ’13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Bathein</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Hannah Winther ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Boes</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Brandon Masching ’13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Byrnes</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Zachary Ossino ’07, and Adam Ossino ’10, and Aaron Ossino ’14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cochran</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Paul Cochran ’05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Cronican</td>
<td>father-in-law to faculty member Karl Cronican and paternal grandfather to Robert Cronican ’10, Libby Cronican ’13, and Julia Cronican ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Creal</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Michelle Nordstrom ’00, Laura Nordstrom Sherwood ’02, Scott Nordstrom ’06, and Sarah Nordstrom ’10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Elliott</td>
<td>mother of Rebecca Elliott ’98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Elsasser</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Michael Stephenson ’06, Danyelle Stephenson ’10, and Emily Stephenson ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Garro</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Lucas Kopietz ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavonne Gates</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Ryan Gates ’10 and Hannah Gates ’12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Hartigan</td>
<td>mother of Erin Hartigan ’05, Amy Hartigan ’08 and wife of Stu Catholic softball coach Timothy Hartigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Heidbrink</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Austin Evans ’13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Honz</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Elizabeth Honz ’97, Kathryn Honz ’98, and Daniel Honz ’00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Ivory</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Emily Ivory ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Jensen</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Jamie Jensen ’06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Kaiser</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Alexis Kaiser ’11, Stephanie Kaiser ’13, and Teresa Kaiser ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Langdon</td>
<td>brother of Patrick Langdon ’12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Merriweather</td>
<td>sister-in-law of faculty member Jim Mangimeli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John (Jack) Murcek</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Micaela Malloy ’08 and Ashley Malloy ’14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Olsen</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Glenn Westman ’04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Pietryga</td>
<td>maternal grandfather of Nicholas Trout ’10 and Austin Trout ’13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Riedmann</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of SC chaplain Rev. Jeff J. Mollner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Rohloff</td>
<td>paternal grandfather of Samantha Rohloff ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Jean Robinson</td>
<td>paternal grandmother of Rachel Robinson ’08, Samuel Robinson ’10, and Aaron Robinson ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Rowland</td>
<td>sister-in-law of Activities Administrative Assistant, Joanie Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Russo</td>
<td>cousin of Jayna O’Bryan ’08 and Daniel O’Bryan ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvina Schmitz</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Amber Schnitzler ’11, Gina Schnitzler ’14 and Courtney Schnitzler ’16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Scott</td>
<td>paternal step-grandmother of Cole Scott ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanette Semin</td>
<td>paternal grandmother of Frank Semin ’07 and Paul Semin ’15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avianna Stottle</td>
<td>daughter of Matthew and Angel Theisen Stottle ’99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Lilly Thallas</td>
<td>niece of Joe Thallas (our Angel Flight Brandeis Catering General Manager)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Willrett</td>
<td>mother of Michael Willrett ’10 (deceased)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wilwerding</td>
<td>uncle of V.P. of Finance, Shari Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Ellis Younger</td>
<td>maternal grandmother of Corey Drvol ’07, Kristen Drvol ’08, and Ryan Drvol ’12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diagram 2

- Students take the PLAN test during their sophomore year, and this test offers a projected (Estimated) ACT score for when they are seniors. Skutt Catholic is then able to compare the actual ACT score earned in a student’s senior year to the projected/estimated score from that student’s sophomore year PLAN test.
- This chart shows how the senior class’ ACT average compared to the projected/estimated ACT average provided by the sophomore PLAN test two years earlier. The PLAN test estimated a range – low and high scores – for the future ACT scores.
- In 2009, seniors were within 1.0 point of the high projection. In 2010, seniors were within 0.5 of the high projection. In 2011, seniors were within 0.1 of the high projection. In 2012, seniors actually exceeded the high projection from sophomore year by 0.1.
- Scoring note: This diagram shows the school’s 2012 composite score as 25.7 which varies from the 25.44 listed in diagram 1. The 25.7 is based on students who were also present at Skutt Catholic sophomore year to take the PLAN test. The 25.44 in diagram 1 includes transfer students who were not present at Skutt Catholic in their sophomore year and thus were not included in that PLAN data. One could argue this further validates the value of four years at Skutt Catholic.

Diagram 1

- The data pool represents all 174 graduates from the class of 2012. The data is broken up into quartiles.
- Our data shows a 0.66 increase in scores over the past four years; a trend opposite of the state and national average which has seen a 0.1 drop over that same time period.
- Nebraska schools that claim to have the highest reported composite ACT average in the state (27-28) also limit enrollment to anywhere between 40-70 students per class – based in good part by entrance exam scores. Skutt Catholic’s top 50% of graduates (87 students) scored over a 29 on the ACT. 130 students scored more than a 27.0 on the ACT.
- As an Archdiocesan school, Skutt Catholic embraces its moral obligation and Catholic mission to provide a ‘Universal’ educational experience for students of many ability levels. Programs are in place to work with students in our bottom quarter, a group that includes students that other schools have not accepted, and separate data does indicate these students are also improving academically.
There are many ways to both define and measure “success” in a school environment. Skutt Catholic wishes to share the following data regarding ACT performance of students. While not suggesting that the following is either the best or most important metric of school success, the data does provide all constituents with clear evidence that the academic program at Skutt Catholic is directly benefiting student performance on a measure that is highly valued by colleges and universities in our country.

In summary, data over the past four years shows that the Skutt Catholic’s composite ACT average has risen 0.66 when the state and national average has dropped 0.1. Graduates are increasingly exceeding their projected ACT score based on their sophomore year performance on the PLAN test. Additional information about the data is published below each graph.

**Diagram 3**

- The graph on the left shows that the total number of students who end up exceeding their projected ACT score has more than doubled in the past four years (blue line). The number of students who have not met or exceeded their ACT score dropped to zero in 2012. That is to say, every single graduate in the class of 2012 either met or exceeded their projected ACT score.
- The graph on the right shows that female students at Skutt Catholic have realized tremendous growth in exceeding their projected ACT score. In 2009, only 18% of females were exceeding their projected ACT, as most were simply meeting their projected score. Four years later, more than 60% of females exceeded their estimated score, with the rest achieving the projected score.
- The red line drops (Achieved Projected ACT) because more students were actually exceeding their projected ACT score (blue line). A good thing!

**Diagram 4**

- As stated above, the graph on the left shows that the total number of students who end up exceeding their projected ACT score has more than doubled in the past four years (blue line). The number of students who have not met or exceeded their ACT score dropped to zero in 2012. That is to say, every single graduate in the class of 2012 either met or exceeded their projected ACT score.
- Similar to diagram 3, the graph on the right shows that the male population has seen a general upward trend in the number of students exceeding their projected/estimated ACT score. In 2009, 24% of male students exceeded their projected ACT score. In 2012, more than 50% exceeded their score with the rest at least achieving their projected score.
- Again, the red line drops (Achieved Projected Act) because more students were actually exceeding their projected ACT score (blue line). A good thing!
Dear SkyHawk alumni or supporter,

Skutt Catholic is pleased to announce the creation of an online Business Directory, called the Green Pages. The Green Pages will help promote businesses that are owned or operated by Skutt Catholic alumni, parents of alumni, or long-time friends of the school. In addition to building the Skutt Catholic network, the directory will promote your business to anyone who visits the directory pages on skuttcatholic.com.

In order to participate in this opportunity, please go online to my.skuttcatholic.com (no www.) and complete the Green Pages directory data form. Your information will be listed in the appropriate industry category for easy review by our website visitors.

Skutt Catholic will not share your information with any outside data collection service and at any time you may ask to be removed from the directory. Please submit your data by Thursday, February 28 to be included in the initial online issue.

We will publicize the directory to our current and past families through email blasts and online advertising. Don’t let this opportunity pass! Please take a moment to fill out the online form. Email your company logo to Janet Stiles jmstiles@schools.archomaha.org so that your logo can be inserted into the web content. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Lucy Smith at lcsmith@schools.archomaha.org or 402-333-0818, ext. 5118.