

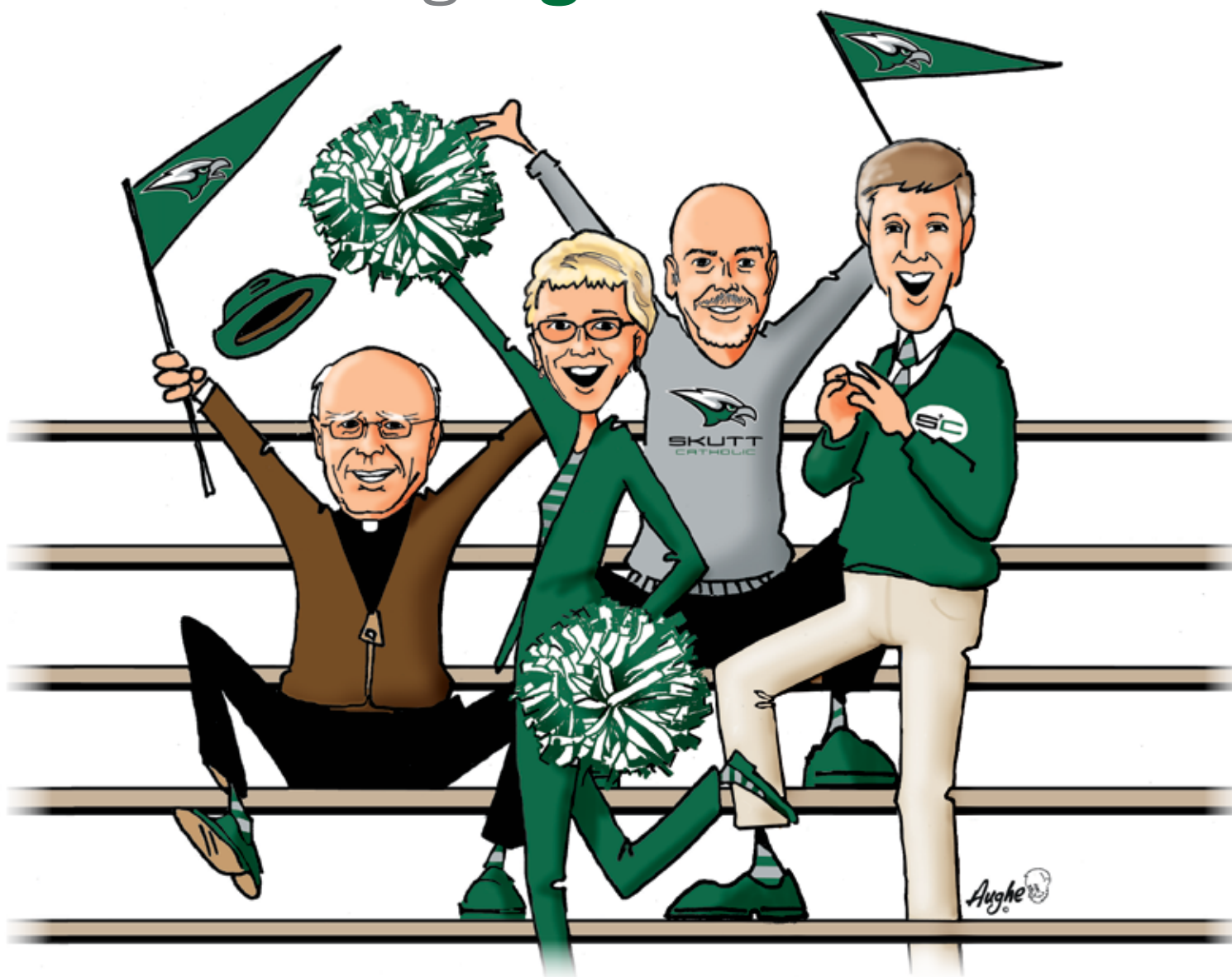
WINTER 2014

OUR *Legacy*

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE
ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS
OF SKUTT CATHOLIC

SKUTT
CATHOLIC

Filling **Big Green** Shoes



Founding President Msgr. James Gilg, Interim President Mary McGuire, Incoming President John McMahon, Former President Patrick Slattery

Thank You Mary McGuire

She was called to step in and help this institution through an academic year. She hasn't taken her job lightly. You'll see her at early morning tuition assistance meetings, daily Mass, and in the classroom. She meets with potential donors at lunch, congratulates students on recent achievements every chance she gets, leads afternoon administrative meetings, and plants herself in the stands to cheer on the SkyHawks at late afternoon and evening competitions. Her energy level is impressive. Her memory is spot on. Her commitment to Skutt Catholic is undeniable.

continued on back cover

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National Merit Finalists **Michael Pieper, Sam Howard, Hannah Richstein**



National Merit Commended Scholars **Nate Jensen, Joe Bloomingdale**



Rated #13 in the country by MaxPreps, Inc., Small School Division

Go SkyHawks

President's Letter

"Lord, make me your instrument of change in this world. Help me see the hope and promise in every generation." We at Skutt Catholic have much to celebrate as we educate this generation of young men and women to go and "Make a Difference" in our world. And what a difference they already have made first semester. I have been so impressed with the student body and staff. All of us are charged to change the world in the ways God has called us. There is hope and promise in this generation to do just that. Their experiences at Skutt Catholic will enable them to accomplish many things and change the world.

There are wonderful things happening in the classroom to stretch our students' minds and help them succeed. They are inspired to create, to work hard, to pray for those in need, and to promote projects that help those less fortunate. These actions are truly life-giving and very impressive to witness. Our students continually initiate change; serving our community, our nation, and our world. Skutt Catholic teachers and administrators are to be commended for their dedication in inspiring our students.

When you think about temperature, the beginning of the school year seems so long ago. We approached 100 degrees as we began the year; we ended this semester at below 0. Similarly, the

students have changed and grown. From our local Community Involvement Day and other *Hawktober* activities, to the many awards and championships that our coaches and students have achieved – these are truly amazing accomplishments for the entire staff, students, and their families. Congratulations to everyone and thank you for all of your hard work!

Our parish home parties encourage and invite new students to join our school family. It was so beneficial to visit with parents and share our story. I ask all of our constituents to communicate our story with others. Your witness of how Skutt Catholic has helped your family is a story you tell best. We must help young parents see that a Catholic education is a sacrifice worth making.

Thank you to all of our benefactors. We were blessed with a very successful Angel Flight and now are in the midst of our Annual Appeal. Please continue to support Skutt Catholic in any way you can. I appreciate the work of our Advancement office in accomplishing the financial and community building goals set before them.

It is an honor to serve as Interim President of Skutt Catholic High School. I have come full circle. This experience has solidified my admiration for this educational institution. From the very beginning of



Mary McGuire
Interim President

Skutt Catholic to this moment, I have been proud to be a SkyHawk! Let's move forward and educate our future generations.

God's blessings to you and your families in the New Year and always.

Mary McGuire
Interim President



Principal's Letter



Rob Meyers
Principal

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." I stumbled upon this quote from the great Nelson Mandela when recently reading about his passing. In studying this, I couldn't help but think of the mission statement of Skutt Catholic. Simply put, Skutt Catholic has been assisting parents in forming kids with good heads and good hearts for over twenty years. The evidence is abundant.

A good heart . . .

This past fall, Skutt Catholic honored Rachel Fuchs Twist '06 as Outstanding Alumni of the Year. Rachel returned to Skutt Catholic a few years ago as the first alum to teach at Skutt Catholic. As an alum and now a staff member, Rachel has led several new service initiatives. She has been involved in service to our sister school in Guatemala, multiple service trips to South Dakota, and Puerto Rico, and several other local projects. She is one of many alumni that have gone on to serve her community. Some of those roots were established in her time as a SkyHawk.

Skutt Catholic has an exceptional Habitat for Humanity Chapter. Last spring, the chapter was awarded the School of the Year by Habitat for Humanity Omaha. They have already completed three build dates this school year.

Community Involvement Day is a tradition that goes back to the very beginning of the school. In my new role as principal, I had the unique opportunity of visiting multiple sites this year. The impact that our student body has on the community in a single day is so impressive. I witnessed Skutt Catholic students working directly with the elderly, the poor, the disadvantaged, and the sick, all in the course of a few hours. All sites were thrilled to have our students come and spend the day with them. The impression that they left on the community was invaluable.

Skutt Catholic students annually provide over 14,000 service hours in the Omaha community. Over 300 students have participated in one or more of 13 different service trips in the past few years. We have had 70 students serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) and Lectors, which is more than any other Catholic school in the Archdiocese.

We have a large number of students who serve on SkyHawks for Life. Skutt Catholic routinely sends more students than other school in the Archdiocese of Omaha to March for Life in Washington D.C. This year, we have 46 kids marching. This group is passionate about affecting change in our society.

A good head . . .

The graduating class of 2013 averaged 25.3 on the ACT; ranking Skutt Catholic in the top ten percent of all schools in the country.

We typically have between 98 and 100 percent of all graduates attending college. This high success rate is due in large part to our dedicated families, our hard working students, and our outstanding faculty members.

In the past five years, Skutt Catholic students earned \$49.3 million in college scholarship dollars, were awarded 118 full four year academic scholarships to college, and achieved two perfect ACT scores.

Skutt Catholic has made phenomenal strides in its short 21 year history. It is a privilege to serve this community and witness the many successes that our students and graduates have achieved. Forming students with the inspiring combination of good heads and good hearts is the reason we continue to thrive.

Rob Meyers
Principal

Alumni Board President's Letter

Every year goes by faster. We never seem to accomplish everything we originally resolve to do. One solution is to set realistic goals for ourselves - in our personal life, our professional life, and as a volunteer.

Since moving back to Omaha last September I have focused on setting a few realistic goals for the Alumni Association. My first goal is to increase alumni involvement. I'd like to see alumni from every class volunteer for at least one Skutt Catholic alumni event this year. That may mean running a gaming hole at Flight for Excellence or managing the time clock at the Alumni Basketball Tournament. Carving out volunteer time from busy schedules should be easier if the volunteer activity is fun and uncomplicated.

My second goal is to make our Skutt Catholic Alumni Association more recognizable with SC students, graduates, and current and past parents. Look for emails, text messages, and other promotional materials containing Alumni Association information.

Finally, I want our organization to give back more to the school. Whether the Alumni Association supports Angel Flight or gives assistance to current students through scholarships, our collective alumni efforts could make a big difference for our high school. All of these goals are realistic and attainable, yet we can't accomplish them without your help. In the upcoming months you will see requests for your assistance at one of the events. I encourage you to participate. It's a great way to reconnect and network with people with whom you share a mutual history.

I wish you all the best in this coming year. If you have any questions, ideas or would like to become involved please email me at skuttcatholicalumni@gmail.com.

God Bless,
Kelsey Sievers
Alumni Board President



Alumni Association President
Kelsey Sievers '09

Turn the page for
updates on our Alumni

The Hatz Crew at Melissa's
wedding - **Nick '97, Matt '99,**
Melissa '03, Jamie, Dan '02,



Alumni Updates



Brayden Douglas Albers was born on March 28, 2013 to **Melissa Walsh Albers '98** and her husband Derick who live in St. Louis, MO. Brayden weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 22.5" long. He joins big brother Caleb (3-years-old).

Dennis Hansen '99 and his wife, Meghan, welcomed their first son, Finn Thomas Hansen, on July 16. In addition, both he and his wife made partner at the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, LLP in Minneapolis, MN. They both practice business litigation—Dennis has a focus on trademark litigation and brand protection and Meghan focuses on products liability and class action lawsuits.

Christopher Wolfe '99, OD, FAAO of Omaha, was honored with the Nebraska Optometric Association's (NOA) Young Optometrist of the Year Award at the association's annual convention Sept. 28 in Kearney. This award is presented to a Nebraska optometrist who has been licensed for ten years or less and has contributed their time and talent in the most outstanding manner for the betterment of the visual health and welfare of the public and to the profession of optometry.



Amy Moylan Sauser '00 was named the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year for 2013. This was for her work as head coach of the College of Saint Mary cross country team. The team also won the conference championship this fall and qualified for the national meet for the first time in school history.

Steve Conlin '02 and **Ashley Finochiaro Conlin '02** welcomed their second child, Shawn Michael, on Sept. 20, 2013. He weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. and measured 20 1/2" long. He joins big sister Makenna who is 2 1/2 years old.

Michael Kurt Strawhecker '00 and **Rebecca Anne Culver '00** were united in marriage on August 15, 2013, in Tulum, Mexico during a tropical depression. Despite the weather (and the lack of power and water), the wedding was a resounding success and enjoyed by all. A local reception was held Aug. 23 at Joslyn Castle, and was attended by many Skutt Catholic alumni. The photo includes Skutt alumni (L to R) **Molly Mitchell Slater '00**, **Matt Kauffman '02**, **Emily Strawhecker Kauffman '05**, **Mike Strawhecker '00**, **Nick Strawhecker '97**, **Sarah Laferla '01**.





Cathy Buresh Hirsch '02 and Dan Hirsch are celebrating the first birthday of their twins, Holly Piper Hirsch & Mickey George Hirsch. They were born on Dec. 13, 2012 in Omaha weighing 6 lbs. and 6 lbs. 4 oz. respectively. Cathy works in advertising at The Knot wedding magazine and her husband is a Firefighter at Offutt AFB.



Susan Dobel '03 married Brian Leuschen on Oct. 19, 2013 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Omaha, NE. Susie is currently a teacher and assistant coach at Skutt Catholic. Brian works for The Kiewit Corporation here in Omaha as a software architect.

Melissa Hatz '03 and Fabe Clements were married on June 1, 2013 at Lake Lanier Islands Resort in Buford, GA. They are currently living in Phoenix, AZ. Melissa is working as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant at a private school for children with autism. She is looking to pursue her Master's in Speech-Language Pathology. Fabe is in his last year at Midwestern University's Optometry School. After graduation, they will head back to live in Atlanta, Georgia.



Edwin Vaughn Rhoden was born Aug. 1, 2013 to proud parents **Shellie Zych Rhoden '03** and husband Kyle Rhoden.



Brooke Samson '05 and Ryan Boyd were married at Fremont Alliance Church on Aug. 30, 2013. Brooke's sisters, **Kelly Samson '07** and **Katie Samson '11** were both maids of honor in the wedding. Brooke is a first grade teacher in the Millard Public Schools. Ryan is practicing dentistry in Blair, NE.



Michael Smith '03 was promoted to manager at the CPA firm McFarlin & Brokke, PC on July 12, 2013. Michael was formerly a senior accountant at the firm. In his new role, he will manage client services and client satisfaction, supervise and train employees, and be responsible for marketing and client development. Michael is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and holds a master's degree in professional accountancy. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Nebraska Society of CPAs.

continued next page

Alumni *Updates*



Kathryn Smith Shanahan '05 was hooded during the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Medicine - School of Allied Health Physician Assistant's Program on Dec. 20, 2013. Kate will formally graduate in May 2014, but was allowed to walk with her class during ceremonies. Kate and Marcus gave birth to Lucas (Luke) Gregory Shanahan on Aug. 13, 2013. Kate's maternity leave placed her three months behind her class, but school administrators agreed she should be honored with her class.



Elizabeth Vlock Rogers '05 and her husband Nathan Rogers are proud to announce the birth of their son, Logan Charles Rogers. Logan was born July 26, 2013 and weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. Their family resides in Norwich, CT.

Matt Farrell '04 and **Tomi Diederich '04** were married at Mary Our Queen on July 13, 2013. Their son Nickson Cash Farrell served as the honorary best man. Other Skutt Catholic Alumni pictured: **Mitch Diederich '09, Jess Diederich '13, Ryan Foster '05, Matt Foster '07, Marcus Odorisio '04, Tyler Mushlitz '04, Sean Quinlan '04, Amy Lackovic '04**



Amy White-Hamilton '06 married Darrick Sautter on Aug. 17, 2013. They reside in Omaha. Amy is a Medical Lab Scientist in the microbiology lab at UNMC.



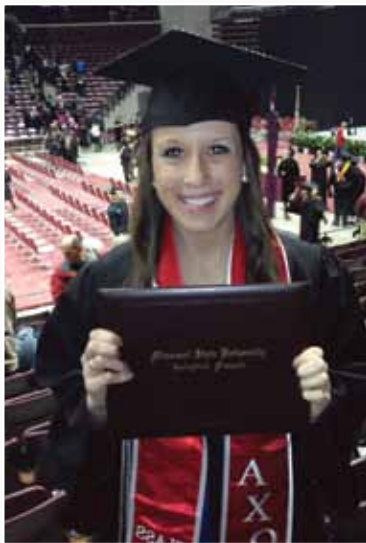
Rebecca Suiter '07 and Connor Stichler got engaged in June and will be married at St. Robert Bellarmine on July 12, 2014. Rebecca is a special education teacher in the Omaha Public Schools and Connor works at Werner Enterprises.



Matt Weis '05 and **Carrie Thelen Weis '06** were married on Oct. 11, 2013 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Matt currently works as a Project Manager at Midwest Paving. Carrie teaches 2nd grade at Skyline Elementary in Elkhorn.

Austin Duren '08 is enjoying a new career back in Omaha. He recently started as a Group Sales Executive for the Omaha Storm Chasers Baseball Club.

Catherine Amenta '08 is a Project Manager at Epic Systems in Verona, WI and has been there since graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2012. Epic is one of the top healthcare software companies in the country and over 50% of patients in the US are on this electronic medical record.



Matthew Muschall '08 is currently employed as an Associate Applications Developer at Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha.

Stephanie Muschall '09 received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing/Advertising & Promotions with a Design Minor, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Honors College at Missouri State University on Dec. 13, 2013. She is currently enrolled in the accelerated Masters of Business Administration program at Missouri State with an anticipated graduation date of Dec. 2014.

Jennifer Frank '09 graduated as a Registered Nurse in May of 2013. This fall she started working at Lakeside Hospital as an RN on the post-intensive unit.

Margaret (Maggie) Smith '10 received her blue coat and signed a pledge committing herself to a higher level of professional responsibility as she begins her Dental Hygiene clinical experiences at the UNMC College of Dentistry. The college's annual Clinic Transition Ceremony took place Dec. 5. Students were called up one-by-one to sign a pledge and put on the new blue coat they will wear while working with patients.

Zach Beran '12 was selected as the Concerto Solo and Scholarship winner for the NE Wind Symphony and was featured as their soloist.

Haley Eck '13, former SkyHawk Band President, auditioned and was selected Trombone I for the UNL Big Red Express Pep Band. This 120 member squad are on scholarship and rotate 30 - 60 members at a time to play at each of the home volleyball and basketball games. This year marks their first year to play in new Pinnacle Bank Arena.



Christian Dudzik '10 plays football for Division I - NDSU & **Matt Miller '12** plays for Division I - USD. They played football against each other on Nov. 23, 2013 in Fargo, ND.



Skutt Catholic Alumni turned out for the state football championship game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. They cheered on the SC football team as they defeated York 30-0. It was a great day to be a SkyHawk! Alumni and their parents who watched the game from a skybox at Memorial Stadium include:

Amy Lackovic '04, Katie Lackovic '99, Elizabeth Odorisio '06, Michaela Odorisio Jones '99, Marcus Odorisio '04, Vince Odorisio '01, Jessie Conlin '05, Liz Bartels '13, Brogan O'Brien '12, Michael Burke '09, Monsignor Gilg, Bob & Lisa Lackovic, Mike & Peg Odorisio, Tim & Sherry Lackovic and Tim Lackovic '07 (not pictured, but was coaching the game).

SKUTT CATHOLIC

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Les Mis Stars Shine Brightly

Without a doubt, as senior **Ryan Bouda** stated in his post-production journal, "This production changed the idea of Skutt Catholic High School. I am so honored to be a part of such a magical experience." In November 2011, Chris Storm and I contemplated the idea that the group of underclassmen students we had would be capable of something unimaginable on our stage. And so the planning for *Les Misérables* began.

The production rights for the London/Broadway version of the musical, which had never been available for performance, were released for a two-year period in November 2012. With the permission and support of the Skutt Catholic administration and community, we quickly jumped at the opportunity to secure the rights and began planning.

This planning included contacting and bringing Broadway professional Timothy Shew, who played the role of Jean Valjean for more than five years on Broadway and in Australia, to Skutt Catholic to work with our cast and crew. Through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council | Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Mr. Shew was able to work with the students from mid-August through to opening night.

The students involved in the production and who worked directly with Mr. Shew were asked to write journal

LES MIS cast photo by Karen Spurlock



Timothy Shew celebrates opening night
with members of the cast and Mark
Schnitzler, Musical Director



reflections throughout and following the production process. The students wrote reflections about “character” after working with Mr. Shew for several weeks.

Zachary Pohlman, our Jean Valjean, said “Working with Tim Shew was an indescribable experience. Tim played the part that I was going to play. The best part about working with Tim was being able to picture exactly what I wanted to accomplish, so to have a real life Jean Valjean to talk to and act with made this so much easier.”

With 40 students in the cast and 45% of these students involved in a sport or other activity at the same time, the journals helped the students utilize their rehearsal time to both develop and create character, and to interact with each other in a manner that enabled them to learn and grow artistically together. This was a diverse group of students who not only participated in theatre, but were also on the cross country, football, tennis, Mock Trial, color guard, and volleyball teams.

Following two years of planning, 10 months of audition preparation, auditions, fundraising, rehearsals for the students, rehearsing a 21-piece live orchestra, and working with the Sioux City Community Theatre who provided set pieces, props, and costumes, our students played to six incredible sold-out audiences over two weeks in late October and early November. Each evening, I had the pleasure of opening the curtain for the start of the show – with chills going down my spine as the orchestra played and the students, alumni, and faculty took to the stage – and the chain gang began this redemptive story of love and life.

Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* showed us a man who changed his life when he opened himself to faith, who tried to do his best for others, and who only wanted peace for himself. Even though he is chased throughout his life for breaking the law, he constantly seeks to redeem his ways to protect the ones that he loves. For the students and faculty involved, this production has been a transformative experience.

Zachary’s final thoughts about the musical, what it meant to those of us involved, and the support of our entire Skutt Catholic community are so fitting, “Les Mis was the experience of a lifetime, and the tears that I shed on stage of the final show were not only tears of sadness that it was over, but tears of joy that we were able to accomplish such an amazing feat.”

Mark Schnitzler
Musical Director



Around *Skutt Catholic*



It's hard to say what's the more impressive statistic: six state championships in 11 years of existence or five straight state championships?

Either way, the Skutt Catholic Mock Trial program accomplished both this year.

Skutt Green won the state championship in Lincoln on Dec. 11, beating Duchesne Academy in the final trial five ballots to one. That makes five state titles in a row. No other school in Nebraska has won more than two in a row.

Skutt Green never lost a trial in Nebraska this season. Skutt White, a team without any seniors, performed solidly in districts, reaching the semifinals and battling Skutt Green for one of two spots in the state competition.

Now it's on to the national championship, which will be held, May 8-10, in Madison, WI. Nearly 50 teams from across the country are expected to compete.

Skutt Catholic's goal for nationals: make a better showing than last year's team. This will be difficult, though, since last year we won all four of our national trials and finished in third place.

Skutt Catholic Mock Trial has had many chances to become complacent in the last 11 years. Even the best, most consistent sports teams and competitive clubs can expect to have down seasons. But we never had one. Indeed, teacher coach Mary Meyer and attorney coaches Pat and Judy Borchers have built Skutt Catholic into quite the mock trial dynasty in Nebraska. Starting in 2003, their first year ever, our mock trialers have reached the state competition every season (sending two teams in 2010 and 2011) and have never finished worse than sixth. At nationals, we have placed 14th or better every time. In the five years in which Skutt Catholic hasn't won state, the Nebraska representative has never finished better than 26th.

And so, when Skutt Catholic Mock Trial rolls into Madison next spring, you can bet the team will have put in the hours of preparation that it takes to succeed. They will have pored over the facts of the mock trial problem and the witness statements dozens of times. They will have drafted and re-drafted their opening statements, closing arguments, direct examinations, cross examinations, and rebuttals to perfection.

Hard work has been the secret to Skutt Catholic's success. Expect it to pay off once again at nationals. Good luck to the Skutt Green Team; **Brianna Desa, Taylor Gibson, Nathan Jensen, Brittany Margritz, Grace Smith, Zack Teets, Marie Wagner, and Rachel Zwiener!**

Ryan Borchers '05

Community Involvement Day 2013

On Wed., Oct. 2, all Skutt Catholic High School students, faculty, and administration participated in our annual Community Involvement Day. During this wonderful *Hawktober* tradition, the entire student body visited various agencies and schools that serve the elderly, children, those experiencing poverty, the disabled and sick within the Omaha and surrounding community. This day provides students and faculty the opportunity to learn about the people and agencies that serve the needs of our community, and then do service themselves. It is a joy every year to hear how the students' eyes were opened and their hearts were touched through the people they had interacted with on this day.

This year, our students spent time at almost 50 sites in the Omaha and surrounding area. Some of the experiences included enjoying a day at Bellevue Berry Farm with students with disabilities from Oak Valley Elementary, helping purchase items for refugee families with Lutheran Family Services, and painting pumpkins with residents of nursing homes. Two groups partnered with students with disabilities from Boyd Elementary and played games at Seymour Smith Park, and later in October, accompanied them to Vala's Pumpkin Patch. The day was also filled with student speakers, reflection, a prayer service, and a slideshow of pictures showing the different places we visited and people we met.

New in 2013:

Some of the groups visited and volunteered at a service site in the morning, and then returned to Skutt Catholic to join together on a special group service project. This year, the Skutt Catholic community has been especially touched by cancer, and we wanted to do something special for those directly affected.

The students created 25 care packages for chemo patients, each filled with many items that will provide comfort and care to them. Items included hand sanitizer and lotion, lemon drops, lip balm, water, disposable toothbrushes, warm socks, puzzle book, and a journal with a note written from the students on the first page.

Additionally, the students made prayer shawls for each care package and included a special prayer card. With each tie that was made, we said a prayer for the patient, their health care team, and their families and friends.

Julie Schmitz
Campus Ministry, Service Coordinator



SKUTT CATHOLIC

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Fall 2013

What a kickoff to the fall season – literally. The SkyHawks started the 2013-14 school year with two State Championships - Softball and Football.

Girls Golf began the year as first year Coach Dan Zadalis greeted 13 girls. The girls finished 2nd at the RCC meet and 2nd at Districts with **Teresa Kaiser** and **Nyasha Kamhaka** medaling. The team finished 8th at State as **Teresa Kaiser**, **Emma Sheridan**, **Nyasha Kamhaka**, **Margaret Elliott** and **Holly Schumacher** all qualified.

The week of State Golf always ends with additional state competitions in Boys Tennis and Softball. The Boys Tennis team, coached by Sheryl Vaughn, won their 8th straight RCC team championship. There were some setbacks, but each match was extremely hard fought. **Skyler Lowe** won #1 Singles, **Griffen Sehring** won #2 Singles, **Andrew Johnson / Zachary Pohlman** won #1 Doubles. At State - **Skyler Lowe** (#1 Singles) finished 2nd while **Andrew Johnson / Zachary Pohlman** (#1 Doubles) also placed 2nd. The team finished 3rd only 2.5 points from the championship. Well done!

Coach Keith Engelkamp's Softball team kicked off their season with five straight wins and finished winning their last 16 and culminating with a State Championship. The team finished the season with a 28-4 record. Included in that run was their 3rd consecutive RCC Softball Championship. The team swept through the district competition fighting off a tough Elkhorn South team. At State, the girls finished 4-0 and grabbed the championship. Great year girls!

The SkyHawk **Cross Country** team ran and ran and ran during summer workouts - same as years before. The boys and the girls began the year with personal and team goals just in their reach. At the RCC Meet held at Mount Michael, the girls were 1st, (**Abbey Lenz** 3rd, **Haley Gould** 4th, **Abby Nicholas** 5th, **Kaelie Lenz** 7th and **Macy Damewood** 10th) while the boys finished 3rd (**Jacob Baumert** 8th and **Andrew Heithoff** 10th). A week later at districts (at SC), the boys were 2nd again and the girls were 3rd. In a turn-around at state, the boys finished 11th, while the girl's team finished 4th with **Abbey Lenz** earning a 10th place medal. For a runner, there are always more trails to conquer.

State Champs



The mighty oak's
humble beginnings



Planting new trees on campus

Coach Matt Turman and the football team kicked off their season with a disappointing but hard-played loss to Gretna. The local eleven then strung eight straight wins together to finish off the regular season. In the playoffs, the SkyHawks defeated Norris 28-14, Elkhorn South 38-14 and McCook 24-7 to advance to Memorial Stadium. The program now had reached the state playoffs 10 of the last 11 years. In the finals vs York, the SkyHawk defense soared to a 30-0 victory and their 2nd State Championship. Great year guys!

Coach Renee Saunders began her 3rd season with the leadership provided by six seniors. The SkyHawks won the RCC tournament. A tough district brought a #1 seed and huge wins over Elkhorn South and Duchesne. However, the SkyHawks couldn't "seal the deal" and fell to Elkhorn South in the State semifinal. The team finished the year with a 32-8 record and plenty of memories.

No one can accuse the **Mock Trial** team of resting on their laurels. After taking their first state title in 2006, they have had five consecutive state championships in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013! Each achievement has only made them hungrier. Santa came early this year with the team's 6th championship. In the spring, they move on to the Nationals in Madison, WI.

What a school year and it is only January!

Mike McMahon
Athletic Director

The Mighty Oak's Humble Beginnings

This past fall 35 trees, mostly oaks, were planted by students at Indian Hills Academy, MacMillan Middle School, Norris Middle School, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Beveridge Middle School, Western Hills Magnet, Druid Hill Elementary, Field Club Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Springville Elementary, Miller Park Elementary, Fontenelle Elementary, as well as Roncalli Catholic and Skutt Catholic High Schools, Project Harmony, and the Hospice House. The students and staff learned why we should plant and care for trees; especially the right trees for the right place, how shade helps health and utilities, and how to correctly plant a tree. Did you know 500 butterflies and moths call Oaks their home?

The trees were granted from ReTree Nebraska/ Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Loveland Garden Club to celebrate trees and promote the value of healthy trees for a healthy community. These plantings are part of the broader ReTree Nebraska initiative with the NE Community Forestry Council to plant 1 million high quality trees in Nebraska by 2017. The NE Environmental Trust funds the ReTree grant.

The trees have been propagated in Nebraska from local seed sources to make sure they are Nebraska hardy.

Ann Hosford
Loveland Garden Club

Booster Club Renamed

In order to make our mission clearer, it was recently decided to rename the Skutt Catholic Booster Club the Skutt Catholic Parent Association. After seeking feedback from the SC community, we learned that many parents thought our sole purpose was backing sports teams. In reality, we act as a forum for all Skutt Catholic parents, supporting every aspect of the school. For instance, this year the Skutt Catholic Parent Association provided funding to repair the electronic sign outside the school. This digital sign keeps the whole community informed of activities. We have also supplied financing to refresh Skutt Catholic's website. Be looking for an interactive site in the upcoming months; one that will fit any electronic device you are using, including your mobile phone. We invite all alumni and parents to join us for meetings the second Wednesday of each month. Together we can make Skutt Catholic an even better place for all.

Denise Kolkman
Skutt Catholic Parent Association President





SKUTT CATHOLIC

Angel Flight Celebrare!

Skutt Catholic High School's annual fundraiser, Angel Flight, was held at the school on Sat., Sept. 28. This year's event, themed Celebrare! drew together over 560 parents, alumni, and friends of SC to celebrate the spirit of Skutt Catholic High School with an Italian flair. Celebrare! raised nearly \$360,000 which will be used to support the school's general operating expenses.

Chairs for the event were Trevor and Andrea Barton, Valmont and Tehseen Desa, & Jim and Mary Meduna. Honorary Chairs Jim and Sandi Hollenbeck & Jack and Susan McMannama were recognized for their longtime support of the school and their service as past chairs of the event

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award was Rachel Fuchs Twist, '06. Angel Flight's Celebrare! committee sought nominees who personified the spirit of Skutt Catholic High School. In years past the committee has looked all around the world to find our award recipient, but this year they found that sometimes one simply has to take note of the exceptional work being done by someone in the most obvious place of all – our own backyard. After graduating from college in 2011 Rachel returned to SC as a teacher.

"We are so very proud of Skutt Catholic and all of the great academic and athletic successes we have achieved over the past 21 years," says Jim Meduna. "This annual event raises much more than dollars, it is a time to celebrate Skutt Catholic and the future for our most precious gift, our children." Thank you to all of the parent and student volunteers who made the event a success and for helping us celebrate!

Sally Brittan
Director of Advancement Events and Alumni Relations



"I owe so much of who I am to Skutt Catholic. The lessons that are taught within this school are invaluable. While I never really mastered the whole algebra thing, I know what it means to be a Christian leader. I continue to see what it means to be a teacher who empowers others as I watch my co-workers lead their students to success everyday in the classroom and in various sports and activities. I learned how to promote justice through our service trips and try to give that opportunity to our current students. I know that I can initiate change by reaching out to one student at a time because that was the example set for me. To be considered an outstanding alumna is humbling because I know that I am only one of thousands who make a difference on a daily basis. Thank you all for this honor, thank you for supporting this incredible place, and thank you believing in the mission that Skutt Catholic promotes. I am so very proud to be a SkyHawk."

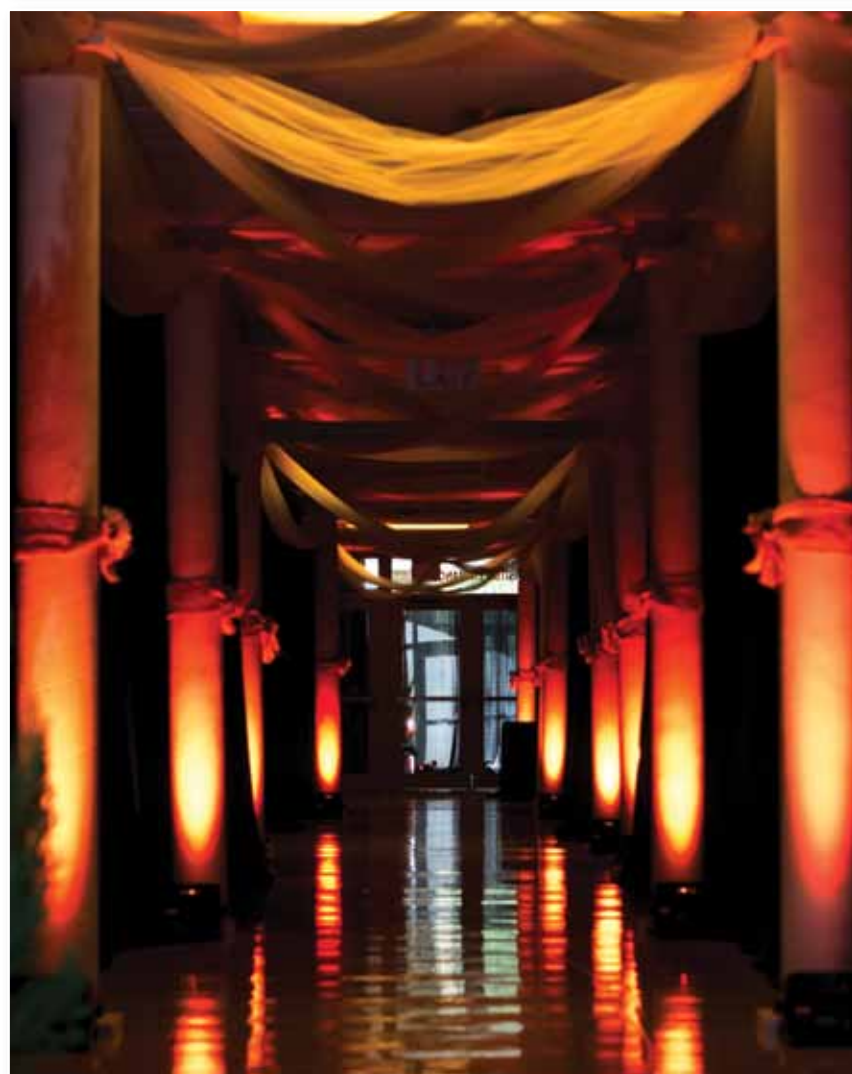
Rachel Fuchs Twist '06



General Chairs: Andrea and Trevor Barton, Tehseen and Valmont Desa, & Mary and Jim Meduna



Honorary Chairs:
Jack and Susan McMannama & Sandi and Jim Hollenbeck



Save the *Date*

March 28 & 29, 2014

Skutt Catholic Alumni Basketball Tournament

Start organizing your teams and watch for
online sign-up at SkuttCatholic.com



June 27, 2014

Skutt Catholic Alumni Association's
Flight For Excellence

Pacific Springs Golf Club
Noon shotgun start



June 28, 2014

Skutt Catholic's High School
Class of 2004 10-Year Reunion

Reunion Chairs: Michaela Masching Bolding
Meghan Phelps Sullivan



Chairman's Letter

Change, to some, is a very difficult and uncomfortable concept. Skutt Catholic High School is passing through an era of change that will determine our school's place in Omaha's educational landscape for the next generation. We will see changes in the areas of administration, teaching and learning methods, a second generation of SkyHawks entering our school as students, changing demographics in our city and school, and in areas that we don't yet even envision.

It is natural to fear or resist change. In resisting, we risk becoming stagnant. Likewise we can choose to accept change and embrace it. We can learn a lesson from our students in this regard; they have only lived in a time where change is constant and they thrive on this phenomenon. For example, look through the eyes of our current seniors. In their short lifetimes they have witnessed the invention and acceptance of airbags, drones, GPS systems, DVD's, cell phones, I-Pods, terra-byte hard drives, Android, Facebook and so much more. They change schools every few years, change classes every semester, and change hairstyles every month. They thrive on change and are, without doubt, a smarter generation than the one preceding them.

We as directors, administrators, faculty members, and school leaders have a unique opportunity to create change that will improve our school. Our objective is to produce smarter, more creative, more socially responsible, more spiritual, and more complete SkyHawk graduates. It is a time of great opportunity. We must embrace change and prepare for the next generation for students.

Skutt Catholic High School is recognized for our academic excellence, our great strength in athletics and the arts, and our unwavering commitment to God and our fellow men. Our faculty and administration deserve a great deal of credit for these achievements. The National Blue Ribbon Award is just one example of that strong base. Prudent change will allow us to fly to greater heights.

The Administration and Board of Directors are responsible stewards of the school. We take seriously our duties of maintaining and improving our campus facilities, paying our Administrators, Faculty and Staff competitive salaries, and keeping our curriculum up to date. Our goal remains creating a world-class education for our students. We must constantly examine our duties in search of positive change, in order to improve our product.

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 our mission possible. Through your generosity, we are making it possible for the next generation of Skutt Catholic High School graduates to go "Make a Difference!"

Respectfully,
Scott C. Drvol
Chairman of the Board



Scott C. Drvol
Chairman of the Board

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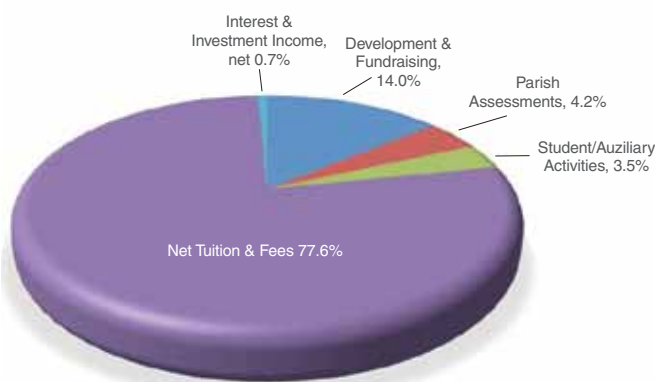
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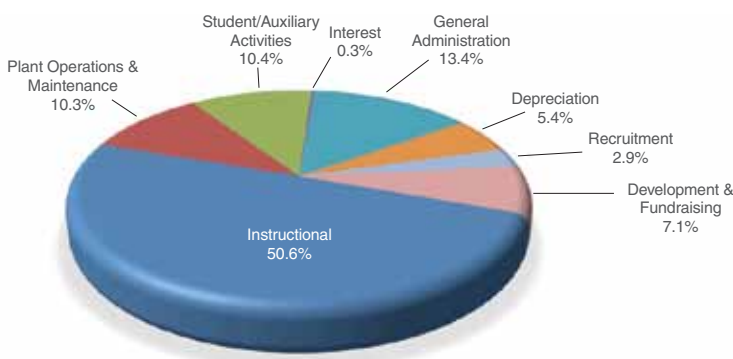
2012-2013 Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Appeal is underway. The goal for this year's appeal is \$125,000. 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 and the actual cost 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!

Total Revenue



Total Expense



Operating Revenue:	Amounts:
Tuition and Fees	\$6,066,258
Less Financial Aid & Scholarships	(\$906,691)
Net Tuition and Fees	\$5,159,567

Parish Assessments	\$277,000
Student Activities	\$120,966
Auxiliary Activities	\$143,636
Total Operating Revenue	\$5,701,169

Operating Expenses:	Amounts:
Instructional	\$3,362,632
Student Activities	\$619,544
Auxiliary Activities	\$85,062
General Administration	\$931,642
Recruitment	\$198,590
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$695,297
Depreciation	\$364,021
Interest	\$18,820
Total Operating Expenses	\$6,275,608

Operating Loss	*(\$574,439)
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Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gains, & Losses	Amounts:
Interest and Investment Income, net	\$210,047
Development & Fundraising Income	\$1,006,222
Development & Fundraising Expense	(\$477,640)
Total Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gain, & Losses	*\$738,629

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$164,190
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$10,649,140
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$10,813,330

*Tuition and parish assessments cover approximately 87% of the school's operating expenses, while the remaining 13% is funded by charitable contributions to the Annual Appeal, Angel Flight, and other fundraising campaigns. Thanks to our generous donors who make it possible to carry out the school's mission, values, and programs.

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†
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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, 2012 through June 30, 2013. 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.



Welcoming GrandHawks

Every *Hawktober* Skutt Catholic has the privilege to honor the grandparents of our students at GrandHawks Day. GrandHawks Day 2013 was held at the school on Wed., Oct. 17.

We opened our doors on a beautiful fall day and welcomed over 500 grandparents. Valet parking was provided by student volunteers who were supervised by faculty members **Sherri Hoye** and **Renee Saunders**. The parking lots were as full as our hearts as we welcomed this large group of guests.

Hawktober had kicked off with our students participating in Community Involvement Day. The theme for CID was "Leave a Footprint." Emphasizing the fact that our students were leaving "footprints" around Omaha that day with the help they were providing to various organizations. The theme for GrandHawk's Day built on this: "Grandparents are the footsteps to the future generations." We highlighted the impact that grandparents have on their children and grandchildren, and how we carry those "footprints" and life lessons with us for our entire lives.

Father Jeff Mollner said Mass at 9:30 a.m. Mass was followed by a stirring performance of the song "The People Sing" by the ensemble of *Les Misérables*, under the direction of **Mark Schnitzler** and **Chris Storm**. Refreshments were then provided to all the guests and students.

We are pleased to recognize and celebrate the special bond that grandparents have with our students. We are most grateful for the gifts they pass on to our students and how they serve as role models on how to live lives based on our Christian values. We thank everyone who attended the event and all of our volunteers, students, faculty and staff who made the day so meaningful.

Sally Brittan
Director of Advancement Events and Alumni Relations



Exchange Student believes Skutt Catholic made a difference in his life

Pavel Wilhelm was an exchange student of Skutt Catholic in 2007. He has provided this update:

- This year I am finishing my masters degree in mechanical engineering.
- In 2011-12 I spent a year in Madrid, on an internship in Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial.
- In 2005 I applied to Global Outreach. A few months later I received a letter of acceptance. That changed my life.

It was thanks to the generosity of Skutt Catholic High School that I got to know the Sambols. Liz and Dave Sambol were so kind that they opened their home for me and encouraged me to make the most of this opportunity. Still today we are in contact and they remain role models to me.

It was at Skutt Catholic where I realized I have a gift for Math. When I returned home I only sent an application to one university: Brno University of Technology and I was accepted. It was also at Skutt Catholic where I found I have a talent for languages. Not only were all my classes in a foreign language, but the school also awarded me the best language student in Spanish. Without this insight I am not sure I would have even considered the internship in Madrid. The company Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial is a company in many ways comparable with NASA. I was accepted and worked with some of the best engineers in Spain.

There is one motto that I recall every day. The first time I saw it was at Skutt Catholic, in Mrs. Beckman's office. Hopefully she's still has it hanging. It stated, "Attitude is a SMALL thing, that makes a BIG difference." This idea has already got me far and I definitely count on using it in the future.

Thank you Skutt Catholic for providing me with the opportunity of a lifetime.

Pavel Wilhelm



SkyHawks in the City

"The Demolition Crew" working with Habitat for Humanity

In Memoriam

The following names are friends of Skutt Catholic who have passed away since July 1, 2013. If you have an immediate family member who has passed way recently, please contact the Advancement Office. We would be honored to include them in the Skutt Catholic Book of Remembrance.

Norbert Batenhorst - paternal grandfather of Andrea Batenhorst '09, Ben Batenhorst '11, and Katie Batenhorst '14

Lee Bredar - brother of Monica Baxter (faculty member)

Patricia Cockerill - maternal grandmother of Katie Walker '15

Harold Dibelka - maternal grandfather of Bret McKeever '05, Ryan McKeever '13 and Madison McKeever '17

Lena A. DiCola - mother of Mario DiCola (staff member)

Leonard Dobrusky - maternal grandfather of Anna Bellinghiere '16

Richard (Dick) Drew - father-in-law of Joanie Drew (staff member), paternal grandfather of Christopher Drew '98 and Kevin Drew '06

Bob Fischer - paternal grandfather of Matt Fischer '14 and Sarah Fischer '16

Claire Allison Harry - paternal grandmother of Ashley Harry '10 and MacKenzie Harry '14

Erwin Holt Jr. - maternal grandfather of Spencer Meduna '14 and Evan Meduna '15

David J. Kane - father of Justin Kane '08, Kaylee Kane '12, and Allison Kane '17
Matthew Knieriem - paternal grandfather of Haley Knieriem '17

Richard Marek - brother of Paul Marek (faculty member)

Claire McMahon - mother of Mike McMahon (staff member), paternal grandmother of Erin McMahon Render '02 and Andrew McMahon '08

Regina Minton - maternal grandmother of Joseph Zach '14 and Mary Zach '15

Irene Rust - maternal grandmother of Abigail Jonas '14 and Emily Jonas '16

Mary Ann Ryder - maternal grandmother of Taylor Price '16

Joseph Szczepaniak - paternal grandfather of Jessica Szczepaniak '02, Joseph Szczepaniak '04, Katherine Szczepaniak '07, and Christine Szczepaniak '14

Jim Vanderpool - paternal great grandfather of Bailey Vanderpool '16

Elnora Virnig - maternal grandmother of Lydia Nokels '15

+
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Filling Big Green Shoes

continued from front cover

Skutt Catholic made a wise choice when they asked Mary McGuire to fill the role of interim president. We have been blest to work with such an accomplished professional. For 19 years Mary McGuire served as the principal of one of Skutt Catholic's largest feeder schools, St Wenceslaus. Although she planned to retire five years ago, the Archdiocese has kept her busy serving in a similar capacity at schools across the city. This year is Skutt Catholic's turn. Like the beloved Disney character, Mary Poppins, Mary McGuire has descended on our school and worked her magic. In a short amount of time she has made a big difference for students, faculty, and staff.

Meet John McMahon

John F. McMahon was born in Iowa and earned his bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from Notre Dame University. He is currently the principal at St. Petersburg Catholic High School in Florida. John has held various roles at St. Petersburg Catholic including teacher, director of student activities, coordinator of youth ministry, dean of students, and now principal.

His excellent educational background, evidence of ever-increasing responsibilities at St. Petersburg Catholic, and positive references which spoke to how well respected he is in the St. Petersburg, Florida community all bolstered his strong interviews on Skutt Catholic's campus. He is an enthusiastic leader and was very well received by our selection committee and by those of the Skutt Catholic community whom he met during his time on campus.

John will lead Skutt Catholic, from its very strong position as a nationally acclaimed Blue Ribbon school in Omaha, to even greater heights. He is an exceptional administrator who truly cares about the students and faculty, and he will become a strong representative of Skutt Catholic in the years to come. We are excited to move forward with John as our new president.

John and his wife, Andrea, will be making a visit back to campus sometime over the second semester, and we look forward to welcoming the McMahon's to the SkyHawk family.

www.skuttcatholic.com

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Skutt Catholic High School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Mission

V.J. & Angela Skutt Catholic High School forms and educates young men and women to become Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change.

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