National Merit Semi-Finalist

National Merit Semi-finalist, Sean Lynch, was recently selected for the United Stated Senate Youth Program. This program is a week-long government and leadership education conference in the nation’s capital and awards a one-time $5,000 scholarship.
Senator Ben Sasse and Grant Kros ’12

Joe Zach ’14 is spending this summer in Washington, DC as an accounting intern through the Charles Koch Institute. Participants in the Koch Internship Program get paid and get hands-on experience working at a non-profit think tank or public policy organization. They also spend one day a week with the Charles Koch Institute engaging in reading discussions, group projects, lectures, and Market-Based Management workshops. Joe is currently a second year student in the CBA Honors Academy at UNL.

Grant Kros ’12 filled us in on what a DC intern can expect from the experience. Grant is a political science major and history minor at Marquette. He served as an intern for Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse last summer.

WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR SUMMER?
Highlights of my time in DC included: getting to go onto the Speaker’s Balcony (where Pope Francis spoke from this past year), standing on the Senate floor, watching a Senate debate, playing softball with Senator Sasse and Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado, touring the White House, getting to know my fellow interns from Nebraska, and listening to a majority of the Republican presidential candidates speak.

WHAT PROJECTS DID YOU WORK ON DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP?
I wrote bill summaries, drafted an overall report of Keynesian Economic Theory vs. Supply-Side Economics, tallied how senators voted and what statements they made, answered constituent calls and mail, and gave tours of the Capitol Building.

HOW HAS YOUR OPINION OF OUR GOVERNMENT EVOLVED?
My opinion of our government has changed in that I am a lot more appreciative of the work Congress is doing. Even though the media loves to say nothing is getting done and everyone loves to complain about Congress, there is actually a lot of work being done behind the scenes that is essential for the American people.

Read about other Skutt Catholic alumni starting on page 5.
Dear Skutt Catholic community,

May the peace and joy brought to us by our Lord at Christmas be with each of you.

If your Christmas was anything like mine, perhaps it included a viewing of the famed movie *A Christmas Story*. Watching this movie is an annual tradition for me. As I watched, I was reminded of another famous Christmas tale, *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. While this is perhaps a much more powerful Christmas story, I have to admit that I am not as familiar with that story, as I have only read the book once - compelled to do so in a high school literature course. I was struck this year, however, by Dickens’ treatment of the past, the present, and the future. As we begin 2016, I find myself reflecting on each of those as they pertain to Skutt Catholic.

Angel Flight 2015 presented us with a tremendous opportunity to reflect on our past, as we honored our founding president, Monsignor James Gilg, in his retirement from 50 years of service to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Omaha. Monsignor Gilg’s vision, commitment to excellence, and tireless passion and effort, laid a solid foundation for Skutt Catholic. You can read more about Angel Flight 2015 in this edition of *Our Legacy*, but suffice it to say that Monsignor Gilg is a monumental part of our legacy.

The past 23 years at Skutt Catholic have paved the way for a present that is commendable, inspirational, and consistent with the vision that Monsignor Gilg established. Our faith guides all that we do, and our campus bears two new powerful symbols of our faith in a statue of Mary, Queen of Victory, located in the gymnasium lobby and a beautiful new Crucifix in the gymnasium. The statue was a gift from faculty member Sherri Hoye and her husband, Bruce. The Crucifix was donated by Jill McMahon in memory of her late husband and past Skutt Catholic Activities Director, Mike. On an academic level, our students continue to succeed and to be honored at both the state and national level. Last fall’s ACT score average, once again, surpassed the archdiocesan, state, and national averages and was the highest average in the history of Skutt Catholic. Our activities continue to compete well, and perhaps the highlight of this past fall, was the volleyball team winning its first state championship in the school's history. While I am writing this in advance of the eighth grade placement test, our registration numbers are trending toward another record year of testers - an indication that interest in Skutt Catholic continues to soar. This edition of *Our Legacy* offers several examples of the teachers, students, and groups who are creating success.

Our past and present merge in the following pages in the updates from our alumni. Our alumni are such an important part of our school community. Their contributions shaped our past, and their present lives - through marriages, births of children, and personal and professional accomplishments - inspire us and assure us of their continued commitment to Skutt Catholic’s mission long after their graduation.

Our ability to live that mission, and to sustain the programs that safeguard and advance it, would not be possible without the generosity of our community. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your unbelievable generosity and undying support. Thanks to your contributions, Skutt Catholic stands on solid financial ground. The final pages of this publication provide you with our 2014-2015 Annual Report - a strong testimony to that generosity and stewardship.

As we look to our future, we celebrate our past and present successes, but do not rely on them. Last January, I informed you of a strategic planning process that was to begin in spring of 2015. While we had to postpone that process for a number of reasons, our strategic planning has now begun and will hit full stride this spring. If you have not already, you will soon be receiving a survey by email to assist us in this process. I invite you, and strongly encourage you, to help shape Skutt Catholic’s future by completing the survey.

While I don’t remember all of the details of *A Christmas Carol*, I do remember that Ebenezer Scrooge comes out better in the end of the story than the way he began it. I suppose most would say it was the “magic of Christmas.” The true magic of Christmas comes from our Lord, who became incarnate in the world on Christmas. It is the work of the Lord, done through our hands, that created the successes of our past and present, and it is Him that will guide us into the future.

On behalf of all of us at Skutt Catholic, I wish you a very happy and blessed 2016.

Be well and God bless. In Christ,

John F. McMahon
President
Alumni Association Update

The Green Pages

Several years ago Skutt Catholic established the Green Pages as an online business directory to help promote businesses that are owned or operated by Skutt Catholic alumni, parents of alumni, or long-time friends of the school. While creating a listing in the Green Pages has always been free and available for a few years now, the service has not reached its full potential.

With our ever-increasing dependence on social networking via the internet, we at Skutt Catholic are looking to expand this service, as well as, broaden our scope and connection to our alumni base. Plans are underway to build on the current Green Pages and, possibly, even incorporate an online alumni directory.

Look for more information to come as we begin this effort. We welcome the input and advice of our alumni partners as we continue to improve the events and services offered through the Skutt Catholic Alumni Association. Please consider joining us as a member of the Alumni Association board or as an alumni class representative. Go to www.skuttcatholic.com to volunteer.

Outstanding Alumni Award Nominations

With the 2009-10 school year, Skutt Catholic began honoring an alum who has lived the Skutt Catholic motto of going out and “Making a Difference” in the lives of others. The 2015-16 Outstanding Alumni Award will be presented at the Baccalaureate Mass on Fri., May 13. If you would like to nominate a Skutt Catholic alum for this year’s award, please go to www.skuttcatholic.com and submit an online nomination.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2016

Alumni Basketball Tournament – Mark your calendars for the annual Skutt Catholic Alumni Basketball Tournament Fri., March 18 and Sat., March 19. Gather your former classmates and sign up at SkuttCatholic.com. The cost is $25 per person and includes dinner on Friday. See if your class can knock off the defending champions from the class of ’07!

HawkWalk – Wed., April 27 is the date set for this year’s annual HawkWalk. HawkWalk is an all-school fundraiser designed to be a fun and fit activity for all. Our goal is to raise over $20,000 to benefit Skutt Catholic students in need of tuition assistance. After a five mile trek around Lake Zorinsky, students, faculty, and staff gather back at the school and enjoy a picnic lunch together, before dismissing early for the day.

Alumni Soccer Tournament – The third annual Alumni Soccer Tournament will be held this May. Dates and times are still being finalized but look for more details to come.

Summer 2016

Alumni Summer Celebration Weekend – As Skutt Catholic prepares to graduate its 21st class of seniors, we want to remember all those who came before them by setting aside a special weekend in June, to bring all of our alumni together for fun, food, and fellowship. We have the weekend of June 24 - 26 reserved for this celebration.

Details are still being worked out. The weekend is sure to include the Alumni Association’s Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament, reunion events, and the second annual Alumni Volleyball Tournament. Look for more information to come!

Angie Lohaus
Advancement Events and Alumni Relations
Alumni Updates

Tiffany Perry Tesoro ’96 and Alex Tesoro are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy, Isaiah Shiloh, on Aug. 19. Isaiah joins big brothers, Noah and Benjamin, and sister Isabella. Tiffany also completed her second Masters in Health Administration in August.

George Gilbert Weller was welcomed by Sara Neneman Weller ’97, husband John Weller, and big sister Adelaide, on July 8, 2015. He was baptized on Sept. 27, 2015 at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in St. Louis, MO. Tara Hollenbeck Henkenius ’97 served as godmother and Sam Weller as godfather.

Sara and John relocated to St. Louis from Los Angeles in the spring of 2013, to be closer to family after the birth of Adelaide. John is an account director at H&L Partners, overseeing the Missouri Division of Tourism. Sara successfully passed the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam in June 2015, earning her professional certification as an interior designer.

Katie Lauritsen Molick ’98 and her husband Mike Molick are very excited to announce they were blessed with the opportunity to adopt a baby girl. Maria Lynne Molick was born on Oct. 9, 2015. She weighed 9 lbs. and stretched 20 1/2 inches. Maria joins her big brother Evan, who is four years old, at their home in St. Louis, MO. Katie and Mike received support throughout the process from a fellow classmate, Michelle Wellwood Downard ’98, who works at the same agency chosen for Maria’s adoption.

Amanda Mimick Lovercheck ’01 gave birth to Evelyn Marcia Lovercheck on Aug. 1, 2015. She came 11 weeks early, weighing 3 lbs. 4 oz., and was in the NICU for 59 days. She got to come home on Sept. 28 and mommy and daddy are loving having her home. Evelyn is now three months old and weighs 9 lbs. 5 oz!

Katie LeFebvre Borkowski ’99 married Rodney Borkowski of Carroll, IA, on Nov. 14, 2015, at St. John Catholic Church in Arcadia, IA. The couple lives on an acreage outside of Carroll. Katie continues to be a reporter for The Catholic Globe, the Catholic newspaper for the Diocese of Sioux City. She also edits and writes newsletters for two districts of Juvenile Court Services in Iowa.

Chris Wolfe ’99 received the 2015 Nebraska Optometrist of the Year Award.
Colin Wurtz ‘06 is an analytics engineer at Cerner Software in Kansas City and is engaged to Emily Vieux of Kansas City. They plan to get married in the spring of 2016. Colin plays a lot of golf when he can.

Maureen Wurtz ‘07 was a local broadcast journalist at Fox 42 until January 2015. She is now an investigative reporter for Tulsa Channel 8 in Tulsa OK.

Michelle Wurtz ‘09 is a senior auditor at Union Pacific Railroad.

Craig Wurtz ‘12 is on track to graduate with a finance degree from UNL in May 2016. He has been interning at Sirius Computer since last May. Margaret (Maggie) Wurtz ‘13 is also on track to be the fifth in the family to graduate from UNL in 2017. Maggie is targeting an internship in Los Angeles in the summer. All are healthy and doing well.

Jillian Hancock Harbeke ‘01 and her husband Dan welcomed their first child, Elle Marie Harbeke, on March 18, 2015 at 3:27 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 21 1/4 inches long. The Harbeke family now resides in Fort Worth, TX.

Kelly McQuillan Alvarado ‘02 married Tim Alvarado on Aug. 1, 2015 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha, NE. Kelly played soccer at Hastings College and met Tim several years after college through competitive coed soccer. Three years later, Tim proposed on the field before the start of one of their league games.

Leo James Flaxbeard was born on Oct. 1, 2015 to Joe Flaxbeard ’03 and his wife Jana.

Kyle Hendrickson ’04 is greeted by his wife Jennifer, and son Avery, upon returning from his seventh combat deployment to the Middle East (Oct. 2015).

Stephanie Wawers Cutler ’05 gave birth to James (Jamie) Wawers Cutler on Sept. 1, 2015. Jonah Leigh Cutler was born on March 7, 2014. Stephanie and her husband Eric, live in Omaha.

Samuel Dempsey Cooper was born on June 17, 2015 at 9:03 a.m. to Kate Dempsey Cooper ’03 and Samuel J. Cooper.

Josh Johnson ’05 and his wife, Ellen welcomed their daughter, Layla Anne to the family on Nov. 2, 2015. Layla is joined by a big brother, Julian Michael, who is almost three. Although she surprised them by coming three weeks early, Layla weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20” at birth. Both Ellen and Josh are employed by Yahoo! and reside in Omaha.

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Kelly McQuillan Alvarado ’02

Leo James Flaxbeard

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Alumni Updates

Karlee Hauptman Carter ’06 married Dustin Carter on Sept. 26, 2015.

Bridget Parizek ’07 and Zach Clark were married on Oct. 2, 2015 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Omaha. Bridget works for the Department of Interior with the National Park Service, in the Contracting department. Zach works for Mutual of Omaha as an application developer. Andrea Terrell ’07 was a bridesmaid in the wedding.

Hannah Engelkamp Riesenber ’07 was married to Alex Riesenber on April 18, 2015 and enjoyed a beautiful reception at Lauritzen Gardens. Hannah graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and received her BSN-RN at Clarkson College. She is employed at Nebraska Medicine. They are expecting their first child on April 11, 2016.

Kelly Samson ’07 graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in May of 2014. Kelly is employed as an outpatient orthopedic physical therapist at CHI Health in Bellevue, NE. In October 2015, Kelly traveled to Thailand with Relevant Community Church at Safe Haven Orphanage and Learning Center. She loved the experience and can’t wait to go back!

Robbie Thielen ’07 married Sara Banks at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church in Roswell, GA, on May 23, 2015. Skutt Catholic alumni Mike Thielen ’08, Andrew Thielen ’12, Brad Vankat ’07, Shawn Juricek ’07 and Kristin Vankat ’09 were members of the wedding party. Alumni Corey Drvol ’07, Katie Homan ’07, Megan McGill ’12, and Justin McGill ’14 made the trip to Georgia to attend the wedding. The couple lives in Omaha. Robbie is an underwriting supervisor for Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies and Sara works in people resources at Think Whole Person Healthcare.

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Also pictured is Adam Engelkamp ’02, his wife Miranda, and daughter Eleanor Jane who was born on Jan. 21, 2015. Adam is employed at Union Pacific in Denver, CO. Genevieve Engelkamp Micek ’04, her husband Nate, and son Grady Charles born April 2, 2014. Genevieve is a teacher in the Millard School District. The proud grandparents are Keith Engelkamp, teacher and coach at Skutt Catholic for 23 years, and his wife Gretchen.

Mel Arkfeld Maryott ’08 and Mark Maryott, of Blair, NE were married on May 23, 2015 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Kelsey Arkfeld ’10 was maid of honor. Mel is an accessories buyer for Gordmans and Mark is employed at Midlands Mechanical.

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TJ Walz ‘07 and wife Carolyn would like to announce the birth of their son Thomas Jude Walz IV. Jude was born on June 19, 2015 weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19 inches long.

**Charlie Wallrapp ‘10** is currently in Newcastle, England playing basketball while going to graduate school.

**Jake Reinders ‘08** is playing professional basketball in Northern Germany for a team called Rasta. He lives in Vechta, a town of about 30,000 people, just south of Bremen, Germany. The team competes almost entirely inside Germany’s borders. Jake is traveling to interesting cities, learning the language, and playing with athletes from all over Europe. Highlights of his stay in Europe include preseason workouts with the top team from Rasta and a trip to Belgium to compete against several olympians. Overall, he is enjoying his ‘job’.

**Tobias Letak ‘08** was ordained a transitional deacon on Oct. 1 in Rome. Father Andrew Roza, the archdiocesan vocations director, and the Letak family were all present for the ordination and celebration. Deacon Letak will continue his studies for the priesthood in Rome and will be ordained a parish priest on June 4, 2016 at 10 a.m. at St Cecilia’s Cathedral in Omaha. All are welcome to attend this Mass and the reception that follows. The Letak family would love to have the Skutt Catholic family join them!

**Danny Rerucha ‘09** graduated from UNO in 2013 with a bachelor’s in computer science, and from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014 with a master’s in computer graphics.

In February 2015 Danny started working as a production engineer at Blue Sky Studios. Blue Sky is the animation studio responsible for films like *Ice Age, Rio,* and *Epic.* Blue Sky is also the maker of *The Peanuts Movie,* that released on Nov. 6, 2015, which is his first film credit as a professional working in the animation industry.

Danny always wanted to make animated movies since way back in high school. In fact, he remembers announcing to his classmates that he wanted to work at Pixar during an activity about dreams in Mrs. Starman’s 12th grade theology class. He didn’t end up at Pixar, but somehow he did find his way into the magical world of feature animation.

In the attached photo of *The Peanuts Movie* credits, look under the “Production Engineers” section for his name.

Working at Blue Sky and getting credited on *The Peanuts Movie* really is a dream come true.

**Reece Gorham ‘09** received his badge from the Lincoln, NE Fire Department on Nov. 9, 2015, after 10 months of training.

**Maggie Smith ‘10** graduated from the University of Nebraska’s dental school’s dental hygiene program in May 2015. She is currently employed as a hygienist for The Dentists here in Omaha.
Ben Batenhorst ’11 and Emily Harrison ’11 are excited to announce they are engaged to be married! They have been together throughout high school and college and are ecstatic for the next step. Ben proposed in October, and they are getting married at St. Pius X Church on Aug. 13, 2016. Emily will graduate in May with her bachelor’s degree in nursing. Ben will continue working at HDR in Omaha as a civil engineer.

Zach Lane ’11 completed his associates of occupational studies degree in gunsmithing in August 2015 from the Colorado School of Trades in Lakewood, CO. Following the completion of this 14 month intense degree, Zach is now accredited in gun restoration, machine shop, stock making, and design and function in handguns and rifles, with many certifications in specialized firearm customization. Zach resides in Fort Collins, CO and is employed as a gunsmith for USA Liberty Arms.

Photo is Zach displaying his custom built Howa 1500 Bolt Action Rifle. He designed and built this gun as part of his final credentialing as a gunsmith.

Katie Samson ’11 graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in advertising and public relations, with an emphasis in business administration, communication studies, hospitality, and restaurant and tourism management. She currently works at Junior Achievement of Lincoln as the events coordinator as well as Cheer Xpress as a competitive cheerleading coach.

Zach Beran ’12 attends UNO and is majoring in music performance and psychology. Zach was recently honored to be one of 15 trumpets selected to be in the 2015 National Intercollegiate Band. The band is selected by audition and brings together top students from around the nation. This year the concert was held in Lexington, KY in July. It was an inspiring three days working with a nationally acclaimed commissioned composer to debut an original piece of music during the final concert. The Boston Brass also made a special appearance to play with the band for the final piece.

Haley Marie Eck ’13, was invited to present the results of her Southern Oregon University Honors project, “Exploring Reality - Religion and Reality: A Panel Discussion,” at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference hosted by the University of Chicago in November. Her panel featured credible representatives of various world religions who explained doctrinal beliefs, along with common misconceptions, followed by questions, answers, and discussion. Haley is a junior in the Honors College at Southern Oregon University studying English and education. After graduation next year, she plans to complete her master’s degree at SOU the following year.

Dakota Krejci Smith ’14 is a sprinter on the K-State track team and joined SAE fraternity.
I guess the most appropriate place to start my story is at the beginning. I didn’t choose to be a Royals fan, as evidenced by the pictures of me in Royals clothes before I could walk. I spent my first of many moments at the K (Kauffman Stadium) with my dad sometime in 1993. Before I was even a year old, I had caught Royals fever. I didn’t know it at the time – I didn’t know much of anything at the time – but I was hooked.

As I grew up, I was fascinated by the stories my dad would tell about growing up in Nebraska and making annual trips down to Kansas City to see Paul Splittorff, Freddie Patek, Cookie Rojas, and others in the 70s, as well as George Brett, Frank White, and Brett Saberhagen in the 80s.

As the years went on, the Royals just never could make it back to the promised land. That didn’t stop my dad and I from watching as many games as we could on TV together. I remember falling asleep in sixth grade listening to the Royals radio broadcasts. I remember thinking it was so cool that my parents let me skip out of school on a random April weekday to go to Opening Day at the K.

Fast forward a few years to 2014. I can’t remember a better moment as a fan (up until that point) than the Wild Card game. I had never been more excited for a game and then never experienced such a low as the team fell into a 7-3 hole. The wild comeback they went on that day changed the way I look at the Royals, the way that I look at sports, and the way that I look at life in general. You get 27 outs and it’s not over ‘til you use all of them. That wild ride that the team took me, and all Royals fans, on almost seemed like it happened in the blink of an eye, and I didn’t even have time to breathe at the end. I felt so much pride in being a Royals fan that even though they didn’t win it all, it didn’t matter.

Now 2015 was a different story. This team had been there before, and now it was time to take the crown. After how successful the season was and the dominating effort they put forth against the entire American League, it felt like anything less than a World Series championship would seem like a disappointment. But in the eighth inning of game four of the ALDS against Houston, that didn’t stop me from becoming a ball of rage as I watched Carlos Correa and Colby Rasmus go back-to-back to take a commanding 6-2 lead. Come on, there was no way these guys would come back from that, right? I underestimated the want, desire, and guts of the 2015 Kansas City Royals. Those guys would not be denied. Seeing the rally, while maybe not great for my overall health, was just another thing that I will never forget. I found out along the way that the Royals don’t remember how good they are until they’re down by four in the eighth inning of an elimination game; it’s a lot more fun that way. You gotta believe.

It all was worth it as I sat in the stands in game five and watched Johnny Cueto shove after a, shall we say, tumultuous three months as a Royal. It was also just as satisfying watching the Royals beat Toronto in six, with more furious comebacks along the way.

There was a certain calm about each game of the World Series. It felt like no matter how far they got down, the Royals would find a way. That didn’t make Alex Gordon’s bomb in game one or the put-it-in-play-and-see-what-happens rally in game four, or Christian Colon’s clutch hit, after not having batted in about six and a half months, in game five any less exciting. Each moment was celebrated by me and my dad, I’m sure just like he imagined would happen as we took in our first game at the K back in ‘93.

So here I am, at 1:24 in the morning on Nov. 2, having to be up for work in about five hours. The wait was worth it. The pain was worth it. The money spent on tickets and gear was worth it. The tears, good and bad, were all worth it. I wish I could go back in time and tell myself at 10 years old, “Just wait, it’s going to get better.” But then again, it would make nights like tonight a little less special.

I’m hesitant to say that this is the best night of my life. I won a Big Sky Championship as a player – that will only be beat by my wedding/birth of first child kind of stuff. But I can, without a doubt, say that watching the 2014-15 Royals with my dad, in person and from afar, is something that will stay with me as long as I live.
Paul Troupe was a 2010 graduate of Skutt Catholic. He was an avid runner, sports enthusiast, and ranked number three in his high school class. He met his wife Sarah while attending Iowa State University. Both were top graduates of the university’s aeronautical engineering program. Both went to work at Boeing Company in St. Louis following graduation. Both looked forward to very bright futures.

On Nov. 19, 2014, six months after their wedding day, Paul and Sarah traveled to Phoenix, AZ to receive an award honoring Sarah’s work as one of the top female aeronautical engineers in the country. As Paul and Sarah navigated the early morning Phoenix traffic, a semi-truck struck them from behind. Sarah walked away from the accident with a broken toe. Paul died from his injuries.

Paul’s parents, Doug and Sherri Troupe, his sister Katie ’12, and his wife Sarah have asked that the funds Skutt Catholic received from Paul’s memorial services support an annual scholarship for a current Skutt Catholic freshman, and be awarded to that person during their sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Each year members of the Skutt Catholic administration and faculty will present The Paul Troupe Memorial Scholarship to a member of the freshmen class who models the following attributes:

• A student who exhibits a willingness to work hard and who challenges themselves with a rigorous academic schedule
• A student who achieves consistent success in the classroom and who finishes their freshman year with a 3.5 GPA or above
• A student who displays leadership skills in the classroom, on the playing field, or while participating in an extracurricular activity
• A student who takes a genuine interest in others and who is always ready to be a true friend
• A person with high integrity, who consistently chooses honesty over deception
• A person who exhibits a true joy for life and who greets all with a warm smile and open arms

Paul’s parents summed up Paul’s personality with the following words, “Paul was a friend to all and always saw the good in every person. He served everyone he met with compassion and love. He was a source of light and happiness in the lives of so many. He lived his life for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and was welcomed into the arms of the Savior.”

We ask all members of this year’s freshman class to honor Paul’s memory and strive to emulate the qualities that defined Paul during his four years at Skutt Catholic. The Paul Troupe Memorial Scholarship will be presented to one deserving freshman this May during our freshmen honor’s assembly.

The Troupes have offered $1,000 per year for the scholarship winner’s sophomore, junior, and senior year – assuming the student continues to meet the requirements for the scholarship.

Character Skills faculty members Joe Koneck-Wilcox, Ruth Kros, and James Justice join Doug and Sherri Troupe and Skutt Catholic President John McMahon.
The SkyHawks kicked off the 2015 school year with the school’s first state championship in volleyball.

Volleyball

This fall, Volleyball Coach Renee Saunders began her fifth season with the SkyHawks. Two talented senior leaders, Brooke Swain and Alyssa Woodman, fulfilled their dreams of becoming state champions. The SkyHawks won the RCC tournament in dominate fashion. The team was the #1 seed in a tough district and owned the title with huge wins over Elkhorn and Gretna. The SkyHawks ran through the state tournament capturing their first state title with wins over Duchesne, Elkhorn South, and a three game sweep over Gretna - what an amazing finish! The team closed the year with a 40-2 record and plenty of memories.
Around Skutt Catholic

Softball

Coach Keith Engelkamp’s softball team kicked off their season with a committed group of senior girls. The team finished the season with a 20-11 record, captured the RCC championship, and were ranked eighth in state! The SkyHawks faced a tough task as several of the top teams were in their same district. Only one team from the district was guaranteed a state tournament spot. The team fell to Blair in the semi-finals and missed out of a wildcard to go to state. Great year girls! Coach Engelkamp picked up his 400th career softball win this season - what an amazing accomplishment and career.

The SkyHawk marching band and colorguard perform this year’s show titled “Red”. The band participated in numerous competitions this fall and was named Champions in their class at the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association marching competition.

Samantha Lierz, member of the SkyHawk marching band and colorguard, as Little Red Riding Hood.

Marching Band

The marching band, lead by Chris Cotignola, had its best year ever as a young up-and-coming marching band. They entered the competitive season this year for the first time ever and came away with a class A NSBA championship. These young musicians should be proud of taking the SkyHawk marching band to the next level!

The following were named All-state musicians this fall:

Band: Nicholas Wagner and Sarah Schrader
Chorus: Matthew Pohlman and Courtney Riedmann
Orchestra: Sean Lynch and Caroline Hilgert
Alternates: Jet Paronable (band), Ava Dreessen (chorus), Ben Eliason (chorus)

Girls Golf

Girls golf coach Mike Stolarskyj returned a talented group of girl golfers to the links this past fall. The girls finished second at districts with Elia Healy as district runner-up individually. The team closed an amazing season as state runner-up with Maggie Elliott finishing 15th in the state meet! The state qualifying team also included Katie Augustine, Ann Gregory, Erica Neesen, and Elia Healy.

Boys Tennis

The week of state golf always ends with additional state competitions in boys tennis and softball. The boys tennis team, coached by Sheryl Vaughn, was in rebuilding mode. There were some setbacks, but every match was extremely hard fought.
Mock Trial

Mock Trial had a great run this fall, and reached the state championships held Dec. 8 and 9 at the Federal Courthouse. The team battled through adversity finishing second in state. According to Coach Mary Meyers, “This team was an easy team to coach because of their dedication to Mock Trial and to each other as teammates.”

Cross Crountry

The SkyHawk Cross Country team and Coach Steve Schumacher began the year with personal and team goals just in their reach. At a very competitive district meet held at Skutt Catholic, the boys were second and the girls were third, both qualifying for the state meet. At state, the boys finished fourth, while the girl’s team finished in fifth place. For a runner, there are always more trails to conquer.

Football

Coach Matt Turman’s football team had another impressive campaign, reaching the state semi-finals for the third year in a row and the fifth time in the last 11 years. In the state semi-finals against Elkhorn South, the SkyHawks lost a close battle and came up just short of reaching the championship game. The team finished 10-2. This group of seniors had a varsity three year record of 33 – 5.

Congratulations SkyHawks, on another strong start to the school year by all of the activities.
Bill Howard, Skutt Catholic’s Computer Science Department Chair and resident 3-D printing specialist, is also the CAD (Computer Aided Drawing) I, II, III, & IV teacher. Right before Thanksgiving break his CAD classes began cooking up the stem of a violin, the first step in creating a working violin from a 3-D printer. Alumnus Matt Hovanec’s OWH article (see story on page 16), on the same subject, inspired these young designers to attempt this fascinating feat. Recently, Mr. Howard provided a brief historical overview of the school’s voyage into the world of 3-D printing.

Our first 3-D printer (a “MakerBot Cupcake”) was purchased in the fall of 2009 and assembled by the CAD III class. The assembly process, which I thought would only take three weeks, ended taking almost three months. The cost of the basic printer was $630. With extra items added the total cost was approx. $850. This printer was only capable of producing items in a build window of 100 mm x 100 mm x 100 mm. It was extremely crude by today’s standards and very noisy. Most of the printing was done before or after school. In 2013 we purchased a second printer (CubeX Duo), which has a larger build window, is quieter, and much more precise than the MakerBot Cupcake.

After reading several articles about 3-D printers, I thought that I could incorporate this into the CAD curriculum when we covered “Solid Modeling” in the advanced CAD III classes. The students could not wait to finalize their drawings and send them to the 3-D printer.

The most complicated item the students have printed to date is a Cathedral model they found online. They had to slice the object into several sections to allow it to print the scale they thought would show the most detail. Most of these sections took four to seven hours to print.

Students have created items ranging from keychain symbols to plastic parts for robots and beyond. The advance CAD classes often make 3-D items that the CAD I classes are drawing in three views (orthographic projection). By creating these models, it helps the CAD I students visualize the different views of the engineering parts they are drawing.
MORE ON MATT (HOVA) HOVANEC

Matt graduated from Skutt Catholic in May 2005. In high school, he participated in Science Olympiad, cross country, band, The Sound of Music, and he won the coveted Mr. SkyHawk title.

He attended UNL, majored in electrical engineering, and graduated in December 2009.

During high school and college, Matt was involved in the bands West of Reality and The Heat Machine, (along with fellow Skutt Catholic grad John Feuerbach ’05 among others). When West of Reality recorded their first CD, he became fascinated with the art of musical recording. He began recording his friends and ultimately opened his own recording studio, in Lincoln, NE, called Plan C Recording.

He met his wife Kaitlyn when mutual friends suggested that he could record her violin playing for a CD. They shared a love of music and worked together on several musical collaborations over the years.

Matt and Kaitlyn were married in August 2013. They live in Berkeley, CA with their cat “Cat.”

During high school and college, Matt’s friends often called him Hova - hence the use of that name for the music business.

Want to see classroom experience coming alive in the real world? Read on!

Former Omahans offer free plans for 3-D printed fiddle

POSTED: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 1:00 AM

By Kevin Coffey / World-Herald staff writer

I've seen violin makers at their craft. It takes days and weeks to handcraft an instrument. And they sell for thousands and thousands of dollars.

Violinist Kaitlyn Hova and her husband, Matt, just simplified the process: The former Omahans created a 3-D printed violin, the Hovalin.

It's a functional violin. And it costs $70 for the raw materials.

Want one? You can download the plans online, for free.

It's modeled after a Stradivarius violin, and to hear Kaitlyn play songs like “Wagon Wheel,” it sounds great.

The project began when Matt bought a 3-D printer a few years ago. They found the F-F-Fiddle, a similar 3-D printed violin, and made their own improvements.

"With each revision, I would print it out, Kait would play it and provide feedback, and then I would iterate based on what we learned. Rinse. Repeat," Matt told me. "We've been through so many iterations of the violin now that I've lost count."

It's not as loud as a standard violin, and it's not the cheapest instrument you can buy. But the Hovas wanted to make the instrument accessible as well as to teach 3-D printing.

They think players making their own violins and experimenting with the design will be more satisfying.

"We wanted to make a more accessible and hackable violin," Kaitlyn said. "This violin is a great starting point for exploring alternate geometry not possible by standard luthier methods. I feel like we just scraped the surface of what is possible with acoustics, and I'm excited to see what suggestions machine learning and generative design can make."

The plans are available for free at hovalin.com.
The gymnasium at Skutt Catholic High School was filled to capacity on Sat., Sept. 26 as past and current SkyHawks gathered to pay tribute to the school’s founding president Msgr. James Gilg, at Angel Flight 2015. The school’s annual fundraiser dinner honored Msgr. Gilg on his retirement from 50 years of service to Catholic education in Omaha.

An eight minute video covering Msgr. Gilg’s life and his 50 year career in education featured stories from several key people including: Mary Gilg Haven, Archbishop Emeritus Elden Curtiss, Michael Yanney, Willis Hill (Msgr. Gilg’s foster son), and Patrick Slattery (Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Omaha). Msgr. Gilg received a standing ovation as current school president John McMahon presented him with a SkyHawk statue inscribed with the words “Thank you for inspiring others to fly higher and closer to God.”

The school was transformed into a chic Parisian nightclub, complete with beaded crystal chandeliers, hanging lights, and plenty of glitz and glamour. Over 630 people attended and were treated to a gourmet meal with a French flair catered by Brandeis Catering. “The soirée theme was a nod to Msgr. Gilg’s desire for the event to be named ‘The Soirée’ from the beginning,” said Beth Eliason who, along with Rick and Terry Dischler, chaired the event. “It didn’t take then,” she added, “so we brought it back in his honor.”

The evening featured a silent and live auction with items including a condo and golf getaway in Scottsdale, a weekend in Chicago, season tickets for the Omaha Performing Arts, and a special drawing for a diamond dial watch from Borsheim’s. The major highlights of the evening included a lottery drawing, which sold over 500 tickets, with the lucky winner claiming a $10,000 prize. Additionally, a raise the paddle request by President McMahon for tuition assistance, brought in over $100,000, thanks to a matching gift.
Angel Flight is Skutt Catholic High School’s annual fundraiser dinner, and this was the 22nd year for the event. According to Angie Lohaus, advancement events and alumni relations, the fundraiser brought in over $420,000.

“We are blessed to have one of the lowest tuition rates among private high schools in Omaha,” said McMahon, “and the generosity of our community throughout the year, and especially at Angel Flight, helps us to keep it that way.”
The Drowsy Chaperone

Provided Comedic Kick-off to Theatre Season

This fall Skutt Catholic’s Theatre and Vocal Music departments kicked off the school year with the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*, written by Lisa Lambert, Greg Morrison, Bob Martin, and Don McKellar. *The Drowsy Chaperone*, which originally played on Broadway in 2006, was a five-time Tony Award winner and earned seven Drama Desk awards - including Outstanding Musical. *The Drowsy Chaperone* paid homage to our American Jazz Age musicals while it examined the effect that these musicals have on their adoring fans.

The production opened with Cal Strawhecker playing The Man in Chair - a Broadway fanatic who tries to cure his “blue” moods by listening to the full recording of a fictional musical comedy, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. As he listens, he leads the audience through the recording and the musical comes to life in his old apartment. The stage is filled with 1920's style glitz and glamour.

Our students played characters in the musical and those characters were also actors. This second layer of character development was challenging, but the students worked hard, persevered, and shined as they performed for full house after full house. Their comedic timing was fantastic and the show was well received by audiences and critics, alike.

The cast and crew pushed themselves to meet new challenges. They learned to tap dance, carry out slap-stick comedy, perform with blindfolds, wear roller skates on stage ramps, and even create a crash landing of a biplane; all of this action took place within the confines of our commons stage. These are just a few examples of how the students continue to take the Skutt Catholic Theatre program to new heights.

More than 50 students participated in the musical, along with a 14-piece orchestra. Derek Copenhaver ’11 led blocking and stage direction while Melissa Eklund and alumna Katie Pohlman ’15 choreographed the production.

*The Drowsy Chaperone* taught us that no matter what life delivers, we need to carry a song in our hearts to get us through “blue” phases. This was a new beginning for the cast and crew, who were working for the first time without Mark Schnitzler; his training was still very present on stage. The students put every ounce of their heart and drive into this production and created memories that will last a lifetime. They had a wonderful time working together and bringing a fresh comedy our stage.
In its third year, the Nebraska High School Theatre Awards (NHSTA) program provides an opportunity for music theatre students to receive professional critiques. After receiving Outstanding Performance awards the past two years, students continue to use these opportunities to showcase their enormous talent.

One professional said, “This was an excellent show overall. This show’s greatest asset was the strong character work of players in featured roles and a sense of light fun that the entire company projected, which was just right for this material. It was a fun evening for me and for your audience.” We have high hopes for possible recognition at the NHSTA’s again this year.

Chris Storm
Music Director

Photographer: Karen Spurlock
As Skutt Catholic advances through its third decade, we continue to build on the solid foundation created in the early years. Thanks to outstanding past leadership, Skutt Catholic has a rich tradition in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities that is the envy of much more established schools. While we look back on our achievements with pride, it is important to keep focused on future dreams. Much like our graduates, who are building on past accomplishments and laying the groundwork for careers and family life, we must keep looking ahead.

Each year a new group of freshmen entrust their future to us. It is incumbent upon us to provide them with the best education and spiritual growth possible. Last year I had the opportunity to sit courtside at a Duke University basketball game and witness Mike Krzyzewski, Coach K, lead his team. You would have thought the game was for a national championship and this was his first time coaching at that level. Coach K, one of the greatest coaches of all time, is often asked, “How do you maintain this level of enthusiasm?”

His response is, “I haven’t won anything, my former players have. The kids on this team haven’t won anything yet so they deserve the best I can offer them. When I can’t do that, I need to hang it up because it wouldn’t be fair to them.”

I hope this is the spirit that we as board members, teachers, administrators, alumni, and parents continue to provide to our students. While we have a rich history, the freshmen walking into our doors haven’t created their history yet, and they deserve our best efforts. As we mature, our best efforts should be bolder than what we have done in the past; we should be challenging ourselves to new heights.

To help Skutt Catholic in this effort, the Board of Trustees will be in conversations with students, teachers, parents, alumni, and donors. It has been several years since we last updated the school’s Strategic Plan. If we are to consistently build on past success, we must ask the hard questions:

- What have we done well and what can we improve upon?
- What weaknesses do we have and how can we eliminate them?
- What goals do we have for our future and what can we do to attain them?

As we go through this process, we will need your feedback and involvement.

God’s Blessings to all of you and thank you for all you do for Skutt Catholic.

Phil Ruden
Chairman of the Board
The 2015-16 Annual Appeal is underway. The goal for this year's appeal is $150,000. The funds raised offset 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!

### Operating Revenue:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amounts:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Financial Aid &amp; Scholarships</td>
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<td><strong>Net Tuition and Fees</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Student Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Activities</td>
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<td>Other revenue</td>
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### Operating Expenses:

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<th>Expense</th>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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**Operating Loss** ($247,294)

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

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Investment Income, net</td>
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<td>Development &amp; Fundraising Income</td>
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<td>Development &amp; Fundraising Expense</td>
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<td><strong>Total Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gains, &amp; Losses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$434,801</strong></td>
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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $187,507

**NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year** $11,101,516

**NET ASSETS, End of Year** $11,289,023

The 2015-16 Annual Appeal GOAL! 100%

If you have not yet contributed to the Annual Appeal, please consider donating and help us reach our $150,000 goal.

### Functional Allocation

- **Program Services - Education & Activities** 83%
- **Fundraising** 6%
- **Recruitment** 2%
- **Management and General** 9%
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‡ = Donors who have given to the school for 6 - 9 consecutive fiscal years.
+++ = Donors who have given to the school for 10 - 14 consecutive fiscal years.
++++ = Donors who have given to the school for 15+ consecutive fiscal years.
Donors from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

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†Kelly’s Carpet
King Kong on 13th Street
King Kong on 72nd Street
King Kong on Dodge Street
Deb Kirchner
†Beth Klawitter
Mike and Susan Krause
Tim and Kari Kudron
Tom and Nancy Lenz
John and Suzie Lewandowski
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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, 2014 through June 30, 2015. 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 students are truly blessed with some amazing grandparents and special people in their lives. On Thurs., Oct. 22, students welcomed over 600 family and friends for the annual GrandHawks Day celebration.

Fr. Jeff Mollner celebrated Mass for GrandHawks, students, faculty, and staff and the cast of The Drowsy Chaperone performed “Fancy Dress” following the service.

Everyone was treated to an assortment of cookies, muffins, and pastries at a reception before a noon dismissal - definitely, a crowd-pleasing day for all!
Fair Trade:
An Act of Social Justice

Last year, a very enthusiastic student made her way into my classroom during the first week of school. She immediately introduced herself as a senior who had recently moved to Omaha, and then without a breath, asked if I would be willing to be the faculty sponsor for a Fair Trade club at Skutt Catholic. This student, Mary Ninneman (Class of 2015 and now a freshman at the University of Notre Dame), started the ball rolling on establishing Skutt Catholic as the first Fair Trade high school in the state of Nebraska. Simply put, it wouldn’t have happened without her.

So, what is Fair Trade? There are a variety of organizations who promote Fair Trade. Our certifying organization is fairtradecampaigns.org, and here’s how they explain Fair Trade: “When you choose to purchase Fair Trade products, you are endorsing an economic system that provides opportunities for international farmers, artisans, and workers to lift themselves out of poverty.

Fair Trade seeks to enable economic development through equitable trading partnerships. Fair Trade ensures that the products consumers purchase were grown, harvested, crafted, and traded in ways that improve lives and protect the environment.”

How did Skutt Catholic become certified as a Fair Trade school? There are three components for certification. These include assembling a team of students who are in charge of organizing, implementing, and educating the school community about Fair Trade practices and purchases; we have provided no less than two curricular areas where the concepts of Fair Trade are taught. Elements of this economic practice are learned and discussed in business classes and in world studies; and the final component has been to offer Fair Trade products in the school community.

Skutt Catholic currently serves Fair Trade coffee in the teachers’ mail room on Wednesdays and also has it available in all concession stands at athletic events. On late start days, Fair Trade bananas and oranges are available for purchase by students in the commons.

What happens next? The first project will be “Who are you wearing?” instead of asking “What are you wearing?” Having the facts regarding the people who produce our clothes and knowing the conditions under which they work and live can help all of us make informed purchases.

It all began on a day with one determined student and then it grew ... and now we are on a path to being a more caring global community.

Sherri Hoya
English Teacher

In Memoriam

The following names are friends of Skutt Catholic who have passed away since July 1, 2015. 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.

Gary Bailey - father of Mike Bailey (staff member)
Mildred Baines - maternal grandmother of Carrie Thelen ’06, Kathryn Thelen ’11, Claire Thelen ’12 and Kelsey Thelen ’15
Ann Bell - maternal grandmother of Meghan Norys ’06
Rita Bennett - mother-in-law of Bill Howard (faculty member)
Rachel Biodrowski - Thompson ’04
Dan Briggs - father of Danielle Briggs ’98, Rachel Briggs ’00, and Matt Briggs ’04
Jane Brown - maternal grandmother of Erin McGonigal ’12, Kristine McGonigal ’15, and Jack McGonigal ’19
Kathleen Regan Dailey - maternal grandmother of Jack Duff ’18
Iona Dempsey - paternal grandmother of Kathryn Dempsey ’03, Margaret Dempsey ’05, and Maureen Dempsey ’08
Patrick Dugan - maternal grandfather of Tommy Poledna ’17
Michaela Voris Hebenstreit - wife of Joe Hebenstreit ’01
Patricia Heffron - paternal grandmother of Maria Heffron ’09, Anna Heffron ’10, Kaitlyn Heffron ’12, John Heffron ’14, Lucas Heffron ’16, and Samuel Heffron ’19
Jerome Ketteler - maternal grandfather of Benjamin Hansen ’17 and Ted Hansen ’18
Irene Konwinski - maternal grandmother of Austin Duren ’08, Dylan Duren ’11, Shelby Duren ’12, and Brooklyn Duren ’17
Helen Legleiter - paternal grandmother of Breanne Legleiter ’16 and Jacob Legleiter ’19
Fran Linstroth - paternal grandmother of Claire Linstroth ’16
Debbie Major - maternal grandmother of Ryan Brock ’16 and Keri Brock ’19
Bernie McGrath - father of Kathy Wavers (faculty member), maternal grandfather of Stephanie Wavers Cutier ’05, Julie Wavers ’08, Abby Wavers ’11, Katie Bassett Hoehne ’05, Maggie Bassett ’08, Michael Bassett ’14 and Elizabeth Bassett ’18
Lorraine McGuire - paternal grandmother of Bill McGuire ’17
Richard McNeil - paternal grandfather of Melissa McNeil ’08, Andy McNeil ’06, and Alli McNeil ’12
Michael Mendez - father of Keanu Mendez ’14
Norman Mendlik - paternal grandfather of Stacey Mendlik Crom ’98, Jacque Mendlik Kroenke ’99, Krista Mendlik Skar ’00, Ryan Mendlik ’02, Zach Mendlik ’10, Haley Mendlik ’11, Troy Mendlik ’15, Quinn Mendlik ’18, and maternal grandfather of Austin Cole ’08
James Murray - maternal grandfather of Samantha Lierz ’17
Donald Peatrowsky - paternal grandfather of Dennis Peatrowsky ’18
Paulette Quinlan - mother of Sean Quinlan ’04
Dr. Richard Sambol - paternal grandfather of Elise Sambol ’07 and Michael Sambol ’09
Stacia Siemer - mother of Haley Simmer ’15
Rose Smith - maternal grandmother of Kari Cronican (faculty member), maternal great grandmother Robert Cronican ’10, Libby Cronican ’13, Julia Cronican ’15, Justin Ward ’11 and Billy McGuire ’17
Shirley Thompson - maternal grandmother of Chris Storm (faculty member)
Mary Thurmond - maternal great grandmother of Austen Newcomer ’12 and Emily Newcomer ’16
Betty Wilson - mother-in-law of Jennifer Willson (faculty member) and paternal grandmother of Hazen Wilson ’16
Richard Yeshnowski - maternal grandfather of Andy McNeil ’06, Melissa McNeil Chambers ’08 and Allison McNeil ’12
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.

Head Volleyball Coach Renee Saunders holding the first Skutt Catholic state volleyball trophy posed in front of her 1995 University of Nebraska National Championship team photo.