

WINTER 2017

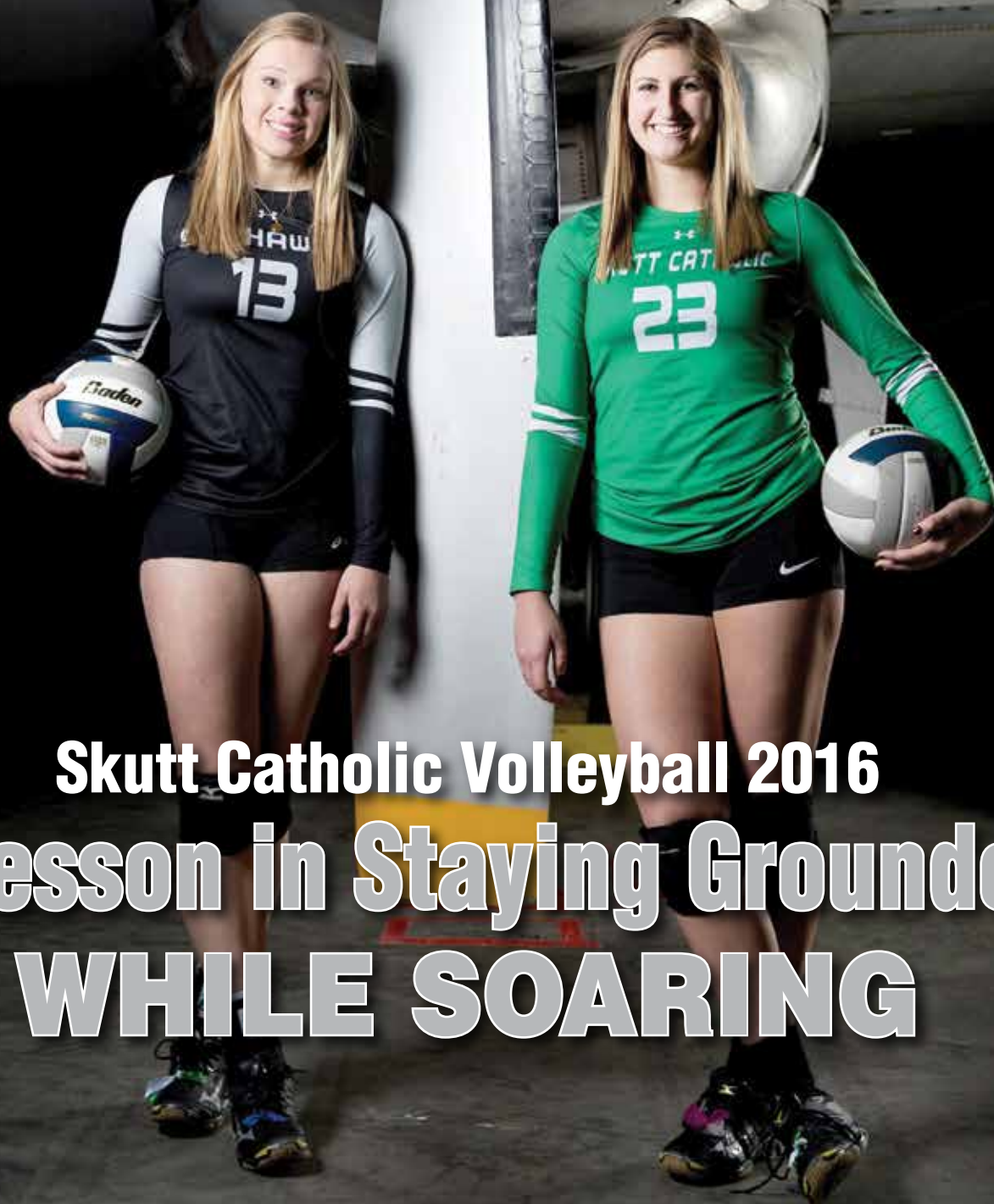
OUR

Legacy

NEWS OF INTEREST FOR
SKUTT CATHOLIC ALUMNI,
PARENTS, AND FRIENDS

†
SKUTT
CATHOLIC

PHOTO: RYAN SODERLIN - OWH



Skutt Catholic Volleyball 2016

A Lesson in Staying Grounded WHILE SOARING

President's Letter



Tim Bloomingdale
Director of Admissions and
Interim President

We are always moving forward. To prepare for the future we have gathered teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders to craft Skutt Catholic's five year strategic plan for continued success. Strategic plans are blueprints that allow our community to develop and progress in unison. In December, I had the pleasure of watching our band perform a Christmas concert in the Commons. These students displayed amazing individual talents, but what struck me was the coordination of these talents coming together to make wonderful music.

It got me thinking of the many times this year that I have witnessed collaboration in other areas. I have visited classrooms where teachers were conducting discussions and implementing activities; bringing concepts, ideas, and varying viewpoints together to make a wonderful symphony of learning and sharing. I have seen this in our activities as well. Our coaches and activity sponsors take talented individuals and combine their gifts to create something wonderful, fun, and, usually, quite successful.

Whether it is advancing our academic offerings, improving our facility, or deepening our faith, our focus remains always on our students and the mission to form and educate them as Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change. I have great confidence that those tasked with developing the roadmap for Skutt Catholic's future, will produce a plan that inspires each SkyHawk to soar higher and closer to God. We are so fortunate you are part of this symphony and we thank you for your continued support of Skutt Catholic High School.

Sincerely,
Tim Bloomingdale
Director of Admissions and Interim President



Coach Renee Saunders

On the cover of this issue we feature two young ladies, **Brooke Heyne** and **Allison Schomers**. They were recently featured in the *Omaha World Herald* and named captains of the all-Nebraska state volleyball team. It is quite an honor to have two SkyHawks named as captains, but even more remarkable to realize what these players, along with their teammates, accomplished during their season.

Additionally, their coach, **Renee Saunders**, has been named **Lucky Dog/VBM National Coach of the Year**. Coach Saunders summed up the season and the school's volleyball program by stating, "Everything we do at Skutt Catholic is done to make the experience great for our kids. This is a special place to work and a special thing to be part of. My whole philosophy of this program is built around the concept that we work hard to achieve our goals, but the game itself is fun to play. My players smile when they play. It is not a job or chore. They love what they do and I love what I do."

Skutt Catholic congratulates Coach Saunders and the members of the Skutt Catholic varsity volleyball team on their incredible season, their state championship, their national ranking, and the numerous awards and accolades they have received post season.



National Merit Scholars

2016 National Merit Scholar Semi-finalist

Interim President Tim Bloomingdale, 2016 National Merit Scholar Semi-finalist Matthew Gromowsky, and Principal Rob Meyers

2016 National Merit Commended Scholars

L - R: Dan Thibodeau, Joshua Schmidt, Rebecca Snowden, Emily Koster, Claire Harrison, Brett Manternach, Isaac Poulin, Bretton Miller, and Joseph Bean

On back cover: Dan Thibodeau, Josh Gromowsky, and Matthew Gromowsky score perfect 36's on ACT.



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Alumni *Updates*

Eric Kauffman '98 and wife Brittany welcomed daughter Kaitlyn Elizabeth on Oct. 19, 2016. Kaitlyn joins big sisters Lauren and Amelia and big brother Anthony.



Christopher Wolfe '99 and **Jaime Ammons Wolfe '00** would like to announce the birth of their seventh child, Benton Christopher Wolfe, born Nov. 18, 2016, and weighing in at 10 lbs, 4 oz and 22 inches long. He joins his brothers Deacon and Lincoln, and sisters Camryn, Ryan, Paityn, and Logan.



Mark Egermier '00 and **Michaela Kiger** were married on June 11, 2016. Included in the picture are their children, McKenna and Brooks.

In June, **Brett Render '02** and **Erin McMahon Render '02** welcomed their third daughter, Lennon Elizabeth Render to their family. Included in the picture are Brooklyn, 7, and Reese, 2.



Patrick Leahy '01 was re-elected to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board for his second term with 63% of the vote. He represents subdistrict #7 which includes Elmwood Park, Benson, Dundee, Keystone, and Miracle Hills areas of Omaha.



Anthony Pasternak '99 and wife, Jeana, became proud parents of twin babies, Emily and William, on Nov. 11, 2016. Big sister Anna, 2, is thrilled with the new additions.



Michaela Odorisio Jones '99 and husband Eli are proud parents of their fourth child who was born in September. Their newest baby boy, Oliver George, was welcomed home by big sisters, Evelyn, 5, and Marcetta, 2, as well as, big brother, Ottaviano, 3.



Holly Nice Christensen '03 and husband Ty welcomed their fourth daughter Colbie Grace, on Nov. 9, 2016. She joins big sisters, Carly, Cadence, and Camilla.



Aaron Detter '03 and Michelle Chamlee were married on May 23, 2016 in a spartan ceremony at the home of their friends in Santa Fe, NM. Aaron is an urban and regional planner at the New Mexico Department of Transportation and Michelle works for the Educational Testing Service, a national non-profit. The couple live in Santa Fe.

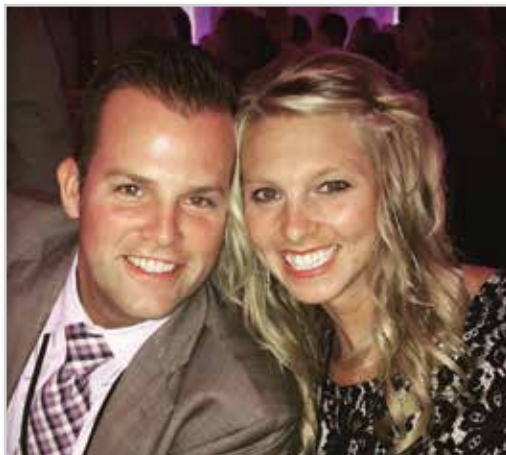
Gail McGinty Lipari '03 is currently in her ninth year of teaching kindergarten at Elkhorn Public Schools. She and her husband, Dan Lipari, announced the birth of their first child, Lucy June Lipari, on Mar. 8, 2016.



Mike Smith '03 and Haleigh Zyzda recently announced their engagement and are planning to be married on Sat., Sept. 30 at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Omaha. Mike is a partner with McFarlin and Brokke PC. Haleigh is studying to be a nurse practitioner and currently works as a critical care nurse at Methodist Hospital.



Mackenzie Kathryn McMillan was born on July 13, 2016 to **John McMillan '03** and his wife Kathryn.



Ben Ries '04 received the Big Brother of the Year award through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, and went on to win the Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP) 2016 Mentor of the Year! Ben is very deserving of this award. He has been matched with his Little Brother, John, for almost six years. During their years together, they have become close friends and John looks up to Ben for advice.

"I would not be where I am today if he wasn't around. Having a male role model has made a big impact on my life." – Little Brother John

According to the MMP website, "The Mentor of the Year award honors individuals that are committed to helping young people achieve their potential through mentoring. MMP looks for mentors whose exceptional commitment and dedication have changed the lives of the youth they serve."

Jordan Rae Pestotnik was born Nov. 16, 2016 at 1:56 a.m., weighing 8 lbs, 0.1 oz and measuring 20 1/4 inches long. She is welcomed by **Stephanie Lawton Pestotnik '03**, husband John, and proud siblings, Henry and Samantha.



Colin Wagner '04 and wife Jamie would like to announce the birth of their first child, Vella Susan. She was born Fri., Oct. 7, 2016, the day before **Noel Wagner '08** and wife **Gina Mackevicius Wagner's '08** wedding. Noel and Gina are Vella's godparents. Vella weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz and was 21 inches long.

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SKUTT CATHOLIC

Alumni Updates



Bridget Parizek '07 and husband Zach Clark welcomed their daughter, Amelia Florence Clark, into the world on Sept. 5, 2016.



Hunter Bolding '06 and Christina Schumacher were married on Sept. 24, 2016 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Omaha. Included in the wedding party were the following alums: **Mike Schumacher '99** (far right), **Steve Schumacher '01** (far left), **Sarah Schumacher Binderup '03** (right), **Jared Bolding '04** (top right), **Michaela Masching Bolding '04** (bottom right), and **McKenzie Bolding '09** (bottom right)



Christopher George McMichen was born to **Christina Gawley McMichen '06** and Brian McMichen on Oct. 10, 2016. He was welcomed home by big sister Isabelle, 4, and big brother William, 2. Their family still resides in Madison, WI.



Kevin Drew '06 and Lisa Oberhauser were married on Nov. 19, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Omaha. Kevin is the head golf pro at Field Club and Lisa is an ICU nurse at Alegant Lakeside Hospital.

Audrey Faltin '06 married Jarin Gamet on Sept. 24, 2016 at St. Stephen the Martyr Church in Omaha. Bishop Joe Hanefeldt of the Grand Island Diocese, Father James Tiegs, and Deacon Duane Karmazin, officiated the wedding. **Elizabeth Faltin Viers '09**, **Julia Faltin '14**, future SkyHawk Grace Faltin, and **Mitchell Faltin '11** were all part of the wedding party. Audrey is employed by Perret Laver and Jarin is employed by Cerner Corporation. They reside in Kansas City, MO.



Corey Drvol '07 married Cara Heaton at Duke Chapel in Durham, NC on Sept. 17, 2016. They met in Physical Therapy School at Duke. Corey's sister, **Kristen Drvol '08** and brother **Ryan Drvol '12** were in the wedding party, and **Steven Marsicek '07** was a groomsman. **Robbie Thielen '07** was an usher, and **David Bramhall '07** and **Matt McLaughlin '07** were in attendance.



Hannah Engelkamp Riesenberger '07 and **Alex Riesenberger** had their first child, **Reed Alexander**, on Apr. 4, 2016. Hannah is a RN at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Reed will not go anywhere without his baseball bat which makes Papa Keith Engelkamp, teacher and coach at Skutt Catholic, very happy!



TJ Walz '07, wife **Carolyn**, and big brother **Jude** welcomed **Mary Patricia Walz** on Nov. 9, 2016. She weighed 8 lbs 2oz and was 21 inches long.

Samantha Kurtenbach '07 married **Steven Dolan** from Valley, NE on May 28, 2016 at St. Vincent DePaul church in Omaha. The reception was held at Champions Run. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and now resides in Omaha. Samantha has been a hairdresser for six years and works at Garbos at Village Pointe. Steven is employed at the John Day Company.



Noel Wagner '08 and **Gina Mackevicius '08** were married on Oct. 8, 2016. **Emily Malloy Bolmeier '08** was Gina's maid of honor and **Melissa McNeil Chambers '08** was a bridesmaid. **Mike Thedinga '08** was an usher, **Joe Wees '08** was a groomsman, and **Blake Wagner '12** and **Colin Wagner '04** were Noel's best men.

Lauren Moser Garland '08 married **Ross Garland** on July 23, 2016 at The Grotto in Elmwood park. The reception was held at Scoular Ballroom and the couple honeymooned in Jamaica. Lauren's son, **Sean**, was the ring bearer and Ross' daughter, **Willow**, was the flower girl.



Mike Bossert '07 and his wife **Whitney** welcomed a baby boy, **Brody Alexander**, on Oct. 25, 2016.



Trent Schlautman '07 and **Mandi Andersen Schlautman '07** welcomed **Hayden Rae Schlautman** on July 11, 2016. She weighed 8 lbs, 5 oz and was 21 inches long.



Alumni Updates



As of Nov. 18, 2016, **Taylor Royal '08** is running for mayor of Omaha. Taylor wants to move Omaha forward and believes that together we can create a more community-friendly and business-friendly city. Visit his campaign website: <http://taylorjroyal.com>



Sarah Doise '08 married Chris Tobia on Apr. 9, 2016. They are excited to share that they are expecting a baby boy the end of March!



Anna Murta '09 and her fiancé, **Brian Polodna '07**, recently got engaged and plan to be married on May 20, 2017.

Elizabeth Faltin '09, married Charles Viers on June 25, 2016 at St. Stephen the Martyr Church in Omaha. Bishop Joe Hanefeldt of Grand Island Diocese, Father James Tiegs, and Deacon Duane Karmazin, officiated the wedding. **Audrey Faltin '06**, **Julia Faltin '14**, future SkyHawk Grace Faltin, **Kyla Wesely '09**, and **Mitchell Faltin '11** were all part of the wedding party. Elizabeth is employed by Snyder Charleson Therapy Services and Charles is currently a third-year med student at UNMC. They reside in Omaha, NE.



Matthew Munro '09 received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in May 2016. He was admitted to the bar in September and is an attorney at McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, in Omaha, specializing in commercial litigation.



Paige Gordon Ozmun '09 and husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Kennedy Adeline Ozmun, into the world on Aug. 2, 2016 at about 4 p.m. She was 6 lbs, 12 oz and 19 3/4 inches long. She is now four months old and has been growing like a weed.



William F. Choate '09 graduated in Dec. 2013 Magna Cum Laude from UNO with a BA in political science and a minor in philosophy. In 2015 William completed an accelerated program at Metro Community College, earning a paralegal certificate. In September 2015 William joined the US Marine Corp. having graduated from boot camp in December 2015 and marine combat training on Feb. 20, 2016. He then attended personnel admin. school at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he graduated second in his class. He is currently stationed at Parris Island, SC.



Andy Hollins '10 and Maggie Smith '10 will be united in marriage on Fri., July 14, 2017 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Maggie works as a dental hygienist for The Dentists. Andy is currently attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center, studying to be a physician.

Mark Mendick '11 and Kassi Guinn of Moulton, IA were married on Sept. 3, 2016 at Moulton Christian Church. **Tim Mendick '17** and **Ryan Mendick '18** were best men, and **Lexie Mendick '13** was a bridesmaid. The couple met at Iowa State University where Mark graduated with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and Kassi with a B.S. in genetics. The Mendicks honeymooned in Oahu, HI and currently reside in Sperry, IA.



Benett Batenhorst '11 and **Emily Harrison '11** were married on Aug. 13, 2016 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Omaha, NE. The two began dating their freshman year of high school and have been inseparable ever since. Emily works at Immanuel Medical Center as an oncology nurse and Ben works at HDR, Inc. as a civil engineer. The beautiful day was hosted by their parents, Linda and Chris Harrison and Joan and Ralph Batenhorst. The ceremony was officiated by Father Pat Harrison.



Mitchell Faltin '11, married **Kate Quandahl '12** on July 15, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Lincoln, NE. Bishop Joe Hanefeldt of the Grand Island Diocese, Father Robert Mayta, and Deacon Duane Karmazin, officiated the wedding. Mitchell is employed by National Instruments and Kate is employed by ScaleFactor, both of Austin, TX where they currently reside.



Alumni in their bridal party included maid of honor **Olivia Harrison '12** and best man **Nolan Purcell '11**. Also in attendance were **Matthew Harrison '16**, **Christopher Harrison '14**, **Andrea Batenhorst '09**, **Katie Batenhorst '14**, **Lauren Ruden '11**, **Greg Kolega '11**, **Kyle Pokorny '10**, **Shannon Mettling '11**, **Alex Bleyhl '11**, and **Matt Slump '11**.

Alumni Updates



Morgan Olson '12 graduated in May from William Jewell College with a degree in psychology and acquired critical thought and inquiry. She is now in her first year of physical therapy school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Morgan got engaged in the fall of 2015 to Chad Newman and they are excited to get married next summer!



Kolie Smith '14 interned at the Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park this past summer. She is a junior geology and environmental studies major at the University of NE - Lincoln. Kolie is also a member of the UNL Honors Program, an Arts and Sciences Student Ambassador and a member of the Cornhusker Marching Band Flagline.



Libby Kane '13 is attending the University of NE at Omaha and will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in Education, with an endorsement in K-12 art and a minor in art history. Libby will be student teaching with Mrs. Eck in one of the art classrooms beginning in January. She hoped to student teach at Skutt Catholic with Mrs. Eck because she was one of the teachers who inspired Libby to be an artist and she knows there is so much more she can learn from her. Libby enjoyed doing several semesters of practicum in public schools, but she is super excited to be back in the Catholic school setting. After graduation, she hopes to find a job teaching art and build up her personal portfolio of artwork so she can eventually get her Master of Fine Art degree. She will probably pursue an MFA in sculpture or performance art. Libby is pictured with one of her paintings titled, *Self Portrait with Judith in the Style of Freida*.



Henry Goracke '12 graduated magna cum laude from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS in May with a double major, in international business and Spanish. He is currently pursuing his Master of Business Administration at Benedictine and also is assistant coach of the Benedictine men's varsity soccer team.



Ashley Spurlock '12 started working for the University of Nebraska Foundation as an assistant director of events and donor relations. In this position, Ashley is responsible for organizing various events hosted in conjunction with the foundation and various offices and groups from the university. This past fall, Ashley organized all the pre-game tailgate events before the Husker home football games. Ashley enjoys all the various aspects of her job and working with different groups to make the event come together. Ashley is pictured at one of her decorated tables at a pre-game event.

Alumni Association *Update*

Since the Summer Edition of the Our Legacy Magazine, Skutt Catholic has hosted several alumni activities on its campus.

Alumni Soccer Tournament

The third annual Skutt Catholic Alumni Soccer Tournament was held on Fri., Aug. 5, with about 30 alumni participating from the classes of 1997-2016. Three coed teams were created from those who registered. All teams played each other in a 8 vs. 8 format. In the end, the most senior team, class of 1997-2004, prevailed, coached by Justin Zabawa, the varsity boys soccer coach and alum from the class of 2003

This year's event is tentatively scheduled for Fri., Aug. 4.



Top L - R: TJ Bartels, Joey Pattrin, Greg Burke, Marcus Odorisio, Nick Buda, Nicole Zabawa, Shannan Salem, Matt Bragg Bottom L - R: Dan Hebenstreit, Shaun Pattrin, Dave Waszgis, Justin Zabawa, and Vince Odorisio

Alumni Homecoming Picnic

Skutt Catholic's campus was a flurry of activity on Fri., Sep. 16, with all the homecoming events. In addition to the game, nearly 200 alumni and their families gathered in the auxiliary gym for a wonderful pre-game picnic.



Amy Moylan Sausser '00 and Jessica Smith Charlsen '00 at the homecoming picnic

Class of 1996 20-Year Reunion

Skutt Catholic was also hosting another very special event on Fri., Sep. 16, its first-ever 20-year reunion. Several members from the first graduating class of 1996, and their families, gathered to reconnect with their former classmates, tour the Skutt Catholic school and campus, and uncover a time capsule buried during their senior year.

After a few attempts, the capsule was eventually unearthed. Although some of the contents had been damaged from water and soil, graduates were able to salvage several personal items and letters they had written to themselves many years ago.

The 1996 graduates spent much of the weekend together as they had many activities planned around the city. A big "Thank You" to those who attended, especially Danaria Farris McCoy for organizing the weekend. It was a pleasure to meet so many from that class and welcome them back to campus!

Gretchen Engelkamp attends the homecoming dinner



Members of the class of 1996 enjoy dinner at the homecoming picnic Jason Cavanaugh ('96) and Andrea, Jill and Doug Dyksterhuis ('96)

Alumni Association *Update*

Upcoming Events

Alumni Basketball Tournament

Skutt Catholic's alumni will be creating some March Madness of their own beginning Fri., Mar. 31, as Skutt Catholic hosts the annual alumni basketball tournament. Will last year's winning team from the class of 2015 capture a back-to-back championship? Will the runners up from the 2005/2006 team come through?

Don't miss out on the action! Pull your teams together and register at SkuttCatholic.com.

HawkWalk 2017

Meeting the financial aid needs of families wanting to provide a Skutt Catholic education to their children continues to be one of our biggest challenges. HawkWalk is an all-school fundraising activity for tuition assistance.

Wed., Apr. 26, is the date set aside for this annual event. On this special day, the entire student body, faculty and staff, come together for a five mile walk around Lake Zorinsky. Upon returning to the school, everyone enjoys a picnic lunch together before taking the rest of the day off.

Prior to the walk, students, faculty and staff, all work together to collect sponsorships and donations for Skutt Catholic's Financial Aid Fund. If you would like to contribute to HawkWalk or sponsor a student, you can do so at SkuttCatholic.com the month prior to HawkWalk.

Flight for Excellence

This year, the 24th annual Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament will be held on Fri., June 23, 2017 at Tiburon Golf Club.

If you are interested in being on the planning committee or in helping to sponsor the tournament, please go to SkuttCatholic.com to sign up in the Alumni section of the website.

Reunions

The class of 1997 will be celebrating their 20-year reunion and the class of 2007 will be celebrating their 10-year reunion this year. Skutt Catholic has tentatively reserved the weekend of June 23 - 25 for reunion activities, in conjunction with the *Flight for Excellence* golf tournament.

We are in need of volunteers to help organize and plan for these events. If you are interested, please contact Angie Lohaus at angielohaus@skuttcatholic.com or (402) 330-0818 ext. 5123.

Outstanding Alumni Award Nominations

Initiated in 2009-2010 school year, Skutt Catholic takes time each year to recognize an alum who has lived the Skutt Catholic motto of "Making a Difference" in the lives of others. The summer edition of the *Our Legacy* magazine contained an article about Daniel Hatz '02, who was last year's recipient, and was honored at the baccalaureate mass for the class of 2016.

We will be honoring another outstanding alumni at the baccalaureate mass this May on Thurs., May 18. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please submit your nominations at SkuttCatholic.com by Fri., March 17, 2017.



Students always look forward to the grilled hamburger lunch after HawkWalk. Over 800 meals were served after last year's event.

SkyHawks Gone M.A.D.

SkyHawks Gone M.A.D. is an award given each month to a student who exemplifies, by their words and deeds, what it means to be a true SkyHawk. M.A.D. stands for our school motto "Make a Difference." Students are nominated by faculty, other students, and the community.

Below are a few of the quotes faculty members offered up about students who received M.A.D. awards this past semester.

September 2016: Will Hanna and Abbi Wendt



Will Hanna, Assistant Principal Mike Bailey, and Abbi Wendt

"**Will Hanna** is an amazing young man and I am privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him in class and out. He always goes the extra mile - whether completing a lab or assisting with Big Hawk/Little Hawk activities. He volunteered to decorate freshmen lockers for those Big Hawks that were out of town. He assisted in taking pictures for our latest Samson Go activity. In class, Will works for the answer and respectfully questions when it doesn't make sense. He has offered to bring specimens from his mother's vet clinic to bolster our AP Biology curriculum. His classmates think highly of him and he has a wonderful rapport with the adults in our Skutt Catholic family. His generosity is contagious and I look forward to seeing his smile each day in class."

"**Abbi Wendt** is a tremendous leader on the soccer team, on the service trips, and in SkyHawks for Life. Abbi is generous with her time and a joy to be around. Abbi works hard in all that she does and always strives to be better than she was yesterday. She is a natural leader and demonstrates kindness towards all. She is an incredible example of what a SkyHawk should be; hardworking, honest, kind, and faithful. There is no doubt she deserves this award."

October and November 2016: Claire Harrison and Connor Fenton



Claire Harrison and Connor Fenton display their "I'VE GONE MAD" t-shirts

"**Claire Harrison** was blessed with many God-given talents. While other students may take their talents for granted and simply slide by without much effort, this student seeks to expand herself by fully applying herself to every assignment and project. She puts in all the extra time necessary, helps others who may be struggling, and in the process, all benefit by her example."

"I think sometimes that **Connor Fenton's** many gifts go unnoticed. I don't think they should anymore, so this award is a perfect way for his peers to see that when you carry yourself with honor and respect, people do notice. He is one of the most respectful, hard working, motivated, articulate, friendly, young man I have worked with in a long time."

December 2016: Kirayle Jones



Kirayle Jones and Principal Rob Meyers

"I knew that Kirayle Jones had some major leadership potential when I first met him as a sub for his PE class. He looked at me while I was reading through the lesson plans and said "I've got this!" and proceeded to lead his class of freshmen in a meaningful prayer and then took care of taking them through their warm-ups. In the four years I have been blessed to work with him since, I have found his leadership and positive attitude invaluable. He is able to take a tough situation and find the silver lining and then share that with his peers so that the attitude can shift and positive things can come out of the negative. He is always working toward self-improvement, and making sure that others reach their highest potential. He is the type of young man that I hope my sons grow up to be, and I'm glad that they are able to be around him at various times through the school year to see his example."

Unsung Heroes

Honored at Early Morning Masses

It is a tradition that dates back to the early days of Skutt Catholic; freshmen Character Skills students write a letter to individuals who inspire them and invite that person to Mass and breakfast. Those being honored are called Unsung Heroes and display qualities of Christian leadership that students find inspiring. Unsung Heroes see the needs of others and consider those needs important. They stand on the side of truth, even if they stand alone. They act on behalf of another, even if they are inconvenienced. Pretty outstanding human traits that have resonated with students for over two decades.

This past November and December, Skutt Catholic's Character Skills faculty members Joe Koneck-Wilcox, Ruth Kros, Alli McNeil, and Will Wright, along with the freshman class, and Fr. Patrick Harrison welcomed newly designated Unsung Heroes to 7:05 a.m. Mass at Skutt Catholic. Over a two week period, visitors arrived in the early morning darkness, were directed to the chapel by the warm light filtering through our chapel's stained glass windows, and were greeted by the student who had nominated them as his/her hero. They celebrated the Mass with their student, other Unsung Heroes, and other freshmen. After Mass they were treated to breakfast in the Commons, where they had the opportunity to break bread (usually the glazed donut type) and visit with those in attendance. By 7:45 a.m. guests were on their way to start their day and students were headed to their first class.

The Unsung Hero tradition continues. Although it takes plenty of planning and preparation, it is a beautiful process that recognizes and honors people making a difference in the lives of others and gives our students added inspiration to cultivate their own character skills.



Lisa Klemme enjoys breakfast with Anna Pappas and Sophia Dreeson. Klemme, a teacher at St. Wenceslaus, attended three out of the 10 Unsung Heroes Masses. She was honored as an Unsung Hero by three different students...an Unsung Hero record!!

Students and their Unsung Heroes gather for breakfast after Mass



Who needs to support *The* **SkyHawk?** **APPEAL!** *Everybody!!*

Mike & Becca Strawhecker and Brian & Amy Sauser are the general chairs for the 2016 - 2017 SkyHawk Appeal. Mike, Brian, and Amy are all members of the class of 2000.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, SkyHawk Appeal letters were mailed to all constituency groups. The general chairs request? Please support the SkyHawk Appeal.

Why is your support of the SkyHawk Appeal important? Because the most valuable donations to Skutt Catholic are unrestricted gifts. Every year, Skutt Catholic faces a budget-balancing act. While this institution is committed to holding down the rate of tuition, it also pledges to maintain the highest standards in educational excellence. Tuition is Skutt Catholic's main source of operating revenue, but tuition does not cover all school expenses. Annual gifts provide critically needed support to help bridge the gap. Unrestricted contributions are immediate resources that help meet Skutt Catholic's current operational needs. These gifts go to work immediately to support or enhance:

- core programs
- scholarships/financial assistance
- faculty/staff salaries
- new technology
- upkeep of the campus.

Over 25 years ago Mike's dad, Kurt Strawhecker, and Amy's dad, the late Tim Moylan, were hand-picked by an archdiocesan committee to canvas west Omaha's Catholic community and assess



Mike & Becca Strawhecker and
Amy & Brian Sauser

the support for a new Catholic high school. Of the seven existing Omaha Catholic high schools, six were located along or east of 72nd Street. Mount Michael, a small Catholic all-boy high school, was located just north of Elkhorn, NE. A significant area of the city was being underserved.

Kurt and Tim did more than assess the support levels, they garnered excitement and helped sell the concept to families. A new high school would not only require commitment dollars, but it also would require a leap of faith from families to support an unproven educational institution. As we near our silver anniversary, Mike & Becca Strawhecker and Brian & Amy Sauser are charged with garnering excitement and moving the school toward a brighter and more secure future.

Coming
in February...

**The SkyHawk
Appeal
Communica-a-thon!**

You may receive a
text, email,
or phone call
requesting
a donation!

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SKUTT CATHOLIC

HOSA's Momentum and Interest Builds



Interest in science and medicine is growing at Skutt Catholic. More students are taking AP Biology and AP Chemistry than ever before. Our one block per semester Physiology/Anatomy class has grown to three blocks per semester with an option for a full year course. Forensics and Ecology have been added to our curriculum. All this interest in science and medicine has lead to the formation of a new activities club for those considering a career as a health professional.

Membership in the nationally recognized organization HOSA (Health Occupation Student Association) is now available for students. Its formation began in the spring of 2016 when two sophomores, **Abby Moore** and **Emma Slattery**, approached Keith Engelkamp (Biology and Physiology) and Kathy Wawers (AP Chemistry and Chemistry) about forming a future medical leaders group. After researching the different options available to schools, HOSA was selected and the club was initiated this past fall. Mr. Engelkamp and Mrs. Wawers pitched HOSA to their science classes and also promoted the new club on Flightline News and the daily announcements. The response was overwhelming. Nearly 70 students signed up. With interest and excitement so high, the group quickly began work to organize. The mission was established, officers were appointed, meetings were scheduled, and goals were communicated.



HOSA Club sponsors and faculty members Keith Engelkamp and Kathy Wawers.

HOSA is a national organization and Nebraska has more members than any other state. That fact alone gave Skutt Catholic's HOSA club a great start. Some members have already attended medical leadership conferences and learned more about future health career options. There are state and national competitions and a state convention in the spring.

Skutt Catholic's HOSA club has committed to helping others through service. Twenty members raised funds for the mentally challenged by selling honey on Honey Sunday. Over the Christmas holiday, the group made blankets in support of Project Linus. These hand tied blankets will be delivered in February to young cancer patients at Children's Hospital.

The group is also looking to expand hands on health service opportunities, like assisting patients at veteran homes, retirement centers, and hospitals. Many students are hoping to shadow health professionals. An evening HOSA meeting for students and their parents is scheduled for this month. We have invited college health career students to inform us about career options, schooling requirements, and career demands. If you have an idea or a project for our organization or are interested in speaking to our members, please contact Mrs. Wawers (kathywawers@skuttcatholic.com) or Mr. Engelkamp (keithengelkamp@skuttcatholic.com).

*Keith Engelkamp
Faculty Member
HOSA Sponsor
Softball Coach*



HOSA member Kayli White presents information on Dermatomyositis.



HOSA member Ryan Moritz discusses Heart Failure with classmates.



Members of HOSA sell donuts during lunch to raise money for their club. Mr. Engelkamp quipped about the donut sales, "If we're going to have this many young medical professionals, we need to make sure there are patients to see them."

Alumni Find Many Options as Health Care Professionals



Anna Kathol '12 and Katie Gottschalk '12 "White coat ceremony" for nursing school, fall 2015, at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha



Stephanie Lawton Pestotnik '03, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist at Nebraska Medicine



Jessica Garvey Hanson '07, BSN, RN, CPEN
Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha.



Jill Graham Seberger '04, RN, BSN, IBCLC, ANLC
Lactation Consultant



Raegan Fitzsimmons '15, Shadowing Dr. Ford,
Pediatric Oncologist, Children's Hospital in Omaha



Erin Costello Kramer '99,
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine



Abby Wawers '11 (right)
Critical Care Nurse – UNMC



Jon Keck '10, MPS, CCP
Clinical Perfusionist, Graduated from UNMC



Ryan Biga '05, D.O., Family Physician
Midwest Regional Health Services



Jesica Hotovy '15, Optician
Bethany Vision Clinic, Lincoln, NE



Allison Jones '11, Registered Nurse
CHI Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center



Kate Smith Shanahan '05, PA-C
Specialty: Urgent Care Medicine



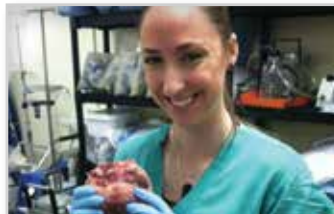
Sarah Greenup Soltero '00, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN
Bergan Mercy Medical Center



Jessica Rago Crotty '05, PharmD
Dallas Methodist Hospital, Dallas, TX



Amanda Wickert '13, studying anatomy at UNO



Kayla Kutilek '06, Cardiovascular Perfusionist
Center for Advanced Heart Failure, Houston, TX



Amy Hartigan '08, RN, BSN
Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center



Kelli Kopf '01
Veterinary Neurologist, Denver, CO.



Beckie Elliott McKenzie '98, BSN, MSN, APRN
Pediatric Surgeons at Children's Hospital



Maggie Smith '10, RDH
Dental Hygienist, The Dentists



Corey Drvol '07, PT, DPT, Physical Therapist at
Pivot Physical Therapy in Morrisville, NC



Allison West '16
Exploring Dentistry at University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Elizabeth Gawley Bullington '04, M.A., BCBA, LMHP
Clinical Supervisor, Childhood Autism Services



Major Daniel E Hatz '02, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon
and F16 flight surgeon USAF



Abby Sackett '11, RN, CHI
Francesca D'Elia '12, RN, CHI
Stephanie Sackett Smith '08, Speech Pathologist, CHI



Chris Wolfe '99, O.D. F.A.A.O.
Optometrist: Exclusively Eyecare, Omaha



PHOTO: BRIAN KREIKEMEIER

An aerial photograph of a school campus during a vibrant sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a rainbow arching across the sky. The campus features a large green football field with white yard lines, surrounded by bleachers and a track. Several school buildings and a large parking lot filled with cars are visible. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds illuminated by the setting sun.

2015-2016 Annual Report

†
SKUTT CATHOLIC

Chairman's Letter

V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School Board of Director's 2016-2017

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Skutt Catholic has a rich long tradition of producing SkyHawk alumni who are out in the world *Making A Difference* by empowering others, promoting justice, and initiating change (My apologies for the embellishment of our motto and mission statement).

How many people think about Skutt Catholic as having "rich long traditions," or about the growing number of our alumni that are out in the world demonstrating every day the SkyHawk motto and mission statement. As we approach our quarter century anniversary, it is important that we reflect upon our accomplishments and realize what makes our school such a special place where our students flourish, but also how we must embrace initiation of change needed to continue to be an environment that produces such great alumni.

Our forefathers had the vision to create a high school that would accomplish our mission statement. I believe they, as well as everyone associated with Skutt Catholic, should be very proud of our accomplishments over the past 24 years. Our alumni are our strongest example of SkyHawk accomplishments. There are new milestones being achieved and we have many passionate constituents who continue to initiate change that will ensure the ongoing success of Skutt Catholic High School.

Some notable milestones include having our first graduate with alumni parents, so we are now generational and well on our way toward that "rich long tradition." We have had record enrollment and academic achievements such as three perfect scores on the ACT test this year (to date anyway), a very high rate of National Merit Scholars and a multitude of activity and athletic accomplishments. Our alumni have set records in their support of the school through the Advancement office, through record donation of their time, talent, and treasure. So how do we continue this success?

The board and its six committees (Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Advancement, Technology, Strategic Planning, and Executive) are preparing long-term plans to identify opportunities for growth and changes needed in the respective areas, while working in coordination toward the development of our overall strategic plan. We also have many excellent applicants for our president position. If all goes well, we hope to have all these objectives accomplished and in place when we begin our silver anniversary year.

We are fortunate to have each of you as part of our strong Skutt Catholic community. We are counting on your thoughts, questions, and prayers as we continue to develop vision and plans for the future to continue the SkyHawk experience. We need your input and Skutt Catholic is relying on each of us to *Make a Difference*. God Bless!

Chuck Stevens
Chairman of the Board



*Chuck Stevens
Chairman of the Board*

Operating Revenue:	Amounts:
Tuition and Fees	\$7,211,843
Less Financial Aid & Scholarships	(\$1,079,918)
Net Tuition and Fees	\$6,131,925

Parish Assessments	\$282,822
Student Activities	\$161,947
Auxiliary Activities	\$88,203
Other revenue	\$40,135
Total Operating Revenue	\$6,705,032

2015-2016 Annual Report

Operating Expenses:	Amounts:
Instructional	\$3,691,596
Student Activities	\$688,327
Auxiliary Activities	\$65,874
General Administration	\$989,933
Recruitment	\$133,512
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$828,998
Depreciation	\$595,130
Interest	\$7,812
Total Operating Expenses	\$7,001,182

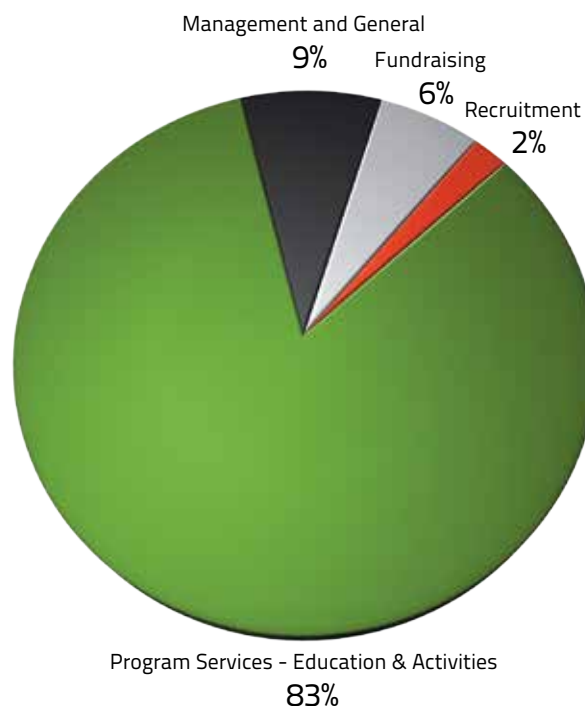
Operating Loss	*(\$296,150)
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Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gains, & Losses	Amounts:
Interest and Investment Income, net	(\$10,993)
Development & Fundraising Income	\$959,652
Development & Fundraising Expense	(\$489,059)
Total Nonoperating Revenue, Support, Expenses, Gain, & Losses	*\$459,600

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$163,450
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$11,289,023
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$11,452,473

*Tuition and parish assessments cover approximately 90% of the school's operating expenses, while the remaining 10% 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.

Functional Allocation 2016



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Donors from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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B Street Collision Center East Inc.
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Anonymous
++Anonymous
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Jeremy and Kathy Archer
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Armbrust YMCA
Al and Cheri Asherin
Dee Augustin
John and Linda Baker
+Phil and Cassie Baker
Don and Joanne Baldwin
Barb Barsoom
++Dean and Jane Baumert
++Steve and Monica Baxter
Beauty First
Matt and Andrea Becker
++Larry and Kathy Beckman
Patricia Bennett
++Steve and Amy Beran
+Kevin and Kim Berens
+Bergman Jewelers
Ryan and Becky Bertucci
Tom and Cheryl Bies
John and Michaela Blazek
John Bolas
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+Jim and Cecilia Bowers
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Adam and Jessica Charlsen

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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, 2015 through June 30, 2016. 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.

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SKUTT CATHOLIC

Around Skutt Catholic

The start of the school year is an exciting time for all student athletes, but this year, saw two very special happenings.

The SkyHawk volleyball team went undefeated, 44-0, and captured back-to-back state championships, while also having the school's first and second first team super-state selection.

Skutt Catholic football became one of only three class B football programs in the history of Nebraska to make the state championship game three out of four years in a row.



"SOARING SENIORS"

L - R: Brooke Heyne, Nikki White, McKenna Kirkpatrick, Jess Schlautman, Alli Schomers, Brooklyn Duren, and Syd Arkfeld

Volleyball:

The SkyHawk volleyball team, coached by Renee Saunders, finished the season an amazing 44-0, ranked #1 all-class, and back-to-back state champions. *USA Today* has the team ranked #2 in the nation. We have two first team super-state and first team all-state players Brooke Heyne and Alli Schomers. What an incredible season for this group of young ladies.



State Champions, clockwise: McKenna Kirkpatrick, Taylor O'Malley, Megan Skovsende, Syd Arkfeld, Brooke Heyne, Delaney Saucier, Alli Schommers, Becca Langel, Syd McDermott, Brooklyn Duren, Lily Heyne, Megan Sutera, Nikki White, and Jess Schlautman



Christian Banker

Football:

The SkyHawk football team, coached by Matt Turman, finished the season as state runner-up with a 10-3 record. The final game against Elkhorn South was a game for the ages. All-state members were: **Christian Banker** (super state first team), **Ryan Moritz**, **Trent Hixson**, and **Jake Archer**.

Softball:

Coach Keith Engelkamp's softball team finished the season as district runner-up and conference champions with a 18-13 record. All-conference team members were **Cali Carstens**, **Anna DiMari**, and **Emma Osowski**. These ladies were also honorable mention all state selections. The girls battled hard all season and should be proud of their many accomplishments.

Chorus:

Chris Storm's chorus had 11 students try out for all-state chorus. Making all-state chorus were **Joseph McAuliffe** and **Johnna Lowe**, while **Caroline Hilgert** made all-state orchestra. The chorus is busy preparing for their show choir season which begins right after Christmas.

Band:

The marching band, led by Chris Cotignola, competed in two competitions and finished their season at the State Bandmasters competition second in their class. The band had six students try out for all-state band and **Sarah Schrader**, **Jet Paronable**, **Meredith Ollerich** were all selected.

Cross Country:

Coached by alum Steve Schumacher '01, the girls finished third at districts and were conference champions. **Ally Pachunka** was the top finisher at fifth. The team qualified for the state meet in Kearney. Boys finished fourth at districts and were fourth at

conference. The boys did not qualify as a team for state, but qualified three individuals for the state meet during districts. **Noah Hennessey** 15th, **Blake Maternach** 14th and top finisher at 12th place, **Kevin Rice**. There are good things to look forward to with this young bunch of runners.



Ally Pachunka competing in Cross Country meet



Top L-R: Coach Steve Schumacher, Lauren Mertz, Megan Kangar, Ally Pachunka, Madison Halin.

Bottom L-R: Aleia Frazell, Kelly Zavadil, Rachel Fuelberth, and Maria Lasala

Around *Skutt Catholic*



Erica Neesen, Elia Healy, Maggie Elliott, Katie Augustine, and Ann Gregory

Girls golf:

Coach Mike Stolarskyj's golf team completed their season with a fourth place state finish. **Maggie Elliott** was an individual state medalist finishing in sixth place. **Elia Healy** won the district individual championship and the team finished as district runner-up. The girls peaked at the state tournament, which is every team's goal.

Mock Trial:

Mary Meyer's three mock trial teams had a successful year, but finished their season just short of a state bid. It was a tough loss for the team, but they have several talented young members.



Coach Sheryl Vaughn, Matt Bolas, Alex Wiese, Josh Schmidt, Jack Delperdang, Hunter Pohling, and Drake Hobson

Boys Tennis:

Coach Sheryl Vaughn's squad completed the year as co-champions of the conference. **Josh Schmidt** and **Matthew Bolas** were conference champions at #1 Doubles. The team is young and has much to look forward to in the future.

Jeremy Moore
Athletic Director

The Sweet Smell of Success

Delivered **Dazzling Dramatic** Performances



After a season full of comedies in 2015-2016, the Skutt Catholic Theatre department took a dramatic turn this fall. Over 50 students participated in the musical *The Sweet Smell of Success* - a story about a man's journey to get what he wants and the people he is willing to sacrifice along the way. Students built the set, sold tickets, ran and designed lights, and performed onstage for six nights of amazing musical theatre. Those involved spent three months working on this production, and audiences were dazzled with the unique story and jazzy songs.

The Sweet Smell of Success is based on the 1957 movie of the same name, set around the New York City newspaper business. Sidney Falcone (**Cal Strawhecker**) is desperate to get in "the column," a gossip feature compiled by J.J. Hunsecker (**Ryan Harrell**), in order to boost his notoriety as a press agent. He soon gets entangled with Susan and Dallas (**Sarah Schrader** and **Matthias Walters**) as they try to hide their forbidden love from J.J. Meanwhile, Rita (**Ava Dreessen**) seeks Sidney's affection while finding her own way.

Theatre education is, first and foremost, about the process. How can we work together better? How do we communicate in an organized way? What can we do to grow in confidence? The students found answers to all of these questions and we were able to put on a wonderful show. We will continue our season from Jan., 12-15 with Sophocles' *Antigone*.

Will Wright
Theater Director



SKUTT CATHOLIC



Angel Flight 2016
Miracle
 ON 156TH STREET



IF *You* Believe...

Angel Flight 2016 - *Miracle on 156th Street* was held on Sat., Sept .24. Mark & Jenny Narke and Craig & Teresa Zwiener served as the general chairs and Leon & Annette Kerkman and Barney & Julie McNeil were honorary chairs. Both the Kerkman's and the McNeil's share a long history with Skutt Catholic and have been actively involved in several school activities and fundraising efforts. Angel Flight raised over \$500,000 and was held in the Skutt Catholic Commons and gymnasium. Approximately 485 people were in attendance.

Proceeds from Angel Flight support the general operating of the school. This year a portion of the monies raised was targeted to upgrading the school's Media Center. \$200,000 was secured for the renovation fund.

Prior to the live auction, two videos premiered. The first video highlighted special guest and founding board member Bruce Haney

and his role in the development of the school. Mr. Haney's guests included other original founding board members, Jim Skinner and Tom Grennan, as well as special guest, Tom Horeis. The Horeis family owned the farm that is now Skutt Catholic's 57 acre campus.

Tom Grennan spoke about Bruce's early and extensive work in convincing the Omaha archdiocese to build a new Catholic school in west Omaha, his help in securing the Horeis property for the Skutt Catholic campus, and overseeing the construction of the building and football field. Grennan also announced Haney's establishment of the Founder's Fund for Financial Assistance, which will provide endowed scholarship dollars for qualifying students.

The second school video entitled *I Believe*, thrilled the crowd with footage from students and faculty expressing why they believe in Skutt Catholic. Upon its release on Facebook, the video garnered over 10,000 LIKES in a 24-hour period.



Photos Top L - R: Marlene and Bruce Haney receive a standing ovation. Angel Flight cheer and dance centerpiece. Honorary chairs Julie & Barney McNeil with their children Alli, Andy, and Melissa & Harrison Chambers. Hawkappellas Thomas Baumert, Cal Strawhecker, Stephen Yaghmour, Jet Paronable, and Michael Figura performing. Honorary chairs Annette & Leon Kerkman, with their children Sarah Kerkman Harper, Grant Kerkman, and Grant's fiancée Liane Nichols. General chairs Mark & Jenny Narke and Teresa & Craig Zweiner.

Miracles do Happen

Brandeis Catering provided several delicious hors d'oeuvres. The dinner menu included:

- Chopped Romaine Lettuce Tossed with Smoked Almonds, Red Onions, Roasted Asparagus, Asiago Cheese, Bacon Croutons and Caesar Dressing
- Dinner rolls with Butter Rosettes
- Pepper Crusted Sliced Beef Tenderloin with Bleu Cheese Butter
- Oven Roasted Chicken Stuffed with Spicy Crab Cake Mixture and Topped with a Lemon Hollandaise Sauce
- Haricots Verts, Asparagus Tips, Julienne Carrots, Red Onion Strips and Red Bell Peppers
- Fully Loaded Mashed Potatoes
- Carrot Cake or Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie

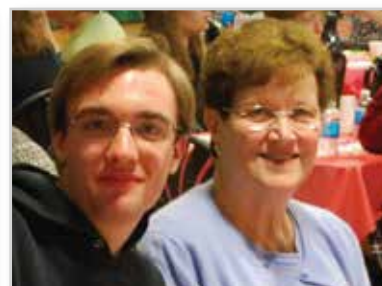
Skutt Catholic's Hawkappellas and Musettes performed during dinner.

Alumni parent Susan McMannama created individual centerpieces capturing the progress and success of our 55 different activity and athletic programs, and featuring many state trophies and several regional and national title plaques.

Decoration chair Jackie Hughes's use of retro street lamps, street signs bearing the *Miracle on 156th Street* logo, park benches, and potted burgundy mums gave the event a lovely backdrop, reminiscent of simpler times.



†
SKUTT CATHOLIC



Grand Hawks 2016





Praying with a Full House

Skutt Catholic Celebrates GrandHawks Day

Few people in our lives have the power to brighten our day like our grandparents. Their unconditional love, sense of pride, unwavering support and care help make the ups and downs of life more bearable.

On Oct. 20, 2016 Skutt Catholic continued with its tradition of celebrating these very special people with its annual GrandHawks Day Mass and reception. Over 600 grandparents and special family friends, along with the students, faculty, and staff celebrated Mass together. Guests were treated to a viewing of Skutt Catholic's "I Believe" video and a performance by the cast from the fall musical, *The Sweet Smell of Success*.

With the help of our many terrific parents, Skutt Catholic hosted a reception after Mass, complete with coffee, pastries, muffins, and more love than one could ever attempt to measure!



SkyHawks Perform at the Vatican



James and Julia Brockhouse

When We *Sing*, We *Pray* Twice

“ The St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir was one of a handful of choirs from the U.S. invited to join the Sistine Chapel Choir singing for the Papal Mass closing the Jubilee Year of Mercy.”

Three Skutt Catholic students recently had the honor of being invited to sing at the Vatican. **James Brockhouse '18, Julia Brockhouse '20, and Haley Richstein '19** are three of the youngest members of Omaha's St. Cecilia Cathedral Adult Choir. The St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir was one of a handful of choirs from the U.S. invited to join the Sistine Chapel Choir singing for the Papal Mass closing the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Upon hearing the news early last spring, the choir was, of course, delighted and honored to be chosen.

As preparations unfolded, more amazing experiences were added to the week-long pilgrimage to Rome, Nov. 14 - 21. The choir was asked to join the Sistine Chapel Choir again for another important event in St. Peter's Basilica: the consistory, or elevation of new cardinals. This event was even more significant for the choir as Archbishop Cupich from Omaha was made a cardinal. The choir also gave a concert at the resplendent St. Paul Inside the Walls Basilica and received a standing ovation and encore from the filled church.

The week in Rome was filled with spiritually uplifting experiences for the choir and other pilgrims accompanying them on their "Journey to Mercy." Of course, the choir made the symbolic journey through St. Peter's Square and through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica,



James Brockhouse '18,
Julia Brockhouse '20, and
Haley Richstein '19

with voices raised joyously in song. The delighted reaction of onlookers, many of whom took videos, was fun to watch. The group brought a book of intentions from people in Omaha to all the religious sites they visited, including the tombs of St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Cecilia (where the book was left for this saint's intercessory prayer).

The day dedicated to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and of the Omaha Archdiocese, affected the students profoundly. It began with a visit to the St. Callixtus Catacombs where early Christians like St. Cecilia had been buried. The choir sang a piece, written especially for them to honor the saint, at her original tomb. Later that day, they visited the tomb to which St. Cecilia's incorrupt body had been moved, at Rome's St. Cecilia Basilica. The choir again sang a homage at her shrine located in the crypt of the Basilica. Rome's St. Cecilia Basilica is cared for by a cloistered order of Benedictine nuns. A special connection was formed between the two St. Cecilia's, as the nuns allowed the choir to sing their dedication to the saint at her tomb and join them in singing evening vespers. When asked about the trip, the St. Cecilia day and the culminating papal mass were named as experiences most meaningful to all three students.

The saying goes that when we sing, we pray twice. With 6 a.m. warm-ups, multiple rehearsals on and off the bus, singing for the Pope, new cardinals, the 70,000 papal mass participants, and for the saints at their tombs, these Skutt Catholic students definitely prayed thrice. Thank you, Skutt Catholic, for allowing them to serve, worship, and grow spiritually through their voices in this exceptional experience.

Abbey Brockhouse



†
SKUTT CATHOLIC

In Memoriam

The following names are friends of Skutt Catholic who have passed away from July 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2016. 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.

Jackson Arens - baby son of Mandy Squire Arens '03 and nephew of Abbie Squire '07

Joseph Barmettler - maternal grandfather of Connor Carbullido '15 and Eli Carbullido '20

Lori Cable - mother of Corey Cable '06, Anna Cable '08, Megan Cable '12, and Monica Cable '13

James Coughlin - maternal grandfather of Hilary Wiese '11, Hannah Wiese '14, and Alex Wiese '17

Paul Hartigan - paternal grandfather of Erin Hartigan '05, Amy Hartigan '08 and father of Tim Hartigan (assistant coach)

Joanne Healy - paternal grandmother of Jessica Healy Setlik '07, Ryan Healy '10, Nolan Healy '12, Jamie Healy '14, Christian Healy '15, Elia Healy '17, Landon Healy '19, Grant Healy '19, and maternal grandmother of Mary Lausten '08

Robert Hicks - maternal grandfather of Sydney Long '18

Ethel Koperski - paternal grandmother of Jacob Koperski '16 and Madi Koperski '16

Diane Korus - maternal grandmother of Ethan Baker '18 and Isabella Baker '20

Art Krick - paternal grandfather of Keenan Krick '04 and Hannah Krick '10

George Lackovic - maternal grandfather of Michaela Odorisio Jones '99, Vince Odorisio '01, Marcus Odorisio '04, Elizabeth Odorisio '06, paternal grandfather of Kathryn Lackovic Snyder '99, Amy Lackovic Gunn '04, Bob Lackovic '06, and Tim Lackovic '07

Phillip Lawler - maternal grandfather of Heidi Moore (wife of Jeremy Moore, staff member) and father to Libby Dreier (Jeremy's mother-in-law and alumni stepparent)

Joanna Marron - maternal great grandmother of Sidney Reeves '18 and grandmother of Kristen Reeves (staff member)

Rosemary Maynard - maternal grandmother of Christopher Ramelb '10, Lauren Ramelb '15, Courtney Gazda '01, and Kelsey Gazda '08 (coach)

Randy Naran - father of Alex Naran '19

Rose Marie Nennen - maternal grandmother of Katherine Homan Shanmugam '06, Ellen Homan '10, and Sam Homan '19

Peter Oberfoell - paternal grandfather of Rachel Oberfoell '18 and Danielle Oberfoell '20

Bob Peterson - maternal grandfather of Sarah Dunker '17

Patricia Podjenski - maternal grandmother of Adam Bartels '05, Emily Bartels '06, and Elizabeth Bartels '13

Marjorie Polansky - maternal grandmother of Mary Friedt '12, Andrew Friedt '16, Hannah Friedt '18, and Mathew Friedt '19

Helen Renken - aunt of Alexander Ruden '09, Lauren Ruden '11, Ellen Ruden '13, Eric Ruden '15, and sister of Phil Ruden (past Chairman of the Board)

Sharon Schleich - maternal grandmother of Allison Kozeny '08

Valeta Schnell-Kramer - maternal grandmother of Libby Kane '13

Dick Smith - maternal grandfather of Michael Figura '18

Richard Smith - maternal grandfather of Anna Vacek '17

Marge Thompson - maternal grandmother of Brad Prucha '11 and Natalie Prucha '14

Helen Tjaden - mother of Suzie Klosterman (staff member)

Lois Krug Veach - maternal great-grandmother of Joey White '19 and Josh White '20

Betty Vlach - paternal grandmother of Melissa Vlach Erdei '99, Jonathan Vlach '11, and Katie Vlach '18

Frank Vos - paternal grandfather of Jonathan Vos '16

Paul Wells - paternal grandfather of Justin Wells '16, Sean Wells '18, and Kiana Wells '20

Ronald Wickwire - paternal grandfather of Matthew Wickwire '17

Evelyn Willis - maternal grandmother of Matthew Meyer '10, paternal grandmother of Lindsay Willis '16, and mother of Mary Meyer (faculty member)

Two Corrections:

Martin Caliendo not Jo Caliendo - maternal grandfather of Anna White '13, Michael White '16, Nicole White '17, and Joshua White '19

Frank Alexander not Frank Zach - maternal grandfather of Marie Slavin '04, Ashley Slavin '06, Jared Slavin '09, and Ethan Slavin '19



Happy faculty members (Bottom L-R) Bart Zavalatta, Nancy VandenBosch, Sherri Hoyer, Kathy Wawers (Top L-R: Chris Cotignola, Molly Conway, Jennie Wilson, Isela Padilla, and Elizabeth Rudden)



Parent Association volunteers Kristin Hegge, Carol Polcyn, and Rose Trapp serve lunch to faculty and staff

Dear Parent Association,

You really are an incredible organization. Thank you for all you do to make life at Skutt Catholic better! We truly appreciate that you assemble and distribute school directories, cater fabulous staff lunches, provide delicious lattes on special occasions, hand-deliver cash gifts and funny quips at the faculty/staff Christmas party, sell funky apparel - as well as uniform sweatshirts, green plaid skirts, and SC shirts in the HawkNest, offer tasty concessions on game nights, plan and host the After Prom event, and supply our athletic and activity groups with funding for team/club wish lists. Have we forgotten anything?

Keep up the great work. You are making a BIG difference around here!

With warm regards and grateful hearts,
The Skutt Catholic faculty and staff

P.S. Santa Claus and his singing elves were especially good this year.



The jolly old elf delivers Christmas cash to faculty and staff

3131 South 156th Street
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SKUTT
CATHOLIC

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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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

www.skuttcatholic.com

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Perfect!

Skutt Catholic congratulates Dan Thibodeau, Josh Gromowsky, and Matthew Gromowsky on their **PERFECT 36 ACT** scores!

“What an incredible achievement for Dan, Josh, and Matthew. These young men are very dedicated students and their accomplishments serve as an inspiration to our students as well as to our faculty and staff. The Skutt Catholic community is very proud.”

Principal Rob Meyers