

SUMMER 2015

OUR

Legacy

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

†
SKUTT
CATHOLIC



SOAR



The Beckman Family

“Mrs. Beckman has done great amounts of behind-the-scenes work with our young men and women over the years. She is a tireless worker that always has our students best interests at heart.” ROB MEYERS



Leon May

“Mr. May has always had a keen interest in the success of his students. You could often times find him in the stands of athletic events cheering them on.” ROB MEYERS

*“Faith tells me no m
ahead, God is alre*

Retirees

celebrated for

Decades of Service



Steve & Monica Baxter
and Marcia Bredar

“She leaves a lasting legacy at Skutt Catholic. Her work is represented in the countless number of successful artists that she has helped mold over the years.”

ROB MEYERS

after what lies
ready there.”

Author Unknown

SKUTT CATHOLIC

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President's Letter



John F. McMahon
President

Greetings Skutt Catholic Community,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

A year ago I wrote to you in *Our Legacy* having not even officially begun my term as president and having not yet moved to Omaha. At that time I spoke of the impression that excellence at Skutt Catholic made on me as I interviewed for the position and learned about the school. This year has proven that excellence in all that we do is more of a rule at Skutt Catholic than an exception. This was a year that, once again, saw tremendous success in all areas of the school - academics, activities, athletics, and faith and service. Many of those successes are presented in this edition of *Our Legacy*, from state championships to student playwrights and songwriters to a service trip to Haiti. As you read, you will be amazed at the accomplishments of our students and their teachers, coaches, and mentors, and you, too, will be reminded how proud you are to be part of the SkyHawk community.

While there was so much to celebrate at Skutt Catholic this past school year, the year was not without its challenges. Early in the year we laid to eternal rest our beloved activities director, Mike McMahon, and two of our young alumni. I was humbled and inspired by the outpouring of support from the SkyHawk community for our school and for their respective families. More recently, we faced a very difficult time in the wake of the media coverage surrounding the employment situation of Mr. Matthew Eledge. As a community, we struggled to balance our love for a beloved and successful teacher and coach, with our Catholic faith, that is the source and summit of all that we do at Skutt Catholic. In our efforts to safeguard that faith and to affirm that we are who we say we are, we faced great criticism from a number of sides. I want to thank the countless and overwhelming gestures of support for Skutt Catholic that came from current families, alumni, and other stakeholders. I would also like to thank those who questioned and challenged the school, but who did so respectfully and in a genuine search for understanding. In the wake of these difficult challenges this past year, the spirit of the SkyHawk community prevailed, and I believe we have come through them stronger, inspired by those who now watch over us from above, and more committed to the important work that has been entrusted to us.

With that, we turn our focus to the future of Skutt Catholic. This summer will see the beginnings of the renovation of the Archbishop Daniel Sheehan Chapel on our campus, work that will continue through the fall and will see an expansion of the sanctuary, a new altar, new flooring, and a number of additional enhancements. We remain deeply appreciative of the generous donations made at Angel Flight 2014 that made this renovation possible. We are in the early planning stages for a capital campaign to further enhance our campus. You will hear more details on what that will include in the future. Our strategic planning process, intended to begin last fall, was postponed in the wake of changing priorities during the school year, and will now coincide with a study of West Omaha by Meitler Consulting commissioned by the Archdiocese of Omaha. Together, these processes will assess the current state of Skutt Catholic and will plan for the future, ensuring that excellence in all we do, faithful commitment to our mission, and a clear vision for continued growth and excellence lead Skutt Catholic into the future as the premier Catholic high school in Omaha. We begin next year welcoming the first freshman class in school history that saw a waiting list for admissions, affirming interest in Skutt Catholic High School is again at an all time high and continues to soar. This serves us with very fertile ground upon which to build the future of this great school.

The sun has now set on the 2014-2015 school year, and we look forward to it rising again in August at the dawn of a new school year. While the sky is ever changing, one thing that remains constant in it is that the SkyHawk continues to soar and with it our mission of forming and educating young men and women to become Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change. Go SkyHawks!

Be well and God bless.

In Christ,
John F. McMahon
President

Principal's Letter

It has been an extraordinary year. As I reflect on the past ten months, there were many challenges as well as extraordinary successes. We are welcoming a second 200+ class in a row, our academic program is second to none, and our activities and athletics teams continue to excel. We once again won the U.S. Cellular Cup, which is awarded annually to the school with the most successful athletic and activities programs. The award has been in existence for eight years, and Skutt Catholic has earned it six times.

We are saying goodbye to a few longtime employees this summer. Retiring and/or leaving after having served Skutt Catholic for 20 or more years are **Monica Baxter, Kathy Beckman, Brad Hildebrandt, Leon May, and Mark Schnitzler**. I couldn't possibly put into words what these people have meant to Skutt Catholic, but I'll try.

Monica Baxter is an original staff member. Monica came to Skutt Catholic in the fall of 1993 having previously served as an art teacher at Dominican / Flanagan High School. She leaves a lasting legacy at Skutt Catholic. Her work is represented in the countless number of successful artists that she has helped to mold over the years. Her ability to connect with kids and help them to discover their talents is most impressive.

Kathy Beckman came to Skutt Catholic having served Catholic school students at St. Albert's in Council Bluffs and Pius X in Lincoln. She has spent most of her years at Skutt Catholic as the Director of Guidance. Mrs. Beckman has done great amounts of behind-the-scenes work with our kids and their families over the years. She is a tireless worker who always has our students best interests at heart. Mrs. Beckman will be "slowing down" a bit and will be working with the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Program.

Brad Hildebrandt has served as Skutt Catholic's head wrestling coach since the school opened. He also joined the faculty this year as a teacher in the PE department. The success of our wrestling program is well documented. State championships are wonderful, but Coach Hildebrandt's lasting legacy is the overall success of our athletics and activities programs. Many have contributed to its success, but it is easy to argue the significance of Coach Hildebrandt and the wrestling program to our overall success. Simply put, the success of the wrestling program raised the bar for all athletics and activity teams. We have all become better coaches and sponsors because Coach Hildebrandt showed us all it was possible. Coach Hildebrandt will still be around, but intends to spend more time with his family.

Leon May came to Skutt Catholic after a long career at Millard North High School. Mr. May has taught mainly upper level Spanish courses during his time here. Mr. May has always had a keen interest in the success of his students. You could often times find him in the stands of athletic events cheering them on. He was certainly instrumental in encouraging many to pursue future studies in Spanish. Mr. May should still be around and is looking forward to spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mark Schnitzler came to Skutt Catholic in its second year. During his entire tenure, he has been a jack-of-all-trades. He spent most of his time teaching physics, but has also taught several math courses, drama courses, and even created a philosophy course. He has been the director for all the plays and musicals over the years as well. Early on he was also a tennis, volleyball, and soccer coach. Mr. Schnitzler is also a tireless worker. If on campus day or night, you could usually find Mr. Schnitzler hard at work. He has inspired many students to reach their full potential in the sciences and in the drama field. Mr. Schnitzler is leaving to pursue a Masters in Fine Arts in directing at the University of Memphis.

All of these people will be sorely missed. While saying goodbye to some key members of the community, there is much to look forward to. We enter 2015-2016 with the largest enrollment in school history. After a long summer break, our students and staff will be back at it in the fall, working to carry out the mission of Skutt Catholic, that these long time staff members worked so hard to create. These individuals have left a legacy that will serve our school community long after their retirements.

Rob Meyers
Principal



Rob Meyers
Principal

Alumni Board President's Letter

This past spring Kelsey Sievers, after serving for several years as president of the Alumni Association, decided to take an advisory role. Having worked with Kelsey on numerous alumni events, I accepted the role of president. One of my first presidential acts was announcing the new recipients of the Alumni Association Ambassador Scholarship. (See picture...I'm the one on the left!) Each year the association awards scholarships to deserving members of the junior class. These students have shown remarkable leadership, school spirit, and a strong work ethic. They will help the association with alumni events throughout their senior year and they are now identified as the organizers for their 10-year reunion. In turn, the association awards each of them a \$500 scholarship to the college of their choice. This year our award winners are: **Gabby Giesler**, **Eric Kros**, and **Kat Lanzante**. I send my congratulations to each recipient and I look forward to getting to know them better during the upcoming school year.

Recently, the Alumni Association has been busy making memories and reminiscing about old ones. The following events were held this past spring and into the summer:

- the Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament coincided with March Madness
- the second Annual Alumni Soccer Tournament closed out the month of May
- our *Flight for Excellence* - Benefit the Birdie Golf Tournament brought together the SkyHawk nation on Fri., June 19
- the class of 2005's 10-year class reunion took place on June 20

It has been an exciting summer thus far, but school will be back in session before we know it. Information about upcoming fall events will be sent out soon. I would also like to thank all of you for your constant support of the association; without you we could not plan and organize all of these exciting alumni activities. If you're interested in getting involved either in a leadership role or as a volunteer, please email me at skuttcatholicalumni@gmail.com.

Kelsie Moylan '09

Pictured L-R: Kelsie Moylan, Gabby Giesler, Eric Kros, and Kat Lanzante



Alumni Updates



In January of 2015, **Brandon Luetkenhaus '96** became co-owner of Farrell's eXtreme Bodyshaping located at 180th & Q. FXB 180 combines cardiovascular kickboxing, resistance band strength training, and nutritional guidance to help members achieve their fitness goals and improve their overall health. Brandon is a class instructor and has coached several teams during his four years as an FXB member.



Eric Kauffman '98 and fellow alum, **Carly Potts Wiley '98** serve as Honor Guard members of their respective law enforcement departments. Eric is a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol and Carly is an officer with the Omaha Police Department. Both were honored to carry out their solemn duties at the funeral of Omaha Police Detective Kerrie Orozco on May 26, 2015. They were further honored to serve together as casket guards the day of the funeral.

Tiffany Perry Tesoro '96, of the first Skutt Catholic graduating class, moved back to Omaha in late 2013 after living in Chicago for 7+ years. She completed two bachelor degrees (Bachelors of Science in Biology at UNO and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Creighton), a Masters of Science in Nursing UOP, and will be completing a second Masters of Health Administration UOP in August. At the end of August, Tiffany and her husband will welcome their fourth baby (currently they have two boys and a girl, and are expecting another boy).

Second son, Joshua Ray Durow, was born on Aug. 29, 2014 (Grandma Kathy Beckman's birthday!) to **Brian Durow '98** and **Britta Beckman Durow '00**. His big brother Jacob was thrilled to welcome him to their family.

Melissa Walsh Albers '98 and husband Derick welcomed identical twin boys on March 23, 2015. Collin Taylor and Reed Patrick joined big brothers Caleb (4) and Brayden (2).



Kristin Van Moorlegem Fangmeyer '98 was awarded the Alice Raikes Distinguished Teacher Award. She had been a secondary special education teacher, and will now be the Student Services/ Special Education Coordinator at Ashland-Greenwood.



Andy Dobel '99 and his wife Trisha welcomed Matthew Steven in May. Big brother Mike is very happy with the new member of the family.

Alumni Updates



Melissa Vlach Erdei '99 and husband Dan welcomed their second child, Kinley Rae Erdei, born on May 4, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches long. Kinley joins her big sister, Sienna May, born in September 2013.



Deacon James Wolfe was born on Dec. 26, 2014 (9 lbs. 13 oz.) to **Christopher Wolfe '99** and **Jaime Ammons Wolfe '00**. He is their sixth child. His big brother Lincoln was very excited to finally have a brother and his four sisters, Ryan, Paityn, Camryn, and Logan were also excited!



Michaela Odorisio Jones '99 and her husband Eli welcomed Marcetta Margaret on May 20, 2014. Her big sister Evelyn and big brother Ottaviano were very excited to have another sibling join them in their shenanigans!

Shannon Brosnahan Salem '01 and her husband Jeff would like to announce the birth of their newest daughter, Campbell Rose Salem. She was born on Jan. 16, 2015.



Burke Edward was born May 22 in Atchison, KS to David and **Jennifer Acosta Tufte '02**. He was welcomed home by big sisters Reyna (7) and Rowan (4).



Sander Patrick Stokes was born on July 30, 2014 to **Jeffrey Stokes '02** and wife Lynn. Sander plans to pitch for the SkyHawks baseball team in 2029.

Sarah Dobel Staroska '01 and her husband Mark welcomed their first child, Malcolm Hugo in November.

Josh Rothanzl '01 and **Kerri Riley Rothanzl '01** along with big brother, Jesse, welcomed Riley Elle on June 3, 2015. Josh recently accepted a position with the city of Bellevue as a civil engineer. Kerri is starting her fifth year as an early childhood school psychologist for Bellevue Public Schools.



Lily Kauffman was born on July 27, 2014 to proud parents **Matt Kauffman '02** and **Emily Strawhecker Kauffman '05**. They now reside in La Vista.



Gail McGinty Lipari '03 married Dan Lipari on Oct. 10, 2014. Two of the bridesmaids were SC graduates from 2003 as well: **Elizabeth Leahy Zahm** and **Angela Polodna**. Many SC grads were in attendance and remain very close friends. Dan and Gail reside in Omaha where she is starting her eighth year teaching kindergarten. Dan works for a company called BuilderTrend.



Joe Flaxbeard '03 was selected as a recipient of the 2014 American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Young Professional of the Year Award. He represented ACEC in the national *New Faces of Engineering* program. Joe is a senior project engineer with Lamp Rynearson and Associates, Inc. in Omaha.



Jenny Lamoureux Struyk '03 married Ben Struyk on Nov. 29, 2014 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Jenny is currently a charge nurse in the emergency department at Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Her husband, Ben, is a Millard West graduate, who sells commercial insurance for Lockton.



Emily Carlson Muhlbauer '05 and her husband Steven are proud to announce the birth of their new baby, Charles Everett Muhlbauer. Charlie was born April 7, 2015, weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz., and was 20 3/4 inches long.



Jill Graham Seberger '04, and husband Tim welcomed their third son, Raymond Browning Seberger on May 17, 2015. Ray is growing fast, following in the footsteps of big brothers Graham and Lucas who are four and two. The Sebergers live in Gretna and, when not chasing after the little boys, Jill works as a lactation consultant at Nebraska Medicine.



Ashley Kiekhoefer '06 is engaged and getting married this October to Matt Bjornsen from Kearney, NE. Their wedding will take place in Nebraska City at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center.

Alumni Updates

Audrey Faltin '06 graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 2010, summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and a minor in Spanish Education. While in her senior year at NWMSU, Audrey was elected student senate president and senior class president and earned the honor of delivering the commencement speech for the class of 2010. She taught at Omaha Central High School for three years, conceived and launched *Career Closet* for those who could not afford better clothes for interviewing purposes, brought back the *O Club*, Centrals' distinguished student honors club, while also coaching cross country and track. Audrey taught one additional year in Kansas City, MO, before moving to London, UK last year. She is currently in London, studying for her Masters degree in English Literature at Queen Mary University of London. While at Queen Mary, she was awarded a student ambassador scholarship to be part of a group of international students who represent Queen Mary thru publication and blog. You can review her blog *Take Away Tidbits*, which highlights fun London experiences at: <https://takeawaytidbits.wordpress.com/author/takeawaytidbits/>. In London, she also tutors Spanish at two elementary schools and is a nanny, communicating only in Spanish to two young children. While in London, she was secretly flown to Finland, where her fiancé, Jarin, proposed to her. They are planning a September 2016 wedding, after she is back in the States.



Dr. Corey Drvol '07, is engaged to Dr. Cara Heaton. They are both physical therapist and reside in Jacksonville, Florida.



Kaitlin Marie Keck '07 married Cory James Rohlfen on July 19, 2014 at St Leo the Great Catholic Church. Katie is currently a third grade teacher at Fireridge Elementary in Elkhorn and Cory is a fourth year medical student at UNMC.



Sarah Taphorn Gloyne '06 and Aaron Gloyne were married Dec. 27, 2014 at St. John's Catholic Church in Omaha, NE. Msgr. James Gilg officiated. A reception followed at The Paxton Ballroom. Sarah is a registered nurse at Nebraska Medicine in the cardiovascular ICU. Aaron, a graduate of Grand Island Senior High, is a manager for Sur La Table and is returning to school to pursue a degree in computer engineering. The wedding party included many Skutt Catholic graduates.

Bridesmaids L-R: Julia Soto, **Sarah Smith '06**, **Sarah Guinane Hennings '06**, **Ashley Kiekhoefer '06**, **Olivia Taphorn '12**, and **Lindsay Bolt Claxton '06**, Groomsmen L-R: David Swanson, Jason Ressler, Alex Kirts, **Greg Taphorn '08**, Nathan Soto, and Michael Hennings, Flower Girl: Audrey Stines, and Ring Bearer: Maddox Taphorn (son of **Greg Taphorn '08**)



Angelee Dougherty '08 recently got engaged to Matt Quandt while on vacation in Jamaica. Angelee and Matt live in Kansas City. Angelee is a preschool nurse and Matt is an attorney.

Ben Bolmeier '08 and **Emily Malloy '08** were joined in marriage on Oct. 11, 2014. Other Skutt Catholic graduates in the wedding party included **Lindsay Vanlandingham '08**, **Gina Mackevicius '08**, **Melissa Chambers '08**, **John Malloy '05**, and **Joey Malloy '13**.



Corinne M. VanOsdal '08 has been accepted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry in Lincoln, NE. She will begin her studies in August.

Kelsey Eccker Weiler '08 and Kevin Weiler were married on Dec. 20, 2014. They are both Creighton graduates and were married at St. Johns on Creighton's campus with their reception at the Hilton. Kelsey recently graduated cum laude from Creighton's law school on May 15, 2015.



Catheryn Amenta Grivna '08 was married to Alex Grivna on Oct. 10, 2014 in Napa, CA.



Sarah Doise '08 is engaged to Chris Tobia. They are both living in Lafayette, LA. Sarah's business, Sarah Beth Photography, recently won an award for best Wedding & Event Photographer in Lafayette, LA from Locals Love Us!



Elizabeth Faltin '09 graduated from Kansas State University (KSU) in 2013, summa cum laude, Bachelors of Science, Communications Science and Disorders (i.e.; Speech Pathology). She was awarded a graduate assistant scholarship into the University of Nebraska Speech Pathology Master's program. She will finalize her degree this August, and begin her career in Omaha. This spring, while traveling in Italy, her fiancé Charles, proposed to her. They are planning a June 2016 wedding in Omaha.

Montana Malsam Chilton '08 married Bradley Chilton in Sedona, AZ on Oct. 24, 2014. Montana and Bradley live in Phoenix, Arizona. Montana is a hair stylist and Bradley is a construction superintendent. **Angelee Dougherty '08** and **Gina Mackevicius '08** were bridesmaids and **Kennedy Nowak '18** was the maid of honor.



Allison Mergens '09 graduated from UNO with a Bachelors Degree in Biology and is employed by Aureus Medical as a RN nursing recruiter.

Alumni Updates



Ellen Homan '10 received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Creighton University in May of 2015. She has accepted a nursing position with Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, NE, and will work in the Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit. While at Creighton, Ellen was a scholarship athlete and a four-year (2011-2014) starter as a left fielder for the Bluejays softball team. As a senior, Ellen was named co-captain of the softball team. Ellen finished her college career with 203 hits and currently ranks fifth on the all-time career hits list at Creighton.



Sarah Mergens '11 graduated from the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, MN, with a degree in Social Work, and Family Studies. She will be attending St. Thomas in the fall for graduate school to get her master's degree in Social Work to become a therapist.

Frankie Smith '11 graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan with a degree in Math. Frankie was accepted into medical school at UNMC and will start this August.

Lauren Kluthe '11 graduated from UNO in December of 2014 and was named the UNO Accounting Student of the Year. She is currently enrolled in the MBA program at UNO.



Mayme Conroy '11 scored nine goals and had three assists during her final season at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She started all 19 games, averaging 86 minutes per contest, and compiled 49 shots, 26 of which were on goal. Mayme's awards and honors while playing for Nebraska include:

- Second-Team All-Big Ten (2012, 2014)
- Academic All-Big Ten (2013, 2014)
- Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll (Fall 2011, 2012; Spring 2013, 2014)
- Tom Osborne Citizenship Team (2014, 2015)



Madeline Amenta '11 graduated on May 9, 2015, from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln with a degree in Music Education. She has accepted a job at St. Robert's Catholic School in Omaha teaching K-8 music.



Maggie Hoffman '11, graduated magna cum laude in May from Arizona State University with a Business Law & Global Studies dual major. After scoring in the top 8% on the LSAT, Maggie will attend top ranked Arizona State Law School with a full-ride scholarship! This summer, Maggie, with her close friend and fellow Skutt Catholic graduate **Alexis Kaiser '11**, are backpacking in Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Rachel Zabawa '11 heads into her senior year at Lindenwood University in Saint Charles, MO, already having achieved a national championship. As a member of the Lindenwood Women's Gymnastics Team, Rachel and her fellow teammates capture their first USA Gymnastics National Title for Division II.

On Sat., April 4, 2015 three SC graduates from 2012 were honored at the Ivy Day Ceremony on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For over 100 years, Ivy Day has been held to celebrate the brightest and most outstanding students at the University. The Innocents Society and Mortar Board are two senior honor societies that induct their members at Ivy Day. The Innocents Society was founded at UNL in 1903 and selects 13 members each year based on scholarship, leadership, and service to the University and the community. Mortar Board is a national senior honor society and the Black Masque Chapter was established at UNL in 1920 and selects between 24-28 members each year based on scholarship, leadership, and service. **Justine McCarty '12** was selected for the Innocents Society and **Chase Gorham '12** and **Ryan Drvol '12** were tapped into Mortar Board. There is a great deal of tradition and honor associated with both of these groups. On a side note, **Corey Drvol '07** flew in from Jacksonville, Florida to surprise his little brother at the Ivy Day ceremony. Corey and **Kristen Drvol '08** were both members of Mortar Board their senior year at UNL.



Pictured L-R: Ryan Drvol, Justine McCarty, and Chase Gorham.



Molly Hoffman '12 will be an Arizona State University senior this fall. Molly is working towards a dual major studying Global Health and Psychology. This summer Molly is interning for eight weeks in Chennai, India, where she teaches residents in schools and villages ways to protect themselves from HIV.

Morgan Olson '12 was inducted, this spring, into the William Jewell College chapter of Mortar Board, a national honor society recognizing college seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership and service. She is currently double majoring in Psychology and Acquired Critical Thought and Inquiry and minoring in Communication. Morgan is working on completing prerequisite courses for Pre-Physical Therapy with the goal of starting in a doctorate program in the summer of 2016. She stays very involved at Jewell as a member of the softball team, president of the Psi Chi Honor Society, a resident assistant, first-year mentor, and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.



This year, **Catie Zaleski '12** finished 11th overall in her third national competition at the American Forensics Association tournament, held April 6 in Portland, OR. UNO finished fifth in the nation for the third time in team history.



Hannah Richstein '14 attends Texas Christian University. She is double majoring in Astrophysics and French. Hannah has achieved the following honors during her freshman year: Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First Year Students. As a Skutt Catholic student Hannah was proud to bleed SkyHawk green. She has taken that same passion to TCU and now bleeds Horned Frog purple.



Cody Miklas '13 graduated from boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Dakota Smith '14 is at K-State in the college of Architecture Masters program, joined the SAE fraternity, and is running track as a sprinter.

Around *Skutt Catholic*

HIGHEST HONORS

Skutt Catholic's baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies are truly the highlight of the school year. Both events showcase the remarkable accomplishments of our senior class. Although there are hundreds of awards presented, some stand out as the school's most prestigious honors.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

More than one and a half million students took the 2013 PSAT test, entering them into the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Skutt Catholic High School was honored to have four National Merit Scholarship finalists this year. They are among the top 1% of all Nebraska seniors and the top 15,000 students in the nation. Included in this impressive group are:

Brittany Margritz ~ Matthew Schaffer
Jason Stratman ~ Christian Thibodeau

Skutt Catholic was also pleased to have one student achieve semi-finalist status this year. Our semi-finalist is **Brook Jablonski**.

Skutt Catholic High School was also honored to have one Commended Scholar in the National Merit Scholarship Competition this year. These scholars are in the top 50,000 scorers on the 2013 PSAT. Skutt Catholic High School's Commended Scholar is **Corey Mekelberg**.

This year Skutt Catholic had one student recognized in the National Merit competition with a National Achievement Award for Black American High School Students. Congratulations for this award goes to **William Miles**.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the top two students of the graduating class of 2015.

VALEDICTORIAN ~ **Brittany Margritz**
SALUTATORIAN ~ **Emma Sheridan**

JESSE GRIESE AWARD

This award was created in memory of Jesse Griesse who graduated from Skutt Catholic in 2001. Jesse died tragically in the summer of 2004. During his life, with his many acts of kindness and his positive spirit, Jesse touched the lives of countless people. The criteria of this award were established based on Jesse's admirable qualities and include being a student who:

- brings joy and comfort to all, adults as well as peers
- is viewed as a best friend to many
- enjoys the beauty of nature
- exemplifies the pursuit of excellence in many activities
- rejoices in the success of others
- brings out the best in others
- displays respect and loyalty to Church, family, and school

This year's Jesse Griesse Award Recipient is
Shane Miller.

SKYHAWK ACTIVITIES AWARD

The SkyHawk Activities Award recognizes one outstanding male and one outstanding female who have excelled in multiple, non-athletic, extracurricular activities throughout their careers at Skutt Catholic. The recipient must be a multi-activity letter winner or one who held significant roles in non-lettering Skutt Catholic activities and is also a positive representative of the school in and out of the classroom.

This year's male recipient of the SkyHawk Activities Award is
Matthew Schaffer.

This year's female recipient of the SkyHawk Activities Award is
Marie Wagner.



Abby Hoffman and Trey Mendlik

SKYHAWK SPIRIT AWARD

The seniors nominated for this award have been positive representatives of the school and SC activities, are in good academic standing, and contribute to the enhancement of overall school spirit.

This year's recipient of the Male SkyHawk Spirit Award is **Trey Mendlik**.

This year's recipient of the Female SkyHawk Spirit Award is **Abby Hoffman**.

V.J. AND ANGELA SKUTT AWARDS

The V.J. and Angela Skutt Awards are the highest awards given at Skutt Catholic High School and are intended to honor the most outstanding male and female graduates based on the Charisms of Skutt Catholic High School. Our Charisms, which are defined as special gifts of the Holy Spirit that characterize an individual and are used to contribute to the common good and glorify God, were established based on the lives of V.J. and Angela Skutt. These charisms are:

- personal success with integrity and responsibility
- fairness to all
- care and concern for individuals
- service to those in need of help and healing
- loyalty to religious faith
- joy and wonder in the beauty of all God's creation.

The 2015 recipient of the V.J. Skutt Award is **Joseph Devlin**.

The 2015 recipient of the Angela Skutt Award is **Ellie Carmody**.



Joseph Devlin and Ellie Carmody

LIVING THE GOSPEL AWARD

Each year, Skutt Catholic honors two graduating seniors with the Living the Gospel Award. These students, in particular, have demonstrated a commitment to serving others.

Throughout her four years at Skutt Catholic, **Brittany Margritz** has volunteered with Siena Francis House and Habitat for Humanity, participated in SkyHawks in the City and service trips to Rosebud Indian Reservation and Puerto Rico, and volunteered for the past three years at Lakeside Hospital.

Andrew Olnes has volunteered with programs including Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, VSP Club, Project Linus, and in his parish and school. He also was instrumental in creating the new Kids Against Hunger student group at Skutt Catholic, helping raise over \$4,000 and packaging over 13,000 meals.

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The Skutt Catholic Athletic Committee started the tradition of naming one outstanding male and one outstanding female athlete of the year from the senior class. Several senior athletes are nominated by the coaches with the following criteria: multi-sport letter winner, a positive representative of the school in and out of the classroom, and someone who earned conference or state honors in at least one sport.

This year's Male Student Athlete of the Year is **Kyle O'Neil**.

This year's Female Student Athlete of Year is **Teresa Kaiser**.

Around Skutt Catholic

Our Legacy Activity and Sports

Success is often defined as a person or group that achieves a desired aim. There are so many ways Skutt Catholic has shown success this year in activities and athletics. Many will look at our state titles in football, wrestling (dual and individual tournament), speech, journalism, and non-NSAA dance and chess. Some will look at our state runner-up teams in girls golf, volleyball, girls tennis, and boys soccer. Any way you look at it, success is always the result of hard work and dedication given by our students, coaches, and sponsors in every sport and activity at Skutt Catholic. SkyHawk activities and athletics are premier programs. State championship and runner-up trophies and medals are symbols of our many accomplishments. We should be proud of these symbols, but the memories of the work put into the accomplishment will last forever. Below you will read about some of the winter and spring accomplishments in Skutt Catholic activities.

Winter Activities Accolades and Achievements 2014 – 2015



Amanda Pohlman

Poetry out Loud

Amanda Pohlman was crowned state champion for the second year in a row, after reading the poem *There Are Birds Here* by Jamall May. Activity sponsor Sherri Hoyer accompanied Amanda to Washington D.C. for nationals.

Robotics

The Robotics Team had 40 students on five teams this year. About 25% of our student participants are girls and we have more teams than any other Catholic high school in Nebraska. Our senior robot won the programming skills award at one tournament this year and four of our robots qualified for the Nebraska State Robotics Tournament. Our all-girls team won the Perseverance Award at the state tournament. Our students hosted a tournament at Skutt Catholic for grade school students and mentored a middle school team during the season. All four of our graduating seniors from last year are currently studying a STEM career in college and many of our current seniors are planning on majoring in a STEM related field after graduation.

Girls Basketball

The girls finished the season with a 14 – 10 record. The girls team was the regular season RCC co-champions with Beatrice. **Tara Cannon** was named All River Cities Conference.

Cheer

Cheer had a positive year finishing second at regionals and competing at nationals in Florida for their stunting division. At the state competition they finished fourth in sideline and fifth in non-tumbling.

Vivace

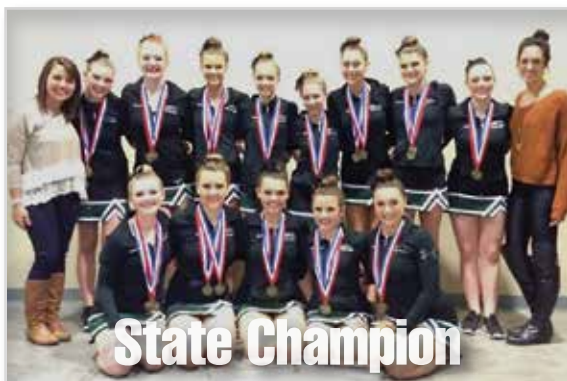
Vivace had a successful year against some of the best AA schools in Iowa and Nebraska. At Norris High School, they finished first in Class A, were awarded Best Homeroom, and finished fifth runner-up in the evening finals. They were awarded their fourth consecutive gold trophy from the Nebraska Choral Director's Association. They also finished second in Class 3A and placed fourth runner-up in the evening finals at Sioux City East.

Boys Basketball

The boys finished the season with a 16 – 8 record. **Nick Bouda** and **Wills Wallrap** were named All River Cities Conference. **Wills Wallrap** was named to the Lincoln Journal Star All State Team.

Engineering Team

The Engineering Team had 20 students in the program this year, with one-third of the team being girls. Each year the team participates in a competition co-sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers and the Peter Kiewit Institute. For their project this year, the students chose to develop a plan to re-invent the Skutt Catholic media center. After working closely with our administration, faculty, students, and with the guidance of our professional engineer mentors, the students developed a plan to completely modernize our current media center. The students presented this plan on March 26 and finished fifth overall out of 14 teams. They earned a total of seven medals – five silver (applied science, innovation, research, technology, proposal) and two gold (teamwork and presentation) Many of our current seniors are planning on majoring in architecture or engineering in college.

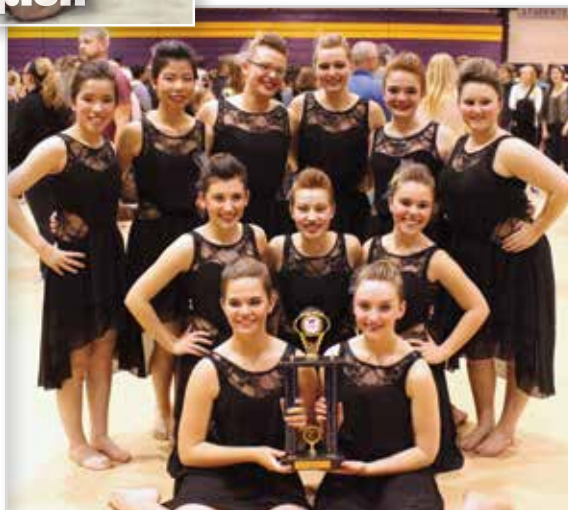


The Dance Team

Winter Guard

The Skutt Catholic Winter Guard had a very successful season and earned a state runner-up finish. The girls had an amazing season and performed their art with skill and grace.

2015 Skutt Catholic Winterguard Team placed second in division at Heartland Winters Arts Assoc. Championship



Winter Guard

Pictured L-R: Bottom row – Mekenna Schmidt and Samantha Lierz, Middle row – Brianna Siracuse, Lauren West, and Jess Thull, Top row – Ann Belfiore, Ruby Ding, Anna Korensky, Kirsten Langel, Christina Thibodeau, and Rachel Podraza

Chess

The team had an exceptional year, as they won the very large Omaha Central invite and won the high school state championship for the second year in a row. The team consists of **Trent McMarrow**, **Matthew Schaffer**, **Griffin Schering**, **Hunter Warder**, **Jeff Bartels**, **Christian Healey**, **Josh Wilson**, and **Christian Jasper**, and is coached by Kari Cronican.

Wrestling

The team had another banner year finishing the season as tournament and dual state champions. This is the 17th title in 18 years and the third straight dual championship. State place winners were 106-**Van Schmidt** 2nd, 113-**Korbin Meink** 1st, 120-**Jeff Heinz** 3rd, 132-**Frankie Deloa** 3rd, 152-**Curt Randall** 3rd, 182-**Brendon Wheeler** 6th, 220-**Caden Reimers** 6th

Dance

Dance finished fifth at regionals and competed at nationals in Florida in Pom and Jazz. At the state competition they won state championships in both Jazz and Pom for the eighth year in a row.

College Signings from the Class of 2015

Frank Barajas Deloa
Doane Wrestling

Darya Kaboli-Nejad
Oregon Softball

Katie Perkins
Morningside Softball

Susie Baca
Lake Forest College Soccer

Adam Gottschalk
UNO Soccer

Christian Healy
Nebraska Wesleyan Soccer

Monica Hruby
Menlo Volleyball

Isaiah Ramsey
Iowa Western Community College
Football

Caitlin Rerucha
Western Illinois University Soccer

Courtney Stodola
University of South Dakota Soccer

Jeff Bartels
Morningside College Soccer

Teresa Kaiser
Rollins College Tennis

Kaelie Lenz
Mount Marty College Cross Country

Claire Knust
Quinnipiac University Volleyball

Brennan Myers
Morningside College Baseball

Kyle O'Neill
University of Nebraska Kearney
Baseball

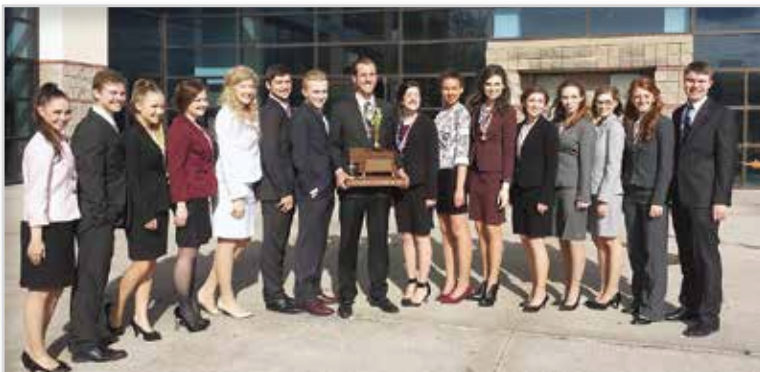
Luke Pavel
Northwestern College Baseball

Caden Reimers
Peru State College Football

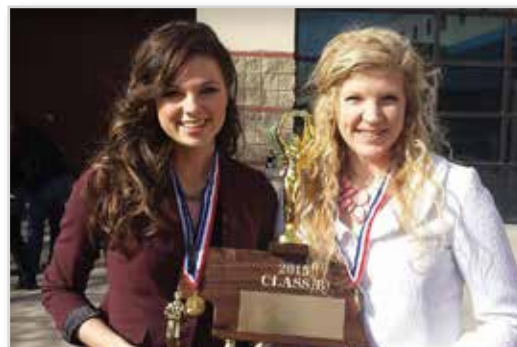
Wills Wallrapp
Benedictine University Basketball

Ben Wenke
University of Nebraska Kearney
Baseball

Around *Skutt Catholic*



The Skutt Catholic Speech Team Class B State Champions - fourth year in a row
Pictured L-R: Amanda Pohlman, Matthew Polhman, Abby Nicholas, Lauren Gehrki, Julianne Faulconer, Shane Miller, Evan Meduna, Cole Scott, Gabby Doue, Sarah Zaleski, Grace Smith, Mary Ninneman, Abby Hoffman, Alexas Narke, Sammi Turco, and Jack Hilgert



Grace Smith and Julianne Faulconer were the 2015 Class B Nebraska State Champions in each of their Divisions. Grace won Poetry and Julianne won Entertainment Speaking.

Speech

The team enjoyed another successful run and capped it off with their fourth state championship in a row! Quapeat! Individual results: **Grace Smith** poetry state champion, **Julianne Faulconer** state champion entertainment, **Sammi Turco** state runner-up Entertainment, **Lauren Gehrki** third place Informative, **Abby Hoffman** state runner-up Serious Prose, **Gabby Doue**, **Grace Smith**, **Sara Zaleski** third in OID, **Gabby Doue** state runner-up in Persuasive, **Abby Hoffman** third and Mary Ninneman fourth in Humorous Interpretation, **Cole Scott**, **Sammi Turco** state runner-up in Duet Acting.

Swimming

While swimming and diving are individual sports, no one could accomplish what they do without their teammates behind them. The girls were 20th out of 21 teams that scored points (Remember, many schools don't make it to finals and most schools don't make it to state at all.) The boys placed 17th out of 25 teams with 34 points. Individual results (finalist only) **Kara Luetzinger** placed 22nd IN THE STATE in diving. Our finalists include: Boys 200 medley relay **Jackson Thompson**, **Blake Phillips**, **John Paul Rigatuso**, and **Jacob Chekal**, **Jackson Thompson** in the 100 fly, **Anna Capoun** in the 100 free (school record time) and 200 free (school record time), **Jackson Thompson** in the 100 backstroke, and the boys 400 freestyle relay **Jackson Thompson**, **Blake Phillips**, **John Paul Rigatuso**, and **Jacob Chekal**.



Pictured L-R: front row: Marcia Bredar (Monica Baxter's sister), Diane Mead, Anna Capoun, Macy Damewood, Maggie Zach, Grace Mergens, Emily Baratta, Hannah Klemme, Allison West, Anne Watts
L-R back row: Rick Mead, Monsignor James Gilg, Hannah Pachunka, Jordan Graham, Monica Baxter, Dick Baines, and Sara Zaleski not pictured: Haley Siemers

Light of Service Completes Stained Glass Window Series

The celebration and blessing of Monica Baxter's Art III students' stained glass window, *Light of Service*, took place right before the installment of this third and final window. On hand for the event were: Rick and Diane Mead who funded the project, Dick Baines (founder of Rainbow Glass) who installed the window, and Msgr. James Gilg (founding president of Skutt Catholic) who blessed the artwork. *Light of Service* completes the trilogy of windows that grace the front entrance of the building. The themes of faith, knowledge, and service are depicted in this beautiful stained glass series.



Asst. Musical Director Chris Storm and Muscial Director Mark Schniteler



Max Korensky and Matt Pohlman

NHSTA 2015

For the second year in a row, the *Nebraska High School Theatre Awards (NHSTA)* has named Skutt Catholic's theatre and vocal music department as one of the winners of the Outstanding High School Musical Theatre Productions award. Skutt Catholic's production of *Big Fish* was the musical that took home the honor. *Big Fish* leading man, **Matthew Pohlman**, was named as one of the winners of the *Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role* award. As a production winner, Skutt Catholic performed at the awards ceremony and Matthew performed as a lead winner. The award ceremony took place in front of an enthusiastic audience on June 11 at the beautiful Holland Performing Arts Center in downtown Omaha.



Cast members of Big Fish

Faculty Baby Talk



Brandon and Stephanie Crainer welcomed their son Pierce Connell Crainer on Jan. 11, 2015 at 6:16 a.m. Pierce decided it was time to make his debut with the score tied and about 30 seconds left to go in a Creighton game. He was truly born a Jays fan! Despite being four weeks early, he weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great!



Susie Dobel Leuschen '03 and Brian welcomed Caroline Thomas Leuschen into the world Jan. 6, 2015 at 7:28 p.m. She came in measuring 20 inches long and weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. She is happy and healthy, and she is teaching her parents lots of new things....constantly!

On Nov. 12, 2014, the good Lord blessed our family with a beautiful baby boy whom we named Bartolo Gus (Bartolo after my great-grandfather and Gus after my father). Our family has been richly blessed and for that we give Glory to God. I pray that the entire Skutt Catholic family, particularly our students, experience the love and joy of our heavenly Father this summer and return renewed and refreshed for the beginning of a new school year.

Ad Jesu per Mariam, The Zavaletta's



Caroline Thomas Leuschen

†
SKUTT CATHOLIC

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Spring Season Awards and Accolades 2014 – 2015

Girls Soccer

The girls finished the season 14 - 7 ranked number three, with a loss in the state semi-finals to eventual champion Elkhorn South. The team qualified for the state tournament for the 19th year in a row and won the River City Conference regular season and conference championship. It was the 11th conference championship in a row won by the team. **Caitlin Rerucha**, **Jessica Schlautman**, **Jordan Walsh** and **Lizzie Ninneman** were named to the all conference team. **Caitlin Rerucha** and **Jordan Walsh** were named to the all state team.

Boys Golf

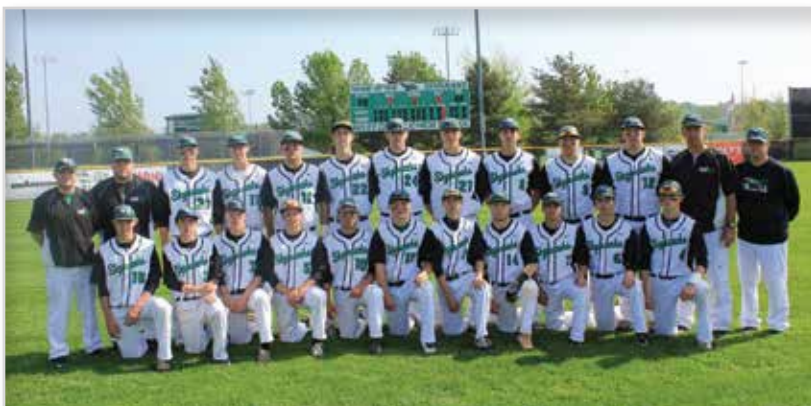
The team finished first place at the Skutt Catholic invite, first place at the Hooper/Logan View invite with **Ben Becker** finishing second, first place at the Millard North invite, first place at the Elkhorn/Brownell/Gross Catholic quad, conference runner-up, third place at districts, and fifth at the state meet lead by **Adam Eich's** ninth place finish. Eleven team members earned 26 top 15 or better individual medals this season.



Some team members of this year's State Runner-up Soccer Team
L-R: Jeff Bartels, Christian Healy, Jonathan Vos, Adam Gottschalk, and Trey Mendlik

Boys Soccer

The team finished with a 13-5 record winning the river cities conference title and a class B state runner up trophy. They followed up the conference title by beating Norris and Gretna in state before falling to Columbus Scotus in the state finals. **Adam Gottschalk** and **Matt Harrison** were named first team all conference. **Adam Gottschalk** and **Trey Mendick** were named to the all state team.



Baseball

Baseball

The baseball team started off slow, but ended the year in a fury, capturing the conference and district championship and getting to the third day of the state tournament before losing to the two teams in the championship game. They were lead by all conference members, **Ryan Moritz**, **Mojo Hagge**, and **Kyle O'Neill**. **Kyle O'Neill**, **Mojo Hagge**, and **Ryan Moritz** were named as all state players.

Journalism

The journalism team had their best year ever. Journalism is an NSAA event. Congratulations to the following individuals, as well as the overall accomplishment of the team for winning Skutt Catholic's first state journalism title: **Kayley Anderson** and **Michaela Farley** - second place/In-depth Newspaper Reporting, **Gabby Giesler** and **Ryan Mendick** - sixth place/ In-depth Newspaper Reporting, **Tom Hermanek** - third place/Headline Writing, **Hannah Klemme** - second place/Column Writing, second place /Headline Writing, **Paige Ourada** - first place/Headline Writing, fourth place - Editorial Writing, **Luke Pavel** - fourth place/Newspaper Layout, **Rachel Podraza** - first place/ Newspaper Layout, **Max Korensky** - first place/Editorial Cartooning, **Evan Meduna** - fourth place/Photo Illustration, **Abby Nicholas** - sixth place/ Photo Illustration, **Sammy Laham** - third place/ Photo Illustration, third place - Advertising, **Suzanne Onkka** - Sixth place/ Yearbook Layout, fourth place/ Yearbook Sports Feature Writing, **Syd Rhen**, **Maddie Jarosik**, **Fran Romano**: fourth place/ Yearbook Theme Development. Beyond the individual awards, the Journalism students were thrilled to bring home the first state Journalism title in school history.



Journalism wins the state title for the first time in SC history! Sitting: Evan Meduna, Girls crouching, L-R: Abby Nicholas, Heather Schumacher, Maddie Jarosik, Suzanne Onkka, Sammy Laham, Fran Romano, and Syd Rhen, Next row, standing, (L - R): Mr. Joe Elliott, Ryan Mendick, Hannah Klemme, Kayley Anderson, and Max Korensky, Back row, standing, (L - R): Luke Pavel, Gabby Giesler, Rachel Podraza, Paige Ourada, Michaela Farley, and Tom Hermanek



Rachel Podraza '15 (in glasses) and Paige Ourada '15 show off their individual gold metals they won in their skill performances at the Nebraska State Journalism finals in Norfolk, NE on April 27, 2015. Skutt Catholic won their first overall championship in Class B at the same contest featuring Newspaper and Yearbook skills.

Boys and Girls Track

The track team had a good season, with some tough weather. The boys qualified four athletes for the state meet: **John Paul Rigatuso** discus, **Jake Schmit** discus (district champion), **Jacob Baumert** two mile, and **Trevor Schulte** 200 meter. The girls qualified **Maddie Hasz** in both hurdle races (district champion 100 hurdles, and school record), **Caley Barker** 300 hurdles, the 4 x 800 meter relay (**Kaelie Lenz**, **Abbey Lenz**, **Sydney Reeves**, **Kelli Zavadil**), **Kelli Zavadil** mile run, **Kristin McGonigal** long jump, and **Abbey Lenz** 800 meter run. **Maddie Hasz** finished fourth in the state in the 100 meter hurdles.

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Girls Tennis

The girls' tennis team has had another impressive run, capturing invitational titles at Westside, Millard West, and the conference championship where they won all four divisions. The team finished as the state runner-up for 2015. Individual champions were #2 singles **Johnna Lowe** and #2 doubles team of **Marin Laferla** and **Elia Healy**. Individual state runner-up was **Teresa Kaiser** at #1 singles.



Girls Tennis

Pictured L-R: Assistant Coach Chase Peterson, Marin Laferla, Elia Healy, Teresa Kaiser, Bianca Lowe, Alex Rieke, Johnna Lowe, and Coach Sheryl Vaughn.

Finally, Skutt Catholic has won the 2014-2015 Nebraska School Activities Association All-Activities Award, The U.S. Cellular Cup, for both the All-School and Boys Divisions in Class B. Our school placed first receiving 710 points in the All-School Division and first with 397.5 points in the Boys Division.

The U.S. Cellular Cup program, underwritten entirely by U.S. Cellular, recognizes NSAA member high schools having the most successful interscholastic activities programs in the state each year.

This year Skutt Catholic had five NSAA championships and earned U.S. Cellular Cup points in a total of 15 NSAA programs this year.

Jeremy Moore
Athletic/Activities Director

Trap Shooting Team

Congratulation to the Trap Shooting team for their results at the state trap tournament this year in Doniphan, NE.



Skutt Catholic SkyHawk Trapshooting Squad #1 consisting of Nathan Schmidt, Christian Jasper, Noah Mueller, Garrett Giesler, and Brennan Jones had a very successful season and won numerous awards. As an individual, Nathan Schmidt placed third out of nearly 1,000 high school shooters at the Cornhusker State trapshooting meet after breaking 174 of 175 targets from the 16-yard position. Austin Lowry (not pictured) placed first at the Cornhusker High School State Trapshooting competition from the 20/21 yard line breaking 72 of 75 targets.



Skutt Catholic SkyHawk Ladies squad made up of Miranda Scheerger, Ashley Engle, Francesca Romano, McKenna Schmidt, and Judy Kuo placed fourth out of 24 female squads at the Cornhusker State trapshooting meet from the 16-yard position. Francesca also won several individual awards during competitions this season. The team as a whole consisted of 16 SkyHawks who competed exceptionally well against schools with much larger teams. We are very proud of each of them and their efforts!!

Wall of Honor recipients from the class of 2015

Grace Smith

State Champion in Poetry
Interpretation
(Senior Year - 2015)

Katie Pohlman

State Champion in Persuasive
Speaking (Junior Year - 2014)

Abby Hoffman

State Champion in Poetry
Interpretation (Junior Year -
2014)

Sammi Turco

State Champion in
Entertainment Speaking
(Sophomore Year -2013,
Junior Year - 2014)

Marie Wagner

All State Band 2014

Nate Keane

All State Band 2013

Judy Kuo

All State Band 2014

Matt Miner

All State Chorus 2014

Katie Pohlman

All State Musical 2014

Darya Kaboli-Nejad

All State Softball 2013

Kyle O'Neill

All State Football, Second
Team Super State 2014,
2015, All State Baseball 2014,
2015

Isaiah Ramsey

All State Football 2014

DJ McGargill

All State Football 2014

Hunter Smith

All State Football 2014

Thomas Pivovar

All State Football 2014

Nathan Purcell

All State Football 2014

Skylar Lowe

All State Tennis 2014

Claire Knust

All State Volleyball, Second
Team Super State 2014

Wills Wallrapp

All State Basketball 2014
and 2015, all tournament
team 2014

Teresa Kaiser

State Champion #1 Singles
2014

Bianca Lowe

State Champion #1 Doubles
2014

Marin Laferla

State Champion #2 Doubles
2015

Ellie Carmody

State Champion #2 Doubles
2013

Alex Rieke

State Champion #1 Doubles
2014

Caitlin Rerucha

All State Soccer 2014, 2015

Adam Gottschalk

All State Soccer 2015

Trey Mendick

All State Soccer 2015

Rachel Podraza

State Champion in
Newspaper Layout

Paige Ourada

State Champion in Headline
Writing

Brittany Margritz

35 ACT

Jason Stratman

34 ACT

Matthew Schaffer

34 ACT

Mary Ninneman

34 ACT

Sini Chen

34 ACT

Meara Sedlak

35 ACT

2014-15 Annual Appeal

The 2014-15 Annual Appeal wrapped up on Tues., June 30. Our heartfelt thanks to **Chuck and Christine Stevens** for chairing this yearlong fundraiser. Over \$170,000 was raised through the appeal effort; the budgeted goal for the appeal was \$125,000. Thank you for your generosity in helping us reach and surpass our goal. These funds not only help keep our financial assistance program robust, but also assist in paying for facility improvements.

Other Advancement Updates

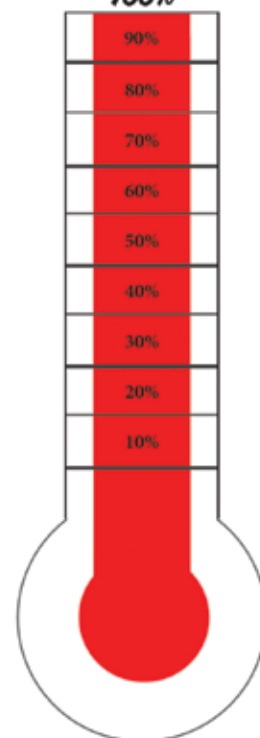
Thank you for supporting Skutt Catholic during **Omaha Gives!** We received 60 gifts during Omaha Community Foundation's 24-hour online fundraiser held on May 20. Over \$6,000 was donated to the school. Omaha Gives! dollars will also support our summer facility improvement projects.

The Advancement department has received a challenge from an anonymous donor. \$100,000 will be gifted to the school's endowment upon the collection of a matching \$100,000. Per the donor's direction, the matching funds will also be distributed to our endowment. Although building a healthy endowment program is a difficult task when donation dollars are typically gobbled up by current needs, allocating endowed funds is an important discipline in securing a healthy financial future for this institution.

The **Paul Korth Memorial Father's Day 5K** was held on Sat., June 20, on the Skutt Catholic campus. Paul Korth, (father of **Meghan '10** and **Mikayla Korth '12** and avid SkyHawk fan) passed away this past January from a neurological condition called Adrenomyeloneuropathy. His daughters, along with his wife Chris and Dan and Chris Nordstrom, organized this run to honor Paul and to benefit The United Leukodystrophy Foundation as well as the Skutt Catholic Athletic department.



Annual Appeal
GOAL Reached!
100%



Lights! Camera! Action! ALUMNI ACTION that is!

COURT ACTION

This past March Skutt Catholic was honored to welcome many alumni back for the annual Alumni Basketball Tournament. This year's event included teams from the graduating classes of 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2014.

The final game paired the class of 2010 against the class of 2007. In the end, it was the class of 2007 winning it all, taking home bragging rights and championship shirts.



2007 Champions

FIELD ACTION

On May 30, Skutt Catholic's Moylan Field was the site of the second Annual Coed Alumni Soccer Tournament. With just over 30 alumni participating, recent graduates and not-so-recent graduates alike, formed two teams and played one big game with no real winner declared! Definitely not a day to take one's soccer too seriously. For some, it was their first chance to play at Moylan on the turf field.

Many stuck around for dinner and took the opportunity to walk the halls again, to see what things had changed and what remained the same. We hope to see this event continue to grow in the years ahead, as Skutt Catholic has a very proud soccer legacy.

10-YEAR REUNION ACTION

Skutt Catholic's class of 2005 celebrated its 10-year reunion on Sat., June 20. Many gathered at Ak-Sar-Ben's Spirit Word for a chance to catch up on the lives of their former classmates. Even though social media does a tremendous job of keeping alumni connected, it doesn't take the place of a hello and a hug from a friend you haven't spent time with in years. There is nothing quite like hearing an old familiar voice tell a tale from your younger days, and hearing that laugh or silly giggle you remember all too well.

Thank you to all who were able to attend. For those who weren't, your ears were probably ringing, as you were mentioned and remembered in the conversation as well!

Class of 2006, you're up next! But, you will have to share the spotlight next year as Skutt Catholic celebrates another first, a 20-year reunion! The first graduating class of 1996 is already gearing up for their 20-year reunion next summer. Stay tuned and check the website and your email for updates.

HOMECOMING ACTION

SkyHawk Alumni and their families are invited to come home on Fri., Sept. 18. Come back to Moylan Field and cheer on the SkyHawks as they battle the Crimson Pride of Roncalli during their homecoming game.

The family celebration will take place before and during the game, right on the track of Moylan Stadium. Lots of food, fun, and friends are sure to be in store for the event, all at no cost to you. Clear your calendar now and plan to attend. Check the website and your email as more information is posted.

Bring yourself and your family back to your high school. Gather with the SkyHawk community as we show our strong school spirit!

COURSE ACTION

The 22nd Annual Flight For Excellence Golf Tournament was held on Fri., June 19. Over 100 Skutt Catholic alumni, family, and friends teed it up to Benefit the Birdie! Great food, good competition, and warm weather all added up to a wonderful event.



Golf Champions:
Hunter Bolding, Ryan McQuillan,
and Tim Carlson



Raising over \$4,000 for the Skutt Catholic Alumni Association, this event provides funding for our Homecoming Family Celebration, various alumni tournaments, and the Alumni Ambassador Scholarships.



Terry, Christian, Ryan, and Elia Healy

UPDATE ACTION

If you are an alumni and are not connected to our community, get on board! Check facebook, twitter, and the website regularly for updates. Many of our events are communicated through email. Please ensure we have your updated contact information by sending it to aelohaus@schools.archomaha.org and we will make certain you are always in the loop.



Monsignor James Gilg

The MONSIGNOR'S Soirée

We may not all have wings, but we can all take off for Angel Flight! Please join us for Angel Flight 2015, the annual dinner and auction event benefitting Skutt Catholic High School. The Monsignor's Soirée will take place on Sat., Sept. 26.

This year we are honoring our founding president, Monsignor James Gilg, as he retires after 50 years as an educator! Msgr. Gilg's vision and leadership fostered the SkyHawk culture of community, caring, and excellence in place today. At this special Angel Flight, we toast an exceptional man as we raise funds to ensure the financial stability and future of this institution.

Donations and sponsorships are already coming in to support this year's Angel Flight. Lottery tickets will go on sale soon, followed by the mailing of invitations.

This year's chairpersons, Rick and Terry Dischler and Beth Eliason invite you to join in the celebration. They, along with their committees, began planning in March for the event and are very excited as the final few months approach.

More than anything else, Angel Flight is an evening of joy. Year after year, it has been a celebration of friendships built while building this amazing community we have. A time to see how far we have come and the bright future that lies ahead. An evening to welcome, in a very special way, the new families coming in to the Skutt Catholic family. A way for our alumni families to stay connected to an environment that played an exceptional role in their lives and the lives of their children. Look for your invitation in the mail, and get ready to be joyful with us!

Much work is still to come, so it is not too late to get involved. Contact Angie Lohaus at aelohaus@schools.archomaha.org or (402) 333-0818 to volunteer.

†
SKUTT CATHOLIC



There is no place on earth quite like Haiti. This summer Skutt Catholic organized a mission trip to Haiti which included current students and alumni. We quickly learned that no amount of preparation, or reading, or informational meetings could prepare us for the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings you experience in Haiti.

Our group consisted of 15 SkyHawks, led by our chaplain Fr. Jeff Mollner, alumni Connor Augustyn '09, and myself, Rachel Twist '06. We spent seven days in Port au Prince, working with the Missionaries of Charity. The sisters have a lot of ministries in Haiti, but we stayed in Port au Prince assisting them in their children's home, their wound clinic, and a hospital that is referred to as the 'Home for the Dying.'

The majority of our time was spent at the Children's Home where malnourished and sick children and infants are brought by their families when they have nowhere else to turn. Many of the children looked younger than they were due to their small bodies and delayed muscle development. The children were fed, clothed, bathed, and monitored by the sisters and the other women who worked at the home. The work load of caring for over 40 malnourished children was overwhelming. As volunteers, our job was to help feed the children, change them when necessary, and love them. The children spent the majority of the day in their cribs, but when the volunteers walked in and the babies caught our eyes, their arms were immediately outstretched, reaching for someone to pick them up and love them. For hours on end, we would hold the babies, sing to them, pray for them, and love them as best we could. The parents of the children would often come and visit them throughout the day, so we got the chance to meet the whole family and watch the pride and joy on the parent's faces when they saw their babies. We also saw the pain of having to leave their children each day, so again, we held the children and loved them with our whole hearts.

During our time at the Children's Home, Fr. Jeff baptized four children. Five of our students and alumni became the godparents to these babies. These baptisms were beautiful moments that brought everyone to tears and truly filled the hearts of everyone with the joy of God's ever-growing love and salvation.

Perhaps the most difficult but moving experience of the trip was the day we spent at the Home for the Dying. This hospital was located near the poorest slum in Port au Prince and was a place for those whom further medical treatment was no longer possible. The patients staying there included the elderly but also many



young people as well, including some children. Some had AIDS, some had Tuberculosis, some were dying of cancer, but we met some of the most hope-filled, grateful people we have ever met. The day was spent painting finger nails, rubbing lotions, playing card games, and making bracelets with the dying. The smiles and laughter was a sharp contrast to the reality of the illnesses and suffering going on with each person. Fr. Jeff anointed one woman who was brought in while we were there, clearly suffering greatly. Praying with her was comforting, healing, and powerful. Fr. Jeff had the chance to pray with so many of the patients nearing the end of their life. The power of faith and prayer carried us all through the difficult day.

On our final full day in Haiti, we celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with the sisters, their students, the orphans, and many locals. The celebration began with a vibrant mass, which was followed by a procession through the streets of Port au Prince with the Blessed Sacrament. Even in the midst of great suffering and poverty there was an immense joy in the people as they walked, prayed, and sang with Jesus. We were reminded how powerful Presence can be. We may not have been able to talk with every one that we met, but it was clear that each member of our group was touched by the beautiful people of Haiti. We learned the power of a smile, a touch, a prayer, or simply just being with another person.

The week was hot, often coupled with overwhelming smells, bug bites, and not enough sleep, but it was one of the most memorable and meaningful weeks any of us had ever experienced. We were sad to leave Haiti and the wonderful Missionaries of Charity, but we know we left a little piece of our hearts on the island and went home with clear picture of how Christ continues to love in the world.

Rachel Twist '06



Front row L-R:
Wallis Cronin '15
Sydney Masching '14
Grace Smith '15
Susie Baca '15
Julianne Falcouner
(senior)

Middle row L-R:
Ji Mun (senior)
Sara Zaleski (senior)
Sarah Bloomingdale
(senior)

Back Row L-R...
Fr. Jeff Mollner
Connor Augustyn '09
Rachel Twist '06
Brittany Margrit '15
Liz Yosick '13
Bailey Pfeifer '15
John Martinez '13

In Memoriam

The following names are family and friends of the Skutt Catholic community who have passed away since Jan. 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.

Rhonda Bishop - mother of Meagan Bishop '13 and Paige Bishop '15

Miles Costello - paternal grandfather of Erin Costello '99

Frank Dolphens Sr. - maternal grandfather of Michelle (Mimick) Phillips '99, Amanda Mimick '01, Matthew Mimick '03, and paternal grandfather of Lindsay Dolphens '07, Makayla Dolphens '10, and Frank Dolphens '12

Robert (Bob) Edwards III - uncle of Rachel Skradski '06, Rebecca Skradski '11, and Tommie Skradski '18

Patricia Lee Fitzgerald - maternal grandmother of Peter Quinn '17

Darlene Kiser - paternal grandmother of Conor Kiser '02 and Kiley Kiser '05

Paul Korth - father of Meghan Korth '10 and Mikala Korth '13

Bernadette Kosch - maternal grandmother of Riley Schumacher '17

Carol Lynch - paternal grandmother of Sean Lynch II '16

Robert Mancuso Sr. - paternal grandfather of Michael Mancuso Jr. '16

Vincent Mangiameli - paternal grandfather of Lauren Mangiameli '15 and Sarah Mangiameli '18

Shirley Marcil - mother of Johnna Eck (faculty member), maternal grandmother of Haley Eck '13, and paternal grandmother of Tommy Poledna '17

Otto Kirsch McGilvrey - father of Ruth Kros (faculty member) and maternal grandfather of Grant Kros '12 and Eric Kros '16

Dolores Murphy - mother of former Admissions Director Marie Williamson, maternal grandmother of Caroline Williamson Molland '00, Shannon Williamson Pospisal '02, Christine Williamson '05, Mark Carlson '02, Timothy Carlson '05, Katie Carlson '08, Brandon Boetel '06, and Connor Boetel '15

Marvin Olnes Sr. - paternal grandfather of A.J. Olnes '15

Elta Olsen - paternal grandmother of Amber Johnson (faculty member)

Donald Ostronic - maternal grandfather of Cole Scott '15

Robert Polodna - paternal grandfather of Angela Polodna '03 and Brian Polodna '07

James (Jim) Preister - maternal grandfather of Andrea Sims '18

Jeffrey Quinn - father of Morgan Quinn '16

Irene Reeves - paternal great grandmother of Sydney Reeves '18

Marolyn Roza - paternal grandmother of Zach Roza '18

Donald Schumacher - father of Kevin Schumacher (faculty member) and paternal grandfather of Elisabeth Schumacher '14

William Shipman - father of Lisa Salerno (faculty member)

Mildred Simek - maternal grandmother of Meghan Spellman '17

Jim Smith - father-in-law of Lucy Smith (staff member), paternal grandfather of Jessica Smith Charlsen '00, Mike Smith '03, Katie Smith Shanahan '05, Maggie Smith '10, and maternal grandfather to Nikki Koley '09, Ned Koley '10, Keri Koley '11, and Creighton Koley '14

Mary Sully - paternal grandmother of Louis Sully '19

†
SKUTT CATHOLIC

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Alumni networking connections pay off!

The saying "We don't meet people by accident. They are meant to cross our path for a reason." sums up the last year perfectly. Nearly one year ago, **Erin Mutchie Schumacher**, real estate agent with Nebraska Realty and former SC teacher with multiple family ties to Skutt Catholic, took the time out of her busy schedule to show us a home that I thought would be perfect to transform into a small assisted living residence, a dream I had long had. During the tour and conversation she asked if I had talked with **Tom and Joyce Ruffino (Nate '99)** from ComfortCare Homes. We soon got in touch. Rather than going to 'pick Tom's brain' like I had planned to do, we were quickly on the path to figuring out a way I could purchase their business. My dad, **Mike McMahon, former SC Athletic Director (Erin '02, Ryan, Andy '08)** had recently retired and had the pleasure of listening and helping me explore the possibilities. Having worked as an assisted living administrator I knew the business, but I did not have the slightest idea of how to purchase one. That led us to enlist the help of our many Skutt Catholic connections. Along the way, we visited with **Kyle Schlautman (Trent '07, Todd '08, Jenna '12, Jessica '17)**, CPA and owner of Anderson & Schlautman, **Jeff Stokes '02** Legal Council at Treetop Ventures, **Leti Wees (Jeff '06 and Joe '08)** Vice President of Operations at 1st State Bank, and **Marlon Lofgren (Brenden '15)** shareholder with Koley Jessen, P.C., L.L.O.

www.skuttcatholic.com

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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.



The McMahon Family ~ Summer 2014

One year later, in May 2015, my mother Jill McMahon, **my husband Brett ('02)** and I are the new owners/operators of ComfortCare Homes. Our homes, located in three Omaha subdivisions, house six to eight residents and provide care in a residential setting for those that suffer from dementia and other memory related disorders.

Never underestimate the Power of the Skyhawk!
Erin McMahon Render '02

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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