

Fr. Tobias Letak '08

Hello, SkyHawk family!

It is with joy that I am able to write to you as a newly ordained Catholic priest! After a long period of discernment and formation in seminary (schooling directed towards the priesthood), through God's grace, I was ordained a priest, along with five other men, on Sat., June 4, 2016, at St. Cecilia Cathedral, by His Excellency Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha. My first assignment from the Archbishop is to be the associate pastor at St. James parish in Omaha, which I will take up beginning July 1, and I look forward to seeing you SkyHawk alumni and fans who are there! Please keep me in your prayers as I begin my priestly ministry.

The first few days of my priesthood were a rush! The ordination in itself was a powerful experience. With so many men being ordained priests, the Cathedral was very full! Following the ordination ceremony, I had the opportunity to offer many "first blessings" as a priest, a longstanding tradition for newly ordained priests. I was also able to celebrate my ordination with a reception dinner, at which I was very happy to welcome Skutt Catholic's own current president Mr. John McMahon, who gave a heartwarming speech on behalf of the SkyHawk community. During these moments, and at my first Mass the following day, there were a number of priests present who have spent some time at Skutt Catholic: Msgr. James Gilg, Fr. Andrew Sohm, and Fr. Jeff Mollner. Fr. Patrick Harrison, the new chaplain of Skutt Catholic, was also present.

For those of you who are curious about how I ended up becoming a priest, I am happy to share a short version of my vocation story. Every vocation story, of course,



The Letak family

begins and is permeated with God's grace, and for me, that gracious action began shortly before my time at Skutt Catholic. I encountered Jesus in a new and personal way at a Steubenville Youth Conference before my freshman year at Skutt Catholic, and from then on I was more attentive to His voice. While I was far from being decided on pursuing a vocation to the priesthood, those of you who knew me probably knew that I was at least thinking about it during my later years in high school.

After my graduation from Skutt Catholic in 2008, I chose to pursue a career in computer science and mathematics, following the trajectory I had set for myself by taking classes with Mrs. Beckie Rago, Mr. Kevin Kleinsasser, Mrs. Candy Higgins, and Mrs. Shirley Hasche. Together with a few other Skutt Catholic alumni, I attended the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During my first year at UNL, I spent a lot of time at the university's Newman Center and kept growing in my faith through retreats, Masses, and Bible studies offered by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Throughout that year the thought of the priesthood never left me and, unable to resist God's persistence, I decided at the end of the first year to enter seminary. I finished my undergraduate degree at St. John Vianney seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN (with a different major – philosophy and Catholic studies), and then I was asked to spend the next four years studying theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University while living at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy.

During my time in Italy, I had the opportunity to experience the universal Catholic church in a new way. In addition to spending time with my fellow Americans from all parts of the U.S., I studied with seminarians (those preparing to be priests) from all over the world - Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Vietnam, and China, just to name a few of their homelands. I was also privileged to be able to pray at the tombs of the many saints buried in Rome, and I had many occasions to be near the Holy Father. While I was never able to personally meet a Pope, I was gifted with the opportunity to serve Mass for Pope Benedict XVI during his pontificate and to be present in St. Peter's Square for the election of Pope Francis. Both of these experiences gave me a deeper appreciation for the Pope's role in the Catholic church, and I also grew in appreciation of the men themselves who have filled that role - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, who have each served the Church faithfully and well.

While in Rome, I was also able to reconnect with some of my SkyHawk friends! I touched base with Mrs. Amber Johnson's World Studies educational trip as they passed through the Eternal City, I saw Mrs. Paula Lenz and her husband on their vacation, and as I left for the U.S. one summer, I only barely missed hearing Skutt Catholic's vocal students perform at St. Peter's Basilica and at the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva under the direction of Mr. Chris Storm. Further, it was my pleasure to spend many moments with a few of our alumni who came to visit.

I have had a blessed time in seminary, and I look forward to many years of priestly service. I am honored to be the first SkyHawk alumnus ordained a priest, and I pray that there will be many more!

Father Tobias Letak



Sr. Francisca (Samantha Bastian '07) prepares for her Solemn Profession



Sr. Francisca of the Immaculate Heart of Mary O.C.D, Samantha Bastian '07, is currently a jr. novice in the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Valparaiso, NE. The Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a cloistered community in the Diocese of Lincoln. Its roots reach back to Las Vegas, San Francisco, Guadalajara and Puebla in

Mexico, and the Spanish town of Caravaca – one of St. Teresa of Avila's own foundations. Sr. Francisca entered the order in July 2012, received the Holy Habit of Carmel along with her religious name on April 7, 2013, and had her Profession of First Vows on May 24, 2014. Sister continues to study and pray for God's Will in her life. Sister will most likely be making her Solemn Profession next May on the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. Please continue to pray for Sr. Francisca as she is praying for all of you!

Paula Bastian (Samantha's mother)



Inside this Issue

Page 2 Letter from Fr. Tobias Letak
Page 4 Letter from John McMahon
Page 5 Letter from Fr. Patrick Harrison
Page 6
Page 8
PAGE 13 Sara Dobel Staroska '01 Retraces Her Journey as a SlamHawk
Page 14 Melissa Kirker '13 Shares Study Abroad Experiences
Page 15
Page 17
Page 19 College Acceptance list
Page 20 Around Skutt Catholic
PAGE 27 Summer Tour includes performances in D.C. and N.Y.C.
Page 29 School Scholarships
Page 30 Advancement News
Page 31
Page 32
Page 33 Honoring Retirees

President's Letter

In 1993, Skutt Catholic High School opened its doors for the first time to the first students who would call themselves SkyHawks. In the years since then, the school has achieved many firsts - the first Mass, the first pep rally, the first Hawktober, the first Community Involvement Day, the first homecoming, the first state championship, the first graduation, and the list goes on and on. In this short column, I would like to focus on two significant firsts in Skutt Catholic lore - one which happened recently and one coming in the near future.

On June 4, 2016, Tobias Letak '08 became the first Skutt Catholic alumnus to be ordained as a priest. I could not be more proud to be the first sitting president of Skutt Catholic to see one of our alumni ordained. I was also very blessed to be able to share with the Letak family in this celebration in a very special way. Fr. Letak graces our cover and graciously shares some of his story with us in this edition of Our Legacy, and we look forward to welcoming him to campus to celebrate with us in the fall and to sharing his priestly ministry with him.

This September will see our first 20 year reunion as we welcome back the Class of 1996. These are truly the first SkyHawks - those who walked through those open doors of Skutt Catholic in 1993, who helped to lay the foundation of the school we know today, and who prepared the way for all who have come after them. We look forward to welcoming them back to the nest and to sharing with them all that we have become and accomplished since their time here.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the long list of people - alumni, administrators, faculty and staff members, students, supporters, and benefactors - whose dedication to Skutt Catholic and efforts have created the wonderful community that we have and generated the tremendous success that we have experienced in every facet of the school, be it in the spiritual, academic or activity realms. The following pages of Our Legacy bear great witness to many happenings in our community in recent months. Our alumni have continued to achieve and have continued to live our mission of being Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support for Skutt Catholic High School. It is my hope and prayer and this summer affords you the opportunity for some rest and time with family and loved ones. May God continue to bless each of you and to bless Skutt Catholic High School.

In Christ.

John F. McMahon President



John F. McMahon President





Dear Skutt Catholic community,

My name is Father Patrick Harrison and I have recently been appointed by Archbishop George Lucas as the chaplain for Skutt Catholic High School. I began my duties on July 1, 2016. I want to thank the archbishop for this appointment. I also want to thank Fr. Jeff Mollner who has served as your chaplain for the past four years. Fr. Mollner has been very helpful to me in making the transition from parish life to the position of chaplain. I know Fr. Mollner has done a wonderful job serving the Skutt Catholic community and I hope to do so as well. I also want to thank John McMahon, Rob Meyers, and Christine French, for their assistance in helping me with my new assignment.

I studied for the priesthood at Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland from 1986 - 1991. I was ordained on June 1, 1991 and with joy I am currently celebrating my 25th year as a priest. My first assignment was for three years as an associate pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha. For the next eighteen years I was assigned to the chancery, working in the marriage tribunal. From 1999 - 2011 I was the judicial vicar of the archdiocese. I am currently a member of the tribunal and function as a defender of the bond in annulment cases. During my years at the chancery I lived as a resident priest at the following parishes in Omaha: St. Stanislaus, St. Joseph, St. Wenceslaus, and St. Joan of Arc. I also studied in Rome, Italy at the Gregorian University for two years between 1996 and 1998 and obtained a canon law degree. My most recent assignment has been as an associate pastor at St. Gerald Church in Ralston, NE from 2012 - 2016. I have enjoyed all of the priests and parishioners of all the parishes where I have lived.

My parents are Harold and Mary Harrison. They are currently members of St. James Church in Omaha and live near the church. I am the oldest of eight children and each of us attended St. Bernard Catholic Church and School in Omaha while growing up. All eight of us attended and graduated from Roncalli Catholic and then we attended various colleges and universities. I am the proud uncle of 30 nephews and nieces and four great ones with one on the way. My brother Chris and his wife Linda sent their four children to Skutt Catholic. The youngest one, Matthew, graduated in 2016, Emily graduated in 2011, Olivia in 2012, and Christopher in 2014. Emily will be getting married at St. Pius X on Aug.13, 2016 to Ben Batenhorst, who is also a Skutt Catholic graduate and a member of the class of 2011. My brother and his family speak very highly of the Catholic education and formation that they have received at Skutt Catholic. I look forward to being the chaplain and meeting the students, faculty, administration, coaches, and parents of this great community. May all of you have a blessed summer and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the coming school year.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Fr. Harrison



Dear Friends,

All signs indicate summer has arrived - bright sunshine, warmer temperatures, and lots of outdoor fun! In the "busy-ness" of life, take time to connect with and enjoy the beauty God graces us with during this wonderful season.

Speaking of connections, the main purpose of the Skutt Catholic Alumni Association is all about making connections. The alumni association allows Skutt Catholic to connect to alumni, alumni to connect to each other, and hopefully, help alumni connect to the people and resources they need to be successful in their endeavors.

This past spring, the alumni association mailed contact forms out to all of our alumni parents asking for updates to their children's contact information. The response was overwhelming. Over 1,200 forms were returned. Thank you to those parents who took the time to provide us the information we need to



Angie Lohaus

stay connected to our alumni! You can always go to the Alumni page of SkuttCatholic.com to update your contact information whenever needed.

Staying connected with you is not only a priority but one of the bright spots to our day. We love to hear about the events and special moments in your lives. Many are included in the pages of this issue. We sincerely hope you enjoy reading about your fellow SC alumni in this 2016 summer edition of *Our Legacy* magazine.

If you are interested in volunteering for a Skutt Catholic Alumni Association event, serving on the association board, or becoming a class representative, you can sign up through the Alumni page of SkuttCatholic.com.

Until we connect again, may the good Lord continue to bless you and watch over you always.

Best regards, Angie Lohaus,

Director of Alumni Relations and Event Planning

Staying Connected through Events

Connecting on the Basketball Court

SkyHawk March Madness hit the courts March 18 and 19, when Skutt Catholic, once again, hosted its annual alumni basketball tournament. Over 60 alumni registered to play in this year's event, representing the classes of 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2015. The final matchup pitted a combined team from the classes of 2005 and 2006, against our newest team, the class of 2015. Youth prevailed as the class of 2015 won and walked away with the championship t-shirts.



Alumni Basketball Tournament Champions - Class of 2015

Continued on next page



Alumni Connections

Connecting on the Course

Flight for Excellence 2016 was held at Pacific Springs Golf Course on Fri., June 24. Over 80 alumni, parents, family, and friends of Skutt Catholic participated in the event. Following a fabulous lunch catered by Boyd and Charlie's BBQ, and a putting competition, players teed off for 18 challenging and fun holes of golf. Dinner was served after golf and some great prizes were given out. Thank you to all those who came out to play and support the alumni association's 23rd golf tournament.

Homecoming Connections

Homecoming is a special time at most schools across the country, each having established its own special way to bring their community together and celebrate the great tradition of a home football game in the spectacular season of fall. At Skutt Catholic, one of our favorite homecoming traditions is the annual alumni homecoming pcnic. Scheduled for Fri., Sept., 16, 2016, alumni families are invited to come home to Moylan Field to watch the SkyHawks take on the Elkhorn Antlers. Prior to the game, a free dinner will be served in the auxiliary gym. All alumni and their families are invited to attend. Look for invitations and details on how you can sign up later this summer.



2006 reunion chairs Ashley Kiekhoefer Bjornsen and Sara Guinane Hennings



Father/daughter foursome with Mike and Sarah Smith and Elizabeth and Mike Ordorisio

Reunion Connections

20 -year Reunion, our first EVER! September 16 -17

This year's homecoming game will have some very important guests in attendance. The first graduates of Skutt Catholic High School, members from the class of 1996, will be in attendance. They will be celebrating their 20-year reunion that weekend. Reunion activities are being held all weekend as this group of alums celebrates a very special milestone in the history of Skutt Catholic High School. Members from the class of 1996 should look for more information on the Skutt Catholic website and in their mail.

10 -year Reunion

The class of 2006 had a full weekend of events planned for their 10-year reunion. They started off the weekend by participating in the *Flight for Excellence* Golf Tournament. After golf, class members met at Clancy's Pub for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and to re-connect. Saturday the class gathered in the evening for more food, games, music and fellowship. A big THANK YOU to Sara Guinane Hennings and Ashley Kiekhoefer Bjornsen who planned the reunion activities as it was truly a fun weekend for all who attended.

Mike Egermier '97 and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their son, Caleb Jerry Egermier, to their family on April 21, 2016. Caleb is joined by his older sister, Emma Hope. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21 inches long at birth.





Melissa Clements Hatz '03 and her husband, Fabe, welcomed Olivia Frances Clements to the world on Sept. 26, 2015 in Altlanta, GA. She weighed 5 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19 inches long. She is now a happy eight month old!

Alumni Ubdates



Skutt Catholic Celebrates 1st Child of Alumni to Graduate

Time marches on. It's a first for Skutt Catholic! When Jonathan Grauman walked across the stage at the Holland in mid May to receive

his diploma, his proud parents David and Heidi Grauman must have felt an added tinge of excitement. The Grauman's have the honor of being the first alums to have a child graduate from Skutt Catholic! David and Heidi were both members of the class of 1998.

Adam Pitz '00 and his wife, Becky, will be celebrating their 10-year anniversary this summer. They are proud parents of four children: Noah, 7, Ella, 5, Owen, 3, and Luke, 16 mos. They have been living in Cincinnati for the last six years where Adam has been working at Procter & Gamble in R&D for the Personal Health



The Ferguson and Meehan family are proud to celebrate the May 2016 graduations of S. Lowell Ferguson '00, husband of Nicole Zych Ferguson '00, and Amanda Meehan Ferguson '07, wife of Mark Ferguson '05 (deceased). Lowell Ferguson graduated from Omaha Fire Academy and Amanda graduated from Creighton University as a nurse practitioner.



Heidi Van Geem and David Grauman in

high school

Jake Johnson '01 and wife, Stacie, welcomed their third child into the family on April 19, 2016. Their new son, Dominic Edward, weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and joins his siblings, Jacob, 7, and Emerson, 5. Jake is the director of development at BuilderTrend, Inc. Stacie is a nurse practitioner with CHI Health.



Alumni Ubdates



Erin Hartigan '05 joined the Fox Sports family in the fall of 2010, relocating to Dallas, TX from the Kansas City area where she spent her first year out of school executing sports sales & marketing and video production for AthletixNation, while also hosting its weekly syndicated college football highlight show.

Erin began her Fox career on the "dot-com" side, covering Big 12 football and college football recruiting for Scout.com, in addition to events like Super Bowl XLV, the NFL Combine, Senior Bowl, Men's College World Series, Big 12 Basketball Tournament, MLB winter meetings, and the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

After four years online and as a broadcast freelancer, Erin made her full-time transition to the FOX broadcast,

covering both Big 12 athletics and Texas high school football for Fox Sports Southwest. She also now serves as pregame and postgame host for the Houston Texans, the Texas Rangers, and the New Orleans Pelicans.

Erin was born in Omaha and while at Skutt Catholic, Erin earned all-state softball honors as a sophomore and junior, and was named to the all-Nebraska team as a senior. A softball scholarship brought her south to West Texas A&M University where she played ball and studied broadcast journalism through her four-year tenure. In the summers, she returned home to intern at the Omaha World-Herald, working in sports.

The World-Herald was, in fact, Hartigan's first ever employer. She began as a 16-year-old newsroom assistant with a strong interest in journalism. The 2006 Men's College World Series would be her first major sporting event, a two-week event that included sit-down, self-produced features with visitors Cal Ripken Jr., Dave Winfield, and Lou Brock; a two-week event that would ultimately spark her career in sports journalism.

It's been a 12-year ride she would do all over again and one she looks forward to continuing in honor of her lifelong champion and cheerleader, and late mother Susan Hartigan. Forever SkyHawks!



Hunter Bolding '06 and Christina Schumacher are engaged to marry in September at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Hunter is the senior account manager at BOLD Office Solutions and Christina is a certified child life specialist at Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

Daniel Banks Thielen was born to parents **Robbie Thielen** '07 and Sara Thielen on March 17, 2016. He weighed 9 lbs. and 5 oz.



Pat Dooley '03 married Ashley McGregor on April 1, 2016 in Riviera Maya, Mexico.



Marcus Shanahan, **Katie Smith Shanahan** '05, and Lucas Shanahan
welcomed baby sister, Julia "Jules"
Shanahan, in early January 2016.





Katie Homan '07 married Nate Shanmugam on Dec. 19, 2015 at St. Stephen the Martyr church in Omaha. Several Skutt Catholic alumni and a current Skutt Catholic student were in the wedding party along with many more in attendance. Katie, a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, is a social worker with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands. Nate is an alum of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is employed with the Union Pacific Railroad. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica and now reside in Omaha.

SC Alum in the photo include:

Top left groomsmen: Brad Vankat '07, Robbie Thielen '07, Shawn Juricek '07. Bottom left groomsmen: Sam Homan, current student. Top right bridesmaids: Katie Keck Rohlfsen '07. Bottom right bridesmaids: Ellen Homan '10, Anna Shimerda '07, Erika Goldsmith Choquette '07.

Meghan O'Brien Spies '07 married Matt Spies on Aug.15, 2015. The wedding party included Skutt Catholic graduates Maureen O'Brien '10, Brogan O'Brien '12, Tynan O'Brien '14, and Brittnee Backman '07. The reception was held at Tiburon Golf Club. They currently live in Kansas City, MO and both are employed by the Cerner Corporation.

Jaime Johnson '09 and Rachel Stocke celebrated their marriage on June 4, 2016 at St. Francis Xavier Church at St. Louis University. Monsignor James Gilg performed the ceremony. Jaime's brothers, Jake Johnson '01 and Josh Johnson '05 were the best men. Jaime and Rachel met at Rockhurst University where they both received a bachelor degree. Jaime, who received his Master of Counseling degree is employed at QLI Omaha as a life path specialist. Rachel received her doctorate in physical therapy at UNMC in May. They reside in Omaha and honeymooned in St. Lucia.

Lauren Kluthe '11 completed her Master of Business Adminstration from UNO in May 2016. At UNO's Annual Honors & Awards Ceremony held on April 7, 2016, Lauren was the recipient of the Larry Trussell Award, which is awarded annually to one of UNO's, top MBA graduating candidates.



Rachel Compas '09 is excited to announce her engagement to Michael Morong. They have dated throughout college and are planning for their wedding on June 10, 2017. Rachel graduated from UNL on Aug. 15, 2015 with a bachelor of Business Management degree. Michael is continuing his education at UNO. Both she and Michael are employed by Union Bank and Trust in Lincoln.

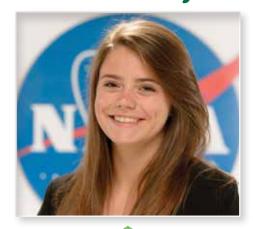


Mel Arkfeld Maryott '08 and Mark Maryott, of Blair, NE, were married on May 23, 2015 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Kelsey Arkfeld '10 was maid of honor. Mel is an accessories buyer for Gordmans and Mark is owner of IronWood Reclaiming Co.





Alumni Ubdates



Lauren Kolkman '11 graduated in December 2015 from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical/ Astronautical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics. After spending the last two summers interning for NASA, Lauren is currently interning for SpaceX in California. Lauren will start her doctorate in Computational Fluid Dynamics, a subfield of Aero/Astro Engineering, in the fall at MIT.



Rachel Zabawa '11 graduated from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO with a Bachelor of Recreation Administration degree.

Rachel was one of the first gymnasts signed to be on the inaugural Lindenwood gymnastics team that started as a sport at the school four years ago. During her four years at Lindenwood, she helped the team win two national championships, last year and this year. Over her career, Rachel was national champion on beam, a nine-time All-American, and named female athlete of the year at Lindenwood. In the individual finals at the national championships, she placed in the top six all four years on floor and/or vault. Rachel competed in every gymnastic meet during her four years at Lindenwood.

Ashley Spurlock '12 graduated from the University of Nebraska Omaha in May and is featured on the UNO's website talking about her experiences during college and wanting to give back to UNO for all they did for her.



Ryan Steffes '12 graduated in May with Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Post-graduation he is pursuing a doctorate of pharmacy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy in the fall.





Anna Milone '12 graduated from Morningside College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in finance. She will be attending graduate school in the fall at the University of NE - Lincoln. She will be pursuing a master's degree in intercollegiate athletic administration.

Nickolas Turner '12 was commissioned into the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant with Distinguished Military Honors on May 13, 2016. He graduated Cum Laude from Creighton University the following day with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance. Nickolas will be attending his officer basic course at Fort Gordon, Georgia this summer. In November, he will be stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii for his first assignment.



Colleen Bernal '13 will receive her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology at the College of Saint Mary in December. Meanwhile, in August, she will be starting the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies as CSM, consisting of a year of coursework and a year of clinicals. This summer Colleen is volunteering overseas for 12 weeks in New Zealand and Fiji.



Hannah Richstein '14 was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society during her sophomore year at Texas Christian University. She became a paid research assistant in their Physics Astronomy department. This summer, Hannah is participating in a 10-week research experience for undergraduates program at Vanderbilt University. She will be studying dark matter halos and galaxy evolution.



Darya Kaboli-Nejad '15 is working hard both at Oregon University and in making the travel team for the Oregon Ducks!





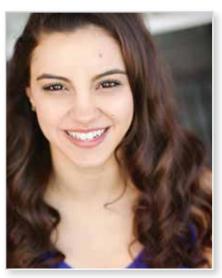
Katie Pohlman '15 is in the resident company at Music Theatre Wichita this summer. Summer performances include: Nice Work If You Can Get It, Beauty and the Beast, Oklahoma!, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Mamma Mia. If you are driving to or through Wichita, make plans to catch a performance (mtwichita.org). Katie will be a sophomore at Oklahoma City University where she is studying dance.



The Huskers (**Kaylan Jablonski** '14) played the Ducks (**Darya Kaboli-Nejad** '15) in a California tournament in February. Kaylan's hit scored the winning run to upset the Ducks 6 - 5.

Teresa Kaiser '15 won her first national championship in tennis acquiring the coveted gold ball on June 5, 2016 at the national mother-daughter tournament in Vancouver, WA. Pictured with Teresa is her mom, Felicia Hutnick Kaiser.

Zachary Pohlman '14 received the Rockhurst University Living the Mission Emerging Leader Award, and was elected as the university student senate president for 2016-2017. Zachary will be a junior and is majoring in economics, philosophy, and theology.





Matthew Pohlman '16 is playing the role of Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat this summer at the Papillion LaVista Community Theatre. Performances are July 15 - 17 and July 21 - 23. Visit www.plvct.org for ticket information. In the fall, Matthew will enter St. John Vianney College Seminary located on the campus of University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. As a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Matthew recently attended the ordination of fellow Skutt Catholic alum, Fr. Tobias Letak '08. (The photo of Matthew is with Skutt Catholic Theology teacher Mr. Bart Zavaletta and his family after a Corpus Christi procession on May 29.)



Sara Dobel Staroska '01 Retraces Her Journey as a SlamHawk



Sarah Dobel high school photo

I was the only one of four siblings who didn't play sports in high school. My six-footer sisters played basketball and soccer, and even my gangly brother played football. Yet despite being the most competitive of us all, I quit basketball before they even posted teams. I'm sure I wrote a poem about it.

Despite my other activities, I missed the competition, and I think the world knew, so it was no fluke when shortly after my 16th birthday I stumbled across my first poetry slam at Border's Books and Music. It was everything a highly competitive, overly dramatic, angsty, oddball teen could have imagined. It wasn't just an open mic for poetry, it was an open mic I could WIN and it fed my soul.

At 33, I've now been involved in slam poetry for almost half my life. For those who are unfamiliar, slam poetry gives scorecards to five random members of the audience. Each poet gets up and performs his or her poem and then the judges give it a score between 0 and 10. It's like Olympic ice-skating meets hip-hop-comedy meets beat poetry.

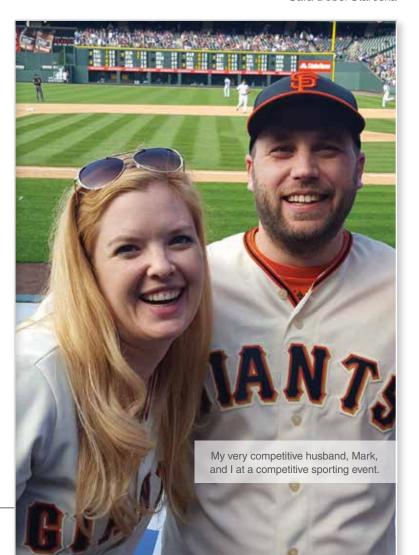
And it isn't really about the scores at all. When I finally moved far, far away from Omaha to get my MFA in creative writing, I discovered several things. First, before I had unpacked a single suitcase, a slam poet from Berkeley (whom I only sort of knew) called to see if she could come pick me up and take me to the slam that night. There I was enfolded into a brand new family that was merely an extension of the one I had left behind. Second, within six months, despite everything I believed about myself and where I belonged in the world, I was performing poems about the cornfields back behind my old grade school and city skylines that jut into the air with a calmer pulse. I returned to Omaha two years later and it was that same community that got me my first two teaching jobs. I kept going to slams even when I wasn't performing because it was about so much more than myself.

Four years ago, I was given the opportunity to pay it all forward. I was asked to be the coach of the Skutt Catholic SlamHawks Poetry Slam Team. One afternoon a week, my students and I spend an hour and half watching slam poetry videos on YouTube - talking about nerdy word skills - and writing, reading,

and rewriting. They comment on each other's metaphors and the use of circular language. They talk about concrete language and ways to be more surprising in their word choices. I am so impressed, with their skill and knowledge, things I try hard to teach them.

What I am truly proud of is their bravery. My students write boldly about their experiences and their dreams. They admit truths about themselves in front of hundreds of people. Each trip up on that stage leaves them vulnerable like a hermit crab unfurling from it's too-tight shell to go in search of a new home and a new identity. In the last two years of competition, they've come in second place in the Midwest, competing against 30+ schools across Nebraska and lowa. Yet the conversation we have on the last day of practice is never about scores or points or even finals. It's about what they want to read and watch next year and the stories they want to learn how to tell. I can't remember the last time I got up on stage to perform; most days I can barely find time to write a grocery list. But I will always introduce myself as a slam poet, and I hope the community my students have found, means that they will too.

Sara Dobel Staroska



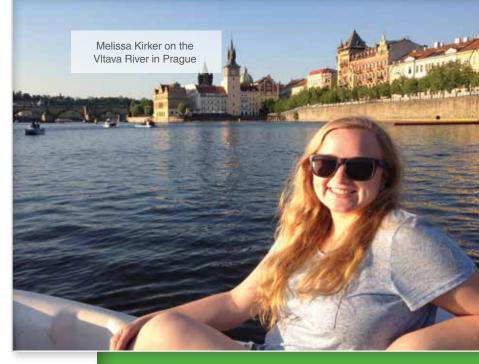
or the spring semester of my junior year of college, I had the great fortune of studying abroad in Prague in the Czech Republic. Though I was terrified to leave my wonderful friends and family behind, I found an abundance of adventures awaiting me just across the pond. Prague is a gorgeous city with wonderful foods like trdelniks and goulash. The castle complex, hosts St. Vitus Cathedral, which is drenched in medieval architecture, stain glass windows, and vaulted ceilings several stories high. Vendors can always be found on the St. Charles Bridge selling vibrant paintings, hand crafted jewelry, and portraits, while harmonizing musicians amplify the atmosphere. Prague has many markets and holds extra special fairs just for the Easter celebration, featuring hand painted eggshells cut and strung to hang like ornaments. When spring arrives, Prague's flowers erupt; lilac bushes bloom on every corner, tulips sprout in long vacant flowerbeds, and green grass grows along

the tram tracks. The transportation system is the best of any city I have ever visited, very easy to navigate, inexpensive, and perfectly located.

Studying abroad came with some difficulties. Packing all my things into two suitcases proved challenging; I learned less is more. Finances were also complex, though there are an abundance of scholarships and special study abroad loans available. Making friends at my new school was very intimidating, especially for an introvert like myself. Over the semester I managed to forge lasting friendships with some of the other students who were also part of the study abroad program. These friendships were created through the many journeys we took together. I traveled with my friends to Berlin, Germany; Špindler v Mlýn for skiing, Cesky Krumlov, and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic; Brussels and Bruges, Belgium; Krakow, Poland to see Auschwitz; London, England; Athens, Greece; Barcelona, Catalonia/Spain; Amsterdam for Kings Day and Keukenhof to see the tulip fields, Netherlands/Holland. We already have plans to travel together again. I always traveled with a buddy, which was the safest way to travel and the best way to have the most fun. I also had the opportunity to visit my friend Michaela Šimjaková, a Slovakian foreign exchange student who studied at Skutt Catholic my sophomore year. She was also studying in Prague this past semester.

After my finals, I was really lucky because my mom, Nancy Kirker, Skutt Catholic staff, my brother Sean and his good friend Chris Ramelb, both Skutt Catholic alums, came to Prague for some after school traveling in Europe. Together we explored Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; and Kutna Hora, Czech Republic. Though my time in Europe was brief and the first few weeks were very hard, the experiences I had and friendships that I made were more than worth it. I am glad to be home and I look forward to finishing my college education at Truman State University (one of the top colleges in the Midwest and my favorite school). Going so far from home was scary but if I can do it, anyone can. Adventure is out every window, one must only take the leap and soar upon the wind.

Melissa Kirker



Melissa Kirker '13 Shares Study Abroad

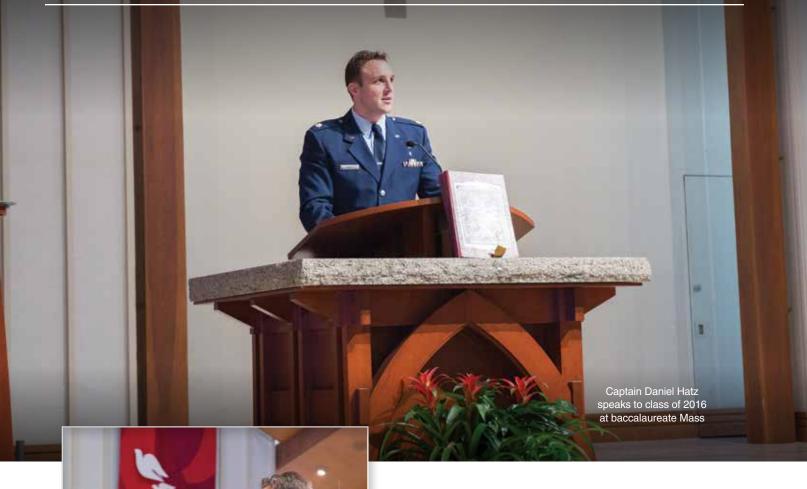
Xperience

Melissa, Nancy, and Sean Kirker, and Chris Ramelb outside Schombrum Palace in Vienna.



SKÚTT CATHOLIC

ALUMNI HONORS



2015–2016 Outstanding Alumni Award Winner

Beginning with the 2009 - 2010 school year, Skutt Catholic leadership, in conjunction with the alumni association, established the Outstanding Alumni Award. This award recognizes an alum that has lived the Skutt Catholic motto of "Making a Difference" in the lives of others. In its first six years, this award was presented at Angel Flight, our largest, annual, fundraising event. However, Skutt Catholic's leadership felt it was important for the graduating seniors to be present for this honor. As a result, this year's award was presented at the baccalaureate Mass, prior to graduation.

Capt. Daniel E. Hatz was selected as this year's award recipient. He is the chief surgical resident for orthopedics at Southern Illinois University. Capt. Hatz graduated from Skutt Catholic High School in 2002. During his high school years, Danny, as he is most often referred as, played football, participated in speech, power lifting, and was involved in theater. He was also elected Mr. SkyHawk during his senior year.



President John McMahon presents award to Captain Hatz



Lauren and Danny Hatz

Danny's parents are Steve and Pam Hatz. He followed his brothers Nick, class of 1997, and Matt, class of 1999, in becoming a SkyHawk. His younger sister Melissa was a member of the class of 2003. There was a Hatz family member in attendance every year for the first 12 years of the school's existence. Danny and his wife Lauren currently reside in Springfield, IL.

After his graduation from high school, Danny graduated Cum Laude from Drake University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemical, Cellular, and Molecular Biology. He went on to complete his medical doctorate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and his



surgical internship through the University of California at Davis/ Travis Air Force Base. After attending flight surgeon school at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, he was deployed to Kunan, South Korea, and Guam, flying F16s for the United States Air Force.

Capt. Hatz has an impressive list of honors, awards, medical publications, and professional memberships. He is proud to be a SkyHawk and has truly been *Making a Difference* in the lives of others.

Angie Lohaus



GRADUATION HONORS

HIGHEST HONORS

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

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

More than one and a half million students took the 2014 PSAT, which entered them all into the National Merit Scholarship competition. Skutt Catholic High School was honored to have one National Merit Scholarship finalist this year. This student is among the top 1% of all Nebraska seniors and the top 15,000 students in the nation.

Our National Merit finalist is Sean Lynch

Skutt Catholic High School was also honored to have five Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship competition this year. These scholars are in the top 50,000 scorers on the 2014 PSAT. Skutt Catholic High School's Commended Scholars are:

Jacob Baumert Cameron Carney Christopher Kolkman Brianna Siracuse Ryan Wallace

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the top two students of the graduating class of 2016:

> VALEDICTORIAN - Jennifer Hoody SALUTATORIAN - Brianna Siracuse



Kathryn Lanzante and Michael White

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 contribute to the common good and glorify God, were established based on the lives of VJ 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 2016 recipient of the VJ Skutt Award is **Michael White**.

The 2016 recipient of the Angela Skutt Award is **Kathryn Lanzante**.



The White family awaits graduation in the green room. Tom and Mary White purchased the graduation package at Angel Flight.

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 attendance 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 also a positive representative of the school in and out of the classroom.

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

Trevor Kathol

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

Alexa Narke



Baccalaureate was held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Gretna

JESSE GRIESE AWARD

This award was created in memory of Jesse Griese 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 Griese Award recipient is **Laura Speer**



LIVING THE GOSPEL AWARDS

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

Throughout her four years at Skutt Catholic, this young woman volunteered with the Open Door Mission, Food Bank for the Heartland, Project Wee Care, Habitat for Humanity, and participated in SkyHawks in the City, a weekend service trip in Omaha. She also volunteered with Operation Others all four years, and served on the CORE Team for three.

This young man volunteered with Waterford Assisted Living, Youth Emergency Services, and provided significant service to his parish and school. He also participated in the summer service trip to Rosebud Indian Reservation and the March for Life for several years.

These students' names will be engraved on the Living the Gospel plaque in the hallway of our school. It is with great pride that we present the Living the Gospel Awards for the class of 2016 to **Megan Swain** and **Matthew Pohlman**.

SKYHAWK SPIRIT AWARD

The seniors nominated for this award have been positive representatives of the school and of 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 Eric Kros

This year's recipient of the female SkyHawk Spirit Award is Gabrielle Giesler

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 Mojo Hagge.

This year's female student athlete of year is Caley Barker.





University of Colorado -

University of Dayton

University of Florida

University of Kansas

University of Iowa

Boulder

Valparasio University

Washburn University

Wayne State College

Yale University

Wichita State University

William Jewel University

SKUTT CATHOLIC

Dakota Wesleyan University

Dartmouth College

Denver University

DePaul University

Doane College

Drake University

Northeastern University

College

University

Ohio State University

Northwest Iowa Community

Northwest Missouri State

Around kull alholic

Over the years, Skutt Catholic has been extremely fortunate to have high achieving programs with talented sponsors and coaches. **We are very proud of each and every one of them**. Every year our students, coaches, and sponsors are challenged by the classes that came before them. This year was no different. Many individuals, teams, and groups *stepped out of being average* and distinguished themselves on an area or state level. This is a salute to those people.

College athletic signings during the spring period

Tara Cannon signed with Benedictine University for basketball **Anna Capoun** signed with University of Nebraska - Omaha for swimming

Connor Ganyo signied with Concordia University for baseball Alex Oswald signed with Wesleyan University for baseball Laura Speer signed with Midland University for basketball

Wall of Honor 2016 graduating seniors

All-State Volleyball 2015 – Brooke Swain

All-State Football 2015, All State Baseball 2015, Super State Baseball 2016 Mojo Hagge

All-State Football 2015 - Christian Peters

Wrestling State Champion – Bailey Vanderpool 2013 freshman, 2016 senior

All-State Band 2013, 2014, 2015 - Nicholas Wagner

All-State Musical 2014, All-State Chorus 2015 - Matthew Pohlman

All-State Chorus 2015 – Courtney Riedmann

All-State Vocal Jazz 2015 - Ryan Wallace

All-State Orchestra 2014, 2015 – **Sean Lynch**

All-State Musical 2015 - Jack Hilgert

All-State Baseball 2016, military academy appointment Air Force Academy – Jarrett Damewood

All-State Baseball 2016, United States Naval Academy appointment

- Connor Schwetschenau

State Champion Speech 2015 – Entertainment speaking **Julianne Falconer** junior year

State Champion Speech 2016 – Persuasive speaking **Alexa Narke** State Champion Journalism 2016 – Advertising **Hanna Klemme**

35 ACT 2016 - Cameron Carney

35 ACT 2016 – William Koperski

35 ACT 2016 - Sean Lynch

35 ACT 2016 - Ji Mun

35 ACT 2016 - Brianna Siracuse

All-State Socccer 2015, 2016 - Jordan Walsh

State Speech results led by coach Joe Elliott:

Jack Hilgert - seventh place, Extemporaneous Speaking

Hannah Klemme and Jennifer Hoody - seventh place, Duet Acting

Sara Zaleski - third place, Dramatic Interpretation

Alexa Narke - state champion, Persuasive Speaking

State Journalism results led by coach Joe Elliott:

Hannah Klemme - state champion, Advertising
Maria Koliopoulos - state champion, Editorial Cartooning
Tom Hermanek - sixth place, News Writing
James Keeley - runner-up, Entertainment Writing

More journalism news:

Over spring break, the *Flightline* newspaper led by Joe Elliott, was selected as a finalist for the Pacemaker award. The Pacemakers are akin to the Oscars for high school journalism; they're the most prestigious award you can receive for journalism at a high school level. There are 50 finalists from across the country, and about 10 will be selected for Pacemaker honors. In the simplest terms, Skutt Catholic is in the top 50 of high school newspapers in the country and the only one from Nebraska.



Around Skutt Catholic



State wrestling team

Wrestling:

Congratulations to the SkyHawk wrestling team and coach Chas DeVetter '00 for winning the state wrestling championship, their 18th state championship in the past 19 years.

Individual place winners, 113-Van Schmidt third, 120-Korbin Meink first (Korbin's third!), 126-Jeff Heinz fourth, 138-Bailey Vanderpool first (Bailey's second), 152-Billy Higgins second, 160-Alex VanDyke sixth, 170-Curt Randall sixth, 195-Brendon Wheeler fifth, 285-Trent Hixson fifth.

District Music - Band

The band led by Chris Cotignola had eight superior and six excellent solo/small ensemble ratings at district music contest

They captured a superior rating for concert band and superior plus rating for jazz band at the district music contest for the first time in school history!

District Music - Choir

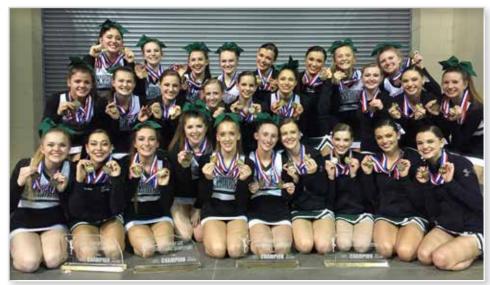
The choir, led by Chris Storm, had superior ratings from the following: Vocal solos by Luke Heffron, Jack Hilgert, Christopher King, Matthew Pohlman, Courtney Riedmann, and Sarah Schrader; Vocal duet by MaryRose Olson and Mary Watson; Violin solo by Caroline Hilgert; Vocal ensembles the barbershop quartet of Ben Eliason, Hans Espiritu, Jason Rasmussen, and Ryan Wallace, and the boys octet of Jacob Baumert, Michael Franklin, Ryan Harrel, Luke Heffron, Jack Hilgert, Matthew Pohlman, Cal Strawhecker, and Nicholas Wagner.

Dance Team

Congratulations to the SkyHawk dance team and coach Brooke Buda, state champions in Jazz and Pom for the ninth year in a row! They also finished fifth in the nation at UDA Nationals in small division jazz in Orlando, Florida.

Cheerleading

Congratulations to the SkyHawk Chearleading team and coach Beckie Rago for earning the title of state champions in Sideline and Game Day. They also finished eighth in the nation for their game day routine in Orlando Florida.



The cheerleading squad and the dance team

Vivace

The 2015-2016 Vivace members and coach sponsor Chris Storm finished their competition season on Fri., March 4 at East High School in Sioux City, IA. Vivace was selected to the evening finals, where they placed first runner-up overall and were awarded best vocals. Senior Courtney Riedmann was also named Outstanding Female Soloist within a show and Outstanding Female Soloist in the separate solo competition. This season Vivace was able to compete in finals at six of six competitions, making huge strides as the competition season went on. To start the season, Vivace placed third runner-up at Sioux Falls Roosevelt where Matthew Pohlman was also named Outstanding Male Soloist from the solo competition. At their second competition of the year in West Liberty, IA, they received first place in class 3A, Best Facial Expression, Best Visuals, Best Band, Amanda Pohlman was named the Star Performer. Courtney Riedmann was named Outstanding Female Soloist and the ensemble received their first-ever overall grand championship! At Elkhorn South the group was named fifth runner-up in very competitive evening finals. Vivace received an NCDA gold trophy at Bellevue East and went on to earn first place in class A at Norris, as well as first runner-up in finals and Best Vocals.

Trapshooting:

There were 1,722 participants and over 300 squads that participated in the state trapshooting meet.

Congratulations to the following members and coach Lee White-Hamilton...

Cameron Carney – eighth place in the singles event with a score of 74/75

Mckenna Schmidt – ninth place in the high overall lady event with a score of 131/150

Noah Mueller and Cameron Carney – both finished in the top 40 with scores of 136/150

SkyHawk 1 squad members – **Noah Mueller, Brennan Jones, Ryker Dischler, Nate Krohn,** and **Cameron Carney** – 12th place for team handicap and 12th place for high overall team

Boys Soccer

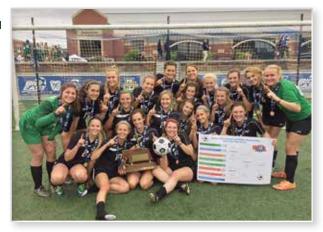
The boy soccer team coached by Justin Zabawa '07 finished as conference runner-up and sub-state runner-up, just missing out on another trip to state. The team was ranked seventh in the final World Herald rankings.

Louder than a Bomb

Congratulations to the SlamHawks who took second place at the Louder than a Bomb Great Plains finals! SlamHawks included Rebecca Snowden, Maria Miller, Lily Yates, Hope Stratman, and Clara Pohlman.

Girls Soccer:

The girls' soccer team, led by coach John Carlson, were conference champions, district runner-ups, and substate champions. They made an impressive run through the state tournament defeating Omaha Mercy 4-2 in the first round, Omaha Gross 3-0 in the semifinals and completed their



2016 girls state soccer champions

impressive season in championship fashion by defeating Gretna in the state championship game 3-1. All state players this season were **Madi McKeever**, **Jordan Walsh** and **Jess Schlautman**, Jess was also second team super state.



2016 state runner-up doubles team, **Elia Healy** and **Johnna Lowe**

Girls Tennis

After graduating most of the team from the previous year coach Sheryl Vaughn's team was young, but lead by a powerful number one doubles team of Johnna Lowe and Elia Healy that finished as state runner-up at number one doubles.

Track and Field

The boys and girls teams, led by coach Matt Turman, had a competitive year. The team was young and competed hard this season. State qualifiers include **Elizabeth Howard** in the discus, **Ryan Harrel** in the triple jump, **Jacob Baumert** in the mile and two mile, **Kevin Rice** in the mile, and the 4 x 800 team of **Jon Camenzind**, **Trevor Camenzind**, **Kevin Rice**, and **Jacob Baumert**.

Boys Golf

The boys golf team, led by coach Duane Baylor, finished as conference champions, and was third at districts. The team tied for eighth at the state golf meet and **Adam Eich** was the seventh place medalist at state.



Around Skutt Catholic

Baseball

The baseball team, led by coach Shawn Exner, had another successful season and finished 23 - 5 and the class B state runner-up! All state members were **Jarrett Damewood**, **Ryan Moritz, Connor Schwetschenau**, and **Mojo Hagge**. Mojo was also a first team super state member.



Class B state runner up baseball team



Dance team at nationals



2015 16 BB **Nick Bouda** with the dunk at state tournament.



Congratulations to Skutt Catholic trap shooting coach Lee White-Hamilton who was named the Eastern Cornhusker Trapshooting Conference Coach of the Year, and received the Hall of Fame Outstanding Contribution Award. Lee has been the coach of SkyHawk trap shooting since 2001 and is a supporter of trap shooting at all age levels. Thanks Coach Lee!



2015-16 basketball team headed to state tournament in Lincoln, NE.



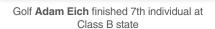
(L-R) Mason Cushing, Jon McDonald, Ben Becker, Adam Eich, and Nolan Lange

Miranda Scheerger and Mckenna Schmidt smile for a photo during the Cornhusker state trap shoot. Over 1,700 students competed, and several SkyHawk shooters placed near the top at the competition. Cameron Carney finished in eighth place in 16-yard singles. Mckenna Schmidt finished in seventh place in ladies 16-yard singles and was the 9th highest female shooter overall. SkyHawk squad #1 consisting of Noah Mueller, Brennan Jones, Ryker Dischler, Nate Krohn and Cameron Carney finished in 12th place for team handicap and 13th team overall.



State Girls 400 Free Relay Team

(L to R) - Kara Leutzinger, Amanda Edwards, Sarah Kramer, and McKenzie Modde





Around Skutt Catholic

Sic

Trivia Night

We hosted our fourth trivia night on Sat. Feb. 27, 2016 to support our service trips. This was our largest turnout to date with over 200 people participating. We also had our largest turnout of alumni this year as well. It was a successful night both in terms of fundraising and fun.



Fourth annual Trivia Night WINNERS

Mrs. Sherri Hoye's team deservedly won the costume contest, while Mrs. Laura Cushing's team were the actual

trivia night winners.

This has become a wonderful event for Skutt Catholic, and it is always great to see so many faculty and staff attend and support this important mission of our school.

The Skutt Catholic winter guard competes in the Heartland Winter Arts Association with other groups from Omaha and the surrounding area. The title of this year's routine was "Feel The Light" in which gold and silver flags added to the artistry of the performance. The team practiced hard, competed well throughout the season, and finished in third place in their division at the HWAA Championships. Congratulations Skutt Catholic winter guard!! Team members are: Brianna Siracuse, Jess Thull, Lauren West, Mckenna Schmidt, Samantha Lierz and Allie Lierz. The coaches are Anna Korensky and Amanda Asmus.



HawkWalk 2016

After a week's delay due to weather, HawkWalk 2016 – *Go the Extra Mile!* took place on Wed., May 4, 2016. HawkWalk is a long-standing tradition at Skutt Catholic and provides a fun, healthy way for our community to raise money for the continued success of Skutt Catholic's financial aid program.

Each year, approximately one-third of our students depend on financial assistance in order to attend Skutt Catholic. In the past school year alone, over \$800,000 was awarded to families receiving financial aid.

HawkWalk is an opportunity for the entire school to complete a five-mile hike around the eastern part of Lake Zorinsky. Students are asked to collect sponsorships in order to raise money. The path finishes back at Skutt Catholic where everyone enjoys a picnic lunch together before dismissing early for the day.

Each student at Skutt Catholic was encouraged to raise \$75 in sponsorships in support of HawkWalk. Due to the generous support of Skutt Catholic families, we were able to surpass our goal and raised \$27,343 for financial aid. Thank you very much to all those students, families, and sponsors who help make HawkWalk 2016 a success!



Emily Newcomer created this geofilter for the event.



Spirit Catholic Radio segment airs

Christine French had the honor of getting to be with three SkyHawks as they spoke on the 102.7 Spirit Catholic Radio Witness Show about their faith during the summer. Maddie Jarosik '17, Max Korensky '18, and Hope Stratman '18 did a beautiful job representing Skutt Catholic. Nina Bastian from Duchesne was also present and in the picture.

Skutt Catholic will continue to work with Spirit Catholic Radio to highlight SC students about once a month. If anyone has

an interest in joining the students on the air, we will have a show about the service trips in August, one about faith and athletics in the fall, one about the students traveling to sing at the Vatican in December, and other topics that students or staff bring up to Christine French.



Skutt Catholic's 2016 UNO IT Innovation Cup team



Kevin Rice, Elizabeth Howard, Jacob Baumert, Trevor Camenzind, Jon Camenzind, and Ryan Harrel all qualified for state track and field competition this spring. Ryan medaled and got sixth place in triple jump.





Trevor Kathol and **Joe Devlin** are staged in the front row of the festival chorus during rehearsal for our pre-parade television performance with Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns.



Kelly Friend takes a selfie with Broadway star Heidi Blickenstaff after her performance in Something Rotten

Summer Tour includes performances in D.C. and N.Y.C.

When the Skutt Catholic choirs were invited to sing as part of the National Memorial Day Choral Festival in Washington D.C., it was certainly a no-brainer to get involved. This opportunity meant our singers would perform in the concert hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts under the direction of Retired Air Force Colonel Craig Jessop, who is also the former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This spring 28 members of the Skutt Catholic concert choir participated in the festival with choirs

from across the US. In addition to a great deal of sight-seeing, the chorus of over 250 singers rehearsed together under the leadership of Colonel Jessop for three days. All of our work culminated in a spectacular performance on the Kennedy Center stage accompanied by the U.S. Airforce Symphony and the Air Force Singing Sergeants. The singers were also part of the opening ceremonies of the National Memorial Day parade, singing America the Beautiful with Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns singing the lead, as we saluted our veterans.

Our tour started off on Fri., May 27, as we flew from Omaha to Washington D.C. We met our D.C. tour manager at the airport and checked in at our hotel. After a welcome dinner, we headed directly into rehearsal. It was great to finally hear what the other choirs sounded like, especially the Texas Children's Choir, who were a feature ensemble for the main concert performance.

The choir members spent Saturday afternoon touring the National Mall. The festival chorus members participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the World War II memorial. They were also able to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner", "America the Beautiful", and Mr. Storm led the ensemble, including chaperones and support staff, in singing "God Bless America".





Choir members **Joseph McAuliffe**, **Hannah Rodricks**, **Cal Strawhecker**, **Sam Delperdang**, and **Megan Kanger** seeing the New York City skyline from the top of the Empire State Building.

Our guide, David, was extremely knowledgeable and led us on an outside tour of the Washington Monument, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, Korean War, Abraham Lincoln, and Vietnam War memorials. The students finished their afternoon at Georgetown University and an evening rehearsal.

The concert choir members and their chaperones were treated to Mass on Sunday morning at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, which is just up the street from Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House - the sites of President Lincoln's assassination and death. Dress rehearsal with the festival chorus, Air Force Symphony and Singing Sergeants at the Kennedy Center took place on Sunday morning in final preparations for a sold-out concert that afternoon. We also worked under guest conductors Colonel Larry H. Lang and Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel. The concert went as expected, but I don't know that the singers were prepared for how moving it would be to sing the "Armed Forces Salute" in front of an audience including over 500 veterans who each stood for their branch's fight song. It was certainly a moving experience, bringing many of the singers to tears, as they were able to put faces to the songs they were singing. We celebrated our performance at Bertucci's Italian Restaurant and did some additional bus tours of the Iwo Jima memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the White House, and the Capitol building.

Memorial Day was another hectic day filled with morning tours of the Navy Memorial and some additional time on the National Mall before our parade pre-production television dress rehearsal in front of the National Archives. We were able to quickly incorporate the flags of all 50 states and our territories, as well as approximately 100 U.S. flags, banners, and streamers. After rehearsal, we were able to eat lunch on the Mall and mingle with some of the marching bands, including the band from Alliance, NE. We took a quick tour of the Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art and then we were off to start the parade. This spectacular performance was live-streamed around the world, thanks to the American Veterans Center. If you search for the parade on YouTube, you will find the national broadcast showing the first 90 minutes of the parade, including our students in the first two minutes.

We remained at the parade to cheer on each branch of the military and our new friends from Alliance, and then we were back on our bus and off to New York City. We spent two and a half days getting to know the city that never sleeps. The students toured Central Park, St. John the Devine, St. Patrick's Cathedral, 5th Avenue, The Trump Tower, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square, among other sites. On Tuesday evening, we were treated to dinner at Hard Rock Café and a performance of *Something Rotten* at the St. James Theatre on Broadway. I was able to make connections with some cast members through a friend, and our Skutt Catholic students were able to meet several of the original cast members, including Heidi Blickenstaff, Brad Oscar, and Matt Wall.



Choir members take a group photo outside St. Patrick's Church in Washington DC prior to attending Sunday morning Mass.

We spent our final day in New York City taking a Zephyr tour of New York harbor and getting up close with the Statue of Liberty. We also toured through lower Manhattan, seeing Wall Street and the financial district, Federal Hall where George Washington was sworn into office, including the bible he swore his inaugural oath on, St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Church, the 9/11 Memorial, and Chinatown. It was a whirlwind of a tour, but the students and chaperones were able to experience just enough of so many places and things that hopefully they will be drawn back in the future to explore even more.

When Colonel Jessop and Music Celebrations invited our choir to join the festival, I was humbled. I now share a feeling of great joy because I was able to help open up the eyes of our students to the world around them. I would like to offer a heart-felt thank you to everyone who participated in our fund-raising through the past 18 months to make this tour a reality. It doesn't matter if you contributed a little or a lot, or even just offered up prayers for our singers and families; it has meant the world to me and to these students. They truly have encountered a life changing experience.

Chris Storm
Performing Arts Faculty Member



School Scholarships

The Paul Troupe Memorial Scholarship awarded to Cole Mingo



On Fri., May 20 the freshmen, sophomore, junior classes gathered to recognize outstanding students in each specific area of study. In addition to class awards, a member of the freshmen class received the Paul Troupe Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship was presented to Cole Mingo based on the following attributes:

- willingness to work hard, challenging himself with a rigorous academic schedule
- consistent success in the classroom, finishing freshmen vear with a 3.5 GPA or above
- · leadership skills in the classroom, on playing field, or while participating in an extracurricular activity
- genuine interest in others and who is always ready to be a
- high integrity, consistently choosing honesty over deception
- joy for life, greeting all with a warm smile and open arms

Cole's character skills teacher described Cole Mingo as,

"...one of our best students. Cole incorporates our character skills attributes seamlessly into his conversations in class. His presentations are particularly spot on, memorized, and practiced beforehand. Cole is always looking out for his classmates and includes any leftover students when there is small group work to be done. Cole really does care about making a difference and cares for the poorest of the poor. For his tolerance project, he ended with a prayer for both the migrants' safe journey and for an opening of the hearts of those in destination countries. Cole's world view is vast and inclusive, his heart generous, and his mind sharp."

Cole will receive a \$1,000 scholarship his sophomore, junior, and senior years, as long as he maintains a 3.5 GPA or above, and continues to live his life with integrity. Doug and Sherri Troupe presented the scholarship.

The Paul Troupe Memorial scholarship will be awarded each year to a member of the freshmen class upon higher completion of first year studies and will continue throughout their remaining years at Skutt Catholic.

Skutt Catholic Parent Association Legend Of The Skyhawk Scholarship

The Skutt Catholic Parent Association Legend of the SkyHawk Scholarship recognizes two graduating seniors (one male, one female) who exemplify the Legend of the SkyHawk. These students personify the qualities and values expressed in the legend. They actively participate in school



and community activities and exhibit the wisdom of learning. By awarding this scholarship, the parent association hopes to encourage students to strive and soar in the spirit of the SkyHawk. The recipients of this year's Legend of the SkyHawk Scholarhips are:

Matthew Pohlman and Jennifer Hoody

Alumni Ambassador Scholarship Winners

The purpose of the Alumni Ambassador Scholarship is two-fold. First, it is intended to provide a monetary award to two students upon graduation from Skutt Catholic and second, to establish liaisons between the each graduating class and the alumni association.

By selecting scholarship recipients at the end of their junior year, these two students are able to attend and help with alumni activities during their senior year, prior to graduation. This allows these students to meet several alumni and become familiar with the various alumni activities.

Selection of recipients is based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, school leadership, community service, and the completion of all information requested in the application. Additionally, the scholarship committee makes a subjective judgment about whether the candidate will be a strong advocate for their class once they graduate from Skutt Catholic.

This year's winners from the class of 2017 are Emily Koster and Kirayle Jones. Emily and Kirayle are both very involved in school activities.



Emily plans to major in computer science

computer engineering. She has served on the Mock Trial, IT Innovation Cup and Science Olympiad teams. She is member of Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society and Junior Class Board. She has earned several academic, service, and leadership awards. She has also participated in tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Kirayle is a member of Vivace Showchoir, SkyHawks for Life, Guardians men's prayer group, Campus Ministry, and has served on the stage crew for theater productions and as editor in chief and co-news anchor for the Flightline TV. Kirayle has played football and golf, wrestled, and participated in track. Kirayle hopes to study secondary education in college.

DONATE TO OMAHA GIVES! SKUTT CATHOLIC LOVES OUR TEN-DOLLAR SCHOLARS

Our TEN-DOLLAR SCHOLARS came through in a big way during Omaha Gives! and many others gave more than ten dollars! Skutt Catholic had over 250 unique donors and raised over \$11,000 during the online fundraiser. That's a 368% increase in participants over last year. This increase qualified us a \$1,500 participation award from our old friends at Mutual of Omaha. We were delighted to have their support, as V.J. Skutt was a longtime chairman at Mutual of Omaha and their financial backing was integral in the founding of Skutt Catholic.

The Omaha Gives! donations are being used to help fund the renovation of our restrooms in the commons. Because of the publicity garnered through the Omaha Gives! promotion, several people in the Skutt Catholic community have come forward and offered their assistance with the renovation project. The Omaha Gives! donations, coupled with these other donated gifts, will help us get a good start on the common's restroom project this summer. Thanks to everyone who took part in Omaha Gives! And thank you to all those who have donated to the project because of Omaha Gives!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Did you know that on average, one in 10 companies match employee donations?

By simply completing a matching-gift form from your company you may be able to double or even triple the impact of your donation to Skutt Catholic.

If you volunteer with us, your employer may provide us with a grant as a way to recognize your ongoing support. Skutt Catholic alumni parents Jon and Laurie Wagner have been able to provide additional gifts to the school by capitalizing on Jon's company providing funds to the school based on Jon's volunteer hours on the football field. Most employers include spouses and retirees in their matching-gift program. We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Advancement News

As Skutt Catholic's constituent base matures, donors find themselves wanting to give back to the school in meaningful and ongoing ways. Consider the following:

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL APPEAL

Special thanks to Trevor and Andrea Barton for serving as the 2015 - 2016 Annual Appeal General Chairs and for helping Skutt Catholic surpass our budgeted appeal goal



Andrea & Trevor Barton

by \$35,000. Skutt Catholic would like to take this opportunity to also thank our generous appeal donors. This year 365 people gave and 408 gifts were donated.

Skutt Catholic's fiscal year ended on June 30. The appeal raised \$185,000. Our budgeted goal was \$150,000. Money collected through the appeal not only helps close the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate a student, but also provides needed assistance for many of our families requesting financial aid. Over 30% of Skutt Catholic families have received tuition help this past school year.

CREATE AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

An endowed scholarship is a lasting gift to the school that will help cover tuition costs for selected students for many years to come.



Paul & Patty Mendlik

Recent honorary Angel Flight chairs Paul and Patty Mendlik set up an endowed scholarship through the Archdiocese of Omaha to benefit Skutt Catholic students and provide financial aid for those needing tuition assistance.

Whether a memorial gift or a celebratory gift, Skutt Catholic encourages our donors to consider making a lasting gift by creating an endowed scholarship for our students.

NAME SKUTT CATHOLIC AS A BENEFICIARY ON A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Skutt Catholic alumni parents Dan an Mary Ellen Scholz took the opportunity several years ago to name Skutt Catholic as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. The Scholz's make premium payments on the policy each year and at some point in the distant future that policy will provide a substantial gift to the school.



ANGEL FLIGHT 2016



V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School began operations in August of 1993, serving 90 freshmen and 30 sophomores. The school exists as a result of the concerted effort of all Catholics in the Omaha metropolitan area, who supported the Archbishop's Campaign for Educational Excellence in the early 1990's. A portion of the campaign was designated for the construction of a new Archdiocesan, coeducational high school for the growing Catholic populations on the western edge of Omaha. The school was named in honor of two of Omaha's most prominent and dedicated citizens, V.J. and Angela Skutt.

Skutt Catholic has experienced a steady increase in numbers each year and now serves more than 700 students, grades nine through twelve. The growth and success of the school over the years has truly been miraculous.

Please join Skutt Catholic High School for Angel Flight 2016 – *Miracle on 156th Street*, as we celebrate our 23rd annual dinner and auction fundraiser Sat., Sept. 24. On this special evening, as the theme suggests, we will be honoring the miracle of Skutt Catholic High School. Our tremendous history of success and the bright future ahead is due to the dedication and support of so many alumni, students, parents, grandparents, and friends of the SkyHawk community. Plan to join us for this festive occasion. Look for your invitation later this summer or visit SkuttCatholic.com for details.



In Memoriam

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

Nicole Alford – sister-in-law of John McMahon (school president)

William Barclay - paternal grandfather of Victoria Barclay '17

Mary Margaret Beisch - maternal grandmother of Anthony Garro '07, Sarah Garro '10, Margaret Garro '12, Marie Garro '13, and Lucia Garro '15

Robert Broderick Sr. - paternal grandfather of Doug Broderick Jr. '05, Stephanie Broderick '06, and Robert Broderick III '07

Jo Caliendo - maternal grandmother of Anna White '13, Michael White '16, Nicole White '17, and Joshua White '19 Theresa Clark – mother of Angie Lohaus (staff)

James Duncan - maternal grandfather of Sarah Talcott '01, Katelyn Talcott Buhrow '04, and Elizabeth Talcott '06

Kenneth Feltch - maternal grandfather of Shannon Schrader '13 and Sarah Schrader '17

Theresa Fitzgerald - mother of Meaghan Fitzgerald Walls '00, Kathleen Fitzgerald Folkerts '04, and mother-in-law of Pete Walls (basketball coach)

Margaret 'Peggy' Gordon - maternal grandmother of Kristen Onkka '05, Michaela Onkka '10, Suzanne Onkka '15 and paternal grandmother of Paige Gordon Ozmun '09 and Amanda Gordon '13

Don Hajek – paternal grandfather of James Hajek '10 and father-in-law to Elizabeth Hajek (staff)

Marie Hoesing – maternal grandmother of Angela Biga '02 and Ryan Biga '05

Cecil Hoffman – father of Sherri Hoye (faculty)

Patrick Idler – maternal grandfather of Adam LaFond '17

Harlan King - father of Heather King Combs '97 and Erik King '99

Edward Koley - paternal grandfather of Nikki Koley '09, Ned Koley '10, Keri Koley '11, Creighton Koley '14 and father of Tom Koley (past board member)

Merna Korensky – paternal great-grandmother of Anna Korensky '15 and Max Korensky '18

Donna Lautenschlager – great grandmother of Blaine Wikoff '19

Carl Linden - maternal grandfather of Jack Hilgert '16 and Caroline Hilgert '18

Margaret Lynam - paternal grandmother of Paige Lynam '11, Madison Lynam '13, and Sarah Lynam '17

Sharon McNeil - paternal grandmother of Andy McNeil '06, Melissa McNeil Chambers '08, and Allison McNeil '12 and mother of Barney McNeil (football coaching staff)

Sam Milone - paternal grandfather of Anna Milone '12, Sam Milone '16, Lauren Milone '19 and maternal grandfather of Marie Krause '09 and Molly Krause '12

Lyndon Montgomery – paternal grandfather of Ryan Montgomery '16

Darlene Odorisio – paternal grandmother of Michaela Odorisio Jones '99, Vince Odorisio '01, Angie Odorisio Grote '01, Tony Odorisio '03, Marcus Odorisio '04, and Elizabeth Odorisio '06

Marian Phipps - mother of Kelli Phipps Dumont '97

Lois Rew – maternal grandmother of Brendan Stricherz '16

Lucille Ritz - mother of Jeff Ritz (assistant women's basketball coach)

Joseph Roh - maternal grandfather of Anna Milone '12, Sam Milone '16, and Lauren Milone '19

Robert Shewan - maternal grandfather of Melissa Wasserburger '18 and Noah Wasserburger '18

Helen Snowden – paternal grandmother of Rebecca Snowden '17

Flora Mae Suing - paternal grandmother of Brianne Suing '02 and mother-in-law of Audrey Suing (staff)

Karen Svobada - aunt of Allie Clark '19 and Zoe Clark '19

Larry Tretter - maternal grandfather of Brianna Tretter '19

Norris Walter – paternal grandfather of Taylor Walter '18

Corky Weaver – maternal grandmother of Claire Linstroth '16

Michael Weston - maternal grandfather of Christine Smith '12 and Connor Smith '12

Mary Frances Wittebort - mother-in-law of Tom Neumann (faculty)

Frank Zach - maternal grandfather of Marie Slavin '04, Ashley Slavin '06, Jared Slavin '09, and Ethan Slavin '19



End of Year Mass, Awards Ceremony, and Brunch Honors This Year's Retirees

Principal Rob Meyers served as master of ceremonies at the 2015 - 2016 faculty and staff award ceremony. In addition to acknowledging several faculty members who have reached five, 10, 15, and 20 year milestones at Skutt Catholic, Rob took some time to fondly recall special achievements from our retiring faculty and staff members. Although his prefaced his remarks as a "roast" of sorts, his comments were filled with love and admiration for our honorees. Below are a few of his most notable remarks about each person's accomplishments:



Retiree Cynthia Carson and her son Travis

•• Cynthia Carlson was hired in the fall of 2003. She received her J.D. from Creighton University in 1980. Cynthia was mentored by Paula Lenz and can speak several languages including German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, and Russian.

66 Candy Higgins, in addition to being a valued member of the math department, has been a senior class sponsor, an assistant student council sponsor, head student council sponsor, freshman cheerleading coach, and Big Hawk/Little Hawk sponsor.

Candy has brought an interesting sense of humor to her work. I will most definitely miss her sharing quotes from Jerry Seinfeld episodes...no soup for you!



Retiree Candace Higgins



Retiree Bill Howard and the Howard family

•• Bill Howard served as CAD teacher as well as after school parking lot patrol, play production set design and support, and general construction specialist. He has been a great advocate for Skutt Catholic activities. As well as being a mainstay on the Friday night parking lot crew, Bill has been a tireless supporter of the drama productions at Skutt Catholic. His handiwork is visible all over the school. I always knew the time would come for Bill to retire, but I secretly wished it never would. In addition to all that he has done for our facilities, he has done so much more with our kids. Bill has always developed strong bonds with his students, and continues to stay in touch and track their progress after leaving Skutt Catholic. Our students have always worked for Bill. It really is a great testament to the quality educator that he is.

66 The bottom line is while we can all be replaced, Audrey Suing is irreplaceable. Her commitment to Skutt Catholic, the way that she works with students, her patience with students and adults, have all been invaluable She held the title of receptionist, but was really more of a mother to all the students that went to school here. Audrey will be missed.



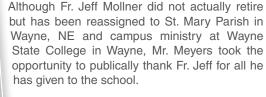
- 66 Paula Lenz recently celebrated her 50th year in education this year. It is remarkable to note that Paula:
 - started as an elementary teacher at St. Joseph's teaching fourth grade
 - joined the Peace Corp in 1967 and went to Korea
 - came back to the Archdiocese in 1969 and taught grades 1-4 at St. Phillip Neri
 - worked for three years in the Millard Public schools teaching first grade
 - started at Boys Town in 1976 and stayed through 1987
 - moved to Flanagan High School in 1987 and served there until 1993
 - is an original staff member at Skutt Catholic High School
 - left Skutt Catholic to be Dean of Students at Roncalli Catholic in 1998
 - · Returned to Skutt Catholic in 2001 and has been here since
 - taught at College of St. Mary and Creighton University
 - created the Character Skills program at Skutt Catholic and is cofounder of Discipline with Purpose
 - taught Character Skills, business classes, and many social studies courses over the years
 - · received the Archdiocese of Omaha Educator of the Year award
 - · was the epitome of life-long learner
 - fervently supported Holocaust education

Thank you Paula for your passionate commitment to Skutt Catholic and furthermore, thank you for your life-long commitment to Catholic education. It takes a special person to really dedicate your life to this endeavor. 99



Retiree Paula Lenz and members of the Lenz family





66 One of my all time favorite moments in my 20 plus years at Skutt Catholic was when Fr. Jeff led our boys' soccer team in prayer prior to a state championship match. One of our students approached Fr. Jeff and asked him to lead the players in reading scripture prior to the game. Nate Kovar selected the readings and Fr. Jeff graciously agreed to lead the team. This powerful moment was captured on film. I believe Fr. Jeff has a picture of it in his office. It had a huge impact on the players involved and on me as their coach. 99



Fr. Jeff Mollner with his parents



End-of-the-year Mass and Brunch honors our retirees and faculty and staff members who are moving on to new places

Staff members Audrey Suing, Joanie Drew, Shari Jensen, Nancy Kirker, and Vicki Lynn





□ **X**

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Summer Snapshots



Reunion attendees Aaron Gloyne, Elizabeth Ordorisio '06, Sarah Smith '06, Sarah Hennings '06, Sarah Gloyne '06,

Ashley Bjornsen '06,Matt Bjornsen, and Chris Hennings order dinner from the Localmotive Food Truck

Golf Champs II Mike Strawhecker '00,

Ashley Wilms,

Amanda Wilms.

Mark Scholz '00

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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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