

OUR Legacy

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



Skutt Catholic Class of 2013 Top Award Winners

Ryan McKeever and
Libby Cronican



Amanda Gordon



Alyson Schulte

It is with great pleasure and pride that we recognize our school's most prestigious award winners from the graduating Class of 2013:

V.J. AND ANGELA SKUTT AWARDS

- Male Recipient – **Ryan McKeever**
- Female Recipient – **Libby Cronican**

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. Our charisms, which are defined as special gifts of the Holy Spirit that characterize an individual and that 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

VALEDICTORIAN

- **Amanda Gordon**

SALUTATORIAN

- **Alyson Schulte**



Lucy Smith
Vice President of Advancement

Dear Skutt Catholic alumni,
families, and friends,

Great gifts are found in many shapes and sizes. Skutt Catholic's gifts are as varied as the students, the educators, the advisors, the coaches, the administrators, the parents, and the benefactors who make up this institution; each gift is deeply valued and appreciated. In this issue of *Our Legacy* you will enjoy seeing how well our students and alumni have honored the variety of gifts they have received. Their many successes are highlighted on the pages of this issue.

By the print date of this summer issue of *Our Legacy*, both Patrick Slattery and Jon Burt will be embarking on new careers and challenges. We are very proud of the work they have accomplished while serving our school as school president and principal. Their bright minds, competitive natures, and compassionate hearts have strengthened this institution. We wish them both the best and we promise to continue their efforts of advancing the mission of Skutt Catholic with purpose, confidence, and great enthusiasm. Please take a minute to read their parting remarks.

We welcome the new leadership of Interim President Mary McGuire and Principal Rob Meyers. Both administrators bring vast educational experiences to draw upon. Equally important, both have tremendous insight as to what it means to be a Skutt Catholic SkyHawk and will continue to lead the school in the direction set forth by their predecessors. Both have contributing introductory letters in this issue.

We congratulate longtime faculty member and coach Keith Engelkamp. He was named the 2012-13 Nebraska Coaches Association Softball Coach of the Year. Keith has contributed a moving article about an experience that influenced him early on in his career, as a coach and as a person. Please take a moment to read his story.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to all those who participated in the 2013 Annual Appeal. We ended our fiscal year on June 30 with monetary gifts totaling over \$127,000. As you know, the Annual Fund helps close the \$2,000 gap between what Skutt Catholic charges in tuition and the actual cost to educate a student. The financial future our school is significantly brighter because of monetary gifts made each year to the Annual Fund.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to Aug. 16 and the excitement surrounding the new school year. Please hold Sat., Sept. 28 open on your calendar for Angel Flight 2013 - *Celebrare!* Join us as we celebrate all things Skutt Catholic, Italian style, during our annual silent and live auction/dinner fundraiser. Angel Flight General Chairs Trevor & Andrea Barton, Valmont & Tehseen Desa, and Jim & Mary Meduna are working 'round the clock with Director of Advancement Events, Sally Brittan, to ensure an exceptional evening for all.

May God bless you and your families,
Lucy Smith
Vice President of Advancement



Retiring faculty member Mike Harris with wife Gloria at the End of Year Faculty and Staff Mass and Brunch





Retiring faculty member Duane Thome is surrounded by his family at the End of Year Faculty and Staff Mass and Brunch.

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Girls basketball coach Marty Plum with Jahens Manigat (Creighton University basketball player) are surrounded by campers and members of girls basketball team.

President's Letter



Mary McGuire

Greetings to the Skutt Catholic High School Community.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to be named the Interim President of Skutt Catholic High School for the 2013-14 school year. It is exciting to be a part

of such a wonderful educational institution and to help further the mission of the school. I appreciate the Board of Directors' confidence to ask me to become President, and am looking forward to the challenges to continue to grow the vision the school was founded upon. I wish Patrick Slattery good luck in becoming the Superintendent of our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. He is an excellent choice. Now all of our archdiocesan schools will benefit from his leadership skills and deep commitment to Catholic education.

My association with Skutt Catholic High School began over 20 years ago. Our three children graduated from Skutt Catholic with our oldest son, Tom, a member of the first freshman class in 1993. Tom graduated in 1997, Katie in 1999, and Michael in 2000. I am very proud that our family has been a part of the Skutt Catholic legacy from the very beginning. As principal of St. Wenceslaus School for over 19 years, I had the opportunity to watch as many of our graduates went on to successful experiences at Skutt Catholic High School. And for the past four years, I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the school, supporting the continued growth and enhancements of the school to keep it on the solid foundation that was begun in the early 1990's.

I look forward to continue to build relationships with the administrative team, faculty and staff, families, and students of such an excellent school community. There is a strong commitment to Catholic education that promises to continue to prepare young men and women to hear, live, and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. I ask for God's blessings and your prayers as we move forward.

Mary McGuire
Interim President



Patrick Slattery

I have not had much time to reflect on my last nine years at Skutt Catholic. Between the end-of-year duties at Skutt Catholic and already beginning many of my new duties as Superintendent of our Archdiocesan schools, life has been too busy to slow down and consider the many school happenings over the past decade.

In writing my last *Our Legacy* article, however, I find myself simply hoping

that I have left Skutt Catholic in a little better place than when I arrived. One can measure progress of a school in a myriad of ways. We could look at the improved standardized test scores and the number of state championships won. We could consider the improved financial efficiency of the school, or the increasing number of EMHC's and lectors among our students, or our recent Blue Ribbon award from the U.S. Department of Education. While metrics like those might give me some peace of mind that Skutt Catholic has built upon the strong foundation set forth by Monsignor Gilg and the school's original constituents, I turn to a sentiment shared in a recent article I read. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, shares that "the real measure of a school's success lies in who our students become."

Having been at Skutt Catholic for nine years now, I have been able to meet so many wonderful alumni who graduated long before I arrived. I've also watched many of our recent graduates excel in college and now enter the work force. I see an alumni base that is academically proficient, hard working, and committed to living out the mission of Skutt Catholic High School. Beyond their achievements in college and their budding accomplishments in the work-force, our alumni are making waves in empowering others, promoting justice, and initiating change. So many have internalized the lessons learned in the classrooms and hallways of Skutt Catholic and are now making great strides in their fields of study. I have great peace of mind in the fact that Skutt Catholic is as strong as it is while still having an alumni base as young as it is today. As our graduates continue to make a name for themselves, they will in turn further bolster the reputation of Skutt Catholic in Omaha and beyond.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you – parents, alumni, students, friends, faculty and staff. You have made Skutt Catholic a success and with your continued help, our school will grow to even greater heights. My job over the past nine years has been made easier by the support of so many in our community. I simply could not imagine any particular school year having successfully transpired without the countless ways all of you have shown support. Your dedication to the school, coupled with the time, talent, and treasure you have afforded, has been superb. I ask for your prayers as I begin a challenging position with the Archdiocese, and I will certainly keep the Skutt Catholic community in my prayers. God Bless!

Patrick Slattery

Principal's Letter



Rob Meyers

It is hard to believe that we have just completed our 20th year of educating young men and women in the Omaha community. I personally began working

here when the school was only a year old, back in the fall of 1994. For those of you that don't know me too well, I just completed my 20th year in Catholic Education. I spent one year teaching math at Cathedral High School. When Cathedral closed, I moved to Skutt Catholic. I spent my first five years as a social studies teacher, the next two as Activities Director, and the past twelve as Assistant Principal. I have also been a soccer coach for both the boys and girls programs, as well as assistant coach in both basketball and football over the years. I am very excited to continue to serve Skutt Catholic as Principal.

The transformation from brand new school to the well established and successful school that we know today would not have been possible without the hard work and sacrifice of many people. As is the case each year, we are saying goodbye to four of those people who put a significant amount of time, talent, and effort into making the school what it is today. As a school community we owe a debt of gratitude to Patrick Slattery, Jon Burt, Duane Thome, and Mike Harris. Their contributions are many, and they will be missed.

While there will be some new faces around the office this year, the staff remains largely intact. We certainly would not be in the position we are today, without the dedication and hard work of our "Blue Ribbon" staff. They continue to inspire our students to become Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change. While change seems to be the one constant in life, Skutt Catholic remains a sturdy cornerstone of excellent Catholic education in our community. If you haven't had a chance to visit lately, we'd love to see you.

Rob Meyers



Jon Burt

It was a Friday evening in early April of 2004 that I finished a week of teaching, packed up my things, and walked down the stairs from my third floor classroom at Mercy High School. I turned the car onto Center St. and started down my usual path home (I lived in Lincoln at the time), but when I hit 60th St., I decided to keep heading west instead of veering south to jump on I-80. With each block I travelled, I experienced a similar feeling that I did in college when I travelled down I-35 through Iowa then turned west toward Nebraska, I felt like I was coming home . . .

A month earlier my life-long best friend and I had taken in the State Basketball Tournament at the Devaney Center, cheering on our alma mater, Pius X High School, to a championship. At one point he glanced down at the court and said, "You should be down there." I quickly replied, matter of fact, "I know." Two weeks later I saw the ad in the World Herald: Theology teacher, English teacher, and Varsity Boys Basketball coach. My cover letter and resume were in Msgr. Gilg's inbox in hours. I worked harder for the position than I ever had and likely ever will again . . .

Everything was still in the air that Friday evening. I had completed round one of the interview process, but there were no guarantees. However, something called me to drive to the corner of 156th and Center . . . And when I hung a left on that cloudless evening, traveled south on 156th and turned into the main drive, saw the beautiful building façade and the immaculate fields, all I could do was smile ear to ear. I was home . . .

Thank you, Skutt Catholic, for being home to my family for the last decade. Thank you for experiences, relationships, achievements and opportunities that have gone beyond my most daring hopes and dreams. Thank you for being YOU, your hospitality, vitality, and desire to make this school all that it can be and more have left an indelible impression on all who have passed through your doors . . . Thank you for being home to countless students, families and professionals . . . Thank you for being unique, bold and faithful to your Mission on so many levels . . .

As you continue to grow in number and sophistication, remember your "small town" roots and sense of hospitality . . .

As your academic performance soars, remember the moral imperative of a *Catholic* school is to be *universal*, to welcome all . . .

As your teams and programs continue raking in titles, remember those who first came through your doors were just looking for the opportunity to participate and compete, no matter what the score or the outcome . . .

As your students earn accolades in every endeavor, recall that high school is just one part of their journey; who they become in the future tells us much more about the value of our community than what they accomplish today. . .

As your name grows within the community, remember that you are, have always been, and will always be only as good as the quality and commitment of the people within the SC family . . .

Thank you for the journey . . . For my family and for countless others, Skutt Catholic will always be home.

Jon Burt

 SKUTT CATHOLIC

Alumni *Updates*



Kelly McAleer '97 and **John McMannama '97** were united in marriage at St. Cecelia Cathedral on June 14, 2013. Monsignor Gilg joined Father Gutsell on the altar. Kelly and John had been good friends all through high school. They met again at the wedding of **Brooke Janousek Heck, '97** to Jim Heck in 2010.

Nick Durow '97 and wife Holly welcomed Cameron Paul Durow on Jan. 18, 2013. He joins big sister Abigail (age 5) at home.

Ryan Lockee '96 is currently living in Dharamsalo, India, the home of the Dalai Lama. He is volunteering and tutoring Tibetan monks and refugees in English and says it is a great experience.

Dr. Erin Costello Kramer '99 and husband Philip Kramer of Algona, Iowa welcomed a son, Samuel Patrick on Dec. 12, 2012. Samuel weighed in at 9lbs. 2oz. and joins 3 year old big brother, Henry Martin. Erin graduated from Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2008 and is currently a veterinarian at Harmon Animal Clinic in Humboldt, Iowa.

Eli and **Michaela Odorisio Jones '99** are delighted to announce the birth of Ottaviano Michael Jones on Oct. 10, 2012. He weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Big sister Evelyn (age 2) loves him to pieces.

Michelle Mimick Phillips '99 has been recognized as one of the Omaha Learning Community's top teachers.

Kelsey Eccker '08 attends Creighton University School of Law and will graduate in 2015. Kelsey received the CALI Excellence For The Future Award after the completion of the fall semester in 2012. Kelsey is currently employed at the firm of Abrahams, Kaslow and Cassman LLP as a law clerk.



Mallory Eccker '02 and Mitch Eberle were married at St John's Church on the Creighton campus on April 12, 2013. Her twin sister **Allison Eccker '02** married Vince Boulay at St. John's Church, nearly one year earlier on April 21, 2012. Both wedding parties included sisters **Kelsey Eccker '08**, and **Kiley Eccker '10** and cousin **Megan Blazek Hoch '04**.



Adam and **Sara Blazek Cooper '01** gave birth to daughter Monica at 26 weeks. Although the first several months were quite challenging, baby Monica has made incredible strides. Her amazing story was recently featured in an Alegent Creighton Health website video entitled *Life at 26 Weeks*.

Jeff Randall '02 moved to Alaska a few years ago to finish his master's degree. Jeff has been working as an environmental scientist and wildlife biologist based out of Anchorage. He recently revisited pottery, a hobby first learned at Skutt Catholic from Mrs. Jennie Wilson! Although he hadn't touched a potter's wheel since his senior year in high school, Jeff picked up right where he left off. He found a pottery studio that rents him space and wheel time and has been going in a couple times a week to throw.



Tim and **Jill Graham Seberger '04** and big brother Graham welcomed Lucas Patrick Seberger on May 18, 2013. Lucas weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. Jill is currently working at the Nebraska Medical Center as a nurse in the NICU and recently became an Internationally Certified Lactation Consultant.

Samantha Bastian '07 graduated from the University of Iowa in 2011 with a Bachelors of Music and BA in Performing Arts Entrepreneurship, and entered the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Order in Valparaiso, NE, July 13, 2012. On Sunday, April 7, 2013 Samantha received the Holy Habit of Carmel and her new name, Sister Francisca of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She will spend the next several years as a novice sister continuing formation and discernment in this order. Sister Francisca will then take 1st vows in about a year with subsequent 2nd and final vows during the next four to five years. Please continue to pray for Sister as she continues to seek God's Will as she has promised her prayers for all of her SC family.



Jaime P. Johnson '09 graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Art degree in Psychology and a minor in Business on May 11, 2013 from Rockhurst University. Jaime received the Michael O'Connor award for the top Psychology student as well as several other academic awards. He has accepted a position at Quality Living, Inc. (QLI) in Omaha and will also be attending the University of Nebraska-Omaha this fall to obtain a Masters in Counseling. While at Rockhurst University, Jaime was a member of the Rockhurst baseball team, served as the president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, and also spent a few weeks in Nicaragua volunteering on projects to help the children. Jaime also held internships with QLI (Omaha) and the Kansas City Chiefs.



Ty and **Holly Nice Christensen '03** announce the arrival of Cadence Kay Christensen born Dec.20, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. Proud big sister Carly is thrilled with her new baby sister!



Stephanie Hughes Hyland '06 married Matt Hyland on Aug. 24, 2012 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Omaha. Stephanie's sister, **Kacie Hughes '12** was the maid of honor. Stephanie is a reporter/photographer for the Seward County Independent and Friend Sentinel newspapers. Matt is a police officer at the Seward Police Department. He is also a Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

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SKUTT CATHOLIC

Alumni Updates



Ann Marie Bastian '09, graduated from UNO with honors with a BS in Elementary Education on May 9, 2013. Annie married Charles Allan Eichman of Harrisburg PA, Sat., May 25, 2013. Annie and Charlie are residing in Sewell, NJ.

Brian and **Christina Gawley McMichen '06** are proud parents to daughter Isabelle May McMichen born on Dec. 25, 2012.

Kiley Eccker '10 will be graduating from Creighton University School of Business with a major in Accounting in 2014 and will sit for the CPA in June of 2014. Kiley is currently employed at KPMG with an internship in auditing.

Adam Ossino '10 won a silver ADDY in the Nebraska ADDY Student Competition sponsored by the American Advertising Federation for the following print ad in the Consumer or Trade Publication category of the design competition. Adam is a student at the Creative Center, a college for art and design located in Omaha.



Dr. T.J. Welniak '03 has been appointed Chief Resident of Emergency Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Caitlin McDermott '13 is a new member of the University of Nebraska's Scarlets Dance Team for the 2013-14 season. Finalists completed a timed two-mile run and an interview with a judging panel. Judges based their selection on dancing ability and the candidate's enthusiasm and determination to be a part of the Husker game day experience.



Christopher Wolfe '99 and **Jaime Ammons Wolfe '00** are proud to announce the arrival of Logan Cecilia Wolfe born on May 20, 2013. Logan weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. She was welcomed home by big sisters, Ryan, Paityn, and Camryn, and big brother Lincoln.

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Skutt Catholic Class of 2013 Top Award Winners

Continued from front cover

JESSE GRIESE AWARD

- **Phillip Rasmussen**

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
- Who 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

SKYHAWK ACTIVITIES AWARDS

- Male Recipient – **Benjamin Harrison**
- Female Recipient – **Amanda Olson**

The SkyHawk Activities Awards 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 also a positive representative of the school in and out of the classroom.

STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

- Male Recipient – **Zach Legband**
- Female Recipient – **Elizabeth Bartels**

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.

SKYHAWK SPIRIT AWARDS

- Male recipient – **Austine Evans**
- Female Recipient – **Mackenzie Hagge**

The Skutt Catholic Athletic Committee presents the male and female SkyHawk Spirit Awards to seniors who 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.

LIVING THE GOSPEL AWARD

- Male Recipient – **Brian Carmody**
- Female Recipient – **Sara Kleinsasser**

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 his four years at Skutt Catholic, Brian Carmody has volunteered with Operation Others, serving on the CORE team the past two years. He also has used his passion for tennis to help others through the Gifford Park Tennis Clinic and the Special Olympics Tennis Buddies program.

Sara Kleinsasser has worked with programs including Project Linus, Youth Emergency Services, Salvation Army, and the Stephen Center. She also has volunteered weekly at Children's Hospital the past three years, with plans to continue after graduation.

These students' names will be engraved on the Living the Gospel plaque in the hallway of our school.

Skutt Catholic Takes Part in SkyHawks in the City

During the weekend of March 15-17, Skutt Catholic students **Meagan Bishop, Ellie Carmody, Libby Cronican, Brianna Desa, Haley Gould, Andrew Johnson, Jackie Koenig, Abbey Lenz, Kaeli Lenz, Allison McGrath, Lauren Richards, and Maggie Zach**, along with activity leaders **Fr. Jeff** and **Julie Schmitz** participated in SkyHawks in the City, where they volunteered at eight different ministries all weekend around Omaha. The students received many compliments about how well they actively engaged in every experience.

The group, visited with residents at Life Care Center of Elkhorn, cooked with participants in the VSP Club, braved the cold walking in the parade with Youth Emergency Services, worked with Habitat for Humanity, played with children at Completely Kids, served dinner at Open Door Mission, visited with residents of a maternity home, and volunteered at the Heart Ministry Center. They finished the weekend with Mass at Sacred Heart and lunch at Big Mama's. The group was joined with faculty and staff members **Joanie Drew, Joe Koneck-Wilcox, Christine Diss, and Jim Mangimeli.**

Skutt Catholic Named Habitat for Humanity's School of the Year

Skutt Catholic's Habitat for Humanity chapter was started by **Ryan McKeever '13**. Faculty activity sponsors **Mrs. Rachel (Fuchs) Twist** and **Mr. Joe Koneck-Wilcox** are SC alums. This past June the Skutt Catholic chapter participated in Omaha's Builder's Blitz, building nine homes in seven days. The group's commitment to our school mission was on display when Skutt Catholic was recently awarded the 'Habitat School of the Year'.

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Skutt Catholic Engineering Teams Excel

Engineers look for innovative and better ways to accomplish a given task. In our daily lives, we face obstacles that keep us from accomplishing our goals or attaining the level of success we desire. Engineers not only find ways to overcome these obstacles, but work to find the most cost effective, efficient, and sustainable solution to the problem. Skutt Catholic's Engineering Program, under the direction of Mr. Kerry Black, is training students to become future engineers.

Skutt Catholic's Engineering program is three years young and growing strong. It fielded two competitive teams this year. The teams met regularly over the course of the school year and worked alongside mentors John Donovan, Jim Kollbaum, and John Harpham all from the engineering firm of URS. The project topics were selected by the students. The topics had to be relevant projects that captured the interest of team members. Projects could be local or national in scope but had to relate to engineering, architecture, and/or science. The team competed in the Student Mentoring Program Competition at the Peter Kiewit Institute on April 11 where they presented their projects.

Skutt Catholic Team #1 won the Post President's Award for the top team in the competition. Team members **Joe Baratta, Kevin Brittan, Michael Gehrki, Nick Jensen, Brennan Jones, Jarrod Jourdan, Jacob Koperski, Beau Litz, Justin McGill, Nic Peterson, Hannah Richstein, Nate Schmidt, Dakota Smith, and Peter Vankat** chose the Skutt Catholic training room as their project. As SC progressed through its 20th year, there were changes being made to modernize the look and feel of the school. One important change that had yet to be addressed was the training room. This project addressed the need for renovation, as well as trying to find the most eco-friendly solution for the situation.

Skutt Catholic Team #2 won an Award of Distinction. Team members **Katie Batenhorst, Taylor Bullins, Devin Christensen, Scott Friend, Regan Jones, Todd Leutzinger, and Tom Peterson** chose to improve the Omaha bike system as their project. They created an innovative bike system that would connect the newly developing Crossroads Mall all the way to the Lewis and Clarke Landing. The system would be comprised of bike boulevards, cycle tracks, sharrows, and regular bike trails. The bike plan would not only reshape Omaha, but also reshape the people by promoting healthier lifestyles and a better place to live.

We applaud the success of both teams at the competition. We are confident that as these students dedicate themselves to their field of studies they will improve all our lives with what they have learned. Whether it is the food we eat, the medicine we take, the car we drive, or the way we heat our homes be assured an engineer has helped shape our experience.



Harry Weddington, USACE. Photographer for Engineers competition photographs



Skutt Catholic IT Team Wins UNO's IT INNOVATION CUP

Skutt Catholic's IT team brought home a big trophy and the big bucks as winner's of the IT INNOVATION CUP, a mobile game development competition for high school students hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The competition which was held on April 23 at the Scott Conference Center awarded THE CALORIE GALLERY first place. The app, available for download on iPad's through the Apple Store, is an educational game for children, teaching them about good health and nutrition habits. Created initially by **Katherine (Kat) Slump** for her Senior Project, the app was further perfected by fellow students **Jon Baumert, Adam Prodroza, Michael Rerucha, and Anna White.**

Skutt Catholic's Mock Trial Team Reaches New Heights

Skutt Catholic's Mock Trial team, won their fifth state championship earlier this year. Their top finish at state qualified the team for nationals in Indianapolis. At nationals the team finished undefeated and third in the nation. Omaha's legal newsletter, The Omaha Record recently covered their success story in their online web issue. Below is a reprint of the article.

Skutt Mock Trial Team Goes Undefeated

By Matt Goodlett, The Daily Record

The Skutt Catholic High School mock trial team placed third at this year's National Mock Trial competition and the circumstances surrounding that finish, and their increasingly impressive track record, are a testament to the program.

Patrick Borchers, vice-president of Academic Affairs at Creighton University and former dean of the Creighton Law School, started the program along with his wife, attorney Judy Borchers, when their son Ryan attended Skutt in 2003.

Borchers describes that first team as "cobbled together" and fielding only six students, but the team won districts and placed fourth at state. Skutt has consistently been to the state championships every year since.



In 2007, Skutt went to its first national tournament and for the past four years has represented Nebraska at nationals. They didn't just show up. The previous four times that Skutt has been to nationals, they've won three of their four trials, just missing out on a top ten placement with each showing. They've never finished lower than 14th place.

Continue the remainder of this reprinted article on page 13

Skutt Catholic Takes First Place in the State Speech Tournament

Faculty member **Matt Eledge** and the Skutt Catholic Speech team deserves high praise for winning not one, but two State Championships in the past two years! Individual winners include the following students:

Zach Pohlman: 1st in Informative Speaking
Abby Hoffman: 4th in Humorous Prose, 2nd in Poetry
Sammi Turco: 1st in Entertainment Speaking
Aubrey Fleming: 3rd in Poetry
Aubrey Fleming, Colie Gottschalk, Steph Kaiser: 3rd in OID
Taylor Lofdahl: 1st in Serious Prose
Brianna Desa: 2nd in Informative, 5th in Persuasive
John Grigaitis/Zach Dinslage: 5th in Duet Acting

Skutt Catholic Music Department Hit High Notes in Recent Competitions

The concert band received its first 1* rating in our school's history! All three judges gave our concert band a superior rating along with many kind comments about how impressive they sounded.

SKUTT CATHOLIC

2012-13 Winter Sports

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

It was a successful season for SC athletics. The wrestling team won its 15th State Championship under the direction of **Head Coach Brad Hildebrandt**. Along with the team's success, there were two individual

State Champions **Bailey Vanderpool** (126) & **Brian Peska** (103) and several other medal winners: 2nd place **J.T. Sloboth** (113) 3rd place **Nick Hollins** (160), **Phillip Rasmussen** (170) 5th place **Jacob Walker** (145) 6th place **Nick Jensen** (195).

The team also won the inaugural Dual Meet State Championship (Class B) held the week after the individual State Meet in Kearney. On the way to the title, the SkyHawks defeated Alliance, Syracuse, and Nebraska City (33-27) to win the title.

The basketballs didn't always bounce the SkyHawk's way this year as both the girls and the boys lost in district tournament play.

The girls (13-12) led by **Coach Marty Plum**, defeated Ralston in the district opening round and then lost a tough game to Gretna. The boys (15-9) coached by **Jon Burt**, lost in the district championship game to Ralston. **Brian Schwetschenau** was named to the Class B All State team.

The wind chill didn't affect the swimmers this year as they qualified 16 individuals for the State Meet. Led by **Coach Kellie Harris**, the boys and girls saw times lower (several new school records set). At State, the Girls placed 12th and the Boys 13th - their highest finish ever.

2013 Spring Sports

There were no warm breezes this spring as all teams either played in winter-like weather or lost games to cold and rain. However, through it all the girls soccer and girls tennis programs captured a State Championship. The girl's soccer program, coached by **John Carlson**, finished off their outstanding season with a 3-2 state final victory over Elkhorn South. The girls took home the RCC and District championships as well. Led by Super State and All Nebraska player, **Liz Bartels**, and All State selections, **Brittany Garbina**, **Anna Conway**, and **Ashley Malloy**, the SkyHawks roared through the season only losing once (15-1). With many post season honors going to both seniors and underclassmen, the future remains bright.



Michael Kluver
Gatorade Nebraska
Player of the Year

Not to be outdone by the girls, the boy's soccer program (19-2) also had an outstanding season. Ranked near the top most of the year, the boys, coached by **Rob Meyers**, ended their season in the State Finals, losing 2-1 to South Sioux City. Another highlight was the announcement that **Michael Kluver** (12) was named the Gatorade Nebraska Player of the Year. Michael was also named 1st Team All Nebraska (OWH) and Super State (LJS).

Along with Michael, **Jake Sievers**, **Joe Brown**, and **Jared Mertz** were also named to the Class B All State team.

Coach Meyers has recently been named Skutt Catholic Principal. Varsity Assistant, **Justin Zabawa**, will take over as head coach in 2014.

Running much like those spring winds, this year's track team qualified 13 athletes. Coached by **Matt Turman**, the SkyHawk's **Thomas Stopak** secured a State Championship (Long Jump)

State Results:

Triple Jump – 3rd Place **Zach Legband** 12, Qualified **Sydney Mettling** 11

Long Jump – **Thomas Stopak** 11 - State Champion - 3rd Place **Zach Legband** 12

110m Hurdles – Qualified **Creighton Koley** 11

100m Hurdles – Qualified **Emily Sunderland** 11

100 m – Qualified **Dakota Krejci Smith** 11

3200m Relay – Qualified **Abbey Lenz** 9, **Macy Damewood** 9, **Hannah Schofield** 12, **Natalie Prucha** 11

400 m – Qualified **Sydney Mettling** 11

Shot Put – Qualified **Kathryn Lanzante** 9, **Macy Damewood** 9

2013 Spring Sports continued

The traditional national pastime rang in the new season with the crack of the bat (or ping of the metal) as the SkyHawk baseball team, coached by **Shawn Exner**, belted out a district championship and a State appearance.

Although the weather did not cooperate the entire Spring, the SkyHawks defeated Mt. Michael, 3-2 in the district final, and the local nine advanced to the State Tournament where they went 2-2. **Jake Barton** and **Austin Evans** were named to All State 1st teams.

Again it wasn't great weather when the boys golf team teed it up in the State Tournament. Coached by **Duane Baylor**, the guys looked ahead with anticipation. After all the great shots, the team finished in 5th place - a great end to their season. **Brian Carmody** finished as State Runner-up and was invited to the Nebraska Lions Senior All Star Golf Tournament in Kearney and earned All State honors.



Girl's Tennis, coached by **Sheryl Vaughn**, brought home their 7th State Championship in the last eight years. Led by State Champions, **Bianca Lowe** (10) & **Stephanie Kaiser** (12) - at #1 Doubles and **Jamie Healy & Ellen Carmody** at #2 Doubles, as well as, 2nd place finishers, **Teresa Kaiser** (10) - at #1 Singles and **Caroline Friedman** (11) - at #2 Singles the future looks very promising.



Governor Dave Heineman *proclaims...*



On April 23, 2013 Governor Dave Heineman arrived at Skutt Catholic to deliver a proclamation to the entire school and many wrestling constituents. Whereas, the Skutt Catholic SkyHawks have built a strong and proud wrestling tradition in 20 short years, with:

- 15 Class B state titles
- 13 consecutive Class B state titles
- 58 individual state titles, the most individual state champions in a given year
 - 2006 – 7 state champions
 - 2008 – 7 state champions
- the most points scored in a State Wrestling Tournament
 - 256 pts. – all class
- 3 athletes ranked #1 in the in the nation
 - Kasey Kohl 2000
 - Todd Meneely 2002
 - Thomas Gilman 2011

**Let it be known that April 23 is designated
Skutt Catholic Wrestling Team Day!**



Mary Nebe and Governor Heineman

SKUTT CATHOLIC

Around *Skutt Catholic*

Skutt Catholic's AP Biology Class Helps SAVE THE LEMURS!



AP Biology class presents \$1,600 check to genetics lab director, Gary Shore.

For the last four years, Mrs. Dawn Fuelberth's AP Biology classes have been working with Dr. Louis at Henry Doorly Zoo's Genetics Lab. The project is reforesting a corridor in Madagascar between two endangered lemur populations. The most amazing benefit of the project is it enables our very own Skutt Catholic students "to empower others, promote justice, and initiate change."

Although Madagascar is ripe with governmental upheaval and unrest, the zoo sends people into the villages to educate the Malagasy children about their local resources and endemic biodiversity. Next the zoo personnel hire/pay the children's parents to plant and nurture the trees giving the family further incentives like rocket stoves and gravity water filters. This betters the Malagasy standard of living, both financially and health-wise.

This project is more than "saving the lemurs"! This is about increasing biodiversity and consequently the health of our Earth. Mrs. Fuelberth tells her students this project is a "win-win-win" situation. The Malagasy people win; Skutt faculty and students win by eating the delicious baked goods offered through school bake sale fundraising efforts; and all people win with a healthier Earth. God charged us as stewards to take care of His creation. Our Skutt Catholic students have honored this responsibility and learned that a little actually does go a long way—even around the world!

Skutt Catholic's Mock Trial Team Reaches New Heights *Continued from page 10*

Borchers said, "This year we kind of kicked the door open, and really had a chance at the national championship." Even though Skutt didn't take home the national title, they won all four of their rounds and along with the national champion team of New Mexico were the only undefeated teams at nationals.

More important to Borchers than titles is the effect that he's seen the mock trial program have on the participating students. One particular example from the first year's team involved a student with a difficult home situation.

The student wound up at Creighton, graduated with honors and went on to find a great job, Borchers said. "I'd trade in every trophy we've won for one more thing like that." Borchers said there have been a half dozen students involved with the program whose lives have definitely been changed by their experience with mock trial.

Surprisingly, Borchers said that he believes only one student has gone on to law school, but, "It's not intended to push kids towards law school. It's a fun activity. It's challenging. It's one of the relatively few competitive things in high school where mental agility counts for more than physical agility."

Take for example Skutt's Brianna Desa who was nominated by the presiding judges as one of the 10 Best Attorneys at this year's nationals. She has plans to become an orthopedic surgeon according to Borchers, and he believes she'll achieve that goal.

Desa became involved with mock trial because of a positive experience her older sister had with the program. She also thought it would be a good way to get involved and meet people during her freshman year. She said that mock trial has helped her to not get flustered in pressure situations while public speaking.

"You learn to compose yourself because you can't freak out about it. I think it's helped me with thinking on my feet and just critical thinking in general," Desa said.

Faculty coach Mary Meyer said that Desa is considered a leader on the team.

Meyer has been the faculty coach for the team since its inception in 2003. Meyer teaches government and politics at Skutt. She said that the team felt confident that they would do well when they left for nationals and worked as hard as they ever have in the five weeks leading up to the national tournament.

Meyer said mock trial "permeates into everything that the kids do in all of their other classes. She said that mock trial has helped the participating students even as they go on to the collegiate level of education.

U.S. District Judge Lyle E. Strom has generally judged the championship round in Nebraska since the mid '90s. Nebraska, represented by Ogallala High School, won the very first national championship held in 1984, although only a few states were represented.

He said what distinguished Skutt was, "they had poise and they understood the problems." He said, "They've also got some wonderful coaches."

Strom said that he's just happy to be involved with the mock trial program. "It builds confidence and it helps these young people develop the ability to think on their feet."

The National Mock Trial competition regularly fields teams from over 40 states and territories – an English-language school from South Korea even regularly attends – and this year saw a record 48 teams enter the national competition.

20th Annual Alumni Association Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament Provides Great Golf Shots

The 20th Annual Skutt Catholic Alumni Association's Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament was held at Pacific Springs Golf Club on Fri., June 28. Over 100 participants met for lunch followed by a shot gun start at noon.

Skutt Catholic Alumni President **Kelsey Sievers '09** and Event Chair **Ashley Hinze '02** along with volunteers **Mark Scholz '00**, **Anthony Pasternak '99**, and **Mark Hebenstreit '08** organized a great golf event on a nearly perfect June day! Other alumni joined in after the golf tournament for a social where they enjoyed music, drinks, and reconnecting with other Skutt Catholic alumni.

Tournament Champs Cole Grandfield, Brian Jackson, Chris McDonald and Anthony Pasternak



Volunteers Ceara Kirkpatrick and Joe Brown



Sharon Rasmussen and daughter Michelle



Peg Odorisio and Dave Wesely line- up putt

Event *Updates*

Class of 2003 Celebrates 10 Year Reunion

The Class of 2003 celebrated their 10-Year Reunion on Sat., June 29. The '03 grads returned to Skutt Catholic for a reception and tour of the school followed by dinner. The Omaha Guitar Trio provided music as the grads spent time socializing. **Sarah DeVetter O'Connor** and **Kirsten Carlberg McCormick** served as reunion co-chairs for the event.



T.J. and Sarah O'Connor



Kirsten and Mike McCormick



Class of 2003



Liz Leahy, Gail McGinty, and Melissa Hatz



Susie Dobel and fiancé, Brian Leuschen



Twins Mike and David Smith and their wives
Korynn and Ashton

Event *Updates*

September 28, 2013

Save-the-Date for Angel Flight

Celebrare!



Please make plans to join us on Saturday, September 28, as Angel Flight 2013 presents *Celebrare!* Skutt Catholic's annual silent and live auction dinner will celebrate all things Skutt Catholic, Italian style. Angel Flight's 2013 general chairs **Mary & Jim Meduna, Andrea & Treavor Barton, and Tehseen & Valmont Desa** (pictured) hope to see you there!

COMING SOON

Les Misérables

Skutt Catholic will produce the Broadway version of *Les Misérables*, book by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, and lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer Oct. 24-Nov. 3, for six performances over two weekends (Thurs., Sat., and Sun.). The musical, an adaptation of the Victor Hugo novel, is a story of redemption, faith, and morality.

...with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.





Daniel Lewis Avramovich Memorial

Developing Character

Keith Engelkamp was recognized this past year as Coach of the Year by the Nebraska Softball Association. Below is a story he recently shared, as he reflected on his past 20 years at Skutt Catholic.

Recently I helped sponsor the sophomore boys retreat--which I have done for many years. During the retreat we discussed positive characteristics that the boys admire. We discussed attributes of people that inspired them to be better young men. As part of the retreat I talked about a former student, Dan Avramovich. Dan was a wonderful young man who lost his fight to cancer during our second year as a school. I used my experience with Dan and his family as an example of a moment that forever changed me. As a young coach I wanted to build a team and be successful. Success was measured in a win column. Or so I thought. But I was shown by this young man and the acts of his teammates that winning is only a small part of success.

Dan played baseball for me his freshman year. At that time we had no cut policy and everyone made the team. Although Dan was a skilled player, he was slower than the other boys on the team. His arm was rather weak, but his positive attitude and his effort got him noticed. He was well-liked by his teammates. He played infield and pitched a little, but he didn't get the playing time he deserved. Dan's teammates knew about his struggles and his courage inspired them. The fact that he was even able to play ball was amazing. Since we were a small school our team was close and most boys were multisport athletes.

During his sophomore year Dan became increasingly sick and was unable to participate in baseball. Instead he took a trip to Medjugorje. He brought back a blest medal for every member of the school. It was

a very touching moment as he distributed the medals to everyone at Mass. He was always thinking of others before himself.

That summer during legion ball Dan was close to being called Home. Fr. Gilg held a Mass at the Avramovich's home. I didn't know about the service until team members **Terry Packer '97** and **Nick Hatz '97** asked if they could miss the game against Millard South in order to go to the service. They were shocked when I said no. I told them I felt the whole team needed to attend the service. And we did. Dan passed a few days later. His funeral was one of the saddest moments of my life.

That year, Dan and the team became the teacher to the coach. I had been more focused on playing the better players and winning games, and less focused on developing and building character in all the young men. My experience with Dan changed me as a father, as a teacher, and as a coach. I learned it was how we played the game that made the difference. Through Dan, I became the coach I had always wanted to be.

I have been blest with many victories, state runner ups, and state championships. What I remember most are the young men and women that earned that success. Their hard work, dedication to the game, and commitment to each other not only sharpened their skills, but more importantly developed their character. I truly believe Dan inspired his team to be the best they could be. They played like Dan would have played when they won the first state title for Skutt Catholic in 1997, their senior year. I know Dan was on their minds.

As you drive by the entrance of the school, look for the wonderful memorial to Dan Avramovich. His legacy to Skutt Catholic lives on.

In Memoriam

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

Fred Aliano, Jr. - father of Nicholas Aliano '04 and Angela Aliano '05

Trina Alvarez - maternal grandfather of Taylor Bullins '13

Anna Marie Arkfeld - paternal grandmother of Melissa Arkfeld '08 and Kelsey Arkfeld '10

Robert Bartak - father of Elizabeth Bartak '05

Alexandra (Alex) Bedel '11 - daughter of Beverly Bedel

Joseph Bellinghiere - paternal grandfather of Joseph Bellinghiere '13 and Anna Bellinghiere '16

James Burrowes Bloomingdale - brother of Tim Bloomingdale (director of admissions) and uncle to Joe Bloomingdale '14 and Sarah Bloomingdale '16

Judy Bruce - sister of David Jopp (faculty member and network administrator), aunt of Justin Jopp '07, Andrew Jopp '09 and Ellis Jopp '15

Barbara Bruner - paternal grandmother of Lauren Bruner '13

Merrill Carlson - paternal grandfather of Mark Carlson '02, Timothy Carlson '05 and Katie Carlson '08

Adam Dawson '00 - son of Philip Dawson and Sheri O'Neil, brother of Eric Dawson and Ryan Dawson '01

Kathy Denison - paternal grandmother of Christine Diss (campus minister)

Joan T. Dobel - mother of Michael Dobel (past board member), paternal grandmother of Andrew Dobel '99, Sarah Dobel '01, Susan Dobel '03, and Christine Dobel '06

Che Dreessen - paternal grandmother of Jacob Dreessen '10, Ava Dreessen '17 and Lukas Dreessen '17

Raymond (Chuck) Eliason - father of Margaret Eliason '12, Grace Eliason '14, and Benjamin Eliason '16

Bob Embury - maternal grandfather of Alexander Ruden '09, Lauren Ruden '11, Ellen Ruden '13, and Eric Ruden '15

Susan Etter - maternal grandmother of Sean Slattery '14

Ronald Gottschalk - paternal grandfather of Mary (Molly) Gottschalk '07, Michael Gottschalk '09, David Gottschalk '10, Kathleen Gottschalk '12, Nichole Gottschalk '13, and Adam Gottschalk '15

Thomas Grosserode - father of Theresa Grosserode Smith '02

Rita Gubbels - maternal grandmother of Danielle Kaster '07, Alex Kaster '10, and Miranda Kaster '14

Dean Johnson - paternal grandfather of Andrew Johnson '01, Emilee Johnson '12, Alyssa Johnson '08, Mitchell Johnson '11, and Natalie Johnson '14

Richard Koneck - father-in-law of Joan Koneck-Wilcox (past faculty member), paternal grandfather of Robert Koneck-Wilcox '02, Joan Koneck-Wilcox '03, Joseph Koneck-Wilcox '05 (faculty member), Peter Koneck-Wilcox '07, Mary Koneck-Wilcox '11 and Clare Koneck-Wilcox '13

Joseph Krajicek - maternal grandfather of Spencer Jesz '08, Austin Jesz '10, and Grant Dennis '16

Paula Kramer - mother of Alex Kramer '14

Marjorie M. Kurtenbach - mother of Judy Graham (past board member) and mother-in-law of Joe Graham (past board member), maternal grandmother of Melanie Graham Wood '02, Jill Graham Seberger '04, and Dean Graham '05

Robert Linstroth - father of Claire Linstroth '16

Kathleen Maher - maternal grandmother of Kaitlan McDermott '10, Patrick McDermott '14, Caressa Sedlak '11, and Meara Sedlak '15

Edward Mead - father of Richard Mead (past board member), paternal grandfather of Kathryn (Katie) Mead Southard '02, Ryan Mead '07, and Turner Mead '10

Madonna Strawbridge Michael - maternal grandmother-in-law of Christine Diss (campus minister)

Alice Mulick - maternal grandmother of Garrett Giesler '15 and Gabrielle Giesler '16

Donald Olechoski - father of Cari Olechoski '06 and Kevin Olechoski '09

Dorothy Ortmeier - mother of Audrey Suing (receptionist), maternal grandmother of Brianne Suing '02, Julie Dunning '04 and Paul Dunning '10

Phyllis Oswald - paternal grandmother of Alexander Oswald '16

Steve Pattrin Jr. - father of Shaun Pattrin '02 and Joseph Pattrin '04, maternal grandfather of Raven Hillhouse '09 and uncle of Katheryn Zabrocki '03

Ann Peterson - mother of Thomas Peterson '13 and Joseph Peterson '14

Ron Rasser - paternal grandfather of Quinton Rasser-Naden '16

Helen Rodeniser - maternal grandmother of Kiana Meradith '14

Ben Ruzicka - paternal grandfather of Megan Ruzicka '13

Eileen Ryan - maternal grandmother of Sean Coffey '09 and Timothy Coffey '09

Bonnie Shanahan - paternal grandmother of Lindsay Shanahan Brager '99 and Nick Shanahan '03

Bertha Taylor - grandmother-in-law of Keith Engelkamp (faculty member and head softball coach), maternal great-grandmother of Adam Engelkamp '02, Genevieve Engelkamp '04, Hannah Engelkamp '07, and Kevin Engelkamp '03

Jean Thurmond - maternal grandmother of John McMannama '97 and Carolyn McMannama Sutton '99

Charles Watts - maternal grandfather of Riley Meyer '10 and Reese Meyer '13

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Lighting the Way

On November 12, 2012 Skutt Catholic President Patrick Slattery and distinguished faculty member Jim Mangimelli accepted the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon award at a luncheon held in Washington D.C. The Blue Ribbon Award designates Skutt Catholic as a nationally ranked top 50 school.

To commemorate this prestigious occasion members of Skutt Catholic's Honors Art III class*, under the direction of faculty member Monica Baxter, created this symbolic stained glass window. The scene features a Sky Hawk soaring with a blue ribbon, secured by the cross of Christ, and surrounded by the brilliance of God's light. The Roman Numeral XX (20) is subtly woven into the ribbon, denoting that this award was received in the school's 20th year.

Lighting the Way is dedicated to Patrick Slattery. For nine years Patrick's leadership has advanced the mission and secured the future of this institution.

*Artists include: Devin Christensen, Nicole D'Elia, Haley Gould, Nate Gradoville, and Audrey Lanik.



Michaela, Beth, Patrick, and P.J. Slattery

www.skuttcatholic.com

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