



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

FALL/WINTER 2020





WHAT'S INSIDE

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Andrea Tyrpak-Endres
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*Vice President of Finance
& Chief Financial Officer*

Andrew Deyell '91
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J.
Assistant to the President

MISSION STATEMENT

Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice.

Canisius promotes the development of students through a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum firmly rooted in the Jesuit tradition of education, spirituality and service.

Faithful to St. Ignatius Loyola's desire to provide care and concern for the whole person, Canisius affords each member of the school community the opportunity to develop individual talents for the service of others and the greater glory of God.

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ON THE COVER

House Prefects

Representing the 2019-20 House Cup champions Jogues: **Will Pieroni '21** and **Sean Roche '21**; Xavier: **Jed Dietrich '21** and **Aidan O'Donnell '21**; Campion: **Pat Gallagher '21** and **Josh Harbison '21**; Gonzaga: **Ben Kelly '21** and **Will Joyce '21**; Loyola: **Joe Ciocca '21** and **Michael Dobrasz '21**; Arrupe: **Quinn Griffin '21** and **Owen Kavanaugh '21**.



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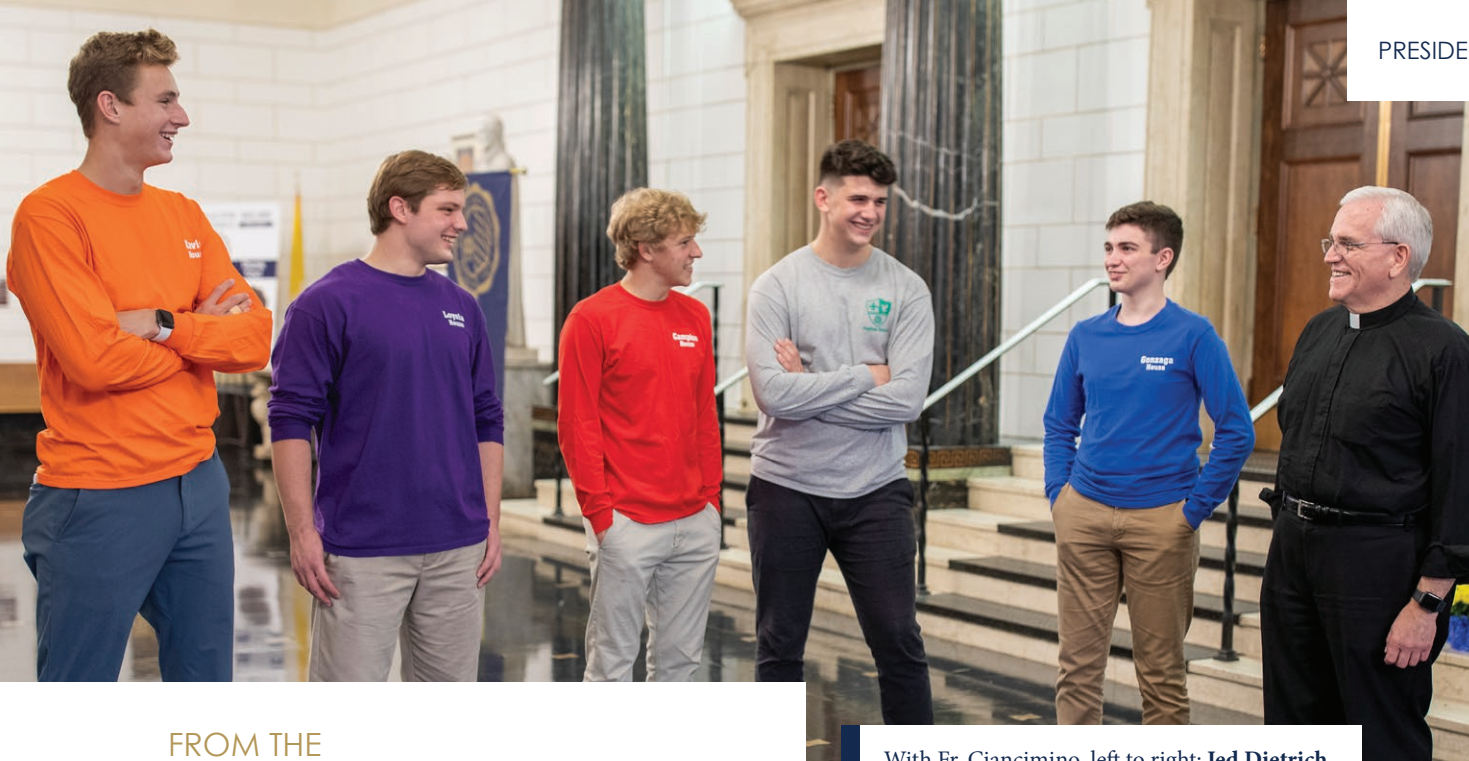
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The return to school this fall was like none any of us have ever experienced. While many schools opened the year fully remote, or with a hybrid of remote and on-campus learning, we are thankful that we had the ability to bring students back to campus full time. Although a small group of our students are learning from home for a variety of reasons, it's safe to say that our students are very happy to be back in school, and those who are home hope to return as soon as it's possible for them to do so.

"We Jesuits, and our colleagues –
our teachers, counselors and coaches –
we genuinely believe that we can
change the world."

Reopening meant putting in place new health and safety protocols – you can learn more about these on the pages ahead – and our students have been terrific about following these protocols. The biggest motivator is that they really want to be here with their teachers and classmates. Of course, we're prepared to pivot to a hybrid program or fully remote learning if we must, but we're doing everything we can to stay in school and to keep our school community safe and healthy.

When our students returned during the first week of September, they had been gone from campus since March 13. I spoke with them at their orientation that September week and said, "We very often talk about being 'Men for Others,' but we need to be good men, good people, first. To be a really good man means

With Fr. Ciancimino, left to right: **Jed Dietrich '21, Michael Dobrasz '21, Josh Harbison '21, Will Pieroni '21, and Will Joyce '21.**

we strive for excellence, not perfection – only God is perfect – and we don't settle for mediocrity whether in our studies, on stages, or fields of play. A good man thinks of others before himself. We follow the example of Jesus Christ."

I challenged our students to reflect on the men they are becoming: "Do you have the will, the drive, the guts to make good choices – even when it's not popular? To speak the truth – even when it means you may have to accept consequences? To be a man of your word; a person of unflinching integrity? To be that voice that stands up for someone? – and we know that can be hard to do. That's what a good man, a good person, does. Do you thank God for your many gifts? Do you have a grateful heart?"

The way we teach, the way we learn, and the way we interact with each other changed in 2020. What hasn't changed is our belief that we can change the world. Yes, we Jesuits, and our colleagues – our teachers, counselors and coaches – we genuinely believe that we can change the world, and we do this by changing one heart, one mind, one student/person at a time. We can change the world – and it's what we expect our students to do – to change the world – to make a difference.

From my heart, I say thank you. Thank you for your goodness, your care, your generosity. We couldn't do it without you. Together we can make a difference. We can change the world.

Blessings and gratitude,

David Ciancimino, S.J.

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.

FROM THE

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Canisius is back to normal in many ways this fall – morning announcements, the bell rings, students go from class to class, learning, interacting, etc. There are some noticeable changes though. For example, if you peek in a classroom you won't see students working in small groups with desks pulled together. Sports – so much a part of many of our students' lives – are limited. The same is true for our music and arts programs. Getting to know students from six feet away, behind plastic shields and face masks, is no easy task for teachers. There is no question that this school year is presenting a challenge to a hallmark of Jesuit education – *cura personalis*, or “care of the whole person.” Despite the barriers and limitations, however, the Canisius community has come together and embraced *cura personalis* as the theme for the present school year – an apt one in these days of the pandemic.

The selection of this theme came about through our House system. For those unfamiliar with school Houses, they are an organic element of boarding school education, and have been an integral part of schools in the British system of education for centuries. Houses are still relatively uncommon in the United States and we are only in our second year with them at Canisius. Houses have been shown to be beneficial in building stronger bonds and connections for students through smaller communities within the larger school community, and I believe we are seeing that taking shape at Canisius.

“Students know how much even a small act of caring and kindness can mean for the person on the receiving end.”

The faculty and staff who serve as the heads of our House system, along with the senior student prefects, met weekly via Zoom throughout the summer. The challenges associated with returning to school during a pandemic were obviously a topic of our Zoom conversations, but the student leaders were also deeply affected by the death of a fellow student last spring, and their concerns helped shape the theme of the school year.

Cura personalis is often viewed as the sole purview of the adult community at Canisius since we have a responsibility to educate, form, and protect. However, *cura personalis* is also within the purview of our young men. This year, our students have renewed and deepened their commitment to care for and look out for one another more intentionally as well. Students know how much even a small act of caring and kindness can mean for the person on the receiving end.



So, as a school community, how are we putting this care into action? We are being more intentional about connecting upperclassmen with freshmen to get the younger guys involved so they can feel the sense of community. We've brought back class nights – a program from years ago – and adapted it to Houses to provide opportunities for House members to get to know each other through fun activities outside of school hours. We've expanded and adjusted the house games that we started last year into a format that works with this year's new COVID health and safety guidelines. Our teachers are tapping into their creativity to connect with students despite the barriers. One example of this is the homework assignment that some teachers gave students at the beginning of the year in which each student recorded a video of himself discussing some “get-to-know-you” questions. These videos provided the teacher, and the student's classmates, an opportunity to see and hear each student without a mask – something that's not possible in classrooms right now.

How we incorporate our theme of *cura personalis* this year is a work in progress. We will be challenged and likely make a few mistakes along the way. But, the genuine appreciation our students have for being back at Canisius after a spring of remote learning, and their genuine efforts to care for each other better, are bright spots in a difficult time. May we all better appreciate all that we have, and strive to embody *cura personalis*, greater care for one another.

Respectfully,

Andrea Tyrpak-Endres
Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

THE NEW NORMAL

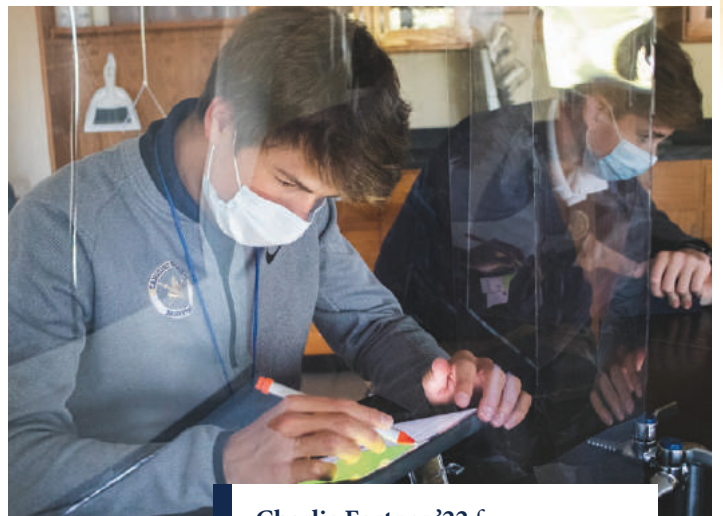


The planning for the September 2020 return to campus began in the spring. New equipment and new procedures would be needed to bring students and teachers back. And so, the Canisius reopening task force set about acquiring items such as temperature scanners, moveable plastic protective barriers, hand sanitizer, room sanitizing sprayers, desk shields, and face masks.



The Scaccia Auditorium serves as a dining hall in addition to the Beecher and Montante cafeterias to allow for more space between students while eating.

“Cooperation has been tremendous so far. The idea behind wearing a mask, keeping distance, and the other protocols is very much who we are – we are ‘Men and Women for Others.’ Each of us — faculty, staff, or student — does these things to keep each other safe and healthy,” explains **Tom Coppola '01** who is the dean of students and served in a lead role with the reopening task force.



Charlie Fortner '22 focuses on school work behind his desk shield.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

“ I think that Canisius has taken the best route to protect us from COVID-19 without hindering our learning experience. ”

– Will Pieroni '21



Fr. Richard Zanon, S.J. celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit for one class year in the Kennedy Field House.



Nurse Denise Keating P '99, '00, '04, '06, '07, in the new isolation room in Berchman's Hall in the Koessler Academic Center. She provided expertise and leadership on the reopening task force.

“ I feel safe and comfortable going to school on a daily basis. The desk shields and masks work great. ”

– Aidan O'Donnell '21



School days begin with a contactless temperature scan in Higgins Hall.

“ Everyone has a newfound appreciation for being in school after going online for months. ”

– Eric Geisler '21

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Campus Ministry programs are a core part of the Canisius experience, even with some adaptations this year due to the pandemic.



"I loved the (Wilderness) Retreat, and the fact that it and all my other retreats helped me by, above all else, creating an experience where I can temporarily forget about the stresses of school and life, and just appreciate the present," said **John Pirrung '21**. He is pictured here on the left, with **Matthew Bradley '21**.

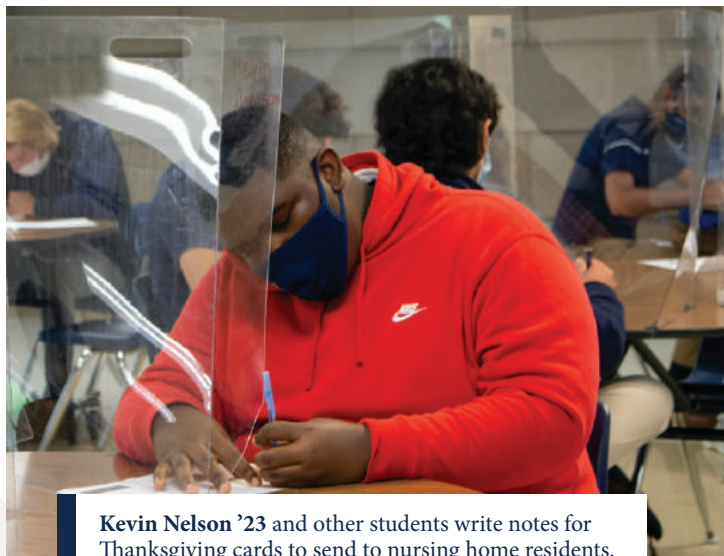


"One plus to social distancing is a smaller group of people per campsite," says **Ben Kelly '21**, a participant in this fall's Wilderness Retreat. "Conversations...can be more in-depth with fewer people."

Ben has found a bright side as Canisius campus ministry has had to rethink all of its retreats this year. With an outdoor venue in Allegany State Park the Wilderness Retreat for seniors was a go, but Kairos for juniors and Emmaus for sophomores are on hold for now. In their place are a new one-day John 1:5 retreat for juniors utilizing the event space in the Canisius High School Center for the Arts, and a one-day Sophomore Retreat on campus for a class that missed out on its Freshman Retreat last March due to the pandemic.

Masses for the whole school are a thing of the past for now too. The start-of-the-school-year Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated four times — once for each class year. And, service projects are different this year since face-to-face interactions must be limited. Each of the six Canisius Houses is partnering with a nonprofit to take on a service project later this school year, plus several students are involved with smaller initiatives such as a Thanksgiving card and letter-writing campaign. Some of their hand-written notes will be delivered to people in nursing homes to spread holiday joy, while others were specifically written to older Canisius alumni to bridge the generations.

As with nearly all aspects of life right now, campus ministry programs will continue to adapt this school year because of the pandemic while continuing to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, challenging students to go deeper and encounter the living God personally.



Kevin Nelson '23 and other students write notes for Thanksgiving cards to send to nursing home residents.



OUR HOUSE

Stronger bonds and connections are emerging from the House communities within our larger school community.

Tristan Gipp '23 represented Jogues in the frisbee golf competition on Tripi Field.

Based on a system successfully used at schools in other parts of the world for centuries, the House system at Canisius is now in its second year. Each Canisius student is assigned to one of six Houses, named after prominent Jesuits, and he stays with that House all four years. Each House has a leadership structure with adult leaders and student leaders from each grade level.

Freshman Fun Nights are a new addition to the Canisius House system in year two. Each Fun Night features games for friendly competition between the two participating Houses, plus a movie and snacks. Another House system change is each House will partner with a local non-profit to do service projects this year.

“The system serves as a great way to divert any possible negative academic competition into a more positive across-school rivalry, which subsequently brings everyone closer together.”

– Eric Geisler '21

“There is competition between the Houses which the students enjoy, but I think we're also seeing students embracing roles as mentors and taking responsibility for looking out for one another. We saw that in the Walkathon this year. Students were walking for tuition assistance for their fellow students with financial need; having that goal of helping someone was a motivator.”

*– Julie Hogan,
Campion Head of House*

“The House system is helping to get students, especially underclassmen, specifically freshmen, who are surrounded by people they don't know in an unfamiliar environment.”

– Jed Dietrich '21

“At first I was not a huge fan of the House system, but I've grown to enjoy it... Also, the House games are a fun way to get everyone involved.”

– Joe Ciocca '21



John Pirrung '21, Jacob Botticelli '21, and Thaizon Trapp '24 competed in the chalk art contest in front of the Kennedy Field House during the Fall 2020 House Games.

“The organization of mentor groups allows students from different grades to interact and become more comfortable with one another, especially since students are in the same mentor group their entire time at Canisius.”

– Will Joyce '21



Liam Feeley '21 took aim in the basketball shooting contest representing Loyola.



TODAY'S CLASSROOM

BY DR. AMY KIMMEL

Dr. Amy Kimmel teaches English 11 and AP English Language and Composition. She has a doctorate in English Literature and has taught at Canisius since 1999.

When Saint Ignatius Loyola exhorted us to “go forth and set the world on fire,” he was being figurative. One imagines that were he to see the state of our world today, he might wish he’d used a different phrase. Yet when Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, which underlie the principles we use today in Jesuit education, he was living in a time of great upheaval for himself, the Church, and the world.

That’s good news for me. Teaching in the time of COVID-19 requires the flexibility, commitment to fundamentals, and, above all, patience that Saint Ignatius built into his way of proceeding.

A case in point: It’s 8:30am, Monday, March 23, 2020, and I’m “going live” with my AP English Language and English 11 classes on Schoology. I’ve got a discussion post open for check-in and Q&A, narrated PowerPoints I’ve converted to video on EdPuzzle, and a related activity they need to complete and upload to the dropbox for their “exit ticket.”

Two weeks later, at the suggestion of **Eric Amodeo ’94**, our Director of Educational Technology, I began using Piazza, a free discussion forum platform that allows for real-time, text-based interaction student-to-teacher and student-to-student. Incorporating it into my AP classes allowed me to respond to student questions more quickly and provided greater flexibility for discussions.

Traditionally, AP Lang concludes with the Great Portfolio Project Presentations, in which my students get to share how they’ve grown as writers and people over the course of their senior year, a sort of Grad at Grad for AP Lang. In place of in-person presentations, students created five-minute narrated PowerPoints, KeyNotes, or Prezis and posted their links on Piazza. While I was grading the projects, they were

“Teaching in the time of COVID-19 requires the flexibility, commitment to fundamentals, and, above all, patience.”

watching each other’s presentations and leaving enthusiastic and thoughtful reviews for one another in the Piazza forum. That selfless, generous interaction between them is one of my favorite teaching memories, and I had little to do with making it happen: It’s the kind of student — the kind of young man — an Ignatian education produces, in-person or remotely.

Fast forward to now, second period English 11: I open the camera app that allows remote learners to see me and adjust the camera view. AirPods in one ear, I admit the students into class from the Zoom waiting room and greet them one by one. If we’re having an in-class discussion, I’ve learned to repeat what students in the room have said, so the guys at home can hear too. Likewise, my students in 1W3 have learned that when I stop mid-sentence and get an abstracted expression on my face, someone at home is asking a question. If I’m projecting a PowerPoint on the Apple TV or explaining an assignment posted on Schoology, I screen share via Zoom, so the guys at home can follow along and take notes. Working together on essay drafts is easy, regardless of where my student is: We use Google Assignments, where I can share editing suggestions and content comments right in the evolving document.

My classroom today may look nothing like it did last year at this time, when I didn’t have the desks in precisely distanced rows, didn’t have desk shields and masks between me and my students’ expressions, didn’t have voices in my ear instead of young men at their desks. But the teaching still happens and, I hope, the learning too. I like to believe that Saint Ignatius would approve.

LEADING CARE

Dr. Edward Cosgrove guides an emergency department through the health care challenges of a pandemic.

Dr. Edward Cosgrove '86 has been on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

As the medical director of the emergency department at Mercy Hospital – the hub of the Catholic Health System in Western New York – Ed is part of a Catholic Health leadership team recognized nationwide for its well-organized response to the crisis. Ed tapped into his experience as a doctor, attorney, hospital administrator, and yes, Canisius High School graduate, to help the local medical community respond to a new and unique virus.

“Canisius High School was the building block that set me on course for a career in medicine, teaching me the discipline, personal responsibility and value of hard work that I have carried with me ever since,” he explains. “Having that well-rounded education has come into play in facing many challenges, whether completing my medical residency while attending law school, or confronting an unprecedented health crisis in the community.”

Ed says his father Edward Cosgrove, a former Erie County District Attorney, was a staunch believer in Jesuit education and sent all three of his boys, including **Jim '89** and **Mike '94**, to Canisius. In addition to being a strong student, Ed played basketball, baseball and football, ran cross country, and participated in many activities such as the It's Academic team and writing for *The Citadel* newspaper.

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 “Having that well-rounded education has
 come into play in facing many challenges.”

Ed earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, majoring in English and pre-med studies. From there, he earned his medical degree followed by a law degree from the University at Buffalo. Prior to becoming medical director of the ER at Mercy Hospital, he practiced emergency medicine at hospitals throughout Western New York and helped develop several well-known urgent care centers in the area.

During an online discussion as part of the Canisius Alumni Speaker Series this past summer, Ed spoke about the very real threat of COVID-19 and how the community-wide response helped to bend the curve on infections. At this writing, he notes



he is cautiously optimistic that, while the disease will not be completely eliminated, we have learned a lot since the start of the pandemic to improve patient outcomes and help stem the continuing spread. However, he notes that area residents must continue to follow guidelines such as wearing masks and social distancing, especially in the fall and winter seasons.

Residing in Orchard Park with his wife and four boys – **Edward '22**, **Kevin '24**, and potential future Crusaders Patrick and Timothy – Ed says he recognizes the sacrifice his parents made to send him and his brothers to Canisius. It is one of the reasons he finds time from a busy medical career to serve on the school's board of trustees.

“I was extremely fortunate to attend Canisius – it is truly a gift my parents gave me and I am proud to pass it on to my sons,” he says. “The world is certainly a different place since I was a Crusader, but the core of a Canisius education remains the same: a combination of rigorous academic studies, varied extracurricular opportunities, and, most importantly, an exploration of our Catholic faith leading to tremendous personal growth for all of the young men lucky enough to attend Canisius.”

LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH

Peter McElroy, Ph.D. is part of an “all hands on deck” response at the CDC.

Peter McElroy, Ph.D. '82 is a branch chief within the Division of Parasitic Disease and Malaria in the Center for Global Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. While Peter is an internationally recognized researcher whose focus is primarily on malaria, HIV and TB, he has also been lending his expertise and supporting the CDC's domestic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The CDC response has been an agency-wide effort in addressing the challenges of COVID and protecting the public health in the United States,” Peter explains. “In addition to my work at the Malaria Branch, I have been part of an international task force constantly studying data from other countries that is then used to inform our domestic strategy against COVID.”

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 “We have worked together and learned a lot since the pandemic started.”

Peter grew up in North Buffalo as one of seven children; brothers **Nathan '84** and **Jonathon '86** are also alumni. Peter says his work at the CDC is part of a rewarding career path that has led him around the world and back. After graduating from Canisius he earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University at Buffalo. He then joined the Peace Corps and the roots of his service in public health were planted.

Working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Western Kenya, Peter was assigned to a CDC project involving a collaborative malaria research study. He assisted in setting up clinics and drawing blood specimens for the study. The experience sparked an interest in the work of the CDC, and after two years of service in the Peace Corps, Peter returned to the U.S., earning both a master's degree in public health and his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

While pursuing his master's, Peter worked with the U.S. Navy in Bethesda, MD on a malaria vaccine development program. Upon finishing his doctorate, he applied for and was accepted into the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), among the most prestigious training programs at the agency for physicians and Ph.D. epidemiologists. Completing the two-year EIS



program, Peter was then assigned to the CDC's division focused on tuberculosis elimination in the U.S.

After seven years in the division, Peter returned to Africa for a brief period, including Cameroon and Kenya, where he worked in an HIV/AIDS vaccine testing program. An appointment as CDC resident advisor to the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), started by President George W. Bush in 2006, took Peter to Tanzania where he lived with his wife and two young daughters for about five years. Peter notes the \$750 million government funded malaria control initiative led by the CDC and practiced in 27 countries continues today.

Returning to the U.S., Peter and his family settled in the Atlanta area where he continued working with the PMI program, overseeing and supporting CDC staff in East African countries. He eventually took over as the CDC lead for the entire PMI program. In 2019, Peter was named chief of the CDC's Malaria Branch.

As he has jumped in on the CDC's COVID response efforts, Peter says he has been greatly impressed by the spirit of collaboration within the agency. “Few infectious diseases come close to the COVID virus in terms of the staggering numbers in a relatively short amount of time – more than a million deaths worldwide just eight months into the pandemic,” he concludes. “This is a very different virus and our work has been grueling, yet we have worked together and learned a lot about how this particular coronavirus is transmitted since the pandemic started. I am proud to be part of the CDC's continuing efforts to protect the public health in our nation.”

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

Brandon Littles assists rideshare drivers during the pandemic with an innovative insurance start-up.

Brandon Littles '02 knows a thing or two about making adjustments.

After earning a bachelor's degree in business management from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Brandon began a 13-year career with Amica Mutual Insurance Company as a claims adjuster. He rose through the ranks to claims supervisor then branch manager for Amica, living up and down the east coast from Rhode Island and Maryland to Florida and New York.

While no business can claim to have been totally prepared for the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Brandon says a combination of the discipline he learned at Canisius – where he ran track including the triple jump and high jump – and the experience of a long career in insurance has equipped him well for his current role. Brandon is now the director of U.S. digital claims at INSHUR of New York City, an innovative company that offers a commercial automobile insurance app for rideshare drivers with operators such as Uber and Lyft.

“From day one at Canisius, students were expected to excel and I carried that into college and throughout my career,” he explains. “It served me well at Amica and helped me recognize the incredible opportunity I have been given at INSHUR.”

Brandon joined INSHUR in June of 2019 and helped build the organization's claims department from the ground up. Founded in 2016, the company aims to make it easier for rideshare drivers to purchase the commercial automobile insurance coverage they need. With the explosive growth of mobile app transport businesses, Brandon saw the potential of INSHUR as a groundbreaking start-up company.

“Students were expected to excel and I carried that into college and throughout my career.”

“It was certainly an adjustment going from the nation's oldest insurer of automobiles to a technology-driven company not even five years old,” he says. “But we are



taking a fresh approach to commercial auto insurance that allows us to pivot quickly to meet the needs of our customers.”

Brandon notes that the company's agility has been a big factor in assisting customers during the pandemic, in an industry impacted by lockdowns and closures that resulted in much less ride-sharing. INSHUR worked with its rideshare drivers to create payment plans to help reduce expenses until activity picked up again. Brandon himself has adjusted to the pandemic by working remotely for the time being from a home he built in Cheektowaga and going into the New York City area about once a month.

He points to his father – a former Xerox employee and an entrepreneurial business owner – as a major influence on his career progress. Brandon's mom was a school teacher who taught him how to be patient in working with people, a valuable lesson he's practiced in his management roles. He expresses gratitude for the opportunity his parents gave him to attend Canisius.

“Throughout my career, I have been a strong supporter of Canisius, taking advantage of my company's matching gifts programs to increase donations even more,” Brandon concludes. “I am proud to see the results of that support in terms of opening up opportunities for other young men to learn and develop skills at Canisius. In these uncertain times, I believe it is more important than ever.”



Jerome Romano[†] '58 with his granddaughter Caroline, and son **Jerome '94**, in 2010 in Woodstock, VT.

SHARING ACCESS

Jerome Romano is opening the door for more young men to experience the opportunities he had at Canisius.

Jerome Romano '94 never considered any school other than Canisius High School, and he has always considered it a privilege to be a Crusader.

As a boy, his father, **Jerome Romano[†] '58**, made it a point to drive his two sons by the school on Delaware Avenue whenever the family was returning home from summer day trips to Canada. It was a bit out of the way, but the elder Romano enjoyed the drive and planting the seed that led Jerome and his brother, **Peter Romano '98**, to Canisius years later.

"My dad was an insightful, quiet presence who gave my brother and me the opportunity to attend Canisius with all the support we needed to make the most of it," Jerome explains. "Of course, I realize not everyone is lucky enough to enjoy such an advantage, so when my father passed last year, I wanted to honor him by establishing a scholarship that can make Canisius more accessible for deserving students and thereby honor his legacy."

Jerome created the Jerome L. Romano '58 Endowed Scholarship Fund this past summer. The timing was more than appropriate. In addition to honoring his father, the scholarship grew in importance as the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the economy and financial need has increased for families who have lost jobs or experienced other hardships.

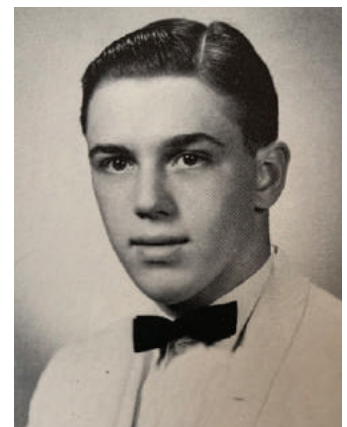
"The effects of the pandemic have stretched many families financially, emotionally and in other ways leading to potentially more limited access to the Canisius experience," Jerome says. "It is now more important than ever for those who can step up to help others gain access to the opportunities afforded by a Canisius education. My hope is that this will pave the way for its recipients to realize their full potential."

Jerome says his father exhibited a great deal of humility and quiet service to others. "My father served our country in the Vietnam War and was always present for his clients when they needed him. He was never one to grab attention, but always worked tirelessly to help others." Jerome added that his father was also a great influence on his career path following graduation from Georgetown University where he earned a degree in business administration with a double major in finance and management. As a stock broker and financial advisor, Jerome's dad began to explain the business world to him as a young boy by purchasing shares of Disney stock for him. Today, Jerome is a managing director and partner at a middle market investment bank specializing in merger and acquisition transactions for clients across the country. He has been recognized with numerous industry awards including the 2019 Association for Corporate Growth's Meritorious Service Award.

"When my father passed...I wanted to honor him by establishing a scholarship that can make Canisius more accessible."

On top of the scholarship, Jerome supports Canisius as a member of the school's board of trustees. Currently living in Boston, MA with his wife and daughter, Jerome hopes to inspire other Crusaders to show their "Men for Others" spirit and give back to Canisius in order to provide opportunity for future generations.

"Canisius High School taught me how to view the world through a lens that sharpened my focus on making a difference in the world," Jerome concludes. "It is a privilege to honor my father with the scholarship and to help deserving young men gain access to a transformative Jesuit education."



Jerome Romano[†] '58 in the 1958 Arena.

A LIFE EXPERIENCE

BY THOMAS LOMBARDO, JR., MD '65

Sometime in seventh grade, a young man made a decision to attend Canisius High School. He heard from family, friends of his parents and alumni about the school's reputation, and more importantly, about the tradition of Jesuit education that had flourished worldwide for almost five centuries. He also learned, and thus hoped, that a Canisius education would shape him and change his life forever.

My decision was influenced by my Uncle Phil, an educator and philanthropist, and my father, Tom Lombardo Sr., a pediatrician. Both men attended Jesuit institutions: Canisius College and Loyola University of Chicago, respectively. Both were "Men for Others."

"My first semester at Canisius was a humbling and eye-opening experience, forcing me to adjust."

In September of 1961, I arrived at the magnificent gothic/tudor revival masterpiece on Delaware Avenue. I met my classmates and many lifelong friends for the first time. Unfortunately, and to my shock and disbelief, I also experienced academic failure. My first semester at Canisius was a humbling and eye-opening experience, forcing me to adjust, prioritize and learn the importance of time management. I found that a 14-year-old has an enormous capacity to memorize, but that I also had to study hard. I fell in love with rowing and being part of a team. I also learned that there are consequences to failure and rewards for success. I changed, becoming a student who found immense satisfaction in academic success. I also experienced the joy of being part of a varsity eight that beat St. Joseph's in 1963.

I adopted two strategies that served me well academically and professionally throughout my entire life. My four daughters and six grandchildren subsequently adopted the same approach:

Question: When are you finished studying?

Answer: You are never finished studying. You just run out of time.

Question: What do you do when you are finished reviewing?

Answer: You review some more.

There are so many individuals at Canisius who were essential to my development: Fr. Joe Moltesz, S.J., Tom McPherson, **Ron Hastreiter '50, Bob O'Connor '55**, Jim Hennesey, Jim Palisano, Charlie Chimera, Fr. Dick Noonan, S.J., and of course, **Fr. John Sturm, S.J. '35**. All of them are "Men for Others" in their own unique way.

Charlie Fontana was my crew coach. Although a man of few words, he was a wonderful coach and role model for young men. He taught us to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

Fr. Sturm somehow managed to be feared first, then respected, and ultimately, loved most by those who suffered at his hands. He taught us humility, but also discipline and justice. Looking back at that September day in 1961, it was hard to imagine that this vast array of



raw humanity – the class of 1965 – would succeed. Who would hire these poor, frightened souls? Who would marry them?

The magic of Canisius is that what the institution represents and embodies comes to life in its students. Great education happens. Boys become men, and they become "Men for Others." The class of 1965 includes successful educators, physicians, lawyers, business men, musicians, police officers, union leaders, bankers, etc. I am so proud of my class. Our 50th reunion was a wonderful experience.

Canisius is for this alumnus a life experience. I can truly say that the education I received and the life lessons I learned were major factors in whatever success I have achieved in my personal and professional life. Although I graduated in 1965, I never really left Canisius.

There are many people who have made it easy to remain connected to Canisius. A special thank you to: Fr. James Keenan, S.J., Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., Fr. Fred Betti, S.J., Jim Mauro, **Tom Coppola '01, Kyle Husband '96**, Laura Gaglione, Rich Robbins, Kathleen Riley, **Paul Zablocki '01, Joe Michael '64, Bob Reger '66**, and of course the class of 1965.

After Canisius, Tom graduated from the College of the Holy Cross, and then from the S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo School of Medicine in 1973. He has been an orthopaedic surgeon for 41 years. He has served on the Canisius High School board of trustees and is a member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor. He has been married to the girl he took to the senior prom, Donna Fioretti Lombardo, for 51 years. They are the proud parents of four daughters, and the grandparents of four granddaughters and two grandsons.



TRUE METTLE

BY **GEORGE EBERL '63** WITH INPUT FROM **FRANK EBERL '63**

From an early age Frank and I witnessed our parents, Rita and Frank, volunteering for their church. After eight years of Jesuit education and formation as “Men for Others,” it seemed natural and expected to volunteer at Canisius College upon our graduation. Later in September of 1984 I offered my assistance to the then alumni director, Jim Corcoran. Frank kiddingly said I wanted to assure my oldest son be accepted to Canisius High School. So began the brothers Eberl second association with their high school alma mater. At CHS we experienced many memorable Jesuits, a variety of knowledgeable teachers and made life-long friends. We had become Canisius Crusaders. We had learned to be nimble, flexible and most importantly to carry the Jesuit value system in our lives to help us navigate the challenges of the world. During our student days at 1180 Delaware, we could not have imagined how those four years would become solid building blocks for our eventual ownership of the family business, Eberl Iron Works. Yes, Latin, religion, algebra and physics have all played a part.

“We had learned to be nimble, flexible and most importantly to carry the Jesuit value system in our lives.”

We also learned many useful and practical lessons as well: to duck when Fr. Lloyd LaCombe, S.J. would throw an eraser our way; “opening the window top and bottom for two minutes” brought fresh, cold air to awaken the students while the next teacher, a Jesuit, remained in the warm hallway; the discipline of **Fr. John Sturm, S.J. '35**, and the smoke-filled senior lounge, were to be avoided at all costs. Other memories include the arrival of Mr. Frank Cuisimano, S.J. at CHS where he expected to teach religion only to find that his assignment had been changed to teaching senior physics to the likes of the Eberl brothers; Mr.

Left to right: George, Frank, and John Eberl.

Neil ver Schneider, S.J. had the task of monitoring the practical jokers of the stage crew. It is more than these memories though that have kept us connected to the school over the decades. It is also the knowledge that we were fortunate to have had access to an excellent Jesuit education, and our efforts can help make that same quality education accessible to other young men by funding the Eberl Family Scholarship.

I eventually became president of the Canisius High School Alumni Association and both of my sons, **Keith '89** and **John '95** successfully navigated the blue doors. John is now the CEO of Eberl Iron Works. Frank got to know Fr. James Keenan, S.J. too well for he accepted a two-year commitment to be co-chair of GAMBIT. Later, he served as chairman of the board of trustees when **Fr. James Higgins, S.J. '72** was president. We are also continuing to support our alma mater by soon sending grandchildren to Canisius. Frank has three grandsons, and I have one headed to Canisius.

With the support of our wives, Mary and Christina, Frank and I continued to live the Jesuit motto of “Men for Others” serving on many community and business boards including WNY Public Broadcasting, St. Mary’s School for the Deaf, Sister’s Hospital Foundation, Trocaire College, Nardin Academy, Canisius College Board of Regents, Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, and the Buffalo Rotary and Buffalo Executive Association. For this, Canisius bestowed on us the Canisius High School Distinguished Alumni award for Business and Community Service in 2003. We have lived the Jesuit Motto “Men for Others”, and have shared our time, talent and treasure.

STUDENTS TO WATCH

ERMYES AMAN '22

"Ever since I came to Buffalo it seems I've heard about Canisius graduates doing good things, and I want to follow those examples."

HOMETOWN: My family immigrated to Yemen because of a civil war in Ethiopia. My brother and I were born in Yemen. Our parents brought us to the United States when I was around two years old so that we'd have an opportunity for a better education. I was able to visit Ethiopia in 2011 and it was a wonderful experience getting to see all of my relatives. I want to go back again with my brother after graduation. As for being an immigrant, I don't feel that anyone treats me differently here at Canisius because of my background. We are all equal.

WHY CANISIUS: Canisius was always my first choice. Ever since I came to Buffalo it seems I've heard about Canisius graduates doing good things, and I want to follow those examples. I knew Canisius was an opportunity for me to get a good education.

ACTIVITIES: Soccer is my main activity. I've been playing it since I was little. I like having the ball at my feet and working with my teammates. I'm thankful that soccer is one of the sports that is allowed to compete this fall.

ACADEMICS:

Math is my favorite subject because I like working with numbers, and I'm good at it. Outside of math, Ms. (Julie)

Doyle, has been helpful to me. She helped me acclimate to the Canisius community when I was a freshman, and she taught me how to become a better student. She noticed that I wasn't a very organized note taker. She showed me some different methods for taking notes, including the Cornell method. Now the notes that I take are much more useful and that's made a big difference for me.

RETREATS: The Freshman Retreat helped me feel more connected with my classmates. During the group activities I learned more about each and every one of them and it was amazing. We were able to open up in ways that would never happen during a normal school day.



STEVEN BLECK '22

"I've developed a greater appreciation for going to school because of the education I'm getting and the friends I've made."

HOMETOWN: Williamsville

WHY CANISIUS: My father is an alumnus (Steven Bleck '84), and I've always wanted to go to Canisius for a Jesuit education.

ATHLETICS: Although I also play squash, golf is my main sport. I've been playing it since I was four. In addition to playing for the Canisius golf team, I also compete in golf tournaments outside of school both locally and in other states. Traveling for golf is a great experience. I've been able to visit places I wouldn't have, and meet people I wouldn't have met, if I wasn't playing golf. Golf also gives me a competitive edge that I think will be useful for the rest of my life. When I play poorly, I strive to play better. It can be crushing to play poorly, but developing the mentality to regroup and get my head in a better place will help me in life as well. I'm not sure if I will play in college, but if I have an opportunity I may pursue it.

ACADEMICS: Geography has always fascinated me, and I enjoy learning about different cultures. Many teachers at Canisius have been very helpful to me. Ms. (Courtne) Wojda, Mr. (Craig) Hinchcliffe, and Dr. (Joe) Amuso in particular stand out. I appreciate the way they talk to students like adults, and respect students' opinions. I think I've become a harder worker since I first came to Canisius. I've developed a greater appreciation for going to school because of the education I'm getting and the friends I've made.

FUTURE PLANS: Business and sports management careers interest me, so I'm leaning towards studying those subjects in college.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Work hard in middle school; it will prepare you for Canisius. Stay true to yourself, but try new things and meet new people. Go out of your comfort zone.



WILL FIORICA '22

"The phrase 'Men for Others' has become a goal I set for myself on a daily basis."

HOMETOWN: Niagara Falls

WHY CANISIUS: All three of my older brothers graduated from Canisius – **Thomas '11**, **Michael '14**, and **Peter '16** – and the school has been a part of my life since I was four.

ACTIVITIES: My mom works at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center with patients with different types of cancer. Knowing what she deals with has made the Crusaders Against Cancer Club especially important to me. I'm also involved with the Culinary Club and baseball at Canisius, as well as a baseball travel team in Clarence. I work at Panera Bread and volunteer at a shelter in Niagara Falls where I serve food to people.

RETREATS: Both the freshman and Emmaus retreats have been learning experiences for me as I try to find who I am as a person. They've also helped me strengthen my relationship with God. I would say to others who haven't tried the retreats and think that they would be boring that they're actually a ton of fun and they'll strengthen your friendships.

FUTURE PLANS: A while back I needed therapy for my ankle and leg, and while I was getting the treatment I discovered that I have an interest in physical therapy as a field of study. So, as of now, I'm thinking I might want to pursue that field in college.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: The phrase "Men for Others" has become a goal I set for myself on a daily basis. Every morning I wake up and think "how can I be a 'man for others' today?" My time at Canisius has definitely had some challenging points, but I've never been more happy to go to school here. I've learned new things and made new friendships that I think will last a long while.



SEAN LIEBERMAN '22

"My retreat helped me grow closer to my classmates and understand them better."

HOMETOWN: Orchard Park

WHY CANISIUS: My brother (**Michael '15**) and father (**Jeff '81**) told me that their Canisius years were some of the best years of their lives, so I wanted that experience as well.

ATHLETICS: I love representing the school as part of the varsity soccer team. Going into this school year I was a little nervous about whether the season would be cancelled. I feel fortunate that, with new safety precautions in place, we are allowed to play since that's not the case with all sports. I love being part of a team, and some of my closest friends are ones I've met through soccer. I truly appreciate Coach (Chris) Stuff, too. He's someone I can talk to not only about soccer but about anything.

ACADEMICS: My favorite subjects are math and science because the answers aren't subjective. There's only one right answer. I appreciate my teachers and have found Dr. (Joe) Amuso to be especially helpful. He's a good person who goes out of his way to make everyone's day better. When I've struggled with homework, he's always been willing to spend extra time with me to help me figure it out.

RETREATS: Emmaus was an amazing experience. I think getting away from the daily pressures and routines of school allows students to be more open and honest with each other. My retreat helped me grow closer to my classmates and understand them better. It helped me understand myself better too, and as a result, I think I've become more responsible and more caring.





JOE MAYER '22

"Having a career in which I'm helping people is important to me."

HOMETOWN: Kenmore

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Thomas Mayer '87 (dad), Robert Mayer '77, James Mayer '76, Michael Mayer '75 and Charles Reiser '80 (uncles).

ACTIVITIES: In addition to playing baseball for Canisius I'm on a travel team outside of school. It does take up a lot of time, so I have to be conscious of managing my time well to make sure I get my homework done. I also enjoy cooking so I joined the Culinary Club last year. Plus, I developed an interest in the Civil War since learning about it in middle school, so it's nice that Canisius has a Civil War History Club so I can explore that interest further.

ACADEMICS: Before coming to Canisius I didn't like science much, but I like the experiments and labs we do in class here, and so physics has become one of my favorite classes. Mr. (Scott) Walters has made learning about forces and reactions

fun. I also find myself spending extra time with the math teachers. That's a subject that I struggle with a bit, and so I'm thankful that the teachers will work with me to get me where I need to be.

FUTURE PLANS: Having a career in which I'm helping people is important to me. I'm leaning towards studying optometry. The idea of focusing on a specific part of the human body is appealing to me. I think that with knowledge about how the eyes work I can help people by finding ways to improve their vision.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: A couple of years ago there is no way I would have done John 1:5 – that's the new retreat for juniors this year that I've signed up to do. Sitting around talking about God and emotions just wouldn't have appealed to me. But, the freshman retreat and Emmaus retreat helped open my eyes. I came away from those retreats with connections I couldn't have built during normal school routines.

VICTOR MAZZARA '22

"Some of my favorite memories and biggest lessons so far have come from my retreats."

HOMETOWN: Tonawanda

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Michael Mazzara '88 (dad), Michael Mazzara, Jr. '17 (brother), Marty Mazzara '84 and Torre Mazzara '91 (uncles), and Gasper Mazzara '89 and Andrew Luisi '18 (cousins).

ATHLETICS: My favorite sport is baseball. I've been playing it my whole life. I'm also on a baseball team outside of Canisius that does a Christmas project that I find meaningful. We provide Christmas gifts for families in need. For example, last year our team gathered gifts for a family of three – a mom, a three-year-old boy, and 17-month-old girl.

ACADEMICS: Mr. (Steve) Wanzer and Mr. (Dennis) Beecher '88 are two of my favorite teachers ever. Not only are their classes the ones that I looked forward to every day, they're also truly caring people. I don't have their classes this year, but I often find myself having long, sincere conversations with them in the hallways.

FUTURE PLANS: I'm looking for a college that fits me academically and athletically. I think I want to go to law school, and I also want to play baseball in college.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Coming into freshman year my life was all about sports. Going into sophomore year, I was advised to get involved with different clubs and activities, and I did. Now I'm more open minded about trying new things in general. One club I particularly like is the Culinary Club. I enjoy learning how different dishes are prepared and then actually preparing them.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Nothing bad can happen from trying a new club, so try them. Go on retreats. Some of my favorite memories and biggest lessons so far have come from my retreats. Being there for your friends during difficult times can mean the world to them. Lastly, enjoy the time here. I would do anything to be able to go back to freshman year and relive those memories.





ROD MILLER '22

"I jumped in with two feet and now I've met many young men that I can call my brothers."

HOMETOWN: Niagara Falls

WHY CANISIUS: The amazing football program and the brotherhood are what attracted me the most.

ATHLETICS: In addition to football I run track, but football is my favorite. I've been playing ever since I was six years old. Because of my commitment to being the best I can be at my sports I spend a lot of my time outside of school working out.

ACADEMICS: Usually I'm a smart math type of guy, but at Canisius I'm finding I like religion class the most. Religion teacher Ms. (Kathleen) Riley has been one of the most helpful teachers to me. She is very passionate about her job and teaching students. I do think I've become more studious since I first came to Canisius. My grades aren't always amazing, so I commit a lot of time to focusing on my school work.

FUTURE PLANS: Hopefully if I stay committed to football I can earn a college scholarship. This has always been my dream.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Believe what the teachers and faculty are telling you. Don't be shy about making new friends. Take it from me as a kid from Niagara Falls coming all the way to Canisius every day. I didn't know anyone at first, but I jumped in with two feet and now I've met many young men that I can call my brothers.

ANDERSON OSINSKI '22

"It's important to have someone who can guide you when you need direction."

HOMETOWN: I was born in Guatemala, adopted at age one, and arrived in Buffalo in 2003. I have not yet had the opportunity to return to Guatemala, but would like to before I go to college. I think I'd like to find my biological parents and get to know them.

ATHLETICS: At Canisius, I play baseball and hockey with my favorite sport being hockey. I've found the coaches at Canisius aren't just concerned with your athletic abilities, but are also concerned with how you're doing in school, and as a person. I'm also involved in sailing which has been a big part of my life since I was five. This past summer I had the opportunity to coach the race team of 10-15 year-olds from the Buffalo Yacht Club.

ACADEMICS: American history is fascinating to me because I enjoy learning how our country came to be, and about our country's failures and successes. Canisius has some wonderful teachers. Mrs. (Karen) Nicosia and Mr. (Steve) Wanzer, in particular, are a couple of standout teachers who've kept me on track. If I ever have a problem or question, I can go to them and they'll listen. It's important to have someone who can guide you when you need direction.



FUTURE PLANS: When I get to college I want to study construction management and finance. I've grown up with construction and plan to work in my family's construction company.

RETREATS: The retreats can help students reach a new awareness, center themselves, and focus the mind and heart on what really matters. When I've gotten back to school after the retreats I've found that I'm more focused and able to do a better job at my school work.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Be a good person and do a good job on your schoolwork. You'll have a great time and can also become a better person.

MARCOS SANTANA '22

"When I'm interacting with people...Canisius is always in the back of my mind. It's become part of who I am."

HOMETOWN: Orchard Park

WHY CANISIUS: Canisius offered a structure that was appealing to me. I considered other schools, but it was the Jesuit approach to education that stood out.

ATHLETICS: Hockey is a big part of my life. I played JV for Canisius last year and hope to play varsity this year. I'm also on a travel team based in Rochester called the Rochester Coalition. With that team I've gone to Boston for games where we play in front of prep schools and colleges.

ACADEMICS: History is my favorite subject. I especially enjoyed learning about the world wars in Mr. (Craig) Hinchcliffe's class because he used class time for engaging students in discussions. I have opted for remote learning at least for the start of this school year. Now that we have cameras in classrooms, I can participate from home and it's almost like being there. I do miss being with my friends and feel like I'm missing out on some aspects of school, so I am looking forward to being back on campus soon.



FUTURE PLANS: My family owns a restaurant, Blasdell Pizza in Hamburg, and I think studying business in college and learning basic business structures will be helpful whether I work in the family business or somewhere else.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: When I first started traveling with the Rochester team, I struggled to keep up with my homework. Fr. Ciancimino advised me to plan out my homework and showed me techniques for putting my tasks into time frames, hour by hour, to make sure I got everything done. I also think the structure at Canisius has helped me mature. With things like dress code, I know I look respectable in a shirt and tie, and that serves as a reminder that I'm representing Canisius when I'm interacting with people. Canisius is always in the back of my mind. It's become part of who I am.

CONNOR SCHUSTER '22

"I felt like I was part of something."



HOMETOWN: I was born in Boston, MA and have lived in Orchard Park since I was nine.

WHY CANISIUS: As a freshman I went to Orchard Park High School. My dad (**Brian Schuster '91**) has always talked about how much he learned at Canisius and the friends he made here. I decided I wanted that experience too, so I transferred to Canisius at the start of my sophomore year.

ATHLETICS: Basketball and baseball are my two main sports with basketball being my favorite. I played JV basketball last year, and working with Mr. (**Joe Zera '01**) as a coach was big in helping me adjust to Canisius. He gets us working together as a team and treats us not just as players but as a family. I felt like I was part of something.

"MEN FOR OTHERS": Part of what we're learning at Canisius is to think beyond ourselves and to consider the needs of others. So far, I've put that into action by participating in a food drive. I'm hoping I'll get to do a Companions service immersion trip.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: I've found the teachers and coaches at Canisius push me to do my best, and I feel like my friends in Orchard Park have high expectations of me now that I'm at Canisius. I like having that pressure though. I think my decision-making has improved since I came to Canisius. For example, I'll now use time that I would have previously spent playing video games to study and put in the extra work needed to achieve more and not settle for average. That applies to sports, too. I'm working out more. I also think I adapt to change well, such as the changes this school year – wearing a mask all day and carrying a desk shield. Those things already feel normal to me. It's just great to be back on campus.

SCENES FROM FALL 2020...



Taking Flight

Students have a new tool for hands-on learning this year. Using the school's new flight simulator, they can apply concepts of science, technology, engineering, and math. In this photo, staff member Mr. Peter Lehman, a candidate for the Society of Jesus, is demonstrating the simulator.



Sunset Sweep

Canisius rowers beat St. Joe's by winning every event at the Head of the Buffalo regatta. Pictured: **Anthony Davoli '22** and **Jack Strzalka '22** row into the sunset on the Buffalo River.

Watch and Learn

Michael Dobrasz '21 demonstrates a chemical reaction for visitors during the fall Open House.



Fleet of Foot

The Canisius varsity soccer team battled its way to the Monsignor Martin championship game and finished as runner-up to Nichols. Pictured: **Wisken Whited '21** keeps the ball away from McQuaid Jesuit during a match at the Stransky Athletic Complex.



On the Water

Rory Kavanaugh '22 and **Brendan Johnson '23** compete for the Canisius sailing team on a sunny fall day.



Three-peat

For a third straight year the Canisius golf team finished in first place in the Monsignor Martin league for the regular season. Pictured: **Ryan Coyne '21**.



It Takes Grit

Ethan Beck '21 is first across the finish line at a meet against St. Francis at Como Lake Park. The Crusaders earned a second place finish in the Monsignor Martin league for the season.



ALUMNI EVENTS



Left to right: **Chas Palka '17, Charlie Desmond '16, Griffin Schmit '17 and Joe Cooley '17** shot a 55 to win the Rev. John Sturm, S.J. '35 Alumni Golf Classic in August at Seneca Hickory Stick in Lewiston.



Left to right: **Jim Ziemer '75, John Lagree '72, Peter Krysztof '08, and Rocky Krysztof '72** on the green at the Alumni Golf Classic.

FR. STURM LEGACY FUND



Although this year's Fr. John G. Sturm, S.J. '35 Legacy Fund Luncheon has been postponed until September 2021 due to the pandemic, the Fr. Sturm Legacy Fund continues to help students. Your gift to the fund supports scholarships and athletic programs.

Make a gift at canisiushigh.org/sturm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

22

JUG NIGHT

JANUARY 22, 2021

Catch up with your fellow alumni virtually. Details to come at canisiushigh.org/jugnight

JUNE

18-19

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021

JUNE 18-19, 2021

Save the dates. We hope we will be able to gather in person this year. Details to come at canisiushigh.org/weekend



Canisius hosted a series of virtual cocktail receptions this fall for alumni in various parts of the country. Pictured here is the event for the Boston area.

ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS



A new group of honorees will be inducted into the Canisius High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor and Canisius High School Athletic Hall of Fame in fall 2021. The time to nominate alumni for these honors is now through January 31, 2021.

To submit a nomination, and see previous inductees, go to canisiushigh.org/alumniawards

The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor recognizes graduates who have distinguished themselves in their careers or in their activities in a manner which exemplifies the highest ideals to which Canisius is dedicated. These gentlemen have brought lasting recognition to themselves and to their alma mater. Enshrinement in the Hall of Honor is the highest recognition that Canisius can bestow on its alumni.

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors alumni who achieved excellence in their scholastic athletic careers at Canisius. These men have been measured not only by their achievements, but by their sportsmanship, character, and leadership. Athletic Hall of Fame nomination criteria:

- Must have graduated at least ten years prior to nomination
- Nominee's accomplishments should be recognized not only by Canisius, but within his respective league and geographic area, i.e. All-Catholic, All-WNY, etc.
- Nominees must not nominate themselves
- Only achievements during nominee's Canisius High School career will be considered



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Above: Fr. Adam Rosinski, SJ—First Mass of Thanksgiving

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Share your news. Email CHStoday@canisiushigh.org.
Photos are encouraged.

Jerry Washington '48 has lived in Woodstock, NY since he got out of the Air Force in 1956. He joined IBM as a systems engineer on the SAGE System and retired from senior management in 1989. "I have had an exciting life since our Canisius days...I would like to hear from any of the men that graduated from Canisius in 1948... My email is gwashingt@hvc.rr.com."

Eugene Luczak '51 has been married to Arlene, a Villa Maria girl, for 63 years. They have three children (two girls, one boy), nine grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.



Donald Jankowski '54 and his wife Lorraine (photo left) will celebrate 60 years of marriage in June 2021. The two married on Donald's 25th birthday at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. "We have shared a lot of life experiences since then," says Donald. "We raised two wonderful sons, one wonderful daughter, and now have four grandkids and one great grandchild. I have been a very lucky man."

Robert McGee '54 taught college mathematics for 44 years, and for 32 of those years he also taught math in an elementary school. "As a result, I taught math to my wife and also to our five children," says Robert. He retired 16 years ago. "When people asked me what retirement was like, my reply was you get to set your own agenda. Well, old age, health issues and a pandemic has shortened the list of items on that agenda, but God is good."

Thomas Myers '54 retired from practicing law in 2014 and is working part-time with Meals on Wheels in Detroit.



Vincent Coppola '56 (photo left) launched a website/blog called tyingtheairtogether.com. It covers many topics, including his new novel, *Jesus At Eighty*. Vincent is still teaching at UCLA and still enjoying California with his old English sheep dog.

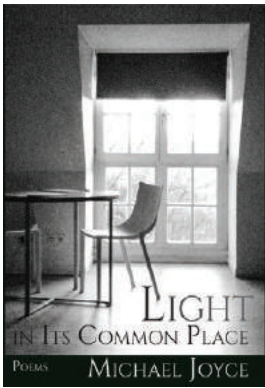
Jerome Sodus '57 and Brenda "Bunny" Glose were married on October 15, 1960. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their family in Carlisle, PA.

Timothy Drury '58 retired four years ago as a New York State Supreme Court Justice. "I'm very fortunate to have served 36 years as a judge in various courts," he says, "I owe much to my four years at Canisius High School."

Dr. Robert Infantino '58 had the second edition of his book published in April 2019. It's titled *Tough Choices for Teachers: Ethical Case Studies from Today's Schools and Classrooms*.

Dr. Frederick Occhino '61 is the medical examiner for Lee County, FL and his wife is a palliative care nurse practitioner in the Lee Health System. They have three children out of college and three children still in college.

Richard Wachter '62 retired after working in the education profession for 35 years and has been living in Harmony, FL since 2001. He took up golf a couple of years ago and now plays three or four times a week. Richard has fond memories of his days at Canisius with his classmates and sport teammates. He says his career path was inspired by both legendary coaches Johnny Barnes and **Connie McGillicuddy '39**.



Michael Joyce '63 had his most recent poetry collection, *Light in its Common Place* (photo left), published on October 1, 2020 by Broadstone Books. His reading of the poem "Nothingness or Plenitude" from his prior collection, *A Hagiography of Heaven and Vicinity*, can be seen at the Albany Cathedral website: www.cathedralofallsaints.org/cathedral-arts-blog. *Light in its Common Place* is Michael's 15th book.

Joseph Sammarco '63 is retired and recently welcomed a fifth grandchild, Emma.



Nelson Civello '64 (photo left) was elected to rejoin the Canisius College Board of Trustees. He is starting his third term on the College's Board after a five-year absence.

Robert Inderbitzen '64 recently moved to Florida from Tennessee. He says he is still putting his Canisius High School and Canisius College Glee Club training to good use in his church choir and a men's Gregorian chant group.

Michael Curley '65 had his fifth non-fiction book published in May 2020 by Taylor & Francis. The book is titled *Environmental Finance for the Developing World*. It is based on Michael's first-hand experiences building safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities in poor rural villages in several countries including Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Michael Rehak, Sr. '65 and his wife Diane celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 29, 2020.

Michael Brady '66 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. Michael is a partner with Hagerty & Brady.

Michael Martin '66 and his wife Mary Kay celebrated the wedding of daughter Angela to David Petkofsky in San Diego on July 11, 2020.

Michael Perley '69 was selected by *The Daily Record* for a 2020 "Leaders in Law" Attorney of the Year Award. These awards are presented to attorneys and judges who demonstrate professional accomplishment, exceptional character, integrity and ethics, and commitment to their clients and the community. Michael is the litigation department chair with Hurwitz & Fine, P.C. *The Daily Record* publication has been providing legal news and information in Western New York for 112 years. He was also named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*.

William Butler, III '71 retired from the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2017 after 39 years. He is now the president of the Black Rock Historical Society.

Dr. Thomas Kaminska '71 sold his practice to Advanced Eyecare and works there two days a week. He says, "I love semi-retirement!"

Michael Willett '71 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. Michael serves in a special counsel capacity with Gibson McAskill & Crosby, LLP.



Michael Faltisco '72 will be retiring after 23 years with the psychiatry department at Swedish Hospital in Edmonds, WA where he has worked as a licensed professional counselor. He is pictured here with the 2020 WNBA Championship trophy which was won for the fourth time by the Seattle Storm. Swedish Hospital is the team's primary sponsor.

Paul Durkin '73 and his wife ("mostly my wife," says Paul) have been puppy raisers for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind since 2013. A number of their pups have gone on to careers as guide dogs, and one became a PTSD dog for a veteran and another is a companion for an autistic teen.

Anthony Fedele '73 celebrated the wedding of his oldest son Christopher and welcomed a new daughter-in-law, Allie. The family also added a second grandchild in June with the birth of Henley, a little sister to Aviana. They are the daughters of Anthony's daughter Nicole and her husband Eric.

TELL US WHAT'S NEW

- **Started a new job?**
- **Got married?**
- **Welcomed a baby?**
- **Retired?**
- **Wrote a book?**
- **Starred in a play?**
- **Won a championship?**
- **Launched a business?**
- **Celebrated an anniversary?**
- **Traveled the world?**

Whatever you've been up to, your fellow Crusaders would like to hear about it. To share your news, email CHStoday@canisiushigh.org. Photos are encouraged.

You may also mail news to:

Canisius High School
Communications Office
1180 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



Marty Westphal '74 recently retired from the Joint Staff, Department of Defense (DOD) as a senior executive. He served 40 years, 21 as Marine Corps Officer and combat veteran and 19 as a federal government employee in charge of command, control, communications, computers and cyber operations. His career culminated with an appointment to the Senior Executive Service (SES) where he served under General James Mattis and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey who recognized

Marty's service with the Distinguished Civil Service Award (photo left). Marty and his wife Carol, along with three children and grandchildren, are enjoying his retirement by participating in family and outdoor activities including gardening, hiking and fishing throughout central Virginia.

Fr. John Mattimore, S.J. '76 is serving as the chief mission and ministry officer at Canisius College's newly created Office of Mission and Ministry. The College created the office as part of its reorganization of mission and identity, campus ministry and outreach activities.



Tim Carlin '78 (photo left) has written a book titled *An Extraordinarily Ordinary Life* in which he draws on his past experiences to give readers a crash course on facing life's challenges and seizing its opportunities. In his book, Tim writes "that might is for doing right, not that might makes right" – a lesson he learned when he was a sophomore at Canisius. Tim is a certified financial planner at V Wealth Advisors. He has been in service to others since age ten, when he served

as an altar boy. Tim is a West Point graduate, and commanded at the Company Battalion and Brigade level.

David Murray '79 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. David is a partner with Phillips Lytle, LLP.

Peter Ciotto '80 was appointed director of communications for the Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc. in July 2020.

Michael Berchou '83 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. Michael is a partner with Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP.



Valerian Ruminski '85 (photo left) made his debut performing for the Danish National Opera in 2019 with a national tour of Denmark. He sang prominent roles in two operas that were seen in more than 10 major theaters. Valerian also wrote and produced a pop music CD during the pandemic entitled *Songs from Inside*. It was

nominated for album of the year by *IndieShark* magazine. Valerian continues to be the artistic director of Nickel City Opera in Buffalo.

Jed Dietrich '87 opened the new Dietrich Law Firm PC office (photo below) on John James Audubon Parkway in Amherst. The firm purchased the building in January of 2020 and completed renovations in August of 2020. The property more than doubles the firm's previous space. This year also marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Dietrich Law Firm PV which exclusively handles personal injury claims. Jed and his wife Colleen's first-born daughter, Grace, is attending the University of Pennsylvania Law School to join her mom and dad in the legal profession. Daughter Liesl is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania studying science, technology and society. **Jed IV '21** is working on his college applications.



Tom Lane '90 is a senior partner with the Buffalo law firm Webster Szanyi LLP. He has received several awards and recognitions in 2020 including Best of Bar's Top 100 verdicts in New York State, Top 100 Best the Company Litigator, Top 50 Lawyers in Upstate New York by Super Lawyers, and The Best Lawyers in America listing for commercial and product liability litigation. Tom practices law throughout the United States. He resides with his family in Amherst, NY.

Matthew Wasilewski '92 was appointed manager of business development for Genesee Valley Transportation (GVT) effective October 1, 2020. Matthew has a diverse background in the less-than-truckload freight brokering and general logistics industries. He reports to the company's senior director of strategic planning. GVT operates a 318-mile system on four railroads and transload facilities in New York and Pennsylvania.

James Nash '96 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. James is partner with Nash Connors P.C.

Dr. Bradley Ertel '98 was hired as a wound care physician at Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park. He lives with his wife Amanda and two sons, three-year-old Camden and ten-month-old Luka, in Williamsville.



Joe Hanna '98 (photo left) was recognized for his work with Bunkers in Baghdad by being included on the Inspiration Honor Roll for the George H.W. Bush Points of Light Awards in September 2020. In October 2020, Joe was named to the board of directors for the Business Council of New York State, the leading business advocacy organization in the state. He was also named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*.

Brendan Rich '98 was named to the 2020 Legal Elite of Western New York list in *Buffalo Business First*. Brendan is a partner with Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman.

Ryan Crawford '99 was named to the *Buffalo Business First* 40 Under 40 list for 2020. Ryan is a partner with Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP and his law practice includes the defense of medical malpractice claims, automobile accidents, product liability claims, general negligence matters and claims against long-term care facilities.



Jason Holler '99 participated in Leadership Buffalo in 2019. "It opened my eyes and my heart to so many amazing organizations

that are doing good work to make our community a better place," says Jason. "To say my experience was life changing would be an understatement because it has led me to today where I've now partnered to create Uplifter Video." Uplifter Video is a production company with a mission to create stories for organizations that do good work. The company has worked with many organizations including The 11 Day Power Play, Literacy Buffalo, Let's Goat Buffalo, Buffalo Arts Studio, Stanley G. Falk School, Jewish Federation, Buffalo Philharmonic, and Family Justice Center. Uplifter Video aims to connect organizations to communities, and to inspire people to act, contribute and share.

Jerome Bright '00 is the proud father of two sons – five-year-old Dylan and two-year-old Tyson.

Richard Phillips '00 was named to the *Buffalo Business First* 40 Under 40 list for 2020. He is an officer with the Amherst Police Department, an attorney practicing with the Law Office of Richard J. Phillips III and Cantor, Wolff, Nicastro and Hall, and a firefighter.

Thierry Uwilingiyimana '05 is a sixth-grade math and science teacher in the Winooski School District in Vermont.

Patrick McGrath '06 is serving as an officer with the Amherst Police Department.



Peter Krysztof '08 and his wife Bianca celebrated the Baptism of their son Leo at St. Michael's in downtown Buffalo. **Leo '37** (potentially) is pictured here with his father, grandfather **Rocky Krysztof '72** and Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J. "Behind the masks, everyone is smiling," says Rocky.

RJ Rubino '09 has joined the admission office team at Canisius High School. RJ is also the head coach of the Canisius varsity rowing team.

Anthony Sammarco '09 is working at G.P. Strategies in Amherst, NY as an engineer with its energy and technical products team. He earned his B.S. in chemical engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tim van Oss '10 was named to the *Buffalo Business First* "30 Under 30" list for 2020 for his professional success and community involvement. Earlier in the year, he became a licensed professional engineer in the State of New York and specializes in heavy civil engineering structures working on high profile projects around the world and in Buffalo.

Matthew Lee '12 works at Instagram for its sports partnerships team. He helps sports leagues, teams (including the Buffalo Bills), media entities, and athletes optimize their presence on Instagram.

CJ Montante '12 has moved back to Buffalo and founded Terzo Development Co. which is focused on developing housing in urban neighborhoods. CJ earned his master's degree in real estate development from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is also an assistant coach for the Canisius varsity soccer team.

Michael Weiler '12 graduated from Canisius College in 2016 with a BS in biology, then continued his education by doing research at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine through 2018. He completed an MS in anatomy at D'Youville College, and is now a PharmD/MBA candidate at D'Youville for the class of 2024.

Michael Torcello '14 is a third year student at Harvard Law School and is the executive editor of the Harvard Law Review

Allan Collins '15 is working on his Ph.D. at Miami of Ohio.

Frank Fialkiewicz '15 was accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. He is a member of the class of 2024.

Nick Kwitzer '16 graduated from Canisius College as a double major in accounting and finance, and is finishing his MBA with a concentration in professional accounting. Nick has accepted a full-time position as a staff accountant at Chiampou, Travis, Besaw & Kershner (CTBK), a public accounting firm.

CORRECTIONS

In the 2019-2020 Impact Report:

- In the Scholarships section, the middle name of Dr. Robert Newell Sawyer '52 was misspelled.
- In the Memorial Gifts section, Ms. Andrea Tyrapak-Endres should have been listed as a donor to the Dr. Robert C. Sippel '47 Scholarship.
- In the Giving Societies section, Mr. Patrick Johnson '06 should have been listed in the Blue Seal 100+ category. Additionally, he should have been listed with the Class of 2006 in the Alumni Donors section. Mr. and Mrs. Todd Mazurek, Sr. '89 should have been listed in the 1180 President's Society section.

Daniel Kane '17 will be entering law school in the coming year.

Jake Lutz '17 was named to the Le Moyne College Dean's List for spring 2020. To make the list, a student must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above. Jake is a senior majoring in business analytics and finance.

Troy Gooch '18 is a second year starter on the D-1 volleyball team at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Andrew Mangan '18 has created and launched an online tool called "Kiter" aimed at helping job seekers manage job applications across multiple platforms. Andrew is a student at Stanford University.



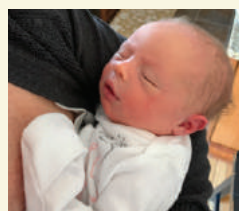
WEDDINGS

Kurt Herrmann '88 (photo left) married Christine Hartnett, the widow of **Christopher Hartnett '88**, on September 26, 2020.

Jeremy Ruszczyk '05 married Lindsey Erickson (photo left) on July 13, 2019. Jeremy graduated from the University at Buffalo with a degree in biology and earned his MBA in finance from Canisius College. He works in the tech department at M&T Bank in downtown Buffalo.



Tim Schifferle '12 met Olivia during their freshman year at John Carroll University (JCU), a Jesuit university in Cleveland, OH. On August 1, 2020 Tim and Olivia (photo left) married at the Church of the Gesu across the street from JCU. They are living in Twinsburg, OH with their dog, Nala.

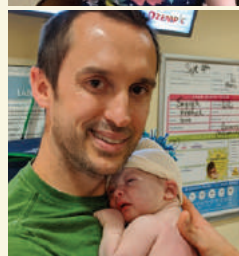


BIRTHS

Mark Miles, MD '74 and his wife Donna are celebrating the birth of a second granddaughter. Olivia Donna Christiaens (photo left) was born in Denver, CO on October 4, 2020.



Christopher Lang, MD '94 and his wife Christine welcomed a baby girl, Samantha (photo left), on May 29, 2019.



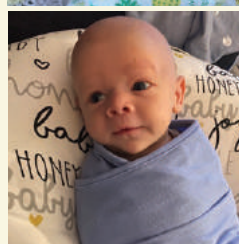
Marc Petryk '01 and his wife Elizabeth welcomed their second son, Cameron (photo left, with Marc), on September 4, 2020. He weighed eight pounds 15 ounces.



Joe Zera '01 and his wife Janelle celebrated the birth of Andrew Joseph (photo left) on July 28. AJ joins big sisters Brooklyn and Kylie.



Liam Flynn '05 and his wife Tess celebrated the birth of their first child. Daughter Camilla Farrell Flynn (photo left) was born on July 17, 2020.



Michael Bielecki '06 and his wife Charlotte welcomed a son, August Charles Bielecki, on March, 22, 2020.



Thomas Whalen '06 and his wife Christine welcomed their first baby boy, Finn Patrick Whalen (photo left), on August 15, 2020. Tom's birthday is also August 15.

Anthony Sammarco '09 and his wife Erika welcomed their daughter Emma Joan Sammarco (photo left) on July 21. Emma is the granddaughter of **Joe Sammarco '63**.

IN MEMORIAM *We remember alumni of whose passing we've learned since Summer 2020.*

Donald F. Bauman '47
Robert D. Charlesworth '49
John J. Carney, Esq. '50
Norman E. Krauss '53
Nicholas B. Kurek '53
Robert V. Kotas '55

Richard M. Hunt '56
William H. Grady '58
Jacek A. Wysocki '62
Philip J. "Chip" O'Shea '63
James F. Browne '66
Bruce D. LaPorte '67

John J. Kaminska '73
Andrew J. Norton '74
Paul F. Labaki, Esq. '80
Kevin R. Talty '81
Zachary P. Liberatore '14
Mason S. Monteleone '18



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