



# TOWARD THE TOP

MAGAZINE OF BISHOP MCGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
2022





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Courtesy Photo

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Cover Photo: Peyton Matteson '23



Photo: Lance Payne



Photo: Tony Lopez



# TOWARD THE TOP

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Courtesy Photo

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Photo: Nate Billings / The Oklahoman



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SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



# A History of Faith

Message from Principal David Morton

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**A** single car speeds south on Shartel Avenue. A new building appears as the backdrop, while behind the building looking west lies the vast openness of Oklahoma prairie land. The stage is set for the beginning of a new era in Catholic education for Oklahoma City. During the next 75 years, the landscape will change repeatedly, but the founding principles of the school envisioned by Bishop Eugene McGuinness will remain as they were on that September day in 1950: “All things to All People.”

Under the guidance of the school’s first principal, Sister Mary Mercedes, RSM, the teaching staff included five priests, 10 religious from six different orders, and one lay teacher.

When Central Catholic High School opened its doors, two Catholic high schools, Bishop John Carroll and St. Joseph’s, closed their high schools, forcing 275 students onto the new campus. Bishop Eugene McGuinness walked the halls during the Oct. 22 Open House and officially blessed the new facility.

Boys basketball was the only athletic team mentioned in the 1951 Chi Rho yearbook. The team opened the season losing 31-29 against Capitol Hill. Undeterred, the boys went on to capture the State Catholic High School Championship, defeating St. Gregory’s 27-26 in the finals.



Fifty-one seniors received their diplomas on graduation day, and, as quickly as it started, the school's first year of existence came to a close. The school colors of Kelly green and white were adopted that first year, but it would be four more years before Irish would become the school's official nickname or Clancy would become the school mascot.

From those humble beginnings, a school was born and began to take root in a fast growing post World War II community. Realizing the impact young soldiers returning from World War II would have on the overall population, plans were already in place to expand the school. Prior to 1956, a school gymnasium and a football stadium were added. When the school year began in 1956, an administrative wing and west wing were added to the school, providing 15 new classrooms, a principal's office, business office, attendance office, and space for an assistant principal and school counselor. By 1960, the school more than doubled in size and an auditorium and fine arts wing were added to the main structure.

It would be another 23 years before any further construction would occur. The Campaign for Excellence, launched in 1982, provided funds for a north lobby entrance for the gymnasium and a \$100,000 endowed scholarship to support the school's work grant program. Ten years later, a theology wing and art studio were added, followed by the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Chapel. In 1998, the baseball locker room and batting facility opened.

Since 2001, the campus has undergone a major transformation. Led by Judy Love and Tom Casso, Building Faith I raised \$10 million, which enabled the school to raze the original school building and administrative wing and construct a modern 21-classroom building that featured a new library, administration wing, receptionist area, teacher workroom, and offices for four counselors and four advancement staff members. Before the dust settled, Building Faith II began generating \$5 million to renovate the gymnasium, add a practice gym, expand the lobby area, provide a wrestling room, and Hall of Fame room.

A new fieldhouse and stadium upgrades came as a result of Building Faith III. A new concession stand honoring Sister Stephanie Sanchez opened in 2010. Building Faith IV, which secured \$2.5 million to provide five additional classrooms and a 60-seat lecture hall, began in 2010 and was completed in the fall of 2012.

The All Girls Sports facility opened in 2016, and the baseball stadium renovation was completed in 2019. Numerous smaller projects have occurred in the last 20 years as well. These include the addition of the school's perimeter fence, two renovations to the auditorium, and renovations of the two classrooms in the fine arts wing and the addition of the girls softball locker room.

Finally, in June 2022, the library renovation project began along with the addition of a 1,200-square-foot expansion to the fine arts wing and a softball concession stand and ticket booth.

What's next? We are growing. Currently, we have 732 students in the building, the largest student population in our history. For the first time, we were forced to create a wait list. The 20th largest city in our country, Oklahoma City now has a Catholic population of nearly 10%. Though COVID certainly played a role in the school's growth, many families were seeking Catholic faith-based education prior to COVID.

This fall, we launched a \$6 million campaign to address the needs of our growing school and provide support for Catholic families hoping to secure Catholic education for their children. The new addition will provide six new classrooms, restrooms and space for our growing advancement department. Led by three generations of the Love family, Judy '55, Greg '80 and David '13, the project will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the school. The Loves represent the close ties we find as a community and the devotion so many of our families have shown for the school since the day it opened.

As in generations past, this is our time to tend to the needs of our students and to prepare for our future.



# Luck <sup>of the</sup> Irish

Bishop McGuinness Annual Auction  
—— April 28, 2023

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Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School



@bmchsokc



# Message from School Advisory Council Chair

As I think back to walking the halls of Bishop McGuinness as a freshman in 1978, I mostly remember being excited and anxious. We didn't have social media, so I only knew my classmates from Bishop John Carroll. My childhood friend Tricia and I expected some help from my brother Mark and neighbor (now husband) Bentley to show us the ropes. After all, we carpooled and they were way cooler so surely they would help us out. We quickly discovered we weren't part of their plan!

Fortunately McGuinness was and continues to be a very welcoming place. There were growing pains, but soon we began to make friends with classmates from other schools, and those friendships have sustained over forty years. Those adolescent growing pains persist, as many of us have experienced with our own children as we've watched them navigate the transition to high school and beyond. These are not easy years and as parents we do our best to encourage our children and help them grow through this process.

That word: Grow. So where have we been and where are we going as a school? Throughout its 73 years McGuinness has grown with and contributed to Oklahoma City. I left Oklahoma for ten years, reemerging back into the OKC community in 1993. Juggling work, kids and later parents, we eventually made our way back to the halls of Bishop McGuinness. Our kids and their cousins spanned the years starting in 1999. It's been exciting to watch the school develop first class programs: Fine Arts, Speech and Debate, Dance, STEM, Newspaper/Yearbook, Venture Crew, Athletics - the list goes on. We have a dedicated faculty who are passionate about the school and truly care about the well being of our students. They go the extra mile teaching and engaging the kids, shaping them for healthy productive futures.



Courtesy Photo

School Advisory Council Chair Lisa Ruffin Edmonds '83 with husband Bentley Edmonds, '80, Charlotte Edmonds, '17, Joe Edmonds, '12, Natalie Edmonds, '21, and Adele Edmonds, '15.

The greatest gift my parents gave my brothers and me was the gift of a Catholic education. Their faith centered on the Golden Rule of the Beatitudes: In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. I believe the students of Bishop McGuinness bring these values to life through the school's mission, dedicated to educating and developing the whole person, forming a "Person for Others". Our students are a wonderful example of serving others through school and community projects.

As I reflect on my time on the School Advisory Council (SAC), I am proud to be part of a group that cares deeply about the direction of the school. We understand the importance of constantly improving to serve our students and faculty in the best way possible. I look back on my years at Bishop McGuinness with fond memories and have maintained lasting friendships. Our school community celebrates and consoles our families — we're here for each other. We want to continue that course, embrace our current students and welcome alumni and friends. I invite you to join the Irish family as we move forward with great hope. It's never too late to see where we're going — always Toward the Top!

Lisa Edmonds  
Chair, School Advisory Council



## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

“I will instruct you and show  
you the way you should go,  
give you counsel with my  
eye upon you.

-Psalms 32:8







BISHOP MCGUINNESS  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL





# Academic Highlights

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**38** Students Named  
Oklahoma Academic  
Scholars

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**78%** Recent graduates who took  
at least one AP exam during  
their four years

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**22** AP Courses Offered

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**82** Students Awarded Presidential Award for  
Academic Excellence



**2** National Merit Finalists

Congratulations to Amelia Goodrich and Riley McCoy, class of 2022, for being named National Merit Scholars.

## AP SCHOLARS

The College Board released the Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards for the 2021-22 school year. Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is proud to announce that 108 of its students earned this recognition for their exceptional achievement on the 2021-22 exams. In total, 279 students took 570 exams with an 80% of students earning a score of 3 or higher.

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**39** AP Scholars

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**25** AP Scholars  
with Honors

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**44** AP Scholars  
with Distinction



## THEATRE



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



### "LUCKY STIFF"

Students perform  
in the fall musical  
Nov. 18.

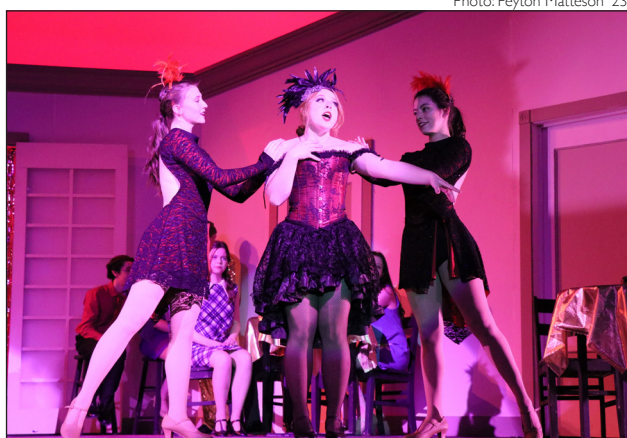


Photo: Peyton Matteson '23



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



### "REST ASSURED" The spring play debuted Feb. 17.

Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Photo: Kelly Matteson



### CHI RHO YEARBOOK STAFF

The yearbook staff received a First Class rating and two Marks of Distinction for Design and Photography from the National Scholastic Press Association for 2021 Chi Rho yearbook. At state competition, the staff received Highest Honors and an All Oklahoma award, and Hannah Lee '21 (not pictured) was awarded the Laura Schaub Yearbook Designer of the Year award.

Courtesy Photo



### SPEECH & DEBATE

The Speech & Debate team won the state championship with 64 students competing in the tournament.

Photo: Tony Lopez



### DANCING WITH THE IRISH STARS

Winning the student division, DanceVisions member Kate Schomas '23 and her dance partner Price Collier '23 display their mirrorball trophy. In the teacher division, math teacher Danielle Coats and her dance partner / daughter Julia Coats '23 claimed the title.

Courtesy Photo



### ACADEMIC TEAM

The Academic Team won the 5A Academic Bowl state championship. Pictured are Coach Julia Anderson-Holt, Lindsay Best '22, Sam Wilson '22, Captain Curt Schwager '23, Chisa Nwanebu '24, Jacob Love '23, Lucia Corredor, '23 Chris Bayless '22, Riley McCoy '22 and Coach Nicky Goff.



Photo: Zara Mataranglo '23



### RED CORD HONOREES

Assistant Principal Andrew Worthington presents Alyssa Rooks '22 with a Red Cord during an April 12 assembly. Rooks was one of 45 students from her graduating class to receive a Red Cord. To earn a Red Cord, students must complete at least 300 Christian Service hours by the end of their senior year.

Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



### SHADOW STATIONS

Students in Campus Minister Kelly Allen's Spiritual Leadership class present the Stations of the Cross during an All-School Assembly on Good Friday, April 15.

Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



### DANCEVISIONS SPRING PERFORMANCE: "ROOTS"

DV members perform to a hip hop style mashup of "One, Two Step," "Missy Elliott," and "Two Step." "There are lots of pockets of emotion, and it's less technical than other dance styles so you can really let yourself go," team member Madelyne Camp, '22, said.

Photo: Tony Lopez



### OLYMPICS FIELD DAY TUG-OF-WAR

Members of the senior class of 2022 give it their all during the annual Olympic field day tug-of-war. The seniors won the class competition.



## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Courtesy Photo



### NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE CONTEST

Price Collier '23, Lilianna Gavula '22, Romi Abu-Fadel '22 and Amy Schoelen '23 display their national awards. Abu-Fadel ranked 14th in Informative Speaking; Collier and Gavula ranked in the top 25 in Duos, and Schoelen ranked in the top 50 in Dramatic Interpretations. Not pictured are Kayleona Hill '24 (top 75 in Original Oratories) and Daniel Soto '23 (top 100 U.S. Extemp Speaking).

Courtesy Photo



### OKLAHOMA SUMMER ARTS INSTITUTE

Five students attended the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain. Pictured are Lily Kobzdej '22 (Dance), Gracelyn Blevins '23 (Drawing & Painting), Peyton Matteson '23 (Photography) and Hannah Bernstein '22 (Drawing & Painting). Not pictured is Brayden Tran '23 (Orchestra).

## ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT

### Class of 2022 organizes Halloween Carnival

By Emma Wilson '24

*Chi Rho newspaper staff*

A bouncy house, tug-of-war, dunk tanks and food awaited the children from the The Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County when they arrived at the Oct. 28 carnival organized by the Class of 2022.

All 171 seniors were required to assist with the annual service project.

"Traditionally the senior class does a service project together, really, as kind of a culminating act of service," senior class sponsor Christine Pankratz-West said.

The Halloween carnival allowed seniors to spend time with younger children, plus it gave them an opportunity to be a positive influence on someone.

Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



*Hank Garrett '22 arm wrestles with a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County.*

"We do it to help give back to the community and just teach the values of service to the senior class," senior vice president Ashley Hill said.

From emails to the seniors stressing the importance of making the children smile to the fundraising efforts to benefit the Boys and Girls Club, a lot of work was done behind the scenes to make the project a success.

"Everyone played their part. We made the kids smile when we arrived," senior president Anson Nguyen said.



# Theology teacher retires after 20+ years in classroom

By Sally Linhart

In 1994, Mike Chavez was working three jobs. When he wasn't inspecting baggage at the airport, he was ferrying flight crews to their hotel in a transport van. But meeting famous musicians and uncovering suitcase surprises wasn't enough for the former lawyer. Chavez heard about an opening at Bishop McGuinness, and after interviewing, took on a third job: teaching part-time in the theology department. Eventually, he gave up his side hustles to dedicate himself full-time to his role as teacher.

The recipient of the 2016 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award practiced general law for 15 years prior to teaching; however, when Chavez made the decision to become an educator, he understood the assignment.

"My job is not to make it a learning process...but to make it an exciting learning process," Chavez said. "My job is to inspire people, fire them up, bring a sense of excitement...trouble their minds if necessary!"

Chavez encouraged his students to own their learning process by making the subject matter relatable and giving it a fresh perspective. For him, the goal wasn't just to educate students, it was to equip them to engage their knowledge.

For more than 20 years, Chavez taught courses on morality, ethics and Church history with a fervor that brought his classroom to life. When asked about his favorite subject to teach, Chavez struggled to choose between Church history and Morality.

"Oh, I enjoyed discussing Church history with the students," he recalled with delight. "I like to tell people we went through 36,000 years of time together!" Chavez encouraged students to examine their own family history as part of the process, and excitedly recounted the stories his students brought back. "It's fascinating to see students dig in, and discover how rich their family history is!"

Chavez mused that as a result of such lessons, students grew stronger in their faith.

He retired in 2017, but his retirement was short-lived. Chavez returned to the classroom, where his influence went far beyond any curriculum. He stands firm in his conviction that all humans are inherently good, and despite seemingly insurmountable differences, harmony can be sought through connection and communication.



*Michael Chavez*

Former students were quick to share how Chavez influenced them, demonstrating just how far-reaching his impact continues to be. Father Danny Grover explained that he made it a point to go back to McGuinness and thank Chavez for putting up with him...and make a small confession: "I wish I had paid more attention in class, as it would have helped me through the first few years of seminary academically when it came to Church history!"

United States District Judge Bernard M. Jones called Chavez a passionate educator, committed to developing the whole person. "Unequivocally, my McGuinness experience was enhanced by the lessons learned from Mr. Chavez, lessons which have served me well in life and throughout my career," Jones said.

Without a doubt, Chavez made a profound impact on everyone he encountered; perhaps more notable is the undeniable impact his students had on him. To hear Chavez recall his students with such regard and describe the ways they inspired him makes one thing very apparent—he considers it an honor to be part of their educational journey. As for Chavez' future plans, he says they are a matter of discernment. "The future is bright. But I trust that the Lord has ways of doing things which are far beyond my understanding."



## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

# Assistant Principal retires from Catholic education

By Ainsley Bice '22  
Chi Rhoan newspaper staff writer

In June, Robert “Bob” Epps retired after 17 years as assistant principal over student affairs. Epps, who began his career in the Mid-Del school district said he is looking forward to a more flexible schedule.

Epps had been pondering retirement for a little while now, and explained his thought process about retirement when COVID-19 impacted the community.

“I thought about everything that kind of happened during COVID, and I thought you know, ‘maybe you need to, if you’re in a good position, maybe you need to just do some other things in your life before it’s too late,’” Epps said.

He shared that he wanted to do some updates around his house this summer, spend time volunteering at his church, Saint Phillip Neri in Midwest City, and help his family as needed. In his newfound free time, Epps also plans to pick up some of his former hobbies he has not had time to enjoy.

“I used to paint and draw,” Epps said. “I’m gonna go back and do some work and things like that, but I really never had time to do so.”

Road trips are also on his agenda.

“Most of my life I’ve been either coaching football, or been an administrator and my falls have been taken up,” Epps said. “I want to take some day trips to southeast Oklahoma during the fall. I want to go to McAllister or go to Krebs and have some Italian food. I’m going to do some things in the fall, which I have not been able to do for a long time.”

Epps has many fond memories of the school community and shared how he enjoyed joining the community with his daughter, Chelsea, who graduated in 2008, and was a sophomore when he became an assistant principal here.

“The best part was I got to spend three years with my daughter here,” he said. “Those were great times because we kind of enjoyed McGuinness together.”



*Robert Epps*



Photo: Kelly Matteson



Photo: Kelly Matteson



# Counselor Sandy Nedbalek retires

By Madison Walters '23  
Chi Rhoan newspaper staff writer

The product of Catholic schools in New Orleans, Counselor Sandy Nedbalek, who began teaching Spanish at Bishop McGuinness in 1982, retired in June. Nedbalek taught Spanish from 1982-1984 before deciding to stay at home with her children. Later, she had the opportunity to return as a school counselor.

The school had an opening for a senior counselor and Nedbalek was surprised to get a phone call from assistant principal Anne Hathcoat because it had been more than a decade since she had worked at McGuinness. But Hathcoat called saying she had a dream in which Nedbalek accepted the job.

“When I went to bed that night, I just envisioned her being here and what a good counselor she is,” Hathcoat said. “I had to call her and say, ‘I had a dream’.”

That was 25 years ago. Nedbalek returned as senior counselor in 1997, advising students on their path to college.

“I’m going to miss advising, college advising, counseling, and my peers because I work with some really great people,” Nedbalek said.

While in retirement, Nedbalek hopes to spend time with her family, and she plans to visit the school to see her peers, some who she is in a prayer group with.

“I’ve decided with Ms. Cerano [sophomore counselor], we’re going to be prayer partners for life,” Nedbalek said.

“In the prayer warrior group, people tell us to please keep the students in prayers.”

Nedbalek’s advice to students is to live in the moment and attend school events.

“You only have four years, and you only have one year to be a freshman, and there’s different phases of your life that happen in each year,” Nedbalek said. “Just roll back and enjoy it for one year. I tell the seniors, ‘savor senior year and everything going on’.”



Sandy Nedbalek



## RETIREMENT PARTY

On June 2, the school community celebrated Sister Sanchez and her fellow retirees: counselor Sandy Nedbalek, assistant principal Anne Hathcoat, assistant principal Robert Epps and theology teacher Michael Chavez.



# Hathcoat retires from administration

## Educator shapes young minds for more than 40 years

By Kelly Matteson

In her 41 years at Bishop McGuinness, Anne Hathcoat has taught hundreds of students and a variety of subjects. Whether teaching micro or macro economics, reading *The Russians* by Henrick Smith, studying the crusades or helping students develop leadership skills, her focus has always been using content to develop skill sets to enhance a student's personal potential.

"I think my philosophy of teaching has always been to instill a sense of wonderment and inquisitiveness about the events and turning-points that have impacted students today," Hathcoat said. "Making content relevant to them helps students understand themselves and the world they live in better."

Raised in a family that worked for the government, in the 1950s and 60s; Hathcoat was nine when her family moved from California to Bangkok, Thailand, where she attended a Catholic missionary school; then attended a French Embassy school in Ankara, Turkey, and a German convent school in Mainz; and a DOD high school in Wiesbaden, Germany.

"The variety of educational experiences had a profound effect on me," Hathcoat said. "Trying to learn lessons in languages I didn't readily understand from rigorous, demanding instructors, left me frustrated. It was from this experience that I knew intuitively that a student had to feel some sense of accomplishment or success in order for them to remain engaged and thrive."

It was a seventh grade English teacher who really awakened her interest in reading and learning. She would read to the class for 20 minutes each day after lunch. She read about Henre Christophe, the first ruler and monarch of an independent Haiti and the builder of San Souci.

Hathcoat was entranced. "I couldn't wait for the next day's installment," she said. "The teacher read with such

enthusiasm and we would explore the geography and politics of time."

Hathcoat sees a connection between teaching and invigorating one's curiosity and intellectual inquisitiveness.

"My favorite teachers were the ones who pushed me, the ones who challenged me, the ones who sparked my interest to pursue my own interests within the parameters of the course, always with an avenue for success," she said.

Hathcoat began her career in education at St. John Vianny in Tulsa, and then to Norman Public Schools and to Joe Harp Medium Security Prison where she was an educator for the Special Programs Unit. After leaving Corrections, she worked for over 12 years with parents and teenagers in an alternative incarceration evening program for offending adolescents while working at McGuinness.

"These experiences gave me a unique view of how education and teachers have an immense impact on people," Hathcoat said. "You can have the best curriculum in the world, but you have to depend on your delivery system (teachers) to connect with students."

Distinguished Alumni of 2021 David Chansolme, '89, described Hathcoat as one of a handful of his high school teachers who taught at more of a collegiate level.

"Her class as much as any at McGuinness prepared me for



*Anne Hathcoat*



college,” Chansolme said. “I took Intro. to Microeconomics at Emory and sailed through it. It was cake.”

Chansolme recalled Hathcoat telling her students that the test would include material that they had not yet discussed, and, if it was on the syllabus, it was fair game.

“McGuinness is a richer place because of instructors like her,” he said.

In reflecting on her students, Hathcoat commented on their strength, intelligence and generosity. “I always encouraged them to give feedback and ask questions,” she said. “I want them to find their voice and be able to speak their truth, and that takes practice, trust and some self-confidence. Encouraging students to be interactive and give constructive feedback is a skill needed to be successful in the real world. I always found myself working harder to be prepared for their inquiry.”

That hard work has not gone unnoticed. Hathcoat was the first in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to receive The Eusebius J. Beltran Catholic School Educator of the Year from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. She was also the National award recipient for “Excellence in Economic Education,” sponsored by the Joint Council on Economic Education, and the Oklahoma Bar Association “Teacher of the Year,” Honorable Mention.

Other firsts included her helping to start the school’s Advanced Placement program, organizing the school’s Kairos retreats, and helping develop the summer Catholic Social Justice course. Today, the AP program, which began with one course (AP World History) has grown to include 22 courses.

Hathcoat was one of the first teachers in the Archdiocese to attend a Kairos retreat. She went to the Diocese of Tulsa for training and brought this tradition to McGuinness, helping train student leaders and organizing the school’s first Kairos retreat in 1996. In October 2022, the school held Kairos 84.

For the past five years, Hathcoat has taught a Catholic Social Justice course, a theology course for seniors. The course is



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Top: Anne Hathcoat with the first Kairos team in 1996 Bottom: Anne Hathcoat's 1988 Honors Government class meets with Gov. Henry Bellmon.

designed to give students the opportunity to see the world from another perspective, to empathize, and to serve.

“I think if you just teach content and don’t integrate a sense of ethics and a strong moral compass into your lesson, then I think you’re not serving your students well,” Hathcoat said. “In this profit driven economy, you don’t want your students to just think of what is going to give them the most money. You want to give them a way to integrate their knowledge and their ethics into whatever they do.”

Hathcoat retired from administration in June. But she continues to teach. This fall, she is co-teaching the sophomore leadership class with Ryan Stringer, helping to guide the next generation of leaders.

“Teaching in a Catholic school is great because we can integrate our religious values into the classroom, and teach students the importance of using their God given gifts and talents to serve others,” Hathcoat said.



# Canned Food Drive

Students collect over 100,000 pounds of canned food for Regional Food Bank

By Kate Fletcher '23  
*Chi Rhoan newspaper associate editor*

Organizers of the annual canned food drive challenged students to collect 100,000 pounds of food to combat hunger in the state, and they exceeded the goal, collecting 103,598 pounds of food for the regional food bank of Oklahoma.

“Based on last year’s success, we knew we’d be able to reach 90,000 and wanted to challenge our school community to donate as much as possible,” co-chair of fundraising Sophia Lopez ’22 said. “We are aware of the bigger needs the food bank has due to the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The drive began Oct. 29 and ran through Nov. 18. Donations collected were distributed throughout various counties.

“Every donation of cans that students bring because of our drive makes it possible to feed thousands of people in our community,” co-chair Sabrina Guzman ’23 said.

Lopez and Guzman began planning for the event in July by reviewing the previous year, potential sponsors, and planning events and T-shirt designs.

“It’s amazing to see our community come together to serve the needs of those facing food insecurity and to fill those semitrucks sent from the Regional Food Bank,” Lopez said.



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22





Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



Standing on ladders, Marc Tawk '22, and Brennan Chumo '22 gather boxes of canned food to build a sculpture. The students collected 103,598 pounds of food for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. "The canned food drive is so special because the whole community is working together for a common goal and enjoying the process," Chumo said. Together, Sophia Lopez '22 and Sabrina Guzman '23 build a sculpture of a rocket out of cans. The theme of the canned food drive was "One Giant Leap for CAnkind." "We felt this theme would encourage extra participation and serve as a reminder of why we are collecting the food," Lopez said.

Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



Photo: Nathan Coomes '22



In an assembly line, Matthew Fowler '23 and Caroline Lawton '23 pass cans so they can be loaded onto semitrucks from the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank. The agency had to send two semitrucks to gather all that was collected. In the commons, Griffin Plank '22 gathers food to take outside for other students to use. Student Council members signed up for shifts to build the canned food drive sculpture during the school day. "Stacking cans of green beans, Drew Chansolme '23 works to construct the rocketship sculpture. The Canned Food Drive took place during the month of November and students were encouraged to bring cans before school. "The CFD is a fun way for everyone to get involved with helping others who may need it," Chansolme said.



## FAITH HIGHLIGHTS

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.”

-Proverbs 3:5-6









# A Faith Testimony

## Senior Witness by Lilianna Gavula

*Before each All-School Mass, a senior from the Spiritual Development and Leadership class gives a “Senior Witness.” Lilianna Gavula, ’22, has allowed us to reprint her “Senior Witness” below.*

Although I have been blessed to attend Catholic schools my whole life, I have never been confident in sharing my faith. It isn’t popular or easy to candidly express one’s relationship with God. My faith was given to me through my family and my first impression of God was relatively neutral. I knew He loved me but didn’t know why, and didn’t know why He wanted me to go to mass every week when I hated going to mass. The only thing I liked about it was the music. My first impression of music was through going to church and since then it has become a major part of my life. From singing in different church choirs, to school musicals, and even listening to country music in my dad’s truck, I have grown up with music. Even though I loved singing at mass, it didn’t make going any easier.

Still, I did all the Catholic things: received the sacraments when I could, gave up my favorite dessert every Lent, and prayed with my family before meals. It was routine and easy. I was surrounded by God in my everyday life and yet didn’t know Him until the summer after 7th grade when I attended my first summer camp at Kanakuk — a Christian camp in Missouri. This was my first major encounter with Him and I saw for the first time who He truly was. I still haven’t felt as close to Him as I did there at camp. I remember singing with everyone in the chapel and feeling so much joy from the campers who all shared a strong devotion to God.

I wish I could say that “camp-high” that I felt in the weeks after never ended, but it did. Things didn’t go back to my easy, normal routine. I was ready to find new friends in high school and get involved. My first impression of Bishop

McGuinness was a little daunting. I was nervous that with my introverted and soft-spoken personality it would be hard for me to make friends. And it took me a little bit to find my people, but they are what turned this school into a family. Without their support and encouragement, I would have never joined Student Council my sophomore year. Without their inspiring leadership I never would have gone to mass or adoration for fun. Without their phone calls and FaceTimes, I would have never made it through quarantine at the beginning of 2020.



Lilianna Gavula

A year ago, I attended a leadership conference for seniors at the University of Central Oklahoma. My first impression of the other attendees was that they all had it together. Most of them were presidents of their Student Councils and were highly involved in their school communities. We all had different high school experiences but after the first day, we all got closer and opened up about who we really were. I found that my first impressions were mostly wrong. I had been comparing myself to a perfect perception of them that I had created. The quiet guy was actually a drummer and an athlete and the smileiest girl was experiencing issues with her parents’ divorce. This experience filled my heart with gratitude and really showed me how privileged I am to have a supportive family and to go to a school that I love. One of the biggest takeaways from that was: the way you think about a person isn’t the way they actually are. So

many people are dealing with things we cannot imagine and that is why it is incredibly important to treat everyone with kindness. The smallest acts of kindness and compassion can truly make a life-changing difference.

My friends and teachers showed me incredible compassion during my junior year, which was easily the most stressful time of my life. Unknowingly to most people, I was dealing with anxiety and massive self-doubt. I was comparing myself to what I thought were perfect students, perfect friends, perfect sisters. I purposefully made myself busy all the time, but nothing was enough. I bounced from early morning swim practice to meetings between classes to musical rehearsal after school ended and even then stayed late to work on projects for Student Council. I was the most busy and stressed I had ever been in my life and it was my fault. I justified keeping up with my lists and schedules through my exhaustion by reminding myself, “This is good because it’s all fun things, all for other people!” But in reality I was too busy to make time for myself and the relationships that truly mattered, including my relationship with God.

I will always remember a phone call I had with a friend who said, “It looks like you’re doing really good: you’re on the homecoming court, just got elected as Student Council President!” And all I could say was, “Yeah it looks like that.” This moment was extremely important for me because I saw how people on the outside viewed me, which was completely different to the way I viewed myself. Eventually, my parents forced me to slow down and encouraged me to be more responsible with my time and mental health. My family is the reason I’m able to enjoy the craziness of high school and I will always be grateful for their support and dedication.

I decided to take my anxiety and self-doubt to God at Adoration. After being so busy and ignoring Him for so long I didn’t feel like He was still there for me. But He showed me He was. I sat in a pew in our intimate chapel at school and let my thoughts carry me through prayer. I ended up telling Him what I had been telling myself for months: “I

don’t know how I’m doing all these things by myself when there are people who can do this better than me and who are better leaders than me.” As I continued to beat myself up about not being “perfect,” He calmed me down and told me that I am never alone. In that moment in the chapel I was overwhelmed by a sense of clarity; He showed me that He is with me and had placed wonderful friends in my life to be my support system. I felt assured by God that I was capable and truly felt His faithfulness and love.

I don’t share this to say that my faith makes me invincible or super confident all the time—because I am not. There are still days when I fall back into the habit of comparing myself to the kindness, confidence, and talents of my friends. But God reminds me not to judge others based on first impressions or external appearances. We cannot compare ourselves to an unreliable version of our peers and it is unfair to judge how we think a person is based on how successful or happy they appear to be. Ephesians 4:32 reads “Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” My faith empowers me to try to be kind to people, even when I’m not feeling my best because I know that is what Jesus would do.

*Gavula, who is now a freshman at the University of Oklahoma where she is part of the Honors College and President’s Leadership Class, said she was honored to give her Senior Witness at the February All-School Mass, and she continued to share her message at Speech and Debate competitions. She would like to thank Mrs. Kelly Allen, Mr. Brett Young, and Mrs. Mary Joyce for encouraging her to be vulnerable and providing a platform for her to share her story.*



## FAITH HIGHLIGHTS

*In Washington DC, Elizabeth Newbold, '23, and Jackie Nguyen, '22, holds up signs in protest. The Irish4Life Club went to the capital to try to ban abortion in America. "I'm pro-life, I wanted to stand up for what I believed in," Newbold said. For Rose Day, Fina Chongwa, '24, and Victoria Ososanya, '24, go to the Oklahoma State Capitol Feb. 16. The sophomore Leadership Class attended the pro-life event where participants presented roses to state legislators as a symbol for their support for the unborn. "It was really cool getting to go to the Capitol and work on my leadership skills," Ososanya said.*

*Cheering the runners on, Marcus James, '25, and Billy Nguyen, '25, wave their signs to show their support. The run was a part of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. "Just seeing them smile and knowing that I might've helped them push harder to finish was rewarding," Nguyen said.*

Photo: Eliana Tedrow / Sooner Catholic



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Zara Mataranglo '23



# Irish4Life meets fundraising goal

The Hope Pregnancy Center of Alva received a new ultrasound machine this spring after members of Irish4Life and the Mount Saint Mary's Rockets for Life held a joint fundraiser.

The joint effort brought in \$6,747 from mid-February to the end of March. The Knights of Columbus provided the remaining funds needed to purchase the \$13,000 machine.

"We knew that raising that much money would be a challenge so we started several efforts to raise money," Irish4Life president Jackie Nguyen '22 said. "These efforts included hosting a volleyball tournament and an out of uniform day, setting up tables at the CGSAA basketball tournament and the Men's Conference to get donations, selling yard signs, and reaching out to our Catholic feeder schools to help fundraise, as well as setting up an online donation link for individual donations."

Club members were inspired to begin the fundraiser after attending Luncheon4Life. During the luncheon, Ron Larchick

from the Knights of Columbus spoke about the Partners for Life program. One of the program's goals was to provide ultrasound machines to crisis pregnancy centers around the nation by allowing parishes or groups to fundraise half of the cost of an ultrasound machine. The Supreme Council would then match the other half of the donation.

Irish4Life members learned a lot about fundraising, and Nguyen is pleased that this is something the club plans to do again next year.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the next Youth4Life effort raise far more than we did this inaugural year," Nguyen said. "Beyond all of the logistical lessons we learned, I think the biggest realization we had was how big our pro-life movement is, both inside and outside our school communities. Much of the media tells us that the pro-life movement is in the minority but after reaching out to so many communities, it is apparent that pro-life support is plentiful and the pro-life community is passionate about helping women get the support they need."

Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



*At the port, Romy Abu-Fadel stands in front of a metal structure that says, "Thawra" (revolution) and "October 17" along the top. During the organized protest, Abu-Fadel walks among the crowd. The protest was on the one-year anniversary of the Port Blast of Beirut. "I have never felt anything like it," Abu-Fadel said. "It was a mix of pride and a lot of*

*heartache seeing my country coming together, but I wish it wasn't under those circumstances." Above the protest, a drone photographs the thousands of protesters. "It was emotional for the entire family, especially for the people who were there for it (The Port Blast), like my grandmother," Abu-Fadel said.*

Courtesy Photo



# Lebanaid

## Student raises money for Lebanon

By Abby & Sara Maupin '22  
Chi Rho yearbook editors

To bring awareness to a matter close to her heart and culture but far away in distance, Romy Abu-Fadel, Class of 2022, started LebanAid. For the last two years, Lebanon faced inflation and insecurity with food, water and medicine. Being the first U.S. born child of Lebanese immigrants and having family who lived there, Abu-Fadel felt a connection. To make a difference, she organized the fundraiser to help send medical supplies to Lebanon.

"My favorite part was feeling like I had a sense of control over the situation and being able to help from far away," Abu-Fadel said. "To be able to see it develop and make a difference in families lives was wonderful."

Abu-Fadel worried that people would not feel a drive to help because the issue was far away and did not affect students in their day-to-day lives. However, she was surprised with the enthusiasm of the community and raised \$2,981.22. Fundraising was done in various ways including a \$5 cooking class that featured Abu-Fadel's mom baking Lebanese cookies through Zoom.

"I was just shocked to see how much support there was," Abu-Fadel said. "The best part of it for me was seeing that it matters, and we can make a difference. I'm beyond grateful for that and the ability to do something about the situation."



## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

-Isaiah 40:28-31









## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

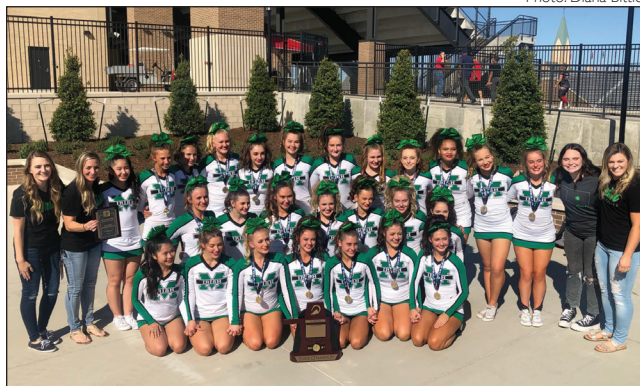
Photo: Diana Bittle



### CHEER GAME DAY

3rd at Nationals, 5A State Champions

Photo: Diana Bittle



### CHEER PERFORMANCE DAY

3rd at Nationals, 5A State Champions

Photo: Tony Lopez



### FOOTBALL

Competed in the State Quarterfinals

Photo: Tony Lopez



### BOYS BASKETBALL

5A Regional Champs

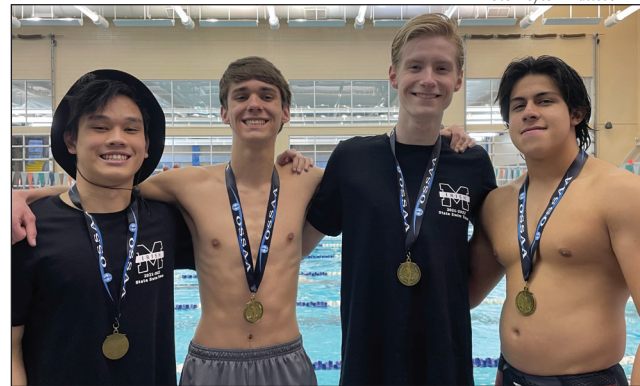
Photo: Peyton Matteson '23



### GIRLS SWIM

3rd Overall at State

Photo: Peyton Matteson '23



### BOYS SWIM

6th Overall at State

The girls relay team won first place in both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. Pictured are relay team members Macy Lewis '24, Allie Lewis '22, Lilianna Gavula '22 and Torie Whitbeck '23.

In the 200 medley relay, the boys earned fifth place at state. Pictured are relay team members Max Bunnag '23, Henry Ison '23, Jacob Moad '23 and David Hernandez '22.



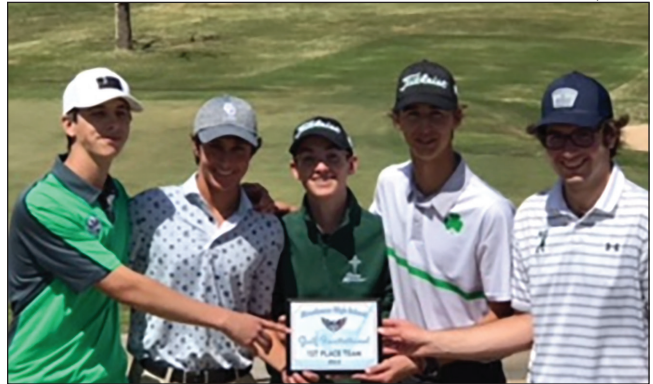
Courtesy Photo



## GIRLS GOLF

Girls Golf - 5th Overall at State

Courtesy Photo



## BOYS GOLF

Boys Golf - 4th Overall at State

Photo: Tony Lopez



## GIRLS SOCCER

5A State Champions

Photo: Diana Bittle



## WRESTLING

Brock Gowens, Top 6 at State

Courtesy Photo



## TRACK & FIELD

**Girls Track:** Regional Champions, 5th Overall at State;  
 Taby Roy, State Champion in 100m Hurdles;  
 Logan Pierce, State Champion in 300m Hurdles

**Boys Track:** Regional Champions, 6th Overall at State;  
 Garrett Williams, State Champion in 300m Hurdles

Courtesy Photo



## TENNIS

Girls Tennis - 5th Overall at State



## Basketball teams compete in Paycom Center

By Zitali Armenta '24 & Maddie McLaughlin '22  
Chi Rho yearbook staff

The varsity basketball teams battled Bishop Kelley at the Paycom Center Jan. 15, and the boys claimed a win, beating Kelley, 79-61.

“The Paycom Center had a founder who promoted small school games,” head boys coach Jake Brown said. “We were never able to do it there, but I reached out to him last spring, and we got it set up. I thought it’d be really cool for the kids to play on the same floor as the Thunder. It’s cool for me to be in that arena and coaching our guys, but it was just a fun way to make the McGuinness versus Kelley rivalry even more awesome.”

Being able to play in such a different setting gave the team an opportunity they never thought they would get. Many of the basketball players dreamed of playing on a professional court when they were younger.

“I always wanted to be a professional basketball player when I was little,” Andrew Elder '24, said. “I would watch the games and wanted to be like them. I thought it would never happen as I got older, but I was wrong.”

As the season came to end, the highlight for many players was playing at the Paycom Center.

“I was happy I got to play at the Paycom Center,” Cooper Shepherd, '22 said. “It was very fun and something I won’t forget going into college. It was a memorable experience.”

Landry Jansen '22, one of two seniors on the girls varsity team, expressed similar feelings.

“It felt very surreal, and [the arena] definitely wasn’t as big as I thought,” she said.

Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez

Going for a layup, Price Bradley '23 drives the ball down the court during the game against Bishop Kelley at the Paycom Center. The boys won 79-61. Cheering, Christian Green '24, Gavin Gunter '23, and Zach Tawwater '25 support their teammates. Reagan Crisp '22 gets ready to take a shot. The girls lost to Bishop Kelley, 46-26. Sporting throwback jerseys with the “Central Catholic” name, Ella Stone '24, Clare Kierl '24 and Lizzy Carter '23 cheer for the Irish.







# All-Staters

Colin Gormley '22

Soccer

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Landry Jansen '22

Soccer

---

Logan Pierce '22

Soccer

Track, 300m Hurdles

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Griffin Plank '22

Soccer

---

Taby Roy '24

Track, 100m Hurdles

---

Will Watts '22

Football

---

Garrett Williams '24

Track, 300m Hurdles

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Claire Duginski '22

Tennis



## CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

“For I know the plans I have  
for you,” declares the Lord,  
“plans to prosper you and  
not to harm you, plans to  
give you hope and a future.”

-Jeremiah 29:11









# Legacies



**RIGGS AFFOLDER** with sister Grace Affolder 2019



**MACKENZIE BELL** with uncle Michael Rueb 2001



**LINDSAY BEST** with grandfather David Best 1961, grandmother Jane Best 1961, aunts Kim Harrell 1981 and Kristi Warren 1983, father Todd Best 1989, and brother Alex Best 2017



**AINSLEY BICE** with sister Isabella Bice 2019 and father Geoffrey Bice 1990



**NOAH AND JAKE BONADEO** with brother Caleb Bonadeo 2020 and sister Sophie Bonadeo 2017



**MADELYN BOWMAN** with uncle John Rieger 1980, cousin Sean Rieger 2019, and aunts Amy Davis 1994 and Jane Anne Rieger 1983 (Not pictured is mother Laura Bowman 1992)



**ELLIE BUCKELEW** with father Daniel Buckelew 1992 and grandmother Elise Buckelew 1959



**JENNA CARNINE** with sister Kailey Carnine 2019



**REECE CHAMBERS** with brother Rendon Chambers 2018





**EVAN CONDON** with sister Ella Condon 2020 and brother Owen Condon 2018



**PAULINA COVARRUBIAS** with brother Sergio Covarrubias 2018



**TIMOTHY DOLAN** with mother Sheryl (Neyer) Dolan 1983, father Brian Dolan 1986, and brothers Patrick Dolan 2014, Shane Dolan 2018 and Blake Dolan 2020



**CLAIRE DUGINSKI** with sister Grace Duginski 2016, mother Robyn Rapp Duginski 1990, cousin Ainsleigh Rapp 2019 and brother Samuel Duginski 2018



**KATIE ELBOW** with father Joe Elbow 1982, aunt Mary Rejda 1984, and uncles Paul Elbow 1986 and Johnny Elbow 1994



**ELLA FRIED** with aunts Kristen (Walters) Hodges 1999 and Elizabeth (Walters) Gray 2004



**LILIANNA GAVULA** with sister Laura Gavula 2014, mother Deborah (Strickland) Gavula 1983, and sister Erica Gavula 2014



**GARRETT GERTEN** with a family photo — alumni include grandmother Susan Barrick Baucom 1961, uncles William Schneider 1962, Bud Barrick 1964 and Michael Schneider 1968, and aunts Pamela Barrick 1967 and Sandra Barrick 1970



**AMELIA GOODRICH** with sister Grace Goodrich 2019 and mother Jennifer Schmidt-Goodrich 1985



## CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

# Legacies



**COLIN GORMLEY** with brother Kohl Gormley 2019, sister Casey Gormley 2021, grandmother Nancy Gormley 1959, uncle Jim Gormley 1983 and father Andy Gormley 1989



**HAILEY HARRINGTON** with sister Cailin Harrington 2019



**RICKY HAUSER** with mother Page Hauser 1992 (Not pictured is brother Daniel Hauser 2010)



**ASHLEY HILL** with sisters Lauren Hill 2014 and Katherine Hill 2020 and brother Tucker Hill 2018; \*Not Pictured are brothers David Hill 2012 and Hunter Hill 2016



**IZZY ILLE** with father Frank Ille 1987 and brother Evan Ille 2020



**MONT ILLE** with father Les Ille 1984, brother Duncan Ille 2020, and sister Genna Ille 2015



**SARAH JANTZEN** with step-father Trey Donnelly 1987, mother Margaret Holden Donnelly 1987, sister Libby Jantzen 2020 and aunt Ann Holden Parrish 1984



**MOLLY KELLEY** with brothers Paul Kelley 2016 and Zachary Kelley 2015, father Tim Kelley 1980, and brother Timothy Kelley 2017



**MOE KIERL** with father Michael Kierl 1978 and brothers Peter Kierl 2019 and Patraic Kierl 2021





**SOPHIA LOPEZ** with sister Sabrina Lopez  
2019



**HENRY MAXWELL** with sister Elizabeth  
Maxwell 2018



**MADDIE McLAUGHLIN** with brother  
Braeden McLaughlin 2018



**SARAH MILLER** with brother Ben Miller  
2018, mother Andrea Miller 1989 and father  
Michael Miller 1990



**JACKSON MORROW** with grandmother  
Marcella Steger Morrow 1965 and father Steve  
Morrow 1993



**CHARLOTTE MOUNGER** with brother  
Zayne Mounger 2013



**MOLLY MULLINS** with brothers Jacob  
Mullins 2016 and Ryan Mullins 2014



**JACKIE NGUYEN** with brother Henry  
Nguyen 2019



**GRIFFIN PLANK** with sisters Addie Plank  
2013 and Quincy Plank 2015



## CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

# Legacies



**CAROLINE POWELL AND CARSON POWELL** with father Conner Powell 1991



**ALYSSA ROOKS** with mother Lisa Corsoro Rooks 1989 and Will Rooks 2020



**EMMA ROWLAND** with sister Caroline Rowland 2018



**ISABELLA SCHERM** with father Todd Scherm 1991



**COOPER SHEPHERD** with mother Nichole Stringer Shepherd 1987



**KATE SKARKY** with mother Rebecca Skarky 1996



**TREY SMITH** with aunt Valerie Smith 1995, father Billy Smith 1989, grandmother Susan Lee Smith 1969, uncle Derek Smith 2002, and grandfather Bill Smith 1968



**GRAHAM TAWWATER** with brother Ben Tawwater 2020 and father Darren Tawwater 1990



**CY TWOMBLY** with brother Fox Pever 2017 and father Ben Twombly 1992





**ANTHONY UFOLLA** with sister Riley  
Ufolla 2020



**ISABELLE WHITE** with father Jeremy White  
1993 and cousin Emiley White 2020



**BLAKE WHITMARSH** with father Steve  
Whitmarsh 1986



**HADLEY ALLEN** with sisters Grace Allen  
2017 and Tillie Allen 2016



**OLIVIA McCASLAND** with sisters Sophia  
McCasland 2018 and Julia McCasland 2025

Photo: Tony Lopez





## CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS / SCHOOLS ATTENDING

### UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Chloe Abel <sup>°</sup>	Meg German*† <sup>°</sup>	Tony Nguyen*† <sup>°</sup>
Gates Affolder* <sup>°</sup>	Garrett Gerten	Henry Regier* <sup>°</sup>
Hannah Bernstein* <sup>°</sup>	Colin Gormley†	Evander Rich
Noah Buck	Emery Hammond* <sup>°</sup>	Emma Rowland†
Ellie Buckelew †	Hallie Harned	Blaire Smith
Kathy Bustillo	Joseph Harroz* <sup>°</sup>	Aidan Smith*
Emily Casebolt†	Montgomery Ille†	Thomas Smith* <sup>°</sup>
Evan Condon* <sup>°</sup>	Landry Jansen* <sup>°</sup>	Lily Stephens
Paulina	Celine Keddissi* <sup>°</sup>	Elizabeth Sullivan† <sup>°</sup>
Covarrubias* <sup>°</sup>	Helen McDonald	Graham Tawwater* <sup>°</sup>
Raegan Crisp* <sup>°</sup>	Morgan McLarty* <sup>°</sup>	Angella Torres† <sup>°</sup>
Isabella Cure <sup>°</sup>	Jenson	Vivian Vo*† <sup>°</sup>
Vy Dinh*† <sup>°</sup>	McPherson*† <sup>°</sup>	Ann-Marie
Jack Duncan	Emanuel Mejias	Weitzel*† <sup>°</sup>
Rebekah Farley	Rogowski* <sup>°</sup>	Kylie Wood
Anna Ford*† <sup>°</sup>	Anson Nguyen† <sup>°</sup>	Daniel Zavala* <sup>°</sup>
Ella Fried	Dalena Nguyen	
Lilianna Gavula*† <sup>°</sup>	Jason Nguyen* <sup>°</sup>	

### OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Keller Anderson	Luella Hollis* <sup>°</sup>	Griffin Plank* <sup>°</sup>
MacKenzie Bell <sup>°</sup>	Molly Kelley	Alyssa Rooks*† <sup>°</sup>
Ainsley Bice*† <sup>°</sup>	Maureen Kierl	Evan Sims
Madelyn Bowman	Kampbell Koperat†	Trey Smith* <sup>°</sup>
Megan Camp †	Alexander Leffel* <sup>°</sup>	Gavin Swink
Joseph Cardenas	Cade Leonard* <sup>°</sup>	Estelle Tiuseco* <sup>°</sup>
Cassidy Cohlma	Abigail Maupin*† <sup>°</sup>	Kemper Weeks†
Baxter Cornelius* <sup>°</sup>	Sara Maupin* <sup>°</sup>	Blake Whitmarsh†
Margaret Forth*† <sup>°</sup>	Maddie	Sam Wilson*† <sup>°</sup>
Emma Glaviano	McLaughlin*† <sup>°</sup>	
Amelia Goodrich*† <sup>°</sup>	Jackson Morrow	

### OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY - OKC

Donovan Eames      Aroldo Franco

### UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Nathan Coomes* <sup>°</sup>	Max Green	Liam Litchfield
Coral Diaz	Ricky Hauser* <sup>°</sup>	Piper McPherson
Alexa Drain	David Hernandez	Martha Mondal
Harrison Field	Lily Kobzdej* <sup>°</sup>	

### OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Paul Tarman

### UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Caleb Suarez\*<sup>°</sup>

### FRANCIS TUTTLE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Jack Caldwell

### ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Alex DiFrancesco

### UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Zachary Armor	Hannah Potter
Chris Bayless* <sup>°</sup>	Cooper Shepherd
Elijah Challis* <sup>°</sup>	Julia Thomas* <sup>°</sup>
Stephanie Crowell	Haley Turman*† <sup>°</sup>
Molly Mullins	Cy Twombly* <sup>°</sup>
Logan Pierce*† <sup>°</sup>	Anthony Ufolla
Caroline Powell	

### ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Augusto Schroeder<sup>°</sup>

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Hadley Allen\*<sup>°</sup>  
Claire Duginski\*†<sup>°</sup>  
Julia Reynolds

### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Cooper Simms

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

Kirby Johnson\*<sup>°</sup>

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Lindsay Best\*†<sup>°</sup>

### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Sarah Jantzen\*<sup>°</sup>

### COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

James Bonadeo  
Noah Bonadeo  
Hailey Harrington\*<sup>°</sup>

### UNIVERSITY WESTERN COLORADO

Gabrielle Hamm\*<sup>°</sup>  
Samuel Pitman\*<sup>°</sup>

### UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Carson Powell  
Pirie Sellars\*<sup>°</sup>

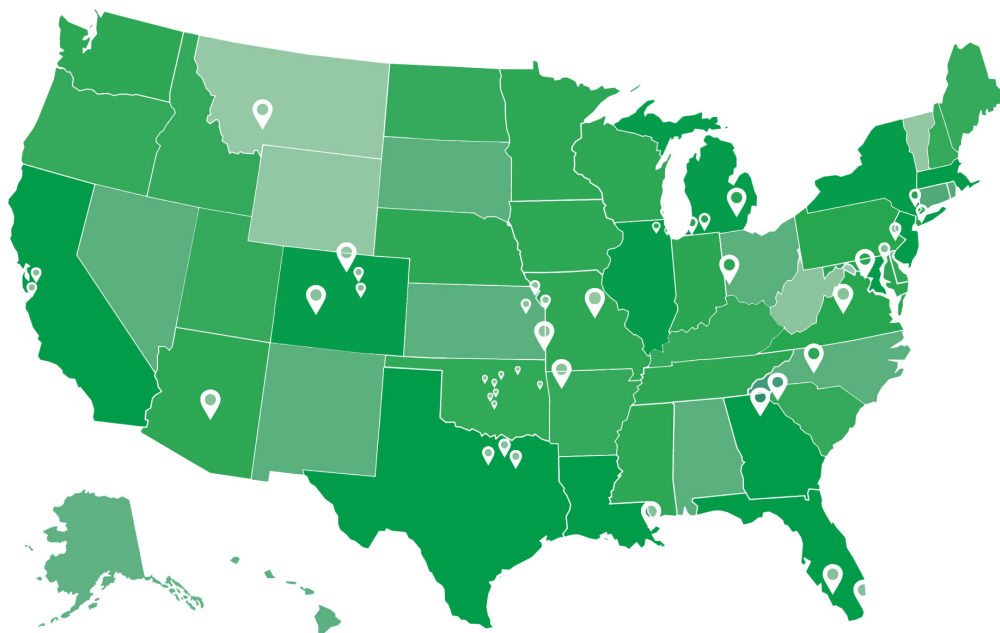
### AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

Megan Bohrmann

### EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

Timothy Dolan†





### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Isabelle Ille\*°

### LAKE FOREST COLLEGE

Christopher Clark

### LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Colette Conaway  
Katie Elbow\*°  
Charlotte Mounger\*†°  
Izzy White\*†°

### COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Henry Garrett

### SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Jacqueline Nguyen\*†°

### UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Sophia Lopez\*†°  
Henry Maxwell\*°  
Riley McCoy \*†°

### BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

Augustine Arvidson

### KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

Reagan Thorson

### PITTSBURG STATE

Carter Peyton

### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Madeline Camp\*†°  
John Poarch\*°

### TULANE UNIVERSITY

Sarah Miller\*†°

### WHEATON COLLEGE

Elora Dasovich-Leahy†

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Rory Sebastian\*°  
Samuel Shadid\*†°

### MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Harrison McClurg

### THE FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NEW YORK CITY

Olivia McCasland†

### FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Reese Mears\*°

### MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OHIO

Julianne Rogers

### DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Sally Lytle\*°

### CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Ashley Hill\*†°

### SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Jenna Carnine\*°

### TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Henry Gauthier\*  
Isabella Scherm\*°  
Kathryn Skarky\*†°  
Cate Tollison\*°

### UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

Jacob Nalagan\*°

### LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Will Watts†

### GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Romy Abu-Fadel\*°

### WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Isabelle Cauthen

### WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

Austin Pendarvis

#### KEY:

- \* Gold Cord recipient
- † Red Cord recipient  
(minimum of 300 Christian Service hours)
- ° National Honor Society member



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

“Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid; do not be  
discouraged, for the Lord  
your God will be with you  
wherever you go.”

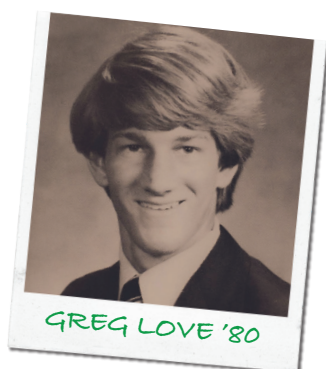
-Joshua 1:9











# Alumni Highlights

**Three generations of Loves reflect on McGuinness and its impact on them, their lives and careers**

**T**his year, we highlight three generations from the Love family — Judy Love '55, Greg Love '80, and David Love '13. The three are leading the 75th Anniversary of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

"The 75th anniversary I know will be a spectacular event and very much a payback to all the students and teachers involved over the years," Judy said. "I am especially happy to be co-chairing this with my son Greg and grandson David: three generations of the Love family."

Judy led the Building Faith campaign, which began in 2001 and resulted in a total campus renovation. Today, with the largest ever student body population, Judy, Greg and David are overseeing a new capital campaign to expand the school. The goal is to have the expansion completed and ready for the 2024-25 school year, the school's 75th anniversary.

While society changed and the landscape of the school evolved from the time Judy attended high school to the time her son Greg and grandson David attended the school, their love for Bishop McGuinness and the school community has remained constant.

During their high school years, each one found a place at Bishop McGuinness, and each continues to work to ensure future generations of students find a home here, too.

Judy found her place on stage, performing in school plays as part of the Queens Players Club, and in the newspaper room as a journalist for the Chi Rhoan. Following high school, she



attended Oklahoma State University for a year and then switched to the University of Oklahoma for her second year.

“Then I dropped out of college to get prepared to marry Tom Love. It took four years for me to land him,” Judy said. “I then went back to UCO when my youngest was seven and got a degree and masters in interior design.”

Judy and Tom have four children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandsons. Eleven, including Judy, are Bishop McGuinness graduates. Today, the Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores founder says her primary role is philanthropy. It is a role she describes as a hobby, and one she has found she is good at.

“I have actually not had many challenges and a lot of successes in raising funds for causes,” she said. “I am in a unique position for this job since the Love family gives away a lot of funds to community projects, so it is easy to ask others to help.”

As someone who found her place in the school community and went on to found a career that she enjoys, Judy encourages students to work to find that place as well.

“Keep searching until you find what makes you satisfied and pursue that course,” she said. “The main thing is not to ever give up and enjoy what you do.”

Like his mother, Greg also found his place at Bishop McGuinness, but for him it was on the court and field. He was on the football, basketball, baseball, and track and field teams, and he continues to enjoy sports today.

“I’ve done lots of sports including golf and tennis, but now focus on snow skiing,” Greg said. “My wife and I travel quite a bit internationally and within our incredible country. When traveling where possible I’ll work in some fly fishing.”

The father of three, Greg and his wife Lisa have been married for 11 years. He is a 1984 graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio.

“After college graduation I moved to Tulsa to manage a

full-service car wash,” Greg said. “That lasted two years. At that point, I came to work for Loves in charge of real estate and development. That’s still what I do today for our family business.”

He said life can be challenging, but advised current students to be strong and be proud of their Bishop McGuinness education.

“Know that resilience is key because every day won’t be great,” he said. “Bishop McGuinness is in a great spot. Its location, for one, can’t be beat. Its academic and athletic reputation is as good as any school in the state, and its proud alumni and friendships that started at McGuinness are priceless.”

Like his father, David played basketball and football while at Bishop McGuinness. In fact, the Irish won the state high school basketball championship his senior year.

Still a sports enthusiast, David loves to ski, play basketball and travel. The University of Oklahoma graduate returned to Oklahoma City two years ago after working in Atlanta.

“After I graduated from college, I got my CDL and drove a truck for Love’s for six months,” David said. “After that, I went back to school for an analytics program through Northeastern University in Boston. Then I went to work for Home Depot’s corporate office in Atlanta before moving back home.”

David said he has learned a lot in his career so far.

“I’ve had plenty of challenges,” he said. “Staying patient and understanding that good things take 5+ years and great things take 10+ years has been one of my biggest learnings.”

For current students who will soon begin their professional journeys, he urged them to work hard.

“Your first job is typically never easy or fun,” David said. “Your first few years are about exploring what interests you. Stay curious; don’t be afraid to ask questions, and work hard.”



# Message from Alumni Executive Committee President

As the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Alumni Association President, I would like to congratulate and officially welcome the Class of 2022 as Alumni of Bishop McGuinness.

I can confidently say 11 years ago, when I graduated, I did not think I would be the Alumni Executive Committee President. It has been so fulfilling for me to give back to this school by serving as president because of how much this school means to me. I am always proud to say I graduated from Bishop McGuinness, which may make me a bit of a high school hero, but I am so appreciative of all this school provided me. There is pride each student, alumni, teacher, and family should have because of the wonderful things this school does for its students and our Oklahoma City community. I can assure each student and graduate that you are and will be more than prepared to tackle the next chapter of your life because of the knowledge and skills you have learned here. Bishop McGuinness is a home that provides you with a strong foundation of faith, education, and development of who you are as a person. This foundation provides you with all the tools necessary to be successful in whatever way success looks like to you. And no matter where your life may take you, you will always have a home here at Bishop McGuinness!

The Alumni Executive Committee hosts two fundraising events during the school year to provide financial aid for those who qualify through need. This committee proudly awarded six scholarships this past school year. Our Trivia Night this year raised over \$14,000, which was the highest



Photo: Tony Lopez

*Peter McConnell '94 is photographed with Alumni Executive Committee President Alexa Lienhard '11 after McConnell was presented the 2022 Distinguished Alumni of the Year award.*

amount ever raised. Thank you to all who attended and helped us hit this amazing record number! Our SINGO Night raised over \$4,000! We were so appreciative of the small, but mighty attendees that helped this first annual SINGO Night be so successful. We hope you gather your friends and family together to join us for Trivia and SINGO this coming school year! Mark your calendars because both will sell out fast!

Again, thank you to everyone that has contributed to our committees' success this past year! We know many of you are so generous with many organizations, but we appreciate your support of Bishop McGuinness. Please follow us on social media or visit the Bishop McGuinness website for more information.

Go Irish!

Alexa Lienhard, Class of 2011  
Alumni Executive Committee President  
@bmchs\_alumni on Instagram

*\*Anyone interested in joining the board or learning more about the alumni committee, please contact Alexa Lienhard.*



# Peter McConnell named 2022 Distinguished Alumni of the Year

Established 23 years ago, the Distinguished Alumni of the Year award recognizes outstanding alumni and their commitment to the goals and objectives of BMCHS. It highlights what it means to be a person for others through their actions in the Irish community and beyond.

*Below is McConnell's acceptance speech:*

Thank you to David and Alexa and the Alumni board for this honor. To my wife Emily, my kiddos Sophia and Charlie and my parents. Thank you for your love and support. Without that love, this amazing gift and honor would not be possible. And thank you mom and dad for the gift of going to McGuinness. Truly one of the best gifts I never knew I wanted or needed.

Since the beginning of the Pandemic a lot of teacher events here had been optional, so when I first was told about the award I thought for sure it was just David's way of making sure both Dad and I showed up for Graduation! And secondly, being up here in front of you parents and family members is an amazing honor, but as a teacher it is what some of my nightmares are made of! I can stand in front of 700 teenagers all day long, but I am sweating just standing here, so if I fumble my words know I warned you ahead of time. In all seriousness though for me this is truly a gift and honor, one of the biggest honors of my life, outside of my wedding and my kiddos. This award just floored me. I was not expecting it, and for me, a man of many words at times, I was humbled and quieted by the love of this community when I was presented with it last week at school. I don't want to say much (I know the faculty are secretly timing me), but I would like to just briefly reflect on my time here and the many gifts I have been given by it.

When I think about this community, I can think of many

experiences both as a student and teacher that have shaped me and my path today, but it was the teachers I had here like Sister Sanchez, George Rigazzi, Lorne Thomas, Fr. Renee, and others who kept telling me God had a plan for me and that plan is something I could see when I accepted God's love and opened my heart. So in many ways, Seniors, I was in your same spot tonight and little did I know that after I graduated God's plan would bring me back here. I sure didn't see it coming. I was like a lot of you: I was getting out of here and not coming back soon! BOY was I wrong, and I can hear the loving laugh of God in those teachers' voices looking back still today.

In my 16 years here, I have been given the gift of seeing God everyday in the smiles, laughs, struggles, and triumphs in this community. I told you Seniors and all my students that I find and see God more in the lives of my students than I could ever have realized was possible. Your life is a gift. Your life matters more than you may realize, and I hope if you haven't seen that yet you will know it soon. This community plants a seed that blooms in every life that it encounters. Know that what you have learned and received here will show itself in your life, and, when that happens, maybe you will see the gift of love that your parents gave you in this community and the gift your teachers saw in you in pushing you and the plan God has for you to bring His Kingdom to this life.

I have joked for years that if you cut me I would bleed green. That's how much I love this community, and now that I think about it I have a green clover tattooed on me so that is close to bleeding green right? All joking aside, I love this place and all it has given to me, and I am humbled and grateful for the chance to have been here for almost half of my life and to give back what I have been given.

Seniors, know two things if you remember nothing else from my yapping tonight: remember that God's plan for you is real, and his love for you is evident in everything you do and receive in your life and that no matter where you go in life you will always have a family here at McGuinness that loves you. Congratulations on your achievements and good luck on the next stage of your lives. God Bless and Thank you.



# Disc golf hobby leads to professional competition

By Sally Linhart

Trevor Swink has been part of the McGuinness family for more than 35 years—first as a student, then as a coach, teacher and administrator. The husband and father of five has committed several decades of his life serving the students of McGuinness; yet, he manages to squeeze in some time to compete professionally as a disc golfer.

Swink recalled summers as a child, throwing a cheap toy disc around Will Rogers park after an afternoon of swimming. This summer, he competed at the Professional Disc Golf Association masters world championship in the Pro Master 50+ division.

Although Swink had always played disc golf, he became more invested in it after he introduced the sport to his own children. As a father of five boys, who range in age from 18 to 30, he remembers what a feat it was to keep them entertained when they were younger.

“When I was in college I’d play with my buddies, but then when I had my own kids we started playing more because...well, I had five kids and it’s free most everywhere. It was a great way to get the boys out and play, they really enjoyed it!”

With some encouragement from his wife, Swink joined the Professional Disc Golf Association and entered his first disc golf tournament when he was almost 40 years old. “I decided to play in an open tournament at Dolese Park, with the best of the best. It was all ages, including twenty-somethings. I got humiliated in that first tournament,” he said. “I had no idea, I thought I was good! I didn’t realize that I was also old!”

Swink described how that tournament lit a fire in him. “I thought, I can compete with these guys.”

He became more serious about the sport, entering around 10 tournaments a year—while continuing his track and cross country coaching duties. In 2015, he entered the world disc golf tournament for the first time, placing in the top 10 in the 40-year old amateur division—his favorite memory in disc golf to this day.

“After that it was time to go pro! I was winning a lot of discs, but you can only have so many discs,” Swink said laughingly. The following year, he went pro and started playing for cash prizes, entering tournaments in Kansas, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. The transition from the amateur division to pro wasn’t an easy one, though. “I had to learn how to play with the pros. My first year, I came in last in almost every tournament,” he said.

He continued to play and improve, and his tenacity paid off. As of May 2022, Swink has 27 career wins in his division. As he reflected on his accomplishments, his passion and excitement for the sport became evident. “Last year I got on the top card in Austin with two of the all time greatest players in disc golf,” he recalled. The camaraderie between PDGA players brings another positive aspect to the sport.

“You meet a lot of good people, and it’s fun when you get to go play with them in different tournaments.”

When asked what made the sport special to him, he stated very simply “I’ve been coaching since 1990. I’ve raised children. This is mine, this is something I can do for myself.”





Courtesy Photo

The '21-'22 school year marked his 29th year in teaching / administration, and 33rd year coaching athletics at McGuinness. In addition to teaching four classes, including anatomy and physiology and studies in medical science, Swink serves as student information coordinator and head girls cross country coach. Throughout his coaching career, McGuinness has won 32 state titles in boys and girls cross country and track.

Participating in the masters world championship was a significant feat for Swink, having recently recovered from a complete shoulder reconstruction surgery in 2021. "I'm proud that I'm already back playing," he said. "I'm back out there doing what I love to do, and I'm more proud of that than anything else."

Disc golf continues to be a family affair for Swink, whose son Gavin also plays competitively in the PDGA. Swink and his wife, Dr. Anureet Bajaj, live in Oklahoma City.

## TREVOR SWINK COACHING AWARDS

---

### **2006**

National Finalist Cross-Country Coach of the Year

### **2004 & 2005**

Oklahoma Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year

### **1999-Present**

Oklahoma Girls Cross-Country All-Star Coach

### **Multiple Years**

Little All City Coach of the Year for Girls Cross-Country

### **Multiple Years**

Little All City Coach of the Year for Boys Cross-Country

### **Multiple Years**

Little All City Coach of the Year for Girls Track & Field

### **Multiple Years**

Presentation Speaker  
Oklahoma Track Coaches Association



# Updates

## 1976



- ▲ The Class of 1976 celebrated its 45-year reunion.

## 1992

Bob Ross was appointed to OU Board of Regents.

## 1998

Lt. Col. R. Anthony Moses, USAF, was named the Commander, 513th Aircraft Maintenance Reserve Squadron at Tinker AFB. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma AirForce ROTC Program and the O.U. School of Aviation with a BA in Aviation Management, his deployments include Afghanistan and Korea. Moses also represented his command on an Expedition to train alongside the Bulgarian AirForce NATO Europe. In his civilian career, he is a certified flight instructor and airline pilot for Jet Blue Airways.

## 2001



- ▲ The Class of 2001 celebrated its 20-year reunion.



- ▲ Sarah Nickel (Enteshary) began work as a High School Teacher at the American Embassy School in New Delhi, India in July 2022. Prior to that, Sarah spent 3 years teaching in Bangkok, Thailand at Berkeley International School.

## 2004

Elizabeth Walters Gray, Executive Director of OKC Broadway, was listed as No. 11 on OKC Friday's list of 50 Most Powerful Young Professionals.

Sonny Wilkinson, Senior Director of Development at OMRF, was listed as No. 13 on OKC Friday's list of 50 Most Powerful Young Professionals.

## 2005

Whitney Cloer joined the OSU Cowgirl Coaching Staff as the program's new hitting coach.

## 2007



- ▲ Classmates Towns Holmboe and Joseph Krenger both welcome new babies on June 7, 2022 at Mercy Hospital. Towns and his wife Jessica (Wood) Holmboe, both 2007 graduates, welcome baby girl Harlow. Joseph and his wife Chloe welcomed baby boy Teddy.

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## 2008



- ▲ Molly Ferguson Williams, former standout cross country runner at Bishop McGuinness, placed 2nd overall in the 2021 Oklahoma City Memorial half marathon on October 3. Molly and her husband Kevin have two children and reside in Denton, TX.

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## 2010

Kamber McMaster married Zach Murphy on February 12, 2022.

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## 2011



- ▲ The class of 2011 celebrated their 10-year reunion.



- ▲ Claire Pedulla married John Woldum on September 11, 2021.

Megan Moore Fernandez and her husband Tim welcomed their second son Theodore Joseph on August 24, 2021.

Chad Thurman married Megan Jones on September 4, 2021.

Katie Massad married Blake Fast on November 13, 2021.

Nick O'Hara married Laura Hedrick on February 12, 2022.

Stephanie Roy Ledet and her husband, Caleb, welcomed their first child on March 13, 2022

Caroline Cameron Ikard, AVP, Operations Tech., at American Fidelity was listed No. 14 on OKC Friday's list of 50 Most Powerful Young Professionals.

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## 2012



- ▲ David Hill, Jr., West Point class of 2016, is a Captain in the U.S. Army and took Command of 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Delta Company in 2021 and is currently serving as a Blackhawk pilot in Savannah, Georgia.

Stephanie Milligan Warman and her husband, Travis, welcomed their first child, Tate Joseph, on June 29, 2022

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## 2013

Kevin Daly and his wife Lauren welcomed their first child Michael Kevin on January 2, 2022.



- ▲ Bridget Novak married Jake Harrell, '12, on June 5, 2021 in Crested Butte, Colo.



# Updates



- ▲ Luis Lopez ran the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 10, 2021, finishing in 3 hours and 6 minutes. He also competed in the Boston Marathon on April 18, 2022, finishing in 2 hours and 50 minutes.

Taylor Hayes Sanchez and her husband, Jose, welcomed their new baby girl, Iris, born on March 23, 2022.

Mary Mawdsley Scruggs and her husband, Jon, welcomed daughter, Frances “Frankie” Scruggs on June 22, 2022.



- ▲ Emily Eischen Martin graduated with her Masters in Public Health from OU in May. She is a first-year medical student at Rocky Vista University.

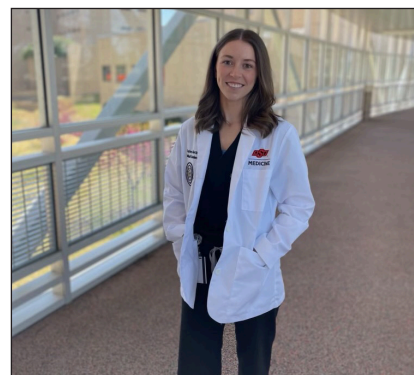
## 2014



- ▲ Lauren Hill married Austin Archer at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City in July 2022. The couple are both 2018 graduates of the University of Notre Dame. Lauren is a manager at a high frequency trading firm, Optiver, in Chicago.

## 2015

Adele Edmonds and Hayden Crandall get engaged.



- ▲ Kaylee Martin started OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in August 2020. She is a 3rd year medical student.

## 2016



- ▲ Kathleen Joyce married Colton Edelen on Dec. 31, 2021.

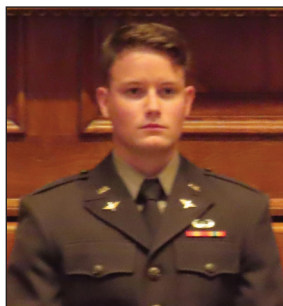


- ▲ Grace Duginski is escorted down the aisle by her father Chuck Duginski. Grace married Luke Christofferson on June 18, 2022 in Norman. June was also when she began working at Cytovance Biologics as an R&D Analytical Development Associate.



- ▲ Hunter Hill, West Point class of 2020, is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army currently serving as a platoon leader with the 82nd airborne in Fort Bragg, NC. He was part of the rapid deployment for the withdrawal in Afghanistan in 2021. Hunter was on the last last C-17 military cargo aircraft that departed Hamid Karzai International Airport.

## 2018



- ▲ Tucker Hill graduated from Princeton with a degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and a minor in The History and Practice of Diplomacy in 2022. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army and will be serving in the aviation branch. He was also awarded the Princeton Military Excellence Award, honored as a U.S. Army Cadet Command Distinguished Military Graduate Award, and received the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Undergraduate Support Award.



- ▲ Joseph Engel runs through Irish Alley during the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in April

2022. Engel is studying Human Performance / Exercise Science at Okaloosa City University.

## 2020



- ▲ Charlie Maxwell, currently a student at Notre Dame, competed in New York City with his SIBC team at the Evercore competition. It was exciting for Charlie and his team as they placed first.



- ▲ Katherine Hill is a rising junior at the University of Notre Dame and was published for the third time as an astrophysics researcher. She worked at the Vatican in Rome over the summer doing research on technology and morality.



# Sister Sanchez on her call to religious life

*This year, we lost long time faculty member Sister Stephanie Sanchez. In honor of her, we are republishing the story below, which was written by Kyle Olbert '06 and originally published in the November 2006 edition of the Chi Rhoan student newspaper.*

Many students would never consider a religious life. It seems so distant, so foreign of a concept that many high school students would dismiss it almost immediately. And for a time, Stephanie Sanchez did also.

"I don't know what made me do it," Sister Sanchez said. "Ever since I was very young, I was enamored with the Sisters at my school. But sometime in my childhood, I developed the idea that I wasn't holy enough to ever be like them."

But she, obviously, changed her mind.

"My aunt, Sister Mary Joseph, who was, at the time, a missionary in Guatemala, told me to write to her," Sister Sanchez said. "Otherwise, she said she would 'blackball' me from her prayers. One night, I mentioned this to my mother as I was helping her prepare dinner. We had our backs to each other — I was making salad and she was doing something else — and I told her what my aunt had said. My mother nonchalantly replied, 'Well, you know what she's been praying for right?'"

Sister Sanchez had no idea her aunt had been praying for her. And even more mysterious to her was the object of her aunt's prayers.

"My mother said, 'your aunt's been praying for you to join the sisterhood, Stephanie.' I was amazed," Sister Sanchez said. "I mean, I'd considered it myself and already written it off, but for these other people to believe that I was holy enough, that I was good enough, it was just amazing. But I



didn't let my mother know how I felt. I played it off."

But that, however, was just the beginning of Sister Sanchez's journey.

"I sent a letter requesting information to the Carmelites," Sister Sanchez said. "I had my brother and sister watch the mail, and when the information came, we got them before my parents could find them. I filled them all out, and then I hid them in the bottom of my dresser drawers. They were signed, sealed, and stamped, and never saw the light of day for three years, until my senior year."

Sister Sanchez was simply waiting for the right time to inform her parents.

"One night in December of my senior year, I told my parents. They were happy ... proud ... but worried."

Sister Sanchez leaned back pensively in her chair, and explained that she was the eldest child and they expected her to do the "normal" thing — to get married, to have children. And, she added, they feared she might be rushing into the decision. After all, she had not yet finished high school, and was already dedicating the rest of her life to God.



But young Stephanie, then a high school senior, knew what she wanted to do with her life. So she entered her community, and after several years, took her vows. The ceremony meant a lot to her, she said, because her father, who was recovering from spinal surgery, was able to come to Oklahoma to watch (her family lived in Colorado, a 10+ hour drive.)

Sister Sanchez also reflected on teaching at McGuinness, and why, after more than two decades, she is still here.

“Teaching, especially here at McGuinness, is such a gift,” Sister Sanchez said. “It’s truly a give-and-take between students and teachers. I teach them, but they teach me so much, too. Everyday I thank God for considering me worthy enough to be part of this community.”

## Please Grant Eternal Rest to:

### Alumni

NAME	CLASS	D.O.D.
Mary Jean Wallace	1965	09/01/2021
William Hornbeak	1958	09/18/2021
Leo Morrison	1952	09/25/2021
Nancy DeLong	1957	09/27/2021
Francis McGuire III	1964	10/03/2021
Bobbie June (Tracey) Van Horn	1959	10/01/2021
Frank “Cap” Shidler, Jr.	1962	11/06/2021
Cathie Harris	1961	11/30/2021
Barbara Vermillion	1957	12/21/2021
John McAdams	1965	12/25/2021
Laura Davidoff	1988	01/02/2022
Larry Hanson	1970	01/07/2022
Rodney Gabriel	1988	01/17/2022
Carolyn Simpson (Freeny)	1963	01/19/2022
Mary Bane	1964	01/24/2022
Marc Dennis	1991	02/06/2022
Kamran Zahrai	2010	03/29/2022
John Jewell	1971	03/23/2022
Cary Johnson	1980	02/20/2021
John Mosburg	1980	Dec. 2020
Chris Sprehe	1962	05/28/2022
Kenneth Edward “Kenny” Nash		06/09/2022
Joy Rowe (Arndt)	1962	04/06/2022
Jim Hellmans	1965	06/26/2022
Sherry Evans (Pasternak, PhD)	1962	04/09/2022
Sandy Reid (Martin)	1966	11/30/2021

### Friends of McGuinness

NAME	D.O.D.
Richard Jackson	10/12/2021
Richard Hess	12/01/2021
Alice Ruth “Scottie” Seger	12/24/2021
Carl Ganter	01/21/2022
Mary Lou Ille	01/09/2022
Raymond R. “Bob” Dolan Sr.	04/29/2022
Maxine Stancampiano	05/27/2022
Sister Stephanie Sanchez	06/15/2022
Connie Mitchener	06/14/2022
John Salmeron	04/13/2022
David W. Dollarhide	04/22/2022



## FINANCIALS

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Try me in this,” says the Lord of Host, “shall I not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessing upon you without measure.”

-Malachi 3:10







M c G U I N N E S S  
C H I G H S C H O O L



BISHOP McGUINNESS AUCTION

# Sponsor List

## KING RANCH

Anonymous  
Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores  
The Chansolme Family

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Shannon and David Hill  
WestStar Oil & Gas, Inc.  
Sue and Mike Krenger  
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Saints Energy LLC  
American Fidelity Foundation  
JMA Energy Company, OOC

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Great Plains Bank  
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Kirkpatrick Bank  
Heidi and Todd Russell  
Ashley and Blair Elder  
Brennan Dolan  
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Nicole and Nick Dell'Osso  
Laura and Guy Terlip  
Clyde and Samantha Roberts  
Carol and Mark Lester  
Dan and Molly Andrews  
Elk Supply Company  
BancFirst



## Back in the Saddle

35th Annual Auction brings  
in over \$300,000

Over 550 alumni, parents and friends gathered for a night of fun, fellowship and fundraising April 28 for our favorite cause, the Bishop McGuinness General Scholarship Fund. Celebrated at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the event raised over \$285,000 with \$31,000 raised for the fund a need — Library Media Center Updates. A special thank you to honorary chairs, Sue and Mike Krenger, and our auction co-chairs Jennifer Maxwell and Amy McDougall.



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez



Photo: Tony Lopez



# Annual Fund

The Forever McGuinness Annual Fund is our yearly fundraising initiative to support the school and its current needs. Your support enables us to provide assistance, expanding learning and growth opportunities for our students.

*\*Designated to a scholarship fund listed on Page 69.*

## \$10,000+ BISHOP EUGENE McGUINNESS

Anonymous  
Anonymous\*  
Julie and Matt Atyia  
Marlene and LeRoy Boyer\*  
Debbie and Lon '73 Kile\*  
Sheri and Doug '83 Konarik\*  
Lopez-Dorada Foods\*  
DeAnn and Mark '77 Mitchener\*  
Lysa and Robert '73 Richey\*  
Shannon and Lyall '94 Sinclair  
The Smiley Family Charitable Foundation\*

## \$5,000 - \$9,999 BLESSED PIER GIORGIO

Anonymous  
Mary Cassidy '80\*

## \$2,500 - \$4,999 THE CARMELITE SISTERS

Susan Ross and Randy Brown  
Nicole and Domenic Dell'Osso  
Mary and Leon '87 Joyce  
Donald Kastens  
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 Reagen Walters '10 \*  
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 Marie Wilcox \*  
 Judith '66 and John '65 Wilkinson  
 Ruth and Rodney Williamson  
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 Martha and George Brown  
 Mary and Patrick '84 Burke  
 Nancy Carpenter '75  
 Julie K. Carter  
 Teresa '76 and Jimmy Carter

Julia Cline '66  
 Anne and William Collins  
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 Dale Crabtree  
 Richard Donofrio  
 Charlotte Edmonds '17  
 Kathleen Feighny '90  
 Marjory Feighny  
 Kyle Fitzgerald '16  
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 Jan '77 and Steve Gawey  
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 Mary '82 and John Hauk  
 Page '92 and Richard Hauser  
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**FOREVER**  
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# Forever McGuinness

## Alumni Donors

1950s					
Philip Maguire	1951	John Dugan	1965	Yvonne Green	1971
Daniel Cooper	1952	Kathy Sine	1965	Susan Steele Kierl	1971
Margaret Borelli Fent	1956	John Wilkinson	1965	Thomas Wolf	1971
Mary Frances Keating Fulton	1956	Julia Semtner Cline	1966	Pat Stuever Graff	1972
Jane Nicholson Worsley	1956	Paul Podolec	1966	James Humphrey	1972
Katherine Pace Drummond	1957	Judith Murray Wilkinson	1966	J. Peter Kierl	1972
Joan Ruscha Leighton	1957	James Calvi	1967	Diane Lukeman Behring	1973
Joan Sampson Maguire	1957	Gayla Machell	1967	James Connelly	1973
Thomas McCoy	1957	Robert Sine	1967	Vicki Leutkemeyer	
Gabrial Dallal	1958	Mary Ruzicka Swink	1967	Connelly	1973
Richard Luetkemeyer	1958	Reverend Stephen Bird	1968	Andrew Dodge	1973
John Lieber	1959	Kevin Cox	1968	Don Eckroat	1973
Dennis Sage	1959	John Ditmars	1968	Catherine Barry Heck	1973
		Elizabeth Semtner Edwards	1968	Lon Kile	1973
		Frances Hendrix	1968	Mike Milligan	1973
		Mary Anne Ingram	1968	Tish Kierl Milligan	1973
		Wilbert Pauley	1968	Dale Montgomery	1973
		Patricia Laurence Podolec	1968	Robert Richey	1973
		Bob Potter	1968	Angela Doyle Treinen	1973
		Patricia Alley Sine	1968	Patti Radke Allen	1974
		Joan Teague Bickes	1969	Carol Scanlon Lester	1974
		Pat O'Hern Martinez	1969	Daniel Stith	1974
		Barbara Wisniewski McEndree	1969	Nancy Carpenter	1975
		Susan Squires Sanger	1969	Clifford Gookin	1975
		Bernard Semtner	1969	David Marino	1975
		Sharon McGrath Sutton	1969	Jeannie Glover Stith	1975
		Leslie Wylie	1969	Monica Roewe Wenthold	1975
				David Wiist	1975
				Chris Wisniewski	1975
				Teresa Boyer Carter	1976
				Mary Cotter-Lalli	1976
				Tim Maguire	1976
				Joseph Noble	1976
				Karen Kerrihard	
				Schumacher	1976
				Jan Marshall Gawey	1977
				Beverly Carter Higdon	1977
				Nanette Bloch Hight	1977
				Melissa Harper Hoehn	1977
				Debbie Cooper Jones	1977
				Sean Kelley	1977
				Philip Maguire	1977
1960s					
Helen Rice Bott	1960				
William Carel	1961				
Michelin DeLier Hobbs	1961				
John Mullins	1961				
Loretta Neumann	1961				
Carolyn Fuchs Perry	1961				
John Bane	1962				
Joseph A. Cory	1962				
Sandra Russell Cory	1962				
Richard Flanagan	1962				
Walter Lee	1962				
James Maney	1962				
David Schmees	1962				
Melanie Harris Sutton	1962				
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Diane Archer Carel	1963				
James Nave	1963				
Margo Olivares Seck	1963				
Thomas Taylor	1963				
Patricia Hunt Thorpe	1963				
Mary Alice Farrell Ramsey	1964				
Susan Braun Roberts	1964				
Mike Roberts	1964				
1970s					
		Michael Burke	1970		
		Elizabeth Hoey Fleet	1970		
		David Giasson	1970		
		Mary Maguire Hood	1970		
		Jerry Kelley	1970		
		Anne Kierl Murphy	1970		
		Dianne Cooper O'Connor	1970		
		Frances Smith Savely	1970		
		Gayle Lucas Semtner	1970		
		Mary Sine	1970		
		Elaine Bird Stebler	1970		
		Randy Fudge	1971		

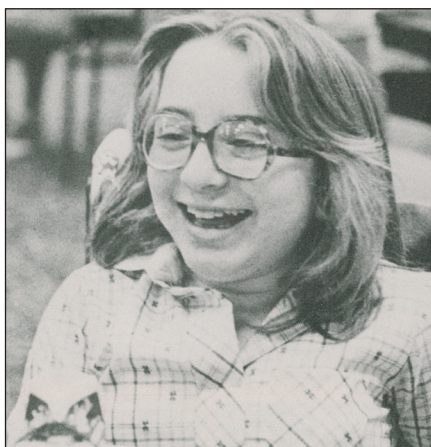
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# The Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship Fund

By Sally Linhart

Bishop McGuinness was Alesia Boyer's second home. Although she only attended McGuinness for her freshman and sophomore years, her presence made an impact that is evident more than 40 years later.



Her parents, Marlene and LeRoy Boyer, recalled her experience at McGuinness with heartfelt gratitude. "She just loved that school," Marlene said. "She felt so comfortable there that she said it felt like home."

Alesia was diagnosed with osteogenesis imperfecta, commonly known as brittle bone disease. She navigated the halls of McGuinness using her wheelchair and the help of her classmates. "LeRoy or I would take her to school, get her into her wheelchair and drop her off," Marlene said. "And there was always some student ready to open the door and take her inside."

Throughout her life, Alesia underwent 19 surgeries. She had metal rods in her legs that went from her hips to her knees, and was often in a body cast; however, that didn't affect her academic achievements. "Her grades were very good," Marlene said. "She never had any trouble in school. God gave her the ability to read and comprehend very quickly. Alesia's father LeRoy added that sometimes she was too quick. He recalled a conversation with her where she mentioned a particular book that he felt was too long - and perhaps too advanced for her age. Alesia's snappy response to LeRoy was "Too late Dad, I already read it."

Sadly, just after the completion of her sophomore year in 1978, Alesia passed away during surgery.

After Alesia's passing, a memorial Mass and luncheon was held in her honor. It was at that luncheon that Marlene and LeRoy met a young man named Charlie. The Boyers discovered that Charlie was one of the students who made it his mission to make sure Alesia had everything she needed. Inspired by the community that was so eager to honor her memory, Marlene and LeRoy decided to start a memorial scholarship in celebration of Alesia. "We know that she is so happy to be able to continue to help McGuinness," Marlene said. And it is through this scholarship that Alesia remains present in the hearts of Marlene, LeRoy and her sister Teresa.

"We know she is still with us because she is still helping students today! And we still talk about her all the time," said Marlene. Since 1979, the Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship has grown to benefit more students with each passing year. LeRoy recalled receiving a letter from a student who was only able to attend McGuinness because of the Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship.

LeRoy expressed his pride at being able to help students receive the benefits of a Catholic education; however, he and Marlene both acknowledge that they have relied on God's blessings and generosity to maintain the memorial scholarship. "God keeps giving us what we need to make sure this scholarship continues to grow."



*If you would like to contribute to the Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship Fund or to create one of your own, please contact Mary Joyce, Director of Advancement at 405-758-4912.*

# Scholarship & Endowments

All Class Alumnus Scholarship	The Al and Helen Hoch Family Scholarship	The Gary Pellegrini Scholarship
The Oded Amitz-lev Scholarship		The Judith Pulley Memorial Scholarship
Onzie L. Level, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund	The Reginald and Lillian Hudson Memorial Scholarship	The Chris Paul Rushcha Memorial Scholarship
The Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship	The Tony Maguire Scholarship	School Advisory Council Fund
Archbishop Scholarship Fund	The Ed McCarthy Memorial Scholarship	The Smiley Family Scholarship
The Brand Scholarship Endowment	The Judy McCarthy Love Scholarship	The Lorne Thomas Memorial Scholarship
The Joe Cook Memorial Scholarship	The Judy McCarthy Love and Tom Love Scholarship	The Clyde Grover Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Cooper Family Scholarship		Class of 1973 Endowed Scholarship Fund
The Vincent Cotter Scholarship	The Jack A. Mideke Scholarship	The Lon Kile Family Scholarship
General Scholarship Fund	The Nancy Morton Memorial Scholarship	The Carl Ganter Memorial Scholarship
The David Harlow Rice Scholarship	The Grace and Bill O'Brien Memorial Scholarship	
The Todd Harter Memorial Scholarship		



## FOREVER –McGUINNESS–

As our student population grows and tuition expenses increase, the need for financial support is greater than ever. Over 27% of our students currently benefit from one of our financial aid scholarships.

Without your generosity, many of these students would not have been able to continue their education at our school or take advantage of the many opportunities a Bishop McGuinness education provides.

This current school year, we are on track to award \$1 million in need based scholarships. Your gifts to the Forever McGuinness Support Campaign help support our scholarship efforts and are greatly appreciated.



# YES! I want to support Bishop McGuinness students.

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GIFT IN THE AMOUNT OF:

\$

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Alumni Class of

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☐ Grandparent    ☐ \_\_\_\_\_



**FOREVER**  
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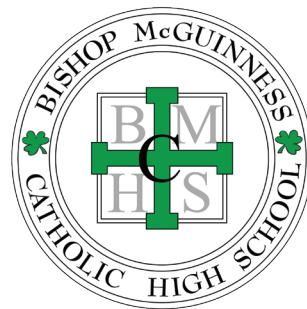
801 NW 50th St.  
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**Thank you!**

☐ I would like more information on donating stock and securities.



# Leave Your Legacy.



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## The Blessed Pier Giorgio Legacy Society

Our School patron, Blessed Pier Giorgio's legacy inspires all who enter our doors to reach "Towards the Top." By leaving a planned gift to the school endowment fund or creating a named scholarship fund, you and your family can ensure that Catholic education will continue for many years to come at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

## Interested in making a gift?

We can help you find the perfect opportunity to make a planned gift based on your interests and preferences. Donated funds are critical to the school's success each and every year to provide for various projects not covered by our tuition-driven operating budget. Donations can be allocated for projects such as Work Grant scholarships, capital renovations, and academic program expenses. We would be honored to work with you to discover the perfect avenue for your donation.

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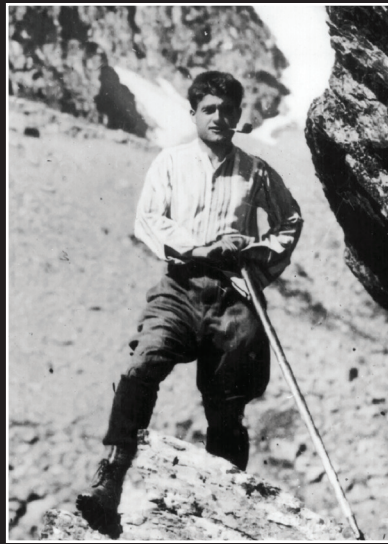
## What types of planned gifts can you give?

We accept most present and deferred planned gifts, including will bequests, beneficiary of trusts, beneficiary of retirement accounts, and charitable remainder trusts. You may also make an immediate donation by cash, check, or stock transfers.

## Will Bequests

A bequest is a simple, convenient way to plan a gift to Bishop McGuinness. A bequest can be made for a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Careful financial planning can be beneficial to you and allow you to leave an everlasting legacy to support Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School for future generations.





**“THE HIGHER WE GO, THE  
MORE WE CAN HEAR THE  
VOICE OF CHRIST.”**

---

**BLESSED PIER GIORGIO**

*Bishop McGuinness* **75**

**HOW CAN I JOIN THE CLIMB?**



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