



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

SPRING 2022





CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

1180 Delaware Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14209 • 716-882-0466 • www.canisiushigh.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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Michael Earle '22 and his mother Catherine enjoy the photo area during GAMBIT XLVII. Check out more from Canisius High School's most spectacular night on pages 22-23. (Photo by **Patrick O'Rourke '23**)

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Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.
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Principal

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Director of Special Events

Paul Zablocki '01
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STATE CHAMPS

Connor Schuster '22, Luke Granto '23, Eddie Cosgrove '22 and Declan Ryan '22 celebrate the Crusaders' state basketball title. More on page 18.

FEATURES

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ON THE COVER

The six candidates for Mr. Canisius 2022 (left to right): **Ermyes Aman**, winner **Victor Mazzara**, **Fawaad Khawar**, **Vinny Conroy**, **Steven Kropelin** and **Charlie Fortner**. More on page 6.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

In this issue, this year's finalists for Mr. Canisius pay tribute to their teachers. In doing so, two used the word "special" to describe our school.

They are right. Canisius is special. We are different.

The six seniors nominated for Mr. Canisius this year all have had a thing to say about the magic that makes Canisius different. They did so not only in these pages but in the reflections they composed upon being named finalists.

"Canisius High School, you are different; and I thank you for that," Victor Mazzara said. "I wish I could bottle up your magic and spread it outside the Blue Doors; and I promise to go forth and set the world on fire with that magic potion that you have sprinkled upon me."

Fawaad Khawar said, "Being an American Muslim ... I was terrified that people would think of me as 'different.' It wasn't until I opened up about my faith – and observed the opposite happen – that I was able to break out of my reclusive shell and form the bonds that Canisius is so well known for."

"I feel like I've found a second family," Steven Kropelin said. "I loved watching my brothers grow over the last four years. I saw guys that used to put themselves first start to put others first."

Ermyes "Jerry" Aman feels "blessed" because "not many people who come from the same background as I do end up going to a prestigious school." The teachers and students made him feel welcomed. "The brotherhood in this school was the most impactful to me."

Vinny Conroy is incredibly proud and thankful to be a part of this community. "I could not have done it without my brothers by my side. The bonds I've made here are going to be lifelong, and for that, I am forever grateful."

Charlie Fortner learned that being a man for and with others truly makes a man significantly happier. "That journey toward happiness is best when accompanied – by friends, brothers, family. I am beyond grateful."

It's not surprising that these seniors did not mention academic achievements or successes on the stage or fields of play. Their words describe a community. It is made up of diverse faiths, cultures, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds, but there is a brotherhood that is created and forged in their experiences from the moment students are welcomed into the hallowed halls of Canisius. Each of these six seniors expressed gratitude, deep gratitude, for each other and the community that is Canisius.

That community includes the faculty, staff, counselors, coaches and administrators who are with students every step of the way. They accompany students, challenge them, listen to them, demand the best of them. They help our students to know that they are good, loved, and that they matter.

God is at the center of our school, of our community, which is what really makes us special: Belief in God and the Spirit that unites all believers.

"Unlike many of my Canisius experiences, this nomination is not about winning or losing," Mazzara wrote. "My journey has been more fulfilling than any competition of which I have been a part. 'The win' has been my growth in mind, body, and soul ... alongside all of you."

Amen, Vic. It's all about the journey. A journey and life lived with and for others.

Fr. David Ciacimino, S.J.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

I think Tom Coppola might be the only student I ever taught for three years. Certainly, he was one of the only ones because I went from teaching freshmen and juniors to sophomores and juniors, and he just kind of fell all the way through. By junior year, we both knew each other well – including how to push each other's buttons. But he was always a very good kid and a very good student.

I was really happy when he wanted to come back to Canisius to teach. I thought he would be great at it, which he was. He has been a strong Dean of Students, and I think he will make a tremendous principal.

A generation before mine, it was common for people to come to a job after completing their education and stay there until they retired. Canisius was no exception – it's what kept traditions alive. This is so rare today. To see someone like Tom Coppola, who wants to pay it forward by doing that, makes me very hopeful for the future.

Tom has first-rate abilities and qualities. I have always thought that, but COVID proved it. He did a phenomenal job leading our response to the pandemic, right from Day One. It was one of the most difficult things I've seen this school face.

People don't remember that in the early days of the pandemic, things were literally changing by the week and then by the day – making it essential to constantly pivot and say to the

Tom Coppola '01 and Andrea-Tyrpak-Endres in classroom 1E2, where she taught him religion as a freshman, sophomore and junior. This fall, Tyrpak-Endres will return to teaching, help administer the CHS House System and mentor new teachers following eight years as principal. The first female to hold the role at Canisius, she matches Rev. Lorenzo K. Reed, S.J., (1940-48) for the longest tenure of a CHS principal. Coppola was named principal in January and takes on the position in July.

entire school community, "OK, now we're gonna do this" and days later, "now we need to do that." Of course, there was a lot of collaboration and it was a team effort, but you still needed somebody to lead. Tom was that leader.

Tom has an exceptional rapport with students and he has a solid memory of his days as a student here. He does a great job in speaking to and dealing with the kids with the understanding of what it's like to be a student here – and making that real on their terms, in their day, at their level. It is so important to have someone who understands Canisius and understands our students. Tom does both.

Tom is good-natured and has a great personality. He is very open to people. I think that openness will be a real positive in his new position. Tom is just a very good soul. He's not a people-pleaser, but he likes things to be harmonious, and he'll work to keep things running smoothly. Nothing about him is fake or fabricated. He is genuine. That will be a strong point. People will follow his lead.

Respectfully,

Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

MAKING MR. CANISIUS

The six 2022 Mr. Canisius finalists had their photo taken with a faculty member of their choice on the

ERMYES "JERRY" AMAN '22 CHOSE SCIENCE TEACHER LISA SCHRADER

"Ms. Schrader is one of my favorite teachers at Canisius and the one who encouraged me to take more advanced science classes. When I didn't believe in myself, she was always there to give me confidence."

Schrader on Aman, who is from Buffalo, attended Nativity Miguel for middle school and is headed to Canisius College:

"The amount of growth that I have seen from Jerry over his years at Canisius is unparalleled. He shows as much discipline on the soccer field as he does in the classroom."



VINNY CONROY '22 CHOSE RELIGION TEACHER DR. JOE AMUSO

"Doc embodies what makes Canisius special. I will never forget his class and the love and care he puts into educating his students not just in the classroom, but in life."

Amuso on Conroy, who is from Clarence Center, attended St. Gregory the Great School and is headed to Villanova:

"With generosity of spirit, and a true understanding of what it means to be, 'a man for, and with others,' Vin will go from the Blue Doors and continue to grow as a person who reflects the loving heart of Jesus."

CHARLIE FORTNER '22 CHOSE MEDIA TEACHER BRYCE HOPKINS '08

"For four years, Mr. Hopkins has been my number one mentor. His bright personality and loving attitude always made me happy. I give Mr. Hopkins a lot of credit for who I am today."

Hopkins on Fortner, who is from Buffalo, attended St. Mark School and is headed to Drexel University:

"When I think of Charlie, I think of happiness. He carries a radiant smile that lights up any room he enters, and the joy he exudes is infectious."



seniors' fun-filled final day of school. Here's how their teachers made an impact on them at CHS.

FAWAAD KHAWAR '22 CHOSE ENGLISH TEACHER JULIE HOGAN

"She really pushed me to become better, and she got to watch that happen year after year. She was so proud after I did my Grad at Grad with her; the hug afterwards meant everything to me."

Hogan on Khawar, who is from Williamsville, attended Universal School and will attend the University at Buffalo:

"During our Grad at Grad meetings, I learned more about Fawaad's gentle nature and profound depth. His sense of self, family and purpose are rooted in faith and humility."



STEVEN KROPELIN '22 CHOSE HISTORY TEACHER DAVID HAYES '87

"Mr. Hayes just filled us with this confidence and optimism of what is to come. He is a representation of the many teachers at Canisius who make it such a special place."

Hayes on Kropelin, who is from Amherst and is headed to the University of South Carolina:

"Steve exemplifies everything Canisius stands for – hard-working, charitable, selfless – a man for others. I have enjoyed, and will greatly miss, his presence in my class. He's simply a noble guy."



VICTOR MAZZARA '22 CHOSE HISTORY TEACHER DENNIS BEECHER '88

"Mr. Beecher is the type of person that is more than just a teacher. Mr. Beecher is one of the people that I can say for sure shaped me into who I am today."

Beecher on 2022 Mr. Canisius winner Mazzara, who is from the Town of Tonawanda, attended St. Amelia School and is headed to the University at Albany:

"Victor is a young man of character who has the qualities of a true leader. He works as hard in the classroom as he does on the athletic field and is a role model for his peers."



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(pictured L. to R.) Mr. Sean Hagerty, SJ, Mr. Stephen Nicholson, SJ & Mr. Tom Elitz, SJ serve the Mass of Priestly Ordination of their brothers; the 2021 vow profession class: Mario Verde, SJ, Christian Zombek, SJ, Robert Lorenz, SJ, Luke Lapean, SJ & Ronald Jacobs, SJ; Jesuit friends Fr. Adam Rosinski, SJ & Fr. Patrick Nolan, SJ at a province event.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SALAH ALI '22

"My experience has been fantastic."

HOMETOWN: Lackawanna (Universal School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Alhussain Ali '19 (brother)

WHY CANISIUS: The reputation for providing a great education and pursuing excellence.

ONE CANISIUS: It means a lot to be part of a school that accepts all faiths, and is filled with diversity, because it allows me to become more open-minded and more accepting to different cultures. It is also a great opportunity to make connections in the future.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy Latin class because of its expansive history, its impact on the world today and the great stories. Mr. (John) Anderson found a way to make me interested in Latin and Roman history by finding a balance of making class fun and educational.



MY HOUSE: Arrupe. The House System makes it easier for underclassmen, especially freshmen, to connect and build up relationships with the upperclassmen. The House Games allow you to compete with other houses, and sometimes gets competitive and intense. It also gives you a chance to show your skills in front of the whole school.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: My experience has been fantastic. I have met many people from different backgrounds, learned the importance of education and the Jesuit teaching of serving others.



LUKE APPELBAUM '23

"I feel I have grown so much as a student and as a person."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (St. Mark School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Michael Appelbaum '88 (father); my twin brother Evan Appelbaum '23 is a classmate.

WHY CANISIUS: I've always imagined myself going here. My dad would tell me of his time here and how much he loved it.

ONE CANISIUS: Being Jewish at Canisius is definitely a small group, but I've never felt out of place at all and I am included in everything.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy history the most because I find it very interesting to learn about where we all came from and like reading books about different historical time periods. Father 'C' has made a big impact on me throughout my time at Canisius because I feel like he has been there every step of the way. He was my Spanish teacher for most of my freshman year and every day he checks in to see how I'm doing and what I'm up to.

SERVICE: I have volunteered at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and for WNY Heroes, which helps supply veterans and others in need with food and supplies.

MY HOUSE: Xavier. The House System is a great way to meet new people, especially as a freshman.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Be open-minded, especially with friends, because you will meet so many people and make friends you wouldn't think you could have made before. Be active in school activities because they are fun.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: My Canisius experience so far has been great. I feel I have grown so much as a student and as a person. I have learned so much and I feel it has prepared me for the future. I couldn't be happier with my time at Canisius.

LUKE BRYDGES '22

"You must go on retreats to get a full Canisius experience."

HOMETOWN: Snyder (Amherst Middle School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Jason Brydges '90 (father)

WHY CANISIUS: It was time for me to start a new chapter. It's been the most developmental and exciting four years of my life.

ONE CANISIUS: I believe that at first you really don't notice too much of a difference from one kid to another regarding background or faith, but as you get to your senior year and go on as many retreats as possible you really start to see how diversity plays a large role in the growth of a high school student.

ACADEMICS: My favorite subject was math, but then toward senior year it became economics and engineering because of my interest in learning new ways to think and future responsibilities. Mrs. (Courtne) Wojda has been a huge help and mentor. **Mr. (Paul) Cumbo '97** played a major role in my mental aspect of life and the religious connections to those around me.

ATHLETICS: I was on the wrestling and lacrosse teams all four years and football the first two. The athletic programs keep you



level-headed and disciplined to get work done.

RETREATS: You must go on retreats to get a full Canisius experience. Retreats are hands-down eye-opening in so many different ways.

MY HOUSE: Loyola. The House System brings out the competition in everyone and allows freshmen to become better acclimated.

FUTURE PLANS: To attend Michigan State for coastal engineering.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: You have to jump in with two feet without hesitation.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: It has changed me religiously, mentally, emotionally and overall has made me more mature.



DILLON CRUZ '22

"Taking hard classes is a great challenge and prepares you well for college."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo, Cheektowaga (Christ the King School and St. Peter and Paul School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose to attend Canisius because I loved the community feel, the rich tradition of service and the academic challenge.

ONE CANISIUS: To me, the diversity here at Canisius is good and I've always felt welcomed.

ACADEMICS: Math and science have always been the subjects

that I have loved the most. The faculty member that has helped me the most is Mrs. (Melissa) Langworthy. I've had her for four years and she was always the person I could rely on to help me make the right decisions and steer me to be the best version of myself.

MY HOUSE: Arrupe. The House System does a great job of increasing that feel of a community and brings a ton of fun and energy to the school. I love to watch the House Games and see how competitive people are – it makes watching that much better.

FUTURE PLANS: Majoring in either chemical engineering or double majoring in environmental science and chemistry or geology.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: My advice for future Crusaders would be to challenge yourself. I only took a few hard classes because I was concerned more with my free time than I was about college. Taking hard classes like honors and APs are a great challenge and prepare you well for college.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has changed me in the ways of developing good study habits and caring about grades and putting in a lot of time and effort into school which I previously never did. My Canisius experience has been great. The friends I have made and the teachers I've had have helped me tremendously and formed the man I am today.

JACK GARBATOWICZ '22

"Canisius has formed me into a more complete person."

HOMETOWN: West Seneca (West Seneca East Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose to attend Canisius because of the high-quality education I would receive from a Jesuit institution.

ONE CANISIUS: At Canisius, there are many kids who come from different backgrounds and faiths. Coming from a relatively undiversified school, this was very beneficial to me. Learning about others' backgrounds made me a more well-rounded individual.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy studying history. Canisius has a great history department.

ATHLETICS: Football and rugby. These teams are important to me because each team is truly a brotherhood. I have met some of my closest friends through sports – friendships that will last a lifetime.

SERVICE: Our service experiences are extremely formative. They open students' eyes to some of the problems in our community.

RETREATS: Kairos 114 was an amazing experience for me. Retreats are an extremely important part of the Canisius experience, and everyone should try to go on one.



MY HOUSE: Xavier. My favorite part of the CHS House System are the House Games and the friendly competition.

FUTURE PLANS: Study business and play football at the University of Rochester.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Come with an open-mind and buy into the Jesuit education that Canisius offers.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: It has been an extremely formative experience. Canisius has facilitated immense growth inside and outside of the classroom compared to when I entered as a freshman. Canisius has formed me into a more complete person and has provided me with experiences that prepare me for the world ahead.



NATE LEONARD '23

"Canisius molded me into the man I am today."

ONE CANISIUS: Canisius is open-minded. They do not discriminate against the freedom of choice of others. In religion, you don't solely learn about Christianity. Canisius expands your horizons.

ATHLETICS: Soccer and basketball. I was blessed to play two years of JV basketball for Coach (Joe) Zera '01. He is one of the best coaches, if not the best coach, I have ever had. Not only did he hone my basketball skills but my overall outlook. I would not be the man I am today without him.

RETREATS: This year I was lucky enough to be a part of Kairos 115. I would not trade my retreat experience for anything.

MY HOUSE: Xavier. The CHS House System encourages exploring Canisius and its cornucopia of opportunities. My favorite part is the House Games and the clash of brains and brawn.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: As Mr. (Tom) Coppola '01 perfectly states, "Jump in with two feet." That is to say, don't come into Canisius and shy away from all the opportunities it offers.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: I am the clay to Canisius' potter. Canisius gave me all the tools needed to become a man, for and with others, and a gentleman. With those tools they molded me into the man I am today.

HOMETOWN: East Amherst (Saint Gregory the Great School)

WHY CANISIUS: As an eighth grader with no brothers or family in Buffalo, let alone New York, I was unfamiliar with any high school in the area. It all started with HAP at Canisius, which I loved and really gave me a taste of the Canisius family. During eighth grade, I shadowed Vincent Conroy '22, and walking through a day in his Canisius life was awesome. I promise you: If you attend Canisius and dive in completely, you will not be disappointed.

KEVIN NELSON '23

"Canisius has changed me so much, words can't even do it justice."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Tapestry Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose to attend Canisius because of the athletic program. We were the best in the state and it looked amazing. Amazing athletics and the best education, there's no way I could've passed that up.

ONE CANISIUS: The diversity and openness is so important to me. This school really accepts everyone and makes sure you're welcomed here.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy studying history the most because it's so eye-opening to me.

ATHLETICS: I played football for Canisius. It was an amazing experience. Playing football here was really one of the most integral pieces in my life. It helped me grow from a boy to a man and taught me how to carry myself.

MY HOUSE: Champion. I personally like our House System. It



always creates the opportunity for some friendly competition.

FUTURE PLANS: At the moment, I don't know what lies ahead for me, but I'm sure it will be fantastic!

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has changed me so much, words can't even do it justice. Before Canisius, I was not the most outgoing and social person. While here for just these brief three years, I have learned to make friends and talk to people.



WILLIAM OH '23

"I have created new friendships that I never would have had."

HOMETOWN: Williamsville (Clarence Middle School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: James Oh '20 (brother)

WHY CANISIUS: My older brother James highly recommended attending Canisius. The high academic rigor and standards at Canisius were appealing because it would allow me to develop responsibility and a good work ethic.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy studying any subjects in science and math. These fields are the most interesting to me because they reveal how the world around us works. In addition, much of science is

yet to be discovered, allowing for future exploration. Mr. (Scott) Walters, my mentor for the past three years, helped me adjust to the new environment at Canisius as a freshman.

ARTS: I am a cellist in the String Orchestra at Canisius. Arts are important to understanding the culture of the world. Whether it is playing classical music from Germany or modern Marvel theme songs, much of the world and its past can be appreciated through performing and listening to music and experiencing the arts as a whole.

MY HOUSE: Jogues. I like the House System point competition because it occurs over the whole year, meaning there are countless opportunities to win.

FUTURE PLANS: I am planning on majoring in the sciences when I go to college. I hope to pursue a career in medicine.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Join school activities as a freshman. By getting involved quickly, you will make lifetime connections and get used to getting out of your comfort zone.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: My three years at Canisius so far have allowed me to mature and develop character. I have learned valuable lifelong skills such as keeping a good work ethic and maintaining responsibilities. I have created new friendships that I never would have had I not gone to Canisius.

NICHOLAS PRATT '22

"The retreats gave me clarity on issues facing me."

HOMETOWN: Angola (Southtowns Catholic, Notre Dame Acad.)

WHY CANISIUS: Canisius seemed the most likely place to foster a sense of hard work and discipline; it appeared to have more resources to set me up for success so it was the obvious choice.

ONE CANISIUS: I was never very religious and would say I do not believe in God; however, I was never made to feel like an outcast for this and my opinions were always valued even when I know that many didn't agree.

ACADEMICS: Physics, AP biology, engineering and chemistry were all my favorites. These all made me think about how applying our understanding of science to the world around us could solve some of the most pressing problems facing our civilization.

ARTS: I cultivated skills in human figure drawing, printmaking and mixed media. Incredibly important to me was free reign over the art department's materials to develop my artistic ability.

RETREATS: The retreats gave me clarity on issues facing me at the time so even though I am not particularly religious I gained a lot. My favorites were the wilderness retreats and Kairos.



MY HOUSE: Xavier. The House Games are a great time to socialize with peers.

FUTURE PLANS: I will attend the University at Buffalo and study Bioinformatics/Computational Biology. Long-term, I am motivated by the fact that our agriculture systems are deeply flawed and inefficient. I plan on working to help fix agriculture using both ancient technologies like mimicking forests and other ecosystems as well as emerging technologies like genetic engineering and synthetic RNA.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Don't overthink; it's really not worth it. Focus on global problems and think about your role in solving them. Have a vision of the future to work towards. Take computer science courses.



MICHAEL SCIME '23

"I saw a community here that I couldn't find anywhere else."

ARTS: I have always loved acting. Performing in Spamalot and Damn Yankees were some of my best experiences at Canisius. People often see "Canisius" and think athletics, but we're so much more than that. The amount of support I got from classmates and faculty after performing in Damn Yankees was incredible.

RETREATS: Getting to know my teachers as humans was really cool. That's the thing about Canisius: the teachers here aren't just teachers. They're mentors, allies, and pretty extraordinary people.

MY HOUSE: Xavier. The house system is a great way to get more students connected.

FUTURE PLANS: Change the world. It might sound silly, but that's what I strive for. I plan on enjoying senior year and then exploring a major in journalism, political science or psychology with ambitions of becoming a news anchor or public defender.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Soak it all in. Cherish every moment. These next four years will include some of the most defining moments of your life. And raise your hand in class! Participation is key! The more you discuss things, the better your relationship will be with the teacher and your classmates.

HOMETOWN: Snyder (Nardin Academy)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Paul Genco '59 (grandfather), Daniel Scime '07 (brother); brother Nicholas Scime '26 is an incoming freshman.

WHY CANISIUS: My older brother, Dan, flourished at Canisius. Hearing his stories and seeing his success led me to enroll. I saw a community here that I couldn't find anywhere else.



The CHS Black Student Union hosted Darius Pridgen's radio show, "Power to the People," for a wide-ranging discussion about the Black Student Union, life at Canisius and the students' future plans.

DARIUS PRIDGEN, BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND SENIOR PASTOR AT TRUE BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH:

"One of the reasons we enjoy coming to Canisius and other schools is to remind you all that you have a responsibility, and you're fulfilling it now, looking at the Union here. You have a responsibility too; we all have a responsibility."



JACOB HANESWORTH '22: "There's a lot of Black students at this school, but ... there are separate cliques ... so I was like, how can we bring it together, especially for incoming freshmen who may not know the environment that they're going into."

Hanesworth talked with **Kendall Wood '23** because "I needed a



junior who could continue it into the next year."

KENDALL WOOD '23 (above center of photo, holding microphone): "Mostly what I'm trying to create here is sort of a longevity, because obviously Canisius is known for its very rich tradition."



DEAN OF STUDENTS TOM COPPOLA '01 (who will become CHS Principal in July; far right): "This is important. Each year until Covid, we had a young alum come back and speak to all of our students of color – someone who looked, sounded and had the experience that they had. **David Karambizi '10**, he was the

last guy to come back ... he said to the entire group, I've gone to Brown University, I'm going to get an M.D. and Ph.D. in the next year ... He said, 'Canisius High School has to be the place for Black scholars.' That was David's message to you, and I want to continue to promote that, and to live it."



DAKARI SAWYERS '22: "My overall goal is reshaping the whole landscape for subsidized housing. ... With my education at Canisius, I hope to make a difference."



ERMYES AMAN '22 (far left): "This (Buffalo) community did so much for me. I just can't leave it."



TIM SANDERS '22 (left): "We really wanted to make this an opportunity to bring us all together."

AUSTIN MARTIN '22: "The homework load change (at Canisius) is crazy, but I just had to adapt. If you are willing to adapt, anyone can be successful."



KYREE WILKINSON '24: "When I came (to Canisius), it was like a brotherhood to me. ... I felt like I was accepted automatically."

Many more excerpts from the discussion, as well as a video of the entire broadcast, is available at canisiushigh.org.



CLASS OF 2022

All seniors from the Class of 2022 were invited to wear their college sweatshirt for a group photo taken on the morning of graduation rehearsal. This year's class of 168 students collectively earned more than \$21 million in college scholarships.

Photo Illustration: Tom Wolf/Levi Trimble





The Canisius basketball team, top, celebrates winning the NYSCHSAA Class A championship. Coach **Kyle Husband '96**, left, and forward/center **Declan Ryan '22**, right.

CHAMPION CRUSADERS!

Basketball coach Kyle Husband '96 called title win "almost flawless."

The Crusaders (23-5) capped their outstanding 2021-22 season in resounding fashion by routing Fordham Prep, 85-49, in the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association Class A championship.

Declan Ryan '22 was named Player of the Year in the state in Class A, as well as by the Monsignor Martin Association, Centercourt and The Buffalo News. **Shane Cercone '23** was

named first-team All-Western New York by Centercourt and The Buffalo News. **Eddie Cosgrove '22** was the MVP of the Manhattan Cup final.

Husband has now won the most Manhattan Cups in history with 10, moving past Timon legend Mel Palano. During the season, Husband moved into second place on the all-time Monsignor Martin victory list behind Palano.

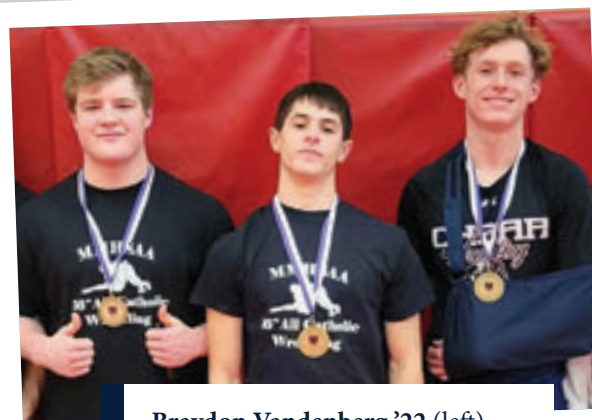




Crusaders swimming won its 20th straight All-Catholic title, dominating the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association championships with wins in nine of 12 events and amassing 451 points to 299 for second-place St. Joe's.



The Canisius bowling team, in the words of coach **Michael Kwiatkowski '99**, "did the unthinkable" as it rallied to beat St. Joe's by five pins for the Crusaders' first All-Catholic title since 2019. Left to right: **Matthew Hassenfratz '24**, **Blaine Benson '24**, **Matthew Bernard '24**, **Colin Laschinger '23**, **Thomas Skowron '25**, **Ethan Telaak '22**.



Braydon Vandenberg '22 (left) was named the Monsignor Martin Wrestler of the Year while **Luke Brydges '22** and **Cody Franklin '22** joined him as three-time league champions.



Eight student-athletes were honored at the winter signing ceremony. Standing (left to right): Athletics Director **Jim Mauro**; **Tyler Siwiec '22** (Fairfield, crew); **Peter Spira '22** (Navy, crew); **Gavin Susfolk '22** (Sacred Heart, football); President Fr. **David Ciancimino, S.J.** Seated: **Zachary Siwiec '22** (Fairfield, crew); **Sean Keane '22** (John Carroll, lacrosse); **Tyler Baker '22** (Navy, football); **Josh Fillion '22** (New Hampshire, football); **Rod Miller '22** (Mercyhurst, football).



"You've gotta have heart." The cast and crew of "Damn Yankees" certainly did. Students endured several Covid-related delays and switched musicals in the middle of the rehearsal schedule ... only to respond by putting on a great show for three nights in Scaccia Auditorium. (Photo by **Jacob Hanesworth '22**)

CANISIUS IN ACTION



Andrew Kang '22 arranged his own composition, "Kang's Piece," which was performed by the CHS Concert Band led by Band and Orchestra Director Jennifer Johnson at the Spring Concert and Fine Arts Night. Students' visual art was displayed during concerts, in the Higgins Hall foyer as well as projected behind the musicians.



CHS Campus Ministry held 13 retreats this school year, adding several to the schedule to make up for pandemic postponements, concluding with the group above at the 180th edition of Emmaus.



Senior Associate Campus Minister **Fr. Michael Corcoran, S.J., '76** administers ashes during the Ash Wednesday liturgy in Scaccia Auditorium.



A highlight of the Junior Awards Ceremony was the induction ceremony for Canisius' Robert Bellarmine Chapter of the National Honor Society.



Students regularly packed into teacher Anne Lipp-Read's classroom to voluntarily attempt tough math problems as Canisius finished first among WNY private schools in this year's New York Mathematics League competition.



GAMBIT XLVII



**GAMBIT XLVII
WAS TRULY
A NIGHT TO
REMEMBER**

Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J., a trained chef, and auctioneer Michael Casacci have some fun as they get the bidding going.



More than 500 celebrated at Canisius' signature auction fundraiser and heard **Ermyes Aman '22** (bottom right), whose family emigrated from Yemen to the United States when he was 2, speak about the profound impact of Canisius scholarship dollars.

Aman's speech was part of the "Raise The Paddle" salute that has raised more than \$260,000 for a scholarship honoring Principal Andrea Tyrpak-Endres. The tribute to fund The Andrea Tyrpak-Endres Leadership Scholarship included a \$50,000 match pledged by the Tyrpak family. Donations to the scholarship fund can be made via canisiushigh.org/giving.

The amazing evening included the greeting of guests as they entered through the Koessler Academic Center, a cocktail hour in the Scaccia Auditorium as attendees browsed the silent auction items, and a delicious dinner and exciting live auction in the Kennedy Field House.



SAVE THE DATE!
GAMBIT XLVIII
APRIL 22, 2023

- VIEW HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS FROM THE BIG NIGHT
- BE PART OF NEXT YEAR'S EVENT BY VOLUNTEERING
 VISIT [CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/GAMBIT](https://canisiushigh.org/gambit)



GAMBIT XLVII was led by parent co-chairs – (left to right) Andrea & Dave Siwec P '21 & '22; Alexandra & Neil Wehr P '21 & '25; Kelly & Marc Fortner '88 P '22. GAMBIT is a year-round project spearheaded by Kelly Wilkens P '21, our director of special events.



President Fr. David Ciacimino, S.J., with Annmarie and Mike Talty '87 P '21



ALUMNI EVENTS



JUG NIGHT!

Alums enjoyed a fun night that included a steak dinner, cigars, cocktails and gaming tables in our historic Scaccia Auditorium and Higgins Hall. The event was presented by the Class of 1993.

Beating the house: Connor Oakley '05, Andrew Sturniolo '05, Joe Kreuz '06, Evan Coppola '06 and Billy Lewis '06 enjoy a fun hand while Nick D'Amato '16 (standing, left) and Tom Whalen '06 look on.



Shawn Pearce '94, Mike Loehfelm '94 and P.J. Seereiter '94 (left to right) visit with President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING CHS ALUMNI EVENTS,
GO ONLINE TO CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/EVENTS



NYC

April saw a large gathering at Manhattan's University Club as New York City-area alumni met with President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., and Director of Alumni Relations **Jay Josker '01**.

Pictured with Fr. Ciancimino are (left to right): **Jeff Taylor '71**, Board of Trustees member and event host **Ken Kencel '77** and **John Frawley '61**.



FLORIDA

Scores of alumni, friends and family attended two great CHS events in Florida in February.

In Sarasota (above), **Mike Andriatch '60** and **Larry Seymour '60** hosted a reception at Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club.



In Naples, **Mark Reger '69** (left) was the host at The Club at The Dunes; he is pictured with **Peter Battaglia '69** and **Albert O'Donnell '69**.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Share your news! Email details and photos via
CHStoday@canisiushigh.org

Dr. Eric B. Barth '52 has been married for more than 64 years to Phyllis; they have 21 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. "We feel very blessed. Thank God."

Stanley J. Nowak '58 has been elected to "Emeritus Status" to the Board of the Aero Club of Buffalo. He is a flight instructor and has been chief pilot for the Niagara Frontier Flying Club.



Jack Walter '64 (above, surrounded by family) received the Gannon University Alumni Association's

Andrew Sagun '16, Director of Ignatian Formation **Paul Cumbo '97** and Director of Campus Ministry **Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.**, enjoy Jug Night in the Scaccia Auditorium.

Distinguished Alumni Award from the school's College of Engineering and Business. The highest honor a Gannon alumnus can receive, the award recognizes meaningful contributions to one's profession, community and the university.

"The seeds for this award were sown by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Matthew's grammar school and the Jesuit priests, scholastics and laymen at Canisius High School, along with my four and half years at Gannon," said Walter, a retired vice president controller at General Dynamics who was awarded two Bronze Star medals for his U.S. Army service in Vietnam. "This award is a true reflection of, and testament to, the quality education I received along with the proper environment in which I received it. This award is a credit to Canisius High School and the great Class of 1964."

Michael E. Hudson '69 retired as New York State Court of Claims judge.

Douglas R. Knorr '69 is in his 14th year of volunteer work at Buffalo's Nativity Miguel Middle School.

Dr. Walter A. Balon '70 retired from Buffalo Medical Group as a Hospital Physician in December 2020.

Christopher J. Burns '70 retired as New York State Supreme Court judge.



Tom Neale '70 (above) sports his Crusaders sweatshirt on a walk with wife Barbara and granddaughter Holly Reese Scott during a February visit to Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Carl L. Bucki '71 has been reappointed to serve as the United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York for a third term of 14 years. Judge Bucki has held this position since December 30, 1993.

Michael Makey '71 was conferred the "Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker" by Buffalo Bishop Michael W. Fisher. The award was in recognition of Makay's selfless service and dedication to Queen of Heaven Church in West Seneca.

Lawrence F. Korzeniewski '72 received the Michael F. Dillon Attorney for the Child Award. The award is given in recognition of vigorous advocacy on behalf of children. Korzeniewski has been an attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo for 42 years. He practices in Erie County Family Court representing children in child abuse, child neglect and custody proceedings.



Members of the Class of 1973's poker group enjoyed a long weekend in Ellicottville this winter to mark "50 years of poker fellowship." Above, left to right: Front – John McGrath, Larry Vilardo. Back – Joe Mehltretter, Jim Shed, Bob Becht, Dave Brown, Paul Bork.

Mark E. Saltarelli '73 was elected President of the New York State City Court Judges Association at the City Court Judges Annual meeting in Lake Placid.

Tim Karnes '74 relocated to Ft. Myers, Florida and founded berrymanCOVINGTON, a healthcare compliance solutions business focused on helping small- to medium-sized healthcare businesses. Karnes owned and operated Good Samaritan Home Health Agency in Buffalo for 15 years before relocating.



Tom Knab '76 (above) was named the managing partner of Underberg & Kessler LLP, a full service law firm with offices in Rochester and Buffalo. Tom joined the firm in 2009 and focuses his practice on commercial and real property law and litigation. He lives in Williamsville with his wife Judy.



David Zamorek '98, above, who was promoted to Detective in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, with his wife Lindsay and their three children, Colton, Alana and Everly.

Ben Batory '89 was honored with a California Interscholastic Federation Central Coast Section Championship Coach Award after his Menlo School boys basketball team won the Division IV title.

Michael Hardy '96 was recognized by the Erie County Legislature for "his philanthropy and commitment to young people through the establishment of the Angel Fund." Hardy and the Angel Fund, which he co-founded with **Dan Mendez '90**, were also featured in a Buffalo Business First story in the publication's "Building a Better Buffalo" series. Hardy and Mendez established the Angel Fund to help students like them – those from disadvantaged backgrounds who can thrive in the CHS environment. Hardy runs Ocean Wealth Group, a financial planning firm in Williamsville.

David Zamorek '98 was promoted to the rank of Detective within the Erie County Sheriff's Office in February. A 16-year veteran of the sheriff's office, Zamorek is assigned to the Erie County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Task Force within the Narcotics and Intelligence Division. He lives in West Seneca with his family.



Salvatore Gandolfo '04 was promoted to senior vice president at Merrill Lynch. Gandolfo, who was named to the Forbes "Best-in-State Next-Generation Wealth Advisors" list in 2019, is a University of Pittsburgh graduate who lives in Buffalo.



Kevin Blake '08 serves as an attorney-advisor in the Office of General Counsel at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. FERC is an independent federal agency dedicated to assisting consumers in obtaining economically efficient, safe, reliable and secure energy services at a reasonable cost. For the last five years, Kevin represented clients as an attorney in the Energy and Environmental Practice Teams at Phillips Lytle LLP, working on cutting-edge

CHS IN THE POWER 250

Buffalo Business First named its 10th annual Power 250, its list of "powerful people in Western New York." The high school with the most graduates on the list was Canisius.

12. Ron Raccuia '86: executive vp; president, Pegula Sports and Entertainment; AdPro Sports

18. Tom Quatroche, Jr. '88: president & CEO, Erie County Medical Center

19. Carl Montante '60: executive chairman, Uniland Development Co.

30. David Bauer '87: president & CEO, National Fuel Gas Co.

46. Michael Montante '86: CEO, Uniland Development Co.

58. Kevin Quinn '82: chief commercial banking officer, Five Star Bank

98. William Lawley, Jr. '81: principal, Lawley Insurance

124. James Basil '80: president, Joe Basil Chevrolet

131. Thomas Beecher, Jr. '52: chairman emeritus, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

140. Frank Downing, Jr. '82: president, Towne Auto Group

159. Daniel Scully '79: CEO, Buffalo Medical Group

180. Thomas Montante '61: CEO, Montante Group

211. David Uba '87: CEO, Excelsior Orthopaedics

energy regulatory matters before the New York Public Service Commission as well as other state and federal agencies.



Jim Moore '08, vice president and policy director at government relations firm O'Donnell & Associates, has been ranked among the top 100 socially responsible citizens in New York State by City & State New York, a politics and policy trade

publication. Moore, who resides in Albany with his wife and son, manages legislative strategy for clients in fintech, artificial intelligence, health care, human services and community-based organizations.

Ken Liszewski '10 was named a Buffalo Business First's 2022 "30 Under 30" while he was with FeedMore WNY as the annual fund director, the same position he previously held at CHS. He was named a Major Gifts officer at Niagara University in June.

James Zawodzinski '11, an attorney at Hodgson Russ LLP, was named to Buffalo Business First's 2022 "30 Under 30." He is a member of the Business Litigation and Bankruptcy, Restructuring, and Commercial Litigation practices.

Carl L. Dennis '12 will begin law school at the University of Michigan this fall.

TELL US WHAT'S NEW

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

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

You may also mail news to:

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

Michael J. Torcello '14 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard Law School in May 2021 and is a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

TJ Wheatley '15 has signed with the Las Vegas Raiders. He spent his first year in the NFL last season as a member of the Chicago Bears practice squad after switching positions and becoming an offensive lineman.

Matthew Cavanaugh '19 is the co-founder and CEO of Buffalo-based startup Helpt, which launched Nov. 24, 2021. Helpt seeks to build an online marketplace for small business contractors.

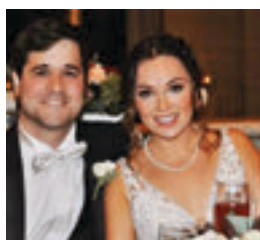


Oscar Neil '20, Layth Khan '20 and James Oh '20 (left to right, bottom photo) climbed Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid – with no preparation – on winter break.

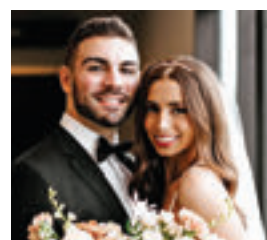
WEDDINGS



Max J. Roehmholdt '11, MD married Virginia Goggins on Oct. 30, 2021 at St Ann's Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.



Peter S. O'Connor '12 (left) married Elizabeth A. Feeley on Oct. 23, 2021 at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Buffalo. The couple have moved back to make their home in Buffalo after living in Dallas.



Josh Veronica '14 (right) married Alexa Archambault on Oct. 29, 2021.

BIRTHS



Matthew Kwiatkowski '09 and his family welcomed Olivia Jean Kwiatkowski (left) on Sept. 28, 2021.

Adam J. Fernbach '06 (below) and his family welcomed Lillian Jane on March 17, 2021. Lillian joins Casper John and Adelaide Gray.





IN MEMORIAM

*We remember alumni whose passing
we've learned of since Fall 2021*

Dr. Don Pinkel '44
Paul Lazarus Sr. '45
Edward Flynn '48
Thomas Keyes '48
Donald Thurman '48
Richard Izzo '49
James F. Honer, '49
Jerome "Jerry" Moga '50
Samuel J. Bumbalo '51
Arthur "Ted" Dzielski '51
Ron Prazmark '51
Bob Wagner '51
Louis Bechtel '52
Robert Dietrich '52
Jack Dziminski '52
Russell T. Quinlan '52
Dr. Paul A. Young '52
William Brady '53

Robert Lehner '53
Vincent D. "Jimmy" Lorigo Sr. '53
James McCarthy '53
William W. Orrange '53
Dr. James Rodgers '54
Kenneth Wangler '54
Rev. David F. White, S.J. '54
William Myers '55
James R. Walsh '55
John O'Day '56
James Tomasello '56
Dr. August D'Alessandro '57
Richard Fisher '57
Karl Mellenger '57
Walter Borowiec '59
Tom Brady '59
Dan Ralyea '59
Richard Slattery '59

James Buiani '60
Vincent L. Scamurra '60
Robert J. Zirnheld '61
Richard Thomas Lee '63
Dennis Fernbach '65
E. Michael Semple '65
Daniel Rine '66
John J. Markulis '70
John L. Schmid '70
Kevin P. Hayes '73
John F. Laski '73
Stephen Hoffmann '74
Timothy C. Wagner '75
David Zimmerman '83
Miguel R. Rodriguez '92
Corey Caldwell '94
Ryan Downing '16



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NEXT ISSUE: MORE ON THE CLASS OF 2022 IN OUR ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT