



# CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

FALL/WINTER 2021







# CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

1180 Delaware Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14209 • 716.882.0466 • [www.canisiushigh.org](http://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.



Looking up from the Montante Academic Hall stairway are (from right/top): Tim Sanders '22, Michael Earle '22, Will Dunn '22, Pat McMahon '22, Jack Gerland '22, Lamar Thomas '22, Matt Pietrantonio '22, Ricco Brown '23, Ryan Stravino '24, Billy Paladino '22, Mason Sherk '23 and Jack Garbatowicz '22.

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## ON THE COVER

A leaping **Vincent Conroy '22** and the Crusaders volleyball team celebrate the program's 22nd straight Monsignor Martin championship, which was cheered on by **Luke Braun '22** and the Blue Crew (below). (Cover photo illustration: Keith McShea/Levi Trimble)

## CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY FALL/WINTER 2021

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**Andrea Tyrpak-Endres**  
*Principal*

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*Vice President of Finance &  
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**Andrew Deyell '91**  
*Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement*

**Fr. Richard Zanon, S.J.**  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

*"You are who you say you are and there is no higher praise for a school than to say: You are who you say you are."*

We just completed our accreditation process with the New York State Association of Independent Schools on Oct. 27. Larry Frye, chair of the visiting team and the Head of School at The Harley School in Rochester, began his report to the faculty and staff with what he referred to as the highest compliment a visiting team can make: "You are who you say you are."

The six-person NYSAIS team found our mission to be clear, with our programs (academic, athletic, arts, clubs and activities) and school culture well aligned with that mission. Some of the highest praise was attributed to our students with whom they met.

The school's more than a decade of experience with one-to-one educational technology and the balanced integration of its use across the curriculum greatly impressed our visitors. What we may take for granted was not missed by our guests.

Our commitment to faith, scholarship, service and character formation was evident in the articulation and lived experience of our students, staff, faculty, parents and trustees.

That mission is present in these pages as well.

- Principal Andrea Tyrpak-Endres has embodied our school's mission over more than 35 years and, as principal, she helped Canisius exemplify the very attributes that "we say we are." It has been my privilege to work closely with her these past seven years and I look forward to continuing to work with her as she continues to teach as well as works with our CHS House System.

- Denise Keating personifies the dedication of our staff as well as the pride of our families, having provided incalculable aid

to students over two decades as our school nurse and being the proud mom of five CHS graduates.

- New Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J., eloquently speaks of how the Holy Spirit guides every member of the Canisius community in what becomes "a place of infusion."

- Three of our alumni carried out our "Men for Others" mantra throughout a grueling, 11-day hockey marathon that raised millions of dollars to fight cancer.

Our students are seeing those examples, and so many more, as they live our traditions and are forged into young men. As one said in his student profile interview in this issue: "When Canisius says we are 'Men for Others,' they really mean it."

"You are who you say you are." High praise indeed. As I reflect on the accomplishments of these past years and the feedback of the NYSAIS team, I think it may be safe to say that, while there's always room for growth, we are better than we think we are. I say this confidently and with due gratitude for an exceptional faculty and staff, deeply committed trustees, supportive parents and alumni, and terrific students.

May God continue to bless our Canisius High School Community.

*David Ciacimino, S.J.*

**Fr. David Ciacimino, S.J.**



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Teaching is my passion. It has remained so throughout my career. I never gave a thought to being an administrator. On several different occasions, however, I have said “yes” to requests that I do so – but only on the condition that I could also teach at least one class. Teaching energizes me.

Things changed eight years ago. As assistant principal, I was asked to serve as acting principal when the current principal became ill. At the time, I was working with one of our students whose mother, a retired principal and superintendent, told me I would be asked to take the job and that I needed to say “yes.” When I expressed deep concerns about that, she responded: “You’d be a fool not to take it – you have the power to change culture, and that’s no small thing.”

Now I am at the point of looking ahead to returning to my original passion while at the same time reflecting back on the past eight years to see if she was right. Aside from all the struggles, COVID not being the least, there have been successes – completed curriculum studies, unfolding technology advances, new courses, small strides in global outreach, expanded service projects – to name a few. The thing that I am most proud of is the introduction of the House System to Canisius. It has changed the culture in a positive way and yet not compromised the rich traditions that make Canisius the special place it is.

When I was first introduced to the concept of the House System, it seemed to be a no-brainer for an all-male Jesuit school. Based largely on competition, it has served to bring students together in new and uncharted ways for us. It took a great deal of preparation and hard work from many people over several years, but the Houses are becoming an integral part of who we are and are an extension of our continued commitment to *cura personalis* – care for the whole person. We have witnessed the benefits of these smaller communities within the larger Canisius community: more mentoring, more leadership, stronger bonds and connections – and there is still more to come as we complete the foundations and begin to expand.

While my time in my current role will conclude at the end of

Fr. Ciancimino, left, and Principal Tyrpak-Endres greeted visitors at the Fall Open House.

this school year, I am looking forward to remaining a part of this very special enterprise which is Canisius High School. I will continue to oversee and advance the work of the House System along with teaching a few classes.

I know I am not ready to retire. I need to keep active and involved. This is one of the hardest decisions I have had to make in my career, but it is the right one. It is time to turn over leadership to someone new. I will continue to help in any ways that I am needed. Over the years, Canisius has constantly called me to try new things – often outside of my comfort zone – and as a result, I have accomplished things I never dreamed I could.

I have been proud to work with a dedicated, caring, professional faculty. They are a talented and gifted group of people who commit themselves to their students’ well-being – academically, socially and spiritually. They have always immediately risen to the needs put before them. This was certainly proven with their dedication to in-person learning throughout this pandemic.

I have been blessed to be able to spend 39 years of my life here. I am grateful to have exercised my passion for teaching with students who are bright, energetic and engaging and to be a part of their Jesuit education. How they can make you smile – and laugh! It will be good to be getting more of that.

Respectfully,

Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

# THE SCHOOL'S NURSE

*For 20 years, and through a pandemic, Denise Keating has cared for Canisius*

BY KEITH MCSHEA

It's a Thursday morning and a Canisius student walks into the nurse's office. There to report on his recovery after being out sick, he is greeted by a smiling Denise Keating.

*"So what was up? ... OK. ... Do you feel OK? ... So, honey, you shouldn't be going to gym right now. ... If you need to rest during the day, just let me know. ... OK, cool. Thanks, honey."*

It's a scene that has occurred thousands of times during Keating's 20 years at 1180 Delaware Ave. The only school nurse Canisius High School has ever known has experienced everything from routine check-ins to serious emergencies, and for the last 22 months she helped CHS navigate a pandemic.

"She is there for anybody whenever they need it – students, families, the staff, everything," said Principal Andrea Tyrpak-Endres. "In a lot of ways she's larger than life here. She is an extremely giving person, and we're very fortunate to have her."

Many of Keating's friends are retired, and they have asked her why she isn't.

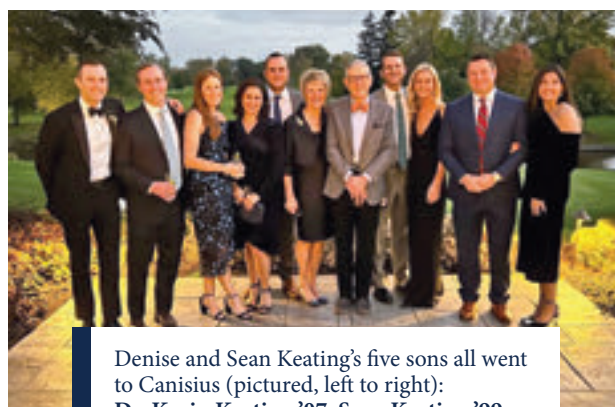
"I'm really devoted to my family, my friends, but ... this place is like, number three," Keating said. "I do really care for the kids."

Part of her special connection to her extended CHS family was evident when she grew emotional sharing a story about a student who had passed away due to cancer.

"For the funeral, they transported our entire school to a small Catholic church where he lived," she said. "And the whole place was our high school."

"It was an unbelievable experience. But it's during those kinds of experiences that you realize what a great place this is. I've seen a lot of presidents, I've seen a lot of principals ... you see all the great things that happen here."

She first saw it through her own family, first with eldest sons Sean '99 and Patrick '00. She was hired in 2001 by then-president Rev. James P. Higgins and was at Canisius at the same time as Brendan '04, Tim '06 (who was named Mr. Canisius) and Dr. Kevin Keating '07.



Denise and Sean Keating's five sons all went to Canisius (pictured, left to right): **Dr. Kevin Keating '07, Sean Keating '99, Tim Keating '99 (Mr. Canisius), Brendan Keating '04 and Patrick Keating '00.**

"They're all really accomplished now, and I really owe it to this school, I really do," she said. "Parents (contribute), yes, of course, but I think this school taught them great habits, accountability, and resilience – because guess what? It's not always going to be easy."

"They all had different successes academically. When you do have that struggle, and you don't do as well academically, what this place teaches you is: Hard work trumps everything."

She was hired after making the pitch to Higgins that the





school needed a full-time nurse. But that didn't mean there was a full-time budget. So for many years, she bought her own essential items, including over-the-counter medications, as well as candy or snacks for students.

"I bought all my own supplies," she said, "because I just felt like it was a gift that I got to work here."

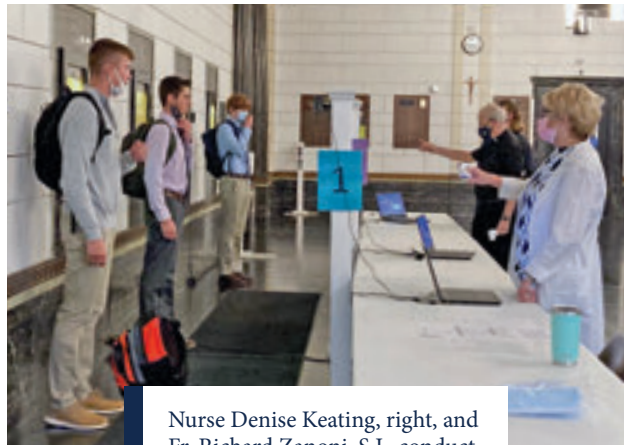
To hear colleagues tell it, that gift is reciprocal.

"Denise Keating's work ethic, deep care for each individual in our community, and kindness is unmatched," said Dean of Students Tom Coppola '01.

"I just felt like it was a gift that  
I got to work here."

"Working closely with Denise over the years has been a joy," Coppola said. "Her commitment to each person in our community is demonstrated in everything that she does."

"Denise is a tremendous part of our school community," said President Fr. David Ciancimino. "It's incalculable the amount of aid she has provided our students and our staff."



Nurse Denise Keating, right, and Fr. Richard Zanon, S.J., conduct temperature checks of students.

"She is compassionate, kind, extremely knowledgeable, generous, thorough and irreplaceable," said Director of Guidance and Counseling Annette Sugg. "Her heart bleeds blue and gold."

"She's given so much, and always has," said Tyrpak-Endres. "She's more than just a nurse at a school. She adds the extra touch. She follows up with people. She makes sure birthdays are celebrated. She goes the extra mile. Anything worth doing is worth overdoing for Denise."

Keating has worked more and more closely with the guidance counselors on mental health issues through the years, and has attended several professional development programs with Sugg.

The two currently co-chair the Medical Professionals Club. Keating has also been a medical consultant for staff and their families, has been a Grad at Grad mentor for seniors, and on occasion she's even worn the Carl the Crusader mascot costume.

Then came COVID. When schools were mandated to test a certain amount of their population, she and Coppola wore face shields and gowns to administer the tests, helping Canisius be one of the few schools to have in-person learning for the 2020-21 year.

"I can't say enough about my boss, Tom Coppola. He was the COVID czar for this place," Keating said. "And it was Father C's vision early on that helped – when everyone was shuttered, he got a committee going right away, a COVID committee, so that we can buy the things we needed, investigate everything that we needed to. He pushed us to be as good as we could be."

"The one thing I have taken away from all these years," she said, "is the ability to develop all of these relationships with students, faculty and staff. I think I'll treasure that the most."



**Peter Merlo '88, Michael Meade '87 and Mark Paradowski '99** (left to right) visited CHS before skating in the 11-Day Power Play.

## POWER PLAYERS FOR OTHERS

*Three CHS alumni help to raise money during 11-Day Power Play hockey marathon*

**BY KEITH MCSHEA**

In the week before Thanksgiving, 40 people played hockey in downtown Buffalo for 11 straight days, raising money to fight cancer as part of the fifth edition of the 11-Day Power Play.

Not surprisingly, three of those literally living in the rink were “Men for Others.”

Three Canisius High School graduates were on the ice for up to 10 hours a day, around the clock, from start to finish: **Peter Merlo '88** and **Michael Meade '87** played while **Mark Paradowski '99** was one of three officials skating regular shifts, just like the players. When they weren't part of the game, they were sleeping on temporary beds a few steps from the rink at Buffalo Riverworks.

“If there's one phrase that you can take out of the school that would resonate when you're 14, and today, regardless when you graduated, is ‘Men for Others,’” said Meade, the CEO of Sullivan's Brewing Company.

“So to get the opportunity to do this, it's wasn't even hard

to think about it,” Meade said during the hockey trio's visit to CHS. “You don't have to wrestle with – should I put myself on the line for 11 days to try to help people that have had very, very difficult things happen to them.”

The 11-Day Power Play was founded in 2016, co-founded by Amy Lesakowski and her husband, Mike. It was eight years after Amy was diagnosed with breast cancer and the same year Mike's mother, Evelyn, died of lung cancer. In 2017, two teams of 20 men, including cancer survivor Merlo (as well as classmate **Mike Lawley '88**), set a world record for the longest hockey game by playing, eating and sleeping at Buffalo's HarborCenter.

“It was amazing,” said Merlo, Principal Engineer for the City of Buffalo Division of Water. “The camaraderie, the energy, it summed up all what Buffalo was meant to be.”

The event has had different incarnations in ensuing years, going to a “Community Shift” format which invited teams to take turns on the ice, all while raising millions of dollars. The event even weathered the pandemic by shifting its format to smaller floor hockey events.

The game exceeded the fundraising goal of this year's event by raising \$2.1 million, which brought the total raised by the 11-Day Power Play to \$7.3 million.

This year's beneficiaries were Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center – which caught Amy Lesakowski's breast cancer (she has been cancer-free since) – as well as Camp Good Days, Make-A-Wish and Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program. (In another Canisius connection, the Lesakowskis' son, Liam, attended CHS



for two years before transferring to Salisbury Prep, being drafted into the United States Hockey League, and recently committing to play hockey at UMaine.)

In this year's event at Buffalo Riverworks, organizers took full advantage of the two side-by-side rinks that overlook the Buffalo River. On one rink, fans could root on the marathon players (including two women this year) who were dubbed the #Frozen40 as they regained the world record that had been broken by a Canadian team in recent years. On the other, you could see 40 different Community Shift teams cycle through.

### Multiple shifts for 'Crusaders'

One of those teams was called the "Crusaders."

When the Community Shift began in 2018, Paradowski called around to classmates to see if there would be interest from guys who have played pond hockey as the "Crusaders" for more than a decade.

"I was hoping I could get 10 or 15 guys ... and, you know, two or three times that amount say yes, and I had to tell people no because we can't fit them all," said Paradowski, an IT specialist for Fluent Energy. "That's just Canisius guys."

Paradowski has captained the "Crusaders" in each year of the 11-Day Power Play, with the team raising a total of more than \$81,000. He captained the team again this year, trading his officials' gear for a jersey as he hopped back and forth from rink to rink.

"It was an easy call, every single one of them jumped on," Paradowski said. "Lots of these guys do all sorts of fundraisers or volunteer work. We're always looking for something like that to get into. This is a perfect connection of Canisius guys, hockey and volunteering for others."



**Peter Merlo '88** (left) and **Michael Meade '87** in action during the 11-Day Power Play at Buffalo Riverworks.

Even one of the chief storytellers of the event is connected to 1180 Delaware Ave. Uplifter Video, which lives up to its name with poignant profile videos on each player, was co-created by **Jason Holler '99**.

The video on Merlo, a 51-year-old who lives in the Elmwood Village, includes him saying, "Roswell saved my life." Merlo was told he had a brain tumor, and he would never play hockey again. He worried about his kids. Today, Merlo's son, Patrick '22, is a senior at Canisius.

Meade's story involves the loss of his brother, Jim Jr., who was born with muscular dystrophy before dying from lung cancer at 54. Meade, 52, who lives primarily in New York City but is restoring a Delaware Ave. row house as well, also skated for his Dad, Jim Sr., who survived biliary cancer in his late 60s.

"My dad is 86 – he was convinced he would be dead when he was 55 because his mom, his dad and brother all died in their 50s of various forms of cancer."

### Paradowski's powerful story

Paradowski, who lives in Buffalo's Hamlin Park neighborhood, has had several family members affected by cancer.



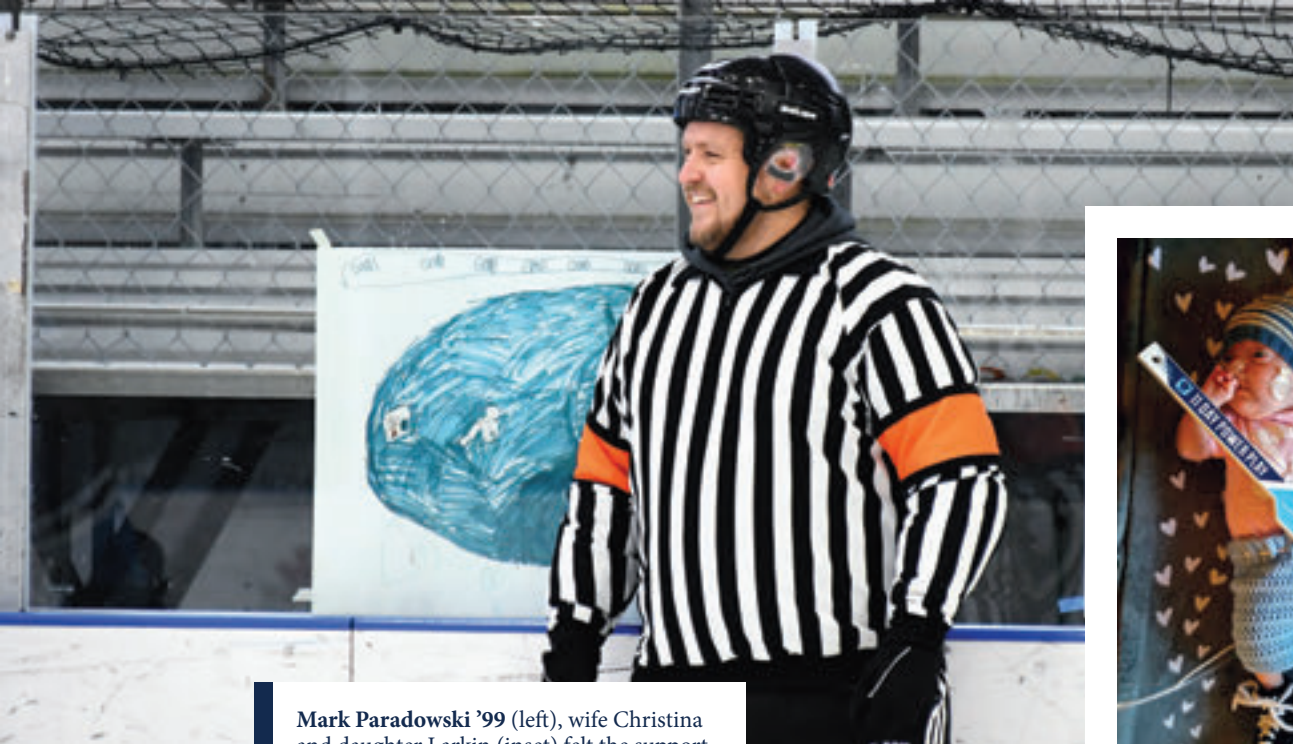
### THE "CRUSADERS" OF THE 11-DAY POWER PLAY COMMUNITY SHIFT

#### CHS grads on 2021 team

Ray Hafezi '96, Mark Paradowski '99, Chris Brechtel '99, Alex Bielecki '99, Tim Marren '99, Sam Russo '01, Charlie Castro '04.

#### CHS grads on previous 11-Day Power Play Community Shift teams

Chris Revekant '99, Jeff Malchoff '99, Andrew Nason '99, David Bordieri '99, Joe Cutolo '99, Sean Ryan '00.



**Mark Paradowski '99** (left), wife Christina and daughter Larkin (inset) felt the support of the 11-Day Power Play.

The 39-year-old has also seen how support and the 11-Day Power Play can work in the other direction.

Paradowski's wife, Christina, who actually found out about the initial 11-Day Power Play before he did, has volunteered for multiple shifts per day each year. In March 2020, she was pregnant with triplets when they arrived four months early. Two of the children did not survive; daughter Larkin spent more than four months in the hospital before coming home.

The Paradowskis shared their story in an 11-Day Power Play video by Uplifter, which included a pandemic wedding on Mark's parents' lawn where Mark and Christina wore 11-Day Power Play jerseys. Why those jerseys? Christina says in the video: "I just said, 'what do we have that means something to us?'"

"The Power Play was huge for us in letting us tell our story ... the kids, and the Power Play and everything," Mark said. "It meant so much to us – because of Covid, it was the first time we got to tell anybody the story."

### Canisius connection pays off

During the Power Play, players not only participate in the games, they are also fundraisers. Paradowski's "Crusaders," featuring 30 different people raising funds, surpassed their team goal of \$20,000 a week before the event, putting them among the top 10 fundraising teams.

Among the #Frozen40 individuals, Meade raised the most money entering the event at about \$90,000.

How did he do it?

He says that answer also brings him right back to 1180 Delaware Ave.

"A lot of the money I've been able to raise is from people at my Canisius High School lunch table – whether it's them as individuals or businesses they own – and guys I rowed with at Canisius," said Meade, who was on the CHS crew team for four years. "It's all about my lunch table and the boats I rowed."

Meade said the donations from those classmates isn't driven so much by their connection to him, but by the connection to their alma mater and the Jesuit principles it instilled in them.

"I just think that from the day you get here, there's an aura here of adopting self-respect, first, and creating the ability to respect others," Meade said. "And it's dripping from the walls here. And that's phenomenal."

Said Paradowski: "You maybe don't even notice it at 15 or 18. But then, you know, when work has a Habitat for Humanity day, you just sign up and you just do it. And then somebody is running a fundraiser, or you just go do a Ride for Roswell. Or you're helping with preservation work and stabilizing people's houses, or people have a fire and you just go help.

"Then all of a sudden you realize, oh yeah, that's kind of what this place is always about."

"I see it in my son, and we'll always say 'Men for Others,'" said Merlo. "It's nice to see that continue for me and see the same lessons being taught. I loved the school when I graduated, and I love the school now."





## FEELING AT HOME

*First homily had special meaning for new Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.*

**Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.**, is Canisius's new Director of Campus Ministry. The Philadelphia native and Culinary Institute of America-trained chef is quite familiar with CHS, having previously served on the Board of Trustees.

The first time Frederico spoke to the entire campus community was his homily during the Mass of the Holy Spirit in early September, when he described Canisius as "a place of infusion, where the Holy Spirit guides, creates and manifests through the gifts and strengths of every member of this school."

He spoke of how, as a culinary term, infusion describes how flavors combine to produce something new, richer and more profound. Frederico encouraged everyone at Canisius to "discover their gifts in this community of faith and live them to create a better world every day, trusting in the Holy Spirit."

Several weeks later, Frederico reflected on that first homily in his office on the second floor of the Koessler Academic Center, speaking while sitting in front of a bookshelf topped

with three framed words: "compassion," "vulnerability," and "friendship."

*I wanted to emphasize to them that the Holy Spirit is at work all around us, and that we're not stagnant. And if they approach this four-year journey through that lens, the gifts will abound.*

*I had a senior sitting in front of me this morning, and I said to him, "You just handed in your applications, and you just said to me how relieved you feel. Think of who that person is, versus who that person was that walked through those doors that first day, and how much growth there's been. And because there have been people who've cared for you, people who've worked really hard to help make mind-body-spirit integration happen for you."*

*It works when people are vulnerable to it. That's why right behind me one of the words I have up here is 'vulnerability' because I think that's where it's like the gray area. That's the place where the Lord speaks. It's the hard place for us to be, because it requires us to be flexible. It's not black or white. We can't have all the answers all the time. So, yes, that homily was really important to me.*

*There were a number of kids who stopped me that day in the hallway who I had never met before, and that blew me away. The fact that five kids stopped me in the corridor, and said, 'Father, that was a great homily, thanks and welcome' -- that meant a lot, that meant a lot.*

*I feel very much at home here, for a lot of reasons ... for a lot of reasons. Even my mom said to me on the phone last night: 'I can tell that you're happy.' She said that even when I'm tired, and wiped-out-exhausted about things, or frustrated about something, there's a happiness that's underneath it. ... So yes, I feel very much at home here.*





# ALUMNI AWARDS



*Twelve CHS alumni joined an exclusive group on Nov. 13, 2021 in the Scaccia Auditorium as their exceptional contributions in medicine, business, ministry, community service and athletics earned Canisius' highest recognition*

## GERALD E. DAIGLER, MD '60 MEDICINE

**Gerry Daigler** dedicated his professional life to the service of Western New York's children and young adults.

The Canisius College and UB Medical School graduate served in the Air Force and before opening his Springville Pediatrics practice. He was later named Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Children's Hospital, where he introduced the first adolescent pediatric clinic in Buffalo. He also served as Medical Director of Renaissance House – an addiction rehab center often associated with Kids Escaping Drugs.

**On CHS:** *"There are so many great memories of those years behind the Blue Doors. Thank you CHS for those memories, guidance, and preparation for life."*



**Gerald E. Daigler '60** (top photo) delivers a light moment during his acceptance speech to the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor that is enjoyed by Principal Andrea Tyrpak-Endres, President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Andy Deyell '91.



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF HONOR



## MARTIN E. HANAKA '67 / BUSINESS

**Marty Hanaka** has enjoyed an excellent career in retail that has spanned over 45 years and saw him head up some of the world's biggest companies.

The Cornell graduate spent his first 20 years in the industry at Sears, where he moved up the ranks to lead Sears Brand Central, Sears' largest and most profitable business unit. He went on to become president of Lechmere

and Staples as well as CEO of The Sports Authority and Golfsmith International. He generously gave his time and expertise as a director of five nonprofit boards, including being a National Governor of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

**On CHS:** *"I'm indebted to the entire Canisius community. The incredible Jesuit lessons of excellence, leadership, sacrifice and ethics can never be fully described."*



## REV. KENNETH HEZEL, S.J. '53

**Fr. Ken Hezel, S.J.** spent the majority of his career in the Pacific as a missionary on the islands of Micronesia.

After receiving master's degrees in education from Fordham and religious education from Loyola Chicago, Hezel taught in Micronesia. He held several leadership roles with Micronesia, Yap and Guam. He was the Major Superior for the entire Micronesia region from

2003 to 2009 and became Vicar General in Saipan in 2011. He returned home to Buffalo in 2019 and currently serves in a pastoral ministry role at Saint Michael's Church.

**On CHS:** *"At Canisius High School I received a strong foundation that equipped me well for my later work as a missionary, a teacher, a superior, and a 'kingdom of God' builder."*

## SERVICE AWARDS



### JOSEPH A. DECK '52

**Joe Deck's** commitment to service started when he was a student at Canisius, spending holiday seasons dropping off food and clothing to needy families. As the 1952 Class Agent, Joe has organized annual reunion events that have built an enduring relationship between his class and CHS, which was fostered by the biannual newsletter he writes for his classmates (to this day). His example laid the groundwork for today's CHS Class Agent program.



### JOSEPH G. SCULLY '50

**Joe Scully** has been an influential presence at Canisius High School for decades. The John Barnes Award winner served on the original Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. As the 1950 Class Agent, Joe has organized countless reunions and his leadership has inspired his classmates to support multiple endowed scholarships. In 1968, he started the Queen City League – a youth hockey league in Tonawanda that grew from six teams to 50.



# ALUMNI AWARDS



Tom Flaherty is flanked by (from left) Scott Flaherty '97, George DiFilippo '18, Tom Flaherty III '96 and Kevin Flaherty '00

## JOHN F. BARNES AWARD

*In recognition of alumni and other members of the school community for their lifetime contributions to Canisius High School athletics*

### THOMAS P. FLAHERTY, JR. ROWING

**Tom Flaherty** has helmed the Canisius Rowing program for the last 26 years, leading the program to recognition on a national and international stage. Tom's programs have claimed 34 New York State Championships, including four straight Freshman 8 titles from 1998 to 2001. Since 2006, Flaherty's

teams have captured six US Rowing Youth National Medals, 34 Canadian National Championship medals, 15 US Scholastic National Championship medals and a total of 33 gold medals in national and international competition. He's coached multiple Division I oarsmen and an Olympic Bronze medalist.

**On CHS:** "Our team's successes are not about me. They are a story we share. ... My sincere thanks to the many, many wonderful people who have contributed to our program through the years, and continue to do so."

### JOSEPH R. RINE '91 / Baseball, Basketball



**Joe Rine** was a three-year baseball standout. The first baseman was named to the All-Catholic first team and the All-Western New York first team in his senior season. The co-captain was second on the team with a .435 batting average, starred in the Western New York All-Star game at Pilot Field and was the Western Region starting first baseman at the Empire State Games.

### TIMOTHY D. NIHILL '95 / Golf



**Tim Nihill** was a top golfer for CHS in the 1990s. The four-year varsity player captained the Crusaders to back-to-back Monsignor Martin regular season and All-Catholic titles his junior and senior seasons. He was twice an individual All-Catholic runner-up, twice named team MVP and qualified for the New York State Junior Tournament finals six times during his career.



# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION VIDEO, PHOTOS, THANK-YOUS AND MORE AT [CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/ALUMNI](http://CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/ALUMNI)



## MICHAEL E. BARNEY '78

*Football, Basketball*

**Michael Barney** was a standout guard on the 1976 and 1977 Monsignor Martin Athletic Association Championship football teams. The three-year varsity player was a unanimous



co-captained All-Catholic pick and a Courier-Express All-WNY selection as a senior. The 1978 Valedictorian was also a two-year basketball standout who coach Connie McGillicuddy's final team.

Following the ceremony, inductee **Michael Barney '78** found his name on the "Mr. Mack" plaque; he was the first recipient of the basketball award named after Connie McGillicuddy.

## ANTHONY FULHAM '09

*Lacrosse, Football, Basketball*



**Anthony Fulham**, the 2009 CHS Athlete of the Year, was outstanding in all three sports. A four-year lacrosse player, he earned All-Catholic honors as a junior and senior and was All-WNY second team as a senior in leading the Crusaders to a Monsignor Martin title. He was a two-time All-Catholic football selection who was a second-team All-WNY pick as a senior. He was also basketball's 2009 Unsung Hero, a defensive stalwart who helped the Crusaders defeat Nichols for the Manhattan Cup in 2009.

## KEVIN R. KEIL '03

*Wrestling*



**Kevin Keil** was one of the best wrestlers in Canisius history. He amassed the most wins in program history by a freshman and went on to win All-Catholic titles as a junior and senior. He won the state Catholic title in 2003, only one of 12 Crusaders to do so. He is one of only three to win a CHSAA Ironman Award (top six in the state all four years). He is one of only two CHS wrestlers to be named the Monsignor Martin Wrestler of the Year (2003). He is fourth on Canisius' all-time wins list.

## THOMAS D. MORIARTY '00

*Lacrosse*



**Tom Moriarty** was a four-year captain and standout goalie who was the leader of a team that put Canisius High School on the Western New York lacrosse map. As a senior, he was first-team All-Catholic, first-team All-Western New York, and was named an All-American. The 2000 Team MVP set records for single-season saves (296), career saves (911), single-season save percentage (75.1%) and career save percentage (67.3%).



# GAMBIT XLVII

## GAMBIT XLVII

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

Help us create a successful 47th year for GAMBIT, Canisius' major fundraiser!

GAMBIT has thrived due to the generosity of parents and alumni who have donated their time, talents and treasure to this annual event. Support of GAMBIT helps Canisius continue its mission of ensuring that every student has a transformational education.

There are many ways you can contribute:

- Drop off a gift to the GAMBIT Office, 1193 Delaware Ave.
- Purchase a sponsorship or ad.
- Join a volunteer committee.



GAMBIT is a year-round project spearheaded by **Kelly Wilkens P '21**, director of special events, and parent co-chairs (pictured above, left to right): **Dave & Andrea Siwiec – P '21 & '22**; **Marc '88 & Kelly Fortner – P '22**; **Neil & Alexandra Wehr – P '21 & '25**.

Visit [canisiushigh.org/GAMBIT](https://canisiushigh.org/GAMBIT) to contribute or email [wilkens@canisiushigh.org](mailto:wilkens@canisiushigh.org) for more information.

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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.



# LEGACY OF THE LANES

*Family of Patrick Kwiatkowski '72 establishes scholarship in honor of legendary Crusader bowling coach*

**BY MARTIN HAUMESSER**

By the numbers, the coaching career of the late **Patrick Kwiatkowski '72** is impressive. More than 700 wins over 23 years as the Canisius High School bowling coach. Five Monsignor Martin Athletic Association championships and five All-Catholic championships.

Then there are the hundreds of Crusader student-athletes – including his own sons **Scott '97**, **Michael '99** and **Matthew '09** – who learned and developed under the long-time coach.

By the telling of those who loved him, those numbers are only a fraction of the impression Kwiatkowski made during his lifetime. He was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather, a hard-working store manager, a compassionate boss and a role model for the Jesuit motto of “Men for Others.” He made his mark on the lanes in what little time he had to spare.

When Kwiatkowski passed away in 2019, the family sought a way to honor his legacy.

“Bowling has always been a big part of our lives, but family always came first,” explains Mary Jean Kwiatkowski, the coach’s wife of 42 years. “Pat started as coach of the bowling team when our son, Scott, asked him to substitute after the former coach left. One year turned into 23 – that was Pat, always doing more to help out.”

According to eldest son, Scott, the line of people attending his father’s wake was out the door. “My dad always thought



Left to right: **Scott '97**, Mary Jean, **Matthew '09** and **Michael Kwiatkowski '99** at this summer’s fundraiser.

he was not well-known, but the number of people who came to pay their respects proved otherwise,” Scott says. “So many donated to pay tribute to him at the service, the family decided to establish a scholarship at Canisius with the funds.”

A fundraiser held this past summer got the ball rolling for the Patrick G. Kwiatkowski '72 Memorial Scholarship Fund. Middle son, Michael – now the varsity coach at Canisius after 12 years of coaching JV with his father – says the overwhelming success of the event demonstrates the impact the coach made on so many lives.

“The event was a family affair, not just his wife and sons, but grandchildren, in-laws, and my dad’s extended family in the Canisius community,” Michael notes. “More than 100 bowlers participated, including former players he coached and teammates from when my dad played on the school’s first bowling team. Over 120 more people attended to help raise funds.”

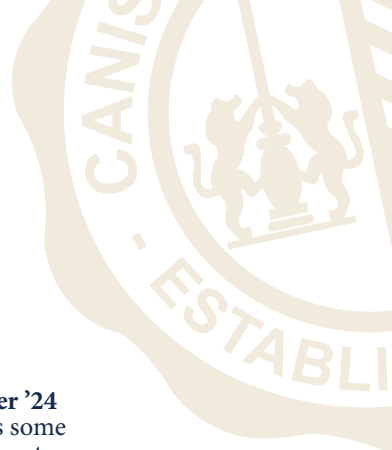
Four of Coach Kwiatkowski’s classmates – **John Buszka '72**, **John Lagree '72**, **Paul Maloney '72** and **Gene Rudzinski '72** – bowled in the event and others from the class came to watch. Donations came from across the country and a generous gift even came from Germany. The event raised more than \$15,000 to establish the scholarship.

With the help of **Andy Deyell '91**, vice president of institutional advancement at the high school, the family structured a unique scholarship aimed at aiding a student in financial need who is on the Crusader bowling team. Their hope is to build the funds through additional donations to create an endowed scholarship that continues to help student bowlers for years to come.

“My father had the blue and gold in his veins,” said youngest son Matthew. “The scholarship is a tribute to him, the values he maintained over his life and the brotherhood of Canisius High School that meant so much to him.”



**Kellen Palmer '24** demonstrates some of the equipment in the Makerspace Lab for prospective students during Fall Open House.



# GO CRUSADERS!



Dean of Students **Tom Coppola '01** (above) used some of his CHS football coaching gear for his costume while **Braydon Vandenberg '22** (Thing 1) and **Nick Ciriello '22** (Thing 2) were among the many students raising money for the Great Ignatian Challenge food drive via a dress-down day on Oct. 29.



**Ivan Roeder '24** is ready to run in the Watermelon Relay Race during the first House Games Day of the school year. (Photo by CHS teacher John Anderson)



**Carson Speegle '22, Quade Richards '22 and Anderson Osinski '22** (left) were among the many Crusaders enjoying this year's Walk For Canisius. (Photo by Austin Martin '22)





**Z'aire Leonard '22 (left) and Lamar Thomas '22** celebrate a touchdown in the season opener. Football went 6-4 and made the Monsignor Martin final. (Photo by **Patrick O'Rourke '23**)



Standing: Athletics Director Jim Mauro; **Drew Podlas '22** (Canisius College, baseball); **Victor Mazzara '22** (Albany, baseball); **Billy Paladino '22** (John Carroll, lacrosse); **Matt Woyksnar '22** (Iona, swimming); Principal Andrea Tyrpak-Endres; President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J. Seated: **Tommy Lynch '22** (Cortland, baseball); **Walker Popko '22** (Stony Brook, lacrosse); **Ryan Spiesz '22** (Mercyhurst, lacrosse); **Will Dunn '22** (John Carroll, lacrosse).



### Row, Row, Row

The rowing team posted several impressive finishes worthy of its national reputation at regattas in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Chattanooga (pictured), where it had three podium finishes at the Head of the Hooch Regatta on the Chattahoochee River.



**Ermyes Aman '22** and the soccer team (13-2-2) went undefeated in Monsignor Martin play to win the regular season title. (Photo by **Jacob Hanesworth '22**)

# STUDENTS TO WATCH

## LUKE BENCZKOWSKI '22

"The good memories made here are endless."

**HOMETOWN:** Orchard Park (Orchard Park Middle School)

**WHY CANISIUS:** Canisius' reputation for educational success and the amazing brotherhood you find at the school. My experience at Canisius has been terrific. I'm so grateful for my classmates and to the school for giving me the full Canisius experience even in the midst of the pandemic. Even though high school is only four years, the good memories made here are endless.

**MY HOUSE:** Arrupe. I like the group building activities Arrupe House does, like the house breakfasts.

**ACADEMICS:** I enjoy studying history the most, because learning facts about our past and how it shapes our future is very intriguing to me. A teacher that has left an impression on me is **Mr. (Bryce) Hopkins '08**. Mr. Hopkins is incredibly outgoing, kind, and might even give your class a pizza party. He helped me with my college process and has given me good life advice.

**SERVICE:** I have done multiple service trips to St. Luke's Mission



of Mercy. It is a very humbling experience to serve there.

**RETREATS:** The Freshman Retreat was very eye-opening. I was pretty shy coming into school, so it helped me bond with my classmates. Emmaus was an experience like I have never experienced before. I'm so grateful for the retreat because it was so helpful in my life and opened up a new meaning of faith.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** Canisius has helped me to be more outgoing and really defined what being a man for others is all about.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Study business management and perhaps go into the automotive industry.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Get involved in every way. Trust me, high school goes by quickly so cherish every moment.



## RICCO BROWN '23

"When Canisius says we are men for others, they really mean it."

**MY HOUSE:** Arrupe House. It's fun, especially the House Games since they bring people together. Besides, if we win, we get food.

**ACADEMICS:** The subject I like studying the most is history.

**ATHLETICS:** Football is very important to me because it brings so much joy spending time with your friends. The people on the football team are some of my best friends. I played JV for two years and I wasn't sure if I was going to get along with all of the players. But, we all end up being like brothers, like my second family.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** Canisius changed me a lot. It's made me into a better person and student. Learning time management has helped me the most. You have to manage your time between school and sports. A lot of alumni, including NFL football player **Qadree Ollison '14**, told me a lot of people weren't used to doing all the homework in college, but he said, "coming from Canisius, we were used to it."

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Don't be afraid to make friends. When Canisius says we are men for others, they really mean it. It's truly a brotherhood.

**HOMETOWN:** Niagara Falls (Gaskill Preparatory School)

**WHY CANISIUS:** I chose Canisius mainly for athletics – I really liked the football team when I was a Crusader for the Day. My experience at Canisius was a rollercoaster of emotions at first – freshman year was tough to start off, but after I got through it, I got used to it and now school is easier.



## DONOVAN DAVENPORT '22

"Coming here was the best decision I've ever made."

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo (Buffalo United Charter School)

**WHY CANISIUS:** The academic opportunities and also the football program. I'd say this has been the best four years of my life, and it'll be hard to replace.

**MY HOUSE:** Champion House. The House System allows freshmen and underclassmen to have upperclassmen as mentors.

**ACADEMICS:** I would usually say I'm a math person but I've grown to love history. Mrs. (Karen) Nicosia has been a teacher I've just been able to talk to for my last four years.

**ATHLETICS:** I am on the varsity football team and it's become more than just football. It's more of a family feeling when I step on the practice and game field with my teammates.

**SERVICE:** My freshman year I did a bake for a homeless shelter. My grandmother and I baked about 300 cookies during Christmas.

**RE retreats:** I've been on the freshman retreat and also led it. It is very special to disconnect and focus on what's in front of you at the moment. I also plan on going on more retreats after football.



**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** I've become more mature as a brother, student, son and friend. It's taught me to be kind to others because you never know what they're going through. I'd like to say it's made me a better man.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Building a career in architecture.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** I'd like to share the quote that was shared with me. "Jump in with two feet – into the Canisius community." This has stuck with me for my four years; following it was one of the best decisions of my life. My whole experience has been great. Coming here was the best decision I've ever made. I don't regret one bit of it.



## MAX MATHIEN '23

"Putting yourself out there lets yourself learn who you truly are."

there with me. I have been able to excel in school, gain many friends and prepare myself for college.

**MY HOUSE:** Gonzaga House. The House System provides an added sense of competition in the school.

**ACADEMICS:** Mr. (Joe) Zera '01, my freshman year geometry teacher, made a particular impression on me. He made math fun and kept the class thinking and talking. I could tell he cares about his job and puts effort into what he does. I enjoy studying science the most.

**ATHLETICS:** I have played JV Blue hockey for two years, freshman and JV soccer, and JV lacrosse so far. Sports mean a lot to me; they keep me in shape and it's fun spending time with the boys.

**RE retreats:** I went on Kairos this year. It was really eye-opening. Taking a step back and just reflecting on your life can do a lot more than one can imagine. It was a great experience.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Apply to college and enjoy these last couple of years at Canisius.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Step outside your comfort zone. Putting yourself out there and trying new things lets you learn who you truly are.

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo (Nardin Middle School)

**ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS:** August Mathien '16 (brother), Tim Mathien '87 (father). Growing up in a Canisius household was fun. I remember when my brother was at CHS, I would go to the sports events and see the student section going crazy. Now I am a part of that student section.

**WHY CANISIUS:** I chose to attend Canisius because of the education it offered, sports teams, and the friends who were going

## AUSTIN MCMULLEN '24

"Canisius has taught me how to be more open and connect to God."

**HOMETOWN:** East Amherst (Amherst Middle School)

**ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS:** Bryan McMullen '96 (father). Growing up in a house where my father went to Canisius made me push myself so that I could have the same opportunities that my dad had when he was my age. He has always told me about how great Canisius was for him and how it really impacted his life.

**WHY CANISIUS:** Having a good education is the key to success. I visited St. Joe's, Nichols and Canisius, but Canisius stood out the most. I also thought it was cool that it was originally a mansion.

**MY HOUSE:** Jogues House. Through the house system, it's nice to talk to older students who have experience with the school.

**ACADEMICS:** All of the teachers have impressed me by offering many times throughout the day to get help if you're struggling in their classes. The more I get help, the more I succeed in class.

**ATHLETICS:** Sports at Canisius show that you support the school. I was an alternate for JV Gold and JV Blue hockey.

**SERVICE:** I started volunteering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. I



really enjoy it because it involves working with tools to make beds. Their mission is to make sure that no child sleeps on the floor.

**RETREATS:** The retreats are a great way to bond with people without using phones and giving yourself a rest from technology.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** Canisius has taught me how to be more open and connect to God.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Become a physical therapist.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Tryout for a school sport even if you think you're not going to make it.



## ADAM TRUBISH '23

"We learn to be grateful through doing service projects."

**HOMETOWN:** Williamsville (Transit Middle School)

**WHY CANISIUS?** I chose Canisius for a better education, and I wanted to meet new people. It has been pretty great so far.

**MY HOUSE:** Champion House. The House System is a good way to connect grade levels, allowing older students to work with those who are younger. My favorite part is the competitive sports events.

**ACADEMICS:** Mr. (Scott) Walters has had the biggest impact on me because he has helped me realize how I can solve my problems

better in real life. I enjoy studying math the most.

**ATHLETICS:** I play on the varsity Federation hockey team and the junior varsity lacrosse team. Playing on these teams helped me to create new friends in all grades of the school and not just my own.

**SERVICE:** We learn to be grateful through service and giving back to our community. I remember the freshman year service trip well since it was the first one and it was with my friends, so it was fun.

**RETREATS:** Retreats help connect students on a deeper level. Taking away technology from life for a few days, along with the group activities, really help to create an openness.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** It definitely has made me more social and outgoing. The new students that I met going to school here made it easy to get out of my public school comfort area. I was no longer just friends with people who lived near me.

**FUTURE PLANS:** I hope to play junior or college hockey, and to study business or computer science in college.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Be very social, even if you do not know anybody. It is a very open and welcoming place, so you will make friends. I also recommend joining a club or sports team.



## ZECHARIAH WHITE '24

"I chose to come to Canisius to become a better man not just for myself but also for others."

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo (St. Augustine School)

**WHY CANISIUS:** I chose to come to Canisius to become a better man not just for myself but also for others. I also chose Canisius to have a better chance at getting into a great college. My experience at Canisius is great – I've met a lot of new friends.

**MY HOUSE:** Arrupe House. I think the House System is great. My favorite part is the competition in sports and activities for points to see who will win in the long run.

**ACADEMICS:** Mr. (Ron) Ahrens '91, my freshman English teacher, has been helpful to me. I enjoy math the most academically.

**ATHLETICS:** I am involved in football, which is my main sport. Other sports I play at Canisius are basketball and track. I play football because it gives you a chance just to be you and have fun. Also, I feel like a college experience as a football player would be great.

**RETREATS:** I haven't been on a Canisius retreat yet, but I will be attending the one in April.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** Canisius has changed me



by keeping me in order and teaching me to stay on track with things.

**FUTURE PLANS:** My future plans are to graduate and become a Division I football player. After graduation, I may get involved in real estate, the stock market, start businesses or become an accountant. I have lots of ideas and possibilities in front of me.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Just stay on track and set goals for yourself. Don't stress yourself out about school. Learn how to take breaks and relax, because stressing yourself out for school could lead to unhappiness and affect your mental health. For example, don't study for 4-6 hours straight – do a good session of studying for less than two hours and take a rest.



## VINCENT ZIMMERMAN '24

"Make good friends that you will be close with forever."

beat Joe's in football and everyone was super excited and cheering. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to be here.

**WHY CANISIUS:** Canisius will provide me with a good education and has very good sports. My experience has been a lot of fun.

**MY HOUSE:** Gonzaga. The House System is a pretty cool idea – especially having all the different grades in your house.

**ACADEMICS:** One teacher who made an impression on me is Mr. (Ron) Ahrens '91. He is a very nice and helpful teacher who makes sure you are ready for every test and quiz.

**ATHLETICS:** Football is what I love to do – building bonds with teammates and winning are great feelings.

**HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME:** I have developed good study habits and note-taking skills. Canisius has helped me train and develop as a person on and off the field. I get better every day.

**FUTURE PLANS:** My future plans are to continue working hard and playing football to earn a Division I scholarship.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS:** Play sports or get involved in an activity, pay attention in class, do your homework, get good grades, and make great friends that you will be close with forever.

**HOMETOWN:** East Amherst (Transit Middle School)

**ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS:** David Zimmerman '83 (father), Massimo Zimmerman '16 (brother), Roland Cercone '77 (uncle), Rolando Cercone '14 (cousin), and Jake Cercone '13 (cousin). Growing up in a Canisius house was fun. Ever since I was young, I'd always be around Canisius kids and go to the football games. It was a great experience that made me want to come here. One time I was on the field when I was around 7 years old and Canisius



# ALUMNI EVENTS



## GOLDEN JUBILEE (TIMES TWO!)



Above: Class leaders **Nelson Paolini '70**, **Edward Schneider '70**, **Bill Dineen '70** and **Vince Ferraro '70** (left to right) present the Class of 1970 gift of \$140,000 to President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., (left) and Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91** (right).

*A pair of memorable 50-year reunions – one delayed by the pandemic – took place one week apart at CHS in August 2021*



Right: Class leader **Fred Smith '71** (second from left) presents the Class of 1971 gift of \$73,750 to (left to right) President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91** and Director of Alumni Relations **Jay Josker '01**.





FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE CHECKOUT **PAGE 28**  
AND GO ONLINE TO [CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/EVENTS](http://CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/EVENTS).



**5-YEAR REUNION** (left): The Class of 2016 converged in August at Buffalo's Hofbrauhaus, where a large gathering included classmates traveling from Colorado, Chicago, Cleveland, Boston and New York City. Class Agent **Patrick Collins '16** (center of photo, kneeling with blue collar) reported, "the countdown to our 10-year reunion has already begun!"



**ALUMNI BASH** (below): Three generations of the Basil family were among those who converged at the annual all-alumni gathering at Tripi Field. Standing (left to right): **Joe III '97, Mike '75, James '12, Dave '00, Jim '80, Joe Sr. '50, Joe Jr. '71, Chuck '74, William '09, Chuck Jr. '03, John '77**. Kneeling: **Ryan Myers '14, Tim Myers Jr. '12, Sean '13, Tim Myers '80**.

**CASE FOR CANISIUS** (above): Familia Vicente Pearce Wines helped raise \$25,000 for The Angel Fund, created by **Dan Mendez '90** (far left) and **Michael Hardy '96** (fourth from left) to provide four-year scholarships to outstanding students without the financial means to attend the school. For a donation of \$250, **Shawn Pearce '94** (fourth from right) and FVP Wines provided a case of wine to the donor and an invitation to an entertaining wine tasting the evening of Nov. 12 in Higgins Hall.





# CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Share your news. Email [CHStoday@canisiushigh.org](mailto:CHStoday@canisiushigh.org).  
Photos are encouraged.

**Kaliel Sheheen '44** writes: "Still alive at 95! I'm residing in Clarence in a retirement home."

**Tony Battaglia '51** was featured in The Villages (Florida) Daily Sun newspaper in a profile that began, "Tony Battaglia grew up in Buffalo, New York, where he proudly went to an all-boys school called Canisius High School." Battaglia, who had a career in television sales and has been honored for his philanthropy, has been singing his whole life. He still performs occasionally, including at a talent showcase in September.

**Richard A. Bozinski '53** has been donating whole blood, platelets and plasma for 31 years, for a lifetime total of 57 gallons. He has been married to wife Shirley for 61 years.

**Jim Manak '53** was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Glen Ellyn (Illinois) Historical Society.



**James J. Macie '57** (photo left) was elected president of the Clayton County Bar Association. Macie, known as Maciejewski while at Canisius, specializes in family law in Jonesboro, Georgia. Clayton

The alumni gathering in Boston (photo above) for the CHS-BC High football game had a special guest in **John Deneen** (center, flanked by his daughter and granddaughter), who attended both Canisius (1951-53) and later graduated from BC High. Also pictured, at left: **Dennis Dougherty '59**, Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91**; at right — **Robert Ziemer '77** and the mother and stepfather of **Ricco Brown '23**, Jontae and Arthur Scott.

County is one of Georgia's largest counties. Macie's term will run through July 2022.

**Dr. John F. Marszalek '57**, the Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, continues to write Civil War Publications.

**Thomas Usiak '60** has been driving a bus for 21 years for the Williamsville Central School District following his retirement in 1998 from teaching at Akron High School.

**Joseph Sammarco '63** celebrated 50 years of marriage "to my beautiful wife, Marie" and is "looking forward to a third generation attending Canisius High School -- grandson John."





**Jack Walter '64** was honored during Veterans Day week by Rep. Brian Higgins (photo above), who presented Walter with a Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Lapel for his heroic service during the Vietnam War. "He brought his leadership back home to Western New York, dedicating his time to both his family and community, serving as a softball and basketball coach, as well as leader at his church," Higgins said.



**Dave Kosuda '70** (photo left), who lives in Charlotte, N.C., visited New Zealand with his wife, Maria Ann.



Fifteen classmates from the Class of 1970, with their spouses/guests, enjoyed a lively Fall dinner at The Dog Bar in West Falls. Left to right (above): **Kenneth Walkowiak '70, Paul Friedman '70, Mark Koszrzewski '70, Martin Jay '70, Patrick Furlong '70, Matthew**

**O'Brien '70, Shawn Dailey '70, Mark Rodgers '70, Timothy O'Brien '70, Nelson Paolini '70, Walter Balon '70, Lawrence Lentini '70, James Larkin '70, Edward Schneider '70, Patrick Devine '70.**

**Fred Smith '71, Dave Strack '71 and Jeffrey Taylor '71** (photo below, left to right) met up at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs the Friday of Labor Day Weekend, shortly after their class' Jubilee Reunion in Buffalo. "Look what a 50th reunion can lead to," Smith said.





**Rocky Krysztof '72** reports that **Jerry Sullivan '72**, who lives in North Carolina, used his woodworking skills to craft a marquetry inlaid with the "Blue Doors" inside a Buffalo with the CHS banner and 1972 on top. Jerry's twin brother, **Tim Sullivan '72**, presented it to "old friend of the Class of '72 Fr. Rich Zanoni, S.J., in gratitude for his positive influence on our class which will be celebrating a 50th reunion next year." Photo above left to right: **Paul Bonanno '72**, **Joe McLaughlin '72**, Fr. Zanoni, Tim Sullivan and Krysztof.



**Honorable Lawrence J. Vilardo '73**, (photo left) U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York, was very pleased with the job done by a fellow Crusader, **Peter John Ciotto '17**, during a summer internship working for the Clerk's Office.

**Karl McKinnie '77** is Director of Client Development for ProjectN95, the national clearinghouse for PPE, Covid tests and supplies. "Having survived Covid there is a special place in my heart to help people and companies get equitable access to affordable and authentic PPE and Covid tests. ... In all the years I've been a consultant, this contract is by far the most rewarding and satisfying!"

**Larry Powell '78** retired in October 2020 after 16 years as a Controls Engineer at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics.

**James Granville '83** was elected to the Aurora Town Board in East Aurora.



**Steve Zenger '83**, (photo above) CEO of Zenger Group was a 2021 Printing Impressions/RIT Printing Industry Hall of Fame inductee. "Zenger's strategic mind and eye for the next crucial technology has played a significant role in taking the business from strength to even greater strength over the past few decades," Printing Impressions reported. Founded by his father and brother as a local storefront print shop in Buffalo in 1980, the family-owned commercial printing enterprise now boasts a nationwide customer base and currently operates three plants in the Buffalo area.

**Renier Brentjens '85** was named the Deputy Director and Chair of Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Roswell Park described Brentjens as "one of the most influential and accomplished figures in the field of cancer immunotherapy." Roswell Park President and CEO Candace S. Johnson called

# ALUMNI EVENTS

## UPCOMING

### MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDARS

JAN

21

**JUG NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY, JAN. 21**  
**AT CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL**

FEB

22

**CANISIUS HS**  
**IN NAPLES, FLORIDA**

FEB

24

**CANISIUS HS**  
**IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

APRIL

5

**CANISIUS HS**  
**IN NEW YORK CITY**

JUNE

17

**ALUMNI WEEKEND**  
**ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC**  
**ALUMNI BASH**

JUNE

18

**ALUMNI WEEKEND**  
**CLASS OF 1972**  
**50TH REUNION**

More info at [canisiushigh.org/alumni](https://canisiushigh.org/alumni).



Brentjens "both an amazing physician and a research star."

**Jay Hall '97** was hired as Assistant Director of Elementary Programming with the Silver Creek Central School District.

**Craig Bucki '00**, a partner at Phillips Lytle LLP, was one of three CHS grads selected for Buffalo Business First's 40 Under 40 list for 2021. His practice is focused on litigation involving state and municipal government, public authorities and other quasi-governmental entities.

**Patrick Keating '00**, the Western New York regional president for Five Star Bank, was one of three CHS grads named to Buffalo Business First's 40 Under 40 list for 2021. Keating joined the Warsaw-based bank in 2013, as vice president of commercial banking and is based at Five Star's Amherst regional office.

**Dan Hunter '01** and **Aaron Ketry '01** are part-owners of the Beer Keep, a craft beer bar-and-store hybrid at 1002 Elmwood Ave. which opened in September. Hunter and wife Briana also run the Breezy Burrito next door.

**Tim Short '01** was named to Fordham University Baseball's Atlantic 10 25th Anniversary Team. Short, who played for the Rams from 2002-05, was named to the team following a fan vote.

**Charles Hunt '02**, executive vice president and chief operating officer for HUNT Real Estate, was one of three CHS grads named to Buffalo Business First's 40 Under 40 list for 2021. He is responsible for sales operations, oversees the growth initiatives of HUNT and manages the relationships HUNT has built in the community.



**Parish Bradley '04** (photo left) played Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the production of "Letters from Anne and Martin," a dramatic presentation of the text of Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" and King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." The play was staged

for some Buffalo high schools in October. Bradley studied acting at both Stella Adler school of acting as well as The Bova Actors Workshop, and is currently an Artistic Associate with the professional theatre group "The Seeing Place." His most recent film work is a short film called "See You Yesterday," from executive producer Spike Lee.

**Michael Dimmer '04** is the owner of Marble + Rye on Genesee St. in Buffalo, which was described by The Buffalo News review as "a cocktail lounge with remarkable food," and, later, "even more remarkable are the drinks."

**John Urschel '09** was appointed to the prestigious Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in September. The former NFL offensive lineman, who completed his Ph.D in mathematics from MIT earlier this year, is one of 271 scholars this year at IAS, one of the world's leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry. In October, Urschel presented the colloquium "Old and New Results on the Spread of the Spectrum of a Graph" at Princeton University's Program in Applied and Computational Mathematics.

**Jessie Saltarelli '11** is now the headmaster at Chesterton Academy, a Catholic high school in Lancaster.

**Ryan Hunter '13**, who won the Super Bowl with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2019, joined the Los Angeles Chargers organization at the start of the 2020 season and is currently on their practice squad during what is his fourth NFL season.

**Qadree Ollison '14** began the season on the practice squad with the Atlanta Falcons before signing with the team. It is Ollison's third year in the NFL.

**Garang Doar '15** and his father, Akec Aguer, were featured by The Buffalo News in a story about their restaurant, Nile River. The family's South Sudanese restaurant is part of the West Side Bazaar.

**TJ Wheatley '15** is in his first year in the NFL, having signed with the Chicago Bears' practice squad. Wheatley switched positions last spring and is now an offensive lineman.



**Nick Revelas '18** organized a record-breaking basketball game this summer in an effort to raise more than \$60,000 for mental health charities. Nine different alumni from five different graduating classes were part of a basketball world record set in Buffalo over six days with "The World's Longest Basketball Game." Also taking part in the event, which also honored Revelas' late classmate, Devin Waring, were:

**Charlie Desmond '16, Sam Hore '16, John Scrocco '19, Will Wischerath '22;** and, pictured above (left to right), **EJ McDermid '20, Luke Pieroni '20, Brad Arcara '20 and Max Downing '16.**



**Andrew Skakal '21** (left) and **Blaise Doyle '19** are attending Saint Joseph's University, where Andrew is a freshman on the crew team and Doyle was an Orientation Leader.

**Nathaniel Sass '19**, who rowed internationally over the summer, joined the coaching staff of the Canisius rowing team as an assistant coach for the 2021-22 season.

## BIRTHS



**Thomas M. Neale '70** (photo left) and his wife, Barbara, became the proud first-time grandparents of Holly Reese Scott on Oct. 20. Daughter Barrett Neale Scott and son-in-law Sam Scott are the proud parents. "Doesn't get any better than this!" Neale said.



From **Mark Paradowski '99** (photo left): "On March 29, 2020, my wife Christina gave birth to 23-week-old triplets four months early, all of them in the 11- to 12-inch and 1.1- to 1.2-pound range. Our future CHS-bound sons didn't survive the complications. Jack

Hutton Paradowski fought for six hours, and Maddox Ward Paradowski survived for nearly six days. Larkin Jean Mae, our daughter, spent 128 days in the NICU, including a heart surgery, before coming home, where she is thriving."



**Michael J. Tyrpak '02** and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their second son, Charles Michael, on May 21.



**Kevin Costanzo '07** and Nora Fiore baptized their son, Giovanni James Costanzo, on Aug. 8.

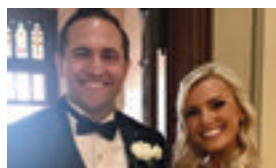
## WEDDINGS



**Mark Paradowski '99** became married to Christina Lincoln May 24, 2020 during the pandemic on his parents' lawn.



**Michael Connolly '04** married Morgan Blair on Aug. 20 at St. Michael Church in Buffalo (pictured with Fr. Fred Betti, S.J.).



**Marty Glose '06** married Erica Kane on July 10 at St. Louis Church in Buffalo.



**Michael Rudzinski '09** married Megan Skelly on Oct. 23 in Ellicottville.



**Tim Sardinia '09** married Ali Czarnecki Aug. 13 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

## TELL US WHAT'S NEW

- *Started a new job?*
- *Were 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](mailto:CHStoday@canisiushigh.org). Photos are encouraged.

**You may also mail news to:**

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





## IN MEMORIAM

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

Robert Mahany '46  
Richard Diebold '47  
Dr. Joseph Kunz '47  
Frank Gebhardt '48  
Francis Shinskey '48  
George "Gerald" Washington '48  
Cornelius Miller '49  
Dick Griffin '50  
Edmund Szpaicher, Jr. '50  
Charles Flynn '51  
Thomas Quinn '51  
Jerry Schmidt '51  
Harold Bertrand '53

Salvatore Cardinale '53  
Arley Mead '53  
Daniel Weitz '53  
George Richardson '55  
Paul Strzempka '55  
Warren Warsitz '55  
John McGee '56  
Brian Klein '57  
Dr. Robert Infantino '58  
Peter Hassett '59  
Vince Costello '60  
Paul Hanover '64  
Ivan Makuch '64

Robert Voll '64  
Thomas O'Day '69  
Joe Sheehan '69  
Paul Seitz '70  
Raymond Bennett '71  
Mark Jay '71  
J. Michael Collard '72  
Anthony "Tony" White '75  
Stephen Kramer '77  
David Stanko '77  
Mark Zalocha '90



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- 100% of Canisius students benefit from the Blue Doors Annual Fund
- You can make a difference

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**[canisiushigh.org/giving](https://canisiushigh.org/giving)**