



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

SPRING 2023





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.



At our Junior Leadership Mass, **Eugene Vukelic '48** was honored with a CHS Diamond Diploma upon the occasion of the 75th anniversary of his graduation. "Gene is one of the school's most dedicated alumni and a faithful ambassador of all things Canisius," said President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J. Vukelic was joined by members of his family. Left to right: **Christopher Vukelic '09**, Eric Kuhn, **Peter Vukelic '89**, **Paul Vukelic '79**, Eugene, Suzanne Mahoney, Heather Vukelic and **Matt Vukelic '94**.

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FINALISTS FOR MR. CANISIUS 2023

This year's finalists for the award
(left to right): **Shane Cercone '23**,
Casey LaForce '23, winner **Patrick
Nettina '23**, **Michael Scime '23**,
Evan Izatt '23 and **Thomas Webb
'23**. See Pages 4 & 14 for more.



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"Basically, I figured out a way to turn Jug into a livelihood."

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President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., delivers the homily at our Class of 2023 Baccalaureate Mass at St. Michael's Church.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

"Canisius has shaped me into a man that the world needs. Every single day, when I came to school, I was able to see what Christ looks like in modern-day men and women."

That beautiful reflection was written by **Shane Cercone '23**, part of the responses he and five classmates made to being named finalists for Mr. Canisius 2023.

It would be hard to come up with a better summary of the lived mission of Canisius High School.

We have sought to show our students the face of Christ so Shane and his classmates would, indeed, be formed into men that the world needs.

For the women and men who work at Canisius, our students are our very own service immersion project, because we see the face of Christ in each of their faces every day.

We welcome our students, labor on their behalf, accompany them, teach them, coach them. We seek to model and share a way of life for them that seeks not to live for oneself, but for others.

Patrick Nettina '23 wrote that at Canisius he has been "pushed to become a better man."

While **Thomas Webb '23** admitted he was nervous about finding his place at Canisius, he followed that with: "I now have a second family."

"Like family," **Evan Izatt '23** wrote, "we overcome. Like family, we build one another up. Like family, we may not always like each other, but we always love one another."

Casey LaForce '23 put it so well: "Canisius did not just teach me how to read pages upon pages ... but how to think for myself, and how to discern what is truly right and just."

Michael Scime '23, reflecting on his fellow candidates, saw Shane's discipline, Patrick's faith, Thomas' compassion, Evan's humility and Casey's kindness.

"Those are just some of their great qualities that I admire every day," Scime wrote. "They, and so many more, have all been great role models and leaders to me throughout my time here at Canisius."

In these pages, these finalists highlight some members of our great faculty who impacted them personally, and in doing so further our shared mission.

In the qualities of these finalists, in the richness of their gifts and talents, in the words about those who have inspired them, there are glimpses of God's spirit alive and at work in the work that we do.

A.M.D.G.

David Ciancimino, S.J.

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.



Principal **Tom Coppola '01** presents one of many honors at this year's Senior Awards Ceremony in the Scaccia Auditorium.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

I will say it everywhere I go and every time I can: We have the best faculty and staff in Western New York. I am privileged to be a small part of it.

On the final day of classes for 2022-23, our students and my colleagues lined the hallways of Montante Academic Hall and the Beecher Academic Wing to give ovations to two teachers we have been privileged to have as part of our community for the better part of the last three decades.

Retiring at the end of this year were science teacher Michael Magnuson and English teacher Julie Hogan. Magnuson taught at CHS since 1999; Hogan from 1992-99 before returning in 2008.

One of the things that I think Canisius is known for – going back generations – is teaching writing, and teaching thinking, and how those lessons are taught in English class. When you think of English class at CHS, you think of names like Frank Tudini, P.S. Naumann, Ken Durkin, and now Julie Hogan. We will miss Julie not just for her passion and care for the school, but her talent in the classroom.

We will also miss Julie deeply in our CHS House System. At its inception, she took on the role of the Head of Champion House, and she has been a fixture in the development of not only Champion but our House System overall.

In a life previous to my time at Canisius, I spent some winters during college driving the Zamboni at Rotary Rink for Buffalo



Julie Hogan



Michael Magnuson

Place. One of the vivid memories I have from that job is that several times I watched Mike Magnuson come down to Rotary Rink – to do speed skating.

What I remember was the dedication and hard work Mike exhibited every day when he was out there skating. He displayed that same kind of dedication and hard work in the classroom here for over 20 years, teaching physics, engineering and even calculus.

I was fortunate enough to have Mike as a teacher, and I remember great lessons from my senior year. While I admit I am far from a calculus or physics scholar, my time with him was worthwhile and important to my development.

I am always energized and inspired by what happens in our building every single day, and I know we are going to build on the good work we did this past year. I am extremely excited about our future.

And one more important announcement:

Go Bills!

Thomas D. Coppola

Thomas Coppola '01

BLUE & GOLD IN THE GOLDEN STATE



ALUMNI IN ...

San Francisco

Montecito

Hollywood

Los Angeles

Seal Beach

.....

The Canisius High School community spans far and wide, including to the West Coast, where our Jesuit education provided a foundation that was integral for five alumni. In their own words, these Californians chronicle their westward journeys and where they are today.

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HON. JOSEPH QUINN '86

San Francisco

San Francisco Superior Court Judge

How did you find yourself in California so far from 1180 Delaware? At a pretty young age, I decided I wanted to go west, specifically to California. I understood California to be sunny and warm, but also open and accepting. I wanted to be an out gay professional involved in public service, and I saw that as maybe possible in California. This is only a few years after Harvey Milk's assassination in San Francisco. Being gay in public life was not necessarily embraced anywhere, but I needed to try to live a life true to who I was, so I packed my belongings into my Dad's Army duffel bag and boarded a flight to Burbank.

...

How has your career journey transpired? I am a judge on the San Francisco Superior Court, which is a general jurisdiction trial court, similar to the New York State Supreme Court. I preside over a broad range of civil and criminal matters.

I graduated from UCLA and worked a bit in journalism. I went on to earn a JD at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. I did a couple of federal clerkships, served as a federal public defender, then as a trial attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's office. Later, I was a partner in a couple of firms in the San Francisco Bay Area, specializing in trial and appellate litigation.

In 2015, Governor Jerry Brown appointed me to the bench. In California, an attorney may become a judge by appointment or election, but all judges must stand for

election if they want to continue to serve. I have been up for election twice, but unopposed both times.

...

How did your time at CHS impact you? I cannot overstate the importance of my time at Canisius. I may have arrived at Canisius with dreams, but it was at CHS that I gained the self-confidence, courage and academic skills that I needed to pursue those dreams. I was a scholarship student from a modest background, and, at Canisius, I learned that I could achieve most any goal by putting myself out there, working hard and being open to new experiences.

CHS and the Jesuit tradition have, as well, played a very real part in my professional life. I've been given extraordinary opportunities by many, but three who shared in the Jesuit tradition of scholarship, engagement and service stand out: the federal judge, who brought me on as a law clerk and who provided a model of judging that I still strive to meet; the federal public defender, who hired me and opened more doors for me than I can count; and the Governor of California, who brought me on as an advisor, then appointed me to the bench. I would not be where I am today without their support.

...

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Work hard and learn from others. Live in an ever-expanding world and stay curious and open. Pursue dreams that will both fulfill you and make the world a better place. Take risks, stay resilient. Be authentic.

A portrait of Shawn Ries '00, a bald man with a friendly smile, wearing a dark blue t-shirt. He is positioned in front of a blurred background that includes a lamp and a window with greenery outside.

SHAWN RIES '00

Los Angeles
Screenwriter

How did you find yourself in California so far from 1180 Delaware? After graduating from CHS, I went to Syracuse University where I majored in marketing and broadcast journalism. The plan, at the time, was to work in sports journalism. That changed while working at the student TV station. I worked on sports shows, but always preferred doing segments that skewed more toward entertainment than newsy ones. Plus, during the course of my time there, I realized I liked being a sports fan much more than I liked doing it as a job.

So as I was having a crisis about what to do with myself – all of these epiphanies came during my senior year, when it was far too late to change majors – I found out a friend was working on a very small independent film after graduation and they could use more help. I spent that summer on a film set in New Jersey, helping out however they needed me. I loved it, so I ultimately made the decision to give the entertainment business a proper try. A few months later, I packed up my car and drove across the country to Los Angeles.

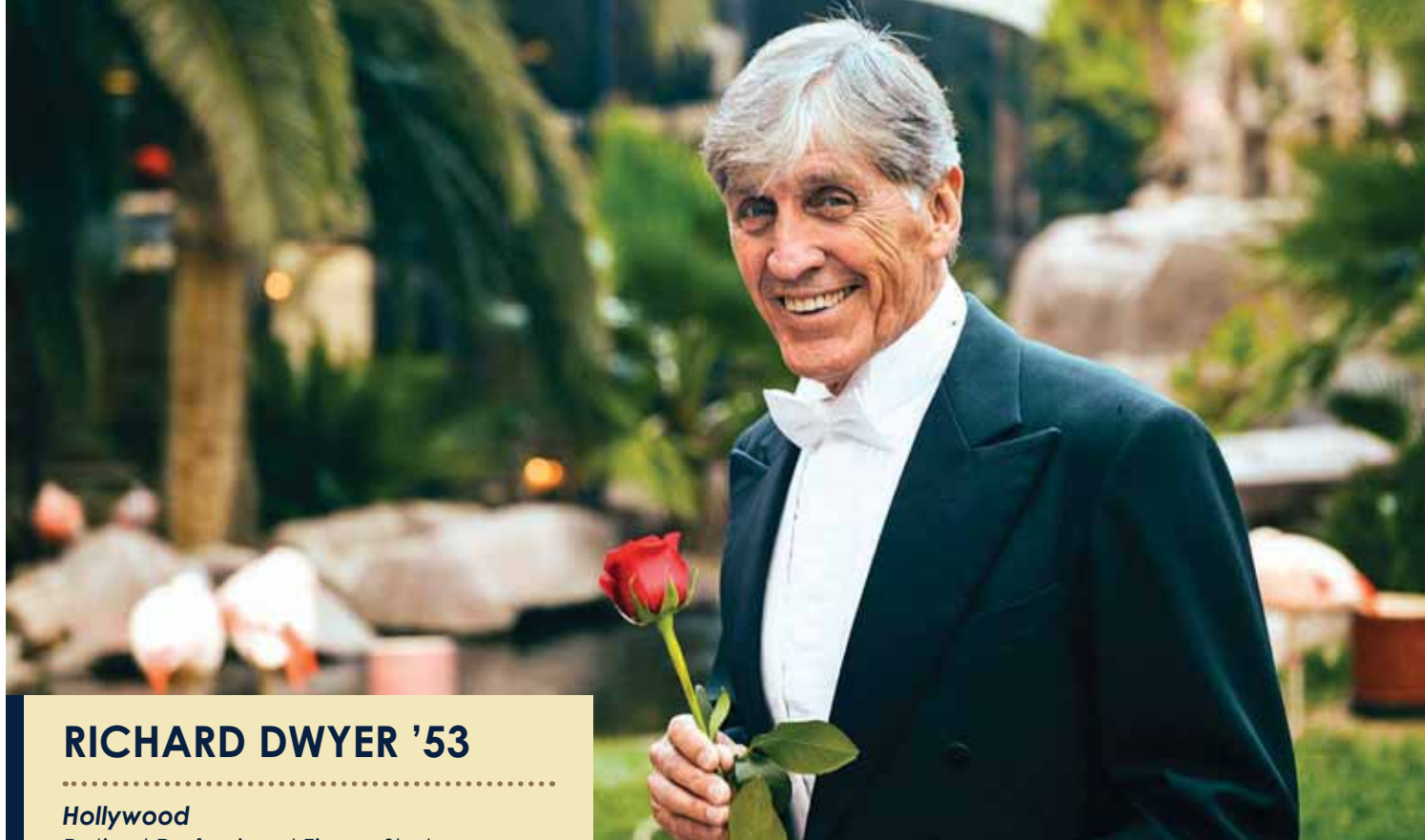
How has your career journey transpired? I'm a comedy writer who's written for TV, movies, mobile games and digital media. Lately, I've been focusing more on movies and have a couple of scripts currently in development. One of them looks like it will go into production later this year, which would be my first original feature. It's exciting, but I'm also very aware that a million things could go wrong between now and then.

When I got to LA in 2006, I started off working as a production assistant, which is the standard entry-level

job in the industry. It basically involves making copies, picking up lunches, and running errands. I did that for several years as I got my feet wet in the business and made connections. I wrote scripts in my free time, and eventually, a script that I wrote with a friend got some traction and led to our first paid writing job: a freelance episode of "Family Guy." Since then I've written a handful of TV shows and other projects, including Allen Gregory, Ryan Hansen Solves Crimes on Television, and a five-year stint on the "Family Guy" writing staff – I also developed a whole bunch of things that never went anywhere. One thing you learn very quickly is that you hear "no" a lot.

How did your time at CHS impact you? Aside from the obvious academic foundation it gave me (I don't make many grammatical errors in my scripts thanks to Fr. Van Dyke), Canisius taught me to hold myself and my work to a high standard. Also, being a PA in the entertainment industry is a lot like working Jug, so I feel like I gained a lot of valuable experience during my many, many hours of Jug freshman and sophomore years.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Don't put too much pressure on yourself to know exactly what you want to do. I didn't figure that out until after college. Find ways to get involved in things that you like and it may open your eyes to new ideas or potential career paths you hadn't thought of. If I didn't get involved in the sports shows at the Syracuse campus TV station, I can safely say I wouldn't be a screenwriter today. Worst case, you'll spend your time doing something you like and you'll meet people with shared interests. Also, have fun. Next thing you know you're 40 and bald.



RICHARD DWYER '53

Hollywood

Retired Professional Figure Skater

How did you find yourself in California so far from 1180 Delaware? I fell in love with ice skating at 7 and it opened up the world to me. I competed from 1945 until 1950, winning four Pacific Coast titles, the 1948 U.S. National Novice Men's Championship and the 1949 U.S. Junior Men's Championship. I made the world team twice, but my father couldn't afford to send me to Europe.

I got an offer from the Ice Follies and turned professional in the summer of 1950. I had just completed my freshman year at Loyola High in Los Angeles, and Fr. Sousotte, the principal, contacted Jesuit high schools across the country to see if they would accept me in their classrooms during the Ice Follies engagement in their cities. Of course, in Buffalo the high school I attended was Canisius, and I loved it.

...

How has your career journey transpired? I skated with the Ice Follies for the next 30 years – the only interruptions were six months training with the Army at Fort Ord in California in 1958, and one year of active duty in 1961 at Fort Lewis in Washington. My Ice Follies years were fabulous. I was chosen to take over the role of the young "Mr. Debonair," replacing Roy Shipstad, one of the owners of Ice Follies, and the originator of the top-hat-and-tail number that I so enjoyed performing. I skated with some beautiful skaters who were both national and world team members.

I earned my college degree from the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit school, and went on to perform with

the Ice Capades for about 13 years while also doing "Peanuts" ice shows with Charles Schulz at his ice arena in Santa Rosa, California. I also had the pleasure of running New York City's Wollman Rink in Central Park when it reopened in 1986, part of many wonderful challenges in exciting times. In 2000, I moved back to Los Angeles and performed on some TV specials, skating with great champions.

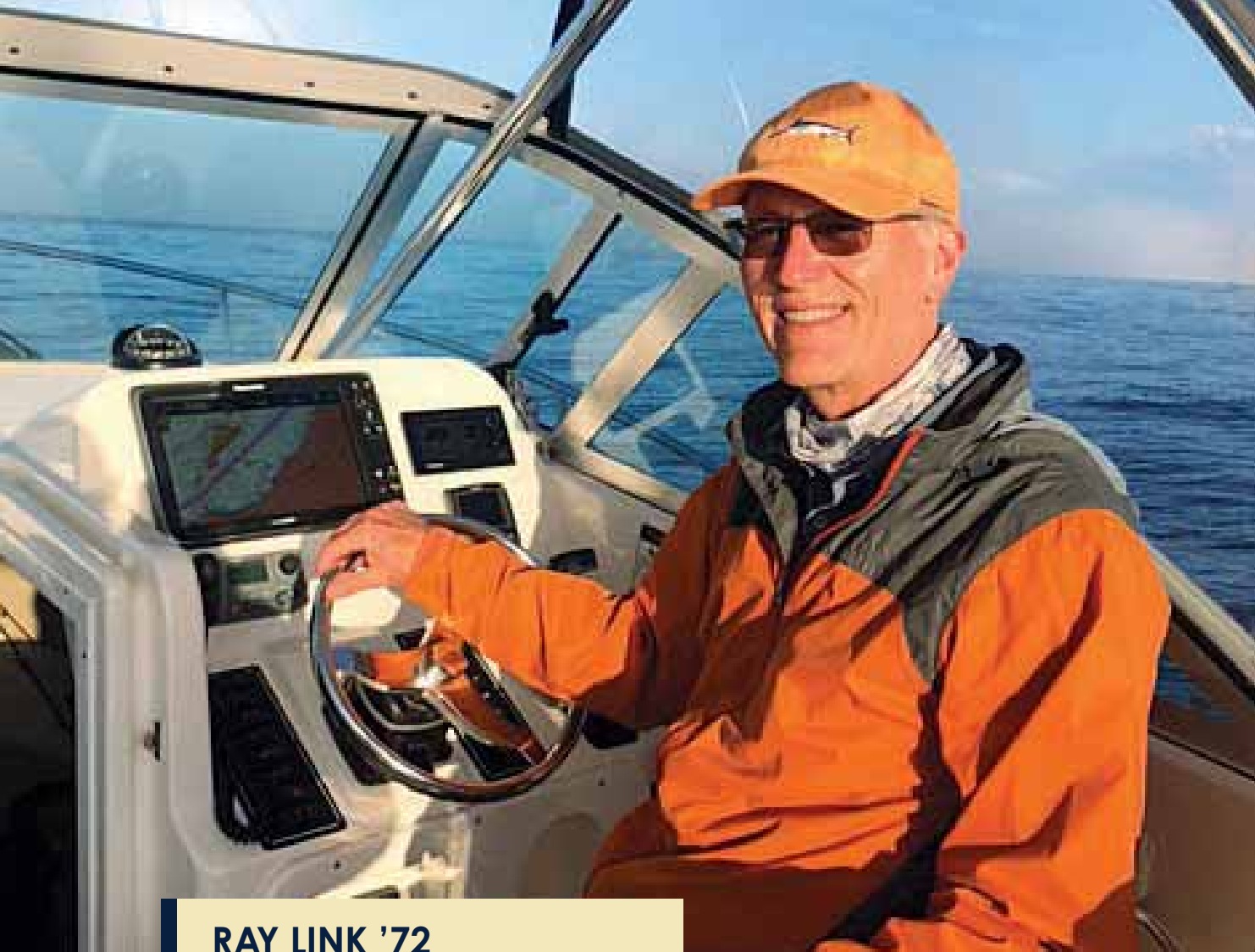
I guess in many ways I have never stopped skating. At 87, I've been blessed as a performer. It's time to cheer on the great talent that's out there today.

...

How did your time at CHS impact you? CHS certainly helped me continue my high school studies and kept me in touch with other teenage students who became wonderful friends – including George Dixon and Bill Hassett, just to mention a few. Every year I came back to Buffalo with the show, we would get together. The high school and the student body really impressed me and I felt so at home there. It became a favorite.

...

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? I am so impressed when I receive the Canisius magazine with the great successes of all of their students. They are one very special, dedicated group. My advice to each fellow Crusader is to continue to do what you love, never stop learning or challenging yourself, and keep busy even in your older years. I'm so proud to have attended Canisius High School, and to follow your careers. I wish all of you great success.



RAY LINK '72

Montecito

Retired CFO of several high-tech firms

How did you find yourself in California so far from 1180 Delaware? For a kid who grew up next to the city dump in Buffalo, I never thought I'd end up in Montecito, California, home to everyone from Oprah to Prince Harry.

After graduating from the University at Buffalo and getting an MBA from Wharton, I moved to Florida to work for a Fortune 500 company and then a tech company as CFO. That company merged with a larger company in Portland, Oregon, and as part of the "deal" I agreed to relocate and become the CFO. There I met my wife, Jill Taylor, who was an advertising executive. She had always dreamt of moving to the Santa Barbara area, so we bought a second home there in 2009 to test the waters. After retiring, we made it our full-time home and can't imagine a better place to be.

...

How has your career journey transpired? I worked for several years with a major accounting firm in Buffalo and ultimately became a CFO of several high-tech companies

in the semiconductor, wireless phone and electron microscope industries. I also served on the board of directors of four different publicly traded tech companies. I am currently on the board of two companies and a lecturer in the Technology Management Program at UC-Santa Barbara while I also do some volunteer work.

...

How did your time at CHS impact you? CHS prepared me well for college. I was a decent student, but nowhere near a top student at CHS. However, in college I ended up very near the top of my accounting class at UB, which helped me get into the No. 1 business school for my graduate work. The discipline we received along with the added requirements in math and science were very helpful to me – in addition to the strong background in English and humanities. While I did not fully appreciate it in high school, it was a great benefit to me in the long run.

...

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Find something you like and are good at – you need both to be successful. Study hard and develop a good work ethic and good things will come your way. Keep a core group of friends and mentors and never forget your past.



JOE RUSZKIEWICZ '56

Seal Beach
Motorsports Journalist

How did you find yourself in California so far from 1180 Delaware? One-word answer: Cars. Since 1945 when I was 7, living downwind of Civic Stadium and hearing midget auto-racing cars drone around The Rockpile's infield oval, I've been obsessed with any four-wheeled vehicle with an engine. After I got my license I joined the Clutch Artists hot rod and custom car club, which still exists, and began writing and photographing the members' modified cars for various car magazines. But the best of them were based in Los Angeles, the car capital of the world, and my goal was to live and work there.

...

How has your career journey transpired? When a fellow club member of the Clutch Artists who hailed from Lockport became an editor at Hot Rod Magazine, he took me under his wing so that when I moved to Los Angeles, upon discharged from the United States Air Force, I readily found work in my chosen profession – writing and photographing cars under the nom de plume Joe Rusz.

Thanks to my Canisius High School education and to Jug, where I honed my writing skills, I was doing well freelancing when I landed my first full-time job as editor of National Dragster, a racing newspaper where I earned \$10,000 a year, which wasn't bad money back in 1967. But I got weary of the commute to downtown LA and when I was offered a position as Associate Editor of Dune Buggies & Hot VWs Magazine, I accepted, mostly because the publication was based in Long Beach, where I lived at the time.

Call it serendipity or God working in mysterious ways: Dune Buggies & Hot VWs was bought by the owners of Road

& Track Magazine, one of the most prestigious automotive publications in the country if not in the world, and before long I was writing and photographing cars for R&T.

During my 43 years there, I wore many hats – serving as Photo Editor, Motorsports Editor, Feature Editor, and Senior Editor – before retiring in 2014. Since then, I've kept my hand in the game as Senior Editor of Porsche Panorama, a glossy, up-scale monthly catering to the 140,000-plus members of the Porsche Club of America.

...

How did your time at CHS impact you? Coming from my slam-dunk grammar school education at Transfiguration on Buffalo's East Side where I was a teacher's pet, Canisius was somewhat of a challenge. As we all know, the Jesuits take no prisoners and I quickly learned that to survive and to learn, you had to do more than merely tread water. Admittedly, I wasn't much of a swimmer (studying and doing your homework would have helped), but the educational grounding the Jesuits provided served me in good stead, especially when, decades later at Road & Track Magazine, I had to "swim with the sharks," the writers and editors of other major publications hunting for the same thing: readers.

...

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Studying helps, but at the risk of sounding trite, I'd say follow your dream. Stay curious. Learn as much as you can about everything (my favorite subjects were English, history and physics). Dream (but don't get caught doing that in class). If you have a gift like writing, explore it, nurture it, have fun with it. Make friends, especially those with money who can bail you out of jail if need be.



PLAY BALL!

The dedication and blessing of Coppola Family Field and the David M. Downing '83 Press Box marked a historic day for Canisius High School and Crusader baseball.

At the May 3 ceremony, Suzanne Coppola, wife of the late **Ralph Coppola '66**, and Karen Downing, wife of the late David, were joined by their families; they were each presented ceremonial baseball bats by President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.

Fr. Richard Zandoni, S.J., blessed the expansive new baseball facilities at the Stransky Athletic Complex on Clinton Street, which were part of the "Rich Tradition. Bold Vision" capital campaign.

Ceremonial first pitches were thrown by Crusader baseball pillars **Paul Smaldone '60** (left) and **Bryan Tenney '76**. CHS coaching legends John Barnes, **Connie McGillicuddy '39** and Tenney are honored with home-plate plaques behind the large backstop of Coppola Family Field.

The Crusaders completed the great day with a stirring, 11-inning 4-3 victory over St. Francis.





MAKING MR. CANISIUS

The six 2023 Mr. Canisius finalists had their photo taken with a faculty member of their choice in the

SHANE CERCONE '23 CHOSE TEACHER BRYCE HOPKINS '08

“Mr. Hopkins helps students see how special and unique they truly are while inspiring us to use our gifts for the community. He is loving, supportive, and encouraging.”

Hopkins’ thoughts about Cercone, who is from Buffalo, attended Tapestry Charter and is headed to prep school:

“Through his jovial demeanor, the kindnesses in his words, and the generosity of his smile, Shane has endeavored to ensure all in our community know that they matter, that they are seen, heard, appreciated, and loved.”



EVAN IZATT '23 CHOSE MATH TEACHER ANNE LIPP-READ

“Mrs. Lipp-Read saw potential in me that I hadn’t even seen in myself yet. She saw capability in a timid freshman in her mentor group. A good mentor is not only a friend to her mentees, but also pushes them to pursue excellence.”

Lipp-Read on Izatt, who is from East Aurora, attended Nardin and is headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic University:

“Evan is a tremendous young man. His warmth and kindness are evident immediately. He is a hard worker, but also very insightful and intelligent.”

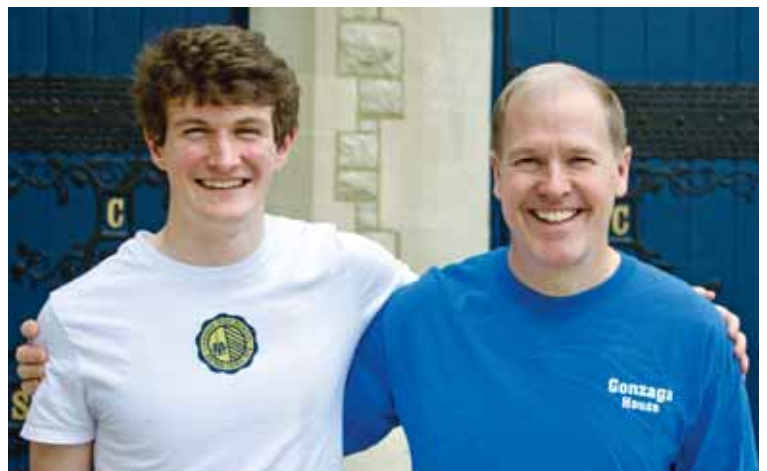


CASEY LAFORCE '23 CHOSE HISTORY TEACHER DENNIS BEECHER '88

“Mr. Beecher is always there for his students. Although he taught my friends and me about European history, I hope he also knows that he taught us how to be Men for Others.”

Beecher on LaForce, who is from East Aurora, went to Immaculate Conception and will attend Hamilton College:

“While discussing the candidates, another faculty member said ‘I hope my daughters marry someone like Casey LaForce, and that is the highest compliment I can give anyone.’ We all concurred. I think that speaks volumes.”



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

PATRICK NETTINA '23 CHOSE LATIN TEACHER JOHN ANDERSON

"Mr. Anderson has always wanted to see his students succeed. He always finds a way to make me laugh or give advice."

Anderson on 2023 Mr. Canisius winner Nettina, who is from Clarence, attended St. Mary School Swormsville and is headed to the University at Buffalo:

"Patrick is a unique and wonderful young man. Rarely have I known a student with so many interests and who is so accomplished in them."



MICHAEL SCIME '23 CHOSE COUNSELOR ANN MARIE MOSCOVIC

"From the first time I met with Mrs. Moscovic, I knew she was someone I could trust. She was my go-to mentor whenever I needed advice, or just someone to talk to. Her belief in me gave me the confidence to believe in myself."

Moscovic on Scime, who is from Amherst, attended Nardin and is headed to Georgetown University:

"It has been my honor to watch Michael grow and develop into the young man he has become: an ethical, steadfast, standout leader in the Class of 2023."



THOMAS WEBB '23 CHOSE ENGLISH TEACHER ERIN CONLEY

"I've witnessed first hand the care Mrs. Conley has for each student that comes her way. She's a fantastic role model for any CHS student for how to converse, listen, write, express, laugh, and smile. She's the ideal teacher."

Conley's thoughts about Webb, who is from Orchard Park and will attend Loyola University Maryland:

"His leadership skills, dedication, approachability, and deep gratitude and respect for the community around him make him an incredible role model and mentor."





Shane Cercone '23 with parents **Roland Cercone '77** and **Holly Cercone** as well as Canisius coach **Kyle Husband '96** moments after he became Canisius' all-time leading scorer.



GO CRUSADERS!

Shane Cercone '23 becomes CHS basketball's all-time leading scorer and is named WNY Player of the Year

Shane Cercone '23 capped a tremendous basketball career and a record-setting season by being named the consensus Western New York Player of the Year.

Cercone passed **Brian Keenan '99** as the Crusaders' all-time leading scorer in the final game of the regular season before leading CHS to a Manhattan Cup semifinal rout of over St. Joe's and into the program's 13th championship game in the last 15 years.

Cercone was named the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association Player of the Year, the Centercourt Player of the Year and also earned the Allen Wilson Player of the Year by The Buffalo News. He is the second consecutive and fifth Crusader to claim the Allen Wilson honor (**Darren Fenn '97**, **Adam Weir '13**, **Stafford Trueheart '16**, and **Declan Ryan '23**).

CHS ALL-TIME SCORING LEADERS

1,725	Shane Cercone '23
1,661	Brian Keenan '99
1,525	Stafford Trueheart '16
1,419	Tony Merriweather '82
1,339	Adam Weir '13
1,301	Rick Wnuk '85
1,197	Joe Zera '01
1,133	Nick Kney '05
1,104	Joe Coppola '06
1,102	Blair Helton '10
1,088	Darren Fenn '97
1,056	Larry Hokaj '81
1,055	Tom Keenan '03
1,047	Justin Young '08
1,015	Ben Batory '89
1,011	Ed Kellerman '03
1,001	John Stasio '61



CHS Bowling dominated all season long, right down to the state championships. The Crusaders and coach **Michael Kwiatkowski '99** repeated as All-Catholic champions with a resounding victory that echoed their fantastic, record-setting 43-2 regular season in the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association. Rolling the team to victory were, left to right, **Matthew Hassenfratz '24**, **Blaine Benson '24**, **Matthew Bernard '24**, **Colin Laschinger '23** and **Thomas Skowron '25**. Benson went on to win the New York State Catholic High Schools Athletic Association's Singles Bowling Championship on Long Island – on his 17th birthday. Benson joined **Nick Rallo '17** as the only Crusader state singles champions.



The Crusaders won their 21st straight All-Catholic swimming championship, dominating the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association championships before sending first-year head coach **Christian Balkin '18** into the pool for a celebratory swim. CHS won eight of 11 events and amassed 468 points ahead of second-place St. Joe's (356.5). At the state Catholic meet, **Peter Peyser '25** swam a 21.20 to break the 50 free school record of **Jack Boyd '14** (21.26).



CANISIUS IN ACTION



"THE DROWSY CHAPERONE" was a huge hit with audiences during a three-day run at Scaccia Auditorium. "It does what a musical is supposed to do: it takes you to another world," said "Man in Chair" played excellently by **Thomas Webb '23** (above). Also part of the CHS Drama Guild performance were **Michael Scime '23**, **Blaine Benson '24** (as Adolpho, left), **Rory Dwyer '23**, **Dylan Leong '25**, **Rocco Panzica '25**, **Carter Bryant '25**, **Corbin Bryant '26**, **Joe Teresi '25**, **Aiden Spurlock '25**, **Angel Lopez-Castillo '25** and **Jude Delaney '26**. Brilliant contributions came from students from Clarence, Nichols, Nardin and Williamsville North. There was great direction from teachers **David Hayes '87** (director) and **Mia LaMarco** (assistant director, choreography and technical director, set builder) and retired teacher **Bill Group** (music).

William Oh '23, right, received a perfect score in his solo audition as he earned the first chair at cello for this year's Erie County Senior High Orchestra. Oh scored 100 when he auditioned at the Erie County Music Educators Association festival in January.

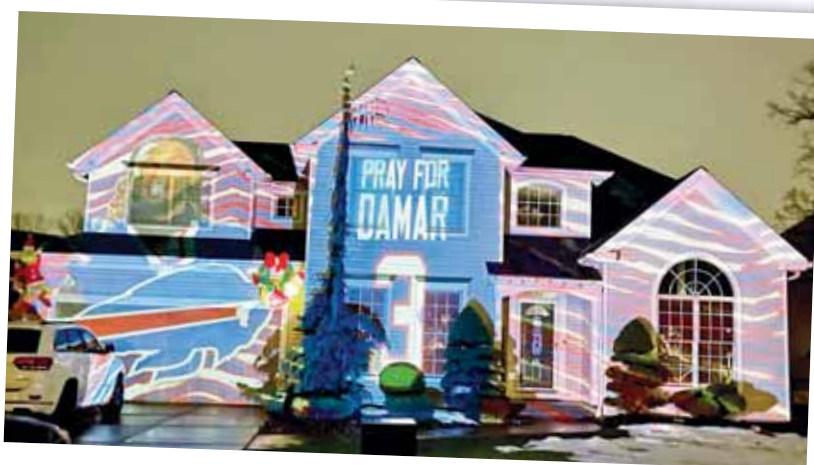




A CHS Companions Program group served in February in Puerto Rico, where they painted and rehabbed a house, built a playground, were part of a beach cleanup and worked in two different farming communities. A local guide stands at the far left followed by **John Daughton '24**, **Ryan Stravino '24**, **Brett McDowell '24**, Assistant Director of Admission **Brendan Tenney '12**, **Seamus Hillery '24**, **Joshua Hemmerling '24**, **Colin Tupis '24**, Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J., **Jack Miranda '24**, **Anthony Lana '24**, **Alex Duggan '24** and **James Sutton '24**.



Another group of juniors responding to the Ignatian call to service, left, during winter break traveled to Richmond, Virginia, and helped in various capacities at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Parish. Pictured with some parishoners are, left to right (in the top row): Director of Counseling and Guidance **Ann Marie Moscovic**, **Domenico Callocchia '24**, **Rowan McNeil '24**, **Frank Wiedemer '24**, **Colton Schoenberger '24**, **Brayden Sheehan '24**; (third row) **Adamo Shugg '24**, **Brian Lin '24** and **John Benz '24**; and Jesuit novice **Nico Lignore, n.S.J.** (second row, far right).



This image of the home of **Brady Karas '23** was seen by millions on social media in the days after the life-threatening injury to the Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin. "I just wanted to do something [for Hamlin]," said Karas, who engineered the light projection system and designs various displays on his family's Lancaster home.



Arcangelo Capozzolo '24 was presented with the American Legion Auxiliary Youth Hero Award for containing a fire in his next-door neighbor's garage last fall. The award, presented by Rosemary C. O'Connell, President of Niagara Frontier American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1041, is given to a youth who demonstrates a physical act of valor and serves as an inspirational role model.



THE BPO AT CHS

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's wonderful April visit showed why the Scaccia Auditorium was built nearly 100 years ago: For beautiful musical performances. Conductor Fernanda Lastra led a tremendous hour-long set by the BPO, which actually called Scaccia Auditorium its home for a time – after the Elmwood Music Hall was demolished in 1938 and before Kleinhans Music Hall opened in 1940.

PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX OF THE BUFFALO NEWS



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MILES ABBATE-KIRBY '24

"Canisius has helped my transition from a boy to a man."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (City Honors)

WHY CANISIUS: I didn't feel like my previous school was the right fit and my mom mentioned Canisius. I also had friends that were already going so I said why not. It's been the best decision of my life. I've made brothers for life and gotten closer to God.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy studying English and history. Mr. (David) Hayes '87 was the first teacher that really made me want to learn. He teaches history like he's reading a story. I always look forward to listening to him.

RETREATS: I went on the Mexico Immersion Trip during Spring Break. It was an incredible experience, learning about their culture, meeting the people and helping their church.



HOMETOWN: Lancaster (Lancaster Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS: After a couple of friends convinced me and my mom to do HAP (the annual summer Higher Achievement Program), I fell in love with Canisius and never could get enough of the experience I had during the summer. It has been fantastic, exceeding all of my and my family's expectations.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy studying science here – there are many different types of equipment throughout the department that gives us a deeper look into the different aspects of science. Also,



MY HOUSE: Champion. It's always fun having some friendly competition with your brothers.

FUTURE PLANS: I'm planning on going to St. Joseph's University and majoring in finance. My main goal is to pursue real estate.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: As Father Fred (Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.) would say: Don't be afraid; lean in and let God do the rest. Try to get involved as much as possible and go talk to teachers when you need to, it really helps.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped my transformation from a boy to a man. It has taught me responsibility and discipline, and it's also taught me it's OK to be vulnerable.

ROBERT DICKEY '25

"Canisius helped me realize my true potential as a person and a student."

Fr. Frederico (Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.) has been very welcoming, has always set the bar high for me and really brought out my true potential as a student and person.

RETREATS: I had a great time on Emmaus 182 and it really opened my eyes to the beauty of nature that had been overlooked by electronics and worries. On the retreat my mind was clear, and I had a chance to reset as a person for my community and a person for my faith.

MY HOUSE: Loyola. The House System is a great way to help the freshmen get a sense of what is expected at Canisius. I get to help freshmen understand things that they are having trouble with.

FUTURE PLANS: To get a degree in sports medicine to stay close to hockey even after I am finished with school.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Take every opportunity to do something to help others. Something small can go a long way in many people's eyes.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius helped me realize my true potential as a person and student and improved my ways of thinking.

MAKAI GADLEY '24

"This is a brotherhood."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo/Cheektowaga (Tapestry Charter)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBER: Malik Gadley '19 (brother).

WHY CANISIUS: Mostly because my brother was an alum and my parents and I thought it would be the right fit for me. Coming to Canisius has been an eye-opening experience that has helped me learn and grow throughout my high school years.

ONE CANISIUS: This is a brotherhood and we will accept you for who you are.

ACADEMICS: A teacher that has made an impression on me has to be Mrs. (Lisa) Schrader, my 11th-grade chemistry teacher. She has encouraged me to pursue my academic studies into the science field and has given me an overall enjoyable learning experience.

ARTS: The best aspect of the arts at Canisius is your ability to be creative without getting shot down and allowing your creativity to flow.

RETREATS: I went on Kairos during my junior year. The experience



you will have is like no other and I highly recommend it.

MY HOUSE: Xavier. The CHS House System is a solid way to connect with more students throughout the school. My favorite part is the environment as a whole, the balance of seriousness and enjoyment.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan to pursue a career in the medical field and eventually become an anesthesiologist one day.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: You should try to find something fun about your learning and not see it as a chore.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me into a very responsible and respectful young man.



CHARLES GRABER '24

"There is nowhere else quite like Canisius."

as a student, athlete, or artist, but as a person. My classmates and I truly learn what it means to live and serve as a "Man for Others."

ACADEMICS: My favorite subject is history. I really enjoyed AP European History with Mr. (Dennis) Beecher '88. Father 'C' (President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.) and I have become very close over the past few years. He has given me great advice as I begin to navigate the college application process.

RETREATS: Kairos was particularly moving as I grew closer to my classmates and God. All should consider partaking in a retreat.

MY HOUSE: Champion. I have made great friends in my Mentor Group and have been able to act as a mentor to underclassmen.

FUTURE PLANS: Study finance at an accomplished university; eventually, I hope to work in investment banking in a major city.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Take advantage of it all. Four years go by fast, and there is nowhere else quite like Canisius.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me develop into a leader. I know I am setting an example for my classmates. I remember looking up to the upperclassmen and seeing the example they set when I first started at Canisius, and I think I have been able to be that person for others.

HOMETOWN: Orchard Park (Nativity of Our Lord School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Edward Graber '82 (father); Mike Graber '80, Tim Graber '83 and David Downing '83 (uncles); David Downing Jr. '18, Ethan Downing '20, Stephen Downing '16, Joe Downing '16, Harry Clough '14, Mike Graber Jr. '06, Joseph Graber '07 (cousins).

WHY CANISIUS: Growing up, family members always spoke very highly of the school and their memories here. I wanted to share in that bond. Canisius offers every chance to grow not only

DYRELL HOWARD-DOLSON '24

"Canisius is very welcoming to anyone in need."

HOMETOWN: Niagara Falls (Gaskill Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS: Canisius was a much better opportunity for me to have a successful high school career. Canisius is very welcoming and opens its arms to anyone in need, which has made my stay at Canisius very comfortable, special and in a very friendly environment.

ACADEMICS: Campus Minister and teacher **Mr. (Ron) Ahrens '91** has been a great mentor since freshman year English – not only teaching about English class but real-life things like stocks. He is a very genuine person. I enjoy studying science because it comes easily and science can help create progress in the future.

ATHLETICS: Football. Our football team is more than just a team, it's a family. Even with different coaches throughout the years, the



players have stayed together – no matter what.

MY HOUSE: Gonzaga. The CHS House System is a good thing for motivation as the houses compete for points. My favorite part is the House Games because it brings out the competitive nature that is naturally instilled in boys.

FUTURE PLANS: Play football in college and hopefully make it to the NFL.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Before Canisius, I was very introverted – but throughout my time here I have been breaking out of that introverted shell.



ELI NOBLE '23

"Canisius completely changed my life."

HOMETOWN: Williamsville (Transit Middle School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBER: Nathan Noble '20 (brother).

WHY CANISIUS: Canisius felt like the best place for me to become a better student and individual. Canisius completely changed my life – the friendships I have created with my classmates are relationships I hope to carry with me throughout my life.

ONE CANISIUS: The idea of Canisius being a school just for boys who are Catholic is completely false. Being of a different religion,

I have found every student and faculty member has given me the same respect as anyone else. They have also given me the chance to express my own beliefs and how I feel about certain topics.

ACADEMICS: Latin teacher Mr. (John) Anderson is really down to earth. He is someone that I know I can talk to if I need to, no matter if it's good or bad.

MY HOUSE: Jagues. My favorite part is the Mentor Group. When I first started at Canisius, the upperclassmen in my Mentor Group truly helped me fit in and helped push me outside my comfort zone. As I grew into the upperclassman role, I cherished it as I felt it was my duty to help the freshmen and sophomores get in the groove of Canisius just like past upperclassmen did for me.

FUTURE PLANS: I will attend Michigan State this fall.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Get involved and buy into what you are taught about being a better man.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius instilled confidence in me. Before, no one pushed me to do things I wasn't comfortable with. Canisius forced me to do things I never would have done, and it has shown me I can be successful doing them.

GIACOMO PILI '25

"Your time at Canisius will be life-changing."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Park Tudor School, Indianapolis)

WHY CANISIUS: Mostly because my dad wanted me to experience a Jesuit education. When he was younger, he attended a Jesuit school in Rome. His experience was life-changing. I believed that I would also be on a life-changing journey at Canisius. It's been an eye-opening experience to be a part of this brotherly community.

ACADEMICS: Mr. (Brian) Spurlock has been very inspiring for me. At first, chemistry was one of the hardest classes I've taken at Canisius. He creates a room where all students feel comfortable to learn and share what's on their mind. I love studying history. **Mr. (Dennis) Beecher '88** has been a great teacher of AP History; it has been challenging but has helped my time management.

SERVICE: I tutor kids at NativityMiguel Middle School with two other CHS students. It's nice to see them enjoy studying and I hope to see them at Canisius very soon.

RETREATS: Retreats are one of the many things that makes Canisius special. When I went to Emmaus, I was nervous. But when it ended,



I was sad to leave with all the memories I had made. Retreats bring you out of your comfort zone and I highly recommend them.

MY HOUSE: Xavier. The House System is an important aspect of why Canisius is different from other schools.

FUTURE PLANS: To play college soccer and get the best education I can possibly get.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: It's going to be difficult. Accept your mistakes instead of denying them and always strive to be your best self. Your time at Canisius will be life-changing.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me with my time management and learn to become responsible for my mistakes.



JACK RILEY '25

"I wanted to surround myself with the smartest students in Buffalo."

a big impression on me. I really enjoyed my freshman English honors course, where he taught us what it means to be a man. I enjoy studying history the most. I believe it's important to learn from our past in order to create a brighter future.

ATHLETICS: Sailing and track. Athletics are important at Canisius in order to stay physically and mentally fit.

SERVICE: Doing service for Canisius is an amazing opportunity to help others and be grateful for what we have. Service is about sharing the excess that we have and that includes our time.

MY HOUSE: Arrupe – the champions of the 2022-23 House Cup. The CHS House System is just another subdivision in the brotherhood of Canisius. It's like a family that works together.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Take advantage of everything Canisius has to offer. Don't be distant from your classmates. Put yourself out there and try to make friends because there's a place for everyone here – you just need to find it. Whether that's being part of a club or a team, don't be scared of trying new sports or hobbies.

HOMETOWN: Youngstown (Stella Niagara Education Park Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose Canisius because I wanted to surround myself and make friends with the smartest students in Buffalo. Canisius was the place to be.

ONE CANISIUS: I have become friends with so many different people that it helps put the world in perspective.

ACADEMICS: English teacher **Mr. (Paul) Cumbo '97** has made

DAVID ROMANOVICH '25

"There is a real brotherhood here."

HOMETOWN: Williamsville (St. Gregory the Great School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose to attend Canisius because I loved the positive and academic environment and community. There is a real brotherhood here where everyone is willing to help out and it has given me a great high school experience. My Canisius experience has been incredible and I have loved every minute of it.

ATHLETICS: Soccer, squash and track. Sports are important for me because they have allowed me to meet tons of new people and are the reason I met most of my friends.

ARTS: The band has been a great experience so far because it has definitely increased my skill and brought my interest to a new level.

RETREATS: The retreats at Canisius are an amazing experience. They are a great way to get to know your classmates in a way that you may have never gotten a chance to.

MY HOUSE: Arrupe. It's a great way to further connect students. My favorite part is the Tyrpak House Cup because winning it and getting special privileges the next year makes the whole system



really fun.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan on living my full high school life and then getting into a good college for chemical engineering.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: If you are on the fence about anything, just do it. There's no harm in trying something out. If you miss your opportunity, you may never get another chance to do it.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me much more sociable. Brotherhood is an extremely powerful force. I never knew how strong a brotherhood could be until I got here and fully experienced it.



ZEKIAH THOMANN '25

"Canisius has helped me strive to be better because of the great people around me."

people that I would never have met otherwise.

ACADEMICS: The teacher that has left the biggest impression on me is history teacher Mr. (Craig) Hinchcliffe because of the way he looks at the world. I enjoy studying math because there is something satisfying about solving an equation.

ATHLETICS: Lacrosse and hockey. They're important because it's fun to play with your friends and compete for a championship.

RETREATS: At first I thought I wouldn't really enjoy myself, but it surprised me. It was a really great experience – the perfect balance of fun and serious discussion makes it great.

MY HOUSE: Jogues. It's cool because it creates a community and makes it so you can meet kids older and younger than you.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: If you work hard, listen to your teachers and study, you will do great and love it here.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me strive to be better because of the great people around me. It's a wonderful place and my experience has been great – I've done things I would have never done, such as retreats and service.

HOMETOWN: Clarence (Clarence Middle School)

ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS: Xavier Thomann '24 (brother), Josh Thomann '01 (father), Jack Thomann '68 (grandfather), Andrew Thomann '03 (uncle), Tim Thomann '05 (uncle).

WHY CANISIUS: I attended Canisius because it's a tradition in my family. My dad, grandpa, brother and some of my uncles went to CHS. Also, it looked very appealing to me because the facilities are great. My experience has been great; I've met tons of new

DAQUAM WILLIAMS '25

"The teachers are always here to help."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (St. Joseph University School)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose to attend Canisius because I wanted to learn more about serving others in the community. I've had a great experience thus far – the teachers are willing to help with anything you need.

ONE CANISIUS: It means everyone is treated the same way.

ACADEMICS: Math teacher **Mr. (Joe) Zera '01** has made an impression on me because he helps me with math and I feel like I can be open with him.

ARTS: I enjoy studying art the most because there are many ways to practice art. Art is important because it is a way to express your emotions through drawings.

SERVICE: Canisius has very helpful service activities, through community service to helping with homework.

MY HOUSE: Campion. The CHS House System is a great way



to promote friendly competition and work together, and it's a great way to get to know other students, including from different grades.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan to go to college and become an architect.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: My advice is to always do your homework – try your hardest to keep your grades up.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: Canisius helped me grow through the advice of others. The teachers are always here to help whenever you need it.





GAMBIT XLVIII



It was another spectacular night for our signature auction fundraiser at GAMBIT XLVIII.

More than 500 celebrated and bid on standout items to help raise hundreds of thousands in scholarship money.

The most special part of the night saw three students speak about the profound impact Canisius High School has had on them during some of their toughest times. **Vincent Zimmerman '24**, **Koch Akuey '23** and **Miles Abbate-Kirby '24** (left to right) told their CHS stories as part of our Raise The Paddle fundraising effort to establish the Fr. C Canisius Cares Scholarship.

The funds raised will be used as an emergency fund so Canisius can step in and provide much-needed assistance to students who experience hardships during their time at CHS. You can still Raise The Paddle to support the Fr. C Canisius Cares scholarship fund at canisiushigh.org/canisiuscares.



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

SAVE THE DATE!
GAMBIT XLIX
MARCH 23, 2024

- WATCH VIDEOS AND VIEW HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS
- BE PART OF NEXT YEAR'S EVENT BY VOLUNTEERING
[VISIT CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/GAMBIT](http://VISITCANISIUSHIGH.ORG/GAMBIT)



GAMBIT is a year-round project spearheaded by **Kelly Wilkens P '21**, our director of special events, and our parent co-chairs (pictured above, left to right, with Fr. Ciancimino): Diane and **Ryan Den Haese P '25**; Kari and **Marco Cercone P '23**; and Jennifer and **Mike Ball '91, P '23**.



Evan Healy '23, Aiden Mecca '24, Austin McMullen '24 and **Kelly Wilkens** (left to right) react to some of the auction action, which included bids from CHS Trustee **Rick Ganci '96** (paddle 204), **Joseph Coppola '89** (151) and **Robert Gallagher Jr. P '25** (standing above next to **Max Mathien '23**).



JUG NIGHT!



The Class of 1989 raises a glass (left to right): **Jim Croad '89**, **John Bulbulia '89**, **Todd Patti '89**, **Mike Jones '89**, **Patrick Miner '89**, **Tom Balthasar '89** and **Dennis Schaeffer '89**.

It was great to see so many alumni at a tremendous Jug Night 2023! Alums caught up in our Scaccia Auditorium with steak and cocktails from Marble + Rye and Tommyrotter Distillery, craft beer from Try-It Distributing, cigars hand-rolled from Buffalo Cigars and an array of gaming tables.



Left to right: **Stafford Trueheart '16** catches up with **Nick Renkas '16** and **Harlan Mostiller '16**.

SAVE THE DATE:
JUG NIGHT 2024
FRIDAY, JAN. 19

FOR MANY MORE PHOTOS OF
JUG NIGHT 2023, GO TO
[CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/JUGNIGHT](https://canisiushigh.org/jugnight)



A.J. Herer '13
and **Garret Papiernik '13** (left to right) celebrate a win at the gaming tables on the stage, getting a smile out of **Chris Naylor '12**.

A Class of 2016 huddle-up included (left to right): **Ryan Coppola '16**, **Ian Clark-Gullick '16**, **Stafford Trueheart '16**, **Nicolo Hernandez '16**, **Nick Renkas '16**, **Nick Stinson '16**, **Andrew Sagun '16**, **Max Schectman '16**.



Frank Riordan '58 shares a laugh with Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91**; **John McNeil '91** snaps a shot of the party scene of the Scaccia Auditorium stage; **Matt Zambito '09** (left) and **Luigi Rodo '02** check out the offerings at the cigar table.



Photo courtesy of Matt Russell.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE, MARK RUSSELL '50

"I was constantly in trouble, irreverent, poking fun at authority. Basically, I figured out a way to turn 'Jug' into a livelihood, and I am eternally grateful – it's a part of my act."

Mark Russell '50 said that during a 1995 celebration of Canisius High School's 125th anniversary at which he was the headliner.

Russell, who died March 30 at his home in Washington, D.C. at the age of 90, became one of Canisius High



MARK J. RUSLANDER

School's most famous alums, renowned for being one of the nation's foremost political satirists. The bespectacled and bow-tied Russell performed comedic routines at his piano for more than five decades, gaining widespread fame for his public television specials, many of which were recorded at Buffalo's WNED.

A member of our Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor, Russell was a Marine veteran who served in Japan and

Erik Brady '72 wrote about Russell in a tribute column in *The Buffalo News*. An excerpt:

"My heart is in Washington," Russell liked to say, "but my soul is in Buffalo."

His soul has a new address now. And we're pretty sure he's leaving an audience of angels laughing in the celestial aisles.

The sounds of laughter and of music are as close as mere mortals can get to heaven on earth. Mark Russell, God bless him, gave us both.

Hawaii. In 1956, he changed his surname from Ruslander to Russell and began playing piano in bars in the Washington, D.C. area. He played special shows at CHS to raise money for the school, and the Mark Russell '50 Scholarship was established in 1997 to celebrate his 65th birthday.

A 1977 profile in *The Citadel* student newspaper, written by **Richard Biffel '78**, opened with the statement that among CHS alumni, "few, if any, are as famous or as popular as comedian Mark Russell of the Class of 1950."

Of Russell's many quips, the most renowned about CHS might be this one, repeated often: "After Canisius High School, Marine Boot Camp was a piece of cake."



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Share news about yourself or any alum! Email the details and photos to CHStoday@canisiushigh.org

Braydon Vandenberg '22 posed in front of the photo of himself in the Blue Crew mural on the wall of the Kennedy Field House last spring after signing with the University at Buffalo; in February he won the New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championship at 197 pounds.



Bill Weppner '53, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Southwest Tennessee Community College, was named a 2022 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty by the American Association of Community

Colleges. "Why, at 87, am I still in the classroom? It's fun and I'm good at it!" Named in honor of former AACC President and CEO Dale P. Parnell, this award recognizes those making a difference in the classroom through passion for students. The awards presentation was in New York City; he is pictured with Southwest President Tracy D. Hall.

Jim Davern '59 was selected as a contributor to the University at Buffalo's Oral History Project, in which he expressed his gratitude for UB and its effect on his life and attributed his success in part to "graduating from a very fine Catholic high school (Canisius)." Davern retired in 2000 after a successful 35-year career on the business side of the Erie County Department of Social Services.

James R. Corda '60 celebrated 56 years of marriage. He has three children, including son John Corda '02, and four grandchildren.

Dr. Frederick M. Occhino '61 is "enjoying my octogenarian life with my family and dogs, and playing bocce daily."



We had a fantastic March gathering in the Sunshine State at the Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter as host **Rocco Maggiotto '68** (fifth from left, standing) welcomed a great group which heard from Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91** and Director of Alumni Relations **Jay Josker '01**.

LTC Richard J. Herrmann, USA (Ret.) '62 serves on the Amherst Town Council Veterans Committee and on the Executive Board at the American Legion's George F. Lamm Post No. 622.

Paul M. O'Bara, PT '66 retired from being a physical therapist; he now does volunteer work for his local church and for Christian television network.

David J. Peer '68 retired from Siemens and Dresser-Rand; he still consults on the design of rotating equipment during inclement weather.



Hon. Patrick NeMoyer '70 concluded a standout legal career with his retirement from the New York State Supreme Court. NeMoyer served as Erie County Attorney from 1988 to 1993, when President Bill Clinton nominated him to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, a position he

held until his election to the State Supreme Court bench in 1997. His involvement with professional and civic organizations includes his longtime service as a member of the New York State Pattern Civil Jury Instructions Committee and his work on the board of directors of the CHC Learning Center in Amherst. He was named Judge of the Year by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Western District, in 2006, by the bar association's Commercial and Bankruptcy Committee in 2001 and by its Family Law Committee in 2000.



Scottsdale, Arizona was a great setting for a winter golf outing for these members of the Class of 1970 (left to right): **Mark Giangreco, Phil Perna, Rob Schuster, Jeff Weiss, Tim Burns, Jack Scanlon, Tom Urban** and **Dennis McCleary**.

James R. Connelly '71 recently retired from teaching in Alaska, where he has been living since 1986.

Michael Kubiniec '79 was elected to the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education in Iredell County, North Carolina. Iredell-Statesville consists of 37 schools, 2,700 employees and 20,000 students. It has seven board-elected members. This was Kubiniec's first time running for political office and he received more than 66 percent of the vote in his district. Kubiniec's term is four years; he was also selected as the Vice Chairman.



Thomas R. Thielman '82 received the Captain Donald G. Wright Sr. Memorial Award in recognition for outstanding service and dedication to the Amherst Police Department. Thielman, pictured with wife Kathleen, began his career as an Amherst patrolman in 1997 and was promoted to Detective in 2015. The Amherst Police Club's award presentation included: "His true value to the department has been the relationships he has built with both members and the citizens of the town he has encountered along the way. ... Tom has always been a true professional, always going above and beyond while working a case. Any victim who encountered Tom always came away with a greater appreciation of the Amherst Police Department due to his compassion and work ethic."

Mark S. Nemeth '83 joined the law firm of Hurwitz Fine as a member (partner) in the firm's Toxic Tort/Environmental Law practice group. An active member of his community, he served as Grand Island Town Prosecutor for 15 years; in 2019, he was elected Grand Island Town Justice.

Richard I. Kralik '84 started a venture capital firm called Magyar Capital, LLC. The firm invests in start-up companies.

Michael L. DeNisco II '88 was promoted to Tax Manager at Citrin Cooperman.



Rich Blake '86 (pictured between **Eugene Genco '86**, left, and **Ed Cosgrove '86**) was the guest speaker at this year's Father & Son Communion Mass and Breakfast, hosted by the Canisius High School Parents

Association at St. Michael Church and Pearl Street Grill. "Canisius classmates are family. Remember that special bond," said Blake, an author and journalist. "I took from Canisius guiding influences and a terrific education ... and I'd say what I took away most of all was the friendships. Friendships that I cherish and wouldn't trade for anything in the world. Canisius, in the end, is what you make of it. And it can be the little things: The quiet nooks in the library. The grandeur of the spiral staircase. This is our thing. Cherish it."

KEVIN MCGOWAN '92: NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



Kevin McGowan '92 is the National Superintendent of the Year.

McGowan, Superintendent of the Brighton Central School District in the Rochester area, was announced in December as one of four finalists for the 2023 National Superintendent of the Year, awarded by the AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

The AASA honors school system leaders who are making a positive difference in the lives of the students they serve and ensuring the safety and wellness of their schools.

Daniel A. Domenech, AASA executive director, said: "Navigating the myriad of challenges that school districts face on an ongoing basis requires unparalleled leadership. Kevin McGowan exemplifies a leader who is excelling on the job on behalf of the learning community he serves."

McGowan was announced as the winner during the AASA's National Conference on Education in February in San Antonio, Texas.

"The work that's happening in our district for children is approaching a place where people are noticing the gaps we've closed for children, the work that's gone into that and the leadership that's been provided to support each child and each family," McGowan said. "This is really such a recognition of that work."

CHS IN THE POWER 250

Buffalo Business First named its 11th annual Power 250, its list of "powerful people in Western New York." The high school with the most graduates on the list was again Canisius, with 16 selections (up from last year's 13), including the man at the top of the list:

1. RON RACCUIA '86: Executive Vice President/COO, Buffalo Bills; President, AdPro Sports

13. TOM QUATROCHE, JR. '88: President & CEO, Erie County Medical Center

17. DAVID BAUER '87: President & CEO, National Fuel Gas Co.

26. MICHAEL MONTANTE '86: CEO, Uniland Development Co.

48. WILLIAM LAWLEY '81: Principal, Lawley Insurance

49. KEVIN QUINN '82: Chief Commercial Banking Officer, Five Star Bank

84. MATTHEW WHITEHEAD '98: General Manager – Buffalo, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

90. CARL MONTANTE '60: Executive Chairman, Uniland Development Co.

116. RENIER BRENTJENS '85: Deputy Director & Chair, Department of Medicine, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

147. DANIEL SCULLY '79: CEO, Buffalo Medical Group

152. MICHAEL MINEO '96: Chief Medical Officer, Kaleida Health

158. DAVID UBA '87: CEO, Excelsior Orthopaedics

184. JAMES BASIL '80: President, Joe Basil Chevrolet

196. MARTIN BORYSZAK '96: Senior Vice President, Catholic Health; President, Mercy Hospital

201. FRANK DOWNING, JR. '82: President, Town Auto Group

205. THOMAS MONTANTE '61: CEO, Montante Group



Rick Oliveri '03 was named the Middle Atlantic Conference's Freedom Division Coach of the Year in leading Lycoming College's first baseball season since 1971. Oliveri helped restart the program over the last two years and the Warriors were in the playoff hunt this year until the final regular-season weekend.



Mark Talley '07 released a new book "5/14: The Day the Devil Came to Buffalo," which recalls events of the 2022 Jefferson Avenue Tops shooting. "This book documents the harrowing aftermath of the racist Tops terrorist attack in which my mother was one of the 10 African-Americans killed that day," he said. "It sheds light on my mother

and I relationship growing up and how the terrorist attack had a significant impact on my personal and professional life." Talley was profiled by NBC affiliate WGRZ-TV in its "Selfless Among Us" series. "It's not the life I chose but it chose me," said Talley, who founded the nonprofit Agents for Advocacy last year.

Alexander C. Hilton '09 received his Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon.

Matthew DeBoth '10, right, was an online sensation for Buffalonians and Bills fans after he gave an epic shoutout to several Bills players on The Price Is Right.



DeBoth went on to spin his way into the Showcase Showdown and then win the show (along with prizes of \$42,000).

Michael R. Kozlowski '11 graduated from Canisius College with a Computer Science degree and is now pursuing a Master's in Cybersecurity at Canisius University.

Cole Townsend '11, one of the most accomplished runners in CHS history who still is the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association record holder in the 3,200 meters, was a pacer/running guide in the Boston Marathon for the second time. He was a pacer for Brazilian Ary Diaas, a blind para-athlete. Dias placed second in his division with a time of 2:46:15.

Mark A. Hilton '13 received his PhD from Vanderbilt; he has a wedding planned for August 2023.

Danny Minogue '13 won a competition to earn the title of WYRK's 2023 Taste of Country Riser and an appearance at the annual music festival at Sahlen Field with acts such as Dierks Bentley and Big & Rich.

Kyle Clarey '14 was recently promoted to manager of Corporate Development and Strategy at McDonald's Corporation in Chicago.

Kevin Driscoll '14, a member of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's Class of 2023, was the recipient of the college's Alice J. Coppola Memorial Internal Medicine Award.



The Nile River restaurant's new location in the renovated Downtown Bazaar market at 617 Main St. was blessed by former Director of Ministry Fr. Fred Betti, S.J. (left). Considered the home of Western New York's best Southern Sudan cuisine, the restaurant is run by Akec Aguer and the Doar family, which includes several CHS alums including **Garang Doar '15** (right).



George Burnett '18 (center), who was Mr. Canisius 2018, portrayed St. Nick while brother **James '22** (left) and **Patrick Merlo '22** performed their annual holiday string concert for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Clarence; the performance is in gratitude for the guidance of Sisters Jeanne Eberle, SSJ (left), and Kathleen Barrett, SSJ, who taught the brothers at St. Mark's School.



Troy Gooch '18 and the UCLA men's volleyball team won the NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball Championship by beating Hawaii at EagleBank Arena in Fairfax, Va. Gooch started every match for UCLA this season at libero after transferring from Purdue Fort Wayne, and the Lancaster native was an Honorable Mention AVCA All-America selection. He had a season-high 15 digs in the championship game, and he was named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team. Gooch was part of Canisius High School Volleyball's current streak of 23 straight Monsignor Martin Athletic Association championships, as was brother **Trevor Gooch '15** and father Dennis, a longtime assistant coach for the Crusaders. Trevor Gooch was the CHS head coach for the 2021 season.



Paul Woods '18 was the recipient of the University of Rhode Island's Jackie Robinson Award, which is presented to a senior male athlete in recognition of an outstanding performance in sports that highlighted skills of good sportsmanship and the best qualities of the scholar-athlete.



Chris Fiorella '19 and **David Dobrasz '19** helped the Canisius College Sport Management department raise more than \$3,000 this February for the Devin Waring Foundation. The group raised funds and awareness to mental health and suicide prevention through various events, including a cornhole tournament, multiple raffles, a bake sale and the selling of wristbands.

The Devin Waring Foundation was formed in memory of Devin Waring, who died by suicide at 17 while a student at CHS. The foundation's mission is to "bring awareness of the darkness of suicide" and to

continuously raise money for the awareness of suicide and its prevention. The check was presented by the sport management department to Devin's family, including brother **Owen Waring '19**.

Buffalo band DaisyChain, featuring University at Buffalo student **Joseph Gogan '19** as well as **Matthew Riley '19**, gave the inaugural performance in The UB Spectrum's new concert series – located right in the office of the student newspaper, which reviewed the band. "The longtime friends, who attended Canisius High School together, have a certain camaraderie that's quite apparent both on and off stage that fuels their shared songwriting process."

Jahare Hudson '20 was featured by The Buffalo News in a story on Canisius College's Urban Leadership Learning Community. Hudson, the president of the Undergraduate Student Association, is double majoring in psychology and sociology with a minor in clinical counseling for adults. He plans to pursue a doctorate and start a private practice.

Vincent Mauro '21 became just the third Niagara University baseball player since 2000 to hit for the cycle this spring. The son of Director of Athletics Jim Mauro capped off the cycle with a grand slam.

Andrew Kang '22 performed at famed Carnegie Hall in February as part of Boston College's Liturgy Arts Group. "To call performing at Carnegie Hall a 'once in a lifetime opportunity' would be a lie, considering many musicians spend their entire career without having stepped a foot inside," said Kang. "I want to thank Canisius for reminding me that I will always have a place with the Church and in the love of God. Had it not been for all the masses at which I've sung, my confessions with Father Zanoni, and Kairos 114 with my amazing group, I do not know where my faith would have led me." Kang also performed in Ireland this spring with BC's University Chorale.

Brian Manning '22 was on the Clarkson Diesel Snowmobile Team that won several honors, including best design paper, at the Society of Auto Engineers Clean Snowmobile Challenge hosted by the Milwaukee Chapter of SAE. Manning is studying mechanical engineering at Clarkson.

WEDDINGS



Dr. Paul D. O'Connor '09 and Angella Francesca Aliaga were married on August 20, 2022 at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo.



Whit Mittlefehldt '10 married Grace Tomczak May 20, 2022 at St. Michael's Church.

BIRTHS



Phil Frandina '07 and his wife Jessica celebrated the birth of their third child, Luke Alan (left) on September 14, 2022.

Stephen W. Sroka '08 and wife, Maggie, welcomed their first baby, Stephen Joseph "Joey" Sroka, on March 23, 2023.

BAPTISMS



Tyler Dunn '05 celebrated the baptism of son Becket William Dunn (left). Three generations of CHS graduates were in attendance, including **Jim Dunn '78** and **Joe Dunn '55**; the celebrant was Fr. Fred Betti, S.J.

Ryan Brogan '06 and wife Brooke celebrated the baptism of their son Levi.





IN MEMORIAM

*We remember alumni of whose passing
we have learned since Fall 2022.*

James R. May '46

Arthur J. Woltz '47

James L. Murphy '48

Dr. John E. Breen '49

Edwin L. Kantowski, Jr. '49

Michael J. McNulty '49

Dr. Norman S. Swack '49

Richard D. Grisanti '50

Frank J. Knab '50

Mark Russell '50

Robert P. Frucella '51

John G. Guenther '51

Rev. Mark M. Friel '52

Fedele A. Porreca '52

Dr. John W. Cudmore '54

Franklin T. Gaglione '54

David G. Swanz '54

Richard C. Riederer '55

Dr. Donald W. Fornes, Jr. '56

Peter J. Privitera '56

Dr. Ronald C. Wendling '56

Bernard E. Gustina '57

T. John Jendrasiak '57

Jerome E. Kaczmarek '57

Joseph W. Lowicki '57

Joseph W. Weber '57

Dr. James H. Faux '58

Arthur T. Koch '59

James F. Fitzgerald '61

Michael F. Wacks '62

Rev. Robert A. Martin '63

Robert P. Higgins '67

Joseph J. Zavisca '67

James P. Larkin '70

Harold A. Egan III '71

William P. Wiles '72

Mark J. Kaczanowski '83

Michael A. Zawierucha '90

Jason D. Arno '03



CLASS OF 2023

Members of the Class of 2023 were invited to wear their college sweatshirt for a photo taken prior to graduation rehearsal. This year's class collectively earned over \$19 million in college scholarships.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM WOLF / LEVI TRIMBLE