CRUSADER CONNECTION

BISHOP HEELAN HIGH SCHOOL



Fall 2023 *A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends* *www.bishopheelan.org | Sioux City, IA*

Why Iowans Should Consider a Gift of Catholic Education

What is the Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation? (MLTF)
It is a foundation with the Diocese of Sioux City that offers a 75% Iowa Tax Credit to persons and businesses that donate to help students with tuition.

How many Heelan System students receive tuition help?
532 students in grades K-12 received tuition grants in 2022-23.

Do tax advisors know about MLTF?
They do! A 75% Iowa tax credit is significant, and far more powerful than a deduction. Many who donate enjoy federal tax benefits, too.

Does Heelan have a goal for gifts?
YES! PLEASE help us reach our goal of $1,052,081, the highest in the Diocese, so our students don't lose out on vital tuition support.

Do you have to be wealthy or Catholic to support MLTF?
No. Donations range from $25 on up. We have generous Catholic and non-Catholics who provide donations of all sizes.

What is the deadline for donations?
Dec. 31, 2023 or until credits are gone.

How do I claim my Tax Credit?
A Tax Credit Certificate will be mailed to you in January to file with your tax returns.

Who will I help with a gift?
Bishop Heelan Catholic school students in every classroom; athletes; students in music, theater, debate and more; teens who pray in school and K-8 students, too.

How do I donate?
Give online or find the printed gift form at bishopheelan.org/MLTF. Questions? Call 712-252-1350. You can give in several ways. Write a check. Use your credit card. Donate stock or Donate grain.





1949 75 YEARS 2024

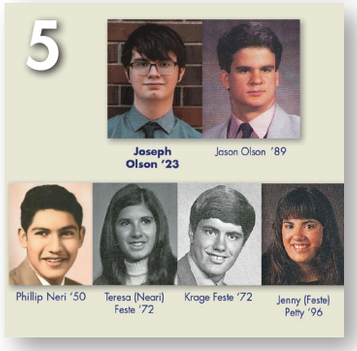
Save The Date
All-School Reunion for June 21-23, 2024

2023

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Want to enjoy our *Heelan Highline* Enewsletter with short news highlights each month?
Email zachary.james@bishopheelan.org

CRUSADER CONNECTION

The Crusader Connection is published once a year for alumni and friends of Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools, a private PK-12 school system in Sioux City, Iowa.

Our Mission
The Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools relate the total student to God through an excellent education leading toward a lifetime of service.

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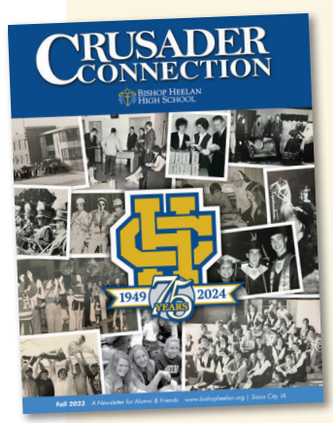
Mater Dei School Principal
Mary Fischer

Sacred Heart & Cathedral Dual Language Academy Principal
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On the cover
Bishop Heelan High School is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and it's always great to look at collections of past photos!

A "Touch" of Heelan History

by Janet Flanagan '71

A large touch screen TV was installed this spring over a floor-to-ceiling mural of old Heelan High School in Heelan's main hallway to display Heelan Shield yearbooks, history, academic achievers, athletic records, fine arts and more.

The new "Touchwall" at Heelan displays a newly built website with three major tabs for academics and alumni, activities and athletics.

Students, staff and visitors can access photos and videos at the touch of a finger. Content also can be viewed from anywhere by visiting bishopheelan.touchpros.com.

The TouchWall can now provide a place for alumni, students and fans to access Bishop Heelan history, said co-athletic director Jay Wright. Wright has been compiling Crusader boys and girls sports records for years.



Bishop Heelan students enjoying the new touchwall.

"We have talked with a rep about this project for years," Wright said. "We're excited to showcase our graduates, Heelan history and achievement to students, staff and visitors in our building and alumni anywhere."

Once again donors have made a difference, said Tom Betz '85, BHCS vice president of advancement.

"Dozens of our alumni and parents believed in this project and donated nearly $12,000 in Siouxland Big Give last October," Betz said. "Every yearbook page has been scanned for the touchwall. Photos and info are being added. Our old high school may be gone but Heelan history will live on in this Touchwall and website."

Information will be steadily added to the wall in the months and years ahead to showcase accomplished alumni, alumni military service, state championship games and highlight videos, Crusader of the Year and Volunteer of the Year award recipients and more.

Scan the QR code to check out the online TouchWall, or visit the physical location the next time you're at Bishop Heelan High School!

TOUCHWALL

To see the TouchWall online, scan the QR code!

Students First Act Brings New Opportunities

The Students First Act was introduced in January for families who wanted to attend private schools just like Bishop Heelan, but could not afford it.

The bill passed Iowa legislation, and shortly after, BHCS President John Flanery and other leaders went right to work to figure out a plan for new and current families.

During the spring, Bishop Heelan rolled out a campaign to not only bring in new families, but also keep current families.

There was a three percent increase in enrollment due to the Students First Act. More importantly, it allowed several hundred current students to attend more affordably throughout our system.

The process will continue into next school year, allowing Iowa-eligible residents to again afford a quality, private Catholic education in Sioux City.



BHCS Director of Enrollment Laurie Dougherty helps a parent fill out her application during an event in June.

The requirements for an Iowa family to be eligible for an Educational Savings Account included: be an Iowa resident, have a student in Kindergarten, be 300% or below federal poverty level or students who transferred from a public school to a private school, such as Bishop Heelan.

Please help us celebrate our 75th year anniversary!

This year we celebrate 75 years of Bishop Heelan Catholic High School! Our doors first opened in the Fall of 1949 and we have a tremendous foundation of faith, academics, service and activities as we look to our future.

Bishop Edmond Heelan brought the Catholic Community together in 1946 to promote the idea of a co-educational high school in central Sioux City. Bishop Heelan served for 30 years as the shepherd of the Diocese of Sioux City and passed away in 1948 at the age of 80, the same year ground broke on the new high school. $1 million was raised and 1021 Douglas Street became the home of Catholic High when they welcomed students that first year. On May 7, 1950, Bishop Joseph Mueller renamed the school in honor of Bishop Edmond Heelan and the first graduating class walked with 142 members.

Between 2014-2019 a new Bishop Heelan Catholic High School was constructed across the street at 1231 Grandview Blvd but many of the traditions and faith-based education continue to be our beacon.

Many dedicated teachers, priests, nuns, students, families and community members have come together over the last 75 years to make Catholic education a priority in the Siouxland community. During this special 75th year, we will take a look back and celebrate the accomplishments of Bishop Heelan Catholic High School.

The 2022-2023 year enjoyed many achievements including seven teams making it to the state tournament and a state title for our Girls Soccer team. The fine arts programs continue to enjoy success as we look forward to our Marching Band performing at the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl in December 2023 and the Heelan Chorale traveling to Italy on tour in June of 2024. Bishop Heelan continues to provide great experiences for our students that assist in leading to a Lifetime Advantage.

Today our entire Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools encompass a PK-12th grade system of over 1,600 students. Our next chapter is going to see growth, viability and vision. Today we reflect on 75 years and the great path you helped us create. God bless you and let's celebrate!



Dr. John Flanery
President

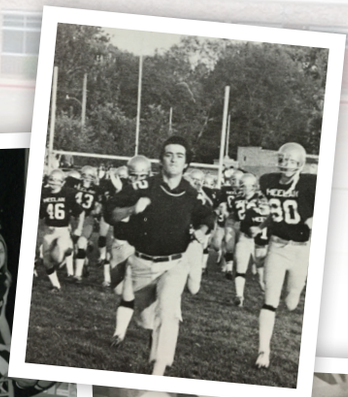




















A Very Successful Athletic Season

Bishop Heelan had seven different teams to the state level in athletics, including one state championship in girls soccer.



The girls soccer championship happened June 3, when the Crusaders defeated Gilbert in the Class 1A title match at Cownie Soccer Complex in Des Moines. Heelan won that match 2-0, thanks to two goals scored by sophomore Trelyn White. Senior goalkeeper Lauren LaFleur recorded another shutout, and she and the Crusaders' defense allowed just one goal in six playoff matches. Heelan ended its season with a 12-match winning streak. The entire varsity roster also earned Academic All-Conference honors.

Here's a look at the other six state-qualifying teams, plus some individuals who earned some state honors:



Volleyball

The Crusaders made it to state for the 25th time, and the three teams they beat to get to state were LeMars, Lewis Central and Norwalk. They finished third in Class 4A in total team blocks (329). Sophomores Maddie LaFleur and Maliyah Hacker were named to the Class 4A All-District team.



Boys golf

The Crusaders qualified for the state meet for the first time in 23 years. They qualified in third place with a team score of 302 at Bent Tree in Council Bluffs.



Girls cross country

After missing a year of state qualifying, the Crusaders got back to state as a team. They finished 11th with Brooklyn Stanley and Grace Roerig being the leading two Crusaders at state.



Boys basketball

The Crusaders broke a nine-year drought going to the state tournament by earning two double-digit wins en route to state. At state, the Crusaders beat Marion, but fell in the state semifinals to Cedar Rapids Xavier. It's the 18th state tournament appearance, led by first-year head coach and Holy Cross teacher Matt Hahn. Junior Matt Noll and senior Carter Kuehl were named on the Class 3A Iowa Print Sports Writers Association All-State team.



Swimming

Grace Aesoph, Brigid McGowan, Maria McGowan and Natalie Patee each represented Heelan as part of the city co-op girls swim team. The team placed 12th at state with 76 points. Sophomore Britton Patee also qualified for state boys swimming in February.

Girls basketball



The Crusaders started out the season 0-2 but then won 23 straight games and made it to the state semifinals for the fifth time in program history. Junior Brooklyn Stanley was selected to the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Class 4A All-State first team.

Boys Soccer



The Crusaders boys soccer team went 14-3 overall, and made it to the state semifinals. Heelan went undefeated in MRAC play, winning all six matches. Senior Alejandro Suarez and junior George Tsiobanos were selected in the Class 2A All Tournament Team.

Wrestling



In wrestling, four Bishop Heelan students — freshman Nico Venturi, freshman Ben Walsh, junior Sir Brandon Watts and senior Ethan DeLeon — qualified for the state tournament. DeLeon finished second in the state in his weight class. He is wrestling at the University of Nebraska at 174 pounds.

Track

Bishop Heelan's track and field teams represented well at the state track and field meet on May 18-20 at Drake Stadium in Des Moines. The Crusaders boys' team finished 17th with 18.5 points. The Crusaders girls' team qualified in 14 events. Kenley Meis competed as a senior.

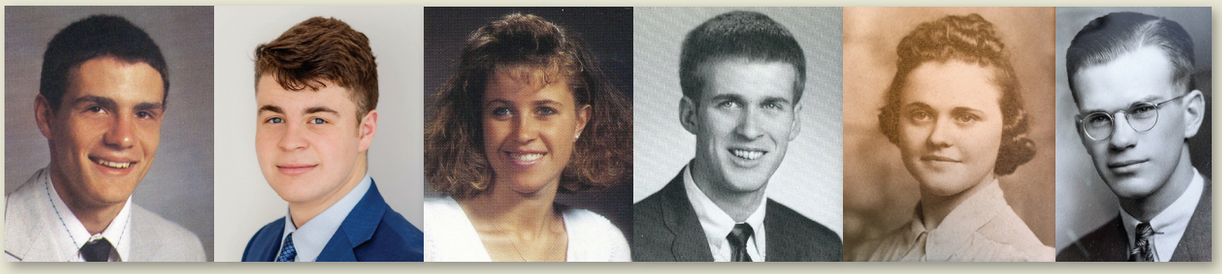
Metros

Heelan junior Nate Solma hit the game-winning overtime goal to give the Sioux City Metros hockey team the Midwest High School Hockey Championship. Solma was one of seven Crusaders who played on the championship roster.

Alumni Yearbook Photo Feature

Class of 2023

These pages are dedicated to our graduates with parents, grandparents and great grandparents who are alumni of Heelan, Trinity and Cathedral High Schools. We pray for their success and God's blessings in the years ahead.



Jess Aesoph '89 | **Keenan Aesoph '23** | Dawn (Keane) Aesoph '89 | Thomas Keane '65 | Dororthy Jean (Meyer) Keane '40 | Kenneth Keane '39



Brady Baker '23 | Stacia (Evans) Delfs '00



Alexandria Beach '23 | **Anastasia Beach '23** | Doug Beach '92



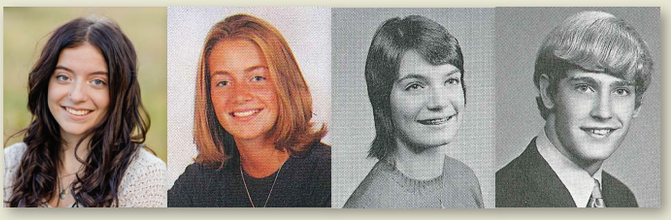
Jason Breen '23 | Bridget (Schettler) Breen '92



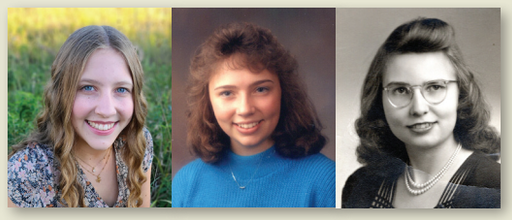
Anne (Schauffhausen) Bride '84 | **Jacob Bride '23** | Marilyn (Swanson) Bride '51 | William Bride '51



Kaleb Carda '23 | Kimberly (Bunkers) Carda '94



Reese Chicoine '23 | Jenny (Chicoine) Anderson '00 | Colleen (Rigg) Chicoine '73 | Brad Chicoine '72



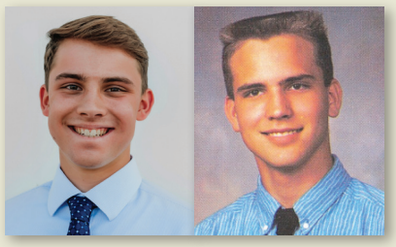
Ella Demers '23 | Katie (McElroy) Demers '88 | Mary Helen McElroy '47 Cathedral



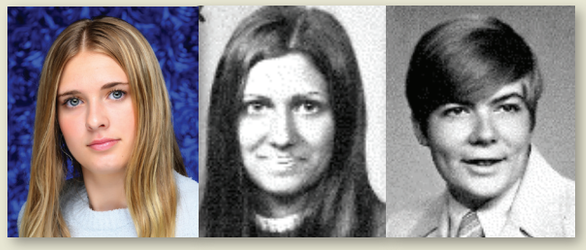
Ethan DeLeon '23 | Noel DeLeon '91

Highlights of 2023 Graduating Class

- 122 graduates in Class of 2023
- Valedictorian Grace I. Nelson and Salutatorian Kenley Meis
- 92% are attending college; 72% in four-year institutions
- 52 students compiled 60 or more hours of community service
- Graduates have been offered $9 million in academic scholarships
- 45 students graduated at 3.75 GPA or above and were enrolled in an honors course.
- 45% have Heelan grad parents or grandparents
- The Top 5% in the senior class were (in alphabetical order): Andrew Brockhaus, Ella Demers, Luka Ernesti, Keara Joyce, Sophia Kuntz, Kenley Meis, Grace I. Nelson, William J.P. O'Connor and Lauryn Peck.



Derek Dieger '23 Chris Dieger '92



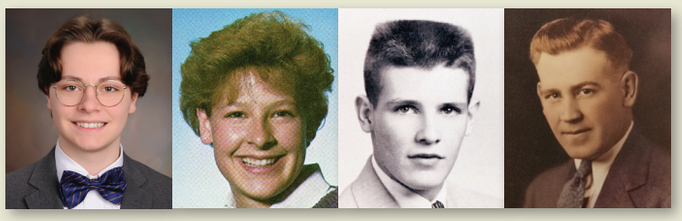
Olivia Fitch '23 Margaret (Hacker) Fitch '72 John Fitch '72



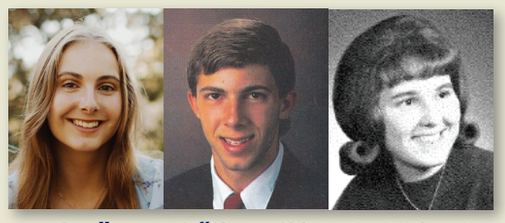
Cole Fischer '23 Greg S. Fischer '86 Betty (Harrison) Fischer '65 Greg G. Fischer '64



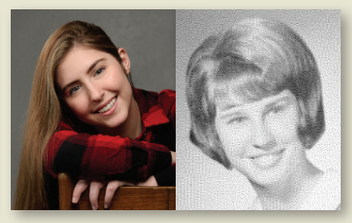
Maddie Gengler '23 Reggie McCloud '69



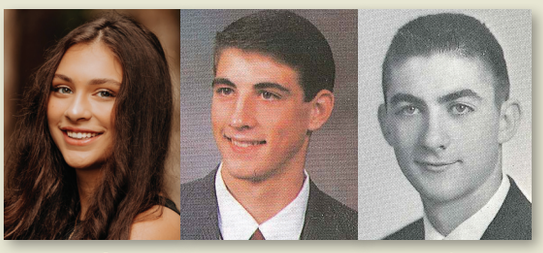
Michael Glover '23 Laura (McGowan) Glover '86 Gerald McGowan '55 Alexander McGowan '20



Anelle Grieve '23 Jeff Grieve '92 Sue (Hickman) Grieve '67



Rilee Hobbs '23 Joanne Pinney '67



Nyla Jochum '23 Greg Jochum '93 Leo Jochum '63



Gina (Christiansen) Kuehl '95 **Addison Kuehl '23** Nick Kuehl '94 Joan Rizk '72 Patrick Kuehl '72



Kevin Poss '78 Mandi (Poss) Kuehl '04 **Carter Kuehl '23** Kane Kuehl '06 Kathy (Goeden) Kuehl '76 Rob Kuehl '78



Sophia Kuntz '23 Timothy Kuntz '82



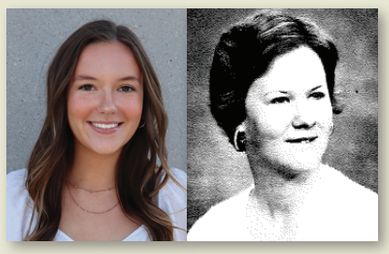
Ethan Lamson '23 **Max Lamson '23** Michaeleen (Olson) Lamson '87 Joanne (Kopal) Olson '58



Bruce Engle '51 Mary (Otis) Engle '51 Dan LaFleur '71 Deb (Engle) LaFleur '71 Jon LaFleur '93 **Lauren LaFleur '23** Katie (Beacom) LaFleur '93 Carol (Johnson) Beacom '56 Gerald Beacom '56



Jacob LaFleur '23 **Lucas LaFleur '23** Matt LaFleur '92 Kathy (Cronin) LaFleur '71



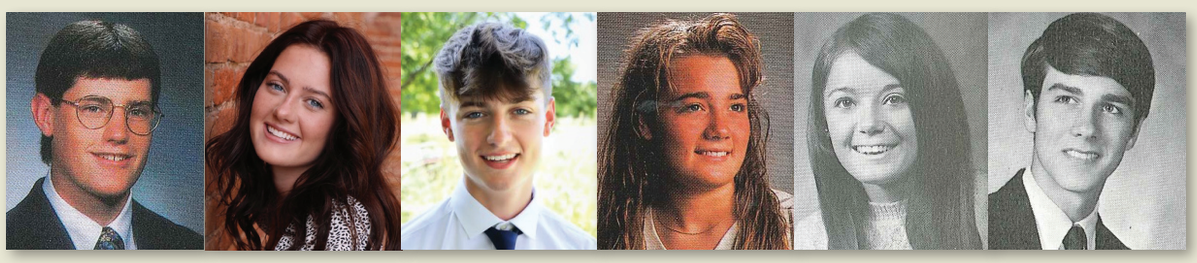
Madison Maas '23 Julie (Schroeder) Maas '76



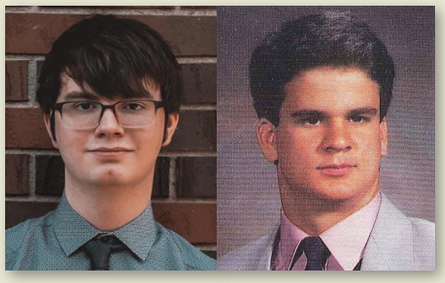
Jeff Michalak '96 **Brayden Michalak '23** Prudence (Towns) Michalak '95



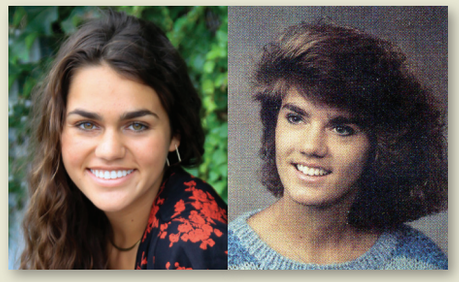
Robert Nelson '70 Patricia (Redmond) Nelson '70 Zachary Nelson '93 **Grace P. Nelson '23** Lisa (Bockholt) Nelson '89 Patricia (Foix) Bockholt '66 Michael Bockholt '66



Jonathan O'Hern '93 **Lucy O'Hern '23** **Luke O'Hern '23** Amanda (Pylelo) O'Hern '93 Bobbie (Dalgliesh) Pylelo '71 John Pylelo '70



Joseph Olson '23 Jason Olson '89



Lauryn Peck '23 Donielle (Zimmer) Peck '87



Phillip Neri '50 | Teresa (Neari) Feste '72 | Krage Feste '72 | Jenny (Feste) Petty '96 | **Jack Petty '23** | Mark Petty '95 | Mary Ann (Keller) Petty '59 | Milton Petty '58

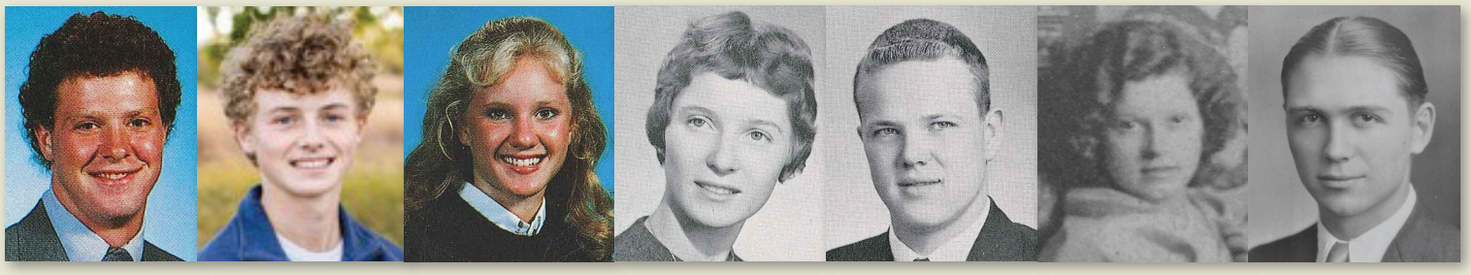


Easton Prenger '23 Robert Prenger '84

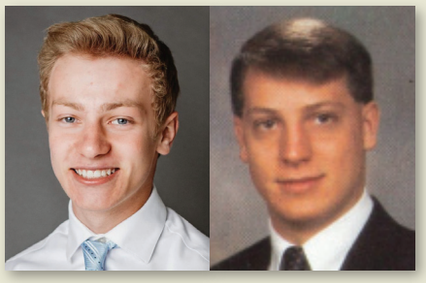
Patricia (Rush) Merchant '52 | Courtney (Merchant) Roder '06 | **Brooklynn Roder '23** | Luke Roder '05 | Therese (Keane) Risinger '78 | Dorothy Jean (Meyer) Keane '40 | Kenneth Keane '39



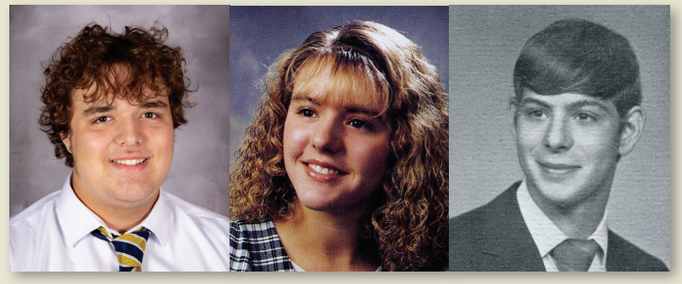
London Russell '23 Tani (Ahlquist) Russell '94 Bernard Pomerico '66



Doug Skinner '84 | **Douglas (Sam) Skinner '23** | Amy (Verschoor) Skinner '84 | Virjean (Linden) Verschoor '58 | Michael Verschoor '58 | Margaret (Trapp) Linden Cathedral '32 | Valois Linden Trinity '30



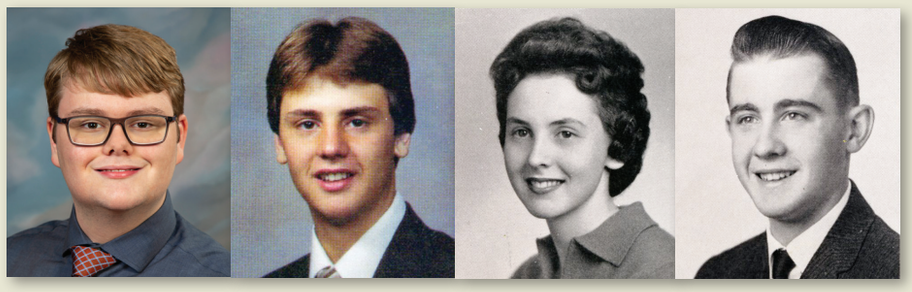
Mason Streeter '23 Kirk Streeter '91



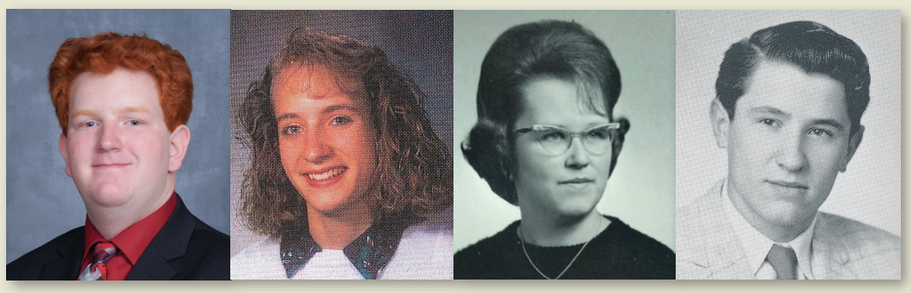
Noah Tew '23 Jenny (Mousel) Tew '95 Mike Mousel '72



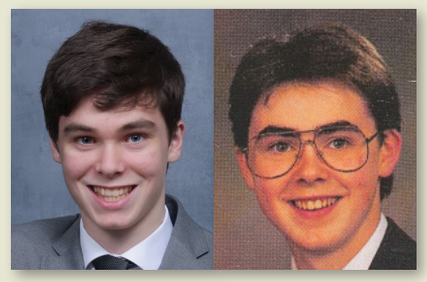
Jamie (Prince) Vondrak '94 **Zoey Vondrak '23** Tony Vondrak '92 Jane (Hackett) Vondrak '67 Lynn Vondrak '67



Brian Wilmes '23 Chris Wilmes '83 Louise (Hogh) Wilmes '60 Mike Wilmes '60

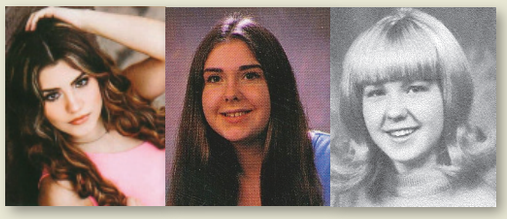


Colten Wolf '23 Rebecca Skuodas '92 Patricia (Claeys) Wolf '64 Leon Skoudas '58

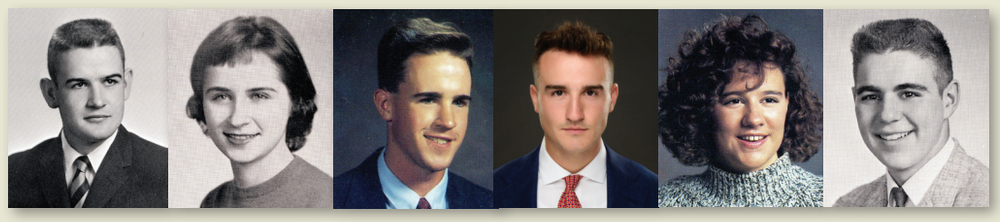


Joseph Young '23 Darby Young '90

Class of 2022 Addition



Brooklyn Moreno '22 Amanda (Lesline) Moreno '00 Ruth (Fox) Lesline '71



Joseph Gill '61 Mildred (Lynch) Gill '59 Joseph Gill '89 **Ian Gill '22** Jennifer (Wiltgen) Gill '89 Dennis Wiltgen '62



2023 Bishop Heelan High School Graduates

Keenan Joseph Aesoph
Chaya Rose Ahlquist
Blake Ira Lee Albert
Ricardo Alferez Chavez
Melanie Angulo-Ibarra * ≠
Antonio Gabriel Araujo
Brady Jackson Barker
Alexandria Leslie Marie Beach
Anastasia Rose Marie Beach
Sophia Rose Block * ○
Elizabeth Jo Bracht
Jason Matthew Breen ≠
Margaret Lee Breyfogle * ○
Jacob Anthony Bride * ≠ «
Andrew Lee Brockhaus * ≠ ○
Moises Camberos
Kaleb Joseph Carda * ≠
Reese Elizabeth Chicoine
Robert Thomas Danner ○
Elizabeth De los Santos * ≠ ○
Ethan Noel DeLeon League * ≠
Ella Kathleen Demers * ≠
Derek Paul Dieger *
Hung Phi Doan *
Derek Noble Dobbins
Luka Joseph Ernesti *
Cole Scott Fischer ✯
Olivia Mariah Fitch ≠ ○
Kameron James Fjeldheim * ≠ ○
Marin Marie Frazee *
Alleea Allisandra Frese *
Trenton Bradley Fuentes
Arnulfo Garcia
Guadalupe Garcia Garcia ≠ ○
Grace Anne Garreans Power ○
Maddie Jolene Gengler * ≠ ○
Michael Patrick Glover * ≠ ○
Santiago Gonzalez-Velazquez
Anna Leigh Gordon
Anelle Kay Grieve *
Sarahi Guerra Espinoza
John Patrick Halbur ≠ ○
Danell CoraRuth Harrington * ≠ ○
Domenick Owen Herbst ≠
Rilee Ann Hobbs
Kayla-Marie Jabre * ≠
Nyla Claire Jochum ○
Keara Shae Joyce *
Sidney Kay Koob * ≠ ○
Addison Michelle Kuehl * ≠
Carter James Kuehl ≠ ✯
Brynn Marie Kuntz * ≠ ○
Sophia Marie Kuntz * ≠ ○
Jacob Dennis LaFleur ○
Lauren Elizabeth LaFleur * ≠
Lucas Russell LaFleur * ≠
Ethan Jon Lamson * ≠
Max Paul Lamson ≠
Abraham Lopez-Esparza
Madison Delight Maas ≠
Kenley Grace Meis * ≠
Brayden Ty Michalak ≠
Lakyn Jessie Minor ≠ ○
Ian Michael Mollet *
Jessica Monserrat Moreno Rodriguez ≠ ○
Naeron Eli Ndim Bisse ✯
Radyn James Neal ≠
Ayla Adella Nelson ≠
Grace Isabella Nelson *
Grace Patricia Nelson * ≠
Jada Claire Newberg * ≠
Anny Hoang-Thuy Nguyen
Stefani Victoria Nunez Diaz ≠
Ashley Ximena Nuno * ≠
William John Paul O'Connor * ≠
Lucy Ann O'Hern
Luke Daniel O'Hern
Jacob Charles Oldenkamp * ≠
Joseph George Olson
Kylie Taia Olson ○
Adam Thomas Hamilton Osborn ≠
Andrew John Osborne
Eli Charles Otten ✯
Lauryn Mae Peck * ≠
Jorgus Glen Pederson ≠ ○
Anthony Perea Duenas
John Michael Petty
Claire Marie Plathe ≠ ○
Easton Min Prenger * ○
Brian Joseph Regino «
Adrian Lee Reyes
Bryce Per Reyes
Elizabeth Ann Ritz
Liliana Monique Rivera ≠
Brooklynn Christine Roder * ≠
Landen Henry Runge Dill *
London Aldric Russell
Shane Patrick Sanderson ≠
Gail Soledad Sandoval ≠
Angelina Iletabeth Shaw
Antonio Estanislao Sibrian-Rojas ≠
Douglas Samuel Skinner ≠
Jack Nelson Stahle ✯
Tyler James Stangl ≠
Mason Kirk Streeter * ≠
Alejandro Javier Suarez
Pablo Emilio Tapia Calderon
Noah Alan Tew
Ashlyn Arika Utech *
Melanie Vazquez
Antonia Juana Venturi * ✯
Bernadette Luisa Venturi
Lawren Elizabeth Volz ≠ ○
Zoey Jane Vondrak
Trinity Ann Walker
Danielle Judith Wendt ≠
Brian Christopher Wilmes
Colten Leon Wolf * ≠ ○
Joseph Garrigan Wittstock Young *
Carlos Jesus Zambrano Gonzalez
Aaron Zavala-Marquez
Joshua Marcelo Zeledon ✯

* = Honor Graduate ≠ = Silver Cord Recipient (60 hours of community service) ○ = Red Cord Recipient (Blood donor) ✯= Military « = Eagle Scout



A large group of Tyler Cropley's family and friends gathered at Kauffman Stadium in September to watch him play in his first Major League Baseball game.

Cropley Takes the Crown in Kansas City

Tyler Cropley walked up to the plate as slowly as he could. He wanted to hear his name called over the loudspeakers at Kauffman Stadium.

Cropley, a 2014 graduate of Bishop Heelan, became the third Crusader to play in a Major League Baseball game. He joined the likes of Don Wengert and Joe Bisenius.

Cropley saw his dream come true on Sept. 19 at home against the Cleveland Guardians, where Royals manager Matt Quatraro put the former Crusader in the starting lineup.

He had been on his second stint with Kansas City, and just on his second full day back with the big league club.

"When I was heading back to Kansas City, I just took it all in, I don't think I turned my radio on or anything," Cropley said. "When they told me, I didn't really have any nerves, it was more just anxious to just get it over with. Even before the game, I was on the field playing catch and in the bullpen walking down, there were no real nerves."

Cropley walked up in his first at-bat, and had one mindset, which was to just have fun and whatever happens happens.

Cropley's first at-bat ended in a flyout to end the second inning, but Cropley thought he made good contact on it, and was confident he'd get another good chance.

The former Crusader ended up being right.

During the fifth inning, Cropley came up with runners on second and third base, and Kansas City then held a four-run lead.

On a two-ball, two-strike count, Cropley sent a curveball to center field that scored a run. It wasn't a hit, but the former Iowa Hawkeye grinned from ear-to-ear knowing he drove in his first big league run.

Then, in the eighth inning, Cropley's hard work since he was a young Crusader paid off in return of a single to right field.

He took a two-seam fastball to right field, and as Cropley left the batter's box, he clapped his hands and had a wide smile on his face as he reached first base.

"I was just really happy for myself knowing all the hard work is finally paying off and getting the hit," Cropley said. It's a pretty big deal when the opportunity comes up to get into a big league game."

Bishop Heelan and the rest of Cropley's support group were well-represented at the game. Cropley's family was in attendance, as were Crusaders head baseball coach Andy Osborne, assistant coach Ben Taylor and Iowa head baseball coach Rick Heller.

"I wanted to do it in front of them," he said. "They would have supported me, even if I went 0-for-4 with four strikeouts, it wouldn't have mattered. It was a great night." Cropley hasn't forgotten about his Heelan roots, and the foundation Bishop Heelan gave him both academically and athletically.

> *"Heelan is the foundation of where I'm at today. You can't build a house without the foundation and the bricks at the bottom. So that's where I came from. And that's everything that I've wanted to do."*
> *— Tyler Cropley*

Cropley was called up twice to the Kansas City Royals this past season, and he appeared in two games.

Cropley wouldn't have gotten to the big leagues if it weren't for his resiliency. Going into the season, the former Crusader hadn't been up to the Double-A level. In the current hierarchy of Minor League Baseball, a prospect usually has four levels to go through before he gets to the major leagues.

Cropley played in 64 games for Double-A Northwest Arkansas over the last two seasons, and this season, he wasn't playing every night.

The most sage advice Cropley followed throughout the summer was to stay ready in case his number was called. "I can only do so much by myself," Cropley said. "It takes a little bit of effort from other people seeing it in me and just waiting for that opportunity and being ready for it."

‘23 Heelan Auction Brings Back 1980s Memories

Bishop Heelan’s annual Heelan Auction became a rockin’ success on April 15, as the annual big fundraiser for the Catholic school reached its $500,000 goal.

The gross proceeds raised were $557,000. That includes silent auction, live auction and other donations made throughout the night. The money will go toward the general fund for Bishop Heelan.

“We had a wonderful turnout and this event once again proved that our Heelan family is the best,” said Dr. John Flanery, BHCS President. “We thank everyone for their support and donations to make the 2023 Auction another success!”

The theme for the 2023 Auction was an 80s theme, and attendees showed out in their best 1980s attire to celebrate the occasion! Music from the 1980s was playing in O’Gorman Fieldhouse, and Hy-Vee provided a delicious meal for our guests.

There were nine chairpeople on the Auction committee this year: Matt and Bridget Breen (Heelan High School); Nate and Mindy Foulk (Holy Cross School); Saul and JoBeth Gomez (Mater Dei School); Kane and Mandi Kuehl (Sacred Heart School) and Tim Uber (Alumni).

“We are so thankful for our Heelan community,” said Patty Considine-McClintock, BHCS Director of Giving. “The sponsors when asked to give make me wanna ‘shout!’ This event would not have been possible without hours of work from our amazing Auction chair committee, volunteer Deb Harpenau, BHCS staff and so many other volunteers!”

Businesses donated at different levels to sponsor the Auction, while over 600 tickets were sold.

There was a live and silent auction for attendees to bid on. The live portion had several items, including a Nebraska football suite for a game, a jukebox, a bar built from wood of The Pit, a hot tub and even a Goldendoodle puppy.

There was also the Fund-A-Cause portion of the night, which raised more than $114,000 (record raised for Fund-A-Cause). The cause for the Fund-A-Cause was the CYO Locker Room. The renovations include major plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning, framing, dry wall, fixtures, showers and more.

Some Heelan Class of 2023 graduates – Jason Breen, Carter Kuehl, Sophia Kuntz, Lauren LaFleur, Kenley Meis and Grace P. Nelson – with the help of Tom Betz ’85 and Jon LaFleur ’93 did a dance to help raise money for the locker room. To see that, visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/bishopheelancatholic.

Doug and Amy Skinner are 2023 Crusaders of the Year



Doug and Amy Skinner

Doug ’84 and Amy Skinner ‘84 are Heelan High School sweethearts.

At Heelan, Doug was on the 1982 state champion football team and the 1983 state runner-up team. He was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl his senior year. He also earned All-State honors in baseball during the 1984 season.

Amy was a varsity basketball cheerleader and served on the student council, yearbook, pep club and ran track and cross-country.

Soon after their college graduations, Doug from Iowa State and Amy from Kansas Law School, the two Heelan grads married. Their careers took them to Kansas City, Chicago, Toledo, California, Okoboji and Dakota Dunes.

While in other communities they never forgot Heelan and Sioux City and maintained their Heelan and family connections.

In 2016 they moved back to Dakota Dunes, and enrolled their daughter, Ella, and son, Sam, into the Heelan School System.

The Skinners quickly engaged in the Heelan system. Doug led the charge to transform the former lunchroom in Heelan’s CYO into a full wood-floor gymnasium with cooling air. He then joined the BHCS Board of Education where he has served as chair and past-chair and as an invaluable member of the finance committee.

At Heelan games Doug and Amy were fixtures in the bleachers at the O’Gorman Fieldhouse. First cheering for their daughter Ella, who led the Heelan girls to a 3A basketball state championship in 2020 and then Sam, who helped the 2022-23 boys basketball team reach the state semi-finals.

Today Ella attends Wayne State College while Sam attends the University of Wyoming. Their oldest son Michael lives in Minneapolis after graduating from Saint John’s University in Collegeville, MN.

Scott Plathe is Volunteer of the Year



Scott Plathe

Think of a Bishop Heelan parent who will step up and pitch in for special events and fundraisers and Scott Plathe immediately comes to mind.

Scott has been a go-to guy for the “Crusader Classic” show choir competition and the Palmer Candy band fundraiser where his efforts have helped generates thousands of dollars in needed revenue for Bishop Heelan’s music department.

Need supplies for tacos for hundreds? Scott can handle that. Need to make and pitch funnel cakes at football games? He does that, too. Most recently Scott has invested hours in meetings and phone calls to find housing at Bishop Heelan for RAGBRAI riders. He worked to house hundreds of riders and support people at Heelan on July 22 and raise funds for our music program.

As a parish member of Sacred Heart Scott served on the campaign committee to raise funds to expand the school and add a parish center.

When he’s not volunteering for Heelan or with his parish, he works as a financial advisor for Mass Mutual.

Scott and his wife, Janet Plathe, are the parents of Anna Plathe ‘19, Claire Plathe ‘23 and Levi, a sixth grader at Sacred Heart School.

He has a heart for Heelan and a can-do spirit to get things done. As John Flanery says, “Scott is all-in whenever you ask.”

Save the Date!
Heelan Auction
April 5, 2024

Student PRIDE in Action



Brooklynn Roder '23 poses for a selfie with John Osborn '90 during his visit this spring.



Andrew Brockhaus '23 and Keara Joyce '23 pose after winning Prom King and Queen on May 6 in O'Gorman Fieldhouse.



Lakyn Minor '23 walks the fieldhouse track with her TeamMates mentor Megan Moore '09. There are several Heelan employees and grads who mentor young Crusaders.



Students were able to decorate doors during Catholic Schools Week in February.



Bishop R. Walker Nickless visited Bishop Heelan students who are part of the new Siouxland Youth Group, which meets every Sunday night.



Every December, students in Ms. Bukovich's class make Christmas cookies to enjoy over the holidays.



Service Day is an important part of Homecoming Week. Students spread out throughout the metro to serve others in need.



Olympic softball medalist Leah Amico shows off her Olympic medals to Maddie LaFleur '25 and other students.



Tony Fravel '01 took time out of his schedule to teach Bishop Heelan students practical "around the home" skills.



The Magnifique group performs during the Crusader Classic on Feb. 25 at O'Gorman Fieldhouse.



From left to right, Kaleb Carda '23, Kaylee Baker '25, Bobby Danner '23 and Tess Maly '25 perform at the annual Madrigal Dinner in December.

A True Crusader Connection

by Tom Betz '85



Dan Kirwan and Mike Walsh

The best part of my job? Without question, the alumni stories I get to hear. Let me take you back two years ago. Our Heelan Advancement staff hosted an Alumni Event at Happy Hollow Golf Club in Omaha. These are traditionally well-attended fun events and this one was no different. There are a whole lot of great Crusaders 100 miles south!

1982 Graduate Dan Kirwan and his wife, Suzie Bell Kirwan '82, show up to the event and after a little socializing Dan proceeds to ask me if Mike Walsh '78 will be attending. Unfortunately, Mike, a financial advisor in Omaha, had stopped by before the event and couldn't attend the evening festivities because of a work commitment. Dan, who had never met Mike, quickly produced an envelope with a letter that had made a lifetime difference to Dan that he wanted to share with the author, Mike.

Back in the Spring of 1978, Dan was an 8th grader at St. Boniface grade school and he and his family had not yet decided on where Dan would attend high school. Dan and his family were considering all options. That spring, a handwritten letter from Heelan senior Mike Walsh showed up at the Kirwan home addressed to Dan. Mike was set to graduate Heelan and attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall and be a member of the football team. Mike was kind of a "big deal" at Heelan. Mike explained that he had that same decision to make four years prior and decided to attend Bishop Heelan instead of another school. It was the best decision of his life. Mike mentioned that he heard about Dan through Coach Burchard and that "Coach B. knew Dan could have great success at Heelan." Mike's simple, thoughtful letter of encouragement was all Dan needed to decide Heelan would be his home.

Dan attended Heelan where he was involved in everything from athletics to student council. He was also a member of the Homecoming Court his senior year, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, CYO Officer in addition to being on the honor roll all four years. He would also begin dating his future wife, the former Suzie Bell.

Dan attended Briar Cliff College after graduating from Heelan and went on to earn his M.B.A. from the University of South Dakota. Dan began his professional career in banking but for the last 23 years has been with The Maids International, one of the largest domestic cleaning companies throughout the U.S. and Canada, most recently as President and C.E.O. in Omaha.

While the "Crusader Connection" of these two Crusaders did not occur at the alumni event two years ago, I was able to join these two recently in Omaha for a long overdue formal introduction. Dan shared the impact that letter had on him 45 years ago and why he still cherishes it today. How it had influenced many decisions in his life and has been one of the main reasons he and Suzie "pay it forward" continually in their personal lives and businesses culture. To see the emotion on Mike's face was humbling. You see, I've been witness to Mike Walsh's selfless acts of kindness for years as he religiously cared for our dear friend Sr. Audrey Jauron when she retired to Omaha after her tenure on Heelan High's staff. It is just who Mike is.

These are the Crusader Connections that we are privileged to share. They aren't a part of everyone's alma mater I guarantee you. Thank you, Dan and Mike, for letting us in on this part of Heelan history and showing us how one act of kindness can have a lifetime effect.



Gail Poland, Kim Seale, Bob Gibson, Janet Flanagan, Bob Geary and Dave Fravel all retired last May.

A Salute to Retired Crusaders

Janet Flanagan wasn't the only Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools employee who retired after the 2022-23 school year.

She had a huge heart and great passion for the system, however. Whether it was writing a news story or simply talking to a fellow alum, her words, photos and other works for Bishop Heelan were strong for the Blue and Gold.

"I feel total gratitude to have worked with truly amazing people in the BHCS administration offices," Flanagan said. "It has been a privilege to showcase our Catholic faith, our dedicated faculty, staff and students. We are stronger because of wonderful donors, alumni and remarkable families. God has blessed all of us and BHCS faces a bright future."

Janet graduated from Heelan High School in 1971 and then attended Loyola University in New Orleans. She received a degree in Mass Communications in Broadcast Emphasis.

She came home to first work for KCAU-TV, reporting the news around Siouxland for two years. After her time at the ABC affiliate, Janet then took her talents to Morningside for four years.

Janet then spent 24 years as the Director of Community Relations at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center on the north side, telling stories in the healthcare industry that affected Siouxland.

The Crusader alum then owned her own communications business — Perry Creek Communications — for seven years before returning to the place she loved as a student.

From continually improving the Crusader Connection, to working on scholarships for students to attend, to raising millions of dollars with Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation, Janet left her mark.

Passion? There is no one who is more passionate about promoting and celebrating our students, faculty, and staff than Janet Flanagan. Investment? You cannot successfully promote Heelan without a deep belief in its mission, understanding of its history and endless energy to share it.

Janet lives and breaths it everyday with her No. 1 goal of celebrating Heelan.

Janet was one of six Bishop Heelan faculty members who retired at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. Joining Janet in retirement were Dave Fravel, Bob Geary, Bob Gibson, Gail Poland and Kim Sealey.

We appreciate all these six did for Bishop Heelan and wish them well in retirement.

Most Likely to be a Superstar

When the Class of 2017 voted on its superlatives for The Shield yearbook, one of the categories was "Most Likely to be a Superstar." Max Miller '17 fit that bill pretty well. He just played for sold out crowds at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Miller is the drummer for Bailey Zimmerman, one of the rising singers and bands in all of music. Zimmerman has had five songs break the Billboard Top 100, including "Rock and A Hard Place," being there for 52 weeks.

The band has also performed with Morgan Wallen and Hardy, just to name a couple other big-time country stars.

It's been quite the journey for Miller, who started playing drums when he was a young boy.

"It's definitely been a fast ride," Miller said. "All of us were prepared for it. We're ready to knock down the next stadium. The first time we were in Australia, that was like a big festival. I wasn't sure if they were going to know our stuff, and once we got out on stage, that first song, 30,000 people were screaming it."

Next year, Zimmerman will be on a headlining tour that includes a stop in Omaha on Feb. 17, 2024, at the new Steelhouse Omaha. Zimmerman, Miller and his crew will also be headlining the "Tailgate N' Tallboys" event on June 7, 2024, in Clinton, Iowa.

"I'm still trying to wrap my head around everything," Miller said. "I'm just trying to hold on, I guess."

While music has had a big impact in Miller's life, the memories that jump out to him of being a Bishop Heelan student were in sports.

Miller qualified for five state track and field events his senior year, including individually in the 400-meter dash. He also went to state in baseball. Miller was a varsity letter winner in football.

"There are so many good people here at (Bishop) Heelan," Miller said. "The biggest advice is, be good enough and always practice," Miller said. "Be cool, be yourself. Be unique. You have to be good. There's talent everywhere (in Nashville). Get your stuff out there."

BHCS congratulates Miller on his recent success, and we are proud to call him a Crusader forever.



Max Miller



Playing for Peaches

As part of her daily routine, Bishop Heelan High School band director Jeana Larson checks her mail. One day, she saw a letter from the Peach Bowl committee inviting the Crusaders to play before the Dec. 30 bowl game.

At first, she didn't think it was real, but sure enough, it was a valid invitation. Larson made the announcement official in May, just days after the band found out it earned a Division I rating at the IHSMA Large Group Contest.

The Crusaders were only one of 40 schools nationally invited to participate. What an honor for this outstanding group of youngsters. This experience will be one that will last them a lifetime.

The Crusaders Marching Band has been working hard since mid-July to get ready for the bowl game in Atlanta, Georgia. Visit bishopheelan.org/PeachBowl to learn more!



Ron Clements '71 chats with students during his visit to Bishop Heelan in May.

March, Osborn & Clements return home

Three Bishop Heelan graduates returned back to Sioux City to bless the community with their talents.

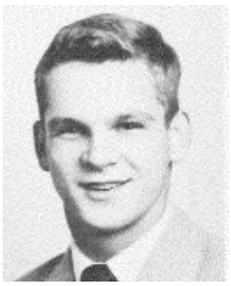
Stephanie March '07, John Osborn '90 and Ron Clements '71 performed at the Orpheum Theater, all concerts happening during the second semester of the school year.

March is one of the top cellists in the U.S., while Osborn is one of the elite opera signers internationally. Clements' claim to fame is a Disney animator and director, most known for "Aladdin" and "The Little Mermaid."

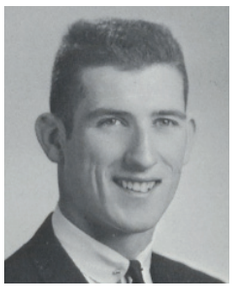
Osborn and Clements interacted with students at the high school before their concerts, while the Cathedral Dual Language Academy students gave Clements a surprise presentation.

To watch the surprise, scan the QR code!

Bishop Heelan inducts 2nd Hall of PRIDE class



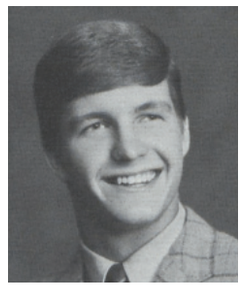
Bernie Schreiber
1951



Mike Grace
1963



Ken Schlezes
1969



Greg Vondrak
1971



Joe Bisenius
2001



Michelle (Lund) Herron
2008

Bishop Heelan High School is proud to announce its second class to the Hall of PRIDE with a class of six inductees.

The members were inducted Sept. 30 during the Hall of PRIDE banquet at the Sioux City Convention Center. They represent achievement in nearly every sport at Heelan.

The six members inducted were: Bernie Schreiber '51, Mike Grace '63, Ken Schlezes '69, Greg Vondrak '71, Joe Bisenius '01 and Michelle (Lund) Herron '08.

"We were thrilled with the six individuals who were be honored this fall - they all had incredible high school careers and left a lasting impact on Crusader athletics," Co-Activities Director Jay Wright said.

Schreiber was a four-sport athlete at Heelan, and he was an All-American in baseball during his time at Ole Miss. The Rebels inducted the 1951 grad to their Hall of Fame in 1988. Schreiber was All-City in basketball and All-City honorable mention in football.

Grace was a lineman on the Heelan football team and was All-City in 1961 and 1962 and All-State his senior year. He also earned a spot on the National Football All-American team in 1962. He played football at Nebraska. Mike passed away from cancer at the age of 49. His brother, Mark Grace, accepted the award on his behalf.

Schlezes played quarterback, and he was All-State and All-City in 1968. He had 17 TDs, 620 rushing yards and 600 passing yards. He was a 3-year letterwinner at Notre Dame in football, and tied an Irish single-game record with three interceptions, a record that still stands today. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1973.

Vondrak was an All-American football player in 1970, and he was named the team MVP. He was first team as a guard and that same school year, Vondrak helped the Crusaders get to the state baseball tournament. He later lettered on the 1972 Iowa State football team that went to the Sun Bowl.

Bisenius pitched in the major leagues for Philadelphia and Washington, but during his time at Heelan, he recorded 212 strikeouts (3rd all-time) and won 21 games (5th all-time). He was the 2001 Class 3A Bob Feller Pitcher of the Year for the state of Iowa.

Herron was named as the 2008 Sioux City Journal Metro Female Athlete of the Year. In basketball, she led the Crusaders to the 2008 title, and was a three-time All-State honoree. She is the all-time leading scorer in the city with 1,837 points. She played collegiately at Bradley University. Herron also won three Class 3A track and field medals in 2008, including helping break the 4x100 record.



Hall of PRIDE inductees, honored in September, from left are: Mark Grace, accepting for the late Mike Grace, Bernie Schreiber, Michelle (Lund) Herron, Greg Vondrak, Joe Bisenius and Ken Schlezes.

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Hall of PRIDE class. The Hall of PRIDE executive committee -- representing former boys and girls coaches, athletes and teachers – will take your nominations into consideration. Scan the QR code to get started.

Alumni are eligible for the Hall of PRIDE five years after graduation. Criteria includes All State, State Champions, Post High School Achievement and those who have made exceptional contributions to the athletic programs at Bishop Heelan Catholic High School.

Hall of Pride QR code

For more information, contact Jay Wright at 712-226-0360 or at jay.wright@bishopheelan.org.

Thank you to our Heelan Scholarship Donors!

We are blessed to have benefactors who have funded over 30 endowed and annual merit scholarships at Bishop Heelan. This year, 74 merit-based scholarships were awarded to students attending Heelan for a total of $41,750. We are so grateful to our generous donors.

Donor criteria is based on need, academics, participation in activities and athletics, service, school spirit, character and other factors.

2023-2024 Merit Based Scholarships Awarded

Mary Helen and Terence McElroy Music Scholarship

Amy Graves Mace Scholarship

Barb Peterson Life Skills Scholarship

Austin Blakey Jr. Scholarship

Clement E. Duffy & LuVerne Duffy Scholarship

Col. V. Thomas Considine Memorial Scholarship

Ray O'Neil Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Kenneth & Dorothy Keane Scholarship

Father Al McCoy Scholarship

Isaac Roerig Memorial Scholarship

Fred Lennon Memorial Scholarship

Henry & Linda Metz Single Parent Scholarship

Jeff Poss Memorial Scholarship

Brian Goetz Memorial Scholarship

Maurie Noonan Tomke Tuition Assistance Award

Jon Olson Business Scholarship

Karl Rasmussen "Spirit of Peace" Memorial Scholarship

Kurzak Education Fund

Mary Ann Callais Longstreth Scholarship

Mary Lou (Thomazin) O'Gorman "God Bless You" Memorial Scholarship

Michael Kuehl Memorial Scholarship

Roger & Della McCoy Memorial Scholarship

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Award

Ed & Margaret Lamkin Scholarship

Jack & Margaret Gill Scholarship

Spirit of 75 Championship Scholarship



Kaleb Carda '23 poses with Todd Roerig during the Senior Scholarship Ceremony on May 16 in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

James & Theresa Verschoor Annual PRIDE Scholarship

Jean McGowan Music Scholarship

Kay Bennet Irish Heritage Scholarship

Richard and Patricia Collins Family Foundation Scholarship

Call Tom Betz at 712-252-1350 to discuss how you can honor loved ones with a Memorial that can help a student with Heelan tuition.

Brian Regino awarded $40,000 scholarship

Brian Regino found a home at Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools, and the senior earned a prestigious scholarship that will help him in his next step in life.

Regino received a $40,000 scholarship from the Kind World Foundation, an organization started by Norman Waitt Jr., who grew up in Sioux City. Regino will use that money toward his education at the University of South Dakota.

"Heelan pushed me to do the best I can do," Regino said. "I love giving back to people who were in a similar situation that I was in. I understand what they're going through. Heelan feels like a second home."

Regino realized even as a sophomore at Heelan that his background and upbringing — which included being homeless before being adopted by Mike and Charmaine Regino — could be a springboard for helping kids who were in a similar situation.

Regino said he wants to be the adult to those children who aren't sure who to reach out for help. That's a key reason why he's studying Elementary Education at USD.

He was the Boys & Girls Clubs state Youth of the Year as a sophomore where he hosted a coat drive and conducted a drive for soda cans and bottles for the Gospel Mission. He also became an Eagle Scout in the summer of 2022.

Regino wasn't the only Crusader who received a Kind World Foundation scholarship. Ayla Nelson and Nyla Jochum each earned $10,000 scholarships while Annelle Grieve, Hung Dong and Ashlyn Utech got $5,000 scholarships.



Brian Regino '23 poses with a "globe" trophy that went with his $40,000 scholarship from the Kind World Foundation. He is a freshman at the University of South Dakota.

RAGBRAI takes over Heelan!

In July, RAGBRAI celebrated its 50th anniversary, and the ride across Iowa started right here in Sioux City. Bishop Heelan was a big part of that celebration in its own way.

The high school campus hosted over 700 riders from many states. Most riders camped outside, covering an area from Memorial Field to the CYO Center grass lots.

One of the teams that stayed at Bishop Heelan was the U.S. Air Force Cycling Team. The Air Force bikers sent 177 bikers and 16 support crew members for their sojourn across the state.

The choir students held a spaghetti supper that night to help raise funds for the Italy trip they'll be taking this summer. Students, parents and volunteers served those bikers who called Heelan High School their camp for the night.

Other teams who came out to camp at Heelan included a group from Cedar Rapids Xavier, a Heelan alumni group, a large group from Georgia, and two out-of-town construction teams.



That next morning, the U.S. Air Force team rode out of the Heelan parking lot in a two-line formation, and stayed in that formation down Hamilton Boulevard.

Scan the QR code to watch the Air Force Cycling Team roll out of Heelan.



Then Feed Just One

Every year, students across the Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools system contribute time and funding for "Then Feed Just One", which helps those who need food the most in Central America.

The students packed the CYO Center gym to make over 100,000 meals in just one day, with meals consisting of rice, dried vegetables and seasoning. Each bag makes six meals.

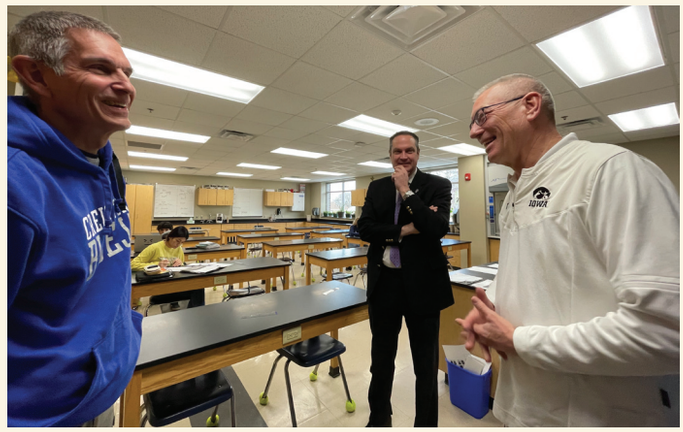
Students in grades 5-12 worked in assembly lines to bag and box meals for shipment to Honduras. Students from Holy Cross, Mater Dei and Sacred Heart schools were bused to the Heelan CYO to work one-hour shifts. Faculty, staff and other volunteers worked alongside Heelan students.

It was the 12th time Bishop Heelan helped out in the program.

Richard Sievert, director of Then Feed Just One, said that the shipments were sent to Central America in August.

It was a meaningful activity during the Lenten season and an ideal way to share the faith through service.

"I am extremely proud to know that food made by Heelan students is on its way to help relieve some of the terrible hunger and malnutrition camps in Africa," Sievert said.



Drexel Family Pays it Forward

Bill and Sandy Drexel gifted all of the Bishop Heelan High School faculty and each Theology classroom with Volume II of the Word on Fire Bible, which has the remainder of the New Testament.

"This is a gift that will truly last for years to come at Heelan. Thank you, Bill and Sandy, for blessing our community," said Dr. John Flanery, BHCS President.

Bill Drexel grew up in Catholic schools in Omaha, and attended Creighton University. When Bill retired in 2019, he figured he needed to give back.

Right when COVID-19 hit, Drexel joined a Bible study through his parish in Dallas, Texas. He was given digital access to the "Word on Fire." He fell in love with the work that was being done by Bishop Robert Barron.

Thus, he donated Volume I and Volume II to Heelan High School students. One gift led to the next, and the Drexels also donated to other high schools around the Midwest.

"I wish I had this bible when I was in high school," said Drexel, who visited Heelan High School this past March. "This is something God has called us to do. We can see the effects of God through this. I remember when I took a summer school course as a senior in high school, I took a course where the teacher attended Bishop Heelan."

Class Notes

1950s



Larry Walsh '51, celebrated the 90th year since his birthdate of August 30, 1933. Larry and his late wife Sharon were blessed with five children: Dr. Patrick (Lori) of Jefferson, SD; Michael ('78), of Omaha, NE; Beth Ann (Brad), of Denver, CO; Daniel (deceased); and Marty (Mary Catherine), of Dakota Dunes, SD. They were given 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, "Evie". After three years in the Navy during the Korean War, he started part-time at Sioux City Dressed Beef in the summer of 1954. Larry retired in 1998 as a co-owner of Sioux-Preme Packing Company in Sioux Center, Iowa. He is most proud that he was able to use his voice on Siouxland Catholic Radio, giving pro-life reflections for many years.



Marie Haley '51, celebrated her 90th birthday on Sept. 20. She is a lifelong resident of Sioux City. She attended Briar Cliff after her time at Bishop Heelan, then returned to become a librarian at Heelan. She was in the education field for over 47 years.

Class of 1952: A donation was made on behalf of the class of 1952 to tuition assistance at Heelan in memory of the class.

1960s



Joe Burkhart '66 is entering his 49th season of coaching high school basketball in the area. Burkhart has been a basketball coach throughout the metro, after being a key member of the first boys basketball state tournament team.



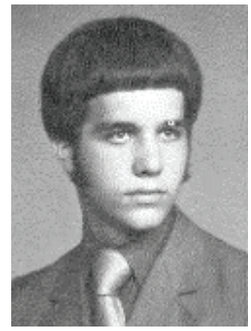
Denny Walker '63, visited Bishop Heelan during September to record his testimonial for Mike Grace '63, who was inducted into the Hall of PRIDE. During that visit, Walker met Ricky Feauto '24 with Tom Betz '85.





The Class of 1968 held its 55th reunion in June in Sioux City.

1970s



Gary Niles '72 retired in April after a 43-year stint with the Iowa Judicial Branch. During his career, he helped kids deal with substance abuse and other behaviors, and helped bring in-house therapists to deal with mental health. "We've done some really unique things here. I've been a risk-taker," said Niles in a Sioux City Journal feature article.



Fr. Dan Guenther '73 visited Bishop Heelan High School back in January, and visited campus minister **Lexi (Ricke) Horstman '17** in the high school chapel. The Guenther Endowment Fund helps support campus ministry!



Class of 1973 Over 120 classmates took over the riverfront in Sioux City in mid-September to meet for their 50th class reunion. The reunion was a four-day event, which was over a year in the making and look how many came to celebrate accomplishments and lifelong friendships. "I can't say this for certain, but if I had to put myself out there, I'd say the Class of '73 broke every record ever kept in the history of reunions as having the most attended classmates ever - especially for a 50th reunion," said Nancy Baxter Prince.



Tom West '77 was recently reunited with his class ring. The West family raised 8 kids at Chatham Lane. Current residents and Crusader family Brendan and DJ Todt recently found Tom's ring when tearing out a raspberry bush at their home. Tom had lost the ring as a senior at Bishop Heelan. Zachary Todt, second grader at St. Michaels in Leeds, is shown returning the ring to thankful Tom. Zach also has a brother in 4th grade.



Rehan Law Firm, run by **Bob Rehan '78**, announced a merger with Omaha-based Smith Pauley Law Firm on July 1. His daughter, **Katy '03**, is a partner with Smith Pauley.

1980s

Kevin Keane '81 and Allison (Chapman) Beumler '86 are among a slew of Crusader alums who sing in parish choirs around the city. The Crusaders who were part of the vocal music family at Heelan, continue to share their angelic voices with us today.





Eileen (Malone) Hatfield '84 made the beautiful and delicious gourmet pretzel candies that Heelan Auction guests enjoyed in April. She sent them all the way from Arizona, and they sure were a hit among the crowd!

Gregory Hoss '85 has become president of David M. Schwarz Architects, one of the nation's top architectural firms. Greg is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Society for College and University Planners and the International Association of Venue Managers. A Washington D.C. resident since leaving Sioux City, he is still a member of the choir at St. Peter's near Capitol Hill and still finds time to play the organ and piano.



1990s



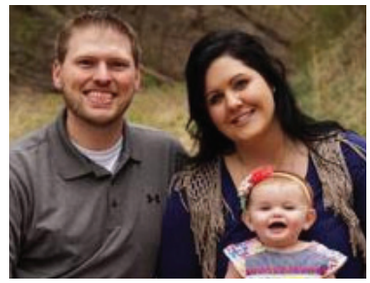
The Froehlich family won a live auction item at the Heelan Auction to have their surname posted on the O'Gorman Fieldhouse floor. Frank and Karen sent several children to Heelan, including **Jon '91**, **Jayna '89**, **Barry '85** and **Shara '83**.

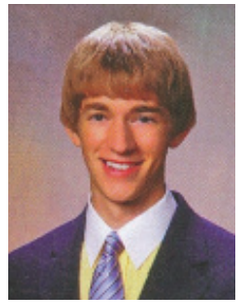


Chris Fitzpatrick '93 accepted a new pharmaceutical position in Omaha, and will not allow him to coach the Crusaders. He was the Crusaders head softball coach for three seasons. This past season, Fitzpatrick led Heelan on a six-game winning streak. **Lexie Stolen '17** was named as a co-head coach in 2023.

2000s

Cassie (Cheever) Kubik '04 was named to the 2022 Morningside University Hall of Fame. Cassie was a standout Crusader in athletics and in the classroom while at Heelan and after graduation attended Morningside University on a volleyball scholarship.





Things are going well for **James Kunz '07** at Okoboji High School. The Jazz Band earned second place at the Iowa Jazz Championships. His family added one more since they moved from Sioux City. Their new child, Isaac, was named after **Isaac Roerig '20**.

Taylor Nelson '09 was named in January as one of America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers, an honor bestowed among five farmers nationally. He farms 9,000 acres in rural Nebraska with his father, **Doug Nelson '81**. Taylor is a fifth-generation farmer.



2010s



Allison (Staiert) Taylor '08 welcomed baby Sloane to the world on June 27 in Sioux City with husband Ben Taylor, who is a Crusader assistant baseball coach. Allison and Ben were married on Sept. 17, 2022.



Class of 2013: Earlier this summer, the Class of 2013 met for its 10-year anniversary at The Warrior Hotel rooftop in Sioux City. In October, the state championship football team met to celebrate and reminisce about their title.

In Memory

1940s

James Cosgrove '47 (Trinity) Sioux City, May 11, 2023

1950s

Mary Joanne (Beaubien) Beacom '52, Sioux Falls, SD, August 27, 2023
Gene Hancer, '53, Sioux City, IA, June 17, 2023
Earl "Phil" Vondrak '53, Sioux City, June 7, 2023
Marijo Butler '53, West Des Moines, IA, July 23, 2023
Sarah E. "Pearlie" Jorstad '53, Sioux City, IA, February 2, 2023
LaVera (Pranke) Manley '53, Akron, IA, February 27, 2023
Richard J. "Dick" Beacom '54, Westminster, Colo., Jan. 13, 2023
Nancy Noonan '54, Paradise Valley, Ariz, November 30, 2022
Fr. Jerome P. Cosgrove '55, Sioux City, IA, October18, 2022
Jacqueline E. Davis '55, Murfreesboro, Tenn., October 15, 2022
Mary Janice (Rush) Cahill '55, Sioux City, IA, February 9, 2023
Thomas Gentleman '56, Algonquin, Ill. February 4, 2023
Carole R. Parrinello '57, Sioux City, IA, October 23, 2022
Judith M. Ward '57, Sioux City, IA, February 16, 2023
Larry W. Hacker '58, Henderson, Nev., September 15, 2023
Dean E. Beaulieu '58, St. Paul, Minn. January 22, 2023
Thomas E. Mahaney '58, Sioux City, IA, March 30, 2023
Paul M. Miller '59, Sioux City, January 13, 2023
Sebastian "Sam" Dattolico '59, Sioux City, IA, July 1, 2023
Mary L. Grevey '59, Naples, Fla., September 17, 2023

1960s

Irene M. LaMere '60, Colorado Springs, Colo. May 31, 2023
Jeanne E. Biggerstaff '60, Sioux City, IA, January 21, 2023
Barb (Johnson) Cogdill '60, Sioux City, April 22, 2023
Mary Susan (Welsh) Netterville '61, Hillside, Ill., June 25, 2023
Jane Huigens Dotson '61, Englewood, Colo., February 20, 2022
Judith A. Tadlock '62, Sioux City, August 21, 2022
James K. Keane '63, Phoenix, Ariz., December 28, 2022
Daniel J. Shoop '63, Sioux City, IA, December 27, 2022
Kathleen (Welch) Fox-Larsen '63, Omaha, March 15, 2022
Lucian "Lou" Bratkiewicz '64, Sioux City, IA, October 2, 2022
Lawrence C. Guilliaume, Jr. '64, Sioux City, IA, June 13, 2023
Doreen (Trapp) Schoonover '65, Sioux City, IA, February 1, 2023
Charles J. Lanphier '65, Sioux City, IA, September 2, 2022
Steve A. Denison '65, Rapid City, SD, April 12, 2023
Connie Nyberg Dunn '65, Golden Valley, Minn., October 13, 2022
Kathleen A. (Murfield) Williams '65, Sioux City, IA, January 21, 2023
Mary (Malsom) Gonzales '66, Albuquerque, N.M., July 21, 2020
Margaret A. Lucas '67, Sloan, IA, December 28, 2022
Dale Slate '67, Sioux City, Aug. 19, 2022
Donald Parks '68, Moville, IA, February 26, 2022
Robert Vint '68, Punta Gorda, Fla., May 1, 2022
Arthur W. Hickman '68, Hot Springs Village, Ark., August 20, 2023

1970s

Jack L. Daniels '70, Sioux Falls, SD, April 15, 2023
Mary Pat O'Neill Thompson '71, Sioux City, IA, February 2, 2023
Terry F. Coughlin '71, Sioux City, IA, August 2, 2022
Karen Callaghan Nold '72, Conyers, GA, December 22, 2022
Victor "Vic" Lund '78, Sioux City IA, March 26, 2023
Therese Risinger '78, Dakota City, Neb., August 7, 2023
Bill Hammer '78, Ankeny, IA, July 22, 2022
Sandra (Wetzbarger) Aho '79, Shakopee, Minn., June 8, 2023
Patrick J. Shay '79, Sioux City, IA, April 4, 2022
Robert J. Gill '79, Jackson, Neb., September 14, 2023
Dr. Ann Rehan '79, Dakota Dunes, SD, February 20, 2023

1980s

Suzanne C. Yaneff '80, Sioux City, IA, July 19, 2023
Robert P. Seiler '81, Sioux City, IA, November 5, 2022
John K. O'Brien '81, Sioux City, IA, June 23, 2023
Frank P. Parrinello '85, Sioux City, IA, November 7, 2022
Michael E. Tott '86, Joshua, Tex., August 2, 2022

1990s

Jeffrey M. White '93, Sioux City, IA, Jan. 29, 2023
Joy K. Ebel '93, Sioux City, IA, March 13, 2023
Brian J. Beck '96, Tulsa, Okla.,September 5, 2022
Bradley J. Dorcey '96, Jackson, Neb., July 2, 2023

Former Teacher

Dennis T. Criswell, Tucson, Ariz., July 18, 2023

Please send In Memory information to zachary.james@bishopheelan.org

Family Members

Jean Barry, wife of Dennis '69, Mpls. MN, March 28, 2022

John Prendergast, husband of Diane Smith Prendergast '62, Dec. 4, 2021.

Dr. James "Jim" Patrick Redmond, father of Mary Pat Redmond Paulsen '87.

Rita (Barnes) Sullivan, Mother of Paula (Sullivan) Guntren '87, Jackson, NE Oct. 14, 2022

Harry Grevey, husband of Mary (Birmingham) Gravey '59 Naples. Fla., Nov. 2, 2022

Eugene Geary, father of Nick '75, Tim '76, Dan '77, Joyce '78, and Ken '82

Sheila M. Wengert, mother of Mary Beth (Wengert) Madison '74, Margaret Wengert '75 (deceased), Timothy Wengert '77, Mark Wengert '78 (deceased), John Wengert '80, Ellen Wengert '81, Thomas Wengert '82, Diane Wengert '83, William "Billy" Wengert - Class of 1985, Donald "Donny" Wengert '88, Sioux City, November 29, 2022

Jean Mogren, mother of Janet Yukich, Lorrie Stedman, Rick, Mary Jo Emerson, John and David (deceased), March 9, 2023, Sioux City

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To submit a Class Note, an In Memory name, or change of address please email zachary.james@bishopheelan.org

Class Notes continued.

Lee Noel '10 stopped by Heelan to catch up with old friends and walked away styling in a special new jacket donated by the family of Lois Hardy, longtime registrar. Lee is a seminarian with the Diocese of Wyoming with the Mundelein Seminary.



Brant Hogue '20 has a new home to play collegiate baseball. After having stints with Iowa Western and Oklahoma State, the 2020 MRAC Player of the Year is now pitching for the Iowa Hawkeyes. With the Reivers, Hogue went 8-1 with a 2.61 ERA and 121 strikeouts in 79 1/3 innings.



Photo credit hawkeyesports.com

Lizbeth Marquez '20 continued to grow in her faith and God has led her to become a FOCUS Missionary (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Lizbeth will be assigned to a university to work at when she graduates in December with degrees in Psychology and Medical Humanities. "We're all on a mission together. We're all here for the same reason. Because of Jesus, our ordinary lives have been transformed in extraordinary ways—and we can't help but spread that joy. That's what it means to be a missionary."



Joslyn Verzal '22 and Ellie Betz '22 are part of the men's basketball programs at SDSU and USD. The two Crusader classmates met up with announcer Tom Jones after the Jackrabbits won that game in Vermillion.



Amber Aesoph '20 had a stellar 2022 cross country season as well as a great track and field campaign in 2023. Aesoph put herself in the University of Iowa all-time Top 10 rankings in four different events. At the 2023 Drake Relays, the former Crusader placed third in the collegiate 800-meter run.



Photo credit hawkeyesports.com

When **Jacob Bride '23** was born at 1 lb. 12 ounces in August 2004, he set a record as the tiniest infant to survive and leave the Unity Point St. Luke's neonatal nursery after over three months of care in the NICU. Jacob was recently able to meet and thank Dr. Raul Banagale, his neonatologist.





Plan Your Upcoming Reunion Now!

To get started on your next gathering, email Patty Considine-McClintock at patty.considine@bishopheelan.org or Tom Betz '85 at tom.betz@bishopheelan.org.