CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

WINTER/SPRING 2024



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.

CHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- facebook.com/canisiushs
- X: @canisiushs
- Instagram: @canisiushs
- linkedin.com/school/canisiushs
- TikTok: @canisiushs



President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., greeted students, including **Caleb Jackson '25**, with a fistbump on the first day of classes.

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WHAT'S **INSIDE**

CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY
WINTER/SPRING 2024

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Principal

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CHS RULES THE RIVALRY

The Crusaders charged the field (on our cover) and **Nyzell Lash '24** (right) embraced **Vincent Zimmerman '24** during the first of two 2023 football wins over St. Joe's, which gave CHS the all-time rivalry series lead. More on Page 20. (Photo below by **Noah Morlock '25**)

EDITOR
Keith McShea
Director of Communications

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Levi Trimble
Recruitment Marketing Manager

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Bryce Hopkins '08
Business/English Teacher

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sharon Cantillon
Jack Etheridge '23
Keith McShea
Noah Morlock '25
Mark Mulville
Levi Trimble

DO YOU RECEIVE EMAILS ABOUT CANISIUS EVENTS?
If not, update your contact info at canisiushigh.org/update

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Fr. Ciancimino with Erasmo and Perla Ponce, grandparents of **Mo Ponce '25**, at the inaugural Grandparents Day.

FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

We speak often about being "One Canisius" – a community of students, faculty, staff, coaches, parents, alumni and friends – united by Canisius, its mission and spirit. We pride ourselves on being a strong and tight-knit community. We come together because we share kinship forged through a shared experience and common bond. Coming together is something we do well.

Our commitment to being together as "One Canisius" was on full display during the fall semester, and in this issue of CHS Today you will see photos and stories of what makes our community special. We simply enjoy being together and celebrating with each other and our school. And we have much to celebrate.

In September, over 250 alumni and friends attended our annual Legacy Fund Luncheon to hear famed alumnus and decorated TV and film writer/producer Tom Fontana '69 speak about his time at CHS. In addition to being a really good time, the luncheon raises needed scholarship money each year for our students and athletic programs.

November saw us welcome 230 guests for our biennial Alumni Awards. The family and friends of four new Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductees and eight new Athletic Hall of Famers celebrated the lives and accomplishments of these deserving alumni whose time at CHS inspired them to the generous service of others.

In December, we welcomed over 400 visitors for our inaugural Grandparents Day as our students prayed together at Mass and shared a meal with their loved ones who mean so much to them.

We also hosted a sold-out Christmas concert by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in our historic Scaccia Auditorium that brought the holiday spirit to our community. That was just weeks after we welcomed one of the best pianists in the world, Alexander Malofeev, for a stirring solo performance.

We should not forget the numerous retreats, service immersion trips, athletic contests, and parent association events that brought us closer together as a community throughout the school year. These opportunities are all blessings, and for all of them, we are grateful.

A.M.D.G.



Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.



Principal Coppola welcomes (left to right), Mark, Kate and Aidan Alnutt (younger brother of Mason '25) during our Fall Open House.

FROM THE

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

This year our school earned a designation that underlined our commitment to making the highest levels of education available to our students.

CHS was named to the Advanced Placement Honor Roll at the Platinum level, a distinction only earned by 6% of eligible high schools across the United States and Canada.

The AP Platinum distinction is a reflection of the good and quality work that our faculty does, and a reflection of the high-caliber students that are in front of us every day.

We are incredibly fortunate to not only have students who care deeply about the work that they're doing in the classroom, but also to have a staff of teachers that care so deeply about the content and the pedagogy of these high-quality courses.

We have 14 faculty members who teach AP courses. Nine of those teachers, including three CHS alumni, have taught AP courses here for at least a decade.

For many of our teachers, this is a place of choice: They choose to work here because of the work they get to do and the love they have for that work. We are so grateful to have faculty members who have taught AP courses for five, 10, 15 years – and in some cases, to have been the only person who has taught that course in our school.

Our teachers' commitment and passion is also evident in the number of teachers who attend AP conferences and volunteer to grade additional AP exams. We are proud to have teachers who always volunteer for those opportunities.

You can read more on the AP designation and our faculty members on page 21.

The AP award has been part of several honors we have received this school year. Canisius was voted by Western New Yorkers as "Best Private School" in The Buffalo News Best in 716 issue. In the extensive Niche.com 2024 Best Schools rankings for the Buffalo area, Canisius is the No. 1 Catholic High School and the No. 1 All-Boys High School.

I have often said that we have the best faculty and staff in Western New York, and these designations are a testament to that, along with the hard work and dedication of our students and the mission our school has carried out every day for 154 years.

I am thankful that our school has received this kind of recognition, and could not be more thankful for all the members of the CHS community who are behind it.

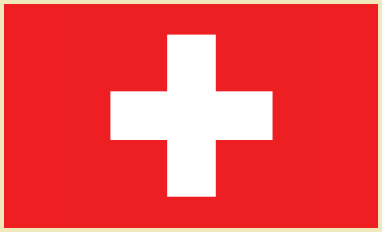
Gratefully,

Thomas D. Coppola

Thomas Coppola '01











CANISIUS WORLDWIDE

The CHS community spans far and wide, including internationally, where our Jesuit education provided a foundation that was integral for these five prestigious alumni. In their own words, these Crusaders chronicle their worldly journeys and where they are today.



JIM MCGOLDRICK '77

Frankfurt, Germany
Entrepreneur & Real Estate Developer

Jim McGoldrick '77 built an extremely successful global health club business.

How did you find yourself overseas and so far from 1180 Delaware? After completing B.S. and B.A. degrees from Canisius College and an MBA from Syracuse University on a fellowship, I moved to New York City to work in international commercial banking with Deutsche Bank. The bank sent me to its headquarters in Frankfurt for what was supposed to be only six months. They asked me to extend my stay, and I ended up working in Europe for almost 40 years now.

How has your career journey transpired? My career has been truly multi-faceted. After Deutsche Bank, I moved to London to work for Morgan Stanley in investment banking. I then moved back to Frankfurt to set up Morgan Stanley's office in Germany. After more than 10 years in banking/investment banking, I founded a private equity business with three German partners that specialized in acquiring majority stakes in mid-size German companies.

It was whilst working in private equity that I purchased a large health club in downtown Frankfurt purely as a private investment. Five years later, what was supposed to be a fun side business had grown to eight clubs with over 200 employees. This forced me into making a "grow-it or sell-it" decision as the health clubs were taking more and more of my time away from private equity. I decided to focus on growing the health club business further and, in order to secure additional capital for expansion, I merged the German business with a UK-based chain of 20 clubs that had already managed to go public. Ten years later, we had grown to 550 health clubs with almost 2 million members in 16 countries throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Australia. We were the largest health club chain in the world when it was sold to a large private equity fund for over $1.5 billion in 2005. It was, to say the least, a truly amazing journey! After leaving the fitness industry in 2007, I started developing large-scale residential real estate projects, primarily in Berlin. The real estate business still keeps me busy to this day.

How did your time at CHS impact you? I am very thankful for the outstanding education I received at CHS. The teachers were top-notch – God bless each and every one of them – and truly dedicated to bringing out the best in every student. We were taught to think critically, to seek out truth, and to communicate effectively. Solid communication skills are a key factor of success in almost any career, particularly in the business world. I can truly say that the education I received at CHS formed the foundation of my later success in life, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? The world is full of opportunities. Go out and find them. Be curious, be open-minded, be critical, pay attention to details, and don't waste time working at something you don't enjoy. Life goes by quicker than you can ever imagine as a student at CHS. Find something you are truly passionate about and work hard at it. With hard work, good timing, and, God willing, a bit of luck, you will be successful. Take care of your health and stay fit. Exercising regularly will pay big dividends later in life!

Finally, be true to yourself and your beliefs, and never forget to spend quality time with the family. You will find out that your kids grow up even quicker than you did!



John Sutter '88 enjoys going on long hikes and participates in hiking fundraising events.

JOHN SUTTER '88

Oxfordshire, England
Physicist and Optics Scientist, Diamond Light Source

How did you find yourself overseas and so far from 1180 Delaware? I think the seed of my traveling lifestyle was sown long before I attended CHS, because my father was in the U.S. Navy and my family moved around a lot. Though my family's roots are in Buffalo, I was actually born in New Jersey and then lived in Sicily, so by the time my family returned to the Buffalo area just before I turned 7, I was well used to being an American in a foreign land.

Also, I grew up in the 1980s, when Buffalo's steel and auto factories were shutting down. Foreign competition was often blamed for this, and so I learned the importance of being aware of the world outside America's borders.

That I finally ended up in England and have been settled here for the past 18 years is closely connected with the progress of my career as a physicist.

How has your career journey transpired? My CHS teachers granted me a good deal of freedom to choose my own academic path. My favorite subjects were of course math and science. However, I also studied first French and then, in my senior year, German, little dreaming at the time that these languages would one day stand me in good stead. In my sophomore year, I joined the choir, then under the highly capable direction of Frank Scinta.

After graduating from CHS in 1988, I began studying for a bachelor's degree in physics at the University at Buffalo. Following my graduation from UB, I was offered a fellowship to study for a Ph.D. in physics at Purdue University. After spending the 1993-94 academic year as an exchange student at the University of Hamburg, Germany – another place that would become very important in my life – I began my doctoral research in earnest in January 1995 at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. The German I had learned now came in handy, not only for chatting with my colleagues, but also for reading the early papers in the field of X-ray diffraction.

I successfully defended my thesis in May 2000. I was looking for adventure abroad, and in my two postdoc positions, I found it. I spent three years researching X-ray interferometry at the DESY synchrotron in Hamburg and then worked at the SPring-8 synchrotron in Japan, deep in the mountainous countryside not far from the White Egret Castle in the town of Himeji near Kobe.

When my postdoc in Japan drew to a close in May 2006, I was in search of a permanent research position. It was my current employer, the Diamond Light Source synchrotron near Oxford in England, that offered me one. Since I joined when the facility was still under construction, I've seen it grow almost from the beginning. I've been working since then in that facility's X-ray optics group, helping my colleagues get the best performance from the X-ray beams provided to them.

How did your time at CHS impact you? From my previous answer, you can see some of the influence of CHS on my adult life. I still sing in choirs, and I still use much of the math and science that I learned at CHS in my daily work today. I have remained a practicing Catholic, as in my high school days. Here in England I sing with my fellow musicians at Masses on Sunday morning, and I work with the parish's confirmation class.

More than that, CHS gave me my first experiences with serving my community. I recall participating in the yearly Walkathons and visiting elderly patients in a nearby nursing home as part of my Christian Service. To this day I still enjoy

John Sutter '88 *continued on page 42*



BRENT NOWICKI '97

Lausanne, Switzerland
CEO/Executive Director for World Aquatics

Brent Nowicki '97, based in Switzerland, travels across the world as the Executive Director of World Aquatics.

How did you find yourself overseas and so far from 1180 Delaware? Sports were always a passion in my life, and when I began my practice as an attorney, I wanted to find a way to combine my passion with my education. As luck had it, early in my career I was given an opportunity to represent a variety of different professional athletes, some of whom competed internationally. Their legal mandates not only took my practice internationally, but they also took my mindset and career ambitions overseas. From there, I tried to focus on various opportunities to grow an international sports practice on a full-time basis. One thing led to another, and in 2013, I found myself living in Switzerland, fully immersed in the Olympic, FIFA and international sports market.

How has your career journey transpired? I graduated from Fairfield University with a B.A. in English and concentration in Business in 2001 before deciding to attend the University at Buffalo School of Law, graduating in 2006.

I was hired by Hodgson Russ LLP, a brilliant law firm in Buffalo. It was (and still is) one of my greatest professional accomplishments. The legal skills, attention to detail and focus on the attorney-client relationship that the firm taught me has given me a great skill set that I work off of today. I will forever be grateful.

As a young attorney, I tried to remain patient and just kept working hard. But for the first time, I really started asking myself what I wanted out of my life and career. This period of inward reflection allowed me to accept my shortcomings and maximize the best version of myself. It was then that I realized that I needed to find that intersection between my passion (sport) and my education (law).

This happened in 2013 when I was hired as Managing Counsel at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, and later managed the CAS Anti-Doping Divisions at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (2016) and Pyeongchang (2018). In this role, my eyes opened to a legal world I never knew existed and I just kept pushing on. In 2021, I was appointed CEO of World Aquatics (then Federation Internationale de Natation – FINA).

As the CEO of World Aquatics, my role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities and tasks that revolve around overseeing and advancing the organization's mission and objectives (and recently, navigating geopolitical issues in global sport) on behalf of 210 national federations across six sports (swimming, diving, open water swimming, water polo, artistic swimming and high diving). Although my career has pivoted away from the law, being a lawyer has never really left me. Lawyers are trained to think analytically, set strategy and solve problems. These three attributes – analytical thinking, defining strategy and

Brent Nowicki '97 *continued on page 42*



After college, **Dalton Weir '14** was hired by Scotland's national park system, known as Historic Environment Scotland.

DALTON WEIR '14

Manchester, England
Product Designer, XReality Labs

How did you find yourself overseas and so far from 1180 Delaware? I grew up around the corner from Canisius (Lancaster Avenue) and spent most of my high school years in the Elmwood Village. Buffalo is one of my favorite places in the world, but I always felt the need to explore – to see what the world had to offer beyond 716.

When I graduated from high school, I moved to Worcester, Mass. to study at the College of the Holy Cross. Like so many young people, I aspired to "success," but had absolutely no idea what that meant, what was important to me, or even how to find that out.

My first year at Holy Cross was – as we'd say in the UK – rather grim. My lack of self-understanding and purpose made me feel rudderless in my studies, social life, and prospective future. The rigors of university (social, academic, or otherwise) were a highly complex but formulative challenge.

It wasn't until sophomore year that one of my professors pulled me aside and gave me the best advice of my life: "It's OK if your purpose is just 'to discover.' Exploration can in fact be a wonderful source of direction." This advice drove me to study abroad at the University of York in Northern England (imagine Diagon Alley in Harry Potter).

I know it's a bit cliché to suggest that my time abroad changed my life, but I suppose all clichés hold some truth. While at York, I met my future fiancé, made lifelong friends, figured out how to laugh at myself, and discovered a culture that made me feel at home.

How has your career journey transpired? After my final year at Holy Cross, I moved back to the UK (Edinburgh, Scotland). I got a job in the pub to pay my rent and took time to direct energy into my love for discovery. I've always been a bit of a nerd and realised a career in software design would allow me to continue that process of discovery.

A far cry from my literature degree, I decided to pour my energy into learning new technical skills. Eventually, I was hired by Scotland's national parks (Historic Environment Scotland for those of you visiting – I recommend you check them out) to help them create a more accessible digital infrastructure for people with disabilities. When the pandemic hit, I took some time to build personal websites which secured me a position as a designer at a large financial organization. Since then, I have been managing the design and development of Mixed Reality and Virtual Reality medical training applications.

How did your time at CHS impact you? I admire, respect, and have learned a lot from Canisius, its wonderful educators, and the other young men I studied with. I

Dalton Weir '14 *continued on page 42*

COLE BURNISTON '17

London, Canada
Large Systems Service Representative, IBM Canada

How has your career journey transpired? After graduation from CHS, I continued my education at the University at Buffalo, where I was a four-year letterman on the football team, playing both tight end and fullback. I graduated with a degree in health and human services with a focus in community mental health. I now live in London, Ontario which is about two hours west of my hometown Grimsby, Ontario.

Currently I am working the IT industry for IBM Canada as a Large Systems Service Representative in the financial banking field. I have always had a passion for technology and computers. I had the opportunity to interview for this job, and now I get to service large enterprise data centers in the Southwestern Ontario area. I install, configure, repair and maintain large systems such as IBM Z Mainframe, storage and servers as well as a various number of third-party vendor products such as Cisco, Lenovo and NetApp. It is an ever-changing industry and leads to long hours at any time of the day, but it keeps me moving and constantly learning everyday, which I very much enjoy

How did your time at CHS impact you? Canisius offered experiences that I never expected to have at a secondary school. Most were the intangible things that are not found in a textbook, and they were areas of focus for many of the teachers. These included professional things such as creating study habits that actually work, what life after high school will actually be like, being able to juggle many assignments at once, and even how to write a professional email (Thank you Ms. Riley!).

From a personal perspective, I made friendships and contacts with people whom I will know for the rest of my life, and getting to go on Kairos was a chance for me to really learn more about myself, my values and my spirituality.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? I would tell a current or new student to fully immerse yourself in the CHS life. As a junior year transfer, I didn't get the chance to go on my freshman retreat or to go on Emmaus, but I did get to go on Kairos. I could not recommend it more. And take the opportunity to go on mission trips. Make new friends with people from other towns and take advantage of all the resources that Canisius offers, because you may not realize how many amazing things are there. Go out to the sporting events and cheer on your fellow classmates, and take part in any extracurriculars you can.

It has turned into a bit of a cliché, but when I was at CHS all the alumni would come back and say how much easier college is compared to Canisius, and it turns out it really is true. The learning skills and attitudes at CHS really get instilled into you and you will see your hard work pay off in college. As a young alumnus now, I have taken the opportunity to attend alumni events such as JUG Night. This has allowed me to meet generations of Crusaders who came before me, and it gave me a chance to reminisce, tell stories, and learn from people who have different lives than me.



Native Canadian **Cole Burniston '17** was a football standout as a Crusader before playing four years at the University at Buffalo.

ALUMNI AWARDS



Left to right: **Jordan J. Hamm '09**, Thomas H. Weislo, **Kyle P. Husband '96**, **Joseph L. Ogiony '73**, **James E. Bujalski '84**, **Ryan Dinunzio '98**, **Hon. John M. Curran '77**, **Dr. Eric F. Spina '79**, **Dr. John M. Canty '72**, **Dale R. Podlas '87**, **Walter L. Rooth '60**, **Karl S. McKinnie '77**.

Twelve CHS alumni joined an exclusive group on Nov. 18, 2023 in a stirring ceremony at Scaccia Auditorium as their exceptional contributions in medicine, law, education, community service and athletics earned Canisius' highest recognition.

DR. JOHN M. CANTY '72 – MEDICINE



A cardiologist by trade, the SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine currently serves as the Director of the Center for Research in Cardiovascular Medicine at the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine.

Dr. Canty is also a professor of Biomedical Engineering at UB and is on staff at the Buffalo VA Medical Center. His areas of expertise are in diagnosing and caring for patients with coronary artery disease and heart failure. A UB Distinguished Alumni, his work as a research scientist has been published over 150 times.

On CHS: *"I'm overwhelmed by the importance that Canisius played in my professional and personal life and how so much would be different if I had not had the opportunity to follow that path."*

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF HONOR



VIEW MORE PHOTOS AND READ THE INDUCTEES' COMPLETE REFLECTIONS AT CANISIUSHIGH.ORG

HON. JOHN M. CURRAN '77 – LAW



Judge Curran began his legal career as a commercial litigation attorney before being appointed the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York.

He served as the Orchard Park Town Justice. In 2004, he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court. In 2016, he was appointed to the Fourth Appellate Division. He has served on the Orchard Park Town Board, the Canisius High School Board of Trustees and is a UB Law School Distinguished Alumni.

On CHS: *"I learned how to learn here. I read widely and learned to love to read. ... I just didn't know it at the time, but what happened here launched a lifelong desire to learn. ... I have been, and always will be, extremely grateful that I went to high school here."*



WALTER L. ROOTH '60 – LAW/CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Rooth began his career as the Hamburg Town Attorney before being elected Hamburg Town Judge where he served for 35 years. During his tenure he oversaw the implementation of a Court Domestic Violence Counselor and Alcohol Counselor.

He created counseling and community service programs for Hamburg youth. His work as a youth baseball coach and executive earned him the Town Service to Youth Award.

On CHS: *"The Jesuits and Canisius taught me how to think and work – two qualities I still use today. The content of what I learned at Canisius may have faded, but what I learned has shaped me into what I am today. ... What is important is that Canisius taught me how to learn."*

DR. ERIC F. SPINA '79 – EDUCATION



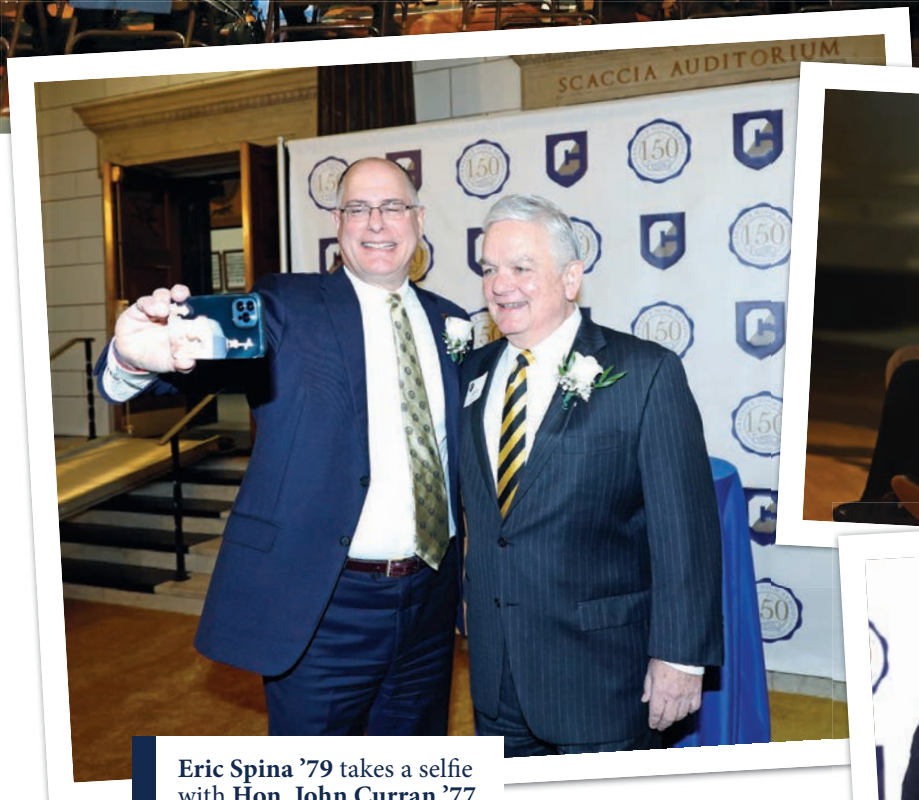
Spina, the President of Dayton University, began his career as a mechanical and aerospace engineer before becoming Syracuse University Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science as well as Vice Chancellor and Provost of SU.

Under his guidance, Dayton has set records for size, academic quality and diversity. He holds two U.S. patents and his work has been honored by NASA and the National Science Foundation.

On CHS: *"My parents lived their entire lives in Buffalo, and they believed not only in Catholic education, not only in Jesuit education, but in the power and the excellence of Canisius education. I had teachers who both cared for me as a person and demanded that I make the most of my gifts and my privilege."*

ALUMNI AWARDS





Eric Spina '79 takes a selfie with **Hon. John Curran '77.**



Joseph Ogiony '73 shares a laugh before the ceremony.



Robert Fiordaliso '79 with **Karl McKinnie '77.**



VIEW MORE PHOTOS AND READ THE INDUCTEES' COMPLETE REFLECTIONS AT CANISIUSHIGH.ORG



Thomas Weislo is presented the Barnes Award by, left to right, Director of Alumni Relations **Jay Josker '01**, Director of Athletics Jim Mauro, President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., and Principal **Tom Coppola '01**.

JOHN F. BARNES AWARD

In recognition of lifetime contributions to Canisius High School athletics

THOMAS H. WEISLO – VOLLEYBALL

A foundational member and the architect of the CHS championship volleyball program, Weislo has been a part of 24 Monsignor Martin Athletic Association championships during his 27 years with the program, including the team's 22-year title streak.

As the varsity head coach, Weislo won 15 consecutive MMAA Championships and 17 total. His 2016 and 2020 teams went undefeated with his 2016 team posting a 34-0 record and boasting two players ranked in the USA Volleyball Top 50. Weislo has coached countless All-Catholic and All-Western New York players during his tenure, and his tireless efforts have built Crusader volleyball into one of the best and most successful programs in Western New York.

Weislo is currently the Director of Admission and the Director of Volleyball Operations at CHS.

On CHS: *"I'm grateful to Canisius High School for letting me come on board so many years ago. We built something that has been regarded by many as the best program, top to bottom, in Western New York, and one that is known and respected by schools across the state and around the country. College coaches know our program and our players as well. We've sustained excellence over time.*

"That couldn't happen without the support of the school administration and athletic department. From trips to tournaments to off-season training, Canisius has been on board and supportive from day one. Not all programs are as fortunate, and for that I can't thank CHS enough."

ALUMNI AWARDS

KYLE P. HUSBAND '96

Basketball



Husband turned the Crusader backcourt into the Monsignor Martin's deadliest after transferring prior to his junior year. The all-around standout's team-leading 16 ppg as a senior paced a hot-shooting CHS squad to a Manhattan Cup and Class C Catholic State Championship. Husband was a two-time All-Catholic selection as a Crusader and scored 1,016 career points. As the current varsity coach, Husband leads all MMAA coaches with 10 Manhattan Cups and is second on the all-time WNY New York victories list.

On CHS: *"I am honored to have the many memories Canisius High School gave me as a player but also for the memories it has afforded me the last 20-plus years as a coach. I continue to try and form those memories and the hard life lessons that I learned many years ago being a student athlete at Canisius with the young men on the court today.*

"Canisius and basketball have been the foundation of so many lessons that carry on for me today – drive, motivation, hard work, responsibility, teamwork, trust, and love. I am forever grateful for the many years at Canisius High School and to be part of the basketball program."

RYAN DINUNZIO '98

Soccer



One of the best soccer players in the history of CHS, Dinunzio was a four-year member of the varsity team and a three-year captain. He earned All-Catholic honors in 1995, 1996 and 1997. The 1997 Monsignor Martin Player of the Year and All-Western New York selection set school records for career goals and assists.

On CHS: *"My four years as a Crusader made a major impact on my development as a young man both academically and athletically. The consistent and daily Pursuit of Excellence has driven me in the classroom, the soccer field and professional world. By becoming a Crusader … I was immersed into an environment that gave me no choice but to be shaped into a Man for Others."*

DALE R. PODLAS '87

Baseball, Football, Basketball



The three-sport athlete shined brightest on the diamond. The third baseman and pitching ace earned All-Catholic honors three years in a row; as a senior, Podlas captained the Crusaders on his way to earning a spot on the All-Western New York team.

On CHS: *"Canisius High School is the gold standard. Being a student-athlete here at Canisius can come with high expectations. However, it also provides guidance and teaches life lessons and habits that prepare young men for success not only athletically but in life. I learned the importance of individual sacrifice, discipline, dedication, and to embrace a team-first attitude. By consistently performing these traits, individual success would follow."*



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



VIEW MORE PHOTOS AND READ THE INDUCTEES' COMPLETE REFLECTIONS AT CANISIUSHIGH.ORG

KARL S. MCKINNIE '77

Track & Field



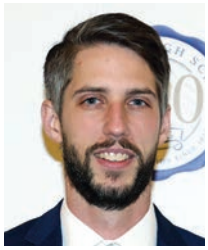
The two-time track team MVP captained the Crusaders to the 1976 All-Catholic championship while earning individual All-Catholic honors six times throughout his career. McKinnie also won All-Western New York honors five times and captured a state title in the 400 meters.

On CHS: *"My time at Canisius High School was and certainly continues to be a blessing. I had great coaches and mentors at CHS, including freshman track coach Mr. Sala, who encouraged me to keep trying, and the late, great – and I mean great – Mr. James Skipper. Mr. Skipper was such an important part of my growth not only as a runner but also as a person. I am also grateful to Mr. Jeff Gemmer, another great example of coaching and teaching, not just sports but life as well.*

"I could go on and on about the great influences on this side of the Blue Doors – but it would be endless. I am truly, truly grateful for being honored. As we say, 'This place is special.'"

JORDAN J. HAMM '09

Cross Country, Track & Field



Hamm was a two-time All-Catholic track honoree and three-time All-Catholic Cross Country selection. Hamm also was an All-Western New York Cross Country honoree as a senior. He holds Catholic state titles in both indoor and outdoor track and won a New York State Federation title in indoor track. He holds school records in both the indoor and outdoor 1,600 meters and as a member of the indoor 4x800 relay team.

On CHS: *"I would not have had the success that I did without the guidance of my coaches: Thank you, Brian Lombardo and Brian Tollar. There are so many within the Canisius High School community that contributed to my success on and off the track, but I must thank two mentors – Paul Cumbo and Adam Baber – both helped me understand what it meant to be a good person, how to serve your community, and when to speak up for others.*

"I know for a fact that I would not be where I am today without the foundation that was laid at Canisius High School. Thank you for the opportunity and support to chase my dreams – I will always bleed blue and gold."

JOSEPH L. OGIONY '73

Swimming



The four-year member of a dominant varsity team was a three-time All-Catholic honoree who went undefeated in the 100-yard butterfly during both his junior and senior years. The team captain anchored the freestyle and medley relays and qualified for the national All-Catholic meet in 1973.

On CHS: *"As I reflect on my life at Canisius and swimming from over 50 years past, I am overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude and appreciation for what they gave me in life. The impact that Canisius, and the people who came into my life because of it, have had on my life is immeasurable."*

JAMES E. BUJALSKI '84

Tennis



Bujalski's outstanding Canisius High School career began with him capturing his first All-Catholic title as a freshman. As a senior, the team captain and WKBW-TV Super 7 Athlete of the Week won the All-Catholic title in both singles and doubles.

On CHS: *"I would like to thank my teammates for four fantastic years of epic battles against Nichols and St. Joe's. Thank you, Coach Damien Courtin and teammates Chris Jacobs, Paul Favorito, Mark Hayes and Tim Burke (may you rest in peace)."*

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors individuals who achieved excellence in their scholastic athletic careers at Canisius. These individuals have been measured not only by their achievements, but by their sportsmanship, character, and leadership.

To make a nomination, go to canisiushigh.org/alumni



GREAT PERFORMANCES

CHS welcomes BPO and world-famous Russian pianist







One of the best pianists in the world performed for the Canisius High School community in Scaccia Auditorium in November.

Alexander Malofeev, a 22-year-old Russian pianist who has earned international acclaim since a young age, played at CHS days after playing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. He toured China, Europe and appeared at New York's Carnegie Hall during the 2023-24 season.

Malofeev's visit to Canisius was arranged by arts supporters **Bud Whistler '61** and wife Sandy (inset photo above).

December saw "Christmas Classics with the BPO" in a sold-out Scaccia Auditorium, which was built 100 years ago for just this kind of fine arts experience.

Conducted by Fernanda Lastra (right), the BPO performed several holiday pieces. The BPO, which also performed for our community in spring 2023 during a school day, once called our aud its home. The orchestra performed there after the Elmwood Music Hall was demolished in 1938 and before Kleinhans Music Hall opened in 1940.



A LASTING LEGACY

Tom Fontana '69, the Fontana family, Joe Michael '64 among those honored at a terrific Legacy Fund Luncheon

"For over 50 years, I've been getting up at 5 a.m. to start writing. Regardless of whether I've slept poorly or I'm feeling great, I'm sick or hungover, I'm known in the entertainment industry as someone who never misses a script deadline, and that the productions that I am a showrunner of are always on time, on budget. That's all a result of the discipline I learned at Canisius."

Emmy Award-winning writer and producer **Tom Fontana '69** was the keynote speaker at September's Legacy Fund Luncheon, where he received a standing ovation from the hundreds gathered at the Hotel at The Lafayette in downtown Buffalo. This year's luncheon honored the Fontana family, **Erik Brady '72, Phil McConkey '75** and **Tim Russert '68**.

Charles Fontana and wife Marie are the namesakes of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fontana Boathouse of the West Side Rowing Club. Tom was joined by siblings Frank, Charles, Paul and Sr. Charlene, SSJ (pictured above), in accepting the tribute to Charles and the Fontana family.

Also honored at the close of the event, to another standing ovation, was the man who has been a driving force of the Legacy Fund, longtime chairman **Joe Michael '64** (above).

"It was Joe who always had the committee organized and informed, always looking to add new committee members and fresh ideas, always looking for ways to expand – bigger, better, more," Director of Alumni Relations **Jay Josker '01** told the audience. "It's only fitting that we close today's ceremony by honoring one more Founding Father."

The Legacy Fund supports academic scholarships for deserving Crusaders and helps fund capital purchases for the athletic department.





GRAND DAY FOR CHS FAMILY

Our first Grandparents Day event saw hundreds enjoy a special time at 1180 Delaware Ave

Several hundred were part of a magnificent Sunday in November at 1180 Delaware Ave. as we welcomed our extended family members at our first Grandparents Day.

The event began with Mass in a packed Scaccia Auditorium (where Albert Gurgol and grandson **Owen Scott '27** joined hands, pictured in two photos above) followed by brunch in the Kennedy Field House.

Mass was celebrated by Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J., and concelebrants President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., and teacher **Fr. Michael Corcoran, S.J. '76**. Principal **Thomas Coppola '01** welcomed all while Fr. Ciancimino delivered a special message, as did student speaker **Blaine Benson '24.**



William LaCitiva '26, left, and **Michael LaCitiva '24** accompanied grandparents Rocco and AnnaMarie Diina.



EXCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

CHS earns highest distinction in Advanced Placement Honor Roll

Canisius was named to the 2023 Advanced Placement Honor Roll at the Platinum level, a distinction only earned by 6% of eligible high schools across the United States and Canada.

Canisius is the lone all-boys school in the Buffalo Niagara region to achieve either Platinum or Gold status.

This is the first year of the College Board's AP Honor Roll, which is based on a school's ability to increase their college-going culture, to provide opportunities for students to earn college credit and to maximize college readiness.

The nine teachers pictured here have taught AP courses at Canisius for a decade or more. In addition, AP classes are also taught by: **Eric Amodeo '94** (AP Computer Science); **Michael Gabriele '16** (AP Biology); Steve Pecori (AP Statistics); Justin Siuta (AP European History); Scott Walters (AP Physics C: Mechanics).

These nine teachers have taught Advanced Placement courses at CHS for a decade or more.



CHS RULES THE RIVALRY

Thanks to two victories over St. Joe's in 2023, including a regular-season 49-7 win that included this breakaway touchdown by **Elijah Kimble '27**, Crusader football now leads the all-time rivalry series, 49-48-3. CHS and coach **Kraig Kurzanski '84** took the lead with a 42-0 shutout in the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association semifinals, which was the teams' 100th meeting. Canisius has won nine straight in the series and 19 of the last 20 meetings.


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GO CRUSADERS!

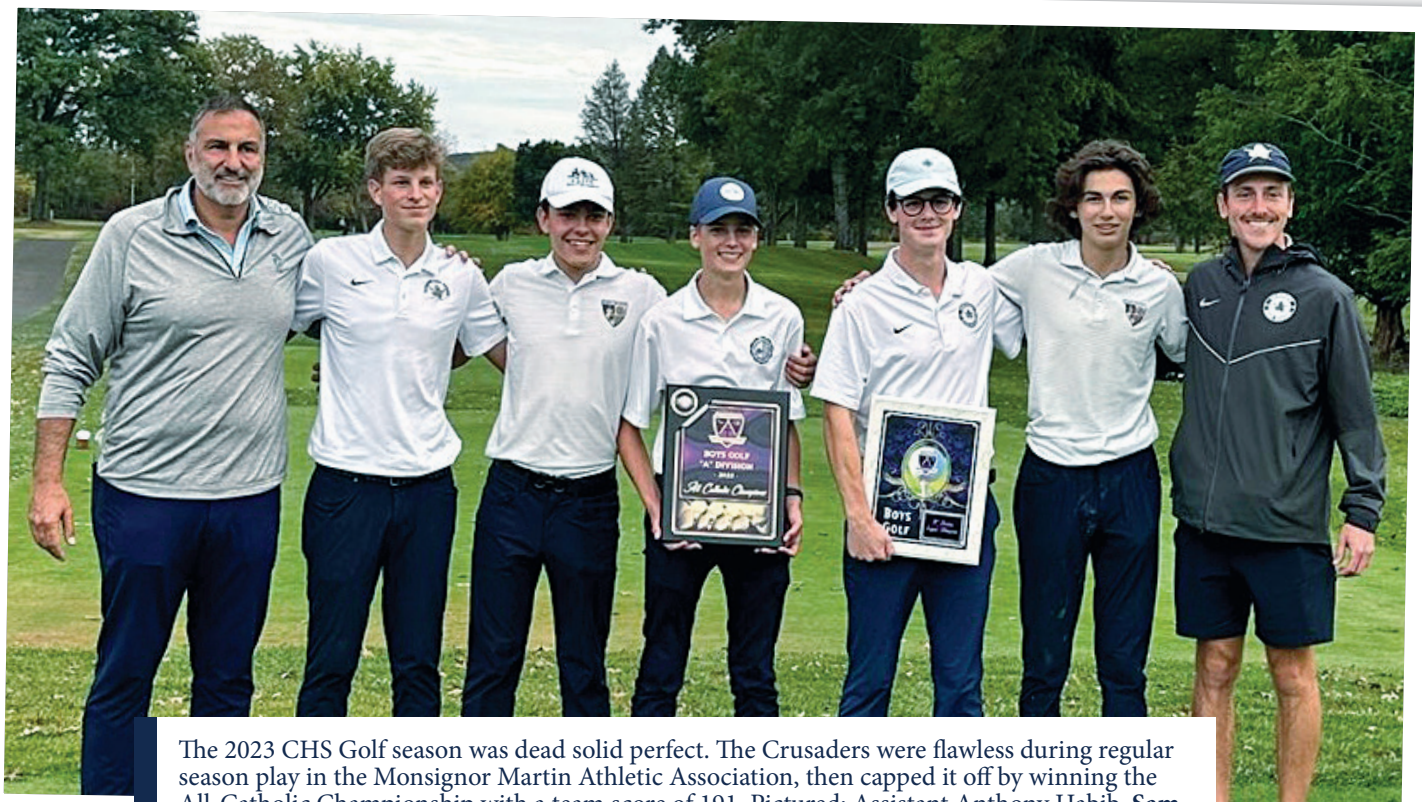
The CHS Rowing team and coach **Jacob Filby '14** completed the fall racing season with a strong performance at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia as **Max Burget '24** earned a bronze medal and the First Varsity Eight made the top 10.

Burget finished third among 63 rowers in the Varsity Single. Burget was also part of the First Varsity Eight, which had a great improvement over last year as it finished 10th out of 60 crews, a 10-spot jump from 2022. Pictured (left to right): Burget, **Peter Cross '24**, **Liam Feeney '25**, **James Dodman '24**, **Teddy Hibbard '24, Mark Kadiev '24**, **Isaiah Aljuwani '25, Thomas Skowron '25**, **Alexander Pusatieri '24**.

At the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, the Men's Under-17 Four earned CHS Rowing's second-ever medal at the prestigious event while the Youth Eight finished 10th, Canisius' best Youth Eight finish since 2014.

The Men's Under-17 Four of **Zack Benczkowski '26**, **Ethan Pirigyi '26**, **Aydan Weese '25**, **Meer Renschler Pandey '25** and **Noah Rajecki '25** (pictured at right with CHS President of Rowing Thomas Flaherty) took third place. The medal is the first since Canisius placed fifth in the Youth Eight at the 2008 Head of the Charles.





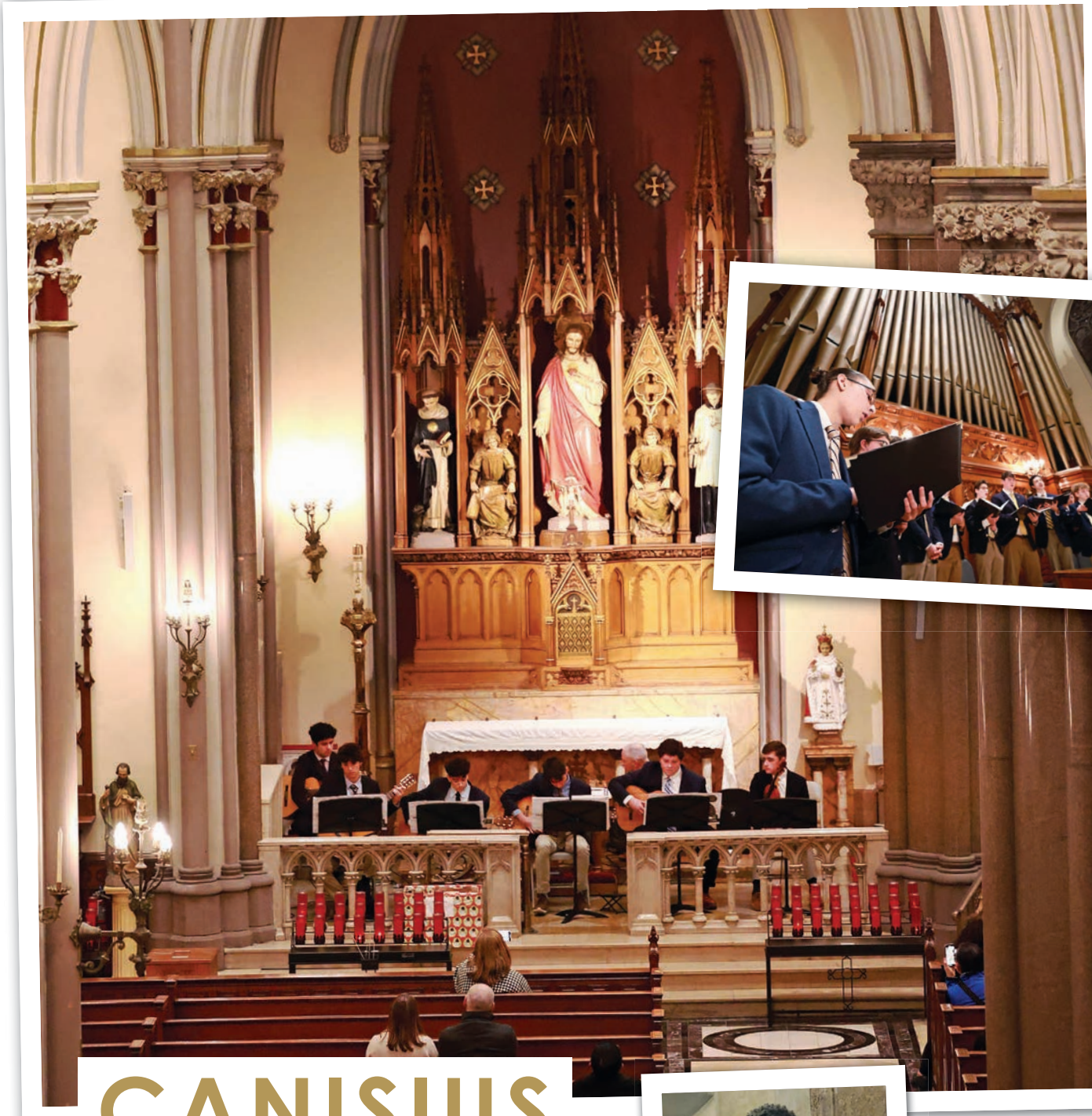
The 2023 CHS Golf season was dead solid perfect. The Crusaders were flawless during regular season play in the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association, then capped it off by winning the All-Catholic Championship with a team score of 191. Pictured: Assistant Anthony Habib, **Sam Atkinson '25**, **Joey Bueme '27**, **Connor Jackson '26**, **McNamara Quinn '24**, **Halim Habib '26** and Coach Joe Mitchell, a former Crusader standout. Canisius also finished first in a prestigious midseason event, the 21-team Midwest Prep Classic in Meadville, Pa.



Our 2023 signing ceremony last spring (left) saw 11 student-athletes commit to join college athletic programs: **Casey LaForce '23** of East Aurora (Hamilton, lacrosse); **Liam McCarty '23** of Cheektowaga (Alfred State, baseball – he ultimately committed to Mount Aloysius College); **Marshall Adams '23** of East Aurora (Ithaca College, swimming and crew); **Michael Doctor '23** of Grand Island (Fordham, football); **Luke Granto '23** of Lockport (RIT, basketball); **Matt Marusza '23** of Orchard Park (New Paltz, volleyball); **Brendan Carroll '23** of Grand Island (Siena, rugby); **Nick Kerwin '23** of Clarence (Illinois, rugby); **Brendan Batchen '23** of Amherst (Endicott College, lacrosse); **Braden Dunn '23** of Lewiston (Queens University, track); **Jameson Chalupka '23** of Lackawanna (Mount Aloysius College, baseball).

In November, on the first day that members of the Class of 2024 could make their signing with college athletic programs official, six Crusaders were part of our first commitment ceremony of the 2023-24 school year (right): **James Dodman '24** of Buffalo (Columbia, rowing); **Aaron Eberhard '24** of Buffalo (St. Bonaventure, lacrosse); **Vito Verni '24** of Buffalo (Walsh University, baseball – Verni ultimately committed to Le Moyne); **Teddy Hibbard '24** of Buffalo (California-Berkeley, rowing); **Ivan Roeder '24** of Orchard Park (Le Moyne, lacrosse); **Colton Schoenberger '24** of Williamsville (Le Moyne, lacrosse).





CANISIUS IN ACTION

Our Fine Arts Department presented its annual "Festival of Lessons and Carols" in December at the beautiful St. Louis Church in downtown Buffalo. The service features nine biblical readings ranging from the story of Adam and Eve to the beginning of the Gospel of St. John. Musical pieces – carols – provide opportunity for reflection on the texts; pieces were performed by the chorus, concert band and orchestra as well as the handbells and guitar ensembles.



Jaeden Phillips '25 was honored by Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown at City Hall as a recipient of a Mayor's Summer Youth Internship Award. Phillips was named the Community Service Award winner after working in the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H program.



The CHS Drama Guild performed Reginald Rose's "12 Angry Men" in October in Scaccia Auditorium.



Students and faculty gathered for our hallmark Kairos Retreat four times during the school year at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Pictured is the third of the retreats – Kairos 123 in December.



The CHS community continued its Fall tradition with the annual Walk for Canisius. Students raised thousands before walking in and around Buffalo's Elmwood Village, including past the Buffalo AKG Art Museum.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ZACHARY BONUITO '25

"Canisius became the best decision I've ever made about my future."

HOMETOWN: Lancaster (Lancaster Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? I chose Canisius because I wanted to go to a school that would prepare me for my future. I've always dreamed about going to a good college. I felt Canisius gave me the best opportunity to fulfill that dream. The friends I've made and the memories I am creating while at Canisius have made my Canisius experience very rewarding.

ATHLETICS: I play soccer; I've played it my whole life. It's not just a team, it's a family. Soccer has taught me the relationship between success and hard work. How without work there is no success.

ACADEMICS: I like history class. I haven't always enjoyed history but the teachers I've had while at Canisius helped me enjoy learning about the past.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan to attend college and major in accounting and finance. I hope to play soccer while in college.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Make the jump. Once I jumped in with two feet, Canisius quickly became the best decision I've ever made about my future.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius is shaping the man I'm becoming by teaching me how to be a Man For and With Others.



GAVIN EYNON '25

"Everybody was very welcoming."

HOMETOWN: Hamburg (Nardin Academy)

WHY CANISIUS? I always knew Canisius was a possible destination for me. When I shadowed, I liked the environment and knew it was the right fit. Everybody was very welcoming and it was a place where I wanted to spend the next four years. Canisius offers many social opportunities to be with my friends whether it be in sports, clubs or the CHS House System.

ATHLETICS: Before attending Canisius I played travel baseball. I decided that I wanted to be part of the baseball program at Canisius because of the social aspects and the competition that comes along with it.

ACTIVITIES: I joined the Financial Intelligence Club led by **Ryan Stravino '24**. This club has helped my understanding of financial concepts and helped me develop smart money management skills.

ACADEMICS: I find history class fascinating because it allows me to unravel the past, gaining valuable insights into the events, cultures, and individuals that have shaped our world. My AP history teachers, Mr. (Justin) Suita and **Mr. (Sam) Rizzo '97**, have made history enjoyable.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: In the words of our principal **Mr. (Tom) Coppola '01**, "jump in with two feet" and don't be afraid to put yourself out there. Be as involved as you can so that you can achieve the true Canisius experience.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me grow as a person. I now understand what it means to be a Man for Others and how I can live this way in the world.



GARY HALL '26

"The teachers show me that hard work pays off."

HOMETOWN: Lewiston (Stella Niagara Education Park)

WHY CANISIUS? The graduates I have met showed me a potential future full of success which motivated me to make my decision. The teachers are very helpful when I don't understand something or am confused. They also show me that hard work pays off.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy history and chemistry. I understand the topics in chemistry and enjoy it, and I find our current history topics very interesting.

ATHLETICS: Tennis, I have played tennis since the first grade.

FUTURE PLANS: Successful businesses, possibly involving chemistry, and working for my grandfather's company.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Always do your homework! Your grades are brought down when you don't do the homework. Stay consistent no matter the workload; it can seem tough at times but you can handle it.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: I have been feeling more motivated to complete my work and do well. I believe this is due to the high expectations of my parents and teachers now that I attend Canisius.



NOAH HEFLIN '24

"Canisus has taught me to love more."

HOMETOWN: Cheektowaga (Christ the King School)

WHY CANISIUS? Initially, Canisius was not my first choice. My father thought that this school would benefit me in ways I wouldn't get from a public school. As a rising freshman, I knew that it would be the right place for me. I did not know anyone going in, but while shadowing I saw a welcoming brotherhood. Canisius has provided me with not only a great education but also with opportunities that have strengthened the bond with my friends, community and God. Canisus embraces the idea of *cura personalis*, and it is something I could not get at any other school.

ACTIVITIES: I am part of the Black Student Union, which has helped me make friends and meet people who support me. I do service work with St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. I joined the Ski Club, which is something I never thought I would be doing.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan on studying computer science or cybersecurity in college and getting a job within that field before launching my own startup company with my friends.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Be as involved as you can, your time here goes by quickly. Canisius provides a great amount of opportunities for students to make memories.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has taught me to have an open mind when it comes to new experiences. When I first heard about the Kairos retreat it did not seem like something I was interested in, but my religion teacher told me to just go – it turned out to be very good for me and helped me get closer to my Canisus brothers. Canisus has taught me to love more and be grateful for what I have.

CALEB JACKSON '25

"Canisius has made me more confident and mature."



HOMETOWN: Orchard Park (Orchard Park Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? I initially looked at Canisius because of a baseball camp I attended and how good the baseball team was. However, what separated Canisius from the other schools I was interested in were the teachers and students I met on my shadow visit. I met many committed and kind students and teachers who cared, enjoyed teaching and who clearly bonded with their students. I chose a school where I didn't know as many people and went for what I thought would fit me the best. It paid off.

ACTIVITIES: I am part of the Black Student Union. I joined to make friends, connections and have a support system.

ACADEMICS: I've enjoyed many of my classes because of my teachers at Canisius. Canisius allows me to explore my love for science and history with excellent teachers and resources. My love for Latin was different. I jumped into it and took a chance. The teachers I've had for Latin have shown me a love for a subject I would never have thought I could love.

FUTURE PLANS: My future plans are to play college baseball and after that to go into medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon – or something in sports medicine.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Be yourself and go all in. Be confident in your own abilities. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me more confident and mature. It has given me a sense of direction with my life and what I'm going to do with it. If I work hard enough, I will accomplish my goals in life.



JACK LINCOLN '25

"My advice is very simple: Go for it."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Nardin Academy)

WHY CANISIUS? For me, picking Canisius was always the way to go. Living in the neighborhood, I would walk by the school nearly every day and witness the waves of students who always seemed to be smiling and enjoying their time at the school. This, along with the brotherhood I witnessed and was constantly informed about, made Canisius the place I wanted to be.

ONE CANISIUS: The relationships which I have gained – and the diverse groups of people I have met and had the pleasure of working with – have made Canisius a rewarding experience. The insights I have gained both in the classroom and through service work have made being a Man for Others at Canisius High School a life-changing experience.

ACTIVITIES: I am involved in photography both for the school and my own personal business. Experimenting with photography allows me to express and show the emotions and stories of people through the power of a photograph.

FUTURE PLANS: My future plans are to attend college and go to business school. I also plan on continuing and improving my photography while in college.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: My advice is very simple: Go for it. The people you meet and the opportunities that you are given will prepare you for the many challenges you will face and give you the resources to grow both academically and spiritually.

HOW HAS CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has allowed me to better understand what it means to be a "Man for Others." It has also given me the ability to discover more about who I am and what it means to be a good student, friend and athlete.

ELI MCKISSACK '26

"The bonds I've made at Canisius are the most rewarding part."



HOMETOWN: Cheektowaga (Saints Peter and Paul School)

WHY CANISIUS? I chose Canisius because when I came to the school as a Crusader for the Day and shadowed a student, I felt the community created between students and teachers and I immediately wanted to become part of it. The bonds I've made at Canisius are the most rewarding part of my experience.

ATHLETICS: I play volleyball because I enjoy playing the sport and competing alongside my teammates.

ACTIVITIES: I volunteer for various service projects in and outside our Campus Ministry program.

ACADEMICS: My favorite class is chemistry because I enjoy learning about science and performing labs.

FUTURE PLANS: Once I graduate, I want to study a field related to sales, business and marketing.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: The biggest piece of advice I would give to someone who is looking to attend Canisius is to be open-minded and willing to try new things to truly get the full experience that CHS has to offer.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius High School has helped me form and strengthen my morals along with my education.



NATE PANTANO '24

"The school is one big brotherhood."

HOMETOWN: East Amherst (Casey Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? My dad and uncle both graduated from Canisius, so I wanted to be a part of the next generation of Canisius students. I attended HAP and Open House; both showed me that I can have a great high school experience here. Canisius has given me a family away from my actual family. The school is one big brotherhood.

ATHLETICS: I play hockey and golf because I have played both since I was little. When I arrived at Canisius as a freshman, I started running track because I wanted to work on my endurance. All three have allowed me to grow as an athlete and a person.

ACTIVITIES: I have participated in the Emmaus and Kairos retreats and volunteered with several local organizations. They allow me to have a deeper connection with God and give back to our community.

ACADEMICS: I like science classes because I understand it well and the teachers make it fun, but challenging.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to study something in a STEM field in college.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Don't be afraid. Some people come here and are anxious – don't be. Being confident will only make your experience better. Be outgoing, make new friends, join a club, try a new sport. Whatever you do, be confident in doing it. It will all be worth it in the end.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me a better person and strengthened my relationship with God. I try to live the "Man for Others" motto every day, serving others around me and God.

ANTHONY PEPE '26

"Canisius has helped me become a leader."



HOMETOWN: Lockport (St. Mary School Swormville)

WHY CANISIUS: I chose Canisius because of the environment and the extracurricular activities available. I also felt that this school will set me up for a successful future. I am succeeding because of the new groups of people I have met and the opportunity to participate in the retreat programs. I attended Emmaus and was able to become closer to the people I met and closer to God.

ATHLETICS: I play soccer because I love the sport. It is an opportunity to meet new people and to share a connection with them.

ACTIVITIES: I am involved in Crusaders against Cancer – I joined to try and make a difference.

ACADEMICS: I enjoyed chemistry because of the challenge of learning a new science. I really enjoy doing the labs with Mr. (Brian) Spurlock.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to attend college and either pursue law or dentistry. I would perhaps like to play soccer, but would rather pursue academics over athletics.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: For someone looking at Canisius I would encourage them to get involved in sports, clubs or the CHS House System. This is a great way to meet the people you are going to spend the next four years with. If you are struggling, seek help from the teachers – they are always willing to help.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me a more independent and stronger person. Canisius has helped me become a leader and to advocate for myself.



RICHARD POSEY '26

"The faculty, staff and coaches push me to be my best."

HOMETOWN: Niagara Falls (LaSalle Preparatory School)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius because I thought if I went to Canisius, people would recognize me more. Canisius would also give me opportunities to get a better education. My Canisius experience has been rewarding because the faculty, staff and coaches push me to be my best. They want to see me succeed in life.

ATHLETICS: I play rugby, football and wrestling. The reason I do these sports is because they all are very similar. Football and wrestling are very physical, which gets me ready for rugby, which is my favorite out of the three.

ACTIVITIES: I am involved in the Black Student Union and the Culinary Club. I enjoy the BSU because I want to see the views on the world of other people of color. I am in the Culinary Club because I enjoy cooking foods and trying different recipes.

FUTURE PLANS: Go to college, get my master's degree and become so successful in life that I can take care of my parents.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: The advice that I would give is to join a sports team and try to be social so you can easily make new friends. Be outgoing.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me see the best person that I can be. It changed me seeing how many people can see the best in a person and would push that person until they achieved their goals.

IVAN ROEDER '24

You will settle in and enjoy every moment."



HOMETOWN: Orchard Park (Orchard Park Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? My cousin **Joe Cooley '17** went here and I heard many good things about Canisius. The school has a great curriculum and great sports. The most rewarding part of my experience has been the friendships I have made along the way with teachers and classmates. My closest friend is someone I met at Canisius.

ATHLETICS: Hockey and lacrosse. My dad played hockey. He put me on skates and brought me into the sport at a young age. I love lacrosse and my club coach is coaching here. I've made a ton of good friends on these teams.

ACADEMICS: I've really enjoyed history, Latin, and especially the sciences and math classes. I find these subjects interesting and that keeps me engaged and paying attention in class. I've had great teachers.

FUTURE PLANS: Attending Le Moyne College, where I will play Division I lacrosse and study biology on a pre-med track. I hope to go into orthopedics.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: The first year may feel tough at the start, but you will settle in and enjoy every moment after that. You will even look forward to coming to school. Go on retreats, especially Kairos – it's a great experience.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has shaped me and made me grow into a man who is well-prepared for college and beyond.



ATTICUS YOUNG '26

"Canisius has helped me become a better man."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Buffalo Public School #92 Build Community School)

WHY CANISIUS? I chose Canisius because I knew it would make me a better man academically, spiritually and athletically. The bonds I've made with friends and teachers are the most rewarding experiences I've had at Canisius.

ATHLETICS: I swim because I enjoy spending time with the friends I've made on the team and being a part of the huge success the Canisius High School swimming program has had for so many years.

ACTIVITIES: I enjoy service work, including the programs provided by Campus Ministry and helping out for Canisius High School events.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy geometry because of the great teaching provided by the CHS math department.

ADVICE TO FUTURE CRUSADERS: Don't be afraid to try new things, like joining new clubs or sports. Canisius has something to offer everyone. Take advantage of that. It will help you make new, long-lasting friendships.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Through the academics and extracurricular activities, Canisius has helped me become a better man, a Man For and With Others.

ALUMNI EVENTS

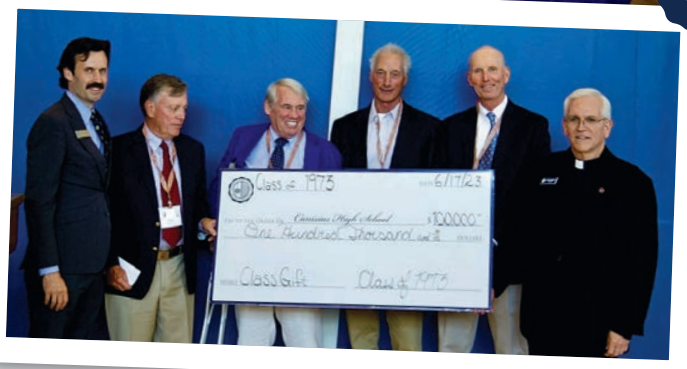


GOLDEN JUBILEE!

This place is special. That's why so many Crusaders came home in June 2023.

Our momentous Alumni Weekend not only included hundreds attending our traditional events – including the Golden Jubilee celebration for the Class of 1973, our All Alumni Bash and Alumni Golf Classic – it also saw five more classes gathering to celebrate with reunion gatherings that marked their own milestones.

The Class of 2003 held its 20th reunion at Patrick's Rooftop, the Class of 1993 (30th) joined the Class of 1988 (35th) at The Terrace at Delaware Park, the Class of 1983 had its 40th reunion at the CHS Center of the Arts at and the Class of 1963 visited campus and our Brady Conference Room as it celebrated 60 years.



Above: Class of 1973 leaders (left to right) **Mark Mahaney '73, Frank Hayden '73, Chris Bonn '73** and **Joe Bremer '73** were among those presenting the Class of 1973 gift of $100,000 to CHS and Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Andy Deyell '91** (far left) and President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J. (Jubilee photos by **Jack Etheridge '23**)

FOR MORE ON ALUMNI EVENTS, GO TO CANISIUSHIGH.ORG/EVENTS
COMING NEXT ISSUE: JUG NIGHT, ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024 & MORE

'03



'88



'83



'93



'63



ALUMNI EVENTS



ALL ALUMNI BASH

Steve Zenger '83 and Director of Advancement Services Debbie Burke (photo right) were among the many on hand for the 2023 All Alumni Bash on Tripi Field.





ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

It was an awesome day at the 2023 Alumni Golf Classic at the outstanding Glen Oak Golf Club. Participants included (left to right) **Josh Vaccaro '11, Patrick Hannon '11, Joseph Lorusso '09, James Tronolone '09, Matthew Ketteman '09** and **Connor Dougherty '11; Matt Kwiatkowski '09** teed off sporting the snazzy shirt worn by the CHS Bowling team. The group of **Eric Smith '98**, **Chris Poole '98**, **Rich McGrath '98** and **Dan Kaspar '98** claimed the coveted gold jackets. (Golf photos by **Noah Morlock '25**).



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

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

Lieutenant Commander H. Joseph Grace, USN (Ret.) '46 rode on the Disabled American Veterans float at the Fourth of July parade in Bath, N.Y.

John E. Zahm '49 spent last summer in Steamboat Springs, Colorado; his granddaughter graduated from LSU veterinary school.

Joseph F. Basil, Sr. '50 announced the 17th Basil will be graduating in 2025. Four more will be coming through the Blue Doors soon.

Eugene E. Luczak '51 celebrated his 66th wedding anniversary in September 2023. Luczak resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and has nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Vincent Coppola '56 published a book, "The Man Who Would Write Paradise." The book jacket describes it as "an odyssey through a contemporary inferno, purgatorio, and paradiso in a style all its own."

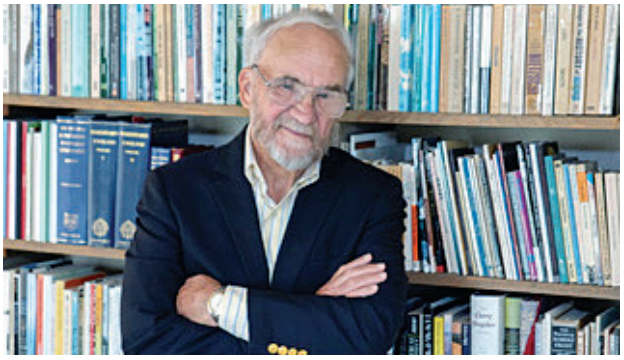
John H. Boehm '57 celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary on Block Island, Rhode Island with family.

A group of 26 CHS alumni attended the wedding of **Chris Savage '99** and Kailee DeFranks. From left to right: **Dominic Trillizio '04, Lawrence LoTempio '99, Brian Popadick '99, Chris Barry '99, Matt Davison '99, Sam DeFranks '83, Chris Riordan '99, Peter Savage III '95, Andrew Schaus '00, Chris Savage '99, Michael Kooshoian '99, Andrew Valint '03, Peter Savage, Jr. '70, John Corrao '01, Ben Willis '00, Patrick Blest '95, Rich Krollman '99, John DeFranks '00, Jaime Halt '03, Matthew Jaworski '01, Jeffrey Tudini '01, Mark Walkton '99, Evan Smith '99, Jim Tudini '98, Andrew Smith '01** and **Brian Valint '01**.

Boehm enjoys swimming, "practicing all those skills that Coach Lamb taught me back in the 50's."

Daniel J. Casazza '58 celebrated 60 years of marriage. Casazza currently has seven sons, 18 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Casazza retired as a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps; he was an ordained deacon for 28 years in foreign missions, including Guatemala, Mexico, Africa and Brazil.

Nelson H. Cosgrove '59 celebrated the graduation of Jack Cosgrove '23, who is now a freshman at Xavier.





Michael W. Shurgot, Ph.D '61 (above) published his second novel, "Raven Mountain: A Mythic Tale." Raven Mountain is the sequel to his first novel, "Green River Saga;" both were published by Sunstone Press.

Charles Zielinski '62 announced that his grandson, Jake Bloss of Georgetown University, was named Big East Pitcher of the Year in the Big East Conference, was selected to two All-American teams and picked by the Houston Astros in the third round of the 2023 MLB draft.

Salvatore A. Tagliarino '64 retired from the faculty of New York University after 50 years of teaching in the Design Department of the Tisch School of the Arts.

Fred J. Piazza, Ph.D '66 continues a part-time practice as a clinical psychologist in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is also facilitating a Mental Health Ministry within his Catholic parish in Oakland, California and serving on the Board of Directors of an agency devoted to providing mental health and developmental services to underserved young children and their families.

Robert Nowak '66 was a guest of honor of the Stanford University Summer Orchestra this past July. Nowak was the orchestrator for one of composer William Perry's major works, "The Silent Years," which the orchestra performed live to film. The piece accompanies three icons of silent film: John Barrymore, Rudolf Valentino and Charlie Chaplin. The event was played to a standing room only audience, the largest in Stanford history.



Bill Coppola '68, **Bill Fisher '68** and **Pat Devine '70** (left to right) got together at the Racetrack at Saratoga last summer. Their losses at the betting window left them just enough money to make the trip home!

Patrick B. Curran '71 retired from Hurwitz Fine, PC after working 40 years as a trial lawyer.

Frederick J. Kirisits '71 retired from teaching music and psychology at Mount Mercy Academy after 42 years. Kirisits continued teaching as a substitute at Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Gary K. Pino '74, member of the CHS Athletic Hall of Fame for hockey as an individual (1999) and with the 1972-73 team (2003), retired after 22 years with Continental Insurance and CNA Insurance as a Vice President of Business Processing (in New York, New Jersey and Indiana), and then 21 years as an IDO Incorporated Managing Associate & Human Resources Manager, responsible for coordinating and facilitating laboratory moves for Eli Lily and Company in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Carmen M. Garozzo '74, who is semi-retired, started a new position at C & S Companies in May 2023.

Dr. Jeffrey J. Schratz '75 is a surgeon in Lockport; he has four children and three grandchildren.

Thomas F. Knab '76 was selected by The Best Lawyers in America as a recipient of the 2024 "Lawyer of the Year" award in Litigation – Construction in Buffalo. The "Lawyer of the Year" accolade is granted to individual lawyers who received the highest overall peer feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. Only one lawyer is recognized as the "Lawyer of the Year" for a specialty and metropolitan location per year. Knab was also named by The Daily Record as one of Western New York's power players in the legal industry in their Power 20 List for Litigation for the past three years, as well as recognized by the Rochester Business Journal in their 2022 Power 50 in Law.

John K. LaPiana '78 was appointed Interim Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC.



Dr. Eric Spina '79, president of the University of Dayton, welcomed to campus the daughters of two CHS alumni – **Nathan Lambert '94** of Cleveland Heights, Ohio (left) and **Marc Fortner '88** of Buffalo.



Spina posted a photo on Instagram, writing that the daughters just happened to be rooming together despite not knowing each other previously. "It's a Canisius world," Spina wrote.

Mark Kubiniec '82 was featured in the Am-Pol Eagle after being honored at the Preservation Buffalo Niagara Awards. Kubiniec and his company, Joe's Service Center, helped with the rehabilitation of two vacant properties in the Amherst Street area. "Historic preservation of the storefronts seemed the best way to make them functional," said Kubiniec, whose partners in the project included his father and sister, lifelong residents of Amherst Street.

Justin Scott '88 of Lakeview was featured by WKBW in a story about Bills fans living in Kansas City. Scott has lived in Kansas City for 20 years. "I take a lot of grief, but it's all in good fun," said Scott. While Scott roots for the Bills, he lives in a house that is divided. His wife was born and raised in Chiefs Country and is a huge Chiefs fan, which makes things "interesting" each season.

Jason Young '92 won his second straight state volleyball championship as coach of Hamilton Southeastern High School in Indiana. The Royals went 33-0 to win another 4A state title and have won 67 straight matches. He won Coach of the Year honors in Indiana, was a finalist for National Coach of the Year and also coached in the UnderArmour All American Game in Orlando.

Jeffrey T. Danahy '98 opened a second office for Danahy Real Estate in Gowanda.

FR. DENNIS BAKER, S.J. '98 NAMED PRESIDENT OF LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD

Fr. Dennis Baker, S.J. '98 (above) is the president of Loyola Blakefield. Like Canisius, Loyola Blakefield is a Catholic, Jesuit, college preparatory school – it offers grades six through 12 and is located in Towson, Maryland.

The school named Baker president in late 2023 and he began his tenure on Jan. 1, 2024.

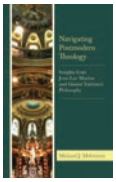
"We are incredibly excited to announce that after an exhaustive national search, Loyola Blakefield has named Rev. Dennis Baker, S.J., as our next President," the school said in its announcement. "The energy across campus is palpable as we prepare to welcome Fr. Baker as our next spiritual and formational leader."

Fr. Baker, a native of Niagara Falls who holds an M.S. degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Niagara University, also served at CHS as a history teacher and in other roles.

Fr. Baker served as President of Xavier High School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia from 2016-2021, during which he led the institution through a devastating tropical drought and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic; he also focused on fundraising and fiscal management that led to unprecedented capital projects that enhanced the campus.

Daniel Amigone '00 was a senior series producer of the Netflix sensation Full Swing. Amigone, who played golf at CHS, told The Buffalo News: "There was definitely an urge to grow the audience for the game and to introduce these guys on a human level and hopefully that would appeal to golf fans and non-golf fans."

United States Army Lieutenant Commander Jacob M. Teplesky '00 is stationed in Washington, D.C., residing with his three children.



Michael McGravey '01, director of the Elms College Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies, had "Navigating Postmodern Theology: Insights from Jean-Luc Marion and Gianni Vattimo's Philosophy" published by Lexington Books.

Charles Abramo '05 was named to Buffalo Business First's 40 Under 40. "I am thankful to Canisius for all of the opportunities they provided me," he said.



John Urschel '09 joined the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Urschel, a former Canisius football standout who starred as an NFL offensive lineman for the Baltimore Ravens, earned his Ph.D in mathematics from MIT in 2021. The mathematician returned to MIT as an assistant professor of mathematics in fall 2023. Urschel earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Penn State, where he was also an Academic All-American football player. He was also a member of the Institute for Advanced Study and a junior fellow at Harvard.

Michael R. Kozlowski '11 is pursuing his Master of Science degree in CyberSecurity at Canisius University. He has a 4.0 GPA in graduate school and received his Comptia security+ certifications.

Scott Will '11, an engineering scientist at NASA, is working on the optics for the Roman Space Telescope, successor to the James Webb Space telescope, which is the successor to the Hubble Telescope. He recently published a paper in the Journal of Astronomical Telescopes, Instruments, and Systems on high-order coronagraphic wavefront control with algorithmic differentiation.



Creighton "Cloogie" Barnett '13 has worked with Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin as part of his role as design lead associate of Tom Barnett New York. The family business hand-crafts bespoke suits, tuxedos and more for clients that include professional athletes. Cloogie and Hamlin collaborated on several unique looks together, including ensembles for the NFL Honors, a White House visit and the ESPY Awards. Barnett also crafted custom garments for many local favorites, including Buffalo Sabres forward Alex Tuch's famous "goathead" suit.



Josh Militello '14 was spotlighted by WIVB News 4 Buffalo after his actions helped save the life of a fellow participant in the Ironman 70.3 Musselman triathlon in Geneva, N.Y. Militello, a trained EMT who has worked for the Getzville Fire Company for nine years, had finished the 1.2-mile swim, the 56-mile bike and had just started the 13.1-mile run when he saw an athlete had collapsed on the course. Militello and another Ironman participant who is an ER doctor performed CPR on the athlete until an ambulance arrived with an AED (automated external defibrillator), which delivered a shock that restarted the man's heart.

Adegboyega E. Thompson '17 started his first year at Rush University Medical College in Chicago after

completing a bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University at Buffalo and a two-year stint as a medical assistant at Buffalo Medical Group.

Andrew Mangan '18 finished 14th overall for the US Rowing National Team at the world rowing championships in September 2023 in Varese, France. Mangan competed in a paralympic event, the PR1 men's single scull.



Lucas Beyer '20 and **Seamus Galvin '19** are the co-founders of CycleService, a nonprofit which donated more than 200 bicycles to kids in need during an 89-day, 5,000-mile cross-country biking trip in summer 2023. CycleService's mission is to promote youth mental wellness and independence through biking by providing bikes to children at educational community rides. Their story was featured on the front page and the local section front of The Buffalo News. "For us it all began with the service at Canisius."

Tommy Lynch '22 was a finalist for the 2022-23 SUNY Cortland C-Club Male Rookie Athlete of the Year. Lynch, a relief pitcher, had 13 appearances, a 2-0 record, three saves, 22 strikeouts and a 2.65 ERA.



Declan Ryan '22, the consensus 2022 Western New York Player of the Year for boys basketball, celebrated his commitment to play Division I college basketball at the College of the Holy Cross before friends, family, former teammates at CHS following a post-graduate year at Worcester Academy in Massachusetts for 2022-23. "It's a dream come true," Ryan said.

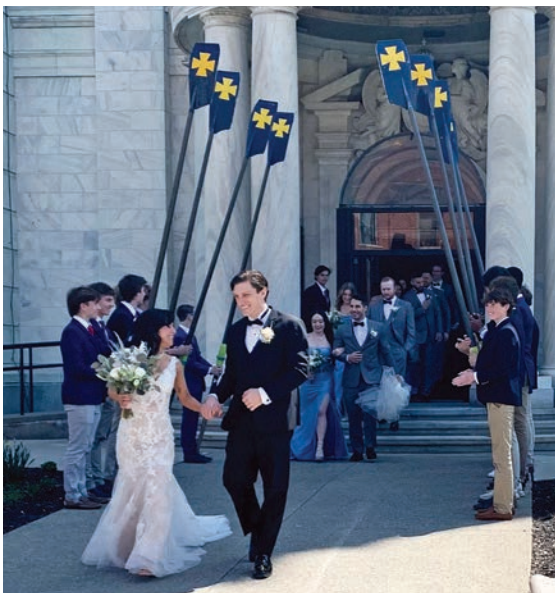


Brady Karas '23 was honored after achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest and most prestigious achievement for a Scout. It is a title of special significance not only in Scouting, but in education, business and the community. Karas, a member of Troop 554 who is now at Canisius University, organized his Eagle service project at his family's Epiphany United Church of Christ in Clarence Center. Karas earned worldwide attention via social media in early 2023 through his lighting designs projected on his Lancaster home, notably his tribute to the Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin in the wake of Hamlin's life-threatening injury.

WEDDINGS



Nathan Mineo '02 married Ashley Mineo (Dvorak). The ceremony took place at The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the reception was at The Buffalo Club.



Many Crusaders and alumni were on hand for the wedding of former rowing standout and coach **R.J. Rubino '09**; he and wife Liana walked through an archway of CHS oars as they departed their ceremony at Our Lady of Victory Basilica. The reception was held at the Patrick J. Paladino Memorial Boathouse – the outstanding Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association facility that is home to the CHS rowing program. The best man was **Tom Rubino '13** while **Paul Rubino '10** and **Peter Spira '22** were groomsmen.

BIRTHS



Josh Veronica '14 and wife Alexa welcomed baby boy Theo. Veronica's father, Mark, is a counselor at CHS.



Brent Nowicki '97 has been involved in international sports for more than a decade.

Brent Nowicki '97 *continued from page 9*

problem solving – sum up my job quite well.

How did your time at CHS impact you? I believe that any success derived professionally has its foundation on the impact CHS had on me as a person. You can start with Canisius' service to faith and the promotion of justice – a learning embodied in our call to serve others. Once you develop this service mentality, your professional attitude begins to change, as does your own personal definition of success. It took me a while to realize that outward facing success means nothing if, inside, you are not happy. CHS – and I think all my Jesuit education - taught me the value in self-reflection to find the conviction to be the best me, which, in turn, allowed me to help impact others in a positive way.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Three things: First, if you are going to do something – anything – do it all the way. Second, if you achieve your dreams, they were not big enough. Dream bigger and don't be afraid to fail, ever. Third, never turn down an opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends.

John Sutter '88 *continued from page 8*

long hikes – usually for pleasure, but also sometimes to raise money for the churches around Oxford – and I join community events like my town's Remembrance Sunday commemoration, often as a singer.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? Never miss an opportunity to learn something new. Take the trouble to understand other people's points of view, even if it leads you out of your comfort zone. Pay attention to all the subjects you're taking, even the ones you find boring or difficult. English was never my favorite subject in school, but the lessons I learned about clear writing have been valuable for my career, and the literature I learned still guides me. Finally, serve the people around you in whatever way you can and with whatever talents you have.

Dalton Weir '14 *continued from page 10*

wouldn't have had the courage or skills to adventure this far without them. My time at Canisius and Holy Cross helped me hone a set of virtues that serve me today. I think the most important lesson I learned from Canisius is to listen to others. By listening to and learning from others, I am more present and able to perpetually self-reflect and push my own limits in both work and life.

Your advice for CHS students and young alumni? The best I can say is: be open to change. Do your best to embrace difference and adversity. Don't take your time at CHS for granted. Reach out to your family, friends, educators, and alumni for advice and support. Be kind. Work hard because hard work is noticed, and do your best to always Live the Fourth.



IN MEMORIAM

We remember alumni of whose passing we've learned since Spring 2023.

Richard Karlinski '40
Frank J. Becht '42
Dr. Stanley A. Bukowski '43
Joseph H. Czora, Jr. '44
Robert B. Shanahan '45
Peter B. Ebner '46
Dr. Frank J. Gazzo '48
Rev. William J. O'Malley, S.J. '49
Richard J. Thompson '49
Al S. Ryszka '49
William T. Fitzgibbons '50
Joseph A. Igoe '50
Donald T. Ledwin '50
John J. Murray '50
John G. Breitnauer '51
Franklin H. Fitch '51
Dr. Francis R. Moliterno '51
Edward Zablotny '51
Thomas C. Obenchain '52
Donald F. Lillis '52
John N. Zaidel '53
Norman J. Kantowski '53
Thomas F. Myers '54
Robert J. Kocieniewski '55
James L. Gerace '55
Paul W. Bauer '55
Raymond E. Swiderski '55
Dr. Lawrence J. Casazza '56
George J. Drescher '56
Hon. Michael L. Broderick '56
David J. Borgioli, Sr. '56
James A. Mellenger '56
James S. Pack '56
Ronald W. Moats '56
Roger C. Feedham '57
Dennis J. Bossi '57
Rev. Msgr. Henry C. Gracz '57
Joseph P. Kerr '57
Chester C. Syput '57
Ralph N. Wachter '57
John Marcy '59
Daniel J. Wolski '59
William C. Grotke '60
E. James Nunan '60
Richard S. Pauly '60
Dr. Gerald E. Daigler, MD '60
Walter J. Mahoney '61
Daniel J. Glauber '61
W. Gary Neunder '62
Dr. Carl R. Poley '63
John F. Militello '64
John A. Walter '64
Ronald H. Traenkle '64
Robert G. Spampata '65
Joseph P. Casucci '66
Mark H. Schwarzmueller '68
Dr. Peter J. Makarewicz '69
John F. Moloney, Jr. '69
James Bogdan '70
Edward Adamski '70
William L. Continelli '71
Paul M. Czerwonka '72
Dr. Daniel J. Courtade '73
Anthony F. Kania '73
Alan J. Jenson '74
Joseph H. Druar '80
Michael C. Skretny '84
John R. Embow '90
Alexander E. Gress '91
Alexander Michaelidis '92
Gabriel J. Michael '98
Abraham P. Deng Gac '20

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