CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY

SUMMER 2025



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

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

MISSION STATEMENT

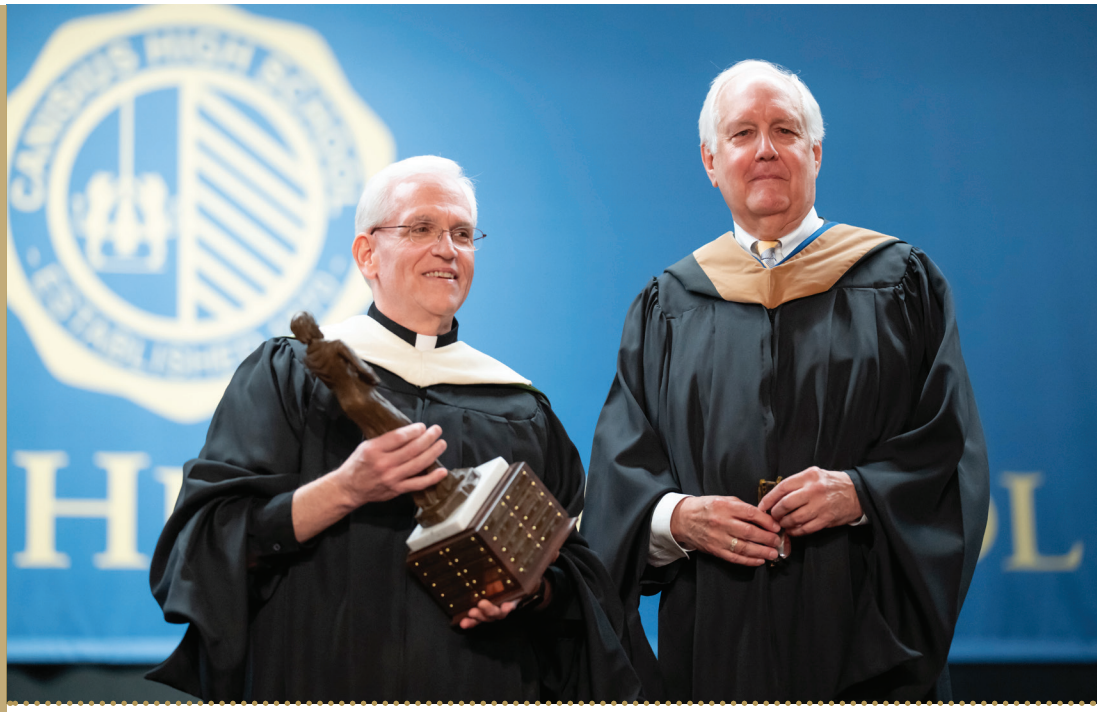
Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually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



BOB REGER '66 RECEIVES ST. PETER CANISIUS AWARD

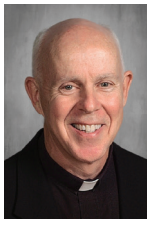
During our 155th Commencement Exercises, the highest honor Canisius High School bestows – the St. Peter Canisius Award – was presented by President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., to Bob Reger '66. Reger has faithfully served CHS for 18 years as a trustee, including 12 years as chairman. Principal Tom Coppola '01 announced the award, which recognizes extraordinary service to CHS: "Throughout his tenure, Mr. Reger's steady leadership and wisdom have been defining qualities. In partnership with Fr. Ciancimino, he has guided our institution through a period of remarkable growth and progress, ensuring that we are well-positioned for a strong and vibrant future."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-26

New Trustees/Chairs are in bold and pictured in listed order








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WHAT'S **INSIDE**

CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY
SUMMER 2025

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.
President

Thomas Coppola '01
Principal

Matthew Carver '94
Vice President of Finance & Chief Financial Officer

Andrew Deyell '91
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J.
Assistant to the President

Fr. Edward Durkin, S.J.
Assistant to the Principal

Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J.
Direcotor of Campus Ministry

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Director of Advancement Services

Jay Josker '01
Director of Alumni Relations

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Director of Special Events



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Keith McShea
Director of Communications

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Levi Trimble
Recruitment Marketing Manager

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sharon Cantillon
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Dean Gracie '27
Keith McShea
Noah Morlock '25
Mark Mulville
Levi Trimble
Tom Wolf

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

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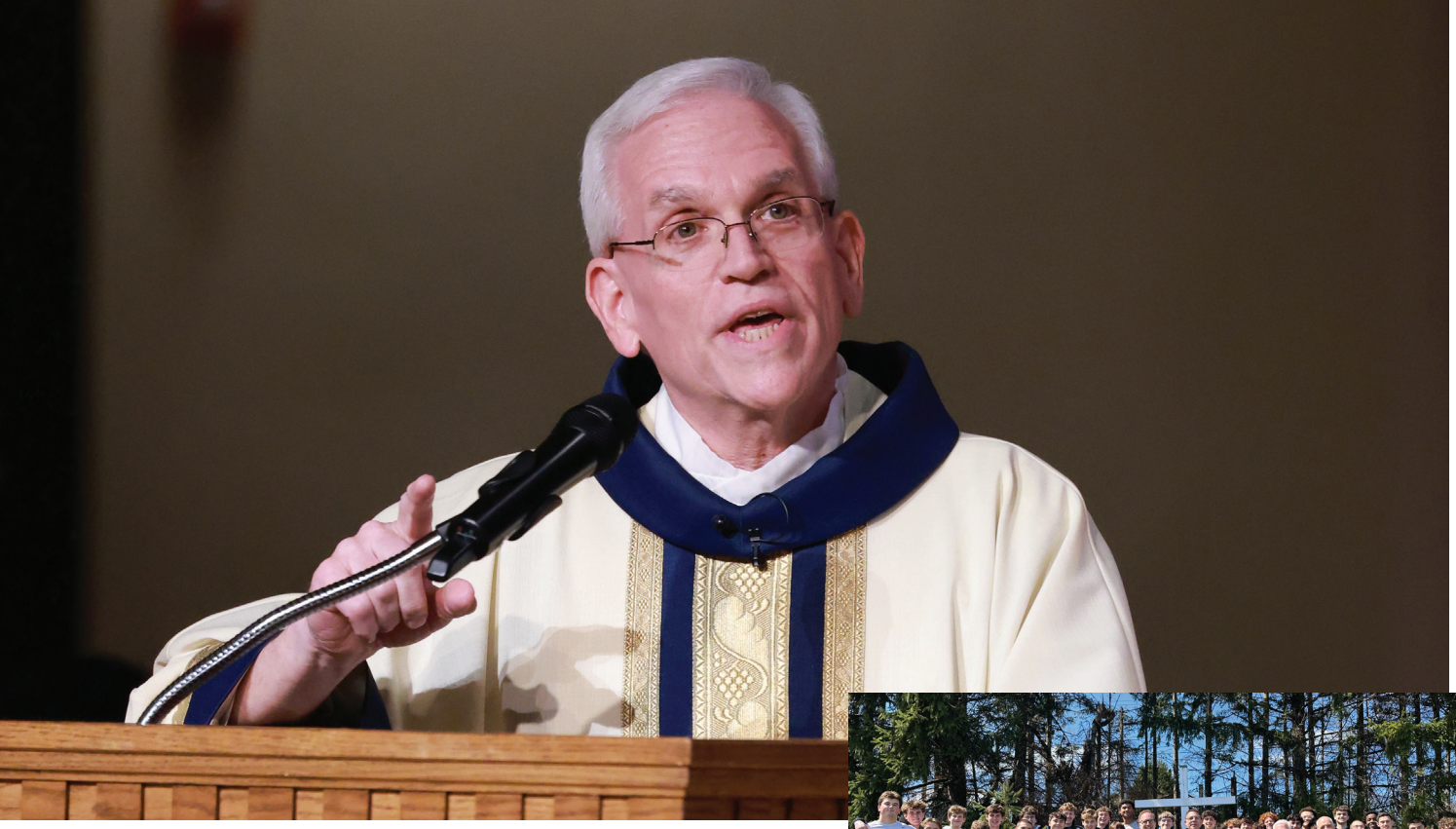
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FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Each fall, as we welcome new families to Canisius, I speak about the formation their sons will receive during their years here. High school is an incredibly formative time – a real "sweet spot" in a young man's life. Boys mature into young men right before our eyes and it is our responsibility and privilege during these years to form the hearts and minds of those entrusted to us. We strive to form critical thinkers and believers who have integrity and a strong moral compass – men who are compassionate, other centered and strong in spirit.

Formation happens everywhere: in classrooms and hallways, on retreats and service trips, in quiet conversations with teachers, counselors, and coaches, and on the fields, courts, and stages where students learn discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

Canisius stands firmly in the deep roots of our Jesuit tradition, even as we engage fully with the modern world. Our curriculum is forward-thinking, our facilities are state-of-the-art, and our retreat and service programs are transformative. Our school culture is grounded in faith, inquiry, dialogue, and encounter.

In this issue of CHS Today, we celebrate Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J. – a Jesuit for 61 years and a faithful priest for 50. Steady, joyful, and kind, he is loved and respected by alumni, colleagues and students alike. For decades, he has been a wonderful presence at Canisius: a source of encouragement, wisdom, and care. Fr. Zanoni is a faithful disciple of Jesus and a model of generous service who personifies our mission. We are blessed to have him with us.

The pages ahead also capture the diverse activities and accomplishments of the past year. One of the highlights for me was joining Fr. Ed Durkin, S.J., Fr. Chuck Frederico, S.J., Mr. Dave Hayes '87, Mr. Eric Koessler '84 and 32 seniors for the three-day senior silent retreat in Canandaigua (pictured above). It was profoundly moving to get a deeper glimpse into the hearts, hopes and faith journeys of these young men.

Forming the minds and hearts of our students today is an extraordinary task and our sacred mission. It is at the core of all we do. It is why I am so grateful for my Jesuit brothers and the exceptional faculty and staff who shoulder and share this wonderful work on behalf of the Society of Jesus, the Church and those whom we serve.

A.M.D.G.

David Ciancimino, S.J.

Fr. David S. Ciancimino, S.J.



FROM THE

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Legacy. In this issue of CHS Today we honor some amazing legacies of Canisius High School.

There is Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J., and his more than 60 years of Jesuit service, including more than 30 years in classrooms at 1180 Delaware Ave. and as a pivotal part of our community. We and the Society of Jesus pay tribute to Andrea Tyrpak-Endres for all of her work in Catholic education over the last five decades, including 42 of those years with us. Robert Reger '66 is most deserving of our school's highest honor in the St. Peter Canisius Award for his 12 years steering the ship as the Chair of our Board of Trustees, during what has been a great time of stability and growth – both in the depth of who we are and of what we represent in Buffalo.

What is also extremely exciting to me is that throughout these pages are signs of legacies in the making.

From our front-and-back cover of the Class of 2025 wearing their college destinations, to our Student Spotlight on current members of our student body, all the way through the ultra-impressive updates on our amazing alumni on the final pages – there are so many legacies forming and growing each year.

In the Student Spotlight, Julius Schopp '27 provided this advice for future Crusaders: "Do your homework. So much of your grade here is derived from your effort."

The first part of his quote of course is helpful in the present, but the second part is the kind of message that will carry our students through the rest of their lives – the seeds of a legacy being planted.

We see the results of our students' efforts in this issue in so many ways. From the arts – Sam Gugliuzza '25 playing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in Scaccia Auditorium, the very venue they once called home – to athletics, where our outstanding rowing program reached unprecedented national championship heights and, for the 22nd time in 24 years, CHS earned the Supremacy Cup as the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association's best overall program.

Talk about legacy: GAMBIT 50 possesses one all its own, an unmatched history we celebrated this year with its landmark anniversary.

GAMBIT was a great success, while our All Alumni Bash and Jug Night saw best-ever attendance, thanks to the best alumni network in Western New York – one that continues to have not only a legacy of camaraderie and connection but also tremendous support of our continued efforts at 1180. We could not be more grateful.

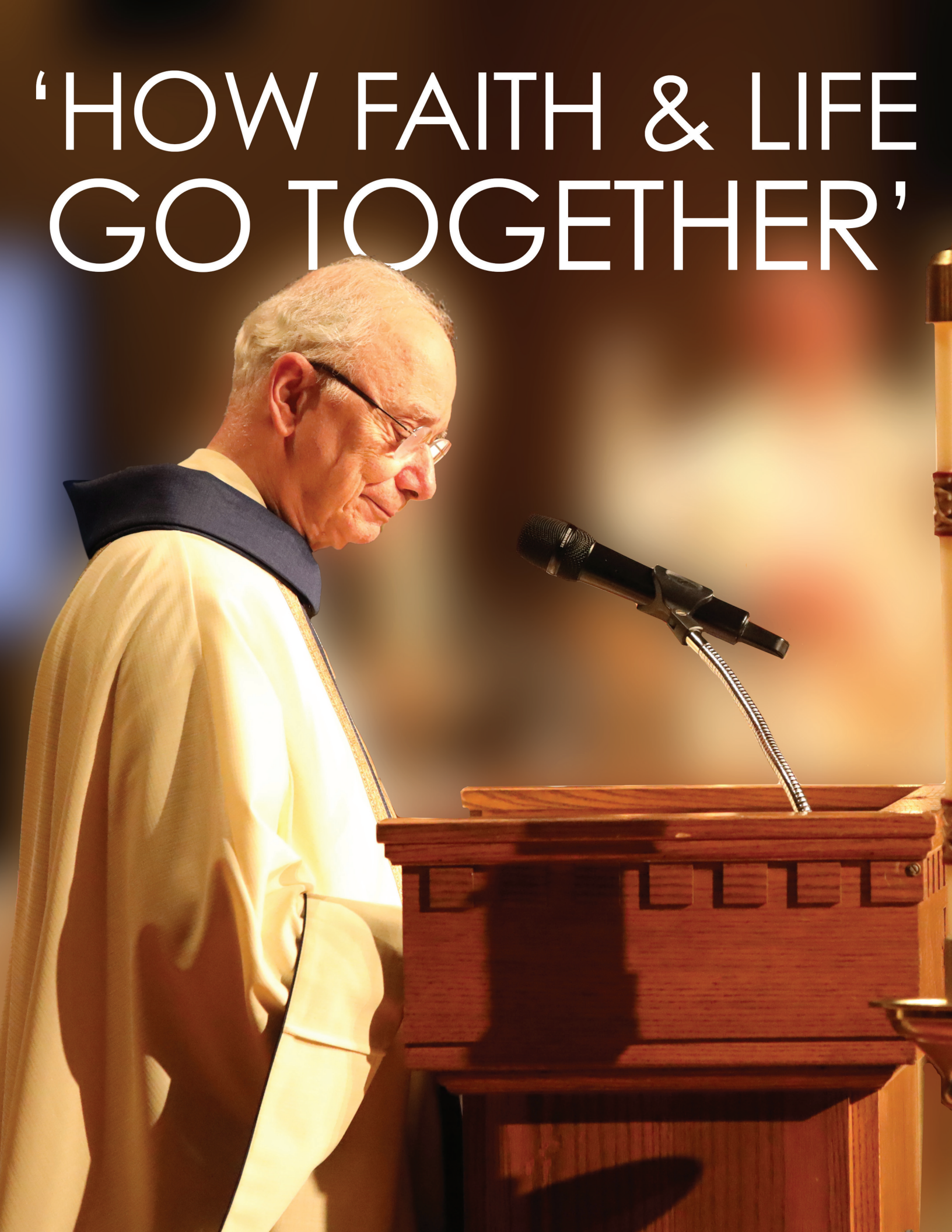
So, as we start a new school year, our job and our mission is as it has always been, to continue to prepare young men to be leaders in Western New York and beyond, so that someday they create their own legacies.

I wish all of our community the very best as we head into 2025-26 and towards our 156th Commencement.

Go Bills!

Thomas W. Coppola '01

‘HOW FAITH & LIFE GO TOGETHER’





FR. RICHARD ZANONI, S.J. REFLECTS ON HIS SIX DECADES IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

In grammar school, I never considered myself particularly pious – my brother was the altar boy, not me – but religion was important in our family, and I was fortunate to go to a Jesuit school in Brooklyn at the time, Brooklyn Prep. There I discovered terrific people, not only the lay staff that we had, but we had Jesuit teachers – we had a number of scholastics.

What impressed me about them so much was not only their competence in the classroom and the way they dealt with us, but they were living examples of how … how shall I say it … how faith and life go together.

They were normal people, good people, but **it was very clear that their relationship with God was something that was very significant in their lives.** And it didn't make them seem odd at all, and made them seem very grounded, and that impressed me a great deal.

Certainly by the time I was a senior, I was thinking seriously about at least giving this thing a shot. I was impressed by the men, and I also did want to be a teacher.

* * *

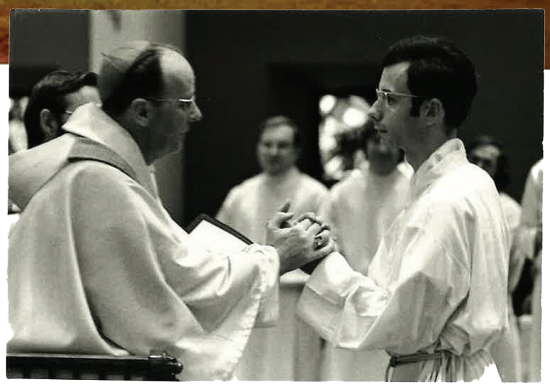
One of the things that affected me very much was the junior retreat that I had. In those days we would have a closed retreat in junior year and senior year from Friday to Sunday, in Monroe, New York, about 60 miles outside New York City. It was basically a preached retreat, not like it's done now – there wasn't a lot of exchange among adults and students – but it was an important time.



Fr. Zanoni has served from his native New York City to the other end of the globe during his 61 years as a Jesuit, including more than 30 years at 1180 Delaware Ave., where he has often given the Blue Doors a new coat of paint.









Fr. Zanoni became a deacon in 1974 (bottom left), was the principal at Xavier High School in Micronesia (top) and received a special honor from CHS after a school-wide Mass during which he took his final vows.

On the Saturday of that retreat, it was a terribly rainy afternoon, and there was nothing much to do, so we had some extra free time. I remember very clearly going to my room and doing something I've never done before.

We hear the Gospels in little pieces, right? A little story here, a little story there. I don't know why I did, but I said I'm going to read the gospel of Mark from beginning to end. It only takes about an hour or so, and I did it.

I read the whole gospel straight through, and I was just so impressed by Jesus as Mark portrays him. He's himself, he's fearless, he's kind, he deals with his adversaries, he deals with people in need. **I know something touched my heart, saying "I want to be something like this, if I can," and maybe the Jesuits are the way to do that.**

Following his first two years of training, he pronounced his First Vows in the Society of Jesus on Aug. 15, 1966 (the last person in the New York province to pronounce his vows in Latin) and would graduate in 1969 from Fordham University, and began teaching as a Jesuit Scholastic.

I was assigned to Canisius High School. I had no knowledge of Buffalo whatsoever, and I was a little upset, because everybody went to New York City, which I was familiar with ... but in a very short time, I really fell in love with Buffalo. I remember thinking, why would anyone want to live in New York? Here it was so less hectic. People are kind. It was a city with a small-town flavor, and our Jesuit community was very good.

We had excellent Jesuits here, wonderful superiors, and the lay people who were here at that time were giants, like Tom McPherson, Nick Kessler and Fr. Ed May. I was assigned to them to learn how to teach in a Jesuit high school.

I was very blessed when I came here … very blessed by the guidance that I received from the veteran teachers. Very soon, I just fell in love with teaching. I fell in love with the school. I fell in love with Buffalo. I remember when I left, it was sad to leave.

Four years of theological studies in Toronto followed. He was ordained a deacon in Oct. 1974 in Toronto and was ordained as a priest at Fordham on June 14, 1975.

My first assignment as a Jesuit priest was to go to Xavier High School on 16th Street in New York, to teach there, and probably, in time, to pursue a degree in administration.

About a month after that assignment was nailed down, I was informed by the provincial that they needed somebody in Micronesia, wherever the heck that was. I'd barely heard of it.

They said, it's another Xavier High School, and we need somebody, and you're going to be the principal. I had very little experience in administration. So that was a great shock, but, you know, I'm young and foolish. I said, OK, great. That's what Jesuits do. I took this vow of obedience. So I go.

Micronesia turned out to be the most formative experience of my life, hands down, because it was very hard. From 1976 to 1979, the first time I was there, it was really isolated. There was no telephone service. We had no electricity. We had to generate our own electricity in the school. There was no running water. The things that we take for granted here just didn't exist.

I had an experience there, which I think confirmed in me what I was about. It was about the end of my first year, and we had some boys







Through the years, Fr. Zanoni has regularly delivered fresh paint jobs across the CHS campus, including a major undertaking in 2007 when he painted the Higgins Hall foyer ceiling blue and gold.

who were in serious trouble, and some clearly had to be dismissed. That was a very difficult decision to arrive at and to carry through on. I remember sitting at my desk around dinnertime, and it was the only time this ever happened to me in my life: There was something like a voice from God saying, "Be at peace. You're doing the right thing."

At Christmas my first year, I came back from picking up our mail after the plane had landed and I stopped at the small bank to check our account, and I find out we had a total of $35.

We had teachers to pay, and obligations. … and I said, so if God wants this place to run, he's going to have to come through with something soon.

The next day, I go down to pick up the mail, and there's a $5,000 check from somebody we never heard of before, never heard of afterwards. **So I started to believe that if you're doing what you're supposed to do in this vocation, God will take care of you,** and that's really been a firm belief of mine ever since.

Fr. Zanoni returned to Canisius for three years to teach and be a 32-year-old superior of the Jesuit community. He was then superior at Xavier High School in New York City, taught at Brophy College Prep in Arizona, and worked in a Jesuit fundraising position in New York City. He then went to Australia for his Tertianship (a final stage of formation prior to taking final vows), spending six months in Micronesia on the way.

When I came back, Fr. Ken Boller sent me a message: "Would you be interested in coming back to Canisius High School?" I arrived here in 1986 and I taught here until 2008 – that was my long stretch and when I taught most of these guys.

I took my final vows during a school-wide Mass at Canisius on the feast of St Francis Xavier, Dec. 3, 1993. Dave Ciancimino was principal at that time, and Dave being Dave, he had a little something up his sleeve. At the end of communion, some of the boys came up and they were holding this inscribed glass to dedicate my classroom – 2E4 – to me. The dedication read:

Fellowship, Dedication, Excellence.

This classroom of good learning is dedicated to Fr. Richard J. Zanoni, S.J., by the students of Canisius High School in the occasion of his profession of Final Vows. *December 3, 1993*

That was a very special moment for me. It just confirms that you're really doing what you're supposed to be doing.

It's been a very, very blessed life for me. **I can honestly say I've not been able to find out how to be as grateful as I should be for what I've lived all these years.**

After 2008, Zanoni was in charge of scholastics in New York City, followed by a similar role with the Syracuse novitiate, and in 2018 he was asked if he would like to go back to Buffalo, where he has been since, serving at St. Michael's prior to its closing and as Assistant to the President at CHS.

We Jesuits … we're not formed to do any particular workload. I've spent most of my life here as a teacher, but Ignatius says we're basically here to help souls. That's all. We're here to help people, and we can do that very easily.

I used to put it this way to the boys: People have been taking care of you through your childhood, and I hope you've been appreciative of that. The question you were probably asking all those years was: 'What's in it for me?' Eventually you have to change that question, and the question has to be: 'What can I do for you?' As soon as you start asking that question – in a very sincere and honest way – then your life becomes full, and it's usually full of joy.



Principal **Tom Coppola '01** and President **Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.,** surprised **Andrea Tyrpak-Endres** with a major honor that was applauded by students at the end of her final class of the 2024-25 school year. Tyrpak-Endres will return for her 51st year this fall.

MAJOR HONOR FOR MAJOR MILESTONE

Andrea Tyrpak-Endres receives letter from Superior General in recognition of her 50 years in Catholic education

The final days of classes of our 2024-25 school year marked the 50th year of teaching in Catholic education by Andrea Tyrpak-Endres.

Tyrpak-Endres, the chair of the Religious Studies Department and Principal Emeritus, was honored by President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., Principal Tom Coppola '01, colleagues and students in a surprise announcement and presentation following her final class of the year.

Fr. Ciancimino presented Tyrpak-Endres with a signed letter written by Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

"For 50 years, but especially for 42 years at Canisius, you have played a large, active, and invaluable part in fostering this important work" of Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit education, the letter stated.

"On behalf of the whole Society, I am honored and delighted to extend to you our gratitude, our admiration, and our appreciation for your long and devoted service."

As Coppola unveiled the honor and read portions of the letter over the announcements, students and teachers lined the first-floor hallway of the Beecher Academic Wing to applaud in tribute to Tyrpak-Endres.

Tyrpak-Endres will return for her 51st year this fall.

Further excerpts from the letter:

"For 50 years you have been and remain at the service of young men and women as they strive to discover who they are in the eyes of God. Together with your colleagues, you have been an instrument of the divine, accompanying and guiding these young people as they search their hearts and grow in wisdom and grace as well as in age.

"The Society of Jesus acknowledges with confidence and gratitude that Ignatian spirituality and the Jesuit manner of education continue to take deep root and challenge the students of today to become other-minded and other-directed as they nurture their personal gifts and talents for the benefit of God's people and God's greater glory."



History teacher **Craig Hinchcliffe**, **Anthony Pepe '26**, **Gabriele Pili '27**, **Hasan Siddiqui '26** and **Greg Eberl '27** were among a CHS group who were in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday for Pope Francis' final public appearance.

A FINAL BLESSING FROM POPE FRANCIS

CHS contingent on educational trip experiences historical moment

"It was a pretty moving experience. … It was surreal."

Craig Hinchcliffe and several students were on a CHS educational trip to Italy over Easter Break which culminated in the group being part of a historical moment: Pope Francis' final public appearance as he said "Buona Pasqua" – Happy Easter – and blessed those gathered in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday.

Hinchcliffe is in his 17th year at CHS as a teacher, primarily teaching history. He has traveled extensively with CHS on immersion service trips and educational trips the last three years to Germany, Spain and this year to Italy.

"We were pretty excited to be able to go – obviously, with his health, it's been unclear whether he would be able to get out there, but to have him come out and give that blessing was pretty moving," Hinchcliffe said upon his return to school.

The trip to Italy began in Venice, then Florence, then to Rome, which included a special tour of the Jesuit Curia headquarters by Fr. David McCallum, S.J., a Buffalo native who once taught at CHS.

On Easter Sunday, the CHS group attended a Mass given in English before heading to St. Peter's Square in Vatican City.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Mark Jasen '27. "It was pretty monumental to see the pope on Easter, just seeing him for the blessing."

"Personally, it's slowly kind of sinking in that I was able to receive his last blessing," Hinchcliffe said. "He's a Jesuit Pope. I went to McQuaid in Rochester, a Jesuit school, and with just the thread of Ignatian faith and service, it really meant a lot to me to be able to be there."

MAKING MR. CANISIUS

The six 2025 Mr. Canisius finalists had their photo taken with a faculty member of their choice in the

PATRICK ENRIGHT '25 CHOSE DEAN'S OFFICE MANAGER MARIA PIERONI



"Her positive mindset, even in moments of challenge, has helped me continue to move forward with hope and joy. She has truly been a light and a source of happiness in my Canisius experience."

Pieroni's thoughts about Enright, who is from Orchard Park, attended Nativity of Our Lord and attends the College of the Holy Cross:

"Patrick is the kind of student who leaves a lasting impression on everyone he meets. An exceptional athlete, Patrick is known for his perseverance – never giving up, no matter the challenge."



JACK GANCI '25 CHOSE FR. CHUCK FREDERICO, S.J.

"Father Frederico is the perfect example of a Man For and With Others. Father Frederico's guidance helped me transform from a quieter kid to become the confident man I am today."

Frederico on 2025 Mr. Canisius winner Ganci, who is from Buffalo, attended St. Mark School and studies at Ohio State University.

"By giving of himself to others, Jack has experienced a transformative inner confidence that will guide his path moving forward. Jack leaves a legacy and has set an example for ALL of us to follow."

HECTOR GITEGO '24 CHOSE ENGLISH TEACHER SHERRY TAYLOR

"Ms. Taylor is very helpful beyond the classroom. Her vulnerability towards me and our deep conversations makes her easy to talk to and exemplifies how knowledgeable she is."

Taylor on Gitego, who is from Buffalo, went to the Catholic Academy of West Buffalo and attends the Livingstone College:

"A true Man For and With Others, Hector's loving heart is evident in all he does. He approaches others, fellow students and faculty alike, with empathy far beyond his years."



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

JACK LINCOLN '25 CHOSE CAMPUS MINISTER RON AHRENS '91



"His dedication to his students' success is evident in everything he does. Something as simple as his famous lunchtime conversations can brighten anyone's day."

Ahrens on Lincoln, who is from Buffalo, attended Nardin Academy and studies at Richmond University.

"By the time he reached his senior year, his actions consistently reflected a commitment to community, justice and compassion – values that will continue to shape his bright future."



DYLAN MCCARTHY '25 CHOSE MATH TEACHER ANNE LIPP-READ

"Mrs. Lipp-Read truly embodies what it means to be a teacher at Canisius – caring, intelligent, dedicated, and someone who holds her students to high standards while supporting them every step of the way."

Lipp-read on McCarthy, who is from Lancaster, attended Lancaster Middle School and studies at John Carroll University:

"From that very first day, Dylan has stood out as someone who gives his all and does so with a genuine smile. He's been a joy to work with."

DANIEL SUGG '25 CHOSE COUNSELOR ANNE MARE MOSCOVIC

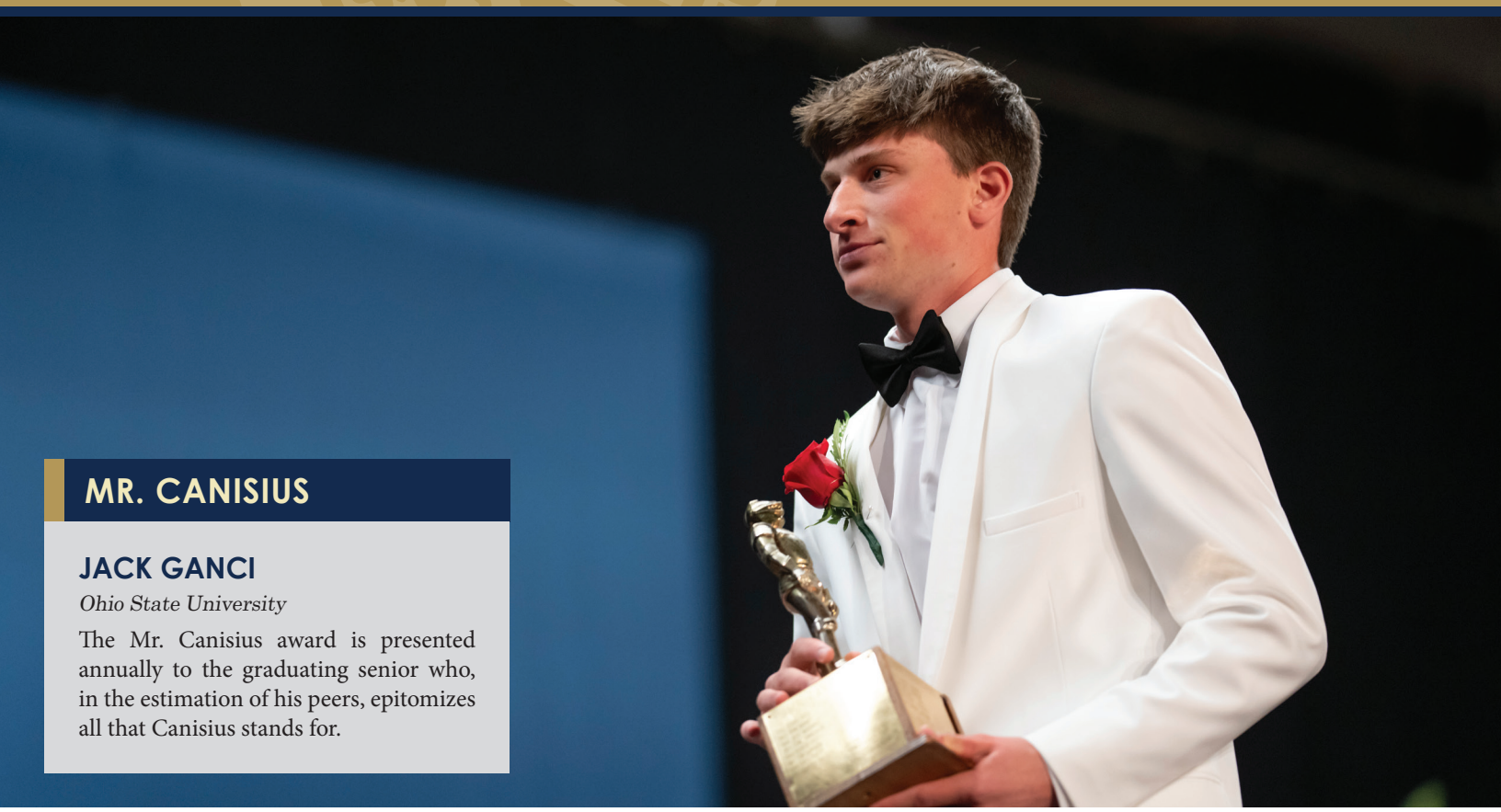


"She exemplifies what distinguishes the faculty at Canisius from other schools. Her support for me and my decisions was something that remained constant during my time at Canisius."

Moscovic's thoughts about Sugg, who is from Lancaster, attended Lancaster Middle School and attends Binghamton University:

"In his academic rigor and achievement, in service to others, in lacrosse and as a role model in Jogues House, Daniel always steps up to the plate and gives his very best."

CLASS OF 2025 AWARDS



MR. CANISIUS

JACK GANCI

Ohio State University

The Mr. Canisius award is presented annually to the graduating senior who, in the estimation of his peers, epitomizes all that Canisius stands for.

HOGENKAMP AWARDS

Through the kindness of the Hogenkamp family and their friends, a permanent fund provides academic awards at graduation in memory of **Thomas W. Hogenkamp '83**. Students with the top 10 four-year cumulative averages are honored; the top three receive a monetary award.



1. Augustus Falvo
University at Buffalo



2. Ayden Weese
SUNY Geneseo



3. Ethan Johnson
University of Vermont



4. Ryan Berenji
University of Rochester



5. Patrick Enright
Holy Cross



6. Jack Riley
Texas A&M



7. Brayden Harbold
Colgate University



8. Cormac Schaeffer
Le Moyne College



9. Matt Zakrzewski
University of Florida



10. Nate Pantano
University at Buffalo



MIDSHIPMAN FIRST CLASS JEFFREY R. KORN MEMORIAL AWARD

PATRICK ENRIGHT
College of the Holy Cross

The family of **Jeffrey Korn '79** established this award to honor a graduating senior who exemplifies outstanding moral character, academic achievement, leadership ability and good sportsmanship.



PHILIPPE B. PIEDAD ACCOLADE AWARD

JOHNNY ESPOSITO
Ave Maria University

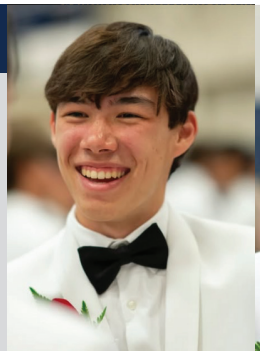
The Accolade Award is named in memory of **Philippe Piedad '93** and honors a graduating senior whose quiet inner strength exemplifies the essence of the Canisius spirit through studies, athletics and service.

JESUIT SCHOOLS NETWORK AWARDS

NATE PANTANO, *University at Buffalo (left)*

GIACOMO PILI, *Boston College (right)*

These awards are presented annually to two members of the graduating class; these specially selected seniors best exemplify the Ignatian ideal of a well-rounded person who is intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving and committed to doing justice in generous service to the people of God — a true "Man for Others."





CANISIUS IN ACTION



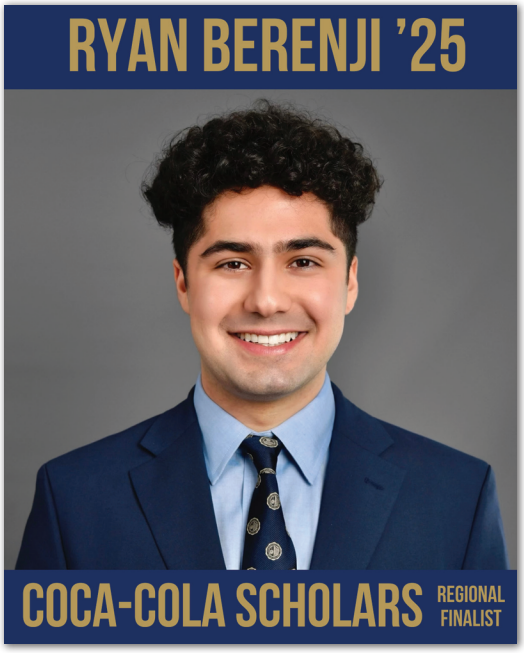
The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra performed at CHS for the second straight December, and the concert included a wonderful moment as the BPO invited Sam Gugliuzza ’25 (above), an accomplished violinist from North Tonawanda, to join them as the guest soloist.

Gugliuzza displayed his fantastic talents as the featured violinist for Polonaise Brilliante No. 1 in D Major, Op. 4. The piece was published by virtuoso violinist and composer Henri Wieniawski in 1853; it has been a staple of virtuoso violinists since its composition.

Gugliuzza also received the Young Musician’s scholarship from the Friends of the BPO. Gugliuzza attends the University of Michigan to study violin and Pre-Dental studies.

At right: Members of the CHS Concert Band perform for families during one of their three annual performances.

At lower right: Ryan Berenji ’25 was selected as a regional finalist to become a Coca-Cola Scholar. More than 105,000 apply for the honor. Berenji was one of 250 regional finalists, representing the top 0.3 percent of applicants. Berenji now studies pre-medicine at the University of Rochester.







The CHS Drama Guild delivered two fantasitc shows at the Scaccia Auditorium: Musical *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* in March (above) and the play *Almost, Maine* last November (left). The CHS Drama Guild not only consists of talented actors from the student body but many phenomenal performers from all over Western New York.





Above, **Ben Eppolito '26** earned the photography award at St. Bonaventure University's CommDay. At right, seniors in teacher Justin Suita's History of Western New York class partnered with the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site to refurbish the marker for the site of the Milburn House.



Above, a group of 14 seniors and four faculty members traveled last fall to the Adirondack Mountains for our annual Wilderness Retreat, a three-day experience that engages the participants in quiet time and reflection among the stunning wonders of nature.





Canisius ran five immersion trips during the 2024-25 school year including Puerto Rico (above), Mexico, New Orleans, Montana and Maine. In the Companions program, each student is invited to grow in self-knowledge through an experience of service to and solidarity with people who live on the margin.

At left, **Augustus Falvo '25** sits with grandmother Julie during December's Grandparents Day. This year's Grandparents Day is December 7, 2025.







One of the incentives of our annual CHS Walkathon fundraiser was to be able to pie Principal **Tom Coppola '01** in the face. Our community's traditional walk was followed by the always-epic Faculty vs. Seniors Basketball Game and then the serving of the pie.





From left, **Jack Lincoln '25, Dylan McCarthy '25, Jackson Deet '25** and **Nick Miranda '25** pose with world language teacher Jen Paterson at the 2024 Homecoming Dance. Paterson put in tremendous work organizing the return of Homecoming. To the right, **Eli Faso '26** is held up by his fellow attendees.



CRUSADER CHAMPIONS!



For the 22nd time in 24 years, Canisius won the Supremacy Cup as the top overall athletic program in the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association.

The 2024-25 season was highlighted by MMAA postseason championships in football, soccer and swimming along with basketball's Manhattan Cup and baseball's Georgetown Cup. CHS won regular season titles in golf, bowling and hockey.

In football, Eli Kimble '27 was named Dick Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year as coach Kraig Kurzanski '84 and the Crusaders beat St. Joe's in the championship game, part of a season in which the team paid tribute to the late Kevon Walker '24.

(Team and Coach Kurzanski photos by Noah Morlock '25 of CHS Digital Media)

ELIJAH KIMBLE '27



DICK GALLAGHER BUFFALO NEWS **PLAYER OF THE YEAR**



ZACH BONUITO '25



2024 ALL-AMERICAN

The soccer Crusaders won a championship they had come oh-so-close to in recent years with a resounding second half in a 3-1 victory over St. Joe's. CHS captain **Zachary Bonuito '25** of Lancaster was one of 78 players nationwide named to the United Soccer Coaches High School All-American Team. Golf had another top-notch season as it won the MMAA regular season championship.

(Soccer photos by Noah Morlock '25; golf photo by Ben Eppolito '26 of CHS Digital Media)





CHS Swimming won nine of 11 events to dominate the All-Catholic Championships, claiming their 23rd straight MMAA title. **Peter Peyser '25** of Williamsville and **Gabe Russell-Webster '27** of Amherst each were part of three victories. CHS Hockey (pictured below on senior night) won the MMAA regular season title in Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation play while the Crusaders' club team beat St. Joe's, 4-2, at KeyBank Center to win the Western New York High School Club Hockey League championship (at right).

(Swim and club hockey photos by Noah Morlock '25 of CHS Digital Media)











CHS Basketball won its 20th Manhattan Cup Championship with a 51-49 victory over St. Joe's, its 11th Manhattan Cup under 21-year-coach **Kyle Husband '96. Nick Purdie '25** had 15 points, surpassed the career 1,000-point mark and netted a great floater in overtime to earn MVP honors. The bowling team continued its championship tradition, winning the MMAA regular season title for the fourth consecutive year.

(Basketball photos by Noah Morlock '25 of CHS Digital Media)





After winning its second straight regular season title, baseball surged after dropping the first game of the Georgetown Cup series, beating Nichols twice, including a 9-0 Game Three clincher in which **Max Bahr '27** of Orchard Park pitched a one-hitter.

Rowing continued its dominance of the All-High Regatta during a history-making season (see pages 26-27), while 12 track and field athletes earned trips to the state Catholic championships in New York City.

(Baseball photo by Noah Morlock '25 of CHS Digital Media)











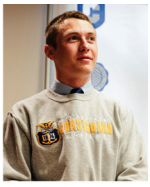


























TO THE NEXT LEVEL

In 2024-25, Canisius again had about 15% of its senior class committed to participating in college athletics, which is twice the national average. College commitment ceremonies for the Class of 2025 took place throughout the year.

FALL

Isaiah Aljuwani of Kenmore
Boston University (rowing)

Liam Feeney of West Seneca
Boston University (rowing)

Caleb Jackson of Cheektowaga
D'Youville University (baseball)
(later changed to Hilbert College)

Josh Monti of West Seneca
Fredonia State (baseball)

WINTER

Mason Alnutt of Amherst
Purdue University (football)

Patrick Enright of Orchard Park
Holy Cross (football)

Ryan Gaine of Orchard Park
Furman University (football)

George Wiley V of Lockport
Central Connecticut State University (football)

Griffin Zgoda of East Amherst
Baldwin Wallace University (volleyball)

Logan Unger of West Seneca
Penn State Behrend (volleyball)

SPRING

Patrick Cullinan of Orchard Park
Union College (basketball)

Johnny Esposito of Niagara Falls
Ave Maria University (basketball)

Nicholas Purdie of Buffalo
Nazareth College (basketball)

Jahyden Clark of Buffalo
Stetson University (football)

Thomas Skowron of Buffalo
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (rowing)

Jaeden Phillips of Buffalo
Loyola University Maryland (rugby)

Zachary Bonuito of Lancaster
Binghamton University (soccer)

Constantine Santacrose of Buffalo
RIT (soccer)

Hector Gitego of Amherst
Livingstone College (track/cross country)

Dylan Leong of East Amherst
St. John Fisher University (volleyball)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

This crew put themselves in the Canisius High School history books this past spring by becoming the first CHS senior eight to win not only the Scholastic Rowing Association of America championships in Pennsauken Township, N.J. but also the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association championships in Saint Catharines, Ontario.

Pictured (left to right): Head Coach Jacob Filby '14, Liam Feeney '25, Isaiah Aljuwani '25, Meer Renschler Pandey '25, coxswain Noah Rajecki '25, Ethan Pirigyi '26, Trevor Wierzbowski '25, Brodie Vitko '27, Oliver Reynolds '26, Kohler Stewart '25 and President of Rowing Tom Flaherty.

Photo credit: SRAA




owing Association of America
l Championship Regatta
USRowing

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



LUCAS DEYELL '27

"I feel Canisius has helped me become a Man for Others, while also helping me find myself."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Elmwood Franklin School)

WHY CANISIUS? I felt it would be the best fit for me. I knew a lot of people who were going there and I had been to a Canisius football game and loved the atmosphere and community.

ATHLETICS & CLUBS: I play soccer because I've been playing it for a while and I was looking for a way to meet more people. I only play soccer, but I am looking to join a club and/or run track.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy history because it has always been my favorite subject and it is taught by Mr. Beecher. Mr. Beecher has been one of my favorite teachers, if not my favorite teacher, at Canisius so far. He is a great teacher and is very knowledgeable.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan to go to college for my degree and while I'm in college I'll get an internship. As of now I plan to go into real estate and/or marketing.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Do it. I am so happy I am here. I've made so many friends and have made memories that I will never forget.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: I feel Canisius has helped me become a Man for Others, while also helping me find myself.



JULIUS SCHOPP '27

"I picked Canisius because of its strong community and academic excellence."

HOMETOWN: Grand Island (Veronica Connors Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius because of its strong community and academic excellence.

ATHLETICS: I currently play lacrosse for Canisius for the past two seasons and look forward to winning the league title.

ACTIVITIES: I attended the Emmaus retreat in my sophomore year and was honored to be involved in the Arrupe Summit leadership retreat.

ACADEMICS: I really have been enjoying the history classes here. Mr. Beecher has become my favorite teacher. Through his teaching and storytelling I have strengthened my love for history.

FUTURE PLANS: I would like to head to college and major in political science.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Do your homework. So much of your grade here is derived from your effort. Doing your homework is the best way to learn the material and get the best grade.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Thanks to the resources available to me and the community, I have become a much more calm, and I think, better person.

SOLIEMAN EL-ASHRY '28

"I care about having a good future and I believe Canisius can give me that."



HOMETOWN: East Amherst (Casey Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius because my father introduced the opportunity to me and I wanted to take the shot because I care about having a good future and I believe Canisius can give me that.

ATHLETICS: I have been playing football since 7th grade because I've always wanted to as a kid. I took my opportunity in 7th grade and continued with it. I play basketball and tennis also because that's the sport that my dad taught me how to play so I have always played it as a little kid and have continued to enjoy it.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy AP World History because Mr. Beecher is a great teacher. It is fun to be in his class with the way he interacts with us and teaches difficult material in an easy way. Another class I enjoy is geometry with Mr. Zera. He uses a lot of techniques which are interesting and makes it easy to memorize certain things.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan to stay consistent as I grow during my time at Canisius. I want to be challenged.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: I would tell them to be productive and manage their time. Use the resources at Canisius and all the things that the school offers through the teachers and counselors. Jump into the brotherhood with two feet.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped teach me how I have to be responsible and take care of things so that I will be able to succeed. They also helped teach me how to use the resources around me so that I can do better.



AYDEN EMMICK '27

"I came here and was taught how to become a leader."

HOMETOWN: East Aurora (East Aurora Middle Schoo)

WHY CANISIUS? I thought Canisius was the best school to get me to the next level.

ATHLETICS: I play football and baseball because I enjoy playing with a team where I'm not the best because it makes me better over time.

ACTIVITIES: I have gone to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and it was a very humbling experience seeing how many kids don't get presents for Christmas.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy Global History and Art because I get along with both teachers very well. Mr. Gabriele has made an impression on me because whenever I'm struggling with something in baseball or school I go right to him.

AFTER CANISIUS: My future plans are to go on and play college baseball.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: I would tell any kid interested in Canisius that no other school even comes close to the family bond it brings.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped change me because before I came here I was no kind of leader at all. I came here and was taught how to become a leader. The teachers and the friends I have made already have become a rewarding part of my everyday life.

HENRY WELSCH '28

"It's a Jesuit school and it was what I preferred "



HOMETOWN: Amherst (St. Christopher School)

WHY CANISIUS? It's a Jesuit school and it was what I preferred rather to other religious schools. It's also one of the top-rated academic schools in New York which suits my needs..

ATHLETICS: In the fall I played football, and in the spring I was part of the crew team. I joined these sports because I wanted to try something new and meet new people. They were a lot of fun, even with the heavy physical demand.

ACTIVITIES: I am in the Civil War History Club run by Mr. Rizzo. I joined because at first it sounded interesting but then I started having a lot of fun with my friends in the club and it's always a good time.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy history, math, earth science and religion mostly due to the teachers. They make the class exciting and fun to be in. Mr. Novotny has taught me a lot on what to do to make a situation better. Even if he doesn't realize it, he's funny and teaches a great class.

FUTURE PLANS: I am hoping to go to the University of Notre Dame and taking the History Major Honors track. I would like to major in economics with a minor in computer science.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Always do the homework. It's a great study tool and an easy way to earn points to boost your average.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: It has made me more mindful and more mature in ways that are hard to describe.



PREET PATEL '27

"Canisius has helped me become more disciplined."

HOMETOWN: Tonawanda (St. Andrews Country Day School)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius because my brother went to Canisius and encouraged me to go.

ATHLETICS: I am a member of the rowing team. I do it for fun and for a chance to go to a great college.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy AP European History because of the teacher and how straightforward the class has been. Mr. Beecher has made an impression on me because he is a great teacher and listener. You can talk about anything with him. He has helped me just by conversing with him.

ACTIVITIES: I am involved in digital media club because I enjoy it and it looks good for college. I did the Arrupe Summit for leadership and I did the freshman service trips. I made new friends and connections with people and had a lot of fun.

FUTURE PLANS: To go to college, get a good job, and live a good life.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Get involved in everything you find interest in. It will help you make friends for life.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me become more disciplined. It has been so rewarding making all my new friends.

PATRICK RICH '28

"Canisius has helped me grow my relationship with God."



HOMETOWN: Buffalo (Nardin Academy)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius because I felt like it was the best fit for me.

ATHLETICS: I play hockey and baseball because I like being on a team with a close group of guys.

ACTIVITIES: I was on a service retreat to St Luke's Mission of Mercy. We prepared meals for people. I really liked this retreat because I think that it is important to give back to the community.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy my religion class the most. I enjoy it the most because my teacher Father Ciancimino is a really good teacher and I like his teaching style. Fr. C has helped me the most so far in my time here at Canisius. He has treated me very well and made me feel right at home at Canisius.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to start my own business.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: I would highly recommend them to come to Canisius because the teachers here are very helpful and friendly. Canisius does a lot of fun things that other schools may not do. For example, the CHS House System where all of the different houses compete for points in order to win the House Cup.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me grow my relationship with God. I have been able to strengthen my faith thanks to our opportunities to attend masses and reconciliation.



CARSON KWIATKOWSKI '26

"I wanted to continue their legacy."

HOMETOWN: Grand Island (Veronica Connors Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS?: My grandfather, dad and uncles have all gone to Canisius and I wanted to continue their legacy.

ATHLETICS: I play baseball because I have been playing since a young age, I play volleyball because it is a fun team sport, and I play in bowling because bowling is special to my family.

ACTIVITIES: I participate in the school's concert band. I've gone on Emmaus which was an enlightening experience. I was able to have a deep self-reflection and was able to go on the journey with my friends. I also went on a service trip to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and helped move packages into storage, load trucks with food and made some sandwiches to be handed out to people who are hungry. For the past two years I've been involved in the HAP Program, where students of Canisius help run sports and help the kids involved prepare for the entrance exam at Canisius.

ACADEMICS: I really enjoy Algebra II/Trig and Chemistry because I was lucky enough to get very nice teachers, and they really know how to make a class more enjoyable.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to get a degree in Actuarial Science as well as play volleyball for a college team.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: I recommend getting involved as much as possible, whether it's in clubs or sports. Getting involved in activities introduces you to new people that can form long-lasting friendships.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has showed me how to be a Man for Others. The call to put others before yourself is part of the Jesuit mission that they teach here.

MAXWELL BAHR '27

"Canisius is challenging academically and a good fit for me athletically."

HOMETOWN: Orchard Park (Orchard Park Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS? It was the best option for me. Canisius is challenging academically and a good fit for me athletically.

ATHLETICS: I play varsity baseball because I have played my entire life.

ACTIVITIES: I went on Emmaus and it was one of my favorite experiences so far at Canisius. It allowed me to understand people all have their own problems going on and to respect that.

ACADEMICS: I love Mr. Beecher's class. He is one of the best teachers I've ever had. I met Mr. Gabriel freshman year during the JV baseball season. During the season I faced many challenges with my mindset. He made me understand that I was still able to care about what I like without it being shown in the way that it was. He changed the way that I now look at everything in life.



FUTURE PLANS: I would love to play college baseball.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Try as many things as you can. There are so many opportunities to grow and learn.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: It has made me a better overall person and allowed my mindset to change with the way I approach situations. This is because of all the people around me such as teachers and older students.



HOMETOWN: Tonawanda (Elmwood Franklin School)

WHY CANISIUS? Canisius was a better fit for me than the other options in the area. I enjoy the diversty of clubs they have available and their commitment to their students.

MATTHEW MICHAELS '26

"Don't be scared and step outside your comfort zone."

ACTIVITIES: I am a part of the Financial Intelligence Club. I like it because it can help me with my finances in the future. I also have gone on Emmaus and Kairos and I enjoyed both of them a lot.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy my chemistry class because it is hands on and I enjoy doing the activities. My counselor Ms. Langworthy has helped me at Canisius with my academics and teaching me what I didn't know.

FUTURE PLANS My future plans are to attend college then hopefully start my own landscaping business.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Don't be scared and step outside your comfort zone.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me a better person and helped me look at all things in life with a positive and hopeful mindset.

ARMAN DAAS '27

"Canisius has helped me become a better person."



HOMETOWN: Columbus, OH (Olmstead Middle School & Nardin Academy)

WHY CANISIUS? I chose Canisius because I had heard good things about it and there were a lot of people who I know that were planning to go there.

ATHLETICS: I do track because I like running. The events are fun to participate in and I enjoy supporting my team.

ACTIVITIES: I have been on the Emmaus retreat and it was fun and helpful. I felt like I could talk about how I felt and I felt heard.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy my chemistry class because we get to do labs. I enjoy being hands on and working with materials we do not see everyday. Mr. Gabriele has influenced me greatly. He was a really fun and helpful teacher for my earth science course.

FUTURE PLANS: My future plans are to go to a really good college for civil engineering or computer science.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: To make sure that they study for quizzes, start off with a strong first semester and turn in every homework assignment.

CANISIUS'S IMPACT: Canisius has helped me become a better person, gain knowledge and make more friends.



CHRIS SWEENEY '26

"Canisius has made me more open to religion and better connected with God."

HOMETOWN: Fort Erie, Ontario (Garrison Road School)

WHY CANISIUS?: I picked Canisius because of the great education and to play lacrosse.

ATHLETICS: I play lacrosse because I started at a young age and want to continue to play at a high level.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy my history classes because I find history interesting and the importance it has to this day. Mr. Koessler has been incredibly helpful to me because he helped me feel comfortable since the day I transferred into Canisius and he is always there if I need something.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to play college lacrosse.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: If you want to succeed at Canisius you have to put the effort in and if you are having trouble, the teachers are always there to help.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has introduced me to its strong ideals. Canisius has made me more open to religion and better connected with God. It's also started the process of teaching me how to be a man for others.

GABE RUSSELL-WEBSTER '27

"Canisius has changed my opinion of how the world works."



HOMETOWN: Amherst (Christ the King School)

WHY CANISIUS? I chose Canisius for its outstanding academic curriculum, remarkable faculty, and a strong tradition of excellence in swimming over the past several years.

ATHLETICS: I swim because I have been passionate about it since 2nd grade.

ACTIVITIES: I am a part of the Black Student Union to help ensure that minority students have easy access to a supportive community of peers who share similar backgrounds and experiences. I was part of the 190th Emmaus Retreat and it was a truly unforgettable experience that allowed me to form meaningful connections with classmates I hadn't known before. The retreat also deepened our faith in God and taught us valuable lessons about becoming Men for Others.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy math and history class because the teachers not only teach us about the subject, but they also teach us about life, how to deal with it, and how to grow to become better people.

FUTURE PLANS My future plans are to swim in college, then become a coach once I retire.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: As Mr. Coppola says, jump in with two feet and do not hesitate to lend a hand.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has changed my opinion of how the world works and how to become a better man. I not only learned how to be more compassionate, but I have matured in so many ways and am eager to learn more. I come from a Christian background. I have always been involved in the church, however there are still so many more things to learn. Canisius has helped me grow in my faith and learn the importance of fully trusting in God.



GIANNI LATELLA '26

"The day that I toured the school was the day that I knew I wanted to come to Canisius."

HOMETOWN: Lancaster (Lancaster Middle School)

WHY CANISIUS?: When I was at Lancaster I was not happy with some of the things that were happening in the school and on my sports teams. I had multiple friends that went to Canisius and they all told me that I should tour the school. The day that I toured the school was the day that I knew that I wanted to come to Canisius.

ATHLETICS: I play Varsity Baseball, I have played baseball since I was very young and love the sport so much. I plan on playing in college.

ACTIVITES: One club that I am apart of is Chess Club. When I was at Lancaster I was in a chess club, however when I transferred here my sophomore year the chess club was not active. In my junior year I started it up again and we had around six members who showed up every week.

ACADEMICS: Some classes that I enjoy are math, AP US History and Spanish. I like all of these classes because they are on the harder side compared to my other classes. This makes them rewarding which encourages me to strive for good grades. My teachers also make the classes very enjoyable.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Some advice that I would give to someone who is looking to attend Canisius is to shadow one of the students here, have an open mind and ask questions.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has made me more responsible, accountable and determined to perform in school.

DYLAN VAUGHN '26

"I picked Canisius for a better education."



HOMETOWN: Pembroke (Pembroke Central School)

WHY CANISIUS? I picked Canisius for a better education and to play football and Track.

ATHLETICS: I play football and run track. I play football because I've been playing since 1st grade, and I love the aspect of team work. It allows me to exercise my natural leadership abilities. I run track to stay in shape and help with football. I also love the different atmosphere that track gives where everyone is encouraging each other.

ACTIVITES: I'm currently involved with the Canisius Flight Club. I joined this club because I've always have been interested in aviation, and it brings in a lot of cool guests that help explain the pathway to becoming a pilot.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy math and science classes because they are always giving a new challenge and are the most interactive classes. I've always been good at math and science, so I tend to enjoy those classes.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan on going to college and getting my bachelors degree and then I plan to join the United States Air Force.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: I would give someone looking to attend Canisius the advice to meet and talk with everyone in your mentor group and get to know those guys well. Knowing those guys makes the experience so much better and a lot more fun.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: Canisius has helped me become the man I am today and to discover what it is like to really be a Man for Others. Canisius has also helped me become more wise and helped show me how I can push myself to be the best.



THOMAS SNYDER '26

"It has helped change the way I look at my faith and my future."

HOMETOWN: Orchard Park (St. Thomas the Apostle School)

WHY CANISIUS?: Because it is the best school in the area.

ATHLETICS: I chose to row because I decided not to continue my soccer career. Rowing is an entirely new sport for me.

ACTIVITIES: I am involved in finance club, because it is an interest of mine. I have done Emmaus, Kairos and the Portland, Maine service trip. My experiences have been great.

ACADEMICS: I enjoy AP US History because it is very practical and interesting. I also enjoy AP Psychology since it is probably the most interesting class I've taken. A Canisius faculty member that has been particularly helpful is Mrs. Moscovic. She has helped me a lot with decisions on classes and planning for college.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: It is the by far the best private school in Buffalo and has the best overall academics, athletics and location.

HOW CANISIUS CHANGED ME: It has helped change the way I look at my faith and my future.



GAMBIT 50

"Let's make sure that Canisius continues its great legacy of developing the talents of our young men, for the service of others, and for the Greater Glory of God."

That was part of a stirring GAMBIT 50 speech by Tom Sheehan, who served as one of three GAMBIT 50 Co-Chair Couples).

The golden anniversary of our annual blue-and-gold auction fundraiser gala was a tremendous success thanks to our outstanding CHS community. An amazing Saturday evening concluded with the hundreds in attendance hearing students' stories and then raising their paddles for the GAMBIT 50 Jesuit Promise Fund, which provides much-needed assistance to our students.

Save the date! **GAMBIT 51 is Saturday, March 14!**



GAMBIT 50 Co-Chair Couples (left to right): **Liz** and **Tom Sheehan** (parents of **Tommy Sheehan '25**); **Susan** and **Mike Mineo '96** (parents of **Andrew Mineo '25**); **Laura** and **David Gioia '87** (parents of **Eric Gioia '25**).



ALUMNI EVENTS


CHS IN FLORIDA


CHS IN ROCHESTER


CHS IN NYC

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT. 27
CHS vs SJCI Tailgate
Stransky Athletic Complex
12 p.m.

SEPT. 29
LEGACY FUND LUNCH
The Foundry
12 p.m.

NOV 8
ALUMNI AWARDS
Canisius High School
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

NOV. 18
CHS in D.C.
Gonzaga High School
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

DEC. 7
GRANDPARENTS DAY
Canisius High School
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DEC. 16
BPO at CHS
Canisius High School
7 p.m.

JAN. 16
JUG NIGHT
Canisius High School
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

MARCH 9
CHS IN FLORIDA
Golf noon at TBD
Reception 6 p.m.
at Loxahatchee Club

MARCH 14
GAMBIT 51
Canisius High School
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

APRIL 18
ALUMNI SERVICE
Loctions TBA
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

APRIL 28
CHS in NYC
Xavier High School
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

JUNE 12-13
ALUMNI WEEKEND
Canisius High School









LEGACY LUNCHEON

We celebrated those who helped forge a legacy of excellence in athletics and academics at CHS with our 2024 Legacy Fund Luncheon, attended by hundreds at Hotel at The Lafayette in downtown Buffalo.

Following an address by CHS President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., several individuals were honored while the keynote speaker was award-winning voice of the Buffalo Bills John Murphy (bottom left).

CHS racquet sports coach Steve Joyce was presented the Legacy Fund Coach Award (top left), the Cosgrove family was on hand to receive the Legacy Fund Service Award given to the late Edward C. Cosgrove (top right), and longtime Legacy Fund chairman Vincent Mancuso ’64 was honored for his immense service with a Special Appreciation Award (bottom right).

Canisius High School’s Legacy Fund supports academic scholarships to provide deserving Crusaders with a Jesuit education and helps fund capital purchases for our athletic department to ensure that our teams remain competitive at the highest levels of high school sports in Western New York. We are looking forward to another great event on Sept. 29.

ALUMNI EVENTS



JUG NIGHT!

We're raising our glass to all who helped make history with Jug Night 2025!

Alumni and current and former faculty and staff met for a terrific night of fun and CHS camaraderie in Scaccia Auditorium. The attendance of 221 smashed the previous high.

We offer our utmost gratitude for all of our sponsors who made it possible. The party included steak and cocktails from Marble + Rye, craft beer from Try-It Distributing, cigars by Gregorio Cigars and gaming tables of blackjack, poker and roulette.

Don't miss this year's Jug Night on Jan. 16, 2026!



John Cross '02, Brandon Littles '02, Andrew Sturniolo '05, Connor Oakley '05, and **John Ahrens '82** enjoy a game of Craps in the Scaccia Auditorium during January's JUG Night.







Above, members of the class of 2009 gather during January's JUG Night. Brothers **Chris Twarozek '07** and **Tim Twarozek '08**, bottom left, celebrate at the blackjack table. **Steve Boyd '17** and **Andrew Beecher '17** reconnect with their former teacher **Sam Rizzo '97**.

ALUMNI EVENTS



GOLDEN JUBILEE

What a special gathering it was during a tremendous Alumni Weekend as the Class of 1975 returned to 1180 Delaware Ave. to celebrate its 50th Reunion Golden Jubilee.

President Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., and Director of Alumni Relations Jay Josker ’01 were presented a Class of 1975 gift of more than $76,000 by class leaders Gary Hayes ’75 and Bob Zak ’75.

Many additional photos from the event are available via canisiushigh.org/50th





ALL ALUMNI BASH!







In one of the biggest All Alumni Bash gatherings ever, alumni of all class years – from the Class of 1956 all the way through the 2020s – reunited with each other and faculty and staff on Tripi Field. Among them were many members of the Class of 1990, Zack Modzelewski ’15, Harman Gill ’15 and Chris Uba ’15 with their guests; the trio of Thaddeus Nieduzak ’75, Chris Connelly ’75 and Mike Andriatch ’60; and Tony Grisanti ’85 with his son.

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC





The annual Alumni Golf Classic was another day of great golf and great Canisius camaraderie as (left to right) **Bill Davis, Dan Mecca '87, Jeff Gangi '86** and **Chris Cardillo '86** claimed the blue jackets of the senior flight while the foursome of **Charlie Desmond '16, John Jenkins '17, Ryan Gibbons '15** and **Chas Palka '17** claimed the overall championship as a sold-out field enjoyed a sunny, breezy day at the excellent Glen Oak Golf Club.

(Photos by Dean Gracie '27 of CHS Digital Media)

You can see many more photos, including shots of all the foursomes, via canisiushigh.org/golf



CLASS OF 2005



The Class of 2005 had a great 20th reunion during Alumni Weekend at J.T.'s Urban Italian on Elmwood Ave. in Buffalo, which included an old Applebee's framed display that was rescued from a restaurant before it closed by **Kevin McGillicuddy '74**.

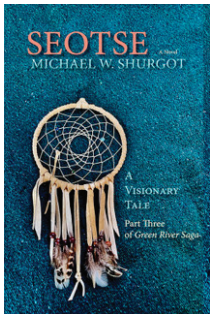
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

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

The Class of 1974 had a holiday get-together at Resurgence Brewing Company.

Dr. Ronald Usiak Sr. '53 is enjoying his family. Ron has five children, nine grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.





Michael W. Shurgot '61 is now the author of three novels as – Seotse: A Visionary Tale – was published by Sunstone Press in Santa Fe, N.M. Seotse is Cheyenne for "Spirit," and it focuses on a mythical journey by the Cheyenne spiritual leader, Sweet Medicine. The novel completes his Green River Trilogy; the first two are Green River Saga (2020), and Raven Mountain: A Mythic Tale (2023).

One of the latest projects for **Tom Fontana '69** was one he wrote, produced and directed – it is an eight-episode drama series podcast for Audible entitled "Sugarland," starring Dean Winters of Oz, 30 Rock and Allstate's "Mayhem" commercials.



Dr. Mark G. Kris '69 was the honoree of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation's Evening of Innovation Gala in Manhattan in September 2024. The LCRF stated that the honor goes to an individual whose support of the organization and the field of lung cancer research is unparalleled, and someone who exemplifies the spirit of LCRF to improve the lives of persons with lung cancers through research. "As a thoracic oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dr. Kris's clinical and research accomplishments over the last four decades have transformed lung cancer care both nationally and internationally."

RUSSERT '68 VIDEO GOES VIRAL



"You're also playing for this life called Buffalo."

On the day of the 2025 AFC Championship, CHS posted a short video of the late, great **Tim Russert '68** discussing our town and our team.

The video has been viewed more than 400,000 times, including more than 340,000 on Facebook.

Russert was interviewed for an episode of ESPN's NFL Films Presents in the year 2000. The show was titled, "A town, a team and a dream: The history of the Buffalo Bills." The full episode can be viewed on YouTube's Buffalo Archives Now channel.

As the longest-serving moderator of Meet the Press, Russert popularized "go Bills" on a national scale as he often said it to close the show.



Keith B. Wiley '74 was elected earlier this year as a new member to the New York State Board of Regents. Wiley is representing Western New York in what will be a five-year term. In its announcement, the New York State Legislature called Wiley "a dedicated educator who has taught math at Houghton Academy in Buffalo for 24 years, including leading his students to multiple Buffalo City School Middle School Math League Championships." Wiley is also a member of the New York State Education Department Professional Standards and Practice Board and co-chair of its Higher Education Committee.



"The BPO Christmas concert at 1180 was another occasion for some of the Class of '72 to appreciate and take advantage of what the school has to offer," said **Rocky Krysztof '72**. "After the musical performance we socialized and enjoyed a Christmas libation." Sitting (left to right): **Rose R., Cindy K., Sharlene B., Julie J., Dan Joyce '72, Larry Korzeniewski '72, and Rocky Krysztof '72. Standing: John Buszka '72, Gene Rudzinski '72** and **Bill Bukowski**. Also present were **Paula & Paul Maloney '72**.

John Crotty '75 recently retired after 40 years with IBM Corporation where he worked as a Senior Supply Chain professional.

David Mineo '79 in January was named Chief Compliance Officer for Madison Title Agency, which is headquartered in Lakewood, N.J.

Ed Schneider '70 shot a hole-in-one in May on the 170-yard No. 2 hole at Orchard Park Country Club, using a 5-hybrid.

Raymond M. Nowicki, CPA '72 has been appointed by the Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to be a hearing judge on the AICPA Joint Trial Board, a senior committee of the AICPA which provides for uniform enforcement of professional standards. Nowicki, a CPA since 1978, currently is Quality Control Director for Davie Kaplan CPA PC in Rochester and Partner-Emeritus at EFPR Advisory in Buffalo.

Bill Hasbrouck, Jr. '74 is enjoying retirement and traveling.

Attention members of the Classes of 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980: If you have an interesting story to tell regarding the appearance of Gregg Allman and Cher at Canisius High School on Oct. 20, 1976, please email Director of Communications Keith McShea at mcshea@canisiushigh.org. Your recollections will be part of a look back at the historic event next year on its 50th anniversary

VILARDO '73 HOSTS CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERSTS FOR FIRESIDE CHAT IN BUFFALO

When the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court was making rare public remarks in Buffalo, it was a CHS alumnus sitting across from him asking the questions.

Hon. Lawrence J. Vilardo '73, a U.S. District Court judge, was the on-stage host for an hourlong "fireside chat" with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. in May.

The conversation was the highlight of an event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York at the Hyatt Regency Hotel which was attended by more than 600 members of the legal community.

The interview was aired live on television and made headlines across the country and beyond as Chief Justice Roberts answered questions about the independence of the judiciary branch, among other topics.

Judge Vilardo and Chief Justice Roberts both discussed their legal careers and their friendship. The WNY natives have known each other for more than 40 years and were Harvard Law School classmates.

"I have great respect for him," Vilardo said of Roberts, who was born in Buffalo and spent his childhood in Hamburg before moving to Indiana at age 10.



Judge Vilardo, a member of the CHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor and a regular at many of our alumni events, has often hosted CHS students for visits, including meetings with our mock trial team the last two years (in photos with team advisor Jody Galvin and teacher Bryce Hopkins '08).





Forty-eight years ago, **Phil McConkey '75** and his company in the U.S. Naval Academy marched in Jimmy Carter's inaugural parade, on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue. In January 2025, Phil's daughter, Midshipman First Class May McConkey, joined her company in saluting Carter's hearse as it passed the Navy Memorial, on the same avenue. The Super Bowl champion spoke with Erik Brady '72 of The Buffalo News for a terrific column which told much of McConkey's great story that started on the West Side of Buffalo, from his daughter's matching him in earning the honor of being a part of the Naval Academy's "color company," to his NFL tryout, to his inclusion in the New York Giants' "A Night With Legends" (with coach Bill Parcells) as the team celebrated 100 seasons.



Hon. Henry J. Nowak '86 serves New York's second-highest state court, the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. He was appointed in July 2023, after having been elected to the New York State Supreme Court in November 2010. Justice Nowak also served as a Buffalo City Court Judge from 2003 through 2010. As a result of his judicial service, Justice Nowak has won a number of awards, including the Pro Bono Award from the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer's Project, both the Distinguished Leadership Award and Distinguished Service Award from the Advocates Club of WNY, and the Pewter Plate Award from the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier. He was also named an Outstanding Citizen of 2010 by The Buffalo News and Public Servant of the Year by the Local Initiative Support Corporation in Buffalo in 2006.

RICHARDS '90 LEADS ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AS GRAND MARSHAL

For the second straight year, one of Buffalo's biggest annual events had a CHS graduate leading the way as **Fr. Dave Richards '90** was the grand marshal of Sunday's St. Patrick's Day Parade, run by Buffalo's United Irish American Association.

In the photo are Fr. Dave (nice umbrella!) with, left to right, sisters Molly Kooshoian and Liz Sheehan and brother **John Richards '95.** Fr. Dave selected his three siblings as well as his mother, Margaret Mary (Nash) Richards, as Deputy Marshals for the parade, which has been held since 1913.

In the middle of the main photo is the Richards siblings' uncle J**ohn Nash '59**, who is the brother of Margaret and father of **Jim Nash '96**, who took this outstanding photo. Thousands were downtown for the parade, which starts at Niagara Square and runs north on Delaware Avenue until North Street, just a mile south of CHS. **Liam Knott '03** was the 2024 grand marshal.

Richards, who has been a priest for 15 years, is the parochial vicar of the Catholic Community of Buffalo-North and has been the chaplain of the UIAA since 2009.



Ron Raccuia '86 was featured in The Buffalo News in January 2025. Raccuia, living in Southern California, serves in senior advising roles for three organizations: Legends, which works on stadium projects, hospitality and merchandise; Altius Sports Partners, which focuses on major college programs; and USA Football, heading into the 2028 Olympics. He previously was a point person in negotiating and planning the Buffalo Bills' new Highmark Stadium as the team's executive vice president and chief operating officer. Raccuia has also recently spent time working as the general manager of Bryson DeChambeau's LIV Golf League team, the Crushers.



Geoff Kelly '87 was promoted to associate editor at Investigative Post. Kelly has covered government and politics since joining Investigative Post in April 2019. His byline has appeared in The Nation, The Buffalo News, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and the San Francisco Bay Guardian, among other publications.



Bill Kresse '90, the principal of City Honors School in Buffalo, was named one of nine recipients of 2024 Terrel H. Bell Awards for Outstanding School Leadership administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The Department of Education's announcement included this about Kresse: "Principal Kresse is present, visible, and active, not only within the school, but the community at-large. … Known as a bridge-builder, Principal Kresse understands that connection is key to reaching young people. … At the core of Principal Kresse's success is the sense of ownership and common mission he has fostered in the staff, students, families, and community."



Fran Riordan '93 has continued his success as the manager of the Triple-A Las Vegas Aviators, as he led the team to the 2025 first-half championship of the Pacific Coast League. Riordan was the PCL Manager of the Year in 2023 and 2019 and he is the winningest manager in Las Vegas history (368 in five years entering 2025). Entering this season, he compiled an overall managerial record over 23 seasons of 1,309-1,271 (.507), ranking eighth among active leaders in minor league managerial wins. Current students are familiar with his signed jersey, which hangs in our cafeteria along with those of many other Crusaders who have attained great heights in professional athletics.



Prior to the Edmonton Oilers' game at Buffalo Sabres this past season, Oilers general manager **Stan Bowman '91** visited his alma mater and spent time with some of our students in the Madden Center for Global Learning. Bowman, also the executive vice president for hockey operations for the Oilers, spent his first year with Edmonton after serving as general manager for the Chicago Blackhawks for parts of 13 seasons, during which he won three Stanley Cups. He spoke to the Introduction to Sports Management class taught by Bryce Hopkins '08, one of several dual-enrollment college courses CHS offers in partnership with Canisius University. Bowman shared with students how he grew up in Buffalo, attended the University of Notre Dame and started his career in consulting before becoming an NHL executive on the business side of teams' operations and then moving up on the hockey side. He took questions from students about sports management in general and even about how he and Edmonton approached the trade deadline.



Scott Kwiatkowski '97, Associate Sports Information Director at Fordham University, was named the 2024-25 Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Sports Information Director of the Year. Selected by the Collegiate Water Polo Association, the SID of the Year award is presented to individuals who "have achieved notable excellence in the field of water polo communications during the past academic year." During the 2024 season, he garnered coverage for the Rams' on regional television stations and the New York Times and other physical and online publications. Kwiatkowski, pictured with Fordham water polo coach Brian Bacharach, is a 2001 Fordham grad in his 24th year with the Fordham Sports Information Office.



Ryan Crawford '99 has joined the legal team at Cellino Law. A graduate of Ithaca College and UB Law School, Ryan has been a practicing attorney for over 14 years and is also a proud member of the US Army, currently serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the reserves for the US Army JAG corps. Ryan resides in Orchard Park with his wife Krissy and three children Clare, William and Jack.

Sean Valentine '01 was named Director of Development for Wilbraham & Monson Academy, an independent, co-ed, boarding and day school with grades 6-12 located in Wilbraham, Mass. For the last eight years, he held the position of Director of Stewardship & Donor Relations while also running the school's planned giving program.



Carl Dennis '12 graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2025. Before beginning his legal career, he is to spend six weeks in London, England as a legal fellow with JUSTICE, a leading law reform and human rights organization. In the fall, he will join Sidley Austin LLP's New York City office as an associate in their Financial Institutions Group.



Max Montante '17 (center) has built the Mind Over Foundation for the last two years, with its marquee event the Mind Over Miles endurance fundraiser in which Montante and others ran for 24 hours straight at Delaware Park. The first event raised over $50,000 in spring of 2024 with participants running over 80 miles; this year's event went past 90 miles and raised more than $100,000. The Mind Over Foundation is dedicated to breaking the silence on mental health, supporting suicide prevention, and fostering resilience through movement and community.

Celestin Abwe '19, founder of Clutch Delivery in Syracuse, was named one of Central New York Business Journal's "40 under Forty" for 2025.

Matthew Talty '21 graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and has starting a job at Lockheed Martin in Alabama.

Jack Benz '24 traveled nearly 8,000 miles away to Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia, an island in the Pacific Ocean, for a semester of service through the Society of Jesus and CHS Campus Ministry. Chuuk is the largest state in Micronesia, and is home to Xavier High School, a co-ed Jesuit school where Benz spent his service.

Mac Quinn '24 of Springville Country Club captured the 2024 Erie County Boys' 18U Championship with an impressive two-day total of 132 (-8). Quinn fired back-to-back under par rounds to secure a nine-shot victory at Elma Meadows Golf Course. Quinn plays collegiately at Division I Le Moyne College.

BIRTHS

Joseph Orlando '05 announced the "birth of a future Crusader" on July 9, 2024: Joseph Orlando!





A project to display American flags on Elmwood Avenue this past summer arrived just in time for the Fourth of July, and CHS alumni helped make it happen. **Domenico Callocchia '24** was among the organizers of the project while **Hector Gitego '25, Bradley Saleh-McDermott '24, Broderick Raczyk '24, Kiefer Bostwick '24** and **Lenny Sciolino IV '18** were among many who helped carry it out.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR GIVING LEVELS

President's Society level giving will be defined as gifts $1,870 or greater.

Founder's Society level giving will be defined as gifts $1,000 or greater.

For many years, the threshold for entry into the President's Society has been $1,180 and the threshold for entry into the Founder's Society has been $500. These important giving levels help Canisius to cover the significant gap between the tuition charged and our operating cost, which has grown significantly. It is necessary to adjust these giving thresholds in order to support our current initiatives and allow us to better serve today's students.

For the current fiscal year 2025-26, the entry level to the President's Society is $1,870 anually (1870 was the year Canisius High School was founded). Entry into the Founder's Society is $1,000 annually.

We offer our utmost gratitude to our loyal donors for helping us ensure that every student has the transformational experience of a Canisius High School education.



IN MEMORIAM

We remember alumni of whose passing we've learned since January 2025.

Richard W. Harlach '48
Dr. John J. Joyce '48
Eugene P. Vukelic '48
Robert A. Bauer '50
Richard A. Higgins '50
Donald F. Seitz '50
Donald R. Bernick '51
Thomas H. Burke '51
John P. Morrissey '51
Edwin J. Paszkiewicz '51
Leo A. Bradley '52
Col. Thomas R. Curtin '52
Daniel DiLiberto '52
Daniel J. Mulhern, Jr. '53
Dr. Thomas O. Daly '54
Ronald D. Strom '54
Robert G. Larzelere '55
Kevin J. Sullivan '55
Rev. Vincent R. Pierino '56
Paul E. Prozeller '56
Joseph Ruszkiewicz '56
Vincent J. Sorrentino '56
Peter Crotty '57
Anthony S. Kowalski '57
Hon. John J. LaFalce '57
Ronald J. Mirabelli '57
William T. Erdman '58
Dennis P. DiGiacomo '59
Thomas M. Huber '60
Thomas Schierer '60
Joseph P. Ganey '61
John F. Karaszewski '61
Michael J. Lacey '61
Hugh A. Wiesman '61
Rev. Pascal D. Ipolito, Jr. '62
Nelson D. Civello '63
Alton A. Germain, Jr. '63
Michael V. Dropik '64
Dr. Donald D. Fabiano '64
Michael J. Boyd Jr. '65
Peter M. Thibaudeau '67
Chuck Connelly '68
James F. Mietlicki '69
Richard F. Pirie '69
Hon. Patrick H. NeMoyer '70
Nestor B. Procyk, Jr. '70
Patrick J. Ford '71
Dr. Russell J. Fricano '73
Thomas R. Zugger '79
Dr. Jeffrey S. Eberhard '82
Thomas P. Feron '82
Jason P. Rupp '96
Caleb T. Blodgett '17
Tobias W. Cap '19

Canisius High School
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THE CLASS OF 2025

Members of the Class of 2025 were invited to wear their college sweatshirt for a photo taken prior to graduation rehearsal. This year's class collectively earned over $30 million in college scholarships.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM WOLF / LEVI TRIMBLE