

# GEIBEL CATHOLIC MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

CONNELLSVILLE ❖ PENNSYLVANIA



## Extreme Makeover: Geibel Edition

### *Two Schools... One Future!*

New windows are just the beginning! Conn-Area Catholic Elementary school will be moving to Geibel in September. There is growing excitement and eager anticipation as renovations continue at the school. See story on page 2.

## THE GEIBEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

### Summer 2011

*GEIBEL .... A School of Excellence • A School of Faith • A School of Tradition  
A School of Service • A School of Joy • A School of Character • A School of Spirit*

# GEIBEL CATHOLIC MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome  
to our campus,  
Conn-Area!



CONN AREA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
*Centered In Christ*



## \$1.25 million Mellon Foundation Award Supports Major Changes at Geibel Catholic

The Diocese of Greenburg is making significant changes and enhancements to the educational programs at Geibel and Conn-Area Catholic. With a focus on the regionalization of its schools, the Diocese is moving Conn-Area, which is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year, to the Geibel campus at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. This will make a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through 12th grade program at Geibel. Conn-Area Catholic, maintaining its name and retaining its same teaching staff and principal, will have a separate entrance on the left-hand side of the building for its students. According to superintendent Trent Bocan, "Catholic education in Connellsville will be here for many years to come."

In addition to the new entrance for Conn-Area, improvements include renovations to classrooms including advanced technology, WiFi capability, new science and technology labs, media resource center, and a playground. Upgrades to the heating and ventilation system are currently underway and new windows have already been installed to improve the building's energy efficiency. Changes will be made to update the campus' communication system and handicap accessibility.

Renovations to the campus will be supported in part by funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation grant that the diocese received last fall.



### John Riley '68, English Teacher, Enjoys Retirement

After a 29-year teaching career at Geibel Catholic, **John Riley '68** retired at the end of the 2009-10 academic year. During his long tenure, Mr. Riley taught all levels of English, and most recently, English I, Literary Genres, Communications and Publications, and Principles of Literature. Mr. Riley sponsored the school newspaper, Freshman class, and Book Club and had previously coached freshmen boys basketball and junior varsity girls basketball. Retirement will give John plenty of time to pursue his passion for reading as well as his many other favorite pastimes, including jogging through the streets of Connellsville, fishing, gardening, and watching Jeopardy!



### Leo Lowney (I.C. '63) Retires after 41 Years at Geibel

Long-time guidance counselor **Leo Lowney** has retired after 41 years of dedicated service to Geibel Catholic. A graduate of St. Vincent College, Leo worked in many capacities during his tenure at Geibel. During the past several years, in addition to counseling, Mr. Lowney had classroom duties. He taught physical education, American Legal Systems, American History and SAT Prep. An avid sports fan, Leo coached cross-country and track (1971 through 2002), Freshman basketball (1969 to 1987) and helped coach baseball for several years. Leo, we will miss you, and we wish you all the best in your retirement. You deserve it!

"I honestly feel that my education from Geibel Catholic will give me a distinct advantage at college, and I would never choose to go anywhere else if I could pick my high school again."

Christian Henckel  
Class of 2011

There's no place like Geibel!



## A Getaway Weekend for Mr. Orlando Is Geibel-Themed

Mr. Orlando and his wife Marge were treated to several performances by Geibel alumni during a Veterans Day long weekend. On Thursday, their first stop was at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Campus, to see their daughter **Molly (Orlando '97) Palmiero** accompany the world premiere of a vocal piece performed by a professor from George Washington University. Molly's unconventional piano accompaniment included playing the strings of the piano in a very *avant garde* style. Mr. and Mrs. Orlando next headed to New York City to visit their daughter **Margo (Orlando '95) Littell** and, as a bonus, to see **Marty Lawson '97** dance in the ensemble of "Promises, Promises" on Broadway. The following evening, the Orlando's saw **Sammy Brooks '03** perform in "Promenade" at New York University. Geibel math teacher **Mrs. Thomasine (Laskaris '69) Rose** was also in NYC that weekend to visit her daughter **Eva Rose '02**, and they too were in the audience for Sammy's show. Mr. O commented that it is great to see Geibel grads doing so well and making such a place for themselves in the world!



Molly Orlando Palmiero explains the adaptations to her piano necessary for her performance.



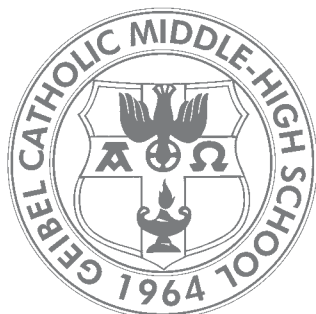
Marty Lawson and Mr. O backstage at *Promises Promises* on Broadway.



Sam Brooks and Mr. O at NYU after his performance in *Promenade*.



Mr. O has a new favorite store in Brooklyn, "Dangerous Mathematicians."



## 1975 Grad Authors Book on Catholic Doctors and Faith

Physicians and medical students who seek to fully integrate their Catholic faith with their medical practice will find encouragement and inspiration in a new book by St. Luke's Books. [Heart Sounds: 12 Catholic Doctors](#) is co-authored by **Janice (Malego '75) Steinhagen**, founding editor and former longtime columnist for the *Four County Catholic* newspaper in the diocese of Norwich CT, and **John Howland, M.D.**, a Catholic family physician and regional director of the Catholic Medical Association. The book is published by St. Luke's Books in association with the Marian Press of Stockbridge, MA ([www.marian.org/heartsounds](http://www.marian.org/heartsounds)). It is currently available in paperback but will shortly be available in both audiobook and e-book format as well.

The book presents first-person stories of a dozen Catholic doctors, ranging from second-year med student to recent retiree. Their backgrounds vary from cradle Catholic to fairly recent convert, and their specialties range from infectious disease to psychiatry to pediatrics to sleep medicine. Each tells the story of his or her path to the practice of medicine, along with the story of his or her journey in faith with Christ.

The doctors speak with surprising candor about their moments of doubt, their shortcomings and their struggles. But they also relate humorous anecdotes and stories of transcendent moments, when the hand of God has touched them or their patients. Their tales of finding Christ in their patients, and seeing the Holy Spirit at work through their efforts at healing, sharpen the focus on medicine as a vocation and offer practical help in staying true to the Faith in spite of professional pressures.

The book has already garnered praise from both religious and medical leaders. George Weigel, distinguished senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., called it "a powerful reminder that the Catholic physician's art is a vocation, not simply a career. As that vocation becomes ever more countercultural in the 21st century, witnesses like the twelve doctors who tell their stories here, and those who will be inspired by them, will be increasingly important in defending the culture of life from the encroachment of its adversaries."

According to Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D., M.A.C.P., professor emeritus of medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University, "In these days of commercialization and impersonalized medicine, it is reassuring to read how twelve physicians joined their faith and their professional commitments. This is Catholic evangelization in its best sense."

"[Heart Sounds](#) makes it clear that faith and science are not enemies but necessary friends," said Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa, bishop of Baker, Oregon. "Each story summarizes, not the life of a living saint, but the life of a man or woman committed to medicine founded on and deeply informed by faith."

Co-author Janice Steinhagen earned an art education degree in Honors at Seton Hill College in 1979 but went on to a career in Catholic and secular journalism. She wrote for the *Mount Pleasant Journal* and for the *Rose City Sentinel* after her move to Norwich, CT. She was the first editor of the *Four County Catholic*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Norwich, CT when it was established by Bishop Daniel P. Reilly in 1988. She left the paper in 1990 to raise her family but continued to write her monthly column, "From the Pew," until 2007. Her writing has also appeared in the *Wilimantic, CT Chronicle* and in several other secular publications, including *Mothering, Art New England* and *Ceramics Monthly* magazines.

A member of St. Thomas Parish in Voluntown, CT, she was the art teacher at St. Mary Parochial School in Jewett City for 15 years until its closure in 2008. She and her husband Erich are co-owners of Steinhagen Pottery, making and selling reproduction 18th-century redware pottery. Janice will also serve as the voice of the three featured female doctors in the forthcoming [Heart Sounds](#) audiobook recording.

## Alumni News

**Janice (Melego '75) Steinhagen** writes, "What a welcome sight to see the Geibel newsletter in my inbox! It's great to get caught up on the school and to read news of former classmates (and their children!). My own kids are cycling through our local Catholic middle-high school as well. One graduated in '08, one graduates this year, and the youngest is in seventh grade. That faith connection is still going strong. May God continue to bless Geibel as it educates young people in faith and life."

**Capt. Diana (Novak '76) Blakeburn** writes "I have been blessed with many things in my life... a loving family, a strong marriage, reliable friends, a rewarding military career, and a fantastic education from Geibel Catholic High School. Life is good!" Diana retired from the U.S. Navy after 28 years of service. She and her family reside in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Michael Bates '84** and his wife Gretchen have three children, David (12), Gabriella (4) and Lillian (1). He has recently completed his dissertation for his doctorate in education. Mike teaches third grade in the Kenston Local School District at Timmons Elementary School in Bainbridge, OH. He writes "I do not attempt to teach my 2nd grade students Mr. O's Pythagorean Theorem song (though I still often sing it to myself), but every winter, my students learn "Suzy Snowflake" – motions and all! Geibel teachers are the real inspiration behind my teaching career. As I drive to school every day I often think of the Geibel teachers I was blessed to have and learn from. I try to pass on the same wisdom, knowledge and FUN that I experienced at GHS. They (the teachers) are in my thoughts and prayers every day."

Tech. Sgt. **Jack DeYoung '95** graduated in 2010 from Embry Riddle Aeronautics University with high honors, summa cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics and a minor in management FAA safety certification and aircraft and power plant license. He is the AFOTEC Det 1 F-35 crew chief suitability evalua-

tor at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. He serves as subject matter expert for the F-Q35/136 propulsion system, support equipment ABDR/DECON and general maintenance procedures. He is responsible for building, evaluating, and executing test-plan activities and additionally developed and is the primary manager of the DET/unit deployment program.

**Rachael Kenney '95** graduated with a PhD in Mathematics Education from North Carolina State University in 2008. She is now residing in West Lafayette, IN and works as an assistant professor teaching pre-service math teachers at Purdue University.

**Kelly (Welsh) Vanyo '96** is employed by Excelsa Health at Frick Hospital, Mt. Pleasant, as a registered nurse in the Emergency Room.

**John Ruggieri '96** is employed as a Marketing Director for StoneMor Partners. He resides in Ford City, PA with his wife Suzanne and son Gabriel.

**Katrina Coleman '01** a U.S. Navy Seaman, completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

**Sarah Gaydos '02** graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in May 2010. She is currently employed as an associate veterinarian at Southern Tier Veterinary Associates, a small animal practice in Vestal, NY. Sarah resides in Brackney, PA and is planning her upcoming wedding to Jason Pontillo in October 2011.

**Jessica (Vilella '04) Fike's** family made headlines in the *Daily Courier* when their first child Ally was born. Jessica, her husband Brian, and new daughter all share the same birthday – December 11. "The question I get asked most often is whether the birth was induced to happen on our birthday, and I tell them 'no,' it was all natural. She came that day all on her own." Ally is the first grandchild for Jessica's parents, Paul and **Carole (Smith '78) Vilella**. The Fike's make their home in Waynesboro, PA.



## Hockey Team Rallies Around New Sign in Geibel Gym To Mark Championship

### 2010-11 P.I.R.H.L. Varsity 4 Champions

The Geibel inline hockey team defeated Mt. Pleasant in best-of-three series, 2 games to 1, to capture the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League Varsity 4 title. For Geibel, it was the first hockey championship in the school's history. Coaches of the team are **John Mer-ranko '07** and **Ryan Dreliszak '06**.

### In Memoriam

*We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to the families of the Geibel community who have lost loved ones.*

**David E. Costelnock '66**  
February 4, 2011

**Carolyn (Foley '66) Krepps**  
September 9, 2010

**Barbara (Koval '72) Hamilton**  
October 24, 2010

**Mary Susan Galiardi '76**  
October 6, 2010

**David Osler '81**  
December 29, 2010

### Births

A son, Gabriel Ethan, to Suzanne and **John Ruggieri '96**, September 16, 2010

A son, Carson James, to Sean and **Kelly (Welsh '96) Vanyo**, February 22, 2010

A son, Matthew Julian, to Walter and **Melissa (DelGrosso '96) Demaske Jr.**, November 22, 2009

A daughter, Ally Madison, to Brian and **Jessica (Vilella '04) Fike**, Dec. 11, 2010

### Marriages

*Congratulations & Best Wishes!*

**Shawn Holup '94** and Jade Leung,  
June 18, 2011

**Jim Tesauro '95** and Stacey Glebes,  
November 6, 2010

**Justin Widmer '95** and Dana Pearson,  
June 10, 2010

**Elaine Flores '96** and Brian Welch,  
September 4, 2010

**Kristie Laughery '96** and James Stack,  
August 14, 2010

**Samantha Bunting '97** and Bob Bellacima,  
October 1, 2010

**Courtney Davis '97** and Brian Walker,  
August 21, 2010

**Sarah Caldwell '00** and Michael Kaczynski,  
November 6, 2010

**Meredith Spotts '00** and Bryan McCall,  
October 23, 2010

**Kristin Breakiron '01** and **Johnathan Gamon '01**,  
July 2, 2011

**Maureen Severin '05** and Michael Boyer,  
October 9, 2010

### CLASS OF '71 NEWS

The Class of 1971 will hold its 40-year reunion on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Bud Murphy's in Connellsville. It will be a casual get-together to meet up with old friends. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information, please contact Kathy (Traynor) Oros at [Kathyoros@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathyoros@yahoo.com) or Joanne (Orlando) Lizza at [tutor-mom1@gmail.com](mailto:tutor-mom1@gmail.com).

**Angela Berardinelli '06** is pursuing a doctorate in mathematics at the University of North Texas, hoping to specialize in Combinatorics. She teaches pre-calculus to undergraduates as part of her teaching fellowship. She writes that she is grateful for the wonderful math preparation she had at Geibel. She felt her background helped make the transition to higher math in college very easy. She finds herself using many of the teaching techniques that Mr. Orlando used in the classroom, and that his influence is having a "ripple effect" on students he's never met.

**Carrie Gessner '06**, daughter of Richard and **Susan (Czajkowski '73) Gessner**, has been accepted into the Peace Corps. She departed for Kazakhstan in central Asia on March 8, 2011 to become an Education volunteer. Carrie's work will include teaching English in a secondary school. Carrie earned a B.A. in English from Carnegie Mellon University in 2010.

**Anne Wachtel '06** is part of a 12-member AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team. She worked on an eight-week project supporting the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver and Habitat for Humanity. She spent her first four weeks assisting the Boys and Girls Club with youth development and then did a four week project helping Habitat for Humanity in a ReStore outlet as well as building houses. ReStore outlets sell new or used appliances, tools, and parts for low prices to help lower-income families or home owners sustain homes, or to create new ones. The team's daily tasks at the Boys and Girls Club included tutoring, serving dinner, origami lessons, technological support and education, playing basketball, and ceramics. She commented, "I had so many new experiences because of NCCC. I loved the opportunity to try new things." Her project in Denver was the second of four long-term projects she completed during a 10-month program. Anne's team spent a month working with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and she will begin a new project later in 2011.



### Thirty-Fifth Reunion for the Class of 1975

Geibel Catholic High School Class of 1975 celebrated its 35-year reunion at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on September 4, 2010. Mary Kay Dunaway opened the program with welcoming remarks and Rick Brooks gave the invocation. Julie (Ruggieri) Shroyer led the group in a moment of silence to remember deceased classmates Karen Bolden, John Schomer, and Mary Ellen Watson. The class donated \$800 to the Geibel Alumni fund in their memory. Special guest for the evening was former Geibel science teacher Robert Renzi. Chuck Cantalamessa provided entertainment for the evening, accompanied by some very talented classmates.

Seated from left are Elly Lieb, Candy McCloy, Mary (Cline) Herring, Martina (Smart) Herman, Christy (Bendnarowicz) Sharp, Bonnie (King) Killar; middle row, Jim Martin, Mary Kay Dunaway, Toni (Tripoli) Shearer, Janine (Rozell) Brooks, Amy (Merendino) Shelkey, Julie (Ruggieri) Shroyer, Cindy (Sofranko) Fertenbaugh, Pat Mullaney; back, John Faris, Dan Rendine, Phil Jaworski, Rick Brooks, Joe Zavatchen, Tom Richey and Kevin Reed. Also in attendance were Toni (Cunningham) Tesauro, Bill Bernardo and Terry Cellurale.



### The Immaculate Conception High School Class of 1960

#### 50th Anniversary Reunion

The Immaculate Conception High School Class of 1960 held its 50th class reunion on August 28, 2010 at the Frank Kapr Family Center in Scottsdale. Seated left are (1st row) Felix Prestia, Kay (Cline) Caringola, Julie Efkeman, Susan Quinn, Sr. Kathleen, Peggy Robbins; (2nd row) Ted Martin (kneeling), Ron Herman (barely visible); (3rd row) Jim Scardina, Glenn Johnson, Phil McGrogan, Barbara (Falvo) Gallagher, Dave Grimm, Frank Kapr, Maryann (Cuneo) Komazec, Mary Lou (Pavlik) Sullivan and Ron Yankovich; (4th row) Bob Omatick, Eddie Rowland (barely visible), John Doerfler, Bob Rusnack, Paul Eckman, Rich Zientarsky, Joe Beucher.

## Three Geibel High Grads Chart Steeler Statistics

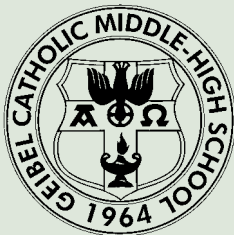
*Jim Downey '78, Charlie Wortman '78, Mark Fierschnaller '79 and Rebecca (Kozel '95) Richter know the score!*

Four Geibel grads are part of a team of nine who work hard behind the scenes at every home Steeler game, logging every offensive and defensive movement on the field. *Herald-Standard* sports writer **Jim Downey '78** of Connellsville, the head statistician, has worked for the Rooney organization for 29 years. Jim began working for the Steelers in 1982 after graduating from St. Vincent College, where the Steelers hold summer training camp. While interning in the Steelers' main office, Jim was hired to work on the stats crew after it was learned that he had kept basketball stats throughout high school and college. Jim worked on the crew for two years before being named crew chief in 1984. Through the years, as people left the crew, Jim hired new people to fill the vacant spots. **Charlie Wortman '78** was Jim's first appointment, followed by **Mark Fierschnaller '79** and eventually **Rebecca (Kozel '95) Richter**.

Everyone on the crew has a job to do. According to Downey, work is done quickly and effectively, leaving time for some fun between plays. "We have a good time. Everybody knows what they have to do and they do it well. Just to be in the heart of all that action is amazing." Downey said that the stats are continuously checked as the game proceeds and that records are verified automatically. Stats are kept for both the Steelers and the visiting team. "Our stat crew works hard to represent the organization well and make sure our numbers are right. It can get crazy at times, but we have a solid, veteran team of crew members who can handle anything. Working for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Rooney family is an honor."

### THE GEIBEL CATHOLIC ACADEMIC SHIELD

Newly written by **Justin Stevenson '94**



The shield embodies the mission and philosophy of Geibel Catholic Middle-High School. The cross is the most prominent symbol on the shield as Christ is the foundation of the school. The foundational cross contains several symbols: the dove (the Holy Spirit) that hovers above and enkindles the lamp of learning below; these two symbols are centered between the Alpha and the Omega to show that the divinely-guided knowledge is centered in Christ.

## Three Geibel Grads 'Believe,' Wind Up On Playoff Tickets

*Three Gators Surprised By Featured Picture*

Three Geibel alums had quite a surprise when they learned how a photo of them snapped during a Penguins game was being used to cheer on the team.

Avid Penguins fans **Ryan Dreliszak '06, John Merranko '07 and Mike Loftis '08** had their photo taken by a Pittsburgh Penguins team photographer while they were holding up a sign that said "Believe." "The Penguins sent us our tickets for the play-offs and were leafing through them and came across a picture of us on all the tickets for the game," said Dreliszak. The photo appeared on playoff tickets for the fourth home game round three of the playoffs last year. Their photo has also appeared in Penguin game programs and in *Sports Illustrated*. "I was like 'Wow,' that's pretty ridiculous. Then I started seeing commercials for the Penguins and we were in them." said Loftis. The guys said they have a goal of their own – to have members of the Pens autograph their sign.

## Former Geibel Teacher Celebrates 50-Year Milestone



Sr. Antoinette Severin, SCN celebrated her Golden Jubilee on July 9, 2011 with a renewal of vows made during a Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel in Pittsburgh. Sister Antoinette, known to some students as Sr. Anthony Marie, taught Biology and Junior Religion at Geibel from 1967 – 1983. During her tenure at Geibel, Sister was involved in numerous school activities. She was assistant director of the school musicals, organized the annual science fairs, and led the Folk Group. She currently teaches Biology at Vincentian Academy in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Alumni attending the celebration (picture above) were **Mary Ann (Honeychuck '73) Newhouse**, Sr. Antoinette, **Maria (DeMichele '74) Will**, and **Tina (Tripoli '73) Casey**. **Fr. Willie Lechnar '82** concelebrated the Mass.

Congratulations, Sr. Antoinette! Thank you for your 50 years of faithful service to the Catholic Church and to Catholic education!



*"The older the friend, the better." Saint Aelred*

**Marty Lawson '97 and Daniel Radcliffe Dance Side by Side**



This picture of **Marty Lawson '97** appeared in the *New York Times* on March 6, 2011. It shows a practice session as the revival of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" gets ready to open on Broadway. Marty has been dancing in Broadway shows since graduating from Point Park University in 2001. Of course, Marty's career includes dancing in Geibel spring musicals!

*(Editor's Note: Geibel students presented this show in 1974.)*

**Geibel Welcomes New Principal  
Mr. Don Favero was formerly the principal of Greensburg Central Catholic**

As he begins his new role as principal of Geibel Catholic, Mr. Don Favero enthusiastically expresses his belief that "we can make Geibel America's best high school. Let's get the Gator Nation on board!"

Mr. Favero comes to Geibel from Greensburg Central Catholic, where he had served as principal for four years. Prior to that time, he had spent 34 years in the Deer Lakes School District, where he was acting principal, assistant principal, and high school English teacher before retiring in 2003. He served at Mt. Alvernia Catholic high school from 2003-07. Mr. Favero has been coaching basketball for four decades and will continue his head coaching duties of the Greenburg Central Catholic Centurions' girls basketball team.

Mr. Favero has more than forty years of experience as an administrator, teacher, and coach. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, secondary principal's certificate from Indiana University of PA, and has done postgraduate work at Youngstown State University.

We extend a warm Gator welcome to Mr. Favero and wish him much success in his new position.



We don't know about it unless you tell us about it.  
Send us your news and photos!  
Email us at [newsletter@geibelcatholic.org](mailto:newsletter@geibelcatholic.org)  
or send a note to  
Geibel Catholic, 611 E. Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425.

**Stay in Touch.**

Your Alumni Association wants to know where you are and what you are doing. Please use this form to update us about yourself so we may add your information to the upcoming issue of the Geibel Alumni Newsletter, or just email your updates, births, weddings and news to [newsletter@GeibelCatholic.org](mailto:newsletter@GeibelCatholic.org).

Name (include maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Is your Spouse/Partner a Geibel Alum?  yes  no Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

News for the Class Notes section of the next newsletter (attach separate sheet if needed).

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Print and mail to:  
Development Office  
Geibel Catholic Middle-High School  
611 East Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425

# Susan (Reilly'78) Landahl Addresses Class of 2011



Geibel Catholic welcomed back **Susan (Reilly '78) Landahl** to address the class of 2011 during commencement ceremonies in May. Susan is the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Exelon Nuclear, the third largest nuclear fleet in the world, and the largest in America with nearly 20 percent of the nation's nuclear generating capacity. Susan is responsible for oversight of the Exelon Nuclear organization, which operates a fleet of 10 nuclear stations with 17 reactors that generate more than 17,000 megawatts of electricity annually.

Susan's career spans more than 25 years in the nuclear power industry. Prior to her current role, Susan was Exelon Nuclear's Senior Vice President of Midwest Operations in which she had direct responsibility for Exelon Nuclear's six Midwest operating facilities and 11 reactors. She also served as Exelon Nuclear's Senior Vice President of Operations Support. In this role, Susan was responsible for Exelon Nuclear's fleet performance for Operations, Maintenance, Work Control, Outage Services, Training, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental, Security, Chemistry, Radiation Protection, Industrial Safety, Human Performance and Performance Improvement.

Susan joined Exelon in 2000 as a Corporate Manager providing Radiation Protection oversight and support to 10 operating and three decommissioned units. She became Plant Manager at LaSalle Station in 2002 and assumed the position of LaSalle Site Vice President in 2005. Prior to joining Exelon, she was a Senior Reactor Operator at Boston Edison Company.

Susan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering/Fission Reactor Technology and a Master of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering/Health Physics, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a Certified Health Physicist, and earned her Senior Reactor Operator license.

Susan is a member of several professional societies including the American Nuclear Society, the Society of Women Engineers, Women in Nuclear, and the North American Young Generation in Nuclear. She is a former director of the Morris Hospital Foundation Board, former member of the MIT Visiting Committee for Nuclear Engineering and an active supporter of the Green Harvest Food Pantry in Plainfield, IL. She resides in Channahon, IL with her husband Dave and her daughter Michelle. The following is an excerpt from her address:

*Let me begin by congratulating the extraordinary young women and men of the class of 2011! After so many years of hard work and commitment, you are – in a few minutes – going to become Geibel high school graduates! You should be so proud of yourselves and of your accomplishments – and realize that the reason this ceremony is called a “commencement” is that this is only the beginning of the rest of your lives in this world.*

*My journey from Geibel was one which I will never forget. After spending much of my life in small towns, I decided to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – MIT - to study Nuclear Engineering. Needless to say, this was not a small decision. And had it not been for my teachers here at Geibel, I probably wouldn't even have applied to MIT in the first place. But they encouraged me – especially Mr. Orlando – and when I received my acceptance letter I was thrilled. I accepted sight unseen, because I knew that MIT was a great university for engineering and if I was accepted that was definitely where I was going. So as I prepared to move all the way to Boston – that summer more than 30 years ago – I didn't fully appreciate what my time at Geibel had really meant to me. But with age and experience come perspective, and as I looked back on those years later in life, I realized that my time at Geibel, and the teachers who led me through my high school years, instilled in me, as I'm sure they have in you, several things. First, belief in God, and the knowledge that my life was ultimately in His hands, although I would have a wide variety of choices and decisions to make along the way. Belief in myself, that even if I came from a small school that didn't have computers in every room or a 50-page catalog of all the possible classes I could take, that I could still be successful in the world. And belief that those who supported me all along the way – my family, friends, and teachers – would be there cheering me on... Your job and your career are very important, and you will spend a lot of your life working – so by all means, choose a job that you love, and if you're doing something that doesn't make you excited to get up in the morning, than go and find something else to do. But also realize that your career, important as it may be, does not define who you are. I have a wonderful husband of 22 years whom I love dearly, and we have a fantastic daughter who will be graduating from her own high school next year. And as I reflect on my own blessed life, I know that how you treat people, how you raise your family, how you support your friends in their time of need, how you give to those less fortunate – these are the things that truly define you. So in taking on all those grand adventures that await you in life, never, never, confuse what you do with who you are, and don't go out and gain the whole world, but lose your soul in the process. Stay grounded in the great foundation you've established here at Geibel, always keep your faith, and keep your perspective about the things that are truly important in your lives.*

GEIBEL  
CATHOLIC  
CLASS  
OF 2011



## The Bridge Builder



# REMEMBER

the place that gave you a start in life?

*share the opportunity*

MANY GRADUATES SAY THAT GEIBEL – WITH ITS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS AND TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE – TRANSFORMED THEM INTO WHO THEY ARE TODAY. WHY NOT CONSIDER GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO YOUR LIFE-CHANGING ALMA MATER? PRINT OUT THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH YOUR GIFT AND ALSO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI FILE.

An old man, going a lone highway,  
came at the evening, cold and gray,  
to a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
through which was flowing a sullen tide,  
the old man crossed in the twilight dim –  
that sullen stream had no fears for him;  
but he turned, when he reached  
the other side,  
and built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“You are wasting strength in building here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
you never again must pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
why build you the bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,  
“There followeth after me today  
a youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me  
to that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

Will Allen Dromgoole

### SUPPORT THE 2011-2012 ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM!

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*Thank you for your continued support.*

Geibel Catholic Middle-High School 611 E. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425

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## Recipient of the 2011 Geibel Alumni Award Is Anthony Speeney



The Alumni Award, created in 1981, is presented annually “to the most outstanding senior who has given evidence of total dedication to the development of personality, of talents, of aptitudes, of social skills, of service to the school, of example to the student body, and of a distinct and genuine Catholic attitude and spirit.” This year’s recipient, **Anthony Speeney**, is the son of **Mary Jane (Kosisko ’76)** and **Mike Speeney ’76**.



Dayne Detweiler  
Class of 2011  
Valedictorian



Annie Caccimelio  
Class of 2011  
Salutatorian



*Eruditio - Scientia - Sapientia*

## 2011 Grads and Their Alumni Parents



*Bottom row, from left:* Diane (Mathias ’75) Nowicki, Anne (Schilling ’74) Detweiler, Heidi (Frantz ’88) Henckel, Claudia (Andyjohn ’74) Urosek, Marseda (Mariotti ’72) Wisilosky, Jennifer (Smarto ’70) Blout, Mary (Campbell ’81) Spegar, Mary Jane (Kosisko ’76) Speeney, Mary (Grenaldo ’79) Blackstone.

*Back row, from left:* Tom Nowicki ’75, Taylor Nowicki ’11, Dayne Detweiler ’11, Brian Henckel ’89, Christian Henckel ’11, Patrick Urosek ’11, John Wisilosky ’72, Katie Wisilosky ’11, Jace Blout ’11, Michael Spegar ’11, Anthony Speeney ’11, Patrick Blackstone ’11, Christopher Erdely ’11, Rob Erdely ’81.



## The Best “Music of the Night” – Mr. Nick Bell produces “Phantom”

They said it “couldn’t be done,” but music and theater teacher Nick Bell and his cast of 81 Geibel students produced the blockbuster “Phantom of the Opera” in late March 2011. Nearly 2,000 people attended the sell-out performances at the State Theater in Uniontown. **Annie Caccimelio ’11** embraced the challenges of the leading role of Christine, and **Brandon Seehoffer ’11** excelled in his portrayal of the Phantom. Alumnus **John Wagner ’05** arranged the choreography, assisted by **Lauren Fenyar ’04**. The cast, crew and director Nick Bell did a magnificent job bringing Andrew Lloyd Webber’s classic to life. Bravo to all!



**GEIBOL**  
MARCH 25, 26, 27  
2011

