

GEIBEL

The Geibel Family Newsletter • Fall 2016



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

GEIBELCATHOLIC.ORG

Patricia L. Nickler Named Geibel Principal



Patricia Nickler, a native of Greene County, became the thirteenth principal of Geibel Catholic in July. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Penn State University and a master's degree in educational leadership with principal's certification from Barry University in southern Florida.

Prior to her teaching career, Ms. Nickler worked as an accountant for Westinghouse Electric in Pittsburgh. After moving to Florida, she worked as a stock broker and portfolio manager for major corporations. She began her Catholic education career in 1999 as a middle school mathematics teacher at St. Juliana Catholic School in West Palm Beach, FL. Seven years later, she moved to All Saints Catholic School in Jupiter, FL, where she has spent the past ten years as an advanced mathematics teacher. She helped rewrite the math curriculum for the Diocese of Palm Beach, FL. In addition to her teaching duties, she coached basketball, softball, and lacrosse.

Ms. Nickler is enjoying the challenges of her new leadership position, and she feels that it is a blessing to be part of the ongoing success of Geibel Catholic. "I am impressed with the faculty and students here. I see a bright future for Catholic education in Fayette County." One of her many goals is to help students develop their gifts and talents to use them in service to their families, communities and the Lord.

GEIBEL PRINCIPALS THROUGH THE YEARS

1964 - 1966	Fr. William K. Sheridan
1966 - 1969	Mr. Frank Reno
1969 - 1980	Sister Mary Jude McColligan, SC
1980 - 1981	Sr. Kathryn Palas, SC
1981 - 1986	Sr. Mary White, a.s.c.j.
1986 - 1990	Fr. Richard Curci
1990 - 1993	Mr. Thomas Daugherty
1993	Mr. Reynold Peduzzi, interim principal, first semester
1994 - 2001	Mr. Steve Fusco
2001 - 2009	Mr. Vince Mascia
2009 - 2011	Mr. John Lipchik
2011 - 2016	Mr. Don Favero
2016	Ms. Patricia Nickler



Emily Zimcosky Receives 2016 Geibel Alumni Award

Emily Zimcosky is the recipient of the 2016 Geibel Alumni Award. This award has been presented to the most outstanding senior student since 1981. Emily is a competitive swimmer and is a six-time WPIAL champion. She has two State PIAA medals and qualified for the 2016 US Olympic trials. Emily is majoring in Studio Arts at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.



Pictured on the front cover are Geibel juniors Gabrielle, Gillian, and Jesse Yourish, triplets of Luann and Bob Yourish '81 of Acme, PA.

LEADING TO SERVE

by Mary (Ruggieri '79) Drelisak, *Director of Advancement*

A leader may seek power. But a servant-leader seeks to empower others.

Paul Mongell '67 understands the difference. So does Arnie Burchianti '96 and Gabby Kolencik '17.



As a leader, we're called to help one another. We believe in empowering and coaching our people," said Paul Mongell, president of Penn Line Service.

It's a value system that was formed years ago.

"Being a servant-leader began as a student. Geibel instills these Catholic values, providing a spiritual component. We had a positive influence from peers and teachers."

French teacher, Sister Laura, O.S.B inspired Paul to pursue goals and encouraged him to apply to colleges. Her efforts paid off.

"I received an acceptance letter from St. Vincent College and a rejection letter from Notre Dame. But later that summer the college closed a hall that housed seminarians and they were able to take 150 more students, so I chose to attend there instead."

It was during the early 70's recession, Paul said, when he graduated with a degree in business and finance. After working at BF Goodrich as assistant store manager and office manager at Connellsville Construction, he got a job at Penn Line in 1973 earning \$4.75 an hour. He has been there ever since, starting in payroll and working his way up to president and owner of the company.

Penn Line, a mid-market contractor, operates in the Mid and South Atlantic states as well as the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast. Its four business units cover Tree and Right of Way; Roads, Reclamation and Landscape; Tri County Electric; and Line Construction.

At the height of its season, the company employs 1,400 people. And every one of them is empowered by leadership to be their very best.

Paul, who is on the threshold of retirement, commented, "When I became

president, I was required to get out there and see the tree trimming and guard rail construction. That's when I saw how hard they work," he said.

And because he is a servant-leader, Paul saw something more. "The tree trimmers wear saddles and hang in the trees for up to eight hours. We were asking them to do this, but not giving them a comfortable saddle. I realized we needed to spend more money to get better saddles.

Safety is also a core value. We have a moral and social obligation to take care of our employees. We strive to treat people fairly and to correct in a way that respects the individual."

That's servant-leadership in action.



Arnie Burchianti couldn't agree more. The Chief Executive Officer of Graham Healthcare Group, and founder of Celtic Healthcare credits his Catholic education at Conn-Area

Catholic, Geibel Catholic and Duquesne University with instilling in him servant-leadership, a core value of his companies.

"I can't say enough about Catholic education and what it has done in service to others. It has molded me into who I am. As CEO, I serve people in the organization."

At Geibel Catholic, Arnie said academics did not come easily. He said he struggled with SATs and getting into college. But he had a strong work ethic, an entrepreneurial spirit, and the support of teachers on his side.

"Mr. Mascia (science teacher) was a big influence on me. I wouldn't have gotten through Physical Therapy school without passing physics and he helped me. He was firm, but fair, and he met you where you were.

After earning a bachelor's degree in health science and a master's degree in physical therapy, Arnie made a business out of helping others and meeting people where they are.

He was working full time and doing home visits as a physical therapist when he recognized the need for better communications between physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses and other healthcare providers. So he did something about it. Arnie formed Celtic Healthcare and used his technology expertise to streamline communications, while growing and acquiring healthcare facilities that now employ 2,500 people in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Illinois.

According to the company's website, under Arnie's team-centered, servant-leadership model, Celtic Healthcare was named #1 Large Company in the 2007 "Best Places to Work in Western Pennsylvania" and was ranked #5 out of Pittsburgh's 100 fastest growing companies by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

"Our core values of servant-leadership were formed in 2000 to foster mutual respect and teamwork. We can disagree without being disrespectful. I have assigned people who have medical responsibilities to create an environment that respects different beliefs." In doing so, Arnie said the company is able to "create collaboration and the freedom to express ideas."

The servant-leadership model, he said, "is contagious." Our hospice nurses are angels. It's a calling, and for all of our employees it's a ministry, no matter what department they are working in. Everyone, even if they are in IT, payroll, or finance, plays an important role. They all have a direct impact on care delivery."

This impact is now felt across thousands of employees, patients, and their families. And it began with a faith that was nurtured as a student in Catholic schools.



Gabby Kolencik is now one of them. The seventeen year old Geibel Catholic senior holds officer positions in the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Spanish National Honor Society.

She founded a Poetry Club and helped to initiate NHS tutoring to support other students. She also happens to be among the top academically ranked students in her class.

At a school Leadership Reception held this past fall, Gabby spoke eloquently and passionately about how her teachers are role models of servant-leadership.

Teachers, she said, lead by example.

*A leader
may seek power.
But a
servant-leader
seeks to
empower others.*

“The teachers do what needs to be done and students follow. If there’s something on the floor and the teacher picks it up, the students see that and later on I’ll see the students pick something up too.”

Her English teacher, Dr. Justin Stevenson ’94, is one of those teachers. And his actions didn’t go unnoticed by Gabby.

“He balanced teaching classes, helping coach girls’ basketball, and being a father, all while working to earn his doctorate in English – and I was in awe. How did he do it? I don’t know. But I knew then that I wanted to do what he did; I wanted to do everything I could, and to be a leader without words.

And this is perfect in the Geibel Catholic community because we are centered around the greatest leader. We are centered around Christ, who acts as a servant. All these teachers do is serve. Whether it’s earning a Ph.D. in English or baking cupcakes for us, or directing the school’s musical, they serve every single day through their actions.”

Gabby, who plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in English and a J.D. degree to practice law, added, “Geibel is teaching me how to be a great leader. Geibel is teaching me how to be a great servant.”

For Paul, Arnie, Gabby and all who walk through these doors - it’s a lesson that will last a lifetime.



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. PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER.

The Bridge Builder

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

Geibel Class of 1966 Celebrates 50th Anniversary Reunion

Members of the Class of 1966 celebrated their golden reunion during the weekend of September 16-17, 2016. Events included a casual get-together at Bud Murphy's restaurant in Connellsville on Friday, mass at Geibel on Saturday, celebrated by Geibel chaplain Fr. Bob Lubic, followed by dinner and dancing at Duck Hollow Golf Club in Uniontown.

Pictured (first row, left to right) are: Patricia Stange Yoder, Kathy Shal Gaylord, Linda Irvin Belko, Liz Gricheck Wable, Judy Reed Colvin, Andrea Galiardi Himelenski, Cathy Hrezo Orndorff, Christine Caringola, Michaeline Zadylak Pfirrmann, Patty Jordan Kenney, Patty Weltz Engel; (second row) David Ash, Duane Ponko, Tom Shimshock, David Dunaway, Andy Habina, Jimmy Connell, Ed Kenney, George Rittenberger, and Larry Quinn.

Reunion committee members were Kathy Shal Gaylord, Andrea Galiardi Himelenski, Patty Jordan Kenney, Patty Stange Yoder, Cathie Hrezo Orndorff, Christine Caringola, and David Dunaway.

Additional reunion photos can be found on the 'Geibel Class of 1966' Facebook page.



Twenty-eight members of the class of 1976 gathered at Bud Murphy's Shamrock Room on September 17, 2016 for their 40-year reunion. Rev. Rick Kosisko gave the invocation and conducted a prayer service for the class's nine deceased classmates. President Tom Kaylor welcomed the group and read letters from those unable to attend. Class members made a donation to Geibel to be used for the annual Geibel Alumni scholarship.

First row (left to right) Cherri Carbonara McGhie, Judy King McKlveen, Eileen O'Laughlin, Regina Lonigro Sharbaugh, Dennis Martin, Tom Kaylor, Jim Traynor; Second row: Marigrace Geisler Butela, Carla O'Donnell Brooks, Kathy Rose Kiliany, Katrina Iaquina McGuinness, Nancy Bailey Jacobyansky, Rita Novak Martin, Art Colland, Tom Rendine; (third row) Karla Kosisko Costabile, Mary Beth Soforic Meader, Susan Canada Cole, Deb Shallenberger Brunner, Susan Lane Snowman, John Grecco, Don Smith; (fourth row) Mark Brooks, Jim Andursky, Pat Ash, Rev. Rick Kosisko, Regis Quinn, Al Kiliany.

“I don’t see how you could ever get old in a world that’s always young.”
from Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton

Three Geibel Employees Retired in June



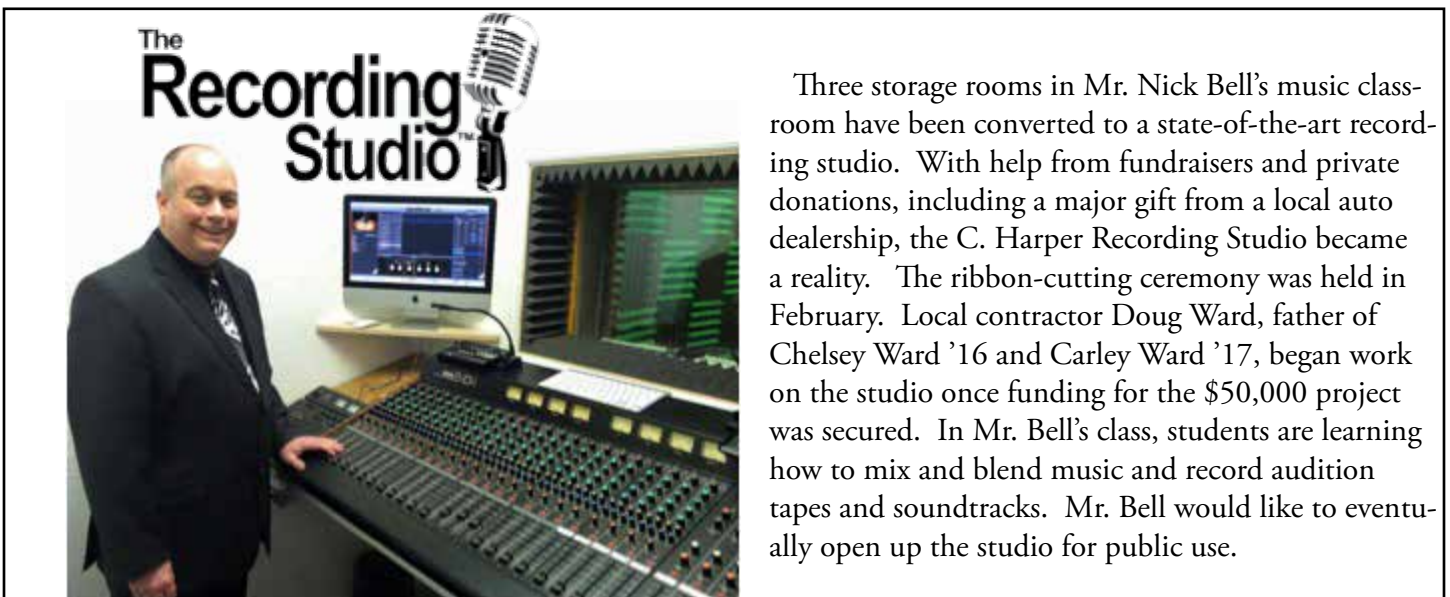
Best wishes to Don “Mr. Fav” Favero, Mrs. Thomasine (Laskaris ’69) Rose, and Mr. Gary Snyder who retired in June. Mr. Fav worked tirelessly as principal from 2011 – 2016. He brought about many changes to the curriculum as well as physical changes to the school building by securing donations for projects such as the “classrooms of the future.” During his tenure, he placed SMART boards in every classroom and oversaw the 1:1 technology initiative – one tablet or laptop for each student.

Thomasine Rose began her teaching career at schools in Pittsburgh, Maryland and St. John the Evangelist School in Uniontown. She returned to her alma mater in

1979 and taught various math courses over the years including Algebra I, II, College Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, and SAT math prep. During her last few years at Geibel, she was named Dean of Operations and Planning, overseeing the day to day operations of the school while still teaching part-time. Thomasine’s enthusiasm, boundless energy, and love for Geibel were the hallmarks of her teaching career. She initiated many service-related projects and encouraged students to practice their faith. In her retirement, Mrs. Rose is enjoying running, working out, and spending time with her family and friends.

Mr. Snyder was the school’s faithful custodian since 2012. Prior to working at Geibel, he worked for 35 years at U.S. Steel. He and his wife Helen have three sons and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Favero, Mrs. Rose, and Mr. Snyder are wished many happy years of endless Saturdays!



Three storage rooms in Mr. Nick Bell’s music classroom have been converted to a state-of-the-art recording studio. With help from fundraisers and private donations, including a major gift from a local auto dealership, the C. Harper Recording Studio became a reality. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in February. Local contractor Doug Ward, father of Chelsey Ward ’16 and Carley Ward ’17, began work on the studio once funding for the \$50,000 project was secured. In Mr. Bell’s class, students are learning how to mix and blend music and record audition tapes and soundtracks. Mr. Bell would like to eventually open up the studio for public use.

Geibel's Newest Alumni Class of 2016



Sydney Bennett-Moreau, Emily Buckel, Elizabeth Camele, Stephen Conko IV, Vincent Delsignore, Morgan DeWitt, Gabrielle Evans, Megan Green, Chuanchuan He, Alyssa Hutchinson, Anh Le, Yena Lee, Josiah Martin, Dawson McIntyre, Bailey Miller, Caleb Miller, Emily Monahan, Yu Cheng Pesacreta, Eric Plisko, Joshua Soliday, Nicholas Speeney, Nathan Terrick, Kyle Toth, Chelsey Ward, Dylan White, Emily Zimcosky.

The Geibel Class of 2016 earned a total of 329 college credits and was awarded more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and awards.



Geibel Grads With Alumni Parents

Pictured left are 2016 grads and their Geibel alumni parents following the 2016 Baccalaureate liturgy at St. John the Baptist parish in Perryopolis.

Front row, left to right: Stephen Conko, Nicholas Speeney, and Josiah Martin. Back row, left to right: Colleen (Staines '82) Conko, Mary Jane (Kosisko '79) Speeney, and Scott Martin '88.

Strong Kids: Noah Geary is kicking cancer with an attitude of gratitude

Posted by Mary Margaret (Ruggieri '79) Dreliszak on her blog MaryMotivates.com



In August, Noah Geary expected to be on the football field kicking and getting ready for his senior year in high school. He was kicking cancer instead.

The Game Changer

The Geibel Catholic Jr/Sr High School tri-athlete had just joined the Southmoreland High School varsity football team in a partnership made between the two schools. A groin injury he sustained playing basketball one month earlier flared with pain just before the start of football camp.

“The doctor thought the swelling I was having was from the injury and told me to stop playing sports for one week. The pain got worse and my mom took me to the emergency room,” Noah said. Life changed fast for Noah as he was sent from the Excelsa Frick ER to Children’s

Hospital, by ambulance, where it was discovered he had testicular cancer. Then came the news that he would need to undergo emergency surgery, called a radical inguinal orchiectomy. Surgery was followed by four weeks of recovery, then five weeks of chemotherapy treatments. He endured the nausea, fatigue, feeling of hot and cold and other symptoms that can come with treatment without complaint and with the same “no quit” attitude he brought to every game. “I took it one day at a time. My goal was to get back to school,” he said.

A Cheering Section

Noah wasn’t well enough to play football, but he dressed in uniform and supported the team from the sidelines on the field every chance he could. While he was rooting for his team, Noah’s own cheering section was growing. Students, faculty and staff from Geibel Catholic, Southmoreland, Connellsville Area high schools and Conn-Area Catholic School made sure Noah knew he wasn’t alone.

Their acts of kindness played a big role in keeping Noah strong. “Before I started my chemo, my friend Andrew gave me video games and my friend Jacob gave me an Xbox gift card to help keep me busy. There were also friends who texted me with well-wishes,” he said. A basketball brought to Noah by Geibel Catholic team member, Robert Guo, was signed by all of his teammates. And his baseball coach, Shawn Fuller, emceed “A Night Out For Noah”, a benefit hosted by family and friends. Geibel Catholic National Honor Society (NHS) members were thinking of him too. Club president, Maggie Ewing, and vice president, Abbey Sitko, brought a blanket to him at the hospital. They also delivered dinners to the Geary home, Abbey said, “to allow not only Noah to focus on healing, but the whole family.” She added, “Since the seventh grade, Noah and I have not only been classmates noah-with-abbey-in-hospital but also friends. When I heard that he was diagnosed with cancer, I was really worried, but I knew God had a plan for him. I went to visit him after his first chemo treatment and after the visit, I realized just how strong my friend was and is to this day.”

Hundreds of Kids in the Huddle

He was surrounded by support from the Connellsville Area School District, where Noah attended through sixth grade. The Mustache Club, from elementary through high school, raised funds for his family with the sale of paper mustaches and tee shirts, imprinted with #NoahStrong and the symbol for childhood cancer. “We sold them at all the lunches. The response was overwhelming,” said senior, Michael Taylor. He added, “My dad has Huntington’s chorea disease and I know what he goes through. If I can help another student who is having a tough time, I have to do something.” Teacher, Bobby Renzi, led the Mustache Club effort at the high school. He and other teachers grew real mustaches to support the cause. Tommy Pisula, a Southmoreland High School senior and football player, had

only just met Noah before the season started, but a bond was made. “We thought he got through surgery; he’ll be back. But there was so much more for Noah to deal with after that. I felt so bad because his family was also affected by the Connellsville flood a few weeks before. Tommy approached his teacher, Mrs. Jenna Hixson, who had initiated the Cupcakes for Connellsville fundraiser to benefit flood victims. He asked her if they could do the same for his teammate. She agreed and “Cupcakes for Noah”, a fundraiser to benefit the Geary family through this challenging time, was held during Noah-cupcakes Homecoming festivities. “I was playing in the game so I couldn’t see what was happening at the sale,” he said. His mom, Leslie, was at the table and remarked, “So many people came by, and kept coming in the pouring rain, to buy cupcakes, breads, and cookies that had all been donated.”

A Champion

Although Noah was unable to attend the Homecoming game, he did accomplish his goal to participate in Senior Night at the Southmoreland stadium with his mom, Mindy and dad, Rich, by his side. “It meant a lot to me. I was really happy,” he said. Tommy commented, “At the team banquet, Coach Mark Adams introduced the players and spoke about each one of us. When it was Noah’s turn, he said, “Noah is the champion for beating cancer.” Those words were met by a standing ovation.

Lifted Up

Yes, Noah is strong. And thankful. He’s lifted by the kindness he’s received from his football, basketball, and baseball teammates, classmates, friends, kids he’s never met, and the community. “I appreciate that so many people cared. I’m also grateful for my family and that I had my dad at home with me until he had to go back to work. I never felt alone.” Even the injury he sustained playing basketball is something he’s thankful for as it led to an early diagnosis of the cancer.

School Spirit

Noah counts his blessings starting with 17. It represents his age, the number on his basketball jersey, and the year he graduates. He also plans to attend a local college in 2017. “I’m grateful to wake up in the morning and to be feeling good. Often kids say, ‘Oh, I have to wake up early and go to school’. Be grateful you can wake up and go to school – especially a school like Geibel Catholic. It’s a family here. It’s small and everyone knows each other,” he said.

Goals to Reach

During these past few months, he said, “I prayed more. And I didn’t ask God ‘why’. I focus on what I have and not what I don’t. I have a healthy life.” In a couple weeks, he returns to the doctor. For now, Noah has plans to attend Geibel Catholic’s Christmas Dance – that is if his intended date says, “yes”. He carries an attitude of gratitude for the trials and blessings in his life that have made him stronger. “No matter what the challenge is”, he said, “never give up.”

To offer support to Noah and his family, visit “Blessings for Noah” on Facebook and at GoFundMe.





In Memoriam

*The
Geibel Catholic community
extends sincere sympathy
and
heartfelt prayers
to the families and friends
of our deceased alumni.*

Thomas E. Robinson '64
May 10, 2016

Joseph Hrezo '67
May 26, 2016

Michael B. Lane '69
July 17, 2016

Paula (Cohen '69) Turosak
April 3, 2016

Joanne (Orlando '71) Lizza
September 9, 2016

Catherine (Keill '76) Skrobacz
August 14, 2016

John M. Alesantrino '82
July 17, 2016

Diane (Ferencak '85) Tomasko
September 1, 2016

Cody Wiltrout '94
October 25, 2016

Julie Kirik '03
December 6, 2016



Births

A daughter,
Rilynn Grace Paget,
to
John and Mary Beth
(Saluga '09) Paget
on February 10, 2016

Wedding Bells

*Congratulations
and many blessings to these
newly-married couples:*

Paula Rendine '72 and Stanton Fogie
November 7, 2015

Ashley Filitsky and Adam Palko '04
May 21, 2016



**Mrs.
Rosalie Barli**

Mrs. Rosalie Barli, 69, of Brownsville, passed away on August 25, 2016. She taught Spanish at Geibel from 1984 - 1990. Prior to her retirement, she taught at Brownsville High School.



**Sr. Cecilia
McClain, SC**

Sister of Charity Cecilia McClain, 92, died September 19, 2016 at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg. In addition to serving as a teacher in several dioceses, she was principal of the former St. James School, Apollo, and a music and religion teacher at Geibel from 1980 - 85. Prior to her retirement, she ministered from 1985 - 2003 as a director of religious education in the diocese of Raleigh, NC.

In Memory of

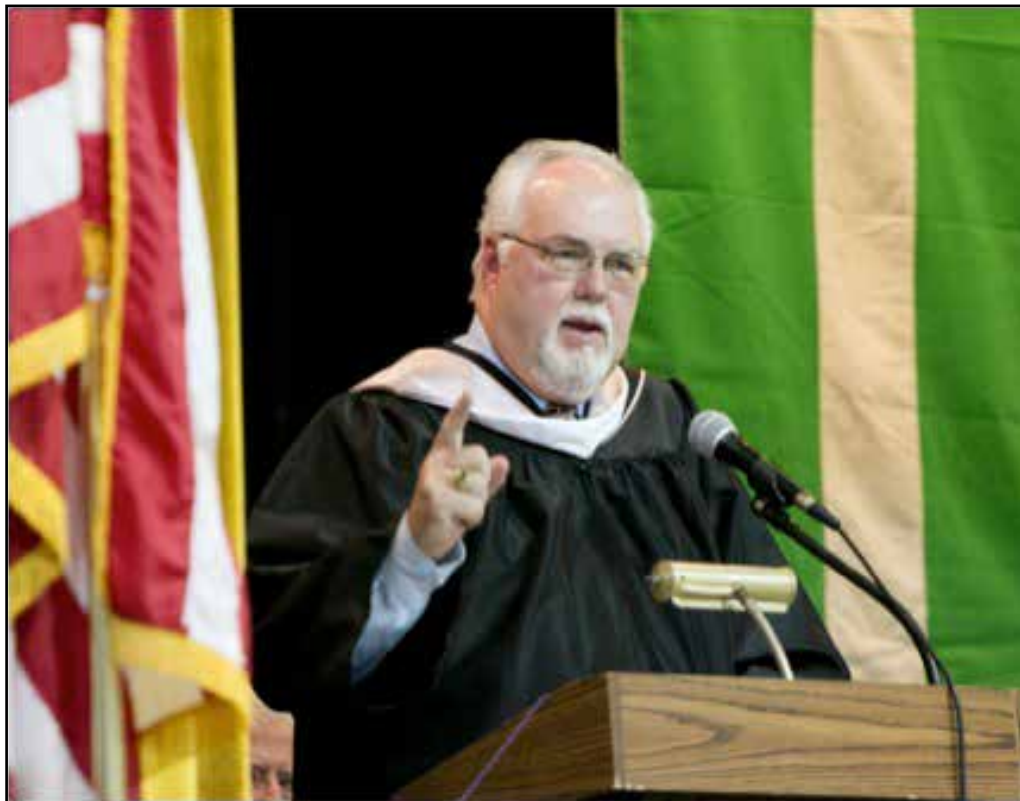
Frank Reno, Geibel's Second Principal

Mr. Frank Reno, 92, of Greensburg, died on Feb. 13, 2016. In 1966 he became the second principal of Geibel, and the first lay Catholic school principal in the state of Pennsylvania. He served until 1969, then became principal



of Greensburg Central Catholic for ten years. He was appointed Development Director for the Diocese of Greensburg and remained there until 1988. He served as safety director for 20 years at Charley Brothers Shop 'n Save. He was married for 66 years to his wife Minnie Jean. During Mr. Reno's early years, he enlisted in the Army and served from 1944 to 1946, earning the rank of flight officer. After returning from the service, he enrolled at West Virginia University where he earned his undergraduate degree. He was a tri-captain of the West Virginia football team which won the 1949 Sun Bowl. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns. He also played for the Toronto Argonauts in the Canadian League. In 1951, he was asked to be an assistant football coach for the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. While coaching, he earned his master's degree in business administration. He then worked for S.H. Kress & Co. for 11 years in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

2016 Commencement Address by Michael J. FitzGerald III '68, Distinguished Geibel Alumni Commencement Speaker



Geibel Catholic welcomed back Michael J. FitzGerald III '68 as commencement speaker for the Class of 2016. Mike holds a bachelor of science degree in geology from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in Military History. After his 1972 graduation from Notre Dame, Mike accepted a position with Texaco Inc. in New Orleans as an offshore petroleum exploration geologist. After four years with Texaco, he worked for Consolidated Natural Gas Company and General American Oil Company of Texas before joining Triton Energy in Dallas, Texas. In 1981, he was sent to Paris, France to direct exploration efforts for Triton. In 1982, his efforts led to the discovery of the 80.0 million barrel Villeperdue Oil Field, the largest in the Paris basin at that time. In 1983, he was transferred to London to supervise the exploration

and development efforts for Triton Europe. Returning to Dallas in 1985, Mike held various technical and management positions with Triton Energy.

In 1992, Mike, along with several other oil industry professionals, created the Madison Oil Company to pursue international opportunities for oil and gas exploration and development. In 2002 Madison Oil merged with Toreador Resources in Dallas, Texas, and Mike assumed the position of Senior Vice President of Exploration and Development. In 2004, his efforts led to the discovery of the Akçakoca Gas Field in the Black Sea, the first commercial natural gas field offshore Turkey.

In 2008, Mike, along with other industry professionals, created International Hydrocarbon Ventures, LLC Dallas, Texas. IHV continues to pursue opportunities in the United States and overseas. His efforts in the oil and gas industry have taken him to 42 countries around the world.

Mike and his wife Jackie reside in Frisco, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, and have two daughters, one son, and four grandsons.



NICHOLAS SPEENEY

CLASS OF 2016
VALEDICTORIAN

"EACH OF US SHARES
A COMMON THREAD,
A COMMON EXPERIENCE.
THAT COMMON THREAD

IS
GEIBEL CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL.
NO MATTER HOW
DIFFERENT WE ARE
IN THE FUTURE,
WE ARE ALL
GATORS AT HEART."



JOSIAH MARTIN

CLASS OF 2016
SALUTATORIAN

"NOW IT IS TIME
FOR US TO
MOVE FORWARD,
NEVER FORGETTING
THESE PEOPLE,
AND
NEVER FORGETTING
EACH OTHER.
GEIBEL WILL ALWAYS BE
OUR HOME, AND
THIS WILL ALWAYS BE
OUR FAMILY."

Class Notes

1969

The Connellsville Little League Board honored **Bob Bailor**, a former member of Connellsville's first-ever Little League state championship team, by naming their field after him. The Baltimore Orioles signed Bob to its minor league system as a free agent upon his graduation from Geibel. He worked his way up through the system and joined their Major League team in 1975. In 1976, the Toronto Blue Jays selected him as their first-ever pick in the expansion draft. That season, he led the team in hits, stolen bases, runs scored, and his .310 batting average – an expansion team record. He also played with the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers, then worked as first base coach for the Blue Jays.

At opening day ceremonies for the Little League field, Bob commented, "I'm living proof a dream can come true."

1978

Mark Mongell, the Director of Golf at Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta, was named the PGA Professional of the Year by the Georgia PGA. Mark earned his PGA membership in 1985 and has been at Cherokee Town and Country Club since 1998. He previously was the head golf professional at Wilmington Country Club in Delaware, and has also worked at South Hills Country Club in Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Field Club, and the Olympic Club in San Francisco. He is serving as the 23rd president of the Georgia Section, PGA of America.

1988

Juliana Klocek, a 1992 graduate of John Carroll University, earned All-PAC (Presidents' Athletic Conference) First Team honors following the 1988-89 season, John Carroll's final season as a member of the PAC. She was also named to the All-Ohio Athletic Conference Second Team in 1990. Twice named John Carroll's team MVP, Juliana concluded her career with 1,247 points and continues to rank among all-time leaders in free throw percentage (.781, tied for second all-time).

1995

Wesley Mallicone, who received a life-saving liver transplant in 2011, was one of 24 people selected to ride on the Donate Life America float in the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, CA last January. The purpose of the float was to promote organ donation. Wes received his liver

after two years and two months on the transplant list. After a long recovery period, Wes was able to return to work and is currently in his fifteenth year as the Director of Sports Medicine at Shippensburg University.

2008

Assunta Goretsky received a juris doctor degree at the 2016 commencement exercises of Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA. She was the recipient of the Charles Kindregan Scholarship Award and secretary of the Disability Law Advocates. In her free time, Assunta helps coach the varsity and junior varsity Geibel Catholic cheerleading squads.

Marissa Soisson graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, Philadelphia. She received her undergraduate degree from Duquesne University and is a member of Beta Sigma Kappa, an international optometric honor society.

2009

Ally Robinson graduated magna cum laude and was awarded a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May from the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. She also received a master's degree in business administration from the Phar.D./M.B.A. dual degree program with the WVU School of Pharmacy and the WVU College of Business and Economics.

Christopher Imbrogno is working as an Environmental Consultant at Boord, Benchek & Associates Inc. in Canonsburg, PA.

Welcome Back



Mary (Ruggieri '79) Drelisak is the director of advancement at Geibel Catholic. In her role, she manages constituent relations, fund development, and event planning activities.

Mary served as Geibel Catholic's first director of development from 1998-2002 and is happy to return to her alma mater. "I look forward to serving the Geibel Catholic community with class reunion planning, to arrange a tour of the school, and to connect with constituents wherever they are in their lives." She can be reached at 724-628-5600 (work), 724-984-0860 (cell), or by email at mdrelisak@geibelcatholic.org.

Each Vagabond by Name

by Margo Orlando ('95) Littell



In June, I published my first novel, *Each Vagabond by Name*--the fulfillment of a lifelong goal. The story is about a band of itinerant thieves who descend on a remote coal-mining town in southwestern Pennsylvania and upend the quiet ways of the locals. It's a literary novel about grief, drinking, isolation, and xenophobia (a cheery read, said no one ever). Conneville inspired the setting, and real-life events sparked my idea for the plot. But I had no idea, when I wrote

it, how eerily relevant this book would become.

In the early 2000s, a group of itinerant thieves descended on Conneville and the towns nearby, and committed a series of home invasions. Everyone called these outsiders "gypsies." They were strangers; they were criminals Alumni. More disturbing, they used creative means to get inside people's homes--often by knocking on the door and asking for a glass of water, distracting the homeowner so another thief could slip up the stairs.

Maybe some of you remember; maybe some of you have gypsy stories of your own. I've heard a lot of them since publishing *Each Vagabond by Name*--from a family friend whose elderly parents were tricked and robbed, from a former neighbor who remembers the mailman frantically pounding on her door because he spotted a "gypsy car" down the block and knew a robbery was underway.

At the heart of this book and the real-events that inspired it is a deep-seated fear of outsiders. When the gypsies came to southwestern Pennsylvania, newspaper articles described the thieves as "foreign-looking" and "foreign-sounding," and the authorities were certain that the crimes were "the work of outsiders." That fear put my novel in motion, and I still hear it when people tell me their own gypsy stories.

I wrote most of this novel in 2011, before Syrian refugees and border walls were daily news. And though my book is about a small-town apocalypse wrought by unchecked xenophobia, I didn't write it as an allegory for national politics. But it's impossible to deny that *Vagabond* is eerily relevant to 2016, when countries around the world are confronting a refugee crisis and xenophobia is a constant thrum in our national conversation. This is what happens with fiction: it bumps up against the reality it finds itself in, no matter when it was written.

In my novel, my characters pursue their fear of outsiders to its inevitable conclusion, realizing too late that the outcome isn't what they wanted. It's only a story. But the way it has shape-shifted to fit the world it was born into suggests that this work is no longer wholly mine.

You can read more about Each Vagabond by Name at www.margoorlandolittell.com. Find it on Amazon, Barnes & Noble online, or request it from your local bookstore. Margo graduated from the University of Dayton and received her MFA from Columbia in NYC.



The Dying of the Golden Day

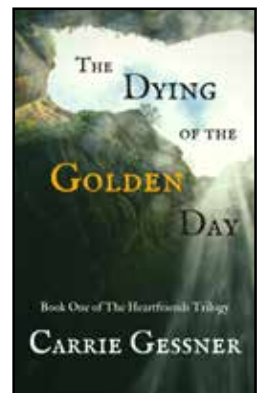
by Carrie Gessner ('06)

I released my debut novel, *The Dying of the Golden Day*, this past September. It was my master's thesis at Seton Hill University. The first installment in an epic fantasy trilogy, it follows Aurelia, who is marked by gray eyes that prophesy the death of magic. She seeks to avert her destiny by serving as advisor to the prince of Sunniva, but a chance to reunite two broken kingdoms soon forces her to decide where her loyalty lies--with her prince or with her magic.



I began the Writing Popular Fiction program at Seton Hill shortly after I returned from serving in the Peace Corps as an English teacher in Kazakhstan. That experience of living in and adjusting to a different culture is partly why I became interested in multiculturalism and the interactions of cultures, and *The Dying of the Golden Day* grew out of that interest. The story starts in a land that has fractured into two kingdoms. As the action expands into the larger world and Aurelia encounters new peoples and cultures, she's forced to combat her own prejudices and preconceptions. Similarly, she learns about herself, too. Aurelia's story is one of discovering one's gifts, of searching for one's place in the world, of making one's own purpose in life.

Another main goal in writing this was to contribute to making fantasy more inclusive. As a lifelong reader of fantasy, I was dismayed at the lack of female protagonists, particularly in epic fantasy. I wanted to populate the world with different types of women who display different types of strength. Edana is a young woman who leaves home for the first time on a mission to find the subjects of her prophecy. Mira is a headstrong empress who sets out to save the world by conquering it. Minerva is a queen who must find a way to cope with her sorrow in order to lead her people. Fiction reflects life, but it's also meant to challenge it. I chose to depict a world where honor outweighs birth and heroism comes from hard work rather than courage because, especially today, I believe both honor and heroism are more necessary than ever.



The Dying of the Golden Day is available now from Amazon in paperback and kindle formats. Carrie received a BA in English from Carnegie Mellon University and an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. In addition to pursuing her writing career, she's starting a micropress that will focus on publishing inclusive science fiction and fantasy with female protagonists. She hopes to release the second book in her trilogy and publish the first book from her press in 2017.

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