

GEIBEL

The Geibel Family Newsletter • Fall 2015



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

One-to-One Technology Initiative Implemented at Geibel



Under the leadership of Geibel Catholic Principal Don Favero and Superintendent Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Geibel Catholic students in grades 9-12 received new Acer Iconia computers for use at school and home. “They define the future, and the future is right now,” said Favero. The new computers are a combination of laptop and tablet, having both a keyboard and touch screen. “Now they have their own computers that they use every day, in every class.” Students receive tech support from a diocesan IT staff member who is at Geibel five days a week. Graduating students will have an opportunity to purchase the computers at the end of the year. Favero added that personal computers are a step in preparing students for post-high school educational opportunities. “It’s a digital world and soon these students’ lockers will only contain their coats and a computer.”



Welcome, New Geibel Faculty

Joining the Geibel Catholic family for the 2015-16 school year are (left to right) Patrick Blackstone '11, who is teaching junior high mathematics and science, A.J. Dines, social studies teacher and athletic director, Alison Testa, guidance counselor, and Katie Reger, English teacher.

Geibel Classes Celebrate Reunions

Geibel Class of 1965 Celebrates 50th Anniversary Reunion

Geibel Catholic High School Class of 1965 observed its 50th anniversary reunion September 25-26 with a casual gathering, a Mass in the Geibel chapel and a festive reunion dinner-dance and program filled with fun and fellowship.

The casual gathering took place Friday evening, September 25, at Bogey's at Duck Hollow Golf Club, Uniontown. Class members, their spouses, and friends came together from hither and yon to reacquaint themselves and share stories of their high school days at the former Immaculate Conception High School and at Geibel.

The Class of 1965 actually began its high school years at the former Immaculate Conception High School and moved into Geibel Catholic High School during the second semester of its junior year. The sixty-one seniors would comprise the second class to graduate from Geibel.

– Submitted by Bob Broderick



From left, front row seated: Barb (Jordan) Findley, Mary Rita (Lizza) Kislán, Myrna (Hefner) Reese, Paulette (McGuinness) Friguglietti, Kathleen Waller, Jackie (Ash) Shulsky, Kay (McCauley) Bloodhart, Rose Marie (Vinosky) Cowan, Mary Louise (Cross) Lazor and Janet (Mongelluzzo) Stroncheck; second row: Chris (Doerfler) McElroy, Kathy (Bereiter) Blackstone, Karen (Kelly) Murray, Betty Ann (Balsley) Gallo, Barb (Relich) Uhrin, Carol (Sefcheck) Sabo, Patty (Zgorecki) Broderick, Karen (Tulley) Shandorf, Bob Shandorf, Sister Judith Nero, OSB, teacher, Jack Connors, and Blaine Reed; third row: Jim Howard, Frank Misiak, Tom Rusnack, Joseph "Pat" Luczak, Dennis George, John Zawislan, Joel Whipkey and Larry Warzinski.

Geibel Class of 1975 Celebrates 40 Years

The Geibel High School Class of 1975 celebrated its 40th year class reunion on August 29, 2015 at Caporella's Italian Ristorante in Uniontown.

The evening included social hour, class picture, opening remarks by Mary Kay Dunaway, and invocation by Rick Brooks. There was also a memorial service led by Julie (Ruggieri) Shroyer, remembering deceased classmates Karen Bolden, Renee Bucci, Gregory Ellicot, John Schomer, Mary Beth (Wisilosky) Stoots and Mary Ellen Watson.

Classmates in attendance as well as those unable to attend the reunion donated \$1,300 to Geibel Catholic in memory of these deceased classmates.

After the memorial service special guests Leo Lowney, former guidance counselor and coach at Geibel Catholic, and Bob Renzi, former Geibel science teacher and coach, spoke briefly about the times spent with the Geibel Class of 1975. Mary Kay Dunaway, class vice president gave closing remarks. Dinner and dancing followed the program.

—Submitted by Mary Kay Dunaway



Pictured left to right: Row 1: Amy (Merendino) Shelkey, Annaleta (Rozantz) Cunningham, Elly Lieb, Christy (Bednarowicz) Sharp, Bonnie (King) Killar. Row 2: Martina (Smarto) Herman, Julie (Ruggieri) Shroyer, Toni (Tripoli) Shearer, Cindy (Sofranko) Fertenbaugh. Row 3: Janine (Rozell) Brooks, Mary Kay Dunaway. Row 4: Larry Goretsky, Dan Rendine, Redding Bunting, Jim Carpinelli, Rick Brooks, Brook Gilbert, Jim Martin. Row 5: Joe Zavatchen, Phil Jaworski, Kevin Reed. Those attending but not pictured are Denise (Detone) Caldwell and John Faris. Several classmates traveled from Montana, North Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Missouri to attend the reunion.



Geibel Class of '75 Presents Memorial Gift

Representatives from the class of 1975 presented a check from the class in the amount of \$1300 in memory of deceased classmates. Pictured (left to right) are Toni (Tripoli '75) Shearer, Mary Kay Dunaway '75, Fr. Bob Lubic '84, school chaplain, Thomasine (Laskaris '69) Rose, Dean of Operations at Geibel, and Amy (Merendino '75) Shelkey.

Geibel Class of 1995 Gathers for 20-year Reunion



Members of the Class of 1995 met at the Stone House Restaurant in Uniontown, PA in August to celebrate their 20-year reunion. (Back, left to right) Nino Ripepi, Cindy (Rocca) Stahl, Magen Mihok, Jessica Murtha, Stacey Papa, Joe Galuzzo, Jamie (Miller) Martin, Eric Merrill, Lisa Shandorf, Jim Tesauro, Marianne D'Auria, Mike Raymond, Tom Hidock, John Smith, Matt Dragich, Ben Slezak, Charlie Roskovensky, Jeremy Campbell, Jason Kelecic, Mike Young, Jeff Blaszcak, Margo (Orlando) Littell, Rachael Kenney, Beth (Zelenak) Clark, Erin Copeland, Mike Kavanshansky, Kim Schuessler. (Front, left to right) Erica Ninos, Kim (Husak) Berlee, Melissa (Vargo) Polosky, Heather (O'Neill) McManus, Becca (Kozel) Richter, Joellen Pastors, Tara (Spaw) Fronczek, Erin Ball.

People Who Inspire: Maria Connell '70 Inspiring with Down Syndrome

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



When Maria Connell pens a poem, it has a purpose – to inspire. The Geibel Catholic Class of 2000 graduate is a writer, speaker, and kindergarten teacher's aide who knows how to overcome challenges.

Born with Down Syndrome, she writes poems that become a special part of birthdays, holidays, funerals and other occasions for family and friends. Her insight is unspoiled and pure, giving the recipients of her poems a meaningful and lasting keepsake. This is her gift.

It's not only the words, but her voice that she lends to these special occasions, sometimes speaking in front of hundreds of people.

At the Nantucket wedding of her cousin Chris and his new wife Molly, she recited her poem, which read in part, "I am with both of you on the beautiful

island...the sun is up and the seagulls are calling...As you embark on your lifelong journey...now I can finally say Molly, welcome to the Connell family.

Fourteen years ago, Maria's cousin, Colleen, gave her a journal as a birthday present. Since then, her poems are written in journals that fill her room with words that come from the heart – a heart that is overflowing with love.

On May 15, 2014 that love was boundless as Marie described it as "the greatest day of my life." That's when her brother Jimmy and his wife had their first baby and she became an aunt. To welcome their child into the family, she wrote in a poem, "We have been waiting for you to enter into our world and our lives and into our family... We are going to open our arms and embrace you – and you – will have great parents that will love and prepare you for life – With love, Maria."

The Impact of Maria's Education

She has lived out those words with her own parents, Mike and Stephanie Connell (Geibel class of '70). Both retired teachers, they have provided Maria with love and preparation for her life.

Stephanie commented, "Education has been important since day one. We took Maria to Dr. Mary Coleman, a Down Syndrome researcher, in Washington DC who recommended early intervention education.

As a result, at six weeks, a teacher was coming to the house weekly and we followed up on her lessons. When Maria was 18 months old, she attended Fayette County Child Development every day. And at five years of age, she attended Intermediate Unit support classes."

In third grade, Maria was enrolled at St. John the Baptist Regional School where she was included in regular classrooms and with learning support, learned to read and write. She had this same support as she went on to attend Geibel Catholic High School.

Her mother remarked, "Maria is self-motivated to learn. Through high school, Mike and I would exchange plan notes with teachers. We sat with her every night as she did her homework and never had to drag her to do the work. She always wanted to do it."

Ann Behary, former music teacher at Geibel, recommended that Maria be placed in music class. She put her in the marching band with cymbals. She went on band trips and participated in high school musicals. Maria and fellow classmate Wade Wohler '00, another student with Down Syndrome, attended proms and Christmas dances together. High school was a rich and full experience for her.

A Network of Support

Stephanie remarked, "Maria has always been around people who have the right attitude." Some of those people include family friends like Leo Lowney, who was the high school guidance counselor and cross country coach. He walked with Maria every day to encourage her to be active. Bob Bailor (Geibel Class of '69), a retired professional baseball player and coach, was recently inducted into the Fayette County Sports Hall of Fame. At the induction Maria attended with her parents, Bob asked her to stand and told the audience, "My wife couldn't be with me, but I have my #1 fan here."

This circle of support has enabled Maria to do the unexpected. Stephanie remarked, "One day, family friend, Gene Cavalier who taught Driver's Education called and said, 'I want Maria to learn about safety on the road.' He taught her. Even though she doesn't drive, she understands it."

It's been this extended support of family, friends and the community of Connellsville, PA that has helped her to be successful."

A Rewarding Career

Maria completed a work-study program in high school helping with the kindergarten class at Conn-Area Catholic School. Her mother said, "One day following graduation, the principal, Sister Catherine Meinert, called and said, "We have a job for Maria if she is interested."

She was definitely interested. Maria has spent the past fourteen years serving in the role of teacher's aide, taking local public transportation to work every day. She remarked, "I like it because it reminds me of when I was in kindergarten. I clean up after play time. I get the homework folders ready, get coats, and pack book bags with homework."

And she inspires her students too.

Maria has a journal filled with poems written for Conn-Area kindergarten students for every occasion including the first day of school and one to commemorate the birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

On September 8, 2009 she wrote, "This is a day to honor everything that Mary has done in her life...she wants all of us to grow, learn, change...we should follow her wonderful example of life. Mary gave all of us one of her special gifts and that is her son Jesus."

While each of the students brings great meaning to her life, she remarked, "Last year, I had a little girl. She would cling to me. She didn't want to do things with her class. She just wanted to stay with me so I would encourage her to try things. Every time she did something on her own, I would say "good job." Now, the little girl is independent."

The openness to try new things and to not give up has always been part of Maria's life. She took acro and jazz dance classes at Kids and Company from the time she was four until she was 18 years old. So health and fitness are no exception.

Eleven years ago on August 10, when her family returned from vacation, Stephanie said it was time to make a change – one that would impact the health of the entire family.

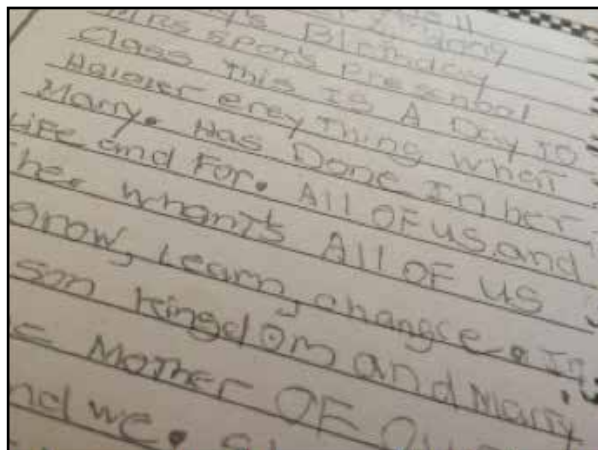
Maria was carrying extra weight, and as a result, was having a hard time walking and breathing. "On that day, we switched to a diet low in carbs and we had protein, vegetable and salad for supper. Maria also started going to Weight Watchers," Stephanie said.

Now, she also takes Tae Bo (kickboxing), uses an exercise bike, takes physical therapy for an arthritic knee, and walks one mile each day. The result has been a total loss of 80 pounds for Maria. She is maintaining a weight 65 pounds lighter than she was eleven years ago. "Every year on August 10, we celebrate her success," she said.

Maria's Words

When I interviewed Maria, she and her parents were getting ready to visit her cousin Carly at the university she attends to celebrate her birthday. Maria was writing her a poem and shared what she had written so far... And for MaryMotivates.com readers, she shared this advice. "Sometimes life is not fair. Just go with it. Have faith."

Maria has an abundant network of family and friends who love and support her. But when you spend time





In Memoriam

The Geibel Catholic community mourns the loss of these alumni and extends sincere condolences and prayers to their families and friends.

John A. Kozak '69,
October 5, 2014

Daryl R. Lohr '71,
August 11, 2015

John H. ("Jack") Davare '72,
May 7, 2015

Mary Beth (Wisilosky) Stoots '75,
January 6, 2015

Linda S. Lesniowski '76,
December 9, 2014

Joseph R. Vozar '77,
February 11, 2015

Anna Marie (Kiliany)'79) Rosky,
July 7, 2014

Joseph Soforic '81,
May 18, 2015

LTJG Paul Krokus, R.N. '93,
August 31, 2015

Katy Schmeltz Geary '94,
August 30, 2015

Geibel Catholic recently received a generous donation in memory of Anna Marie (Kiliany '79) Rosky who passed away on July 7, 2014. The anonymous donor spoke about how much Anna Marie loved Geibel Catholic and how she followed the school's recent success stories.



Births

A son, William Anthony,
to
Melissa and Anthony Brooks '01
on February 2, 2015.

A son, Thomas Frederick,
to
Michael and Maureen (Severin '05) Boyer
on April 22, 2015.

A daughter, Sophia Elizabeth,
to
Justin and Megan (McKlveen '05) Revak
on July 29, 2015.

Wedding Bells

*Congratulations
and many blessings
to this
newly-married couple:*

Jayme L. Detweiler '07
and
Ryan S. Crowell,
May 30, 2015



Long gone are the days when Geibel students hailed only from Connellsville and surrounding communities. This year, sixteen foreign exchange students from China, South Korea, Viet Nam, and Taiwan attend Geibel Catholic. They reside with host families in Fayette, Westmoreland, and Somerset counties and bring a global world perspective to the Geibel campus.

Commencement Highlights 2015



OUR NEWEST ALUMNI: THE CLASS OF 2015

(In alphabetical order) Jihea Ahn, Jarek K. Allen, Jessica Rose Cociolone, Brooke Taylor Core, James L. Cox (missing from photo), Abigail Lynn Cunningham, Nelson James DiBiase, Matthew Robert Emerson, Kaylee Anne Ermine, James David Ewing III, Kensi Rae Francy, Catherine Marie Hamel, Caroline Elizabeth Jeffries, Karly Lynn Judy, Thomas Patrick Kovalchuk, Laura Michaelene Kozel, Kassidy Cierra Leapline, Matthew Thomas Mammarella, Christopher Taylor Martin, Bailey David McIntyre, Russell Britt Mechling IV, Michael Duffy Oppman, Stephanie Marie Orgovan, Christopher William Palya, Mario Angelo Piccolomini, Brent Andrew Plisko, Sarah Ruth Pokol, Elena Marie Renze, Amber Nicole Riggan, Mario James Ruggieri, Kennedy Jo Scarry, Kylee Elizabeth Soberdash, Haley Cecilia Solan, Ashley Renee Teslovich, Catherine Haley Thomas, Ashley Nicole Tomasko, Bailee Lynn Marie Waligura, Harris Kirwan Wright, Taylor Lee Yeardie.

All graduation photos courtesy of Gerry Solan, Gerard Photography

**The
Geibel Catholic
class of 2015 earned
680 college credits
through the **FACES**
program and also
earned over
3.1 million dollars in
scholarships and
awards.**



Geibel Alumni Award Recipient 2015

Kaylee Ermine '15 is the recipient of the prestigious Geibel Alumni Award, a senior award which has been presented annually since 1981 to the student who best exemplifies development of talent, personality, aptitude, social skills, service, and Catholic spirit.

2015 Commencement Address by Justin Frantz '92, Distinguished Geibel Alumni Commencement Speaker

Justin Frantz is a tenured professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio University, having joined the faculty there in 2008. He is a high-energy nuclear physicist doing research primarily on the PHE-NIX Experiment located at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) at Brookhaven National Laboratory located on Long Island, New York. He is one of the foremost experts in the world on the formation of very high energy photons produced in these kinds of nuclear collisions which are used to probe a new state of nuclear matter discovered at RHIC called the Perfect Liquid. He has published over 100 papers on the subject, and has secured about 1 million dollars cumulatively in federal grants and contracts to support this research and other teaching projects at Ohio University, including classroom innovation projects for Introductory Physics courses. Recently Justin was elected to be the Chair of the RHIC User's Executive Committee, which represents the approximately 1000 nuclear physicists from institutions across the nation and world doing their research at Brookhaven National Lab. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2004 and his undergraduate degree in Physics from Harvard University in 1996 where, in his senior year, he was the 122nd captain of the Harvard Crimson football team. Justin graduated from Geibel in 1992 and attended St. John the Evangelist Catholic elementary school in Uniontown. He is married to Jennifer Bobincheck, Geibel class of 1991, and they have two daughters, Ava and Anna.



2015 Commencement address given by Dr. Justin Frantz, Class of 1992

If we look at a more literal translation from the Ancient Greek it was originally written in, then at the very beginning of the Gospel of John is the following statement: “In the Word and Logic of God there is Life, and that Life is Light to All Mankind” I’d like you to remember that quote for a moment.

Right after I wrote and pressed “send” on that bio of myself, I realized I had mistakenly used the word “photon” in describing my research, and many of you may not know or remember what a photon is. There should definitely be no quizzes on today, but I hope at least some of you graduates learned that a photon is the particle that makes up light-like matter, light is both Wave and Particle at the same time. Well, I’m glad the mistake happened, because as my opening quote implied, “light” is going to be one of my themes tonight.

Light is scientifically remarkable in many ways: besides that weird “Quantum” wave-particle duality, Einstein’s principle of Relativity states that nothing can go faster than the speed of light. And I know this to be definitely true, because I try all the time, in my car... when I’m late... which is a lot of the time (which is also not probably sounding like I’m a good role model is it? Sorry parents). (See, as a professional physicist I’m required to make at least one bad science joke in every talk, so...) All these incredible crazy properties we know about light demonstrate just how far human knowledge has come recently. All I can say to you today about that, graduates, is: get ready to have your mind-blown by the revolutions in knowledge I’m certain you will witness in just the next 10 years! But this knowledge has its limits and will have its limits.

Which is where Light comes in: The word photon comes from the ancient GREEK word “Phos” (which means light.) In Greek Light or “Phos” is intimately connected to concept of “Knowledge”. Having Light apparently often means Possessing Knowledge. The Gospel quote of sorts I started with is actually John’s description of Jesus Christ—as the “Phos” or Light of the World so he was implying that Christ somehow is Knowledge. And so the “Light” of my theme tonight is actually this transcendent Light of Knowledge, which transcends human knowledge because it actually IS knowledge itself, and at the same time it is the Word, and it is the Logic that we as Catholics believe is actually one facet of God himself. So my first wish for you graduates is that you always let this transcendent Light and Knowledge, that is, you always let Christ guide you and carry you on your way. It’s up to you now where you want it to guide and carry you, but where ever that is, may you go there with passion and enthusiasm.

I am very honored to be here, thanks to the whole Geibel community for this invitation to speak. So many great teachers

for me here, to name a few Mrs Rose, Marian Cadwallader, and Mr. Orlando who continues to be an inspiration to me almost every day in my work. Over the years, of all the great speeches I've heard, and of all the greatly preached homilies in famous churches all over the nation, from people recognized as great modern intellectuals of both the Church and academia, one of the ones that has always stuck with me the most was a homily given by our principal at Geibel when I was here, Fr. Curci. Just that by itself has always been a testimony in my mind and I hope it is to you now as well, as to just how top notch the education here at Geibel is.

The message of this particular homily was that, quite often, the biggest disappointments in our lives are actually the greatest blessings—not just because we then choose a different path—that does happen too—but primarily because of the spiritual process we go through. For the rest of my speech tonight, in lieu of giving you graduates perhaps the more usual many different kinds of advice, instead I'd like focus a little more deeply on just a few. And to do that I'd like to generalize Fr. Curci's homily message from those years ago with examples of some things that in a similar way our human nature might tend to categorize as bad for us but which can actually be beneficial, especially if we trust in the transcendent Light of the World, God. At its simplest it's just the old adage "no pain no gain", [It's] amazing to me how often this seems to be forgotten or ignored by adults—including myself. To get something better which you actually want, you must often temporarily do something you'd rather not. Turning off the TV or not playing Xbox will NOT be something you will want to do, but the period of productivity that follows will make you happy you did. Another example is going to church even when you THINK you're too busy—the many times I've been on the fence with that, I can tell you I have never once regretted spending that quiet time meditating on a busy Sunday because it ends up being like Red Bull for my spirit and my mind,—I'm actually more productive afterwards and on the whole, I get more done!

My more complicated example, is the following: human nature, common sense, tells us it's not optimal to work when there's too much craziness going on in our lives, so common wisdom tells us to avoid craziness and always simplify our lives. However I've found this not always to be the best course of action. My craziest times are often by definition my most productive, and often my best work gets done when my adrenaline kicks in. To make this happen for yourself, you must learn how to force yourself to remain calm in the face of stress—the best remedies for this FOR ME are meditation and prayer, but you should find out what works best for you by – what else – but practice! Pick some lower stakes situations (like when only your grades are at stake) and practice dealing with REAL stress. Allow yourself to get dug deeper into the hole sometimes just don't give up, dig yourself out again with the expectation you'll need to do so again soon. Learn to even enjoy the craziness—the practice will help you later. And these situations can also provide the most powerful faith experiences in your relationship with God. You may find like me that when you're at your most vulnerable moments of stress and fear, God first makes them first bearable by soothing you, and then he makes them even enjoyable sometimes, and then, quite often eventually He even turns them into your shining moments!

**“Then at that moment you too
will become the Light of the World,
each one of you
a luminous shining star.”**

Another important skill related to this is to be able to give up perfectionism sometimes. Sometimes I'm embarrassed by how bad a class here or there of mine goes—if you don't believe me just take a look at the brutal comments under my name on RateMyProfessor.com. However, if I had spent the time getting those few classes to be perfect, 10 other things that other people were depending on me to do, would not have gotten done. So I'm OK with it—prayer helps with that too. Now no doubt, there will invariably be things on your list that you also NEED to do right—near perfect--not just good enough. It's often when things are most crazy that doing something little the right way is the thing that makes all the difference, So there's no easy panacea, you just need to choose and if you get it wrong, don't be so hard on yourself. A good rule of thumb for sorting out those more important things is to choose the ones that put people first and to always find time to really listen to what they want to tell you. Just sitting there and letting them take up your precious time can be the most important and generous thing you can do for them.

I have a story along these lines that demonstrates many aspects of my points here as well as the potential payoffs sometimes of allowing things to get crazy around you and working through them. Before I can tell you that story though, I have to share an interesting personal note with you and my Geibel family here. I was adopted as a baby. My parents, Marilyn and Tom Frantz who adopted me shared this information with me before I can remember, so I always knew this. I had a great family growing up, two great sisters, so the fact I was adopted was not really something that mattered a lot to me. Although I was curious, it wasn't till just about five years ago after I had my own first baby and, partly for genetic health reasons, I started the process of meeting my biological parents. As it turns out, they were married after they gave me up for adoption their freshman year of college, and ended up with a family of five kids, my biological siblings – four biological brothers who turned out to

have all played football like me in a small Catholic high school very much like Geibel, right down to the green, white and gold colors, and many other coincidences, which is a half an hour story all by itself.

Anyway, when I started the long process those years before, involving many forms, I couldn't have known that the end of the process would happen all of sudden, right smack dab in what certainly was the worst possible time for me and my family. Personally it was right in the middle of going through the tenure process and I just can't adequately express the stress and work involved with that—most people don't realize that NOT getting tenure means you are essentially fired and in most cases, your career in academics is over. For my family it was a bad time because we were all getting ready for my mom's big knee replacement surgery, which we'd all been anticipating for a couple years--my mom lived alone and there was a lot to coordinate. And I just didn't know how my sisters and especially my mom might take this idea, for mom it was just something we all were never SURE how she felt about it. Many times while this was happening I prayed to God and asked him "why God, why like this, and especially why now, of all times?" I didn't have time to properly handle this situation, but there it was. I had to handle this one right. I had to take the time and make myself available to these people and make sure everyone was comfortable and reassured.

So long story short I told everyone and then met my biological family in steps first by email and then by Facebook. Eventually we set up a meeting with the parents, Chris and Mary, and we were all very surprised when my mother Marilyn gave me a gift she wanted me to give Chris and Mary for that first meeting. It was the most beautifully constructed scrapbook of pictures with narration, some I had never even known she had collected. We knew my mom was quote-unquote "hoarding" a lot of memorabilia of us kids over the years. But there it was project complete, my mom between all her pre-surgery appointments had found the time to work overtime and make this beautiful thing: and what a job she had done, what a wonderful gift to be able to give Chris and Mary, so they could see so many moments of my life through her eyes. It was very nice. And then a couple months later, I received from God the answer to why it all had to have happened at that really busy time. You see, my mom unexpectedly died in the process of recovering from her knee replacement due to heart complications, the day before she was supposed to come home. I firmly believe with all my heart that that act of love, unselfishness, and gratitude with the scrapbook was something that God granted her the opportunity to do in his graciousness before she died. And of course I thank God for that now. Perhaps it was a final exam of sorts, and I think she aced it.

"Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains but a single grain with no life." The transcendent genius of Jesus Christ said that, Light, Knowledge, and Logic! And by death he didn't just mean what happened to my mom: the point of that homily by Fr. Curci was that this life-stuff is hard sometimes, and you may fail sometimes...you may not get tenure, you may find that you have to give up your dream of being an Medical Doctor after you find out you just can't succeed in your premed courses—like Physics unfortunately. At times like these it may seem like your world is coming down around you. But the point of this for you today is that you should not fear those times because you can always know that the Transcendent Light of God will guide and indeed carry you through those times.

You've heard of "Footprints in the Sand"-- most of you have, I'm sure. In the next phase of your life, you will all experience Windprints in the Sky! You will find that God will raise you up on Eagle's wings—one of my favorite hymns—but yours will be Icarus wings that YOU construct, and what God will do is to keep them melting. Like Icarus it is YOU who will need to flap those wings, harder and harder, as you fly higher and higher, closer and closer to the light, until eventually instead of letting you fall like Icarus did, He will rather transform you and make you to shine like the Sun itself. Then at that moment you too will become the Light of the World, each one of you a luminous shining star. And then He will then hold you in the palm of his hand. Above his head and in that way, he will light the way for the Many. With the Knowledge that is His always and then will become yours too.



Justin Frantz '92 and Jennifer (Bobincheck '91) Frantz

2015 Grads and Their Alumni Parents



Class of 2015 seniors and their alumni parents gathered after Baccalaureate Mass for this picture. Bottom row (seated, left to right): Chris Martin '15, Amber Rigglin '15, Kaylee Ermine '15, Caroline Jeffries '15, Michael Oppman '15; second row Laura Kozel '15, Kassidy Leapline '15; third row: Debbie Petzel Kozel '81, Melissa Franks Leapline '94, Rita Novak Martin '76, Faith Cerullo Rigglin '96, Jo Francelle Kraynak Ermine '83, Theresa Hajduk Jeffries '86, Ashley Tomasko '15, Diane Ferencak Tomasko '85, Mario Piccolomini '15, Theresa Marotto Piccolomini '80; Top row: Dennis Martin '76, Ed Ermine '79, and Michael Oppman '81. Missing from the picture were James Cox '15 and his mother Dawn Delligatti Cox '83 and Bailee Waligura '15 and her mother Jamie Springer Waligura '86.



“We must move forward with God, and remember that God is always with us. Even when we have moments when we feel lost or lonely, we will feel comfort and confidence in being in God’s presence.” – Kaylee Ermine, Class of 2015 Valedictorian



“We are surrounded by the people who taught and motivated us: parents, family members, teachers and even coaches. It is finally our time to truly show them all how we have become independent young adults who are ready to move on to the next chapter in our lives.” – Catherine Haley Thomas, Class of 2015 Salutatorian

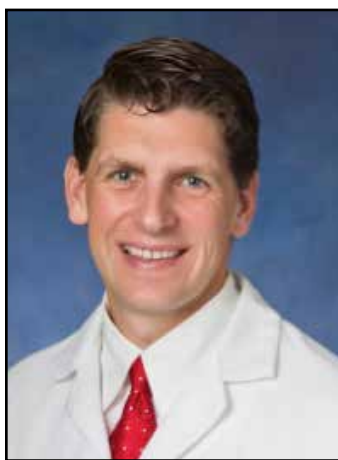
Class Notes

1982

Fr. Willie Lechnar, pastor of Good Shepherd R.C. Church in Kent, PA and director of pilgrimages for the Diocese of Greensburg, lead a group of parishioners from across the Diocese of Greensburg to Philadelphia during Pope Francis' recent visit to the United States. He was accompanied by his nephews, Jerome Lechnar (Geibel Class of 2017) and Joe Lechnar '12, a student at Duquesne University.



1992



Brian J. Juriga, DO, was one of three physicians named 2015 Team Physician of the Year by the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association. Brian is the co-medical director of Sports Medicine at Lake Health, a private, not-for-profit leader in community health care in Northeast Ohio. Dr. Juriga and the other honorees were recognized for their dedi-

cation to student athletes and the schools they serve as well as for their support for the profession of athletic training. Dr. Juriga received the award in May at OATA's annual banquet.

Trained as a family physician with specialization in sports medicine, Dr. Juriga provides high quality, compassionate care to all levels of athletes and their families. Dr. Juriga,

who insists on being called Brian by athletes and colleagues, has been the team physician for Mentor High School for the last eight years. In that time he has not only helped athletes overcome injuries and improve themselves physically and mentally but also encouraged them to excel on and off the field. In that same caring manner, Dr. Juriga has also taken on serving at three other schools in Lake County as the direct physician for once-a-week injury checks in an attempt to ensure all the athletes have timely and appropriate care.

"Brian is first and foremost a caring physician," said John Smith, director of Sports Medicine at Lake Health who nominated Dr. Juriga for the award. "He goes above and beyond to provide outstanding care to all athletes, plus he understands the importance of athletics in the lives of children and young adults. Every day he demonstrates a passion for athletic training and a devotion that's truly unique to our profession."

Beyond his sports medicine practice, Dr. Juriga continues to work with the U.S. Paralympics ski team. This assignment has taken him many places over the years, including Sochi, Russia, for the Paralympic Games in 2014. In each experience, Dr. Juriga has provided excellent care for patients and athletes and helped bolster morale and strengthen unity among the team.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Dr. Juriga was also recently named a Fellow by the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Fellows are held in the highest esteem by the sports medicine community and are counted on to mentor and foster development of the Academy.

"I'm honored to be recognized by my colleagues at Lake Health and throughout the sports medicine community," Dr. Juriga said. "The athletic trainers at Lake Health are the best of the best and I'm proud to be a member of the team."

1994



Shawn Holup is Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and Director of Communications at Bishop Canevin High School in Pittsburgh, PA. He oversees eighteen varsity sports and handles student discipline issues within the school. Shawn is also Direc-

tor of Communications at Bishop Canevin, with duties of disseminating school news and updating the school's Facebook and Twitter athletic pages. Prior to working at Bishop Canevin, Shawn taught Social Studies at Greensburg Central Catholic (1998-2008) and Geibel Catholic (2008-2015) where he was Athletic Director and Dean of Students. Shawn and his wife Jade reside in Verona, PA.

1994



Justin Stevenson, an English and Religious Studies teacher at Geibel Catholic, was awarded his Ph.D. in English with a specialization in British Romantic and Early Victorian literature from Duquesne University in August 2015. His dissertation was entitled “Sin, History, and Liberty: Milton, Anna Letitia Barbauld, and Anne

Grant in the Eighteen Hundreds.” Justin has been teaching in the departments of English and Religious Studies at Geibel Catholic for the past seventeen years. He received his Master’s degree in English from Duquesne and his Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Religious Studies from St. Vincent College. Justin resides in Uniontown with his wife Melissa (Flores ’94) and four children, Caelen (a freshman at Geibel Catholic), Maia, Eahn (both students at Conn Area Catholic), and Conel.

1996

Kara (Bodnovich) Brumley is the owner and publisher of Modern Babies & Children magazine, a print publication based in Nashville, TN. There’s a full digital copy of the current issue on the magazine’s resourceful website: www.ModernBabiesAndChildren.com. The magazine recently expanded to include a franchise in Central Florida and they have plans to continue expansion across the country via independent publishers.

Kara earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Child Development from West Virginia University and has since served in various leadership roles in the early education field across the country. Kara and her husband David Brumley ’96 relocated several times before settling in middle Tennessee. They fell in love with Nashville’s southern charm and decided to raise a family there. In February 2011, their family grew exponentially when their twin boys, Kolby and Kooper, were born. Kara realized that the corporate world was not conducive to mothering twins, so *Modern Babies*



and Children was a natural transition. In 2014, a baby girl, Kenzie Lynn, completed their family.

Kara can be followed on Facebook (*Modern Babies and Children* Nashville), Twitter: @MBC_Nashville and Instagram: MBCNashville.

1997

Bernard C. John was sworn in as an assistant district attorney in Fayette County on August 31, 2015. He has been practicing law since 2004 and has been a member of the John and John law firm since 2008. B.J. has been involved with the Fayette County Bar Association as secretary and has served as the co-chairperson of Zone 6 of the Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He has also taught courses at Seton Hill University, Robert Morris University, the Community College of Allegheny County, and at his alma mater, Duquesne University. He is married to Ashley L. John and they have two children – Lucy, age 4, and Simon, age 1.

Geibel Catholic Annual Giving Campaign for 2015-2016 is Underway

Your gift to the Annual Fund makes an immediate and important impact upon our students by supporting education, spirituality, technology, student activities, and building improvements. In addition, the Annual Fund supports our Tuition Assistance Program, helping more students to attend Geibel Catholic who are in need of financial aid. Geibel Catholic is a member of an elite group of national Catholic high schools, and to keep a Geibel Catholic education affordable requires a commitment from all present and past stakeholders of the school. We are forever grateful for your generosity and we are most appreciative for your support.

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Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), select Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Geibel Girls Inducted into Hall of Fame

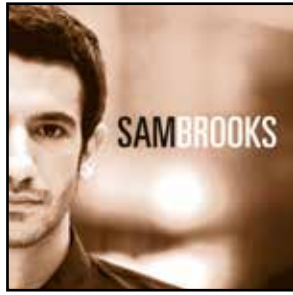


Congratulations to the 1993-1996 Geibel Catholic girls' basketball teams and their coach George Bortz who were inducted into the 2015 Fayette County Sports Hall of Fame on June 20. They won four consecutive WPIAL championships from 1993-1996 and compiled an amazing record of 106-9, including state play-offs. Those attending the induction ceremony were (Front Row L-R:) Jen Sur-las '97, Tara Cochrane '96, Coach George Bortz, Robin Guerriere '96, Meggan Seighman '96. (Back Row L-R:) Michele Marian '98, Erica Hogan '99, Krista Usher '98, Cara Davis, Melissa Beucher '98.

Photo courtesy of Kenny Brooks, KB Photo

2003

Sam Brooks has taken a major step in his music career with the recent release of his first professionally produced album entitled *Sam Brooks*. Sam describes his music as an eclectic mix of classic crooning with elements of jazz, swing, and funk. His biggest influences



are Harry Connick Jr., Frank Sinatra, and Jamie Cullum. The just-released album features a blend of jazz standards and contemporary music. Sam's favorite tune is a cover of Leonard Cohen's *Dance me to the End of Love*. Sam and his band perform throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. The album is available for download on iTunes or through Sam's website: www.sam-brooks.com.

2009

Brendan Costantino recently signed a professional baseball contract with the Lake Erie Crushers in the Frontier League. Brendan was a four-year member of the Seton Hill University Griffin baseball program where he played in 210 games and had a career batting average of .341. He is tied for second in Seton Hill history with 250 hits and second for 120 stolen bases. He is a three time All WVIAC and All Region selection.

2010

Rebecca Sandor is a financial analyst for research and development at Mylan Pharmaceuticals. In her role, she oversees the finances for all R&D activities in Morgantown, WV and in the Southpointe business park offices near Canonsburg, PA. She also supports Mylan's R&D globally. Some



of the activities Rebecca oversees include biostudies of new generic products to Mylan, Generic Drug User Fee Act (GDUFA) regulatory fees that are submitted to the FDA, and purchases of brand name pharmaceuticals as well as active pharmaceutical ingredients and other raw materials. By compiling the above information and applying these costs to specific projects, Rebecca helps support the leaders of R&D in Morgantown in determining which products should be abandoned or pursued.

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Please use this form to update us about yourself so that we may add your information to the upcoming issue of the Geibel Alumni Newsletter, or email your updates, births, weddings and news to newsletter@GeibelCatholic.org.

Name (include maiden name) _____

Class Year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Is your Spouse a Geibel Alum? yes no Class Year _____

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

I would like to receive the Geibel Alumni Newsletter electronically. Please send me an e-mail reminder when the latest issue is available on the Geibel Catholic website.

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



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

REMEMBER

the place that gave you a start in life?

share the opportunity

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