

CREIGHTON PREP  
**ALUMNI  
NEWS**

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-story brick school building. The roof is severely damaged, with large sections of corrugated metal and wooden decking missing, leaving a jagged, exposed structure. Debris is scattered on the ground in front of the building. The building has several rows of windows with white frames. The background shows a residential area with houses and trees under a clear sky.

Remembering  
**May 6, 1975**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, everyone! My name is Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ and I want you to know how blessed I feel to represent the Creighton Prep community as the school's 33rd president. It is a special homecoming for me, having spent time here in regency and as a Governing Board member and chair.

Simply put, Prep is the place where I feel I was truly formed as a teacher, an administrator and, most importantly, a Jesuit, and I am elated to return. With your help and that of many others who understand what a powerful and positive experience this is for young men, I have no doubt that our best days as a school and a community are directly ahead of us.

If you are already part of the Prep cause through your gifts and your counsel to us, I thank you sincerely. If you are not, I invite you to rejoin all of us now in becoming an active steward of the institution Prep has become.

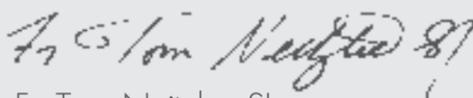
I need your help to meet the challenges that face it today such as rising tuition and alumni re-engagement. In the process, you get to be a path-clearing example to students who long for and deserve the Prep experience but who seriously question its possibility for them. They also need you behind Prep so that they may go on, as you have, to be men in the service of others for God's greater glory.

Speaking of important work on behalf of our students, I want to thank all those who worked so hard and gave so generously to make my first BASH as president, BASH 2015 GAMEDAY, a real success. Among many inspiring moments on Saturday, April 25th, the raise-the-paddle periods were electric and the speech that preceded them by senior David Brown was incredible. Mark your calendars now for BASH 2016 on Saturday, April 23, 2016. You will not want to miss it.

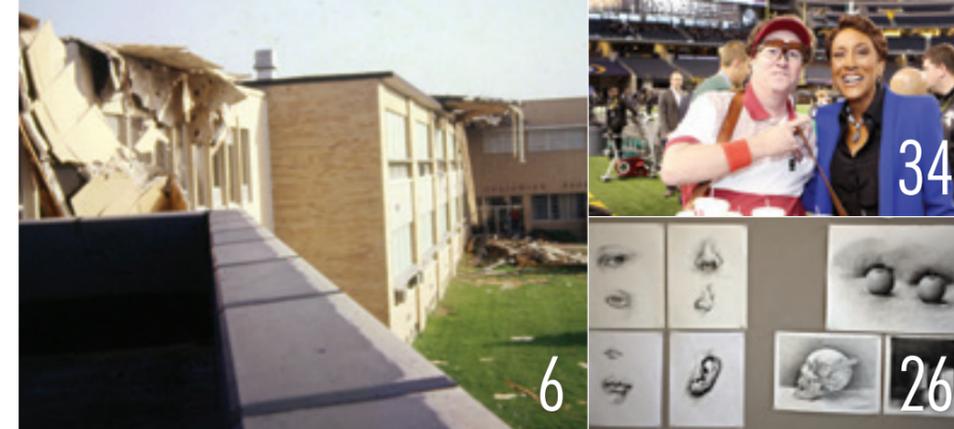
Rest assured also that the class of 2015 has continued the tradition of excellence and selflessness that you added to while here. Among their many accomplishments, 70 percent earned academic scholarships. Of these, 42 received full tuition scholarships and 17 will go on to a tuition-free experience in college. Just as importantly, many were active in the success of Freshman Retreat, Junior Encounter and Operation Others, and over 100 in the class served as Big Brothers to help our freshmen acclimate to Prep.

I want to conclude by thanking four longtime employees for their distinguished service as they pass into a well-earned retirement. They are counselor Mike Culver, science teacher Dave Dow, math teacher **James T. Gross '68** and the assistant to the president, **Rev. George R. Sullivan, S.J. '62**, a former Creighton Prep president himself. I look forward to many of you being in attendance at Prep on Saturday, June 14 when we celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination and his retirement from Prep.

Sincerely,



Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ  
President



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SUNDAY, JUNE 14  
**40th Jubilee Mass and reception for Fr. Burnell B. Bisbee, S.J. '62 and Fr. George R. Sullivan, S.J. '62**  
Creighton Prep

THURSDAY, JULY 16  
**Alumni Gathering Denver**  
Wynkoop Brewing Company

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22  
**Trivia Night**  
Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
**Men for Others Golf Classic**  
Omaha Country Club

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
**Alumni Gathering Chicago**  
Ditka's Restaurant

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3  
**Reunion Weekend**  
Omaha

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2  
**Homecoming Football Game**  
Burke Stadium

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15  
**Alumni Gathering Minneapolis**  
Kieran's Irish Pub

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8  
**Alumni Memorial Mass**  
Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12  
**Loyola Dinner of Honor and Distinction**  
Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25  
**Midnight Mass**  
Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center

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# WELCOME FR. NEITZKE

The Creighton Prep community welcomed Fr. Thomas W. Neitzke, SJ as the school's 33rd president on March 1. Fr. Neitzke was most recently the principal and president of Jesuit Academy, the middle school for fourth to eighth grade students located in North Omaha.

Fr. Neitzke is already well-known to Prep faculty and staff from his 2004-2007 regency at the school that included work as a theology teacher, assistant dean of students and assistant principal for student affairs.

He served Prep most recently as chairman of the Governing Board, a position he relinquished last fall after he was made available to the presidential search committee by the Provincial Superior of the Wisconsin Province Fr. Tom Lawler, S.J. when it became clear to committee and Board members that, among all the excellent candidates for the Creighton Prep presidency, he was the one they preferred.

Also at that point, Patrick J. Duffy '90, president and managing partner of McCarthy Capital, was elected the new chairman of the Governing Board, which voted in November to offer Fr. Neitzke the position of Creighton Prep president.

Fr. Neitzke's mix of teaching, administrative and pastoral experiences made him a uniquely compelling candidate. In addition to his prior work at Prep and Jesuit Academy, his background includes time helping the homeless in the Twin Cities as well as the poor in Chicago and Belize. He has also ministered to prisoners in California and lepers in China, and taught scholastics in Kenya.

Well known for the quick pace he keeps, Fr. Neitzke was busy in the months leading up to March 1 visiting with other Jesuit high school presidents to get even better prepared for his new role while balancing his responsibilities to the Governing Board at Prep, the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the boards of trustees at Brophy College Preparatory, Georgetown Preparatory School and Seattle University.



## Fr. Neitzke Q&A

### What excites you the most about returning to Prep, where you served during your regency?

Prep was one of the most formative experiences I had in my training as a Jesuit. From the first moment I walked in the door in 2004, the faculty mentored me and challenged me to do my best in the classroom. Mr. Naatz and the administration also helped me develop as a teacher and guided me as I navigated the waters of becoming an assistant dean and assistant principal.

The staff, parents, students and alumni all taught me, through their generosity, the true embodiment of being men and women for others.

### Can you tell us about your background and how that has prepared you for the role of president at Prep?

The Jesuits have provided me with a broad range of ministerial and educational opportunities that will serve me well as Prep's president. I earned a master's degree in Catholic school administration from the University of San Francisco and, most recently, my doctorate in leadership from Creighton University. These academic experiences have allowed me to study educational leadership theory and application.

My time as principal and president at Jesuit Academy has helped to form me as a school administrator. I also feel that the many pastoral experiences I have had—whether that was here in Omaha at local parishes or working in China, Belize or Kenya—allow me to bring a well-rounded approach to leadership as Prep's president.

### What do you see as Prep's greatest strengths and where it has the most opportunity for improvement?

The unique Jesuit charism is our greatest strength! Our Holy Father Pope Francis recently told a group of young people attending Jesuits schools that "St. Ignatius teaches us, the main element at school is to learn to be magnanimous. Magnanimity: this virtue of the great and the small, which always makes us look at the horizon. What does being magnanimous mean? It means having a great heart, having greatness of mind; it means having great ideals, the wish to do great things to respond to what God asks of us."

As we continue to enrich the Prep experience, our biggest challenge is to continue to offer the best educational experience to the academically-capable young men in Omaha, regardless of their economic status.

### In what ways can alumni best support the ongoing, formative mission of Prep?

It is my hope that our alumni proudly proclaim with their lives the ideals that were offered to them while they were students at Prep.

Father General Pedro Arrupe, S.J. might have said it best in 1973 when he reminded Jesuit school alumni that they are to be "men who do not live not for themselves but for God and his Christ...men who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors." I have witnessed Prep's alumni do this on a daily basis in our city and across the world. Their witness to this high Jesuit ideal will do more than anything to support the formative mission of Prep.

Of course, we very much need their help in meeting our biggest challenge of offering the best educational experience to those who need financial assistance to make their dream to attend Prep a reality. Generous alumni gifts to the AMDG Fund are critical to this.

### Prep's mission is to form men for others. With the emphasis that Pope Francis has placed on serving the poor, do you see opportunities for Prep students to expand their work in this area?

Our Holy Father challenges all of us in Jesuit schools to never "retreat into yourselves or into your own small world, but rather be open to others, especially the poorest and the neediest. Be men and women for and with others: true champions in the service of others."

We have many academic and athletic championships at Prep but we must remember that we have to follow Jesus in the mission of the Gospel, which means that all of us at Prep (students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff) must also be seen as champions to the poorest of the poor in Omaha and the world.



# REMEMBERING MAY 6, 1975

The tornado moving up 72nd Street as seen looking west from the former Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack.  
Photograph by Bob Dunn, provided courtesy of the Douglas County Historical Society

*Almost exactly 40 years ago, the memories of the late afternoon of Tuesday, May 6, 1975 still live vividly in the minds of many in the Creighton Prep community. On that day, the most damaging tornado to date in United States history appeared in southwest Omaha and cleared a path up 72nd Street to Prep, where it leveled enormous destruction that brought into real question the very survival of the school.*

“I had been at a funeral in South Omaha and was driving back to Prep with Fr. Kanne and Fr. Hindelang when we heard the sirens around Bergan Mercy Hospital,” said the Rev. Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, S.J. recently, who was principal at the time. “After I heard those, I thought, ‘I can’t get through 72nd & Dodge.’ So I drove us around a back road to Prep. I wanted to get there to make sure we could get the student athletes off the field and into the basement.”

Once that was done, Fr. Dutkiewicz as well as other Prep Jesuits and school personnel made haste to the basement of the Jesuit residence where they waited out the storm. After it passed, Fr. Dutkiewicz—“Dutch” as he still known to his friends—began to assess the damage.

“When the all clear was given, I went upstairs and looked over to the east side of 72nd Street. All the buildings were gone. I saw the Ambassador (a care facility just north of the running track) had problems, too, and people ran into there to see if they could help. Then Bill Callahan (S.J.) and I walked through the school. I contacted the insurance company and they were out there in an hour or so. They had all sorts of people.”

As the insurers would find out, the hit to Prep from this category F4 tornado was severe. Though the building survived, half the roof was gone, many of the windows were blown out and the backstop on the baseball field was bent over toward the ground. A damaged car was lying upside down on the track and debris was everywhere, both inside and outside the building, not only from Prep but from some of the thousands of other buildings that were either damaged or destroyed that day.

With a major section of Douglas County in tatters, the National Guard was called out, a curfew area established—one that included Prep—and a 7:30 p.m. curfew put in place to help secure property and prevent looting. Still, the Omaha World-Herald counted 19 arrests on that first night.

Miraculously, the simple, metal athletic building at the north end of the school—affectionately known as the Tin Gym—survived virtually unscathed and briefly served as a base of operations for academics. “Because this was May, we decided to call off school,” recalled Fr. Dutkiewicz. “If students wanted to get a better grade, they could go to the Tin Gym (to take a final exam). It was the only part of the school that wasn’t damaged.”

SECOND FLOOR STAIRWELL  
(MINUS ROOF)



BASEBALL FIELD  
BACKSTOP



DEBRIS CLEANUP



In the days that immediately followed, countless Prepsters carpooled to school to help with the cleanup, spending the warm days of early May creating large piles of refuse in the west parking lot for eventual transfer to waste facilities.

When asked how it was possible for Prep to be rebuilt in time for the late August beginning of the next school year, Fr. Dutkiewicz's reply was simple. "(Former Facilities Director) Walt Flint is mostly responsible for that. He called the contractors and supervised the whole reconstruction."

Like Fr. Dutkiewicz and many others in Omaha that day, Walt remembered exactly where he was when it all started. "I was in a shop area by the boiler, talking to a vendor," said Walt. "I had the radio on and was hearing about a couple of tornadoes, one in Gretna and another in Council Bluffs. Then I hear the fire alarm go off and I'm thinking, 'This is crazy. We've got sirens outside telling people to go inside and our fire alarm was telling people to go outside. The soccer players were understandably confused. One of them ran by me on the way out and I pulled him back in to the building and told him 'Get back to the locker room. You're safe there.'"

There was no fire at Prep, Walt explained. It was the change in air pressure related to the storm that had triggered the alarm. "The next thing I know, there's a flash of light (in the north stairwell) and the tornado is taking waste cans, dirt, anything loose right up that shaft. And the door to the maintenance room was vacuum-shut for about 10-15 seconds until the pressure equalized."

Shortly thereafter, a young scholastic threw Walt a hard hat and said, "You better get this on because I think the roof's off." By then, power was out and the fire alarm had stopped so Walt ran up the middle stairwell to begin damage assessment.

Walt recalled, "I looked into classrooms and there was nothing there. I mean, the roof was gone." The tornado

and its accompanying pressure had taken the roof from the classrooms on the west side of the second floor and sandwiched it on top of the east side of the roof, destroying it. He then went classroom-by-classroom on the second floor until a concrete block fell right beside him and he decided it was safer to be downstairs.

After cutting power and water in the building and making sure everyone was okay, Walt started calling contractors and they arrived the next day. Fr. Dutkiewicz had also called a meeting for all faculty members that morning. "Some said, 'Is this the end of Prep?'" Walt recalled. "So I stood up and said, 'No, it'll be ready by fall.' I don't know where I got that from but Dutch looked at me and said, 'Yeah, we'll be ready in the fall.' And right then we shut the school down."

What followed for Fr. Dutkiewicz, Walt Flint, the contractors and many other helping hands who wanted to meet that August deadline was seven-day work weeks and long hours. "I didn't hardly sleep for two or three weeks," said Walt. "One day, I kind of had control of things and was sitting at my desk and my head was dropping over. So I laid my head down on the desk then one of my guys came in and checked my pulse to make sure I was still alive."

Fr. Dutkiewicz noticed how hard Walt was working for Prep and that the summer plan Walt had to put an addition on his house just west of Prep had been placed on hold. So he offered to help Walt build the addition. After that, they spent their days for the remainder of that summer rebuilding Prep and many evenings working on Walt's home. In the process, they became lifelong friends.

"Once we had the (Prep) roof buttoned up and the heating plant going, that helped a lot," Walt said. "When school opened in the fall, we were a little surprised we made it. But we had good contractors and good people and everybody was here on time. We got a lot of support from the city, too."

For their great service to the school, Fr. Dutkiewicz and Walt Flint would go on to be inducted in the Creighton Prep Hall of Fame. After leaving Prep in 1980, Fr. Dutkiewicz worked at the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts before helping manage the finances of the Wisconsin Province prior to his retirement just a few years ago. Walt officially retired from Prep on July 6, 2007 after 43 years and returned to help supervise the large addition to the school that was completed in late 2009.

Their memories of the 1975 tornado's impact on Prep are two of many. What follows is a snapshot of a few others from the Prep community who will never forget that fateful day either.

TIME TORNADO HIT:  
4:46 PM



# WHERE WERE YOU?

For more photos from the Tornado of '75, scan the QR code to the right with a QR code-reading app on your smartphone.



## JOSEPH P. PRUSA '76

After school I hurried to my job at Bergan Mercy Hospital and was setting up for a fund-raising dinner on the top floor of the building...I could see the distant storm clouds approaching from the southwest with what seemed to be birds on the edges of the funnel, what I later understood to be rooftops and other debris.

At 4:20 p.m. we hurried to the basement of the hospital just as the funnel hit the building, cutting all power and lights. In the darkness the ceiling tiles suspended overhead dropped onto our heads from the negative pressure. The emergency power kicked on after a few minutes and outside I then could see many dozens of cars swept up in big piles against the building.

Taking the stairway up to the top floor I emerged to find all the glass walls had been shattered and every table and chair pulled off the rooftop, a certain death if we had not abandoned our work a few minutes earlier.

## DON W. GIBBS '76

My math class was Analysis with Mr. Flagg – one of the greatest teachers ever. The next day was the chapter 13 test. I had not done one thing in chapter 13 yet!

I was on the varsity baseball team. May 6, 1975 was a gorgeous day (until tornado time). For God knows what reason, coach George Kocsis (R.I.P.) called off practice on that perfect spring day. I hustled home to start cramming for the test which I had no chance of passing! The tornado spared me from bombing that test.

The day after the tornado, I went to Prep to help with the cleanup. I spent hours outside on the upper football field/track picking up debris. The only vehicles allowed on 72nd street were Red Cross army jeeps. May 7, 1975 was a very warm and blue skies day. In the afternoon a Red Cross jeep stopped and gave a few of us the best meal I've ever had. It was a cheese only sandwich. A slice of Velveeta between two pieces of Wonder bread.

## STEVEN G. POWELL '75

I worked at Brandeis at the Crossroads after school ... the public address system announced that a tornado was heading toward us, and all customers were directed to go to the basement of the Crossroads to wait out the storm. I helped people find their way toward the shelter, then foolishly decided that I wanted to watch the tornado.

I stepped outside the north wall and saw the funnel cloud coming down 72nd Street. When it got too close, I stepped inside with my back to the inside concrete wall. The tornado passed over, and the glass entry doors blew in but did not shatter. The doors closed, and I walked outside to see the destruction in the parking lot. It was eerily silent like the eye of a hurricane.

## MARK E. EHRHART '75

I remember the '75 tornado well. I was supposed to be at school that afternoon serving a jug. I had promised my father that I would be available to work with him that afternoon. He needed help in the field with a quick project that he needed to get out that night ... so I explained my situation to Father Laughlin. He seemed unsympathetic and reminded me that I would own him five additional jugs if I missed that one. As intimidating as Fr. Laughlin could be, my dad was more. I worked with my dad that afternoon.

I was at home by the time the sirens went off. It was the first time my father joined us in our basement shelter during a tornado warning so I knew something big was going down outside. Of course we heard that Prep had been hit and could only wonder what this meant for us finishing off our last month of school. We eventually found out that we were to return to school and meet with all of our teachers. The school had tables set up in the gym, attended by each teacher. We were to check our grades with our respective teachers and if they were above passing we were good to go.

Being a senior it meant getting out of school weeks early and it also meant I had gotten away without serving any jugs. I remember ducking Fr. Laughlin that day in the gym, because, in spite of the tragedy, he might remember that I still owed him those jugs. Of course, weeks later at our graduation rehearsal at the Orpheum Theater, Fr. Laughlin cornered me, tapped his finger on my chest and said, "You still owe me those jugs!" After a long pause, he just laughed, patted me on the back and said, "congratulations, have a great summer."

## JOHN F. MONTAG, S.J. '78

There we were, some twenty-odd students and a few friends/family who had arrived to give us rides, loitering in the hallway under the gym, next to the old weight room. Soon enough, Tim Rogers and I got bored, and decided to check out things, so we went up the steep stairs next to the old band room, to the east door. As soon as we opened it, the door slammed hard against the building; there were some fairly brisk winds about.

I could see, up across 72nd Street, that the sky was very dark, and I thought I could see a thin tornado dropping down around 69th or so. Then, I stuck my head out a bit further, and saw it: an enormous black wall of—everything! Dirt, wind, water, asphalt, roofing materials, birds, tree branches, canceled checks (millions of them)—all slowly spinning on a hidden axis, right over John A Gentleman's (I cannot fathom how that place survived.)

Within a second, I had turned, terrified, to leap down the stairs. Within that same second, the door slammed shut behind me, and my ears wanted to burst. In the very same instant, all the chicken-wired windows above the locker rooms burst out; the power failed; alarms went off, and the emergency hall lights came on in the stairwell.

## KENT M. STORMBERG '77

I was on 72nd Street in front of the Baker's grocery store, a block or so north of Prep. Suddenly, the wind picked up, and soon debris from rooftops was flying overhead and a loud, thundering sound, like a train, was coming right over me. It immediately became clear that I wasn't making it home. In fact, I wasn't even going another block without running straight into the tornado.

So I pulled my Volkswagen Rabbit to the curb and dove head first into the passenger seat, rolling down the passenger side window at the same time. I wanted to roll down all the windows but it was too late. A split second later the car's windows – windshield and back and side windows – imploded, blowing tiny shards of glass throughout the car and onto me. The rest of the summer my friends and I drove the Rabbit around town sans windows until we could get it fixed; insurance companies were swamped with claims. With no windshield, we wore ski goggles – lots of fun and weird looks from other drivers.

## LOUIS G. FINOCCHIARO '77

After a few days the faculty/students of Creighton Prep and the families in destroyed dwellings surrounding our school gathered together to create a sense of community that to this day still remains with all of us ... Gone were their homes, their belongings and their vehicles. One house would be completely razed while another right next to it was hardly affected. It was a very profound situation for young impressionable Prepsters to say the least.

## THERON M. WILLIAMS '65

I have a unique perspective on the events of May 6, 1975 as I was the commander of the first Army National Guard unit activated for storm duty. The situation hit close to home. I grew up in the Westgate neighborhood and my parents were home the day of the storm. My wife and I attended Westgate grade school and as the pictures show there was not much left of the school at the end of the day. I also saw the Prep damage up close.

Commanding the guard unit allowed city wide travel thus you could see the extent of the damage first hand. The unit reported and we started placing traffic control and security personnel throughout southwest Omaha. I was concerned as we worked our way through the Westgate area that friends would be found hurt or deceased ... fortunate, as all were well. The real damage, I would call it shock, was on the face of residents (adults who I had known as a grade school student and Prepster) who realized they had escaped with a close call and were now dealing with the realization that all possessions were lost.

There were strange sights and scenes all over west Omaha during the night. Examples: 72nd Street was in total darkness. What was then the Ralston Bank at 84th and L was minus a roof. It seemed strange to walk into a bank and see no paper. The next day bank management had moved a conference table into the parking lot for an outdoor meeting. The most striking item was the resilience of the people of Omaha.

2015

# ATHLETIC Hall of Fame

*On Monday, March 9, Creighton Prep recognized the following for their outstanding contributions to the athletic program at the school. Their commitment, achievement and sense of sportsmanship set the standard for the young athletes who follow in their footsteps today.*



Ray Henningsen '40 (dec.)  
BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL



John D. "Jack" Diesing, Jr. '63  
FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND GOLF



Bob Green '78  
TENNIS



Ted Parks '76  
BASKETBALL



Kevin Munro '81  
FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL



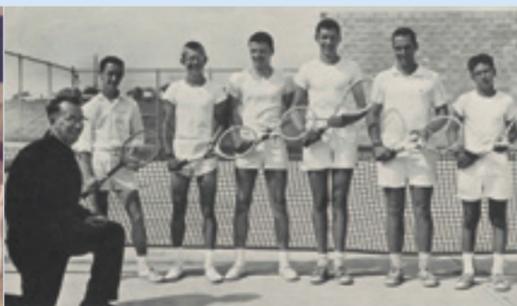
Jeff Leise '99  
FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL



Shirley & Larry Good '69  
CONTRIBUTORS

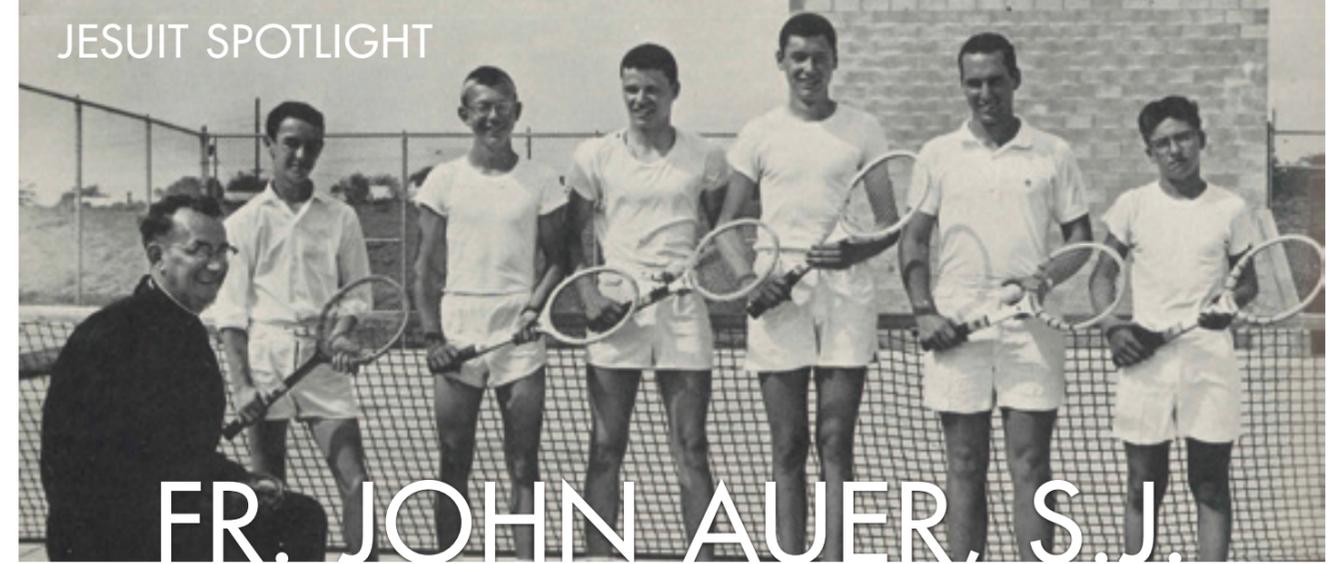


1981 Basketball Team  
Terry Kocsis (coach), Brother Mike Wilmot, S.J. (head coach), Virg Beckmann (coach), Tim Jackson, Jim Swanson, Kirk Trotter, Paul Ritzdorf, Chris True, Kerry Trotter, Vic Lazzaretti, Don Mailliard, Mike Harris, Jeff Koenigsman, Richard Harrison, Jeff Millard, Paul Knust, Scott Sibbersen (coach), Ed Witt (trainer), John Sanley (coach), Bill Laird (coach)



Fr. John Auer, S.J. (dec.)  
TENNIS

## JESUIT SPOTLIGHT



# FR. JOHN AUER, S.J.

*Fr. John Auer, S.J. was born in Menasha, Wisconsin in 1911 and graduated from Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin in 1929 not knowing that the years he spent studying under the influence of the Jesuits at Campion would direct him to a lifetime of leading, teaching and coaching thousands of young men at Creighton Prep.*



After many wins and a number of state titles, his reputation for consistency and coaching excellence became widespread. So much so that a writer for the 1961 Jay Junior remarked in the annual, "There are few coaches in the Intercity League who can remember when Fr. Auer had a losing team."

Longtime Spanish teacher and Creighton Prep Hall of Fame member Gerry Machado was hired by Fr. Auer in 1969 and the two worked closely together for 10 years. Gerry recalled meeting Fr. Auer for the first time during his interview for a teaching position, having just earned his master's from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The two met informally for 30 minutes, after which Fr. Auer ended the conversation with a simple handshake and the announcement, "You're hired so keep an eye out for human resource materials in the mail." Though key details of the hiring were not discussed at the meeting, Gerry knew instantly that Fr. Auer was special and that his handshake and his word went a long way.

He also recalled that Fr. Auer did not like meetings, especially in the morning before class. His preference for dealing with a teacher's gripe was to talk with them one-on-one, come up with a solution and be done with it. "You always knew where you stood with him," said Gerry. "He would go out of his way to show the right way and the wrong way of doing things."

Fr. Auer retired from the classroom in 1979 and took over as the house librarian, writing an early version of Prep history. He died in 1989 and will be forever remembered not only as one of the all-time great tennis coaches in the state of Nebraska but also as a man of integrity, a talented teacher and one of the legendary Jesuits at Prep.

After graduating from Campion, Fr. Auer earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Latin and Greek from Saint Louis University and would later receive his Ph.L. from the school. He also eventually received his S.T.L. from St. Mary's College in Kansas.

Assigned to Creighton Prep for his regency from 1937 to 1939, Fr. Auer was later missioned to the school full-time as a Spanish teacher from 1946 to 1979 and became a close confidant of school principal **Rev. Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. '10**. In the late 1950s, Fr. Auer and Frs. Dougherty, Haller, Niemann and Strange were instrumental in implementing the Creighton Prep campus move from 24th & California to its current location at 74th & Western.

He accepted the role of tennis coach during his first year at the school, which began a very successful 18-year coaching career that included 15 Intercity titles and nine state titles.

# PLEASE REMEMBER

JUNE 17, 2014 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2015

*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.  
All I have and call my own. Whatever I have or hold, you have given me.  
I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly to be governed by your will.  
Give me only your love and grace and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.*

## St. Ignatius of Loyola

### ALUMNI

**Stephen J. Abariotes '78,**  
brother of Timothy '80, Theodore '81

**David E. Abboud '54,**  
father of Baron '85, Jason '88, brother of John '59

**Michael J. Baines '63**

**John P. Bendon '78,**  
father of John '09

**Anthony L. Blessner '65,**  
brother of Joseph '66, Paul '69, Francis '72

**William F. Boyle '39,**  
father of Terence '65, grandfather of Connor Flood '09,  
Edward Flood '11

**Richard L. Brennan, Jr. '52,**  
brother of William '54

**Henry G. Brown '50**

**John D. Burke '53**

**John M. Burke '62**

**Thomas F. Burke '48,**  
brother of Paul '44

**John F. Crozier '43,**  
grandfather of Patrick Sechser '03, Mitchell Johnson '11,  
Nathan Johnson '13, brother of Robert '41 (dec.), William '46

**Michael R. Drahotka '70,**  
father of Michael '00, brother of Larry '74

**H. Renne Edmunds '49**

**Warren J. Flearl '77**

**Richard L. Gamache '80**

**Robert F. Getsfred '48**

**Shaun M. Hassett '76,**  
son of Thomas '45

**Timothy G. Heaston '63,**  
brother of William '61, Patrick '64, George '70, Harve '76 (dec.),  
grandson of William Lynch 1899 (dec.)

**Thomas A. Hermanek '52,**  
father of Thomas '78, Hugh '91, brother of Joseph '49

**Mark S. Jackson '79,**  
brother of Greg '75, Kevin '77

**J. Peter Jeffrey '51,**  
father of J. Peter '74, Scott '76, grandfather of Noah '17,  
brother of C. Robert '42 (dec.), James '46 (dec.)

**John C. Kocarnik Jr. '66,**  
son of John '32 (dec.), grandson of Frances 1899 (dec.),  
brother of Thomas '61

**Frank J. Kruntorad '60**

**John F. Ladenburger '57**

**Anthony L. LaGreca '45,**  
brother of Samuel '43 (dec.)

**Matthew D. Markel '69,**  
son of Robert '43 (dec.), father of Nicholas '97, Brian '04,  
stepfather of Gage Rohwer '10, Cale Rowher '12, brother  
of Daniel '82, James '83

**William N. Marx '69**

**James B. Maxey, Jr. '67**

**Thomas W. McGee '56,**  
brother of John '47, James '49

**Michael P. Mullen '47,**  
father of Sean '74, Todd '78, grandfather of Tyler '02, Connor '06,  
Parker '08, Peter '12, Foster '13, Spencer '16, Christian Doyle '05,  
Michael Doyle '11

**Anthony C. Nanfito '68,**  
son of Charles '34 (dec.), father of Thaddeus '93

**John H. Nelle, Jr. '47,**  
brother of James '52

**Daniel E. Nelson '49**

**Charles A. Nields '49,**  
grandfather of Ryan Wood '13

**D. Michael Nolan '64**

**Robert J. Pazderka '46,**  
father of Gregory '72

**Richard A. Raleigh '72,**  
brother of John '60, James '62, William '64

**Rev. Gerald T. Regan, S.J. '49,**  
brother of Patrick '50 (dec.), Michael '55

**Edward T. Rosse '51**

**Robert F. Rossiter '49,**  
grandfather of Robert '04

**Frances P. Scalzo '47,**  
brother of Joseph '43 (dec.)

**Leonard J. Schwee '54,**  
brother of James '57 (dec.), Daniel '69

**Timothy M. Shane '68,**  
brother of Donald '60

**Arleton B. Shannon '38**

**Clifford A. Shearon '63**

**George F. Smith, Jr. '68,**  
son of George '39 (dec.), brother of Patrick '73, Michael '78

**Milton J. Swartz, Jr. '48,**  
father of John '94

**Edward C. Sweigard '50,**  
brother of Michael '65, William '66

**Francis J. Tomcykowski '52,**  
brother of William '54 (dec.), Michael '65

**Joseph A. Troia '42,**  
father of Thomas '72, grandfather of Samuel '11,  
Thomas Penka '92

**Thomas M. Whitman '65,**  
father of Tyler '97, brother of Richard '74

### WIVES

**Mary Benson,**  
wife of Robert '48

**Olive J. (Cantoni) Circo,**  
widow of John Cantoni '37 (dec.), mother of Dennis '65,  
grandmother of Christopher '87

**Rosemary C. Daly,**  
widow of Leo '35, mother of Leo '60, John '64 (dec.)

**Madeline C. Dineen,**  
widow of Thomas '40, mother of Thomas '67, Daniel '78,  
Edward '81, Richard '83, grandmother of Thomas '90,  
William '10, Caleb '12, Kevin '13, Michael Prendergast '98,  
Patrick Prendergast '00, Brian Nelsen '05

**Ruth E. Donovan,**  
widow of Donald '40, mother of Dennis '67

**Heather L. Dougherty,**  
wife of Joel '92

**Joan D. Ficenek,**  
widow of Joseph '39, mother of Joseph '67, grandmother of  
Joseph '00, Joseph Skudlarek '93, J. Andrew Skudlarek '95,  
Daniel Skudlarek '98, Peter Jessen '02

**Gloria J. Flynn,**  
widow of John '49, mother of Michael '73, James '75,  
Timothy '76, Daniel '85, grandmother of Ryan '06,  
Kyle Johnson '06, Colin Johnson '10

**Mary C. "M.C." Garvey,**  
widow of William '35, mother of William '60

**Lorri L. Juarez,**  
wife of James '74

**Patricia M. Jurgensen,**  
wife of W. Gerald '69

**Patricia C. Kalamaja,**  
widow of James '59, mother of Joseph '89,  
grandmother of Theodore Potter '04,  
daughter of William Wachtler '41 (dec.)

**Loletta I. Kirchner,**  
widow of John '31

**Jane A. Lassek,**  
wife of Anthony '57

**Joseph F. Coyle,**  
father of Patrick '85

**Robert G. Cunningham,**  
father of Robert '75, grandfather of John Kozlik '08

**John L. Daly,**  
father of John '79

**John E. DeMay,**  
father of J. Mark '79

**William L. Donnelly,**  
father of Timothy '75, Thomas '77

**Frank J. Dufek,**  
father of Francis '82, James '85

**Edward H. Dworak,**  
father of Michael '69

**Jonathan M. Epley,**  
father of Jonathan '97

**Sebastian "Yano" Falcone,**  
father of Carl '73, Joseph '74

**Richard E. Formico,**  
father of Christopher '77, grandfather of Jeremy Sambol '99,  
Joshua Sambol '01

**Leon E. Gallagher,**  
father of Mark '74

**William J. Gallagher,**  
father of William '71, Mark '72, John '74, James '78, Richard '79

**Mary Collette Lee,**  
widow of H. Thomas '48, mother of Michael '79, Daniel '82,  
grandmother of Alexander Pekelder '10

**Alice I. McGowan,**  
widow of Robert '38, father of Robert '67, Richard '76, Patrick '79,  
grandmother of Mark '02, Kevin '05, Daniel McCandless '02,  
Scott McCandless '07, Robert Gambrel '04, Michael Gambrel '07

**Mary E. Primeau,**  
widow of Harry '40, mother of Lawrence '65

**Ruth P. Reynek,**  
widow of Richard '43

**Christine M. Safranek,**  
wife of Francis '71

**Dorothy "Vonnice" Spellman,**  
widow of Walter '46, mother of W. Gregory '76, Douglas '78,  
Kevin '81, grandmother of Ryan '09, William '14

**Dorothy M. Vail,**  
widow of Ray '37

**John F. Gardiner, Jr.,**  
father of John '74

**David J. Gnarra,**  
father of Michael '98

**Charles M. Graz,**  
father of John '85

**Robert I. Gunderson,**  
father of R. G. '64

**Kenneth E. Gustafson,**  
father of Nicholas '02

**Henry J. Hilger,**  
father of David '79

**Jerald A. Hurtz,**  
father of Mark '80 (dec.)

**Ralph Juliano,**  
father of Nicholas '91

**Robert F. Kassmeier,**  
father of Randy '70, Rodney '72, grandfather of Robert '99,  
Jacob Denker '10

**Russell V. Kelly,**  
father of Steven '86

**John L. Landen,**  
father of John '63 (dec.), grandfather of Edward Militti '84

**Robert J. Lawton,**  
father of Robert '18

FATHERS *(continued)*

**Cameron W. Lind,**  
father of Cameron '68

**John E. Lynch,**  
father of Richard '61

**Terrence P. Maher,**  
father of Steven '03, Joseph '09

**Francis R. McGill,**  
father of Timothy '67, grandfather of Eric '01, Matthew '02, Jeffrey '05

**Joseph A. Miklas,**  
father of Joseph '72, Timothy '77, Robert '78, William '80

**Joseph A. Novotny,**  
father of Joseph '68, grandfather of Douglas '95

**Joseph V. Prusa,**  
father of Joseph '76, Thomas '79, Matthew '86, grandfather of Alex '13, Michael Brich '09

**Bernard W. Reznicek,**  
stepfather of Michael Dugan '86, Jeffrey Dugan '91, Dennis Dugan '92, grandfather of John-Henry Theisen '13

**Richard H. Sheumaker,**  
father of Philip '86, Andrew '88

**Michael H. Simmonds,**  
father of Kevin '89, Shawn '05

**Frederick "Fritz" Simpson,**  
stepfather of Robert Rohling '78, Thomas Rohling '81

**Joseph J. Skudlarek, Sr.,**  
father of Joseph '68, grandfather of Joseph '93, J. Andrew '95, Daniel '98

**Donald D. Snoddy,**  
father of Theodore '97

**Emil F. Sodoro,**  
father of Carl '67, John '71, Patrick '00, Thomas '04, grandfather of William Selde '02, Joseph Selde '03, Steven Selde '07

**Jack E. Teshack,**  
father of Edward '67

**Adelio "Dan" Tosoni,**  
father of Daniel '63, grandfather of Joseph '00

**Karl E. Rochell-Webb,**  
father of Karl '89

**John MacRae Williams,**  
father of Lawrence '61, Richard '65, Donald '67 (dec.), grandfather of J. Matthew '02, Gregory '05

**Robert V. Williams,**  
father of Bartholomew '89

**Jeanne P. Peters,**  
mother of K. Reed '65, David '69, grandmother of Douglas '97, Gregory '99, Daniel '01, Christopher '04, David Johansen '92

**Dolores K. Piccolo,**  
mother of Frank '65

**Janet Pilon,**  
mother of Thomas '63, Mark '70, grandmother of Bryan Gates '00

**Allice M. Reardon,**  
mother of Timothy '64

**Ruth C. Richling,**  
mother of Theodore '63, Dennis '70, Larry '71, Brian '73 (dec.), John '78, grandmother of Bradley '99

**Mary Ann Riss,**  
mother of Michael '65

**Rosemary Ryan,**  
mother of Joseph '87

**Alice Slovek,**  
stepmother of Robert '76, step-grandmother of Quintin '06, Benjamin '09

**Irene Stark,**  
mother of Robert Slovek '76, grandmother of Quintin '06, Benjamin '09

**Virginia A. Sullivan,**  
mother of Mark '75, Michael '80, Peter '83, grandmother of John Mowat '18

**Cecilia S. Teshack,**  
mother of Edward '67

**Marjorie K. Thiel,**  
mother of S. Joseph '82, grandmother of Augustine '07, Louis '16

**Barbara A. Wall,**  
mother of Joseph '02

**Rosemary Welch,**  
mother of S. Joseph Ferro '57 (dec.), Anthony Ferro '75 (dec.)

**Jo A. Wettengel,**  
mother of Andrew '94

MOTHERS

**Colleen M. Abraham,**  
mother of Steven '83, Michael '84 (dec.), David '87

**Patricia K. Bennett,**  
mother of Richard '82, Christopher '83, Paul '88, John '93

**Marie A. Biga,**  
mother of Emil '61, Timothy '65 (dec.)

**Morella A. Buda,**  
mother of Anthony '68

**Blanche M. Buglewicz,**  
mother of Michael '70

**Rosalyn C. Burton,**  
mother of Anthony '73

**Rita Buttell,**  
mother of William '68, grandmother of William '91, Phillip '94, Timothy '96

**Sharon K. Cahow,**  
mother of Scott '90

**Joan M. Circo,**  
mother of Daniel '67, Thomas '68, Richard '73, Ronald '77

**Melva J. Cotton,**  
mother of Kirk Trotter, '82, Kerry Trotter '82

**Helen L. DeMay,**  
mother of J. Mark '79

**Dorothy M. Dillon,**  
mother of Thom '65

**Jean L. Dolphin,**  
mother of Brian '76

**Mary B. Dunbar,**  
mother of Mark '77, Brian '78, Andrew '84

**Mary Lou Dunn,**  
mother of Paul '71, John '72

**Rosemary C. Dunn,**  
mother of Daniel '65, Kevin '70, Timothy '71, Gene '77, Michael '78, Patrick '79

**Patricia A. Enenbach,**  
mother of Mathew '90

**Alicia M. Fischer,**  
mother of John '84, grandmother of Michael Matz '14

**Margaret A. Flinn,**  
mother of Matthew '67, grandmother of Michael '16

**Normande Gamache,**  
mother of Richard '80 (dec.), grandmother of Joseph Lindsay '11, Daniel Lindsay '12, Thomas Lindsay '14

**Joyce C. Goaley,**  
mother of Gregory '81, Mark '82, grandmother of Nicholas Cheloha '14

**Paula M. Haddad,**  
mother of Edward '74, grandmother of Edward '15

**Dorley F. Hautzinger,**  
mother of George '67, Lawrence '68, grandmother of Kevin '97, Joseph '01

**Patricia A. Hosking,**  
mother of J. Martin '83, Michael '84

**Adeline M. Hubschman,**  
mother of James '60, grandmother of Terence Gradoville '80, David Beda '85

**Marcella Jones,**  
mother of Lawrence '66

**Sylvia I. Kielian,**  
mother of James '72

**Darlene Kiser,**  
mother of Gary '72

**Margaret Kohlmeier,**  
mother of Ronald '82

**Mary Alice Krejci,**  
mother of John '73, James '77

**Irene D. LaPuzza,**  
mother of Thomas '64, William '65

**Josephine F. Liston,**  
mother of Nicholas '86

**Patricia L. Madden,**  
mother of Timothy '79

**Doris P. Mascher,**  
mother of Ronald '63

**Marguerite S. Mason,**  
mother of G. Joseph '70, William '73, Douglas '82, Matthew '86

**Edith M. McMahon,**  
mother of John '76, William '78, Robert '84, grandmother of Ryan '02, Colin '05

**Barbara K. Mikulicz,**  
mother of Timothy '84

**Carmen L. Novoa,**  
mother of Roberto '83 (dec.), grandmother of Robert '03, Nicholas '08

**Mary L. O'Doherty,**  
mother of Michael Salzbrener '70

**Mary Louise Padrnos,**  
mother of Jon '98

CHILDREN

**Debbie A. Berume,**  
daughter of Colette and Joseph Piccolo '52

**Lori J. Budd,**  
daughter of Joan and Richard Hautzinger '46

**Theresa C. Clark,**  
daughter of Irene and Andrew Bellus, Jr. '31 (dec.), sister of John Bellus '58, Joseph Bellus '59

**Matthew L. Cushing,**  
son of Jeannette and Paul '49

**Sally M. Furay,**  
daughter of Marguerite and Guy 1896, sister of Guy '42 (dec.), Conal '45

**Aaron C. Krejci,**  
son of Tommy and Mark Krejci '91, brother of Bryan '09

**Mary Lou Larkin,**  
daughter of Henrietta and Mark Larkin 1914 (dec.), sister of James '41, Mark '49 (dec.)

**Jesse R. Peetz,**  
son of Melanie and Forrest Peetz '69, brother of Jacob '01

FORMER FACULTY OR STAFF

Rev. W. Richard Ott, S.J.

*To notify Creighton Prep of the passing of a Prep community member, please contact Terri Haller at 402.548.3845 or [thall@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:thall@prep.creighton.edu).*

Rev. James L. Michalski, S.J.

April 30, 1942 – December 6, 2014

Fr. Michalski was the driving force behind the creation of the student-led Freshman Retreat program that is still, for many Prep students, the defining event that binds them to their classmates and to the school for life. He was also the founding president, chaplain and religion teacher at Jesuit Academy in North Omaha, where his good friend and Prep's 33rd president, Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ, succeeded him.



Former Prep instructors honor longtime colleague, friend and veteran

Former Prep instructors Bob Willits, Jeannie Brayman and Judy Petersen purchased a commemorative brick in honor of their longtime colleague, friend and veteran Bob Baratta who passed on April 27, 2014. The brick was presented during a ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico last fall.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 25, 2014 TO MARCH 30, 2015

## WEDDINGS

Amy Bolamperti married Jordan Bullington '05  
Dr. Caroline Dowers married Dr. Rick Bloomingdale '05  
Rachel Bloom married Daniel Pojar '06  
Hayley Moormeier married Alexander Post '06  
Madeline Krampfer married Scott T. Quinn '09  
Michelle C. Demateis married Paul J. Schmitt '01  
Rachel Rohlfing married Aaron Zurek '00

## BIRTHS

Julie and Peter Dobleman '05 welcomed their first son, Peter J. Dobleman Jr., in July.

## ANNIVERSARIES

40 Years  
Bobbi and John Matyja '71

50 Years  
Mary Ann and Richard Dunning '54  
Susan and LeRoy Foreman '57  
Barbara and Donald Kish '56  
(correction from the Summer 2014 Alumni News)  
Mary Ann and Walter "Tony" Raynor '57  
Sharon and John Reefer '53  
Jane and Michael Ryan '60

# TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

\$200 per Table of 8  
10 Rounds of Questions  
Prizes for Best "Themed" Table  
This Event is Open to All Family,  
Friends and Alumni of Prep.

Register today at  
[www.creightonprep.org/trivia](http://www.creightonprep.org/trivia)



2014

# Loyola Dinner

of Honor and Distinction

## Congratulations to the Loyola Dinner of Honor and Distinction Class of 2014

The **Alumnus of the Year** award is given each year to an individual who embodies the values Prep aspires to instill in its graduates through a commitment to living a life devoted to serving others. **Paul R. Hogan '81** was honored as Creighton Prep's 2014 Alumnus of the Year.

The **Hall of Fame** award is given each year to individuals who have displayed distinguished service to Prep as teachers, staff, coaches, alumni, parents or friends of Prep. The primary consideration is to honor individuals who have provided direct service to Prep and who are good examples of living personal lives of faith and service. **William G. "Bill" Hamik '70**, **Richard D. "Dick" Holland** and **William J. "Bill" McArdle '72** were inducted into the 2014 Creighton Prep Hall of Fame.

The **Ancilla Domini** award is given each year to a woman characterized by her caring, nurturing and unselfish dedication to her faith, family and community. The celebrated life is an example of how to use to the fullest the gifts given to her by God. The 2014 Ancilla Domini award recipient was **Dolores G. Carlisle**.



Paul R. Hogan '81, William G. "Bill" Hamik '70, Dolores G. Carlisle and William J. "Bill" McArdle '72  
NOT PICTURED: RICHARD D. "DICK" HOLLAND

# HERE & THERE

## 1940s



**John V. "Jack" McGraw '49** and **Vincent S. Finocchiaro '48** hosted a Creighton Prep alumni gathering at the Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California this past February. Over 40 guests were in attendance, including alumni, past parents and friends of Prep. Thanks to the McGraw and Finocchiaro families for hosting such a great evening!

## 1950s



**Adam V. Turner '15** and **Bruce E. Haney '52** received the Lempke Leadership Award from the New Cassel Foundation for their contributions to preserving the memories of the many U.S. veterans living at New Cassel via a commemorative video.

**Ben "Paul" Serrato '54** released a compilation CD titled "Love Matters" which highlights multiple jazz hits from his catalog. Visit Homer's Music in Omaha or CDBaby.com to purchase the disk. Paul is a lifelong jazz musician and recently moved back to Omaha after living over 50 years in New York City.

**LeRoy F. Foreman '57** was honored by then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel for devoting more than 50 years to the cause of military justice. LeRoy has been an administrative judge for the U.S. Department of Defense for the past ten years. Prior to that he was a senior commissioner for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and worked in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

**Dr. Leo J. McCarthy '57** received the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from the University of Nebraska Medical Center this past fall. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the UNMC College of Medicine then, after completing an internship in California, he served two years in the U.S. Navy and one year in the U.S. Marines as a field surgeon in Vietnam. He has authored more than 300 publications and is a fellow at the Royal College of Physicians of both Edinburgh and Ireland. He retired from the faculty of Indiana University School of Medicine after 32 years and holds the rank of professor emeritus. Dr. McCarthy created and endowed a lectureship in transfusion medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine. He is also the main benefactor of the Leo J. McCarthy Ignatian Leadership Institute at Prep.

**Patrick J. McDonald '57** received "The Person of The Year Award" from the city of Clive, Iowa for his 13 years of volunteer service to the local fire and police departments. He works with fire and law enforcement personnel concerning mental health issues. Pat also answers their calls for help in working with family and individual trauma victims at homicides, suicides, fire tragedies and other difficulties that are a part of every community.

**Capt. Robert M. Werner '57** is a retired Navy veteran who retired from Lockheed Martin in 2013. He now stays busy as a semi-retired realtor, filing 25-35 tax returns annually and working in his yard. Bob and his wife Betty have been married for 44 years.

## 1960s

**Arthur G. Bucknell '60** has been involved in Boy Scouts for the past 32 years and has held such positions as Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout counselor. He is also an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at his parish in Avon Lake, Ohio.

**Rev. Burnell B. Bisbee, S.J. '62** and **Rev. George R. Sullivan, S.J. '62** will celebrate their 40th anniversaries as priests of the Society of Jesus this summer during a Sunday, June 14 event at Creighton Prep.

**James M. Bausch '62** of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P. was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL) at the organization's Mid Year Meeting held this past summer in Vermont. The IATL limits membership to 500 Fellows from the United States. Jim has practiced at Cline Williams since 1973.

**Gregory M. Gagne '62** recently retired from the U.S. Government after nearly 50 years of service in the Navy, public affairs and government relations areas. He and his wife Mary live outside Washington D.C. and plan to spend more time with their four children and 10 grandchildren.

**Robert J. Hladik '65** retired from a long career with the Catholic Schools of Omaha and now teaches interpersonal communication and public speaking at Iowa Western Community College, recently earning his 10-year service award from the school. Bob also teaches public speaking at Metropolitan Community College and is a customer connect career specialist at Goodwill Industries in Omaha.

## 1980s

**Rev. Thomas M. Fangman, Jr. '80** received the 2015 Distinguished Pastor Award from the National Catholic Educational Association at an awards ceremony and dinner on April 7 in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes outstanding leadership in Catholic school education. Fr. Tom has been the pastor of Sacred Heart Church since 1998 and serves as the CEO of CUES, an organization that provides financial and operational assistance to Sacred Heart, All Saints and Holy Name schools in North Omaha.



**James E. Hansen '81** of Pius X High School in Lincoln was named the Jim Farrand Memorial Assistant Coach of the Year by the Nebraska Coaches Association. Jim has been an assistant football coach at Pius X for 27 years. He is also the

**Walter "Wally" Anderzunas '64 (dec.)**, a two-time all-state basketball player at Prep, a star at Creighton University and later a professional player for the Cincinnati Royals of the NBA, was posthumously inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame during its 21st annual induction ceremony.



**Daniel J. Wintz '68** joined Koley Jessen's employment, labor and benefits practice group in Omaha. Dan was a partner at a major area law firm where he led its retirement and employee benefits and estate planning and fiduciary administration groups. He is a frequent speaker on retirement planning and is an adjunct professor at the Creighton University School of Law.

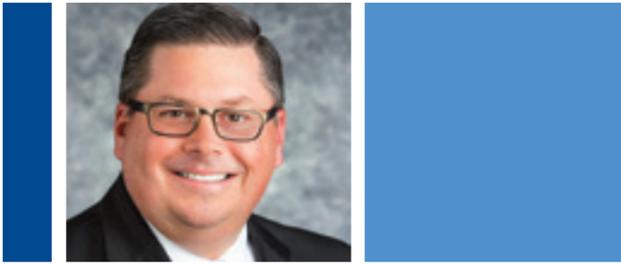
*If you have an update for the Here & There section of the Creighton Prep Alumni News, please contact Nate Driml at 402.548.3851 or [ndrim@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:ndrim@prep.creighton.edu).*

commissioner for Lincoln Babe Ruth Baseball and director of track and field for Lincoln Catholic grade schools. In addition, Jim was the head baseball coach at Pius X from 1987 to 2005.

**Christopher J. Benak '82** is the senior vice president of business development at a Silicon Valley startup company called 4PIA (For People in Action) which is solidly in the government-technology space. 4PIA captures all social media from Congress in real time and allows users to vote on the messages, respond to them and advocate for their cause.

**Rev. Gerald P. Melchior '82** is celebrating his silver jubilee as a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

Creighton Prep counselor **James Swanson '82** received the National Hispanic Institute's "Counselor of the Year" award this past winter during a ceremony on Dallas. According to their 2014 Leadership Series brochure, the goal of NHI is to "develop young people into the valued thinkers and doers of an exciting, rapidly emerging Latino world." Jim has supported NHI programs over the past 15 years while also assisting in expanding NHI's presence in other school districts.



**Robert A. Reed '85** was named president and CEO of Omaha-based Physicians Mutual, which provides individual health, life, retirement and funeral pre-planning insurance products. Rob joined the company in 1989 and most recently served as executive vice president and chief operating officer, focused on marketing, sales, government relations and strategic planning. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and has served on the boards of directors for many local nonprofits including the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Jesuit Partnership Council of Omaha. Rob also served on the executive committee for BASH 2015 GAMEDAY.

## 1990s

**Thomas H. McLeay '90** was named partner with the law firm of Smith, Gardner & Slusky in Omaha. Tom's practice centers on real estate, finance, land use/entitlement and corporate matters with a concentration on tax credit and subsidized real estate development. He is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Iowa College of Law.

**Anthony "Robb" Pantano '93** is a financial advisor and shareholder of Renaissance Financial in Omaha, specializing in wealth management and comprehensive financial planning. Robb recently completed his third consecutive year as a member of the Top of the Table, which is part of the industry's Million Dollar Round Table. He also has earned past awards and recognition through his firm and his broker dealer, Securian Financial, including Top Producer of the Year and National Gold Advisor of the Year. Robb and his wife Stephanie live in Bennington, Nebraska with their three children Ross, Isabella and Sofia.

**Carl H. Vieregger '93** married Ashlee Minton last summer at a ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa. Friends and Prep alumni listed to the right of the picture below helped the couple celebrate their special day.



**John P. Fitzgerald '87** and his wife Mickey began Send A Care Package, a company that caters to the college student of the new millennium. They offer care packages with items such as fresh fruit and Greek yogurt, earbuds and iTunes gift cards, Starbucks Coffee, branded microwave meals and breakfast cereals. Visit [SendACarePackage.com](http://SendACarePackage.com) and use the coupon code PREP for 5 percent off your order and Prep will also receive 5 percent from your order.

**Timothy D. Uhl '88** began work as the superintendent of Montana Catholic Schools in August 2014. A teacher at Creighton Prep in the 2000-2001 school year, he went on to serve as assistant principal at Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle, Washington and as principal of Catholic High School in New Iberia, Louisiana. Then after working as principal of Holy Rosary Regional School in Tacoma, Washington, Tim joined the Diocese of Helena, Montana in his current role. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University as well as a master's degree in educational leadership from Seattle Pacific University and a doctorate in American studies from Saint Louis University.

**Jason M. Caskey '94** was admitted to the Omaha office of Kutak Rock LLP as partner this past winter. He is a member of the firm's information technology and intellectual property group.

**John T. Reed '94** has been promoted to managing director at the Omaha office of NorthMarq Capital. John will supervise borrowing relationships and manage the delivery of debt and equity financing solutions for commercial real estate transactions.

**Dr. Michael J. Coffey '95** has joined Omaha Orthopedic Clinic and Sports Medicine as a specialist in hand and upper extremity orthopedic surgery for adults and children, including microsurgery and peripheral nerve surgery.

**David L. DeMarco '95** is co-owner of Omaha's Legend Comics & Coffee at 5207 Leavenworth Street. In 2014, the company shared the Will Eisner Spirit of Comics Retailer Award with All Star Comics in Melbourne, Australia. The award is given to the best comic book shop in the world and was announced at the Comic-Con International convention in San Diego, California. A panel of six judges selected Legend from a collection of 12 finalists.

Front Row L-R: Jane O'Brien, Betty Sup, Bill Laird '66, Sharon D'Agosta, Patti Beckman, Linda Mead

2nd Row L-R: Tom McCarthy '93, Carl Vieregger '93, Jerry Gill II '56, Mary Anne Vieregger, Ted Warin '94, Paul Kramper '93, Kyle McCawley '98

3rd Row L-R: Steve Kuehl '72, Steve Lindsay '91, Nate Wurtz '03, Jim O'Brien, Matt Boever '92, Tom Vieregger '91, John Cargill '89



**Timothy D. Tamisiea '95** and his wife Megan welcomed Jack James into their family this past year.

**Coley M. Stickels '96** was selected as an assistant coach for the 2014 FINA World Swimming Championships in Doha, Qatar. Coley is the head coach of the Canyons Aquatic Club in Santa Clarita, California.

**Ryan M. Zabrowski '96** and his wife Molly welcomed Emily Mae into their family this past summer. Ryan is an executive at Investor's Realty Inc. in Omaha.

**Pat C. Hillyer '97** was promoted to project manager at Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, a civil engineering firm that offers survey, land planning and project leadership in public infrastructure and private development and redevelopment projects. The lead engineer on projects such as Midtown Crossing and the Mutual of Omaha-Dodge Street entrance, Pat is a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional and has been with Lamp Rynearson

## 2000s

**Paul Fitzgibbons '00** joined American National Bank as assistant vice president. Paul comes to the bank with nine years of experience in the health care industry. Most recently, he was a sales executive for DSI Medical and president of PFI Medical Services where he successfully launched and led supply organization to DSI Medical.

**Jacob R. Holdenried '01** has been named to the position of director, commercial banking at First National Bank after working as a commercial banker for two Omaha area banks since 2006. He has served on the board of directors of the Alzheimer's Association Midlands Chapter since 2010 and is currently the organization's treasurer.

**Kevin M. Malone '01** has been hired by UMB Bank in Omaha as vice president, private banking client manager. Responsibilities in his new role include building client relationships and providing clients with comprehensive financial solutions. Prior to this appointment, Kevin worked at TD Ameritrade as an investment consultant and at Wells Fargo as an assistant vice president. He and his wife Lisa welcomed daughter Sofia Grace in July of last year.

for 12 years. In that time, he has also been a leader on several commercial site plans and worked on the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Des Moines as well as on more than ten Omaha area Sanitary Improvement District subdivisions.

**Wesley C. Woodward '97** was promoted to healthcare project executive at Kiewit Building Group, Inc. Wes joined Kiewit in 2004 and has spent the majority of career on projects in the healthcare market. He is a healthcare constructor certified through the American Hospital Association.

**John P. Beehner '98** appeared on the "Late Show with David Letterman" this past winter. John has been performing standup comedy since 1999 and can be heard on XM/ Sirius Satellite radio and has been on the "BOB & TOM Show," a nationally syndicated radio show, multiple times. He is constantly traveling from city to city across the country making people laugh.

**Joseph P. Zadina '99** was promoted to project manager at Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, a civil engineering firm that offers survey, land planning and project leadership in public infrastructure and private development and redevelopment projects. Named in 2010 as the Young Professional of the Year by the American Council of Engineering Companies, Joe specializes in school and athletic field design and engineering, and has worked on projects at Burke High School and Omaha South High School as well as the Cardinal Athletic Complex located in Treynor, Iowa. In 2013, he was accepted into Leadership Sarpy County.

**Brandon D. Mason '01** is an assistant vice president and credit products officer for the Corporate Banking Group Agribusiness Division at Bank of the West. He works with relationship managers to ensure proper underwriting, structuring, and monitoring of direct and syndicated loan portfolios. Brandon earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration (majoring in finance) in 2005 from Creighton University in Omaha. He also earned his Master of Business Administration from Creighton in 2008. In addition, Brandon serves as treasurer of the Father Flanagan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and on the Nebraska State Advisory Council for the Future Business Leaders of America. In December 2014, he was named one of Ten Outstanding Young Omahans by the Omaha Jaycees.

**Benjamin J. Gude '02** is a senior tax accountant for Whiting Petroleum Corporation in Denver, Colorado. Ben enjoys hiking and camping in the Rockies and making his annual pilgrimage to Telluride, Colorado for the renowned bluegrass festival. He works in the same office as fellow Prep graduate **John W. Van Ackeren '00** who is a Land Tech III also with Whiting.

**Joel W. Herdzina '02** was elected president and chief operating officer of Second To None, Inc. which is the operating entity for two Right at Home franchised businesses in Edmond and Norman, Oklahoma. Joel moved to Oklahoma in 2012. Right at Home is an international company and the franchisor of over 300 in-home health care franchises.



**Jason T. McGill '02**, his wife Ann and son Turner (2) welcomed Franco Anthony into their family this past summer.

**Vincent M. Boulay '03** was hired at Lutz to lead business development efforts and works with company shareholders to identify and qualify new client opportunities for all practice segments and industries of the firm. Vince has six years of combined experience in accounting and business development and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Creighton University.

**Benjamin T. Kalthorn '03** joined Burlington Capital Group LLC in Omaha as a financial analyst. Ben graduated from Saint Louis University in 2007 with a BA in finance and earned his MBA from Creighton University in 2012.

**Matthew L. Storm '04** was appointed to assistant controller for Lutz, the accounting and business solutions firm in Omaha. Prior to accepting this position, Matt was a senior accountant in the firm's tax and consulting departments.

**Timothy R. O'Brien '05** is an attorney at Hauptman, O'Brien, Wolf & Lathrop and handles plaintiff cases in automobile/trucking collisions, personal injury, product liability and workers' compensation. He received a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Creighton University in 2009 and his Juris Doctor from the Creighton University School of Law in 2012.

**Jay J. Faylor '05** has been promoted to assistant vice president of commercial lending at Pinnacle Bank. Jay, who began with Pinnacle Bank in 2010, is responsible for commercial real estate financing, construction financing, equipment financing and operating lines of credit. He earned a degree in finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, gained experience in banking as a teller and personal banker, and eventually moved over to commercial lending.

**David "Dewey" Kennison '05** earned his Juris Doctor from the Creighton University School of Law in 2014, where he graduated magna cum laude. At Creighton, he served as student articles editor of the Creighton Law Review. Dewey is currently an attorney at Fraser Stryker PC LLO in Omaha and focuses on litigation, providing services to the firm's clients in labor and employment, federal litigation, appellate practice, commercial litigation, insurance defense and self-insured litigation, intellectual property and personal injury. He and his wife Molly married last summer and live in Omaha.

**Byron D. Dacy '05** is the assistant athletic director and head coach of the boys and girls varsity soccer teams at Fountain Valley School of Colorado. He came to FVS after spending three years at Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. He attended Creighton University and was a standout in the soccer program from 2005-2009. He was recognized as a freshman All-American, MVC Freshman of the Year and was nominated for the MAC Hermann Trophy (the Heisman Trophy of college soccer) four times during his career. He graduated with a degree in elementary education and currently holds his U.S. Soccer Federation National "B" coaching license.

**Patrick Krebs '06** was hired by the Omaha office of Kutak Rock LLP and now practices with the real estate group where he represents a variety of clients and assists in the development, acquisition, sale and leasing of commercial real estate as well as commercial financing. He earned his J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law and his bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College.

**Ryan M. Morrison '06** recently started K90, a company that "innovates, integrates and redefines health in animal supplements." His products support working dogs, hunting/sport dogs and family dogs, and are available online. Visit [k90vitamins.com](http://k90vitamins.com) to learn more.

**Alexander J. Post '06** graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in construction management and is currently an assistant superintendent for AOI Corporation in Omaha. Alexander and his wife Hayley were married in April.

**Tyler G. Vaughan '06** is a graphic designer with Kiewit in Denver. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he also minored in psychology.

**Tyler J. Keffeler '07** was promoted to senior associate at McGladrey, a provider of assurance, tax and consulting services in Omaha. Tyler, a CPA, works with clients in the manufacturing, wholesale, ethanol, insurance and nonprofit industries. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he majored in accounting and minored in finance.

## 2010s

**Evan J. Kenkel '10** is living in China after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Nebraska Omaha where he was named Outstanding Undergraduate English Major. At UNO, he also received the Marian Basler Scholarship as well as the Helen Basler Anderson Scholarship in recognition of outstanding writing and excellence in his major. Evan will be moving to Germany in August as part of a Fulbright assistantship to teach English for a year to children in a secondary school that includes grades 5 to 13. He studied abroad in Germany in 2013.

**Chuma O. Nnawulezi '11** was awarded the prestigious Rangel Fellowship that supports outstanding individuals who wish to pursue careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. As part of the Rangel Program, Chuma will work for a member of Congress this summer on issues regarding foreign affairs. Next summer, the U.S. Department of State will send him overseas to work in a U.S. Embassy to gain experience with U.S. foreign policy and the work of the Foreign Service. Upon graduation, Chuma will become a U.S. diplomat.

**Nicholas C. Yeutter '11** is a senior at the University of Richmond, carrying a double major in chemistry and music. He enjoys composing music and working as a disc jockey under the name "Yites." Nick was also profiled in the Soundcheck column of the USA Today in October 2014 where his interests in music and science were highlighted. In addition, he recently received the Roy Jesson Music Prize at Richmond, which is "awarded to a music student or graduate who excels in performing, conducting or composing."

**Shane M. Giles '12** was president of his residence hall at Notre Dame and was responsible for activities ranging from religious and service to informative presentations and charity events such as the annual signature "chariot race." Shane also has assisted with Mass setup, retreat planning and peer tutoring programs.

**Easton Stick '14** and **RJ Urzendowski '14**, former Creighton Prep football teammates, continued their careers at North Dakota State University and were part of the team's fourth straight NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. Easton red-shirted and expects to compete for the starting quarterback role during next season. RJ started every game as a true freshman, catching 32 passes for 626 receiving yards (19.5 yards per catch) and five touchdowns. **Conor M. Riley '98**, former tight ends and fullbacks coach for the Bison was promoted to offensive line coach in January 2014. He and his wife Christy have one daughter, Cate.



## Walter N. Paul '14

**Walter N. Paul '14** was named the 2014 William Woods Tate, Jr. Memorial National Student of the Year by the National Speech and Debate Association, a top award in an organization whose membership numbers approximately 130,000. He was also a recipient of a Gates Millennium Scholarship from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is a freshman at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota where he is a member of the school's Model United Nations team.

Originally from Uganda, Walter, his parents and siblings fled their village in the late 1990s when armed insurgents stormed the area. After a stay at a refugee camp in South Sudan, the family arrived in the United States. They lived in Dallas for three years before moving to Omaha, where Walter attended grade school and Prep, and became an exceptional orator.

A prior recipient of a scholarship from the Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha, Walter was the guest speaker at the organization's CHANCE Luncheon on November 5, 2014, where he also received the Inspiring Alumni Award.

After undergraduate studies at Carleton, he hopes to attend graduate school and eventually start a nonprofit in East Africa.

# VISUALARTS

Throughout their history, Jesuit educators have placed a high value on the arts, where learning and the expression of that learning are seen as two of many key components in the development of “the whole person.” In the instruction of the visual arts at Creighton Prep, this mantle of developmental responsibility rests very successfully today on the shoulders of teachers Jeremy E. Caniglia '88 and Candace Thompson.

Building on the solid foundation established by retired art instructor Bob Willits and his former departmental colleague in architectural education, Harry Jordan, Jeremy and Candace have taken the visual arts to a new level at Prep.

With a strong emphasis on teaching the same set of fundamental design elements and principles as well as giving students plenty of opportunity to present the narratives that go with their artwork, they are preparing scores of Prep visual artists for the college programs and design jobs of tomorrow that demand not only a strong grasp of technique in a variety of mediums but also the ability to explain compositions in depth and to understand multiple disciplines that can allow them to take on a wide range of projects with confidence.

“Where the classes start to diverge is in materials and techniques,” noted Jeremy, an accomplished artist in his own right, a volunteer in the Kent Bellows Mentoring Program and a former Creighton University teacher. In other words, when he is building student understanding in line, form, shape and color with oils, charcoal, graphite and ink, Candace is doing the same using Autodesk Revit, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

The reinforcing of the same elements and principles in different mediums also means students moving between courses develop into valuable classroom resources. “Students bring unique skill sets from the techniques taught in the many cross-disciplinary settings available in the classrooms,” said Candace. “They also leave the courses with a more holistic understanding of the many mediums within art. All-encompassing and leading to a stronger personal voice in their work.”

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate with bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College of Architecture, Candace recalled that structural changes to the building were also needed to get Prep visual arts to the point it is today, where students recently won 64 Scholastic art awards, believed to be a school record.

“When I interviewed five years ago, I knew the dynamic of architecture was changing,” she said. “That it was moving beyond paper and beyond AutoCAD (software) and that we needed a lab to recognize that movement. So, I put together a

proposal, a cost plan and six different floor plans for tearing out desks and shelving as part of revamping the entire space. And the administration was completely on board and excited about it.”

Going forward, Jeremy and Candace are eager to work in a transdisciplinary fashion with their Prep colleagues to enhance the skills and understanding of their visual arts students. “da Vinci is the modern day STEAM master,” explained Jeremy. “He used science, technology, engineering, art and math to produce his masterpieces—some of the most memorable of his time.”

As a result, in Advanced Art, Jeremy is exploring pre-medical illustration with his students. For those with artistic ability, this can open up career opportunities in medicine and dentistry. And Candace is teaching biomimicry to her Architecture II students, who are producing furniture designs that have an artistic and architectural quality to them while being based upon designs formed in nature.

In higher level courses, both teachers will remain focused on helping students build and refine their portfolios for presentation to college programs and internship coordinators. Candace noted, “My current working goal is to have our Independent Study students working side by side with our alumni, getting real world experience and credit for it one or two days per week.”

With Candace and Jeremy teaching a total of 260 students each semester, they and their teaching space are near capacity. So, in the short term, they have secured a teaching resource to help from the Magis Catholic Teaching Corps program at Creighton. Down the road, a new, expanded facility to address the needs of a burgeoning program and a visual arts marketplace that is constantly advancing would be a welcome site, too. “The ultimate goal is for my students to help design that building,” said Candace.

For more on the visual arts at Creighton Prep, visit [cpfinearts.weebly.com](http://cpfinearts.weebly.com) or scan the QR code at right with a QR code-reading app on your smartphone.



# PREP 1:1 PROGRAM

*St. Ignatius called his followers to live in the world and to meet people where they are. Creighton Prep also recognizes that the world we live in is a technological one and that students use their mobile devices as a primary means of communication. With this in mind and after a thorough review of the technology options for enhanced learning, Prep will require all students to have an iPad of 32GB or greater capacity beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.*

The process that culminated in the school's decision to require an iPad for all students began with a grant secured in the winter of 2011 for a cart of 25 iPads, half of which were given to a group of seniors in a theology class as part of a technology integration pilot. From there, Prep's wireless communications network was expanded and a group of 12 faculty members visited Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California in 2012 to discuss what a 1:1 program at Prep might look like.

The research process continued as groups of faculty members attended the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA) Symposium and Colloquium on Ignatian Learning Communities (ILCs) and Technology Integration in June 2012 and June 2013, respectively.

All faculty received iPads in August of 2013, at which time professional development programs began. At the same time, the Technology Integration ILC was formed. This ILC surveyed other JSEA schools on best practices, gathered valuable input from students, faculty and parents, and visited JSEA schools that have already implemented 1:1 programs. During the 2013-2014 school year, students enrolled in the AP Language and Composition class taught by Mary Kassmeier and Barb Hake were part of a 1:1 iPad classroom pilot. In May 2014, the Technology Integration ILC then developed a strategic plan for a 1:1 program using the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm.

In January of this year, teachers received professional development training from EdTech Teacher, a leading

professional development company that specializes in iPad integration in a 1:1 classroom setting. On August 6, 2015, Prep faculty will receive a second round of professional development training from this same firm.

Among others, factors that influenced the decision for iPads were the long battery life, the instant on feature, the flat profile, the touch screen and the robust developer community that make it the choice for educational use at this point in time.

May and June training sessions will be conducted with all freshmen, sophomores and juniors with their 32GB-or-greater iPads. Acceptable models for Prep's 1:1 program include the iPad Air, iPad Air 2, iPad with Retina Display 4th Generation, iPad Mini 2, iPad Mini 3 and iPad Mini with Retina Display.

Prep students will continue to use both electronic and printed textbooks, and electronic textbooks will be added as they become the best options for supporting the curriculum. Through it all, continuing to train students to reflect deeply, think critically, solve problems effectively and express themselves with grace will remain core Prep values as they have been since 1878.

For more on the 1:1 program at Prep that begins with the next school year, visit [www.creightonprep.org/ipad](http://www.creightonprep.org/ipad).



# PREP NEEDS YOU!

at [www.creightonprep.org/reconnect](http://www.creightonprep.org/reconnect)

Connecting with Prep using your smartphone or computer is becoming increasingly easy. And necessary. With budgets tight, printing costs what they are, and more and more of the alumni base preferring to communicate with Prep using their digital devices, it is critical that you update your contact information today at [www.creightonprep.org/reconnect](http://www.creightonprep.org/reconnect).

## Especially your mobile phone number and primary email address

With the increasing mobility of Prep alumni and their ongoing departure from standard landline telephones, it is becoming more and more difficult for the Alumni Office to locate them quickly and cost-effectively through street address, business contact and home telephone number information.

It is especially important for Prep to have your mobile number and email address in its records because those two things tend to stay with alumni for very long periods of time. Those are also two channels that allow for more timely and less expensive alumni communications such as the monthly, very informative Prep Pulse email that contains a Jesuit reflection, school news, alumni notes and upcoming event information.

The Alumni Office will be using digital communications where it makes sense going forward to replace traditionally printed-and-mailed communications such as the Creighton Prep Alumni News. Stay tuned for further developments in this area.

## "What I like best about Prep" and "What Prep could improve"

The more Prep knows about your feelings for the school, the better it can respond when it does communicate with you. At [www.creightonprep.org/reconnect](http://www.creightonprep.org/reconnect), your answers to "What I like best about Prep" and "What Prep could improve" can be recorded in Prep's alumni database so that Alumni Office representatives can be aware of those items when reaching out to you for information, assistance or a request to volunteer for or attend a Prep activity.

## "Favorite Club or Activity While at Prep"

Knowing the favorite club or activity you participated in at Prep will help the school better organize its future requests for your time, talent or treasure. For example, if alumni help is needed on a project deemed a priority in Prep's strategic plan, the Alumni Office will want to reach out to those alums who participated in a club or activity related to that project to help complete it successfully.

## Bookmark Prep's mobile home page and connect with Prep on social media

-  **Smartphone users**, please visit and bookmark Prep's mobile home page [www.creightonprep.org/mobile](http://www.creightonprep.org/mobile) to access the athletic calendar, daily announcements, the school calendar and news.
-  **LinkedIn users**, please ask to join the [Creighton Prep Alumni](#) group and strengthen your network of professional connections to include fellow Junior Jays.
-  **Facebook users**, please "Like" the [Creighton Prep Alumni Network](#) page to add it to your News Feed.
-  **Twitter users**, please "Follow" [@CreightonPrep](#) for a variety of school news and [@CPVarsitySports](#) to get important in-game updates and other news related to Creighton Prep varsity athletics.
-  **YouTube users**, please "Subscribe" to the [Official Creighton Prep](#) channel to see the Inside Prep video series that is a double-click on the programs and activities that help make Prep the special experience it is.
-  **Flickr users**, check out the [Creighton Prep](#) photostream, where the Alumni Office posts albums of images from key athletic, academic and alumni events.



# CROSS COUNTRY

## A LEGACY OF CHAMPIONSHIP UNITY

When the Creighton Prep cross country “top seven” of John Nownes, John Lukowski, Thomas Doran, John Slagle, William Hanafan, Cole Nelson and Jake Cimino finished 5,000 meters as the top team at the 2014 Class A Boys Championship in Kearney, Nebraska, they completed a task that a long blue line of talented Prep runners had been trying to complete for 40 years: bringing the state title back to Prep, where it last resided in 1973 and 1974.

Just like in 1974, the 2014 Prep cross country team used a defeat at the Metro conference meet as motivation to win their district then state.

Though a lot has changed in the sport of running and in Prep cross country since that time, one key ingredient to championship success hasn't: team unity.

“One of the things that was very distinctive about that ('73) team was the camaraderie that the guys had,” said Fr. Bob Tillman, S.J., the head coach of both of 1973 and 2014 state title teams. “They had run track together so it started there. Then during cross country season, we'd go to Joe Grant's ('74) house and play ping-pong, and after Saturday practices, we'd go to Ponderosa (steak house) and have hamburgers. It was building that team unity.” Where the 2014 team was concerned, he noted that four of the 2013 team's top five returned to run again last fall and that the freshmen “liked them and really bonded with them.”

In both cases as well, unity between team members fostered a commitment to shared goals. “On the '73 team, a lot of them were running not because they loved cross country but because they wanted to be there for one another and not let one another down,” said Fr. Tillman. In discussing a similar dynamic on the 2014 team, he recounted the vast and unexpected year-over-year improvement by Jake Cimino and Cole Nelson as well as the decision by Will Hanafan to forego his plans to play football in order to and help his old “cc” teammates realize their dream of a Prep state title.

Of the storied '73 team, **Patrick J. Colburn '75** remembered “everyone seemed to get along really well and the leadership from (seniors) Pat Meyer, Terry Gasnick and Joe Grant.” One of the most decorated runners in Prep history and the individual Class A state cross country champion in 1974, Pat also noted that, though Terry Gasnick could have skipped cross country his senior year because he had participated primarily to

condition himself for basketball, his decision to run again that season was pivotal in helping the team perform at a high level all the way through the state meet.

“Our four scorers at state were in the top 11 or 12,” said Pat. “I'm not even sure how closely Fr. Tillman was paying attention in the second half of the (2.5 mile) race because I think he knew at the mile marker that we were going to win.”

Pat also credits another teammate who used cross country for basketball conditioning as critical to Prep's state title victory in 1974 as well. “Joe Abts had a really strong performance at that meet,” recalled Pat. “We knew that I was going to win and that Chris Terry would finish in the top three or four so Joe's run was key because we only won by about six points.”

The '74 head coach, the **Rev. Theodore M. Kalamaja, S.J. '53**, fostered team unity with “lemonade runs,” long journeys of 10 miles or more in the summer where he would drop off his runners at the far end of places such as Dutch Hall Road in extreme northwest Omaha then reward them with a Coleman cooler of lemonade at the finish. He also passed out windbreakers if his student athletes ran a thousand miles on summer break.

Fr. Kalamaja would go on to find a calling in prison ministry where he read scripture and prayed daily with inmates in New Orleans until just a few years ago. Now in retirement at St. Camillus in Milwaukee, he fondly remembered Pat's winning performance at the '74 state meet as well as the team's. “It was a cold, windy day in Kearney,” said Fr. Kalamaja. “Finally they came up the hill about 300 yards from the finish and there was Colburn all alone. It was amazing. They were all really good.”

Both Fr. Tillman and Fr. Kalamaja read books and studied the sport to learn best practices for coaching it. And they could be counted on to deliver some challenging in-season workouts. Fr. Tillman remembered a '73 meet scheduled against a Boys Town team that wasn't likely to beat Prep. So, on the way to Boys Town, he stopped the van at Westroads and told the guys to run the rest of the way there. “I didn't want to waste the practice,” he explained. Fr. Kalamaja then supplemented the long runs of the '74 team with hill work at Benson Park and Memorial Park.

Just like in 1974, the 2014 Prep cross country team used a defeat at the Metro conference meet as motivation to win their district then state. And many cross country team alumni are watching, including Pat, to see if they can repeat as champions again this year. “I wish them the best,” he said. “And I hope they take away the experiences we did.”





CREIGHTON PREP  
FALL/WINTER  
**SPORTS**

## Two Seasons for the History Books

The class of 2015 has already left its mark in the history books when it comes to athletics. Of the six NSAA-sanctioned varsity sports offered this past fall and winter, Creighton Prep won four state titles and finished no lower than third in the others.

The spring season brings with it high hopes as this senior class has the potential to be remembered as one of the best overall athletic classes in the history of the school.

Furthermore, John Nownes '15 (cross country); Micah Rensch '15 (football) and Nathan Singh '16 (tennis) were recognized by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee as the top male scholar athletes for the fall season.



Cross Country  
FIRST PLACE



Football  
SECOND PLACE



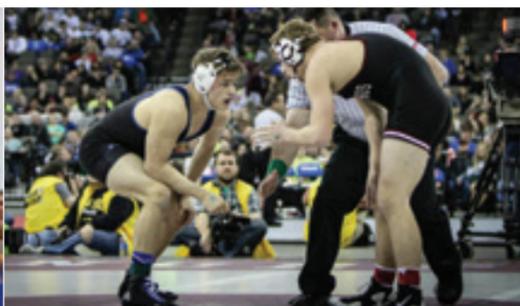
Tennis  
FIRST PLACE



Basketball  
FIRST PLACE



Swimming  
FIRST PLACE



Wrestling  
THIRD PLACE

## Consider the Recurring Gift Program

Increase your impact to Creighton Prep by making a recurring gift to the AMDG Fund! Recurring gifts are the easiest way to give and ensure that Prep will receive your ongoing support.

In the "Payment Options" section of the Give Online page you'll be asked to specify whether your gift is "one time" or "recurring." Select "recurring" and indicate the amount you wish you give (\$10 minimum). Your credit or debit card will be charged on the 1st or 15th of each month for the time period of your choosing.

Make a recurring gift today by going to [www.creightonprep.org/giveonline](http://www.creightonprep.org/giveonline).

### SAMPLE MONTHLY DONATIONS:

- \$25 per month = \$300 per year
- \$41.66 per month = \$500 per year
- \$83.33 per month = \$1,000 per year
- \$250 per month = \$3,000 per year
- (entry level gift for the Henry L. Sullivan S.J. Leadership Society)
- Your class year (\$20.05 x 12 = \$240.60)

Thank you for your generosity to Creighton Prep!

REMEMBER YOUR TIME AT CREIGHTON PREP

## BUY A BRICK

We invite you to support Creighton Prep in a meaningful and lasting way through the Jr. Jaywalk at Memorial Plaza. You can have your name or that of a loved one engraved on a brick to serve as a permanent symbol of your connection to Prep.

Choose between a 4" x 8" brick for \$300 that includes three lines engraved with 16 characters per line and an 8" x 8" brick for \$750 that includes six lines engraved with 16 characters per line.

### To buy a brick today:

Visit [creightonprep.org/giveonline](http://creightonprep.org/giveonline) and select "Buy A Brick" on the Gift Designation menu.



# 40 YEARS

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Join us to celebrate Fr. Sullivan's retirement from Prep!

### Mass & Reception

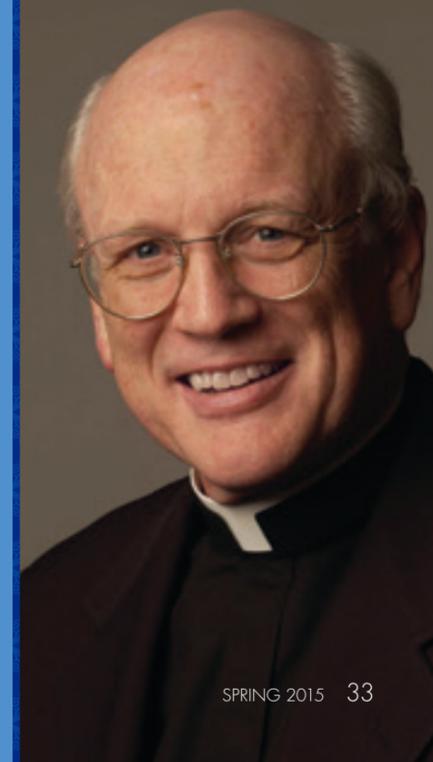
for Fr. George R. Sullivan, SJ and Fr. Burnell B. Bisbee, SJ as priests of the Society of Jesus.

### Sunday, June 14

Mass at 1 p.m. in the Heider Center  
(This counts for Sunday service.)

Reception immediately following from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. in the Henry L. Sullivan SJ Campus Center

Parking available on east or west lots.





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# JAMES M. CONNOR '78

If you watched college football at all this past season, you might have noticed Dr. Pepper standing out as a major sponsor of the sport, including the College Football Playoff won by Ohio State. You might have even smiled or guffawed at the commercials the company ran with its new, signature character “Larry Culpepper,” the stadium vendor who gladly told anyone who listened all about the new playoff system while hawking the famous soft drink.



## What you may not have known

is the man behind Larry Culpepper is none other than **James M. Connor '78**, a classically-trained actor who fondly remembers his Creighton Prep roots and the edge that his education at Prep, Saint John's University and the National Theatre Conservatory gave him in becoming an entertainment industry success.

Coming out of St. Bernard Catholic Grade School behind older brothers Ed '68, Paul '70, Tom '73 and John '74, Jim recalls his parents Ed '43 and Mary Ann hosting many Prep Jesuits for dinner and realizing quickly that “there was really no other choice but Prep” for high school.

Once there, public speaking teacher Linda Mead noticed his talent and recruited him to the speech team, where he would go on to nationals twice in humorous interpretation. He also starred in “Man of La Mancha” and in the Prep Improvisation Troupe that entertained at school assemblies while finding time to play JV tennis and serve as vice president of the student council.

After some theatre classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jim enrolled at Saint John's at the recommendation of Prep classmate Jim Gleason and because of the theatre department's strong reputation. “I had a great acting teacher there early on, (Professor Emeritus) Tom Darnall,” Jim said. “And I used my dramatic interp. piece from Prep days to land a lead role in the school's production of ‘The Shadow Box.’ After that, I decided on a theatre major.”

Soon after graduation, Jim moved to the Boston area, where he made a living as an actor and was part of a top area improvisation group called The Collaboration. He was later accepted into a three-year program at the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver and his training as an actor advanced even further.

“I really learned how to break down characters and build them from the inside out using the ‘method acting’ techniques made famous by Stanislavski,” Jim noted. “It was great to be taught by the best stage actors and directors from New York City and regional theatres. Some of these people were Shakespeare geniuses who really made his text come alive for me. It made me a professional stage actor.”

He then acted on the stage in Los Angeles for the next few years before getting his first national commercial. “It took time

to figure out the (film and TV) business and that I should bring what I wanted to give to the parts I auditioned for instead of trying to figure out what the casting directors wanted.”

From there came a slew of roles in films such as “About Schmidt” by **C. Alexander Payne '79**, appearances on TV's “Desperate Housewives,” “The King of Queens,” “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “NCIS” and many other shows as well as numerous commercials for the likes of Sony, NASCAR, Snapple and, now, Dr. Pepper.

But getting the Larry Culpepper role was no easy task since over 100 actors auditioned in the national search. After the first auditions, 40 were called back to read for the director, the ad agency and Dr. Pepper representatives then six were put on “avail” and their audition tapes were reviewed again by the same group before Jim was selected. “Almost immediately after I was booked, I shot three commercials at the LA Coliseum, some stuff for the Internet and they took photos,” said Jim, who calls the Larry Culpepper experience “one of the most enjoyable I've ever had. Everybody loves Larry because he's so approachable.”



When he's not acting or auditioning, Jim enjoys spending time with his wife Brooke and sons Liam and Lars. He also cherishes get-togethers with other former Prepsters in the Hollywood Prep alumni group, that was formed by fellow actor and humorist **Robert A. Wiltfong '88**.

Even in Southern California, it's a small world and a Prep connection is never far away. “I had seen a picture of Bob in the Alumni News and seen his commercials,” said Jim. “So when I passed him at an audition a few years back, I started quietly singing ‘The White and the Blue’ and he turned around like, ‘What?’ Then when we had our first Hollywood Prep meeting in about 2011, Bob brought a flowchart that outlined the group's focus on industry networking and community service.” Since then, amid barbecues and other gatherings, the group has helped clean up two L.A.-area elementary schools and assisted with a charity book drive.

For other Prep alumni in the entertainment business who are not already members of Hollywood Prep, Jim recommends contacting the group through their Facebook page or the Alumni Office at Prep.

“Prep gave me a clear advantage,” said Jim. “I had a better education than most people and that's the best thing you can have as an actor. You need to learn history, sociology, psychology—everything that makes a person tick—and have great technical skills, too.”



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[www.creightonprep.org](http://www.creightonprep.org)



# HOMECOMING 2015

**Omaha Creighton Prep vs. Omaha South**  
**Friday, September 18**  
**Carmen & Don Leahy Stadium**  
**4:30 p.m. kickoff**

Alumni who played a varsity football game at the old Creighton Stadium will be honored at halftime.

**Witness the first varsity football game to ever be played on Creighton Prep's current campus!**

The following classes will celebrate their reunions the weekend of September 18 and 19. Look for more information soon!

**1970, 1975, 1980, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010**