



GACC School: "Learning and Leading Through Christ."

# ALUMNI NEWS



Guardian Angels Central Catholic Newsletter

February 2015, No. 1 of 4



Fifteen students from Guardian Angels Central Catholic attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. March for Life is a pro-life rally that has been held every year since starting in 1974.

## Joining together for one cause

*GACC School makes March for Life pilgrimage to Washington D.C*

Standing up for the unborn. That is what pro-life supporters have done ever since the first March for Life rally in 1974.

Forty years later, that same battle is being fought as hundreds of thousands of people join together with one focus in mind: holding onto the hope of defending life.

"Just knowing there's thousands and thousands of people there for the same cause, who believe in the same thing. That's what is so neat about this whole experience," GACC teacher Mary Jo Kampschneider said. "It's just not me or my school or community. It's



GACC students, Monica Reeson (left) and Sarah Arduser pose for a photo op with Archbishop George Lucas during the rally.

See **MARCH IN DC**, Page 2

## Save the date for GACC alumni banquet

**Reminder:** Please mark your calendars for the upcoming alumni banquet, which will be held June 6, 2015. JayFest will be held on Friday, June 5.

# Chance of a lifetime

## 30-year official works NAIA football championship game

As a 30-year veteran in the officiating business, Randy Hagedorn knows quite well the pressures of calling a game, especially in magnified moments.

Hagedorn found himself in one of those “magnified moments” last month when he received the nod to officiate the NAIA championship football game on

December 19 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Hagedorn was the crew’s referee.



**Randy Hagedorn**

“Obviously, I was excited about getting an opportunity like this,” Hagedorn said. “You only get one chance at something like this, and you don’t want to mess it up.”

For Hagedorn and his crew, there certainly wasn’t any second-guessing or regret, but rather a feeling of satisfaction.

“Everything flowed pretty well. We got pretty lucky,” Hagedorn said in regards to only 11 flags being tossed, and all of the game’s replay challenges were confirmed.

Hagedorn said having replay in use was added pressure, but was also an opportunity to confirm that correct calls were being made on the field.

“After the game, we talked to a few different people who thought we nailed it. They didn’t feel like there were any blown calls,” Hagedorn said. “In the profession of officiating, especially at a level of this caliber, you have a lot of eyes on you. So it’s pretty satisfying when you know it went well.”

This wasn’t Hagedorn’s first time on the big stage as he also officiated NAIA basketball national championship games in 2009 and 2011.

Hagedorn also has previous basketball experience at the Division I level as an official in the Missouri Valley Conference.

“It’s a different sport, but it still helps prepare you for moments like this,” Hagedorn said.

National championship or regular season game, Hagedorn takes pride in what he does and enjoys all of his experiences.

“I like the challenge, and it is a way to still stay involved in the different sports,” Hagedorn said about his drive to officiate.

Hagedorn, a 1979 graduate of West Point Central Catholic, is the Executive Director of the YMCA in Norfolk. He has been there for 31 years.

Randy’s parents are Bill and Valdean Hagedorn, who are formerly of West Point. They currently reside in Lincoln.

**‘Obviously, I was excited about getting an opportunity like this. You only get one chance at something like this...’**

**Randy Hagedorn**

1979 graduate of West Point Central Catholic

# MARCH IN DC:

FROM PAGE 1

the entire United States. People come together for one reason — to save unborn lives.”

Kampschneider was the chaperon for the 16 local students who attended the 2015 March for Life rally last month in Washington, D.C. Fifteen of the students in attendance were from Guardian Angels Central Catholic, and one was from Howells-Dodge.

The march focuses heavily on abortion and is held in the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade case. Its purpose is to draw attention to the state and federal laws in order to protect the right to life of each human.

While attending the rally, students had the opportunity to attend Masses, museums, memorials, shrines and concerts, among other activities and events.

For several of the GACC students attending the march, there were several repeat attendees, including senior Nicole Fisher, who has made the pilgrimage for the third straight year.

“This is such an important issue to me. It’s nice to see so many people fighting for the same reason. It’s nice to see this isn’t a lost cause,” Fisher said. “No matter what, people are there to support it.”

And while each trip is unique in its own way, Fisher embraces the life-changing moments that come from an event like this.

“At the end of the trip, we all share our graces. Everyone speaks about what was significant to them and what really captured their heart,” Fisher said. “And to me, it’s so amazing to see God working through each of these pilgrims.”

Kampschneider noted that a big push this year was the use of social media as far as getting the pro-life message across on outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

# Letter from the past:

From alumni who answered the call to serve...

WEST POINT, NEBRASKA  
MARCH 25, 1944

HI FELLERS!

HERE WE GO AGAIN. HOPE YOU GOT THE LAST LETTER IN A LITTLE BETTER TIME. FATHER KEMPKER SAYS HE RECEIVED THE LAST TWO LETTERS TWO DAYS APART--THEY WERE MAILED TWO MONTHS APART, BUT THE LAST ONE WENT AIR MAIL. FATHER GEORGE SAYS "LAY OFF ME AWHILE" BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT A GUY LIKE THAT? NOW HE GETS HIMSELF DECORATED WITH THE SILVER STAR, AND THE HOME PAPERS CARRY A CITATION THAT CHASES CHILLS UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE. THE MEDAL WAS AWARDED FOR "CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY IN COMBAT WITH JAPANESE FORCES ON BOUGAINVILLE"--AND THE CITATION CARRIES ON FROM THERE. WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THIS AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE FOR FATHER GEORGE, SO WE WON'T ADD ANY COMMENTS, BUT MY GOSH, WE JUST COULDN'T SKIP IT COULD WE? SO ONCE AGAIN, ITS HATS OFF TO FATHER GEORGE, AND EVERYBODY KEEP OFFERING UP A PRAYER FOR HIM, WILL YOU?

THE MAILBAG BRINGS LETTERS FROM FATHER GEORGE, JIM LOISEL, LEROY RIEF, BILL SCHMITT, SPOOLIX BOYLE, CHRIS BATENHORST, DENNY JOHNSON, BOB MCDONALD, AND--HOLY--SMOKE--FAT FISCHER. WHEN THIS FISCHER WRITES, HE WRITES A BOOK--SIX PAGES, AND COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DIDN'T SAY MUCH AT THAT. STILL GRIPING ABOUT THE WEATHER, MOANS THAT HE'S BEEN TEA-SOAKED IN MERRIE ENGLAND, SUN-KISSED WITH THE ARABS IN AFRICA, AND NOW OUR GUESS IS HE'S VINO-SATURATED IN WHAT USED TO GO UNDER THE NAME OF SUNNY ITALY. FAT HAS VISITED WITH HERB JOHNSON AND (MAJOR) ART KNIEVEL OF WP, AND HOPES TO CONTACT WARREN KREPELA SOON. AND THE GUY SAYS THEY PLAY A LOT OF CARDS, BUT ONLY FOR FUN, WELL FOR CRIPES SAKE--AND ALL THIS TIME WE THOUGHT FISCHER WAS IN THE ARMY!...DENNY JOHNSON ALWAYS CHECKS IN WITH SOMETHING. ONE SENTENCE IN HIS LAST LETTER SPEAKS VOLUMES: "I'M STILL IN GOOD CONDITION, EXCEPT THAT I GET THE DEVIL SCARED OUT OF ME NOW AND THEN JIM LOISEL HOPES HE WON'T RUN INTO CHRIS BATENHORST TOO SOON. SEEMS AS HOW JIM ADVISED CHRIS OUT OF JOINING THE NAVY, SO CHRIS WOUND UP IN THE GOOD OLD INFANTRY--AND WHAT DO THEY DO IN THE INFANTRY? YOU KNOW, BY THE BYE, WONDER IF LEO BOSE IS STILL MARCHING AROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND DOWN IN ARKANSAS--WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE...LEROY RIEF TOOK A GANDER AROUND SCOTLAND LOOKING OVER THE HIGH SPOTS--LOCH LOMOND ETC.... FATHER KEMPKER SENDS HIS BEST TO EVERYBODY. HE SEES BUD MAHLBERG REGULARLY AND WE HEAR THAT DR. ROBBINS AND DR. LLOYD THOMPSON OF WP ARE ON THAT SAME ISLAND. BILL SCHMITT REPORTS REGULARLY FROM INDIA, AND--REMEMBER THAT COMIC STRIP "TERRY AND THE PIRATES"? TERRY IS OPERATING IN INDIA NOW, AND BILL'S BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM. THAT GUY WILL WIND UP IN THE FUNNY PAPERS YET...CHRIS BATENHORST MOVED OUT OF CALIFORNIA BEFORE JIM LOISEL GOT THERE--OUT INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC. HE WANTS SOME BASKETBALL NEWS--COMING UP CHRIS. CHRIS DELIGHTED IN RUNNING THE PANTS OFF THE G.A. BASKETBALL TEAM IN SCRIMMAGES WHILE HE WAS HOME...SPOOLIX BOYLE IS GRADUATING FROM THE NAVAL AIR GUNNERY SCHOOL AT JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA, HE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM JUDGE STRATMAN. BOB MCDONALD'S OUTFIT WAS TAKING APO EXAMS. BOB MAKES SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS ON KRAUT PRISONERS AT CAMP CROWDER. SAYS THEY'RE MOSTLY YOUNG PUNKS WHO STILL THINK HITLER IS A SUPERMAN, AND HAVE A RUDE AWAKENING WAITING FOR THEM.

ART DECKER AND RITA FISHER HAVE WENT AND DONE IT--SO CONGRATULATIONS MR AND MRS. WE'LL HAVE THAT SHIVAREE WHEN YOU GET BACK HERE, AIN'T THAT RIGHT BOYS! ART AND RITA RAN INTO CASEY ZACEK IN NEW YORK, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN FUN. CASEY IS GETTING ALONG SWELL WE HEAR--HAS EVEN BEEN DOING CONSIDERABLE BOWLING BY WAY OF EXERCISE. CASEY'S SHIPMATES RECENTLY HELD A JAMBOREE FOR HIM AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A FINE WRIST WATCH AND DIAMOND RING, AS A TOKEN OF THEIR ESTEEM.

HOME ON FURLOUGH RECENTLY WERE FRANCIS SCHINSTOCK, JOE KNOBBE, FUZZY PARKER, TOBY OLIVERIOUS, JIM LOISEL, AND OMER FISHER. SHINNY HAD A SAD HOME-COMING--HIS FATHER, WHO HAD BEEN ILL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, DIED ON MARCH 13. SHINNY HAS GONE BACK TO PURSUE HIS STUDIES AS AN AIR CADET AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG. PARKER AND KNOBBE WERE CATCHING THEIR BREATH AFTER FINISHING BOOT TRAINING AT FARRAGUT. JIM LOISEL WAS HERE BEFORE MOVING FROM TEXAS TO CALIFORNIA, AND SEA-BEE TOBY OLIVERIOUS WENT BACK TO CAMP PERD, VIRGINIA. OMER FISHER MADE THE BEST OF HIS STAY AT HOME AFTER A LONG TOUR OF DUTY. OMER MADE ALL THE DANCES IN NORTHEAST NEBRASKA, BUT STILL MUTTERS IN HIS BEER ABOUT THOSE SOUTH SEA ISLAND GAL

HERE'S YOUR BASKETBALL. THE BOYS CAME TO LIFE ABOUT THE TIME CHURCH LEFT OUT, AND WOUND UP WITH FIVE WINS, WHICH, SAYS COACH, TONY TOELLE, STACKS UP AS A VERY HANDSOME RECORD INDEED, ALONGSIDE OF WEST POINT HIGH LONE ENTRY IN THE WIN COLUMN. THE KIDS WOUND UP THE SEASON'S BUSINESS B LICKING HOOPER, CLARKSON, BEEMER AND SNYDER FOR THE SECOND TIME. THE BEEMER GAME WAS THE ONE THE KIDS WERE LAYING FOR, AND THEY GOT THAT JOB DONE IN NICE SHAPE. THE KIDS ALSO BEAT AN ALUMNI TEAM DURING FEBRUARY--SIX FOOT SOMETHING CLETE KAUR AND FOUR FOOT NOTHING BRUNO BATENHORST TIE FOR HIGH POINTS WITH 13 APIECE. IN THOSE LAST GAMES THOSE KIDS WERE BEGINNING TO MAKE THAT FIGURE 8 OFFENSE WORK BETTER THAN ANY OF YOU FELLOW EVER DID, BUT YOU GUYS DID A LOT OF OTHER THINGS THESE KIDS COULDN'T DO, THINGS LOOK GOOD FOR NEXT YEAR--SEVEN LETTER MEN BACK, HALF A DOZEN PROMISING RESERVES, PLUS DAN LOISEL, WHO WILL BE A FRESHMAN AND THE BIGGEST

# LETTERS FROM THE PAST: Written March 25, 1944

GUY ON THE SQUAD, AND HE CAN SHOOT THAT APPLE TOO. BRUNO BATENHORST, TOM LOISEL, DON HUNKE, AND LEONARD PRINZ WERE THE BEST PERFORMERS THIS YEAR.

IN THE DISTRICT C. TOURNEY HERE G.A. HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO TANGLE WITH STANTON, THE WINNER, IN THE FIRST ROUND. STANTON HAD A COUPLE GOOD BIG BOYS THAT OUR LITTLE GUYS COULDN'T HANDLE. DODGE GOT TO THE FINALS WITH A NICE CLUB. STANTON LACKED THE SPEED TO GET ANY FURTHER, AND THEY WERE ELIMINATED IN THE PLAYOFFS. AT LINCOLN IN THE FINALS THE CHAMPS WERE OMAHA SOUTH IN CLASS A, YORK IN B, WAKEFIELD IN C, AND HILDRETH IN D. THREE GOOD CATHOLIC TEAMS, CREIGHTON PREP IN A, HOLY NAME OF OMAHA IN B, AND SACRED HEART OF FALLS CITY WERE ALL BOUNCED IN THE SEMI-FINALS. PREP WON THE OMAHA TOURNEY AND WAS FAVORED TO WIN AT LINCOLN, BUT AN EXTRA PERIOD FIRST-ROUND GAME WITH LINCOLN CENTRAL TOOK TOO MUCH OUT OF THEM, AND THEY WERE KNOCKED OFF BY COLUMBUS BY A ONE-SIDED SCORE IN THE BIGGEST UPSET OF RECENT YEARS. HOLY NAME LOST A TOUGH ONE TO YORK 30-28, THEIR ONLY DEFEAT IN EITHER THE FOOTBALL OR THE BASKETBALL SEASON. BOYSTOWN WENT INTO CLASS A FOR TOURNEY PLAY AND WAS ELIMINATED BY PREP IN THE OMAHA TOURNEY. THE SCORE OF THE CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, BY THE WAY WAS OMAHA SOUTH 13, COLUMBUS 10. SOUNDS LIKE THE KIND OF SCORES WE USED TO HAVE BACK WHEN JOE HUNKER WAS TOSSING HIS WEIGHT AROUND ON THE COURT.

WE'VE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF A FLOCK OF WISE REMARKS ABOUT VARIOUS PLACES THAT WE'LL PASS ALONG. JIM LOISEL CLAIMS THAT ANYBODY STATIONED IN TEXAS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO OVERSEAS PAY. FATHER GEORGE INITIALED HIS LETTER T.O.S.P. TIRED OF SOUTH PACIFIC. TOBY OLIVERIOUS SAYS "CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY? IF THEY EVER GET ME BACK TO THAT CONDEMNED PLACE AFTER THE WAR, THEY'LL HAVE TO CARRY ME BACK." AND HERE'S ONE ABOUT A COLORED BOY FROM THE SOUTH WORKING IN A NEBR. WAR PLANT, MOANING ABOUT THE COLD WINTER, AND PRAYING FOR THE WAR TO CEASE SO HE COULD GET BACK HOME. HIS BOSS AGREED THAT A MAN HAD TO BE BORN AND RAISED HERE TO APPRECIATE THE NEBR. CLIMATE AND THE COLLOID BOY GASPED: "BOSS, DOES YOU MEAN THAT PEOPLE LIVES HERE EVEN WHEN THERE AINT NO WAR?"

AND TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER--IT'S BEEN TERRIFIC. HERE'S A WEATHER STORY JUST AS IT WAS HANDED TO US: "MAN O MAN HAVE WE GOT THE WETHER ON THE HOAM FRONT. FIRST IT KOMES DOWN A DRIZZEL, THEN RANE, AND THEN LIDDLE HALES, AND PURTY SOON COMES THE SNOW. IT SNOWED A REGLUR BLIZZURD. THE WIND BLUE THRU THE HEMLOCKS, AND WISSELED IN THE PINES, AND SKARED THE BUDS OUT ON THE MAPELS. THEN SHE GOT COLD ABOUT SEVENTY TOO AND A HALF BEHIND ZERO. THE KITCHEN ZINC FROSE IN THE DINING ROOM AND THE APPELS FROSE IN THE POTATA SELLER, AND THE POOR SHEEPS FROSE BY THE DUZZONS. THEY HAD TO POSTPONE THE AMETURE SHOW AT THE TOWN HALL ON ACCOUNT OF THE SLIPPERY CONDISHUN OF THE ROADS AND SOME OF THE AMETERS. I THINK MY CUZZON COON WILL WIN WITH HIS BAZOON MUSICK WOT I MEAN HE REALLY PLAYS A MEAN BAZOON. I NO SOME MORE BUT DONT THINK IT WOOD GET BY THE SENSEHER". SO YOU SEE, SOME OF THE HOME-FRONTERS ARE CATCHING A LITTLE SHELL-SHOCK WAY BACK HERE.

OH MR. TOJO--GRAB YOUR HAT, GET ON YOUR BICYCLE, AND GET GOING--HERE COMES G.A.'S LATEST ARMY RECRUIT, HERBIE KEMPKER. WITH HERB TO KNOCK 'EM DOWN AND GEORGE TO PICK 'EM UP, IT WON'T LAST LONG NOW. ANOTHER ONE OF OUR BIG LITTLE GUYS IS IN TOO. GEORGE STRATMAN, NAVY. GEORGE WAS WORRIED AND STUDIED ALL NIGHT FOR THE BLOOD TEST, BUT HE MADE IT ANYWAY.

HARVEY ORTMEIER WAS WOUNDED IN THE ITALIAN FIGHTING, BUT IS DOING FINE IN HIS LT. (J.G.) CARL KELLER NOW, CARL MET RAY KAUP OUT IN THE PACIFIC--DICK FORKS HAS TURNED UP IN CONNECTICUT, ED BATENHORST IS EXPECTED HOME ON FURLOUGH, AND NICK WACKEL WILL FINISH HIS TRAINING AT EL PASO TEXAS ON APRIL 8. GENE UHING HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED AN ENSIGN AND MOVED TO FLORIDA. HAROLD KAUP HAD A BOUT WITH PNEUMONIA, BUT IS BACK ON HIS FEET. FRITZ WORTMAN IS SNORTING AROUND AUSTRALIA. RED BOYLE COMPLETED HIS WORK AT NORTHWESTERN U, AND WAS ALL SET TO GO TO WAR, SO HE WOUND UP AT A "MUS AND THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL"--OBERLIN COLLEGE, IN OHIO. WELL YOU GOTTA GET THOSE UNCOUTH EDGES SMOOTHED OFF FOR THE MARINES, SNOWBALL. YIPE! WHAT ARE THE MARINES COMING TO, ANYWAY! BY THE WAY, RED SKAGGS WROTE, AND MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD HAVE SENT THAT FIVE BUCKS HE OWES YOU, BUT HE ALREADY HAD THE LETTER SEALED. ART AND RITA DECKER WANDERED INTO JACK DEMPSEY'S RESTAURANT IN NEW YORK FOR THEIR WEDDING DINNER, AND WOUND UP WITH A HAM SANDWICH AT \$1.95--PRICE WITH MUSTARD WAS \$2.25. AND THEY SAY THAT WILLIE OLIGSCHLAEGER WAS LOCKED UP WITH THE MEASLES, BUT HE BROKE OUT ANYWAY (JOKE). DOC STEFFL HAS MOVED OVERSEAS.

BILL SCHMITT SUGGESTED THAT IF ALL THE BOYS WHO ARE LOCATED SOMEWHERE NEAR EACH OTHER, KNEW THE ADDRESSES OF EACH OTHER IT WOULD HELP THEM TO GET TOGETHER--SO WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN. IF YOU'RE OVERSEAS, YOU'LL FIND A SLIT IN THIS LETTER WITH ALL ADDRESSES OF OTHER G.A. ALUMNI MEMBERS KNOWN TO BE IN YOUR TERRITORY. THERE'S NOBODY ELSE IN INDIA, THOUGH, BILL!

WELL WE'RE ALL OUTTA STEAM--SO THAT DOES IT FOR THIS ROUND. IF AND WHEN YOU HAVE TIME, DROP US A LINE--WE WANT TO GIVE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT EACH OTHER AS WE CAN. GOOD LUCK EVERYBODY--KEEP PUSHING, AND KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN!

SINCERELY,

G.A. ALUMNI

Mary Ann Stratman, Pres.  
Christine Stratman, Sec. Treas.  
William A. Toelle, Vice Pres.

This is the fifth letter of an 11 part series that will run over the course of the upcoming newsletters. Letters were written by the GA Alumni Association to servicemen from 1943-45.

# Spiritual journey continues for Leffler boys

Guardian Angels Central Catholic graduates Taylor Leffler ('09) and Spencer Leffler ('12) are both continuing their seminary studies. Here is a quick update on each brother:

Taylor has graduated from the University of St. Thomas and St. John Vianney Seminary (in St. Paul, Minn.) with a Bachelors degree in Philosophy. He is currently at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., pursuing a Masters degree in Theology.

Taylor will have three more years at Kenrick before his priestly ordination. He was recently honored after a "candidacy" Mass, where he was formally accepted as a candidate to continue his studies toward Holy Orders. Right now, his summer plans are to spend several weeks in Guatemala for the Spanish immersion program.

Spencer is a junior at the Uni-



**Pictured with Taylor Leffler, left, and Spencer Leffler are the boys' parents Diane and Dana.**

versity of St. Thomas in St. Paul (Also St. John Vianney Seminary), and he too is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He is a member of the UST choir. His

summer plans include moving to Omaha, getting a job and taking classes at UNO.

They are the sons of Dana ('75) and Diane Leffler.

## GACC to expand Preschool

Starting in the 2015-16 school year, GACC will be offering Preschool for kids ages 3 and 4 years old.

Students have the option of enrolling in 2, 3 or 5-day schedules with extended care available until 3:30 p.m. on each of those days.

Students must turn 3 by July 31 to be eligible.

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## GACC celebrates CSW, 100 days

**While celebrating Catholic Schools Week in January, a few GACC teachers also celebrated 100 days of school. Dressing as 100-year-old teachers were, from left: Jane Knobbe (2nd grade), Brooke Meister (2nd), Jeanette Kindschuh (1st) and Marla Slaughter (K).**

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Anyone interested in attending Guardian Angels Central Catholic School is asked to contact Father Gerald Gonderinger at 402-372-2188. *\*Financial aid is available.*



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