



## Spirit Radio shares GACC legacy

By Delores Meister

As part of the Homecoming festivities this year Spirit Catholic Radio brought its Spirit Mornings-Heartland Tour to West Point on September 18, to highlight Guardian Angels Central Catholic. Centered on the theme, "130 Years of Learning and Leading Through Christ," the live radio broadcast celebrated the history of formal Catholic education in the community which began in 1885.

In addition to sharing the history of the school and the larger faith community, the two hour program also hosted interviews with school administration, faculty, students and alumni. One of the highlights of the program was a segment that included alumni and students who are members of families that represented four or five generations of Catholic education at GACC.

Gene Peatrowsky ('60) shared his story with the Spirit Catholic audience as he remembered his years beginning as a first grader in Sr. Augustine's classroom. Gene recalled that Catholic education was so important in his family that he and his sister RoseAnn stayed in a wing of the convent known as the Boarders' House during the school week.

The Rief/Peatrowsky legacy at GACC began with Gene's great-great grandfather Kasper Rief. In turn Kasper's son, Casper Ferdinand Rief, attended GA and his daughter, Gertrude Rief, graduated in 1929. Gene and his siblings,

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## Ridder reaches milestone win



Dave Ridder

Bluejay head football coach Dave Ridder ('79) couldn't have asked for a much better game to pick up his 100th career coaching win, which he did in a 62-26 win over Howells-Dodge.

Ridder, who has been coaching since 2002,

now holds a career record of 100-36.

"I couldn't be happier than where I'm at coaching for the GACC community. You always know you have good players with good family backgrounds here," Ridder said.



## GACC crowns homecoming royalty

Kate Knobbe, daughter of the late Chris Knobbe ('85) and Melissa Knobbe, and Brandon Hass, son of Arvid and Karen Oligmueller Hass ('85), were crowned Guardian Angels Central Catholic's 2015 queen and king. Other senior homecoming candidates were, from left, Katie Steuter, daughter of Paul Steuter ('80) and Mary Steuter; Elizabeth Franzluebbers, daughter of Don and Lori Franzluebbers; Luke Gnad, son of Dave and Laurie Gnad; and Tanner Ortmeier, son of Steve and Mary Ortmeier.

### GOING DIGITAL: Please send email addresses!

The GACC alumni newsletter is going digital in 2016. First issue will be published in March 2016. (More info on the change will appear in that issue). All alumni are asked to submit their email address to [ranaeobrien1@gmail.com](mailto:ranaeobrien1@gmail.com) to receive your digital copy. The newsletter can also be found online at [gaccbluejays.org](http://gaccbluejays.org) under the Supporters/Alumni section. Hard copies are still available by request.

# Nothing but pride being back at GACC

**By Mike O'Brien**

You can hear it in her voice, and you can see it in her actions, the amount of pride Kate Hagemann has being back at her alma mater of Guardian Angels Central Catholic School.

Hagemann, formerly Reeson, was a graduate of Central Catholic in 2000. She returned to GACC last year as the school's activities director.

Now her role at GACC School has become even more prominent as she was named the Interim Principal of GACC in June.

"Being back at my alma mater makes this a position that I take a lot of pride in. It's a big challenge. I learn something new every single day. I'm surrounded by great people and a great staff. They're very supportive," Hagemann said.

"When we're all working together, it makes GACC the special place that I remember many years ago. I really want to see this place achieve great things. I hope that I can help this school live up to its potential."

Hagemann went to Doane College where she received both her degree in Secondary Education and Social Sciences, and her Master's in Curriculum & Instruction. Hagemann is currently working on her Administrative degree through Wayne State College.

After college, Hagemann spent four more years at Doane as an assistant basketball coach. She then spent four years at Burlington, Colo. and one year at Sutton as a teacher and coach.

Last year, Kate and her husband Bill moved to West Point after she accepted the GACC A.D. position.

"It was an opportunity that I always wanted. The timing was right. My husband and I always knew we wanted our kids to attend a Catholic school. So it was a good move for both of us personally and professionally. It's good to be back home," Hagemann said.

"I'm glad I moved away and taught at other school systems. But



**After one year as the school's activities director, Kate Hagemann has been named the Interim Principal at Guardian Angels Central Catholic for the 2015-16 school year.**

it was always in the back of my mind that if the opportunity was right, this was the school and this was the community that I wanted to be a part of."

For Hagemann, it was the teachers that made GACC such a special place to be when she was a student.

"We had extremely dedicated teachers that not only taught you the subject matter, but taught you life lessons along the way," Hagemann said.

Now, as Principal, Hagemann sees those same qualities with the staff she has in place. And she's looking forward to building upon those relationships.

Familiarity will be a plus for Hagemann as she recalls having 10 teachers on staff who taught her while she attended school.

"I just don't want to let them down. That's what drives me every day," Hagemann said. "I just want to help them in achieving great things for this school."

# Ministry has come full circle

*Fr. Emanuel returns to West Point, his first assignment from 1993-1997*

**By Willis Mahannah**

The Rev. Steve Emanuel said a lot has changed in West Point in the 18 years that have passed since he served as assistant priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church. And some things have stayed the same.

And it's the latter that he appreciates.

After spending the past 10 years as chaplain and full-time teacher at Gross Catholic High School, along with nine years of sacramental duties at St. Columbkille Parish in Papillion, Emanuel is returning to the place where his ministry began.

He recently succeeded Father Gerry Gonderinger as priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point.

"West Point has changed some since I was last here, but it has been easy to reconnect with the people here, which has been a positive experience for me."

He had no reservations when learning in mid-May that he was being assigned to West Point.

"This is a very easy place to say "yes" to," he said. It's a unified community that has a strong commitment in what they believe in. And that's not just true about the Catholic community here. It's what this area is about."

Father Steve will have sacramental duties at four local parishes and will serve as president of Guardian Angels Central Catholic School.

Emanuel said going from being a full-time teacher to serving as pastor of four parishes and leading a school is presenting him some challenges.

"Handling the administrative duties will be the biggest transition for me," he said. "Budgeting is new to me, but I have a great support staff and I appreciate that," adding that there are still people at the school who were there when he was there 18 years ago.

After leaving West Point, Eman-



**Father Steve Emanuel, a native of North Bend who served at St. Mary's Catholic Church from 1993-1997, has returned to West Point, this time as both priest and school president.**

uel spent five years teaching and coaching at Columbus Scotus, and three years as pastor of parishes in Tilden and Neligh and teaching at Elgin Pope John.

The last 10 years he's been at Omaha Gross, where he wore many hats. One that he'll miss wearing in West Point, at least for the time being, is a coach's hat.

"I'll miss it immensely," he said. "I hope to be able to work myself back into some coaching position eventually, if needed."

For the time being, Father Steve is focused on his pastoral and

school administrative duties.

He said he has no plans for wholesale changes, but noted that he may do things differently and not realize it is a change.

He welcomes input, and prefers face-to-face meetings rather than emails.

"My goal is to make it a good experience for everybody in the parishes and in the school and community," he said.

"For me it's about proclaiming God's love, and it's easier to do that if we are having fun and on the same page."

**'My goal is to make a good experience for everybody in the parishes and in the school and community.'**

**Fr. Steve Emanuel:** President of GACC & Pastor of St. Mary's Parish

# 2015 Homecoming

## By Delores Meister

Homecoming took on a true coming home format this year. Father Steve invited all who have ever attended Guardian Angels Grade School or high school, and their families, even if they did not graduate from grade school or high school.

At the turn of the century in the horse and buggy days, some students were sent from rural District schools to the Catholic school for a year or two to be instructed to receive solemn Holy Communion.

All were invited to the Wednesday night September 16 Mass; and behold, the church was packed full.

Hundreds attended the tail-gate party on the east end of the playground.

Then came the fun, games

and laughter as the 170 students in grades 7 through 12th grade houses (like Harry Potter houses) St. Wolfgang, St. Rocco, St. Ignatius and St. Maximilian Kolbe competed in games.

Each house sponsored a game. Parents and other spectators hilariously enjoyed the students' games.

The games started with tug-of-war. The second game was 'Teacher Jeopardy.' For teacher Jeopardy, all the questions were about teachers. By the time relay races were finished, the games ran out of sunlight.

Since it was too dark to play 'steal the flag,' that was played at a later date on a Friday afternoon. More information on homecoming events, including the coronation, can be found on the front page.

# GA SCHOOL:

## FROM PAGE 1

RoseAnn Peatrowsky Prinz ('58) and Martin Peatrowsky ('66), with sons Joseph ('03) and Jason ('08), continued the tradition of their family's heritage.

Following the Rief/Peatrowsky line through Gene and his wife Jolene gave this legacy Chris ('85), Cory ('90), Brent ('92) and Jamie ('05) as members of the fifth generation. Chris and his wife Nadine have given the Rief/Petrowsky line a sixth generation through their children Kelsea ('10), Nathan ('13) and Brianna ('21).

RoseAnn Peatrowsky Prinz and her husband Bob have also blessed the GACC family with two more generations through their children Dan ('81), Mark ('84), Lisa ('87) and Julie ('88) and Julie's children Isaac ('13) and Grace ('17).

## REESON FAMILY

Current GACC students Brecken Woerman (pre-Kindergarten), Brooklyn Field (3rd grade) and Aiden Field (1st grade) are part of the five generations that trace their start in Catholic education back to John Reeson.

The children of Anna Woerman ('03) and Jodi Field ('01) are the grandchildren of Deanne Reeson Wieneke ('73) and the great grandchildren of Art Reeson who attended GA from 1929-1933.

## FIFTH GENERATION FAMILY

For Michelle Ernesti Einfalt ('77), her roots extend to parents Tom Ernesti ('49) and Margaret Lannen Ernesti ('49). Tom's parents are Martin Ernesti ('21) and Mauren Nitz ('20).

Maureen Nitz's mother, Anna Welding Nitz attended Guardian Angels Grade School in the late 1890's and early 1900's. GA high school was established in 1918.

Michelle and Jon's children are Mallory ('14) and Mackenzie ('12) while Max continues schooling at GACC.



## *GACC introduces new faculty members*

**New to the Guardian Angels Central Catholic faculty for the 2015-16 school year are, from left, Sister Elizabeth Benvie (Liturgical Consultant/Coordinator/Musician K-6; Liturgical Consultant 7-12; & 7th Grade Religion Teacher), Tina Gentrup (PK-8 Computer Teacher/Technology Coordinator), Allan Lampli (Science Teacher), Mollie Brunsing (Pre-Kindergarten Teacher) and Sister Elizabeth Ann Miller (6th Grade Religion Teacher/6th-8th Grade Aide).**



## *GACC qualifies for 5th consecutive state softball tourney*

Guardian Angels Central Catholic earned a wildcard and qualified for the Class C State softball tourney in Hastings. Team members are, from left, front: manager Jenna Schinstock, Jordan Fischer, Elizabeth Franzluebbers, Katey Brown, Carolyn Fraher, Ashley Minnick, manager Brooke Meister; back: head coach Allan Kreikemeier, Regan Dorcey, Hannah Hunke, Marci Franzluebbers, Lauren Wobken, Lexis Haase, Makayla Tomka, Mariah Hunke, Josie Dvorak and coach Bruce Schlecht. GACC finished 1-2 at the state tourney.

## *Fall sports enjoy success*

Postseason success is nothing new at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, and that tradition was carried on this fall.

After Central Catholic competed in the state softball tourney, the volleyball and football teams competed in their own state playoffs.

GACC finished 3rd in the Class C2 state volleyball tourney and made quarterfinals in the Class D1 state football playoffs. Check next issue for more.

## **Staff**

Fr. Steve Emanuel ..... Pastor  
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 Mike O'Brien ..... Editor  
 Delores Meister ..... Reporter  
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## House system finds new home at GACC

### **By Delores Meister**

New this year at Guardian Angels Central Catholic is an interactive program designed to engage students and faculty members in the process of community building through prayer, apostolic outreach and friendly competition.

While new to GACC, this program has been adopted by a number of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Omaha and throughout the country. Based on the model of old English boarding schools, the House system is an opportunity to deepen the sense of belonging for all members of the larger community through interaction in smaller base communities.

While the Leadership Team at GACC established certain parameters for the system: four Houses, each House is to be named after a

Saint, siblings will belong to the same House, each House will include students in grades 7-12; the students and their faculty advisors were responsible for creating a “House identity” which included a House name, House motto, House colors and House crest.

Each House was also invited to design a House tee shirt that may be worn on Wednesdays and during House activities. These shirts were generously provided to the Houses by SPA.

The four Houses of GACC are St. Wolfgang, St. Rocco, St. Ignatius and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Teacher and Rocco House dean Tarah Jansen said, “Everybody belongs to a house. It is an effort to build communities within a community, like a family. All siblings in the same family belong to the same house. No kid is left out. We all look out for each other.”

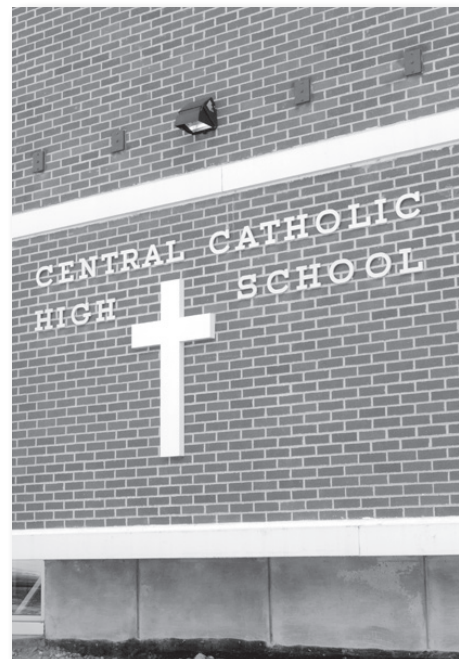
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