

**"TRULY HONORED"***Kampschnieder named  
Archdiocese's Teacher of Year*

Each year, eight outstanding teachers and administrators who demonstrate a strong personal commitment to Catholic education, and give service that's above and beyond the call of duty, are honored as Educators of the Year.

This year, Guardian Angels Central Catholic had one of its own recognized with that honor. The Omaha Archdiocese recognized Mary Jo Kampschnieder as Educator of the Year.

Kampschnieder, the Library/Art teacher at GACC, learned of her award at an all-school assembly held last Thursday. Each honoree receives a \$5,000 award.

"I am truly honored. I have always considered my job in

education as a vocation, and teaching in Catholic schools for almost 25 years has been a real blessing," Kampschnieder said. "I was so happy my family, friends, colleagues and students were there to share in the surprise."

Of those 20-plus years of teaching, Kampschnieder has been in the GACC School system for 15 years.

Kampschnieder will be recognized with her "Educator of the Year" honor at the Archbishop's Dinner for Education this fall.

Kampschnieder joins four other GACC faculty members to earn this award. Previously honored were Patty Meiergerd, Robert Ernesti, Jane Knobbe and Fr. Steve Emanuel.



**Mary Jo Kampschnieder was named Archdiocese's Teacher of the Year.**

## Blue Ribbon Dinner: 'Come see GACC's legacy'

**By Delores Meister**

Luke Strehle ('05) welcomed 160 Guardian Angels Blue Ribbon dinner supporters at their 34th annual anniversary celebration.

Principal Kate Reeson Hagemann ('00) spoke of her pride as a graduate of CC and the honor of now leading her school as an administrator. The Reeson family has a legacy of five generations who have attended GACC.

Sr. Elizabeth Benvie led the sing-

ing of Grace.

Patrick Slattery, Omaha, Superintendent of Catholic School of the Omaha Archdiocese said enrollments are on the upturn. "We have a renaissance in Catholic education," he said.

Pat Knobbe reported on Development and endowment.

Father Steve Emanuel invited everyone, "Come see this legacy you have, 130 years of learning and leading through Christ. It is about

family. The school community is family. The surprising thing is the continuity of people like you carry on with your generous support."

Emanuel expressed his gratitude and appreciation and his hope and vision that this carry on for the next 130 years.

"Come and visit," Father Emanuel said.

Another story related to the Blue Ribbon Dinner can be found on page 2.

# Alexis: 'God is always there'

**By Delores Meister**

Alexis Hugo Funk ('98) spoke to 160 Blue Ribbon supporters of Guardian Angels Central Catholic at their 34th annual dinner Monday evening, April 4, at the Nielsen Community Center.

"My head and my heart are filled with the values and ethics instilled by my family and my school, a strong faith, dedication, hard work and service," Alexis said.

With a dozen Hugos on hand Alexis said, "I come from a family of story tellers, Grandpa Al ('35) and my dad Jerry ('69)" and she proceeded to tell her story.

The CC graduate of 1998 earned an elementary education bachelor's degree at Wayne State in 2002 and began her teaching career. Alexis and Chris Funk were married in 2006. She earned her Masters' degree in 2007 from Wayne State. She was teaching third grade in Millard Public Schools and continues to do so.

In 2009, their son Victor Joseph was born. In 2010, they were blessed with a daughter, Julia Rose. Life was normal and good. But then at four months, Julia Rose suddenly overnight became very ill with a life-threatening illness. On several occasions, as Julia Rose clung to life for suspended times against almost overwhelming odds, Alexis told of their almost devastating experiences.

"It's the love and support of the



**Gathering at the Blue Ribbon Dinner were, from left, Jerry Hugo, Alexis Hugo Funk and Cindy Hugo.**

family, a family of faith. We've learned patience. It's the faith that keeps us alive. There's the giving of yourself. God is always there," she said.

"In a really tough time, we can't give up. We have to keep going. The family was there. The family was sticking with us, thinking with faith. Faith helped us to be open to the help that was there," she said.

Today Julia Rose is on a maintenance health program.

Alexis said, "Be aware of being

in your own world. But there is much more out there. Be grateful. Be appreciative. Stay grounded. It is important to know who you are. But still be humble."

"This community has always been a community of strong families of faith," she said. "This was a chance for me to give back, to thank you for supporting the school that teaches faith, and continues to teach and practice with dedication, hard work and service."



## New Knights...

Six current and former GACC currently joined the West Point Knights of Columbus Council # 2272. The young men being knighted were, from left, Austin Duhsman ('16), Tanner Hass ('16), Robert Schmaderer ('16), Adam Perry ('15), Kreg Schlautman ('15) and Austin Kreikemeier ('12).



# Iden to retire after 35 years at GA

Guardian Angels has always held a special place in Diana Iden's heart. It has been home for her. But after a 35-year teaching career at the school, Iden will be saying goodbye to that "home" when she retires this month.

"Being at GA has been like belonging to a second family. The people I've worked with and the students and their families have become a big part of my life," Iden said.

"My mom graduated from GA, all of my siblings and all of their children, as well as mine, are graduates. This school has always been a special place."

Iden spent 31 years in Kindergarten and four years as a 6th grade teacher. In fact, Iden was Guardian Angel's first Kindergarten teacher.

"In 1981, Fr. Meiergerd contacted me because GA was considering starting its own kindergarten. I was offered, and accepted the job as the first Kindergarten teacher at GA," Iden said.

Prior to Guardian Angels, Iden got her start in education at District #81.

"After I graduated from College of St. Mary in Omaha, I was hired at District 81 Cuming County Rural School as the Kindergarten thru 4th grade teacher in a one-room setting," Iden said. "I had 22 students of various grade levels my first year of teaching."

When Iden was in junior high and high school, she spent a great deal of time babysitting. It was from that experience that Iden became interested in a career in education.

"I felt I had a special connection with children, and knew I wanted to continue working with them," Iden said.

And during Iden's 35 years at GA, that connection with her students was always there.

"Diana dedicated 40 years of her life to education. Thirty-five of those years have been devoted to Catholic education," Principal



**After 35 years at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, Diana Iden is set to retire this month.**

Kate Hagemann said. "She is a consistent and fair teacher, who works hard to have high expectations for her students."

And it's that relationship with her students that Iden will certainly miss.

"The best part about teaching is watching former students as they mature and become adults and vibrant members of their communities," Iden said.

"Being at GA is special because I could share my faith with future generations and know that the educational and spiritual opportunities at GACC are top-notch."

By far, the biggest change that Iden has seen during her years as a teacher is the use of technology.

"Thirty-five years ago, personal computers were just being introduced into the classroom. Today, technology is a vital part of education," Iden said.

May 19 marks the final day in the classroom for Iden. And while her career in education is coming to a close, Iden will be left with memories that will last forever.

"I'll miss the interaction with the students and my colleagues," Iden said. "The friendships I've made over the years are priceless."

# Alum celebrates 60 years as a nun

**By Delores Meister**

It was the “Happy Days” of 60 years ago when Doris Jurgenson (‘54) traded her saddle-shoes, poodle skirt and satin blue and white GA jacket for black laced oxfords and a long black one-piece habit of a Franciscan postulant.

Was she really going to join the convent? Why?

Sister Doris Jurgenson and Sister Rita Mae Suhr will be celebrating 60 years as nuns with Mass and a reception on June 26 at Holy Family Convent near Manitowoc, Wisconsin, having lived the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

“I didn’t want to go,” Sister confessed. “It was a mysterious inner call. I prayed that God would take this away from me. The thoughts would not go away. I could not shake the calling. My dad, as a Lutheran, didn’t understand it. It was not easy, but once I got there it was okay. It was exciting. Later, my dad and mom came to visit, and they saw how happy I was.”

“I have no regrets. Never,” she said. “My first thoughts about going to the convent came in Sister Mary Sebastin’s third and fourth grade classroom, and then I forgot about it until Sister Martin de Porres’s high school vocation club,” Sister Doris said.

“The happy part is answering the call. I am very happy. It has been fun, exciting and challenging living in a community in a group with constant companionship and always inviting work to do that can make a positive difference.”

After two years of preparation, Sister Doris made three-year vows of poverty, obedience and chastity on August 15, 1958, and in 1961 she made vows for her lifetime.

Sister Doris had no idea where her religious life would lead her, or how interesting, challenging and happy it would be.

“With a teaching certificate from Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, I was a primary



**Sister Doris Jurgenson celebrates 60 years as a nun.**

**‘I have no regrets. Never...  
The happy part is answering  
the call.’**

**Sister Doris Jurgenson:** 1954 graduate

teacher for nine years in Wisconsin,” she said.

Then Sister was missioned to Arizona to educate Native Americans, the children of the Papago, Tohono O’odham and Pima Nations. They spoke their own language.

“I told the children, ‘I’m trying to learn your language. You have to help me,’” She said.

Sister took courses to learn their culture at the University of Arizona in Tucson and received a Masters’ degree in education from

Arizona State at Tempe.

She continued teaching at Santa Barbara, California, for eight years. “I loved it. The scenery, the weather, the very nice people,” she said.

Sister Doris’ work moved from classrooms to administration.

She became Western Regional coordinator for the Sisters’ missions in Hawaii, California and Arizona. Then she was elected to the convent administration for two six-year terms.

She enrolled in continued education classes at Fox Valley Technical School for computer training.

As her parents aged, Sister was missioned back to West Point for 16 years where she worked with Franciscan Care Services Home Health Department and then as a



## SR. DORIS:

FROM PAGE 4

retired volunteer.

"I thank God for my religious vocation. It has brought me peace and joy."

"I joined the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, because it was the only order I knew at the time. Today girls can search on the internet," she said. "Vatican II in the 1960's changed religious life, but the basic things, prayer life and community life, remain the same.

"We pray the divine office every morning, attend mass, and have one hour of daily personal prayer. We try to be aware of God's presence and His guidance all day long."

Sister added, "In our community we voted to retain wearing the habit. We feel it is a sign to the people of our consecration. In public we get a lot of compliments. People stop to share something in their lives about God's presence in their world.

"Our congregation dialogues with us about the place and work we will be doing before we are assigned. Of course I miss my family. The community was very considerate to send me home to West Point where I could be with my dad and my mother in their final years."

A loyal Bluejay fan, Sister Doris attended the GA 50th and 60th class of '54 reunions. She thanks her high school classmates, family and friends for their loyal support.

"Today religious vocations are found more in successful career women who want more out of life than the material rewards," she said.

Wherever Sister has gone, "I still miss the Nebraska steaks," she said.

Sister Rita Mae Suhr who attended Guardian Angels High School is a member of this 60-year jubilee group.

## Mark calendar for June 10-11

### *Jayfest, alumni banquet to be held next month*

The 2016 GACC Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, June 11, at the Nielsen Center. School tours will be from 3:00-4:15 p.m. Mass (St. Mary's) is at 4:30 with a social hour to follow. Class pictures will be taken at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served once photos are finished.

JayFest will be Friday, June 10, also at the Nielsen Center. Those attending will "rock around the clock" with a '50's dinner and auction.

A social hour and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m.. Dinner is at 7:00 with a live auction to follow.



**JayFest**  
**SOCK HOP**

**50's Dinner & Auction**  
**GET READY TO ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK!**

**Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of June**  
**at 6:00 o'clock Rock**

Nielsen Community Center  
West Point, NE

Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres  
at 6:00 o'clock

Silent Auction at 6:00 o'clock  
Dinner at 7:00 o'clock  
Live Auction following dinner

*Be there!  
Be a Greaser  
or be a Square!*

Proceeds from this year's JayFest will assist in funding 35 iPads for the Elementary School, the Master Educator Program, and the Resource Program.  
A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the West Point Special Olympics and TEAMMATES Mentoring Program.

## Knobbe earns 'Believer & Achiever' award

Kate Knobbe, a senior at Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School, was recognized as one of six Believers & Achievers for October 2015. She was honored during the boys state basketball tourney.

Believers & Achievers is a statewide program designed by U.S. Bank and the NSAA to give recognition to Nebraska's future leaders involved in NSAA activities. Below is Knobbe's list of involvement and honors:

- Grade Point Average: 4.0
- NSAA Activity Participation: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Play Production
- Activity Honors and Awards: Member of GACC's 2013 & 2014 NSAA Class C2 Volleyball Championships Qualifying Teams; Member of GACC's 2013, 2014 & 2015 NSAA Girls Basketball Championships Qualifying Teams; 2014 NSAA

Class D Track & Field Championships Qualifier in the 3200M Relay

- School Involvement: Peer Ministry Vice President, House Program Leader, Senior Class Vice-President, National Honor Society

- Community Involvement: Sunday School Director, Youth Group Member, 4-H, Cornhusker Girls' State Representative

"This was a huge honor to get recognized for. It brought some light on all the hard work I have done in my academics and for my time with leadership and volunteer work," Knobbe said.

"It's a privilege to be recognized with the other 48 winners from all over Nebraska. I give credit to my family, friends, teachers, and coaches who have helped shape me into the person I have become."

Kate is the daughter of Melissa and the late Chris Knobbe ('85).



**Kate Knobbe**

## Neiman earns hardware in Class C2 Poetry



**Guardian Angels Central Catholic's qualifiers for the 2016 state speech meet at University of Nebraska-Kearney were, from left, Grace Neiman (Poetry), Monica Reeson (Persuasive), Braden Dvorak (Informative) and Jenalee Wimer (Humorous).**

Grace Neiman, a junior at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, delivered a 6th-place finish at the Class C2 state speech meet last Thursday at the University of Nebraska-Kearney campus. Neiman's state medal was in Poetry.

"It was exciting to see Grace make finals during her first time competing at state. Last year, she attended state speech as a supporter and not performer. And at the end of the day, while we were waiting for awards, she made the announcement that, 'next year I will make it to state, and I will be on that podium,' and that's exactly what happened," Bluejay coach Brooke Meister said.

Senior Braden Dvorak finished 9th in Informative, senior Monica Reeson finished 11th in Persuasive and junior Jenalee Wimer was a 12th-place finisher in Humorous.



**BIRTHS****NEW TO THE NEST**

**Susie (Otte) '00 & Josh Cantrell:**  
son Archer John born 9/16/15

**Matt & Megan Schlaebitz:**  
daughter Clare Renae born 4/1/16

**Blaine '03 & Fallon Kreikemeier:** son Logan Aaron born 3/3/16

**Chad '96 & Lisa Eisenmenger:**  
daughter Faye Elisabeth born  
2/19/16

**Jared '03 & Nicole Schmader:**  
son Braxton Dean born 1/28/16

**WEDDINGS**

**Heath '06 & Michaela Graybeal:**  
married 4/2/16

**Shea '08 & Mollie (Brunsing)  
Stokely '10:** married 4/22/16

**Adam & Amanda (Iden) '05 &  
Schueth:** married 4/30/16

**Jared '12 & Meredith Rolf:** married 4/30/16

**DEATHS**

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

**Marcella "Sally" (Wolken)**

**Rennerfeldt '45:** Date of death  
4/17/16



**Jeff Bliemeister is Lincoln's new police chief.**

## *Bliemeister becomes new Lincoln police chief*

Jeff Bliemeister, former chief deputy in the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, become Lincoln's new police chief in April.

Bliemeister ('90) was recently appointed to his new job by Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler.

He succeeds Jim Peschong, who retired in February. Bliemeister is to take over his new duties April 26, assuming the Lincoln City Council approves the appointment.

During his 20 years with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, Bliemeister has been involved with the patrol divi-

sion, field-training officers and supervisors, tactical response unit, criminal investigations, narcotics, special services and training and personnel.

He has been chief deputy since 2012.

A graduate of Central Catholic High School in West Point, Bliemeister earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a master's degree in management from Doane College.

Jeff is the son of John ('67) and Connie Pagels Bliemeister ('69) of West Point.



# Eager to share God's blessings

Always listen. You never know when or what God will be calling you to do. Just ask 2012 graduate Austin Kreikemeier. Austin listened to God, and the Lord blessed him with some great opportunities in his life.

It started in high school. Kreikemeier was always involved with Life Teen as well as helping at Edge Retreats and summer camps. That opened even more doors.

Since graduating, Kreikemeier has been able to share his gifts and talents with those around him. A specific calling came when he was offered a full-time position to work at Life Teen Camp Covecrest in Georgia.

"This opportunity came about from my time with Life Teens' summer missions. Summer Missions was an opportunity for me to come to camp and serve and be on mission, so I had to do things like fundraising to make it possible," Kreikemeier said.

"But it was Lisa Hunke who pushed and believed in me, and ultimately convinced me to give of myself to this mission. There was a lot that came into play about me pursuing, but mostly it was about giving myself an opportunity to use the skills I have in a workplace that is centered around Christ."

At Camp Covecrest, Kreikemeier was the Assistant to the Director of Operations, which entails a wide range of responsibilities.

"It means the world to me to have worked for a company such as this. First of all, this camp has such a natural beauty. It is one of the coolest places to live and work, but it also is a place of prayer, healing, and development of one's spirituality. That makes it one of the most beautiful places I've ever encountered," Kreikemeier said.

"The leaders of LifeTeen care more about my heart and my well-being than they do about the work that needs to be done. To be led by people that can trust the Lord is one of the coolest feelings I have



**Austin Kreikemeier and his mother, Cheryl Kreikemeier, at Camp Covecrest in Georgia.**

ever felt."

Kreikemeier was hired at Camp Covecrest in 2014 and worked there until January of 2016 when he started to work for his dad, Alan Kreikemeier, owner of Meyer Building in West Point.

While Kreikemeier has fond memories of working at Camp Covecrest, he also remembers what an important role GACC played for him as well.

"I would have to say my time at GACC directly impacted me in a way that led me to this place. They blessed me by planting so many seeds in my life, only to be watered by the Church's youth ministry, that sprouted and sprung

me forward to pursue this career and this lifestyle," Kreikemeier said.

"Personally, I owe so much Lisa Hunke, she never gave up on me and kept pushing me towards the Lord, (like asking me to help with Edge, or give talks at retreats, or go on retreats myself) if she wouldn't have been involved with the school I don't think I would be here today."

Kreikemeier currently became a Knight of Columbus and helps with the Edge Group. Austin is also planning on making a return trip to Georgia this summer as a youth group leader for Camp Covecrest.



# Musician hits the road to share talents

There's been plenty of windshield time for acoustic musician Dustin Prinz the past couple of years, and that's been perfectly fine with him.

Hitting the road allows Prinz ('01) to share his music with people all over the country.

"Touring. That's how I've been surviving. I'm putting my dues in. That's how I figure it," the musician said.

For Prinz, producing music for a living is a dream come true. Doing what he loves for a career is great, but it has created some self-doubt over the years.

"I just turned 33, and being an independent artist, I have moments where I stop and ask myself, 'why am I even doing this?' I'm making just enough to get by," Prinz said.

That question has faced Prinz the past six years, which is when he first launched his career as an acoustic musician. He is the first to admit the amount of instability and uncertainty that comes along with his profession.

But Prinz is beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

"I'm just now starting to see so much of the work I've put in come together. Things are actually starting to make sense now," Prinz said. "When you get bits and pieces of things that fall into place, it helps validate why I'm doing this. Going out and playing is a huge reason I do this."

Prinz's first of many shows for his 2016 tour was at Lubbock, Texas, earlier this month.

Last year, Prinz estimated that he played anywhere from 150 to 200 shows, and he plans to continue that schedule in 2016. He will tour for a month or two, then make a quick trip back home to West Point to regroup.

"West Point is home. I'm usually back for a week at the max, but it gives me a chance to regroup and write some new music," Prinz said. "And it gives me a chance to see family. My family has provided an



**While home in West Point, if Dustin Prinz isn't with family, he can be found at Power Bass Studio in Wisner.**

incredible support system for me."

When Prinz is back in town, he spends plenty of time at his "second home," which is Power Bass Studio in Wisner. It is owned by Dan Kane.

"I pretty much live out at Power Bass Studio. I'll call Dan up with a new song idea, and I'll ask him if he can help me finish it. He's really good with the production side of everything," Prinz said.

It's Kane who typically puts the finishing touches on a lot of Dustin's music.

"A bunch of randomness that fills my head, he brings those thoughts to something cohesive. He makes the songs come to fruition," Prinz said. "Dan and his studio are a huge part of what I do. Without him, this wouldn't be possible."

## INSPIRING ONE BY ONE

His 2016 schedule will focus primarily on producing singles and touring. On the road, no day is the same.

"I get out there and see new things everyday. That just makes

interesting stories," Prinz said.

"Traveling and meeting new people. There's a lot of cool stuff out there. That's the only way I'll grow as an artist."

Another way Prinz has been able to grow has been with Leesta Vall Artists Agency, which is a new independent booking agency based in Brooklyn, NY.

"They do all my booking for me now. That gives me a lot of time to just be creative," Prinz said.

Prinz also has a manager, Chris Harkness, based out of Houston. The agency is called MM55productions.

With that extra help, Prinz can focus on doing what he loves, and has the opportunity to chase life's next challenge.

"I'm restless as can be if I'm not constantly challenging myself to reinvent some melody or an idea I have," Prinz said. "Nothing is better than seeing a single idea turn into something great. There's just such a great sense of accomplishment with that."

Dustin is the son of David ('73) and Joyce Bliemeister Prinz ('74).

# Fr. Brown remains optimistic of youth

**By Delores Meister**

Remember an important time of high school? TEC? Teens Encounter Christ?

During the '80's and '90's, about 700 Central Catholic students, before graduation, made a three-day spiritual retreat, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC). In the Omaha Archdiocese, more than 11,000 young people experienced the TEC weekend.

Remember Fr. James Brown, the priest who directed Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)?

He was the Youth Spiritual Director for the Omaha Archdiocese for 27 years, and for 13 years Fr. Brown was the director of Teens Encounter Christ.

"I'm doing well. I don't feel old," the 94-year old Fr. Brown said. "I'm very optimistic about life. There are good things going on that we don't hear about.

"I'm optimistic about the future because I believe in young people," the former 27-year Omaha Archdiocese Youth Spiritual Director said.

"We have a very educated-type of youth today. The quality of youth attracted to the Church is very good. Young people are naturally optimistic. They have a keen sense of value and a keen sense of justice," he said.

"We will have a hard time in the near future but it will shape us up. I think the number of vocations is coming back again and it will attract the strong. It takes a lot of courage for a young man to go to the seminary these days," he said.

"TEC has been a good example as it binds together young people. A delightful experience for me, I came into the TEC movement quite by chance. I was at Boys Town. I was invited to Des Moines where I made my first TEC. We recruited ten boys from Boys Town and it brought a transformation for these boys. After a year or so we had bus loads of kids going to Des Moines, until the TEC pro-



**Fr. James Brown, who was the Youth Spiritual Director for the Omaha Archdiocese for 27 years, directed Teens Encounter Christ.**

gram was brought to Omaha,' Fr. Brown said.

Former TEC'ers will remember that TEC is a Catholic movement of spirituality for older adolescents and young adults carried out in the traditions of the Catholic Church.

TEC forms a core group of 20 to 35 young people, placing value in the creation of a Christian community. It builds relationships of friendship with the people there and carries that over to a relationship with Christ. It is highly intellectual as well as emotional, a great grace opportunity.

Fr. Brown said, "Society has a wrong sense of values when it says money is everything. It is about relationships, a personal relationship with Christ."

Fr. Brown said, "You cannot teach religion unless you become a friend. The trouble with Catholic education is when you learn facts instead of relationships. Christianity works if you do it well. Gandhi once said, 'I love Christianity but I can't stand Christians.' We take all

the problems that kids have with the Church, melt it down, with grace, and love."

"Christianity is fun. It should generate joy. Joy is the echo of God's presence," Brown said.

Fr. Brown did 13 years of research to re-write the TEC manual. In retirement he has completed translating the TEC program to Spanish.

He said, "One out of every five Catholics in the U.S. is Latino. It is the only group in the U S increasing in numbers. They take TEC very well."

TEC retreats are offered in more than 50 U S dioceses, foreign countries and the Military Archdiocese. Alumni may be interested in serving as volunteer leaders in their areas.

Fr. James Brown OAR's address is: St. Augustine Priory, 400 West Sherwood Way, Oxnard, CA 93033. He will be 95 on June 8. His e-mail is fatherjamesbrownar@aol.com.

For more TEC info, visit [www.archomaha.org](http://www.archomaha.org). or email Lisa Hunke [lcshunke@msn.com](mailto:lcshunke@msn.com).



# Bluejay Legacy: For a brighter future

The Bluejay Legacy Committee is here for you. They are a committee organized to encourage efforts at planned giving to GACC School by local parishioners and alumni.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider a gift to GACC in your legacy plans. Planned gifts make the future possible for GACC. If you have a question

about planned giving please contact the St. Mary's Rectory at 402-372-2188, and they will put you in touch with a Bluejay Legacy Committee Member, who can visit with you about your potential options.

Bluejay Legacy Committee Members are Al Meister, Michael Bailey, Jason Smith, Fr. Frank Lordemann and Wendy Ridder.

## Students in the 'Nest' stay busy

*GACC students team up to make Easter decorations for local nursing home residents*



**Above:** Elementary students Simon Kreikemeier, and Shelby Perchal make an Easter card. Helping them is GACC High School student, Jamie Plagge.

**Right:** Alli Ritter and Gabi Goeden team up to color their Easter card.



**Left:** Xavier Steffensmeier and Tucker Steffen made Easter cards for local nursing home residents.

**Below:** Kathryn Jansen is finished with her card.



Photos courtesy of Sr. Elizabeth Benvie/GACC teacher



## *GACC faculty honored for years of service*

Guardian Angels Central Catholic honored its faculty for their years of service to the school during last week's GACC Development Dinner at the Nielsen Center. Being honored for their service to

GACC School were, from left, Diana Iden, 35 years; Donna Meister, 5 years; Michelle Ulrich, 5 years; Matthew Schlaebitz, 5 years; Lynda Doernemann, 5 years; and Steve Latka, 20 years.

## Some things don't change

### *GACC remains 'dedicated to forming future generations'*

+ *IN HOC SIGNO VINCES* +  
"The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Placed against the backdrop of world history or the microcosm of our own lives, I am always amazed by the power and truth of this old adage. Take for example my own surreal return to Guardian Angels Central Catholic after an eighteen year hiatus.

Arriving as a newly ordained priest to my

first assignment in 1993, I was immediately immersed in the rich tradition of Catholic education that has existed in our community since 1885. Blessed by four years of service as the assistant pastor at St. Mary and my involvement in Guardian Angels Central Catholic, I was formed in the rich legacy that is the faith-filled heritage of the mission of "learning and leading through Christ".

Fast-forward to July 2015, and my return to this extended family of faith. While I do not have the time, space or knowledge to reflect on all that has changed since my departure in 1997, I can state with absolute certainty what has remained the same: the unwavering commitment to a Catholic school system that is dedicated to forming

future generations for service of the Gospel.

Words seem inadequate to express my gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done, and continue to do, in growing this rich and living history that is Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

I can say from personal experience that it is an exercise in humility to witness the generosity and dedication that sustains this great legacy of faith and love. Without your spiritual and temporal support we could not continue.

I pray that together we will continue to make history so that 130 years from now someone else may have the honor of reflecting on their joy in being a part of this tremendous vocation of learning and leading through Christ.

**GACC  
PRESIDENT**

Fr. Steve  
Emanuel





## Kreikemeier helps coach Bishop Neumann boys to Class C1 state basketball title

John Kreikemeier ('01) was an assistant coach for Bishop Neumann, who won the 2016 Class C1 boys state basketball tourney.

Neumann defeated Adams Central 63-54 in the C1 title game in Lincoln.

Kreikemeier teaches junior high PE, 8th grade religion and 7th grade life skills at Bishop Neumann High School.

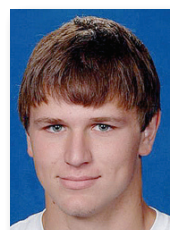
John is the son of Kevin and Cherie Kreikemeier.



John Kreikemeier

## Hass breaks 50-year-old shot put mark

A long-time track record has a new name by it as GACC senior Tanner Hass is the new record-holder for Bluejay shot put.



Tanner Hass

Hass launched a 50-7.5 throw to break a 50-year-old school record at the Wisner Lions Club track meet. Reggie Smith held the previous mark. Hass' best throw so far

this season is 54-1.25.

"It feels great. It's a goal I've been chasing, and it's pretty surreal to finally accomplish it," Hass said.

## Staff

Fr. Steve Emanuel ..... Pastor  
Fr. Frank Lordemann..... Sr. Associate  
Kate Hagemann .....Principal  
Mike O'Brien ..... Editor  
Delores Meister .....Reporter  
Sr. Elizabeth Benvie.....Photographer  
RaNae O'Brien .....Circulation  
Deanne Wieneke .....Copy Editor  
Steve Latka.....Copy Editor  
Elaine Maly .....Copy Editor

## Class of 2016

### GACC bids farwell to 35 seniors

**Sarah Arduser:** daughter of Robert & Diane (Bracht '79) Arduser  
**Joshua Baumert:** son of Ken Baumert & Stacey Baumert  
**Leah Bracht:** daughter of Neal ('79) & Tami Bracht  
**Morgan Bracht:** daughter of Tom ('77) & Lois Bracht  
**Nathan Bracht:** son of Kurt ('92) & Angela (Stieren '93) Bracht  
**Katelyn Brown:** daughter of Darin & Krisa Brown  
**Kora Dorcey:** daughter of Todd & Julie Dorcey  
**Austin Duhsman:** son of Greg & Brenda (Peitzmeier '89) Duhsman  
**Braden Dvorak:** son of Dean & Tammy Dvorak  
**Jordan Fischer:** daughter of David ('86) & Sandra Fischer  
**Carolyn Fraher:** daughter of George & Carmen Fraher  
**Elizabeth Franzluebbbers:** daughter of Don & Lori Franzluebbbers  
**Luke Gnad:** son of David & Laurie Gnad  
**Brandon Hass:** son of Arvid & Karen (Oligmueller '85) Hass  
**Tanner Hass:** son of Brian & Julie Hass  
**Emily Hrbek:** son of Doug & Ann Hrbek  
**Zachary Kaup:** son of Tracy & Kelly Kaup  
**Eric Klitz:** son of John ('82) & Alice (Guenther '82) Klitz  
**Kate Knobbe:** daughter of Melissa Knobbe and the late Chris Knobbe ('85)  
**Breanne Kreikemeier:** daughter of Greg & Susan Kreikemeier  
**Noah Kreikemeier:** son of Thomas ('79) & Kristine Kreikemeier  
**Rebekah McGill:** daughter of Jeffrey ('89) & Sarah McGill  
**Benjamin Meiergerd:** son of Vincent ('76) & Vicki Meiergerd  
**Ashley Minnick:** daughter of T. Jason & Rebecca Minnick  
**Karly Niewohner:** daughter of Steve & Jen Niewohner  
**Tanner Ortmeier:** son of Steven & Mary Ortmeier  
**Jordan Peatrowsky:** son of Tom ('87) & Dawn Peatrowsky  
**Monica Reeson:** daughter of Mike ('74) & Rhonda Reeson  
**Robert Schmaderer:** son of Jeff Ruth Schmaderer ('75) & Ruth Schmaderer  
**Georg Schuette:** son of Carl & Kirstin Schuette  
**Kathleen Steuter:** daughter of Paul Steuter ('80) & Mary Steuter  
**Nathan Stratmann:** son of Mark Stratmann ('83) & Carole Stratmann  
**Justin Watson:** son of Nicole Watson & Jeff Watson  
**Colin Wooldrik:** son of Craig & Wendy Wooldrik  
**Sara Wordekemper:** daughter of Kenneth ('79) & Susan (Eilerts '81) Wordekemper

For photos from the GACC graduation, check out the Summer Edition, which comes out June 15.

Development Office  
419 E. Decatur St.  
West Point, NE 68788

Non-Profit Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
West Point, Nebraska

Permit No. 97



## Guardian Angels Central Catholic

419 E. Decatur  
West Point, NE 68788

402.372.5326 (High School)  
402.372.5328 (Grade School)

