



I den 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 ('72) 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.



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

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

2016 GACC Alumni Banquet



Class of 1936: Rita Fisher Ellinghausen.



Class of 1941: Nick Wieler.



Class of 1956: Front: Margie Kaup Price, Cecelia Wuestewald Franzluebers, Lorraine Neesen Schlautman, Margaret Ortmeier Wordekemper, Larry Ulrich; back: Robert Kaup, Roland Schueth, Leona Kaup Meister, Dusty Schlautman, Larry Reimers.



Class of 1986: Front: Duane Throener, Tim Rolf, Shawn McGill; middle: Greg Tobey, Judy Meiergerd Perry, Denise Bracht Keling, Tim Plagge; back: Dan Steffen, Dave Fischer, Kay Ulrich Bartek, Mary Jo Schorn Gardner.



Class of 1991: Front: Sara Eisenmenger Helling, Deb Brunsing Bailey; back: Doug Kaup, Donovan Mlnarik, Chad Schinstock.



Class of 1946: Henry Druke, Juliana Hugo Wordekemper.



Class of 1966: Front row: Con Reeson, Diane Praest Schneider, Nancy Kaup Steffen, Judy Heimann Charlson, Doris Rhode Meyer, Jean Stewart Griesel, Eileen Wordekemper Randell, Lorie Peitzmeier Endsley, Florence Ridder Hendricks; second row: Dennis Buse, Gene Schlickbernd, Phyllis Rief Rosloniec, Sharon Popken Mace, Mary Mahlberg

Parizek, Diane Nitz, Jeanette Guenther Kindschuh, Dorothy Deppe Lawse; third row: Joe Diekemper, Don Knobbe, Rich McGill, Carol Kreikemeier McGill, Don Oligmueller, Don Steuter, Martin Peatrowsky; back row: Rich Baumert, Alvin Eusterbrock, Raymond Schueth, Reggie Smith, Larry Batenhorst, Donald Throener.



Class of 1976: Front: Ray Wiesen, Kevin Knobbe, Mark Batenhorst, Janet Lueckenhoff Denham, Nancy Hugo Cady, Bill Luebbert; second row, Tim Peterson, Dennis Wordekemper, Donna Gentrup Kreikemeier, Diane Meiergerd Evert, Shari Lux Ruskamp, Connie Guenther Prinz; third row: Randy

Schinstock, Ron Collins, Carol Evert Lofgren, Doris Hagedorn Guenther, Bonny Uhing Emanuel, Alice Stalp Kindschuh, Mike Ridder; back row: Gene Praest, John Yosten, Dale Knievel, James Wordekemper, Willy Kreikemeier, Sharon Emanuel Ingersoll, Tom Reichlinger.

Letter from the past:

West Point, Nebraska
July 25, 1944

Hi Fellers:

Well, what makes with you guys? With us, it's mostly wet, and we ain't kidding. We mentioned a flood in the last letter, but since then we've had another one that was worse. Early Sunday morning June 11, this whole neck of the woods was deluged with 5 to 12 inches of rain--the official figure was 7.20 inches. That's a lot of water, and by early Sunday afternoon, darn near all the third ward was afloat again. Here in town, the water was about the same as it was in the first flood--there wasn't much dry ground in the third ward, and the water reached the second row of seats in the upper tier of the park grandstand. We were near the western edge of the storm though, and the real havoc took place down the Elkhorn, from Scribner on east. Pebble Creek, running down thru Howells, Dodge and Snyder, made a clean sweep of the low parts of those towns, then rampaged right thru Scribner with unbelievable force. It left a couple of feet of mud and debris in the business section of that town, which won't be the same for a long time. Large buildings were moved right off their foundations and floated miles away, or broke up--Automobiles were rolled over and over--At least two bridges over the Elkhorn, at Nickerson and Elk City were completely wrecked... Although there were a lot of close calls, only one life was lost that happening at Tekamah. The nite passenger train from Omaha was held up at West Point that nite, and was parked in the yards here for three weeks, as we were without train service for that long. It's still a pretty rugged ride, and the trains are liable to get here almost any time. A couple of soldiers bound for South Dakota rode the first train up from Omaha, got off here and started hoofing it up the highway.. Said they could walk it faster! The branch line up thru Dodge etc. was really torn to pieces, and is still out of service. And, Oh Yeah, the Howells Ballroom was in water up to the eaves. It didn't float away though. So we've had all the water we want at the moment. And at that a lot of people are jittery because an "Old Indian" up Norfolk way, who is supposed to have predicted the first two floods is hollering about another one, due any day now. Probably a lot of piffle, but it could be.

Well, most your folks have probably written you about it, but we haven't too much news anyway, and we thought you'd be interested in the details. What with one thing and another, we're kinda late this time too, but we'll try to get these letters out a little more often hereafter. The mail bag was kinda skimpy this time. Father Kempker wrote that his outfit was on board ship again, and NOT going fishing. Apparently his gang was heading into big trouble again, and inasmuch as the invasion of Saipan came off about that time, we figured maybe that was their destination, but Bud Mahlberg's folks have heard from Bud since then, and the letters were written from elsewhere. That Saipan job was a rough one, but a mighty important one, judging from the way Jap military heads are falling... These yellow blanks were having a fine time kicking us around when we were down, but they forgot we might get up, and how!!!

Quite a bunch of home-comers from here, there, and everywhere; Joe Hunker, George Fisher, Spoolix Boyle, Fuzzy Parker, Harold Kaup, Cletus Oligschlaeger, Dennis Johnson, Paul Bethsheider, Marie Kempker, and Francis Schinistock. Joe Hunker, sent home from England in a rotation of officers, spent most of the three weeks at home getting acquainted with his young daughter, and reported to Randolph Field for further orders. George Fisher was here for about three weeks resting up from a long spell of Pacific duty--then beat it back to the Pacific to rest up from that three weeks at home. Don't shoot, George, we're only fooling. Spoolix Boyle was around on furlough after finishing his work in Florida. He reported at Norfolk Virginia, rarin' to go somewhere, and he did--to North Carolina for three months more training. Fuzzy Parker had his furlough around the first of June and was here again a couple days last week-- this time enroute to the west coast.. Harold Kaup still doesn't need a ladde to reach the top shelf, and doesn't look any smaller in those navy whites--He's getting more radio work in Maryland.. Clete Oligschlaeger who is nobody'd midget either, took time off from his duties at the Liberal Kansas Air Base around Decoration Day. He and Spoolix Boyle and Fuzzy Parker represented the rest of you in the Memorial Day parade here. Dennis Johnson had a mighty good reason for coming home this time. After 18 months of submarining out in the Far Pacific, you'd think the guy would be content to stay on dry land for a while, but the guy no more than gets here before he embarks on the so-called seas of matrimony. (Holy Smoke, how did that stuff get in here!) Denny & Evelyn Stafford cruised up the aisle on July 10, and had the Monsignor do his stuff. Denny will report on the east coast the end of this month of several months of duty there. Marie Kempker's home from Panama, and come to find out she's not Marie Kempker at all --She's Mrs. Clyde Monroe. Clyde is a captain in the army intelligence. Marie's plans are indefinite, but she'll be here for awhile. Francis Schinistock had good luck riding his thumb home from Illinois on a weekend pass.

Did those addresses we went out last spring do any of you any good? Joe Hunker tells us he had a good letter from Turp Brumm right after that. Turp, Joe flew over to see you, but either he had the wrong place, or your outfit had moved on, so he didn't get to see you. Joe had Ed Nitz and LeRoy Rief located and was on the point of looking

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LETTERS FROM THE PAST: Wrote July 25, 1944

them up when his orders moved him out of there. Nitz and Rief's outfit was all packed and ready to go at that time, and both have since written home from France.

We have some new A.P.O. boys--Ed Batenhorst, Art Decker, and Leo Bose. Nick Waackel is still at a P.O.E. and still waiting for his boat ride. Chris Batenhorst is fixing a new hunting dog, etc.,---sounds like quite a life, Chris... The rest of your rummies can quit hollering at Red Boule--Red's taking his boot training at Paris Island right now. How's it going, Snowball? Let's have your new address, and that goes for the rest of you too,---these letters will catch up with you a lot faster if you'll keep us up to date on address changes. In fact, drop us a line anyway--the more letters we get, the more dope we can pass along to you... Johnny Baas, whom we reported as missing in action over Germany in our last letter, has since turned up as a prisoner of war in Germany... Beans Cyriler is learning about army beans at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Bus Smith leaves for the army on the 25th.

Had quite a sizeable crowd--about 95--at the alumni reunion, which turned out to be a howling success in spite of the conspicuous absence of many outstanding howlers now doing their stuff far, far, away. With Arlene Penne Dicknite shooting the breeze as toast-mis tress, and Monsignor Bosheck handing out some of his customary left handed compliments a fine time was had by all, including the 20 members of the class of 1944. The service delegation on hand was George Fisher, Fuzzy Parker, and Gletus Oligschlaeger. Spoelix and Schinny just missed by a couple days... We had a Memorial Mass here on the Fourth of July for Sergeant Frank Spenner, who was killed in the invasion of France. Many of you fellows went to school with him. Florence Keller's father died this week, after an illness of many months--He was 77 years old... We found out at the alumni meeting that we had a member in the service we didn't know about: Dolores Rockford, who's been in the Women's Marine Corps for over a year. Greetings, Dolores, we're sorry you haven't been getting these letters. Have you heard that story about the Navy chaplain who always ended his remarks with "God Bless You All", until after a particularly violent bombardment, when he changed it to "God Bless Us All". Was You Dere, Fadder George?

Bill Schmitt has been fortunate in meeting four West Pointers in India: Dorothy Malchow, Francis Erickson, Curly Brazda, and Rollie Oligschlaeger. Dorothy Malchow, in the Army Nurse Corps, has since returned home with news of Bill, and some good moving pictures of him. Willie's holding his own in the Hindu country, okay, but is playing with the idea of painting a spider web on his noggin to fool the flies. He's spending a vacation up in the Himalaya Mountains right now.. Thanks to Harvey Ortmeier for a nice letter from Italy... Fritz Wertman has moved on from Australia to New Guinea and Ray Wertman just drifted in here on a furlough.

A couple of our more notorious members have been on the radio--Cassey Zacek and Florence Keller. Cassey was featured on a nation-wide CBS program some weeks ago, during the course of which his citation was read, and his medal presented to him. Florence was interviewed on an army nurse program over the networks a couple weeks ago. Florence, by the way, is now a first lieutenant. Both of 'em sounded swell over the radio... Another wedding report too--Helen McNamara went and did it. The lucky guy is Don Lueninghochner--an Irish boy--from up Pilger way. Don was in Pilger high with Bordner, Coloy, Fage, et al, who a bunch of you alleged basket-balls have good cause to remember.

Well, that's about the end of our string. Monsignor Bosheck is gradually getting in-- to the thick of thin's again, and has consented to say Hello to you this time, so the next voice will be his:

Since you last heard from me I have fully recovered from my illness and am now back at work as usual.. To all of you who remembered me by your letters and cards I wish to say thank you: and in return I shall remember you in my prayers. Furthermore, all of you shall continue to be remembered in the daily sacrifice of the Mass and the children are also offering up prayers for all of you, no matter where you are, so that in the not too distant future we may be seeing one another hale and hearty on that part of the globe, which all of you now know to be the best spot under the sun.

Sincerely yours,



Class of 1996: Front row: Joe Engelmeyer, Amy Meister Engelmeyer, Jen Mlnarik, Gina Wolf Kelly, Emily Broekemeier Engel; second row: Tyler Gentrup, Jason Harstick, Melissa Bliemeister Walsh, Amber Leitow Horn, Lachelle Vrba Hasemann; third row: Doug Knobbe, Susan Hegemann Coe, Lea Batenhorst Grimm, Jennifer Throener Martinez, Jamie Schlecht Wiechman, Gwen Kaup Ahrens; back row: Andrew Kelly, Chad Eisenmenger, Matt Steffen, Jason Gustafson, Jeremy Prinz, Chris Moore.

Class of 2006: Front row: Danielle Pagels Yarger, Casey Wiechman, Kaylie Wietfeld Bracht, Kelsey Schuetze, Ailyn Knobbe; middle row: Robert Kreike-meier, Craig Randel, Michael Knobbe, Heath Graybeal, Chris Renner; back row: Adam Guenther, Patrick Kniev-el, Aaron Prinz, Geri Heimann Eich.



Class of 1951: Front: Joan Kloke Lueckenhoff, Mary Ann Peitzmeier Ruskamp, Erv Wordekemper, Dennis Stalp, back: Audrey Scheppers Renter, Arlene Reeson.



Class of 1961: Ambrose Peitzmeier, Keith Tingelhoff, Sara Ellis Hough, Paul Wortman.

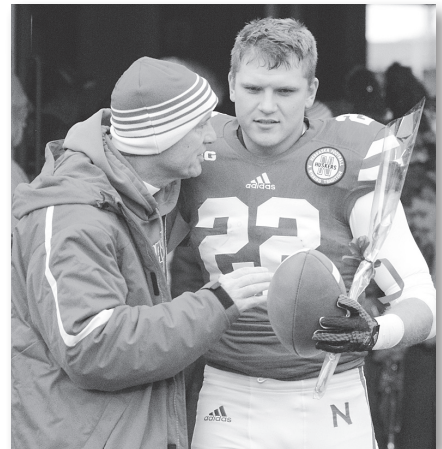


Mary Jo Kampschnieder

Kampschnieder named Educator of the 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 ('84) as Educator of the Year. She is the Library/Art teacher at GACC.



Big Red good-bye....

Husker senior Anthony Ridder ('11) shares a moment with head coach Mike Riley prior to taking the field for Nebraska's football game against Iowa on Senior Day. He is the son of Dave ('79) and Terri Ridder.

Leffler serves Mass with Pope

Spencer Leffler, a 2012 graduate of GACC, was blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in December as he served Midnight Mass in Rome with Pope Francis.

"It was beautiful. I cannot believe all the beautiful graces that God has blessed me with in my life," Leffler said. "This was probably the best Christmas present I will ever have."

He is the son of Dana ('75) and Diane Leffler.



Top of their class...

Kate Knobbe, left, earned the title of valedictorian of the Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School's Class of 2016, and Monica Reeson was the class salutatorian. Kate is the daughter of Melissa and the late Chris Knobbe ('85). Monica is the daughter of Mike ('74) and Rhonda Reeson.

GACC falls in C2 state title game



GACC players hold up runner-up trophy.

Not every storybook season has a fairy tale ending. Top-seeded Guardian Angels Central Catholic found that out the hard way as the Bluejays fell to Crofton 46-43 in the Class C2 girls state basketball championship game March 5 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

"Give our girls a lot of credit. They wanted this game. They gave it everything they had, and left everything they had out on the court," Bluejay head coach Jerry Stracke said.

"We had some missed opportunities that we didn't take advantage of, but I'm very proud of these girls and how far they came."

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