



BLUEJAYS RETURN TO PINNACLE OF HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

STATE CHAMPS!



Bluejay senior Makayla Tomka twirls the net following GACC's championship win. Tomka came off the bench and played a key role in the D1 finals.



Senior Lauren Wobken, along with fellow seniors Hannah Hunke (24) and Makayla Tomka (12) run to mid-court as they celebrate GACC's championship.

GACC wins D1 title in OT

A race to the finish line of the Class D1 girls state basketball championship finals Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena turned into a marathon.

And it took all that they had for Guardian Angels Central Catholic to survive a grueling 'marathon' as the top-seeded Bluejays outlasted Dundy County-Stratton 53-50 in a double overtime thriller.

GACC's reward for its

strong finish was being crowned state champions of Class D1. This marked the sixth state title in program history, GACC's first since 2012.

"I'm just so happy for the girls to be able to experience a moment like this. Not a lot of teams get to have an opportunity like this," coach Jerry Stracke said. "Our girls left everything out there. They didn't have much else to give. And that's all you can ask, win or lose."



Thrilled to be #1

Above: GACC captured the Class D1 state championship. Members of the state championship team are, from left, front: Lexis Haase, Hannah Hunke, Lauren Wobken, Emily Reeson, Makayla Tomka, Maddie Knobbe; middle: Macey Wooldrik (manager), Jenna Schinstock (manager), Brenna Rief (manager), Evelyn Wooldrik, Hannah Hrbek, Elizabeth Karnopp; back: coach Kevin Kreikemeier, Marissa Hunke, Allie Knobbe, Ally Plagge, Angela Jansen, Maddie Bracht, Greta Vering, Hanna Knobbe, Melissa Hagedorn, Anna Wooldrik and head coach Jerry Stracke. Not pictured is coach Fr. Steve Emanuel.

Right: GACC hoists up the Class D1 state championship trophy. Soaking in the moment are seniors, from left, Emily Reeson, Maddie Knobbe, Lauren Wobken (42) and Hannah Hunke.



BIRTHS

Zach '04 & Lisa Weiler: son Phineas born 12/17/16

Luke '01 & Kalina Ridder: daughter Malia Marie born 2/8/17

Chris '02 & Katie Knievel: daughter Kelsee Mae born 2/12/17

Danielle (Pagels) '06 & Anthony Yarger: son James Alan born 2/26/17

John '99 & Erin Timmerman: son Roy Ronald born 3/8/17

Dan & Kayla Woodbury: daughter Edith Lorena born 3/13/17

Melissa (Otte) '10 & Dylan Smith: son Oliver Dean born 3/15/17

Jason '03 & Ashley Prinz: daughter Berkley Marie born 3/28/17

David '04 & Bethany Fast: son Sullivan Gene born 4/2/17

Carissa (Kreikemeier) '08 & Mitchell Sturm: son Stetton Dean born 4/18/17

WEDDINGS

Emily Guenther '10 & Brandon Motis: married 3/25/17

Aaron Spenner '11 & Lauren Ortmeier: married 4/29/17

DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Virginia Kreikemeier: date of death 3/23/17

Jayda Oligmueller: date of death 3/26/17

Norbert Schlautman '42: date of death 4/6/17

Robert Plagge: date of death 4/15/17

Lucille Rolf: date of death 4/16/17

Adeline Wieneke: date of death 4/16/17

Marcella Lennenmann Barton: date of death 4/17/17

Eileen (Renner) Brodie '66: date of death 5/1/17

Magdalen Seeman '47: date of death 5/9/17



Paul Doerneman and Leon Gentrup were ordained deacons.

Two ordained deacons

By Delores Meister

Two Central Catholic alumni have adopted a lifestyle exemplifying the goals of Catholic education.

Paul Doerneman ('73) and Leon Gentrup ('81) were ordained to the Order of Permanent Deacons in the Church by Archbishop George Lucas at St. Cecilia Cathedral on Saturday, April 29.

"The diaconate is a ministry for lay people to become stronger in their faith and their service," said Deacon Francis Meiergerd. "This is a great opportunity to serve."

The need for deacons for assistance was established by the Apostles in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles Chapter 6.

Deacons do parish work, helping the parish priests in whatever is requested. Deacons can do baptism preparation, baptism, marriage preparation and marriages, Holy Communion services, lead devotions and graveside services. They may

not offer Mass, hear Confessions, or confer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Deacons and their wives prepare for the diaconate for four years. The first year is for discernment, which is a year of preparation to determine if this is really a calling.

Next is three years of theology with once-a-month, three-day weekend classes at Norfolk Immaculata Convent. Wives are invited but not required.

"Receive the Gospel of Christ. Believe what you read. Teach what you read and practice what you teach," said Archbishop Lucas.

He said, "Be explicit. Create a culture of mercy and foster a culture of unity where there is respect and responsibility for others."

Norfolk Serrean Club for Vocations leaders Dr. David Lux and his wife Mary organized a busload of Norfolk supporters. Lux and Gentrup are 1981 Central Catholic classmates.



GACC captured the Class D1 boys state basketball runner-up trophy. Team members include, from left, front: Kobe Slaughter, Cole Kreikemeier, Mitch Hass, Nolan Plagge, Andrew Guenther, Sam Ulrich; middle: manager Kolton Kralik, manager Konnor Kralik, Jared Minnick, Derek Petz, Adam Reeson, Hunter Uhing, manager Gracie Slaughter; back: coach Shawn Kralik, coach Alex Stieren, Casey Doernemann, Landon Stalp, Bryant Rief, coach Kim Wagner and head coach Brad Slaughter.

Disappointed but proud

For 32 minutes, Guardian Angels Central Catholic did what they did best. They battled. Unfortunately for the Bluejays, the four extra minutes of basketball they were hoping for did not come.

That's because Lourdes Central Catholic held off GACC's fourth quarter rally to secure a 47-44 win over the 8th-seeded Bluejays in the Class D1 boys state basketball championship game Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

"We're resilient. The kids don't know when to quit. They play and compete until the final buzzer of every game," Bluejay head coach Brad Slaughter said. "There's no low-gear for these guys. They just compete. They are all competitors."



GACC senior Kobe Slaughter drives during the D1 championship game.



GACC speech members who qualified for the Class C2 state speech meet are, from left, Andrew Franzluebbers, Bobbie Ortmeier, Jena Wimer, Emily Reeson, Hannah Kreikemeier, Hannah McGill and Liam Gnad. Not pictured is Alisen Niewohner.

GACC qualifies eight for state speech

Guardian Angels Central Catholic qualified eight speakers in four different events for the Class C2 state speech meet at University of Nebraska-Kearney.

- Emily Reeson, Informative
- Jena Wimer, Humorous Prose
- Hannah McGill, Entertainment
- Hannah Kreikemeier, Alisen Niewohner, Liam Gnad, Bobbie

Ortmeier & Andrew Franzluebbers, OID

Of GACC's four state events, three were a spot or two away from reaching finals.

"I couldn't have asked for them to perform their speeches any better than what they did. Speech is an activity where one judge can love you and the next one won't,"

GACC speech coach Brooke Meister said.

"Speech can not only prepare someone for talking in front of crowds but also teach them that all you can do is try your best and let God take care of the rest. They were a great group to take down and should be proud of what they've accomplished this year."



New Knights for St. Joseph's Council #2272

GACC seniors who completed their 1st Degree of Knighthood were, from left, Gage Herbert, Nolan Plagge, Mitchell Hass, Sam Ulrich, Nick Fisher, Cole Kreikemeier and Danny Wordekemper.

STEAM LAB

Helping GACC School 'reach its fullest potential'

By GACC Staff

The primary mission of Guardian Angels Central Catholic is "to prepare each of our students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ."

We believe that the STEAM SmartLab will enhance our ability to challenge each of our students to reach their fullest potential by engaging their individual abilities and teaching them how to apply critical learning skills to everyday life.

Our intent is to integrate the STEAM SmartLab into the academic curriculum for all students grades 3 through 9, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic school year. Students in grades 10 through 12 will also have the opportunity to facilitate the STEAM SmartLab through elective offerings.

While the STEAM SmartLab will not replace core curricular classes, it will allow us to offer elective courses and independent study opportunities to our high school students.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

In addition to the emphasis on the STEAM components of science, technology, engineering, art and math, we believe that the STEAM SmartLab will enhance the ability of each student to increase their proficiency in 21st century skills such as communication and collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, information literacy and decision making.

These tools will further prepare our students for the next level of education and/or a smooth transition into the active workforce.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

As we move forward with the STEAM SmartLab, it is our hope to engage the wider community by creating active partnerships with lo-

cal businesses that would share our vision of forming future generations in these vital skill areas.

If you or your business would be interested in partnering with Guardian Angels Central Catholic in this exciting endeavor, please feel free to contact us.

Our website is www.gaccbluejays.org

WHAT IS A STEAM LAB?

Building on the tradition and legacy of over 130 years of quality Catholic education, Guardian Angels Central Catholic is partnering with Creative Learning Systems to implement a STEAM SmartLab beginning with the 2017-2018 academic school year. Creative Learning Systems describes the STEAM SmartLab as a "powerful 21st century learning lab where students explore diverse systems of technology in an engaging, collaborative, project-based format."

The STEAM SmartLab provides learners with foundations in eight basic systems of technology known as "core competencies". The basic systems are:

- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Computer Graphics
- Science and Data Acquisition
- Mechanics and Structures
- Multimedia Design / Computer Aided Publishing
- Robotics and Control Technology
- Circuitry
- Computer Simulation

www.creativelearningsystems.com

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AN ACTION PLAN
TO PREPARE ALL STUDENTS
TO REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL
IN THE DIGITAL AGE AND BEYOND

STEAM LAB 2017-2018

Science

Technology

Engineering

Art

Mathematics

GUARDIAN ANGELS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

PREPARING ALL STUDENTS
TO REACH THEIR FULLEST
POTENTIAL
BY LEARNING AND
LEADING THROUGH
CHRIST



Members of the GACC Chess Club are, from left, sitting: Garrett Guill, Isaac Guenther, Elliot Reeson, Grace Foster, Elijah Steffensmeier; kneeling: Ava Cohee, Landon Kjolhede, Simon Kreikemeier, Jordan Timmerman, Brooklyn Steffen, Tristan Steffen, Barrett Steffen, Henry Wooldrik; back: Chase Smith, Trey Smith, Konnor Kralik, Kolton Kralik, Joe Schwer, James Rolf, Seth Baumert, Michael Cohee, Charlie Doyle, Carsten Knobbe, Bryce Bailey and Luke Guenther. Not pictured are Braeden Steffen, Cale Schwer and Colin Smith.

Debut made for GACC chess club

GACC students enjoyed a new activity this year that they quickly discovered is easy to learn but difficult to master: the game of chess!

It's also proven to improve concentration and memory, enhance math and reading skills, foster creativity and critical thinking and encourage hard work, but the kids were having too much fun to notice those side benefits.

The club is open to grades 2nd thru 8th. A total of 28 students participated in this year's GACC Chess Club, which was held after school each Monday for one hour.

After the Chess Club members mastered the basics of the game, they gradually learned new strategies via both personal instruction from experienced chess players and individual online member-

ships to the ChessKid web site, where students could watch instructional videos, face off against opponents around the world and play a variety of chess games to learn new skills.

The weekly Chess Club meetings alternated between members playing against each other on traditional chess boards and honing their skills electronically in the school computer lab.

The Chess Club's inaugural year culminated with the long-awaited opportunity for its members to test their skills at an official tournament.

On Saturday, April 22, 16 students from the GACC Chess Club participated in the Fremont Chess-Fest. Held at the Midland University Event Center, more than 170

youth in grades K-12 played in the round-robin style tournament, where competitors were grouped by age and skill level. GACC Chess Club members represented themselves and the school admirably, playing anywhere from 5-8 successive chess matches over the course of the morning. And they walked away with hardware to show for their efforts, capturing a range of 1st-6th place finishes in their respective divisions.

The Chess Club will return for the 2017-18 year. The club looks forward to introducing new resources at its weekly meetings to continue to improve each member's strategy and skill level.

The club also hopes to participate in a variety of outside chess competitions next year.

Touching lives of ‘millions of women’

By Delores Meister

Millions of women’s health world-wide may have been influenced by the work, study and results under the leadership of a Guardian Angels graduate.

Research has proven that osteoporosis in women can be preventable/modified with an adequate calcium and vitamin D intake to build/retain bone strength.

In the early 1960’s era when women could be teachers, secretaries or nurses, Joan Ortmeier Lappe (’62) the class valedictorian, chose nursing.

“My mother found nursing a rewarding career,” she said. Joan enrolled at St. Catherine’s School of Nursing, Omaha. Most of her freshmen classes were at Creighton University.

“I found my high school Science program, Sister Marlene for chemistry and Sister Agatha for Physics, put me way ahead in my college freshman classes at Creighton,” Dr. Lappe said. “Our high school encouraged us to achieve.”

Today, Lappe is Associate Dean for Research, College of Nursing, Creighton University. Lappe, has R. N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N. after her name. “The older I get, the more I appreciate my Guardian Angels

School background,” she said.

Most important is the great contribution she continues making in the medical field of women’s health.

In an environment that promoted a lifelong love of learning, Lappe saw the opportunities available to learn more through Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center. Bringing science to life through research, Lappe worked with 2,300 participants in a 31-county area to document the need of calcium and vitamin D in strengthening bone density.

Research proved the importance of calcium for bone health in young girls. Calcium in milk and foods fortified with calcium was proven essential. Results of the research studies will soon be published.

Dr. Lappe is now the project director of the study titled “Clinical Trial of Vitamin D3 to Reduce Cancer Risk in Postmenopausal Women.”

“We all just do the best we can,” Lappe said.

Besides coming back to West Point to visit the graves of her parents, Herman and Lillian Maresh Ortmeier at St. Michael’s Cemetery, she visits her brother on the farm during the summer time.



Joan Ortmeier Lappe

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JayFest June 9, 2017

Theme: Havana Night

Alumni Banquet June 10, 2017

Honor Classes: 1922, 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007, 2017





GACC School recognized faculty for years of service

Guardian Angels Central Catholic honored their faculty members at the school's Development Dinner held on March 13. Teachers being honored, and their years of service, are from left, front: Bob Ernesti (40), Kim Knobbe (25), Jerry Stracke (25), Tina Gentrup (15), Mary Jo Kampschnieder (15); back: Bridget Doyle (5), Tricia Smith (5), Brad Slaughter (5), Nadine Peatrowsky (5) and Mary Lueshen (5).

GACC robotics going strong

Guardian Angels Central Catholic competed in the robotics contest at the SAC Aerospace Museum on February 18.

There were 92 teams of elementary, middle school and high school students. Approximately 800 people were there. The events that the students entered were Driving Course, Competition Arena, Autonomous (Programming), and the Navigational Course.

GACC teams received four first place trophies. The high school team of Tate Gentrup, Max Einfalt and Luke Baumert received a first place trophy in the Driving Course, Competition Arena and the Navigational Course.

The middle school team of Cole Hutchinson, Ethan Wooldrik, Cade Bailey, and Braeden Steffen (with Ethan as the driver) got a first place trophy in the Driving Course.

The other team was Nate Timmerman, Ethan Kreikemeier and Michael Bracht.



Representing GACC at the robotics contest were, from left, front: Cole Hutchinson, Cade Bailey, Ethan Wooldrik, Braeden Steffen; back: instructor Robert Ernesti, Nate Timmerman, Max Einfalt, Luke Baumert, Tate Gentrup, Ethan Kreikemeier and Michael Bracht.

'Light shines' at Blue Ribbon Dinner

By Delores Meister

"Let your light shine."

You are gifted with a Catholic education. Now, "let your light shine."

Practice your Catholic faith in your corner of the world in a 'fantastically normal way.'

That was the message the sister/brother duo of Kay Ulrich Bartek and Dan Ulrich gave to the attendees at the 35th Blue Ribbon Dinner April 10 at the Nielsen Community Center.

Bartek ('86) went down memory lane speaking of her Catholic educational background. She remembered riding the Monterey/Aloys Pebble Valley Catholic bus and praying the rosary with Sister Floriberta from first grade through fourth grade. She spoke of fifth through eighth grade at Monterey, high school at Central Catholic, daily Mass, helping clean school, church and church grounds. And the three day's preparation for the Corpus Christi celebration.

Brother Dan Ulrich ('91) had the same informative education, and spoke of the continuation of a Catholic environment available at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

But as a college graduate in the job world, "Everyone is not doing the Catholic thing. You are in a new environment," Ulrich said.

With a new job requiring a lot of travel, Ulrich found his job overlapping with his Catholic obligations.

"Work was presenting tough challenges. If I were on the road, I would sneak out to hit a 6 a.m. Sunday Mass. My surprise was to find a co-worker or a client also there. We were all sneaking away from each other," he said. "You may feel alone, but you won't be alone."

Ulrich referenced Jesus' Gospel story about people given a light, and they hid it under a bushel basket.

Ulrich suggested we let our light



Dan Ulrich and Kay Ulrich Bartek.

shine. People are watching.

"Today, we co-workers know where we're going to Mass, and to my surprise, our non-Catholic friends sometimes ask to join us," he said.

He found numerous pockets of faith communities who support day-to-day Catholic living.

"In Las Vegas, there is a little church right off the strip. In New Orleans, they celebrate St. Joseph's Day. In Boston, on a holy-day, the cab ride to church is free," Ulrich said.

Bartek said a recent Lenten book she read on Saint Mother Theresa stressed living a "fascinatingly normal" Christian lifestyle.

Mother Theresa said, "You don't have to travel to Calcutta. Do the normal day-to-day thing in your own place. Our Catholic education has given us the background and the tools."

"God is calling all of us in some way to be 'fascinatingly normal' in living our Catholic Faith," Bartek said.

Father Steve Emanuel had the closing words. He said "Each of us has God given gifts and talents to share. We are cheating others if we don't share them. Thank you for your talents. Thank you for your faithfulness."

Other highlights of the Blue Ribbon dinner:

- Adam Guenther 2006 was the master of ceremonies.
- Principal Kate Hagemann announced the Nebraska State Department of Education recommended continued Advanced Education Accreditation following a recent visitation. Enrollment is growing.
- Archdiocesan Superintendent Pat Slattery said, "We are in great need of strong moral leadership now, more than ever. Catholic schools in the state save taxpayers \$100,000,000 each year."
- Pat Knobbe gave the Endowment Board report. Ervin Eisenmenger was recognized and thanked as he retired from the Endowment Board.



Jaden Rahn



Gage Herbert

State wrestling

GACC had two qualifiers for the 2017 state wrestling meet in Omaha.

Junior Jaden Rahn (195) went 2-2 and was one win shy of medaling. Senior Gage Herbert (182) finished 0-2.



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Leffler to be ordained in May

By Delores Meister

Taylor James Leffler, a 2009 alumnus of Central Catholic, will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon by Archbishop George Lucas on Friday night, May 26 at St. Cecilia Cathedral.

Leffler will be a transitional deacon, meaning he will be transitioning into the priesthood. He will assist at Mass and preach his first homily Sunday, May 28, at 10 o'clock mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by a reception.

Class of 2017

GACC bids farewell to 32 seniors

- Josue Antonio:** son of Josue and Laura Antonio
- Damian Birchem:** son of Dan and Deb Birchem
- Sheldon Disher:** son of Dave and Jodi (Rief) Disher '89
- Jonathan Fischer:** son of Brian '84 and Doreen Fischer
- Nicholas Fischer:** son of Dan '86 & Tami (Kreikemeier) '90 Fischer
- Marci Franzluebbers:** daughter of Alan and Bonnie (Hassler) Franzluebbers '74
- Lisa Gatzemeyer:** daughter of Paige Luebbert and Jeremy Gatzemeyer
- Andrew Guenther:** son of Allan and Kelli Guenther
- Blake Guenther:** son of Brian '86 and Ann Guenther
- Stephanie Hagedorn:** daughter of Dan '87 and Lana Hagedorn
- Mitchell Hass:** son of Brian and Julie Hass
- Gage Herbert:** son of Darren and Julie Hagedorn and Terry Herbert
- Hannah Hunke:** daughter of Jeff and Missy Hunke
- Jessica Hunke:** daughter of Bernie '84 and Lisa Hunke
- Mariah Hunke:** daughter of Joel and Ginger Hunke
- Connor Klitz:** son of Christopher '84 and Angi Klitz
- Madeline Knobbe:** daughter of Scott '89 and Patti Knobbe
- Cole Kreikemeier:** son of Bruce and Bonnie (Prinz) '89 Kreikemeier
- Hannah Kreikemeier:** daughter of Bill and Joann (Meiergerd) '75 Kreikemeier
- Grace Neiman:** daughter of Bryan Neiman and Jeff '98 and Julie (Prinz) '88 Meister
- Jamie Plagge:** daughter of Jeff Plagge '83 and Jodi Plagge
- Nolan Plagge:** son of Tim '86 & Joan (Peitzmeier) '87 Plagge
- Emily Reeson:** daughter of Mike '74 and Rhonda Reeson
- Matthew Schuetze:** son of David '68 and Evonne Schuetze
- Tessa Simonsen:** daughter of Brent and Kari (Schmader) '92 Simonsen
- Kobe Slaughter:** son of Brad and Marla Slaughter
- Makayla Tomka:** daughter of Gerald and Lois Tomka and John and Becki Adams
- Samuel Ulrich:** son of Tim '89 and Michelle Ulrich
- Kaitlyn Watson:** daughter of Jeff Watson and Nicole Watson
- Jena Wimer:** daughter of Rick and Jayne Wimer
- Lauren Wobken:** daughter of Tim and Roni Wobken
- Daniel Wordekemper:** son of Jerry '92 and Sara Wordekemper

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

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