



## Hope inspires marchers

*In an attempt to make a difference, GACC students attend March for Life*

For Guardian Angels Central Catholic senior Hannah McGill, the hope of making a difference is why she was one of thousands of marchers at the 45th annual March for Life January 19 in Washington, D.C.

That hope of one day seeing an end to abortion is what inspired McGill and 14 other students from Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School to march.

"As I'm getting older, and growing deeper in my faith, I just wanted to stand up and show oth-

ers how wrong abortion is," McGill said. "The march was really cool. We got to be a part of something bigger than us."

The March for Life event is the annual Pro-Life rally, which commemorates Roe v. Wade. And much like in years past, people flooded D.C. to pledge their support.

Being a part of that was an amazing experience said GACC sophomore Noah Hass.

"The energy at the march was great. Everyone from our group had so much energy," Hass said.

"We were singing and chanting. We lost our voices."

On top of being at the March for Life, going to the Planned Parenthood building was extremely impactful for GACC students.

"Being there, with all those people, you just realize how serious of a problem this is. We were there to address that problem," Hass added.

For GACC junior Xavier Stefensmeier, he too had a moment of



**GACC teachers honored were, from left, Brooke Thoene, Patty Meiergerd and Ann Prinz.**

## Honored for their service

**By Delores Meister**

Three valued faculty members were honored at the Guardian Angels Development Dinner. They were:

- Patty Hunke Meiergerd, Central Catholic 1973 alumn, and Creighton University 1977, has spent 40 years at GACC high school.

"I've been blessed to teach in the Catholic school that I attended. I've only spent 53 years of my life at this school, so it is a part of me, and I hope for more years," Meiergerd said. "What I appreciate the most is former students who come back and thank me."

Meiergerd serves also as the parish organist. In grade school Meiergerd took piano lessons from the Sisters.

"I played the organ on and off

since my junior year. I started playing for funerals," she said.

- Ann Knobbe Prinz, forty years as an aid at Guardian Angels Grade School, CC '77 graduate.

"Anyone who stays at the same job for 40 years has a very special job," Prinz said. "I work with the kids. I enjoy it. I like the school and I like the community. I wanted to come back to this community."

Completing five years at GACC is Brook Thoene.

"Working at GACC has been the most rewarding experience of my teaching career, mostly because of the amazing students and staff I get to interact with everyday," Thoene said.

"I look forward to many more years teaching at this wonderful school."

## GACC: March

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realization in terms of the negative impact that abortion has on society.

Steffensmeier attended last year's March for Life but said this one felt a little different. This year, he could really feel the support and the impact the march was making.

"It's really cool to see so many people involved, and the people in politics that voiced their support. They cared about this," Steffensmeier said. "Getting recognition really makes you feel like you're accomplishing something."

Being in Washington, D.C., the capital of America, was another neat aspect to the trip for the students.

"It was just kind of cool to be here and see this is where abortion could end," Hass said.

The students noted that while the trip was a great experience and an opportunity to grow closer with their fellow schoolmates, the trip wasn't free of obstacles.

One of the challenges was their bus not starting one of the days. As a result, they squeezed into another bus. That didn't matter to them.

"Nothing was going to stop us. This is such a great cause, and we were going to be there," McGill said.

Speaking on behalf of the GACC students, McGill said, "All of us would definitely recommend others to go on this trip. It's definitely a cool, eye-opening experience."

GACC students who attended the March for Life were: Sarah Hrbek, Macey Wooldrik, April Kreikemeier, Hannah McGill, Elizabeth Karnopp, Brooke Meister, Zahira Lopez, MaKenna Rolf, Xavier Steffensmeier, Noah Hass, Bobbie Ortmeier, Meghan Brunsing, Tobias Steffensmeier, Andrew Franzluebbbers and Regan Dorcey.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**JayFest June 8, 2018**

**Alumni Banquet June 9, 2018**

**Open House (Tours): 3:30-4:15 p.m.**

**Mass at St. Mary Church: 4:30 p.m.**

**Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner/Reception: 6:30 p.m.**





## *GACC inducts new National Honor Society members*

New members inducted into the Guardian Angels Central Catholic National Honor Society were, from left, front row: Anna Wooldrik, MaKenna Rolf, Brooke Meister, Elizabeth Karnopp, Noah Hass, Meghan Brunsing; second row: Hannah Hrbek, Jack Baumert, Derek Petz, Zahira Lopez; third row: Gabrielle Goeden, Angela Jansen, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Allie Knobbe, Hannah McGill, Joshua Wordekemper; back row: Lexis Haase, Luke Baumert, Tate Gentrup, Jared Minnick, Xavier Steffensmeier and Tyson Snodgrass.

## *Pair of GACC duet events bring home state speech medals*

Duets were a big hit for Guardian Angels Central Catholic at the Class C2 state meet at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Both GACC's duet events captured state hardware as Noah Hass and Tobias Steffensmeier placed 5th, and Xavier Steffensmeier and Andrew Franzluebbbers placed 6th.

"It was unique having a pair of brothers involved with the two duets," Bluejay head coach Brooke Meister said. "And while both duets were funny and enjoyable to watch, they showcased different talents of the students."

With those team points, GACC finished 13th overall in Class C2.

The Bluejays had two other events compete at the 2018 state speech meet. Anna Wooldrik competed in Persuasive, along with the OID team. That group consisted of Alisen Niewohner, Gabi Goeden,



**GACC state speech qualifiers were, from left, front: Noah Hass, Tobias Steffensmeier, Anna Wooldrik, Alisen Niewohner, Gabi Goeden, Xavier Steffensmeier; back: Liam Gnad, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Bobbie Ortmeier and Hannah McGill.**

Liam Gnad, Bobbie Ortmeier and Hannah McGill.

"It was great seeing how much everyone improved throughout the

year," Meister said. "I was proud of all our performances at state, and it was nice to see the support they had for each other."



# Sisters deliver Blue Ribbon speeches

**By Delores Meister**

Speakers at the 36th annual Blue Ribbon Supporters of Catholic Education Dinner April 9 at the Nielsen Community Center reinforced the value of Catholic school education.

Allyn Knobbe ('06) introduced sisters Jessica Cihacek Gill ('05) and Angela Cihacek Roeber ('98).

To 180 Catholic school supporters and the Bluejay camera they told their personal stories of life after high school where the spiritual relationship they had developed with Jesus in the Catholic school carried them through intensely difficult and challenging times.

As WOW Channel 6 Television weekend anchor and reporter, Jessica's personal plan for her life crashed when unplanned circumstances occurred that could jeopardize her lifetime goal. She was traumatized and overwhelmed. She shared her emotional trauma. Things went down hill. She realized she was not in control.

She found refuge in the teachings of the Catholic church where she acquired and continues "my relationship with my God."

"I think of my Catholic education as a journey of growing a relationship with God. It happens over time from kindergarten to 12th grade. Catholic education is the foundation," Jessica said.

She could pray 'If it is Your Will.'

Jessica said, "As it turned out Jesus was with me in meeting the challenge. Accepting God's way made me a much better mother and a better journalist. My job as a television journalist covers a lot of very hard tragedies. I am not desensitized. I have compassion. God took me down this path."

"I am not the only one who struggles. Trust God to take care of you. Anytime you feel the need to grow, to be uncomfortable, God is there with you."

"I firmly believe. I am thankful," Jessica said.



**Jessica Cihacek Gill, '05 and Angela Cihacek Roeber, '98.**

Angela said, "Graduating from CC in 1998, I wanted to be my own person. As young adults we take our lives for granted. I had a plan of what I wanted to do with my life."

A UNL graduate in three years with marketing and journalism degrees, Angela married. The family has an 8-year-old daughter. They desired another child, but their personal plans and prayers were not working out as she told her heart-rendering story of miscarriages.

"My Catholic Faith is an important part of my life. God is the true healer when life is so out of control," she said.

But God had a plan.

At Angela's job as Director of Communications and Marketing at non-profit Omaha's Project Harmony, each day she sees 12 to 15 kids who are victims of child

abuse.

"Child abuse is a very serious problem. It is growing. It is happening here in Cuming County," she said. "I am the voice of these children. I do my part to speak for them."

"I realize what I was given. I grew up with parents who encouraged me, gave me Faith and love, and this continued in Catholic school. This is a gift we take for granted. Not everyone is so blessed."

"Life is too precious. My Faith has given me a future, and hope," she added. "I have hope."

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Father Steve Emanuel's 25th anniversary of his ordination is in June. Father Steve is pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Aloysius, St. Anthony's and St. Boniface. He is also President of Guardian Angels Central Catholic.



# Leffler set to be ordained a priest

**By Delores Meister**

Taylor James Leffler will be ordained to the Order of Priesthood by His Excellency Most Rev. George Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha, Saturday, June 2, at 10 a.m. at Saint Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha.



**Taylor Leffler**

Father Leffler will pray his first Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, June 3 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church West Point. Followed by a reception in the GA cafeteria.

Leffler is a 2009 graduate of Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School. He is the son of Dana ('75) and Diane Leffler, and grandson of Doreen Leffler and

the late Donald Leffler.

## LEFFLER PREACHES DURING EASTER WEEK

Deacon Leffler delivered the Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday homilies at St. Mary's.

"Jesus Christ is real," he said.

Leffler said through grade school and high school he knew all the stories. In January of this year he and seminarian classmates visited the Holy Land. Leffler was in the tomb where Jesus's body was placed.

The tomb is not far from Calvary. It's a small hill. The Church of the Sepulcher is built to encase both Calvary and the tomb.

The seminarians spent the night in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and Leffler said he spent two hours kneeling in prayer in the tomb where the body of Jesus was actually laid.



## *GACC presents joint musical of 'Little Shop of Horrors'*

GACC and WP-B High Schools performed a joint musical, "Little Shop of Horrors." Among those high school actors was GACC's Gabi Goeden (Audrey) and Noah Hass (Seymour).

## 100th Birthday

Sister Antoinneta Dietrich, long time CC High School teacher, celebrated her 100th birthday at Holy Family Convent, 2409 S Alverno Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220.

## Blessed with great year

Summer is right around the corner! We had a great 2017-2018 school year and feel blessed to have gotten to work with so many wonderful students and parents.

### GACC PRINCIPAL



Kate  
Hagemann

The school again will be bustling with activity during the summer months. Our elementary teachers will be participating in training for our new math series.

Both our elementary and high school teachers will be participating

in technology trainings as well. The school will be open for students in June for enrichment camps and July for summer school.

We will also be doing a remodel of the high school office area and increasing the parking on the north side of the high school building.

There is never a dull moment at GACC. We hope everyone has a great summer and thank you for your continued support of Catholic education.

## Class of 2018

### GACC bids farewell to 20 seniors

**Luke Baumert:** son of Tyler and Denise Baumert

**Michael Baumert:** son of Tom and Jan Baumert

**Conner Buss:** son of Roger and Paula Buss

**Regan Dorcey:** daughter of Todd and Julie Dorcey

**Max Einfalt:** son of Jon and Michelle ('77) Einfalt

**Tate Gentrup:** son of Terry Gentrup ('82) and Tina Gentrup ('89)

**Lexis Haase:** daughter of Mark and Lisa ('90) Haase

**Sarah Hrbek:** daughter of Doug and Ann Hrbek

**Allie Knobbe:** daughter of Melissa Knobbe and the late Chris Knobbe ('85)

**Logan Kreikemeier:** son of Greg and Sue Kreikemeier

**Luke Kreikemeier:** son of Greg and Sue Kreikemeier

**Zahira Lopez:** daughter of Carlos and Sanjuana Lopez

**Hannah McGill:** daughter of Jeff ('89) and Sarah McGill

**Bobbie Ortmeier:** daughter of Tom and Cindy Ortmeier

**Derek Petz:** son of Dave and Carrie ('89) Petz

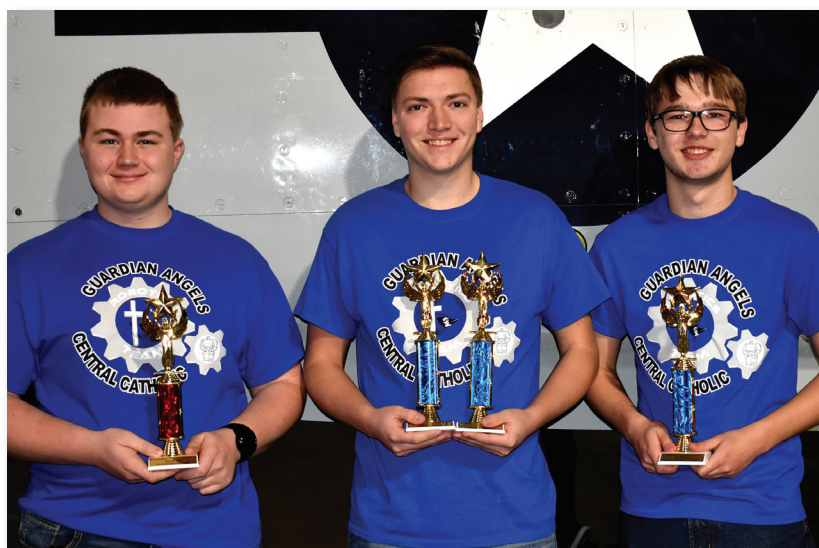
**Jaden Rahn:** son of Karey and Joy ('92) Rahn

**Bryant Rief:** son of Roger ('93) and Jenny ('92) Rief

**Kali Stratman:** daughter of Cindy Stratman ('85) and the late Jeff Stratman ('85)

**Riley Throener:** daughter of Doug and Karla Throener

**Jacob Yosten:** son of Pat ('88) and Lisa Yosten



### GACC Robotics win big

During the Nebraska Robotics Expo at the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, GACC's Tate Gentrup, Luke Baumert and Max Einfalt captured a 1st place trophy in driving, hockey and navigation. They finished 2nd in the autonomous course.





## *Bluejay girls make it 21 years in a row at state*

**For 21 consecutive years, Guardian Angels Central Catholic has qualified for the Class D1 girls state basketball tournament in Lincoln. Members of the state-qualifying team are, from left, front: Marissa Hunke, Ally Plagge, Lexis Haase, Allie Knobbe, Angela Jansen, Hannah Hrbek; back: manager Andie Guenther, coach Kevin Kreikemeier, Hanna Knobbe, Brenna Rief, Avery Kreikemeier, Brandi Doernemann, Greta Vering, Reece Snodgrass, Maddie Bracht, coach Father Steve Emanuel and head coach Jerry Stracke. Not pictured is manager Greta Wooldrik. Twenty-one straight tourney appearances is a state record.**

## Stracke 'proud' of Bluejays despite early state setback

With some of Guardian Angels Central Catholic's late-game misses, Ansley-Litchfield held on for a 49-43 win over the Bluejays in the opening round of the Class D1 girls state basketball tournament March 1 at Lincoln Southwest.

With the loss, GACC finished with a 20-7 record. This marked the final game for two seniors: Lexis Haase and Allie Knobbe. Haase was voted a Class D1 All-State player.

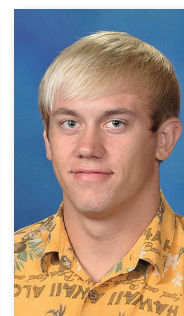
Knobbe was one of three Bluejays who didn't play at state due to injury.

"We had a great season. With all the adversity we had to overcome, I'm awfully proud of what these girls accomplished this season," Bluejay head coach Stracke said. "For them to make it to state was pretty remarkable."

This was GACC's 21st consecutive trip to state, which extends their own state record.



**Jadyn Smeal**



**Jaden Rahn**

## State wrestling

GACC had two qualifiers for the 2018 state wrestling meet in Omaha. Junior Jadyn Smeal (145) went 1-2, and senior Jaden Rahn (195) went 2-2 and was one win shy of medaling.





### *Throener signs to play volleyball at Midland*

GACC senior Riley Throener signed her National Letter of Intent to join the Midland University volleyball program. During her senior season, Throener led the Bluejays with a team-high 211 kills. As a junior, Throener was a starter for GACC who qualified for the 2016 state volleyball tournament. That team finished 4th at state. Riley is the daughter of Doug and Karla Throener.



### *Rahn to play football at Morningside College*

GACC senior Jaden Rahn signed his National Letter of Intent to join the Morningside College football program. Rahn was recruited to play tight end for the Mustangs. During his senior season, Rahn caught 13 passes for 232 yards and 13 touchdowns. Jaden is the son of Joy and Karey Rahn.



**BIRTHS**

Alex '04 & Jacque Wagner:  
daughter Mia Rose born 12/7/17

Ryan '07 & Kaela Kreikemeier:  
son Quinn Alex born 1/8/18

Ryan & Kristi (McMahon) Logemann '99: son Brigham Dale born 2/13/18

Ryan '02 & Hilary Wolken: daughter Logan Virginia born 2/23/18

Melissa '01 & Michael Bayer:  
daughter Madison Sue & son Mason Leonard born 4/11/18

Kurt '01 & Bryn Knobbe: daughter Sylvie Jo born 4/12/18

Jared '12 & Meredith Rolf: son Jasper Michael born 4/20/18

Andrew '05 & Brooke Meister:  
son Graham Allen born 4/23/18

**DEATHS**

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Paul Rolf '71: Date of death 3/14/18

Marcella (Reeson) Kaup '42: Date of death 3/22/18

Rosemary (Westerman) Lang '53: Date of death 3/30/18

Carolyn (Rief) Michaelis '59: Date of death 4/16/18

Ervin Wordekemper '51: Date of death 4/28/18

Betty (Kreikemeier) Weiler '59: Date of death 4/30/18

**WEDDINGS**

Ben Eilerts '11 & Julia Minarick married on 5/12/18

**Staff**

Fr. Steve Emanuel ..... Pastor  
Fr. Andy Syring ..... Associate  
Kate Hagemann ..... Principal  
Mike O'Brien ..... Editor  
Delores Meister ..... Reporter  
Sr. Elizabeth Benvie ..... Photographer  
Leslie Kreikemeier ..... Photographer  
RaNae O'Brien ..... Circulation  
Deanne Wieneke ..... Copy Editor  
Steve Latka ..... Copy Editor

## Scholarships for alumni

The Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation of Wisner will make available a number of \$1000 scholarships for alumni of Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School who are full-time college students.

An application form is required for this scholarship even if you have received it in previous years. These scholarships may be applied to vocational training programs or a bachelor degree program where you are enrolled full time.

They are not applicable for a second bachelor degree or master degree programs. Also, if you have received four previous awards, you are no longer eligible.

Additionally, if you are a non-traditional student and working on your first degree, you may be eligible for an alumni scholarship. If you have just started post-secondary education and do

not have a transcript yet, please provide current grades for the fall semester and proof enrollment for the Spring Semester or a copy of your Spring Semester Schedule.

Application forms are available at the high school counselor's offices or on the school websites.

The completed application form must be submitted to the school counselor's office on or before December 15th.

You must provide a transcript from your college/university and proof of enrollment for the Spring Semester or your Spring Semester Schedule. Scholarship funds will be distributed in January/February upon verification of successful completion of fall semester and enrollment of second semester.

Anyone desiring further information may contact the School Counselor at (402) 372-5326.



## Spring has sprung at GACC

GACC recently held its spring musical concert. On the flute is Julianne Ridder.

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