



## A humbling experience

*Wimer serves as Bus Captain during Honor Flight for 135 female veterans*

Guardian Angels Central Catholic Kindergarten teacher, Erica Wimer ('12), was given a unique opportunity, and she gladly accepted.

Wimer served as Bus Captain on the Honor Flight out of Omaha in September that took 135 female veterans, from the state of Nebraska, to see the memorials in Washington, D.C.

The Wimer family has been involved with the Honor Flights ever since the first one in 2008. For many of those, her dad, Rick Wimer, was Bus Captain.

"He has helped in tremendous ways many times before, but with this being an all-woman's flight, he could not go," Erica said.

Erica and her mom, Jayne, however, were more than eager to attend. Both have been Guardians for previous Honor Flights. However, Erica took on a new responsibility as she was asked to serve as Bus Captain. She accepted, and was glad she did.

"It was a different experience being a Bus Captain compared to being a Guardian, but it was a really great experience to say the least," Erica said. "It is very rewarding to help honor veterans in this type of way."

As a Bus Captain, Erica's main responsibility was overseeing the veterans, and making sure they were taken care of in every way possible.

There were four total buses on the Honor Flight, and to Erica's surprise, the bus she was captain of, was sponsored by GACC's House of St. Wolfgang.

"I had no idea that each bus had a sponsor, and I was excited to see



**Jayne Wimer, left, and Erica Wimer in front of their bus for the women's Honor Flight in September.**

that GACC was the sponsor of my bus. It made the day even more special for me," Erica said.

In a note of gratitude to the school, Erica stated, "I thank you all for helping teach the students of GACC to be part of something

bigger than themselves. I hope they are able to see how they are making a difference and touching the lives of others through their work."



## *Rakes out in full force as GACC serves the community*

**GACC High School raked 20 lawns during its annual leaf raking service project November 16. Above: Tobias Steffensmeier adds to a large pile of leaves. Behind him is Mitchell Peatrowsky. Right: Kate Gnad rakes up a pile of leaves.**

## **HONOR FLIGHT:** Wimer serves as bus captain for D.C. trip

### **FROM PAGE 1**

St. Wolfgang House holds an annual 5K Warrior Race. Proceeds from that event go towards helping honor veterans, such as funding these Honor Flights.

Erica told the ladies on the bus the story behind how their bus was sponsored.

“They really thought that was a neat thing that a small school from

West Point, Nebraska, is helping out and donating to a cause like this,” she said.

And while the day was full of sight-seeing and fun, the bottom line for this trip, for both Erica and Jayne, is being able to honor those who deserve the recognition.

“It’s just such a rewarding thing to do to honor these veterans. They are very, very appreciative and thankful to be honored in

this way. They are very touched,” Jayne said.

Erica echoed those thoughts saying, “Seeing their reactions to all the support they encountered on the trip was great to see. It was really cool seeing their faces when people showed how much they were appreciated.”

“It was a great day. I would jump at the chance to do it again,” Jayne added.

**BIRTHS**

Jessica (Ritter) '03 & Kurt Petersen: daughter Madeline Naomi born 8/5/18

Teresa (Ulrich) '07 & Jack Goebel: son John William born 9/8/18

Shea '08 & Mollie (Brunsing) '10 Stokely: daughter Josephine Therese born 10/1/18

Tatem (Kreikemeier) '10 & Tony Edwards: son Dawson Lee born 10/4/18

Jaci (Mowinkel) '08 & Brad Pesicka: son Calvin Bradley born 10/17/18

Katie (Ridder) '08 & Jacob Neujahr: daughter Ellie Jo born 11/13/18

Alex '11 & Whitney (Uhing) '10 Stieren: son Kade Michael born 11/18/18

**WEDDINGS**

Jamie Meister '10 & Jared Bethune: married 10/20/18

Nick Goeden '13 & Lauryn Bogseth: married 10/27/18

Melissa Franzluebbbers '09 & Jason Goltz: married 11/17/18

Spencer Leffler '12 & Lauren Shell: married 11/24/18

**DEATHS**

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Harold Schlickbernd '44: Date of death 9/26/18

Lloyd Herman '56: Date of death 10/1/18

Eileen (Rief) Johnson '58: Date of death 10/11/18

Wallace "Wally" Rose (teacher & coach 1955-1977): Date of death 10/20/18

Walter Nebuda '42: Date of death 12/4/18

**READER'S NOTE**

For anyone who is interested in submitting news to "News from the Nest," that can be done by emailing the St. Mary Parish office. News or photos can be emailed to the following address: ranaebrien1@gmail.com.

*GACC one-act takes the stage*

**GACC recently concluded its one-act season, which included a 3rd-place finish at districts. This year's production was entitled, "Are We Scared Yet?" Above: Evie Schlickbernd, right, plays a game of cards with her 'doll,' Brooklyn Bailey.**

*New National Honor Society members*

**GACC School inducted five new members into its National Honor Society. Those students were, from left, April Kreikemeier, Macey Wooldrik, Aaron Disher, Brooklyn Bailey and Hanna Knobbe.**

*“Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above...” James 1:17*

## It's a great day to be a Bluejay

### Fr. Steve Emanuel

I often find myself at a loss for words when I try to articulate the faithfulness and loyalty that define the family that is Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

I know that Catholic education, by its very nature, engenders a spirit of belonging and connectivity that spans generations, but I am consistently impressed by the outpouring of love and support that sustains the mission of Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

It would undoubtedly take an entire edition of News From The Nest to attempt to chronicle all the spiritual and temporal activities that have been initiated and continue to be sustained by our alumni and benefactors, but I would like to take this opportunity to simply highlight two different projects/programs that have really resonated this past year.

The first program is the Guardian Angels Central Catholic Annual Alumni Appeal. Initiated in May of 2009, the Annual Alumni Appeal has raised \$196,420.25 in support of the needs of our schools that might otherwise place an undue burden on our operational budget.

In particular, this year's Appeal which started in February 2018, has raised \$28,032.77.

This record total of giving has

allowed us to provide the following improvements to our campus: new water fountains in our junior high locker rooms, which also serve as locker rooms for our varsity guests; new carpet for both of our schools – now all high school rooms have been carpeted, and we have begun to replace old carpet in the grade school; additional school lockers for our expanding student population; picture portfolios for senior class composites in the Activity Center; new logos on the front doors of both buildings; and a portable heater and dehumidifier for classrooms.

We are also planning on placing a fence on the south end of the playground that will be financed by this Appeal. Again, I am in awe of the number of projects that we have been able to accomplish in the past nine years because of your belief in the mission of Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

The other project that I wanted to mention was our desire to provide new laptops for our faculty at GACC. The total cost of the project was \$40,832.59, and we initially thought that this might be a two year project because of the expense and our desire to remain faithful to our budgetary commitments.

Because of the generosity of

Bluejay Nation, we were able to accomplish the goal before the 2018-2019 academic year began. We received a grant from the OAEF (Omaha Archdiocesan Educational Fund) which is primarily funded by appeals like Ignite the Faith and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, just over \$12,000; thank you for supporting these Archdiocesan campaigns.

JayFest 2018 contributed \$10,000 and the Development Dinner and Trivia Night combined to add another \$10,000. A generous gift in memory of Theresa Nesladek provided for two of the laptops; support from the Knights of Columbus and interest accrued from a gift from the Hank Stalp Foundation sealed the deal. Another example how many hands can make for light work.

The most gratifying part of any of these accomplishments is that they were all initiated, supported, staffed and primarily completed by members of the GACC family. The only project that took place in the past year that did not have some immediate family connection was the asbestos abatement that was begun in the high school.

It is such a blessing to recognize that all these good gifts are a response to gifts we have already received through our loving God.

## Scholarships available for GACC 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 an individual has received four previous awards, that person is no longer eligible. Applicants must provide a transcript from his or her college/university and proof of enrollment for the Spring Semester or your Spring Semester Schedule.

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

# What's next for GACC School

## Fr. Steve Emanuel

If you do not live in or around West Point, or it has “been awhile” since you have wandered through the hallowed halls, you may not be aware of the many physical improvements we have been trying to implement on campus.

Just this past year, through the generous support of so many of you, we were able to renovate 75% of the first floor of the high school; begin asbestos abatement in the high school; place new off-street angle parking on the north side of the high school; install new equipment on the playground and enhance the landscaping around the campus.

In many ways these projects were a continuation of the facility upgrades that began in the summer of 2017, with the implementation of STEAM Labs in both schools and a major window project in the high school.

As we continue to seek to fulfill our mission of helping each of our students reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ, we recognize that as an institution and facility we must also strive to reach our full potential.

So the logical question is, “What’s next?”

As we look forward to the

2019-2020 academic year, we have multiple projects that are being considered by the School Board in consultation with our Development Board.

Our current priorities include: upgrading the security system for our entire facility; continuing the asbestos abatement and renovation of the high school facility; completing the window replacement project in the high school; replacing the Promethean boards in our classrooms and a continuing evaluation of utilizing our space to accommodate our growing student population.

While we would love to accomplish all these goals as soon as possible, we all agree that we can only move forward by first maintaining a solid financial foundation. In no way would any of these desired projects be pursued if they would threaten a manageable operational budget or jeopardize our long-term financial security.

As we continue to prioritize our needs in light of our available financial resources, our first goal would be the upgrade of our security system.

The overhaul of our current system which would include a more interactive system for all of our buildings on campus, as well as new interior and exterior cameras,

has a projected cost in the neighborhood of \$75,000 to \$100,000. (We do not have a concrete figure at this time as we are still evaluating three bids).

I apologize for the “sticker shock” but when placed in the broader scope of the safety and security of our students and staff, it is a burden we are willing to embrace. How will we pay for it? If we look at past trends of giving and the importance of this project, I believe it is manageable.

A conservative projection of pooled resources from JayFest 2019, the Development Dinner, Trivia Night and the Annual Alumni Appeal would get us to at least half of the projected cost.

We will also apply for any available Archdiocesan grants and if necessary, access monies we have received from grants from the Hank Stalp Foundation.

Directing the majority of the resources we receive from these various sources to the security upgrade might necessitate the delay of our other projects, but the physical safety of our children is second only to their spiritual safety.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our projected upgrades, please feel to contact me.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JayFest May 31, 2019**

**Alumni Banquet June 1, 2019**

**JayFest June 5, 2020**

**Alumni Banquet June 6, 2020**





### *Bluejay softball returns to state tourney*

For an 8th consecutive season, GACC qualified for the Class C state softball tourney. The Bluejays went 0-2 at state and 24-9 overall. Team members are, from left, front: Kate Gnad, Livia Hunke, Josie Dvorak, Maddie Bracht, Brenna Rief, Jenna Schinstock; back: Aubrey Kreikemeier, Erin Franzluebbers, Marissa Hunke, Audrey Daberkow, Brooke Meister, Avery Kreikemeier, Kayla Fischer and Melissa Hagedorn.



### *GACC football makes postseason appearance*

For a 15th straight season, GACC qualified in the state football playoffs. The Bluejays lost in the quarterfinals. Team members are, from left, front: head coach Dave Ridder, Nikolas Wietfeld, Mitchell Plagge, Nate Niewohner, Ethan Baumert, Cale Schwer, Kadin Pojar, Dylan Steffen, Thomas Kreikemeier, Blake Pojar, Reese Schlecht, Cole Hutchinson; second row: Sam Ortmeier, Braeden Steffen, Ethan Wooldrik, Josh Jansen, Will Kreikemeier, Damon Crawford, Noah Hass, Jaryn Smeal, Tyson Snodgrass, Coy Kreikemeier; back: coach Matt Schlaebitz, Noah Kreikemeier, Branden Duhsmann, Bryan Ortmeier, Mitchell Peatrowsky, Ben Ulrich, Cash Meier, Aaron Disher, Dylan Duhsmann, Casey Doernemann, Jady Smeal, Jack Baumert, Jared Minnick, manager Sam Hilbers, Cody Steffen, coach Gene French and coach Allan Lamli. Not pictured is Andrew Franzluebbers and George Fraher. GACC finished with a 9-2 record.

# 'Flying Bluejays' help dedicate park

**By Delores Meister**

Give an alum strong roots and strong wings, and someday sooner or later they will fly back to their roots.

Back in town for the dedication of the American Veterans Park Memorial was Jon Fago ('75). This time he came back as a Brigadier General (retired) of the United States Air Force, having completed more than 40 years in active duty in flights all over the world.

Fago was speaking to the crowd of more than 200 people at the dedication ceremony on a cold Sunday afternoon (Nov. 11).

Fago spotted his boyhood mentor, friend, assistant Scout leader and role model, Ambrose Hugo, class of 1949. Hugo was wearing his Air Force gray uniform of 65 years ago.

Fago remembered Hugo bringing Hugo's radio controlled model airplanes to Scouts, and letting scouts fly them. It added dynamics to Fago's already keen interest in planes and flying.

Fago was here at the invitation of Cuming County Veterans Service Officer Master Sergeant Bernie Hunke (retired), United States Air Force, CC Class of 1984, and the American Veterans Park committee.

The American Veterans Park is to honor God, country, veterans and their families.

Fago graduated from Central Catholic in 1975, the Air Force Academy in 1979, and spent 40 years in the Military. In 2009 he was appointed Brigadier General.

Fago addressed each group honored by the Park, and began his talk with one single word, "Remember."

"First and foremost, it is fitting to honor God. Then before country, it is community. The community gave me a background in service," Fago said.

"Honoring those who gave service to their country, those veterans who took the oath "to protect



**Jon Fago, left and Ambrose Hugo at the American Veterans Park dedication in West Point.**

**'First and foremost, it is fitting to honor God. Then before country, it is community. The community gave me a background in service.'**

**Jon Fago**

1975 Class of Central Catholic

from all enemies, foreign and domestic" and their families who faced their absence is the purpose

and goal of the park.

"This park will be a permanent reminder of our gratitude for your service. It is an honor to serve this country in uniform," Fago said.

Hunke said, "I feel the veterans are honored. They didn't leave home because they wanted to. They were called to be a part of service, and the family dealt with the loneliness. With them we share courage, pride, integrity, and this is displayed in this American Veterans Park."

The opening and closing prayers were led by former St. Mary's Associate pastor, Chaplain Colonel Frank Lordemann (retired).

The community enjoyed renewing their acquaintances.

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

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## Guardian Angels Central Catholic

419 E. Decatur  
West Point, NE 68788

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