# CRUSADER DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL NEWS

# **CELEBRATING THE KNIGHT UNDER THE SEA**

The Knight Under the Sea was a night to remember for our GICC and Grand Island community. Co-Chairs Greg & Lisa Rerucha and Dr. Steve & Karla Schneider did an amazing job bringing this Knight together! About 500 guests came to enjoy the elegant, fun-filled evening. There were triple layer cakes as centerpieces, gorgeous flowers everywhere, starfish placed on the tables and walls, jellyfish hanging from the chandelier, and agua and sand colors incorporated throughout the décor. It was a magical underwater paradise! Guests enjoyed a live band.

craft beer, a starfish game and of course, our silent and live auctions.

It was a record breaking year as we raised over \$335,000! Thank you to all who attended the event, donated auction items or cash, and to all the volunteers who worked countless hours to help make this event possible. We are thankful



GREG & LISA RERUCHA CO-CHAIRS



DR. STEVE & KARLA SCHNEIDER CO-CHAIRS



for the continued support of Dinsdale Automotive, and Kim & Tom Dinsdale, who donated a 2019 Chevy Silverado pick-up for the event. A drawing was also held for a new Jet Ski and trailer donated by Mike & Jean Hamik and Tri City Cycle Works. We are also grateful to our corporate sponsors, many whom have been with us since the beginning. This year's Fund-an-Item was a renovation of the school's Little Theater which will include replacing the original theater seats from the 1950's! Thank you to everyone who

supported The Knight Under the Sea and we look forward to seeing all of you next year!



# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES**

Being here just since August, I am very energized by joining Central Catholic Schools and contributing to the mission of supporting and advancing Catholic school education. It is important that we instill and model ethical behavior in our institutions and schools, and there is no stronger message than "love one another" that comes from our faith. What a powerful call that is! It provides meaning and purpose to our lives. It is important to talk about and model this message of loving one another in our schools. Catholic education does that. Thank you for continuing to bless our school with your financial contributions and your prayers. From all of us here at the Foundation Office, we wish you and your families a very blessed New Year.



**JOLENE M. WOJCIK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 



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# **GICC TEACHERS HONORED**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln recently honored both Phou Manivong and Cathy Howard for their work in positively shaping high school experiences of our Crusaders, and preparing them for college. Mrs. Howard teaches English here at GICC and Mr. Manivong is the Assistant Principal and Cross Country coach.

Both recipients received letters from Chacellor Ronnie Green stating "Your influence helped (the students) earn acceptance to a Big Ten university, where they'll discover and stretch their strengths, work one-on-one with peers and faculty and prepare for a great career or advanced study. We are grateful for the investment you make in your students, and I know your impact will continue to resonate with them."

"While it is imperative for students to thing about their future - choosing a major, building







**PHOU MANIVONG** 

relationships and developing skills for success we also think it's important for students to reflect on the path that brought them to Nebraska," Amber Williams, assistant vice chancellor, added. Join us in celebrating this honor for these two wonderful staff members!

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Robert Recker graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1956, one year before it was renamed Grand Island Central Catholic, Dr. Recker is the director of the Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center and is an internationally recognized expert in the field of metabolic bone disease. His work has produced a number of patents and has led to the discovery of a rare genetic mutation that makes bones unusually dense. Scientists called this discovery one of the most important bone biology breakthroughs in decades. The entire direction of bone research around the world changed with the discovery. Recker says he has long believed "that if we could develop a drug that would do what the mutation did, we'd have the answer to osteoporosis. That is still my hope."

Recker credits his St. Mary's High School education for his success. "My time there was wonderful" Recker stated. "I learned how to study for college, and managed to finish premed at Creighton in 1959 after three years of undergraduate school. I have dedicated my career to teaching and research." He completed

**CLASS REUNIONS** 

The All-School Class Reunion is on hold due to low attendance; however these classes are busy planning:

#### **CLASS OF 1963 - 57TH REUNION**

Friday & Saturday, August 7th & 8th, 2020 – Grand Island

Contact Maggie Cassey for details – (308) 300-0989

#### CLASS OF 1985 35TH REUNION IN KANSAS CITY

Friday – July 24, 2020- Mike Knust Home Saturday – July 25, 2020 - KC Royals Stadium -Baseball game

\*\*\*Price Chopper Patio rented for the game. Game starts at 6:05 and patio opens at 4:30. \$88 per person includes game ticket and food/soda. Anyone can attend - any class, staff or parents. Contact Michelle (Prince) Dunlap for details - text/

Contact Michelle (Prince) Dunlap for details – text/call (308) 529-0297, email dunlap43@hotmail.com

Creighton medical school in 1963 and has been associated with Creighton ever since.

Recker is a physician, an academician, a researcher and a clinical instructor. Over his career, Robert has received many prestigious awards and has



DR. ROBERT RECKER

published over 1,000 scientific papers. He recently received a \$1.5 million grant to investigate the relationship between diabetes and osteoporosis. "I sincerely believe that my St. Mary's high school education made all of this possible, and I am most grateful!"

#### **ALUMNI UPDATE**

**Daniel S. Novinski, '15,** was the 2019 recipient of the Reginald E.F. Colley Award from the Theta Chi Fraternity. The Colley Award is the fraternity's most prestigious collegiate honor and annually recognizes distinguished service to alma mater, fraternity and community. Novinski received his bachelor of science in biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and has started his medical studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Medicine in Omaha.

Jeremy Wissing, 'oo, was recently inducted in the Chadron State Athletic Hall of Fame. Wissing led the Crusaders to the 2000 Class C-1 state basketball championship while averaging 24 points and 10 rebounds per game. Wissing was a four-year starter for the Chadron State Eagles. Although he stands 6-foot-5, he is the Eagles' career leader in 3-point shooting with 245 made shots and a 37.9 percentage from behind the arc. He also set the school single-game record for most 3-pointers without missing while making all seven of his long range attempts against South Dakota Mines in 2002-2003. Wissing now owns a roofing business in Durango, Colorado. He and his wife, Lily, have two sons.

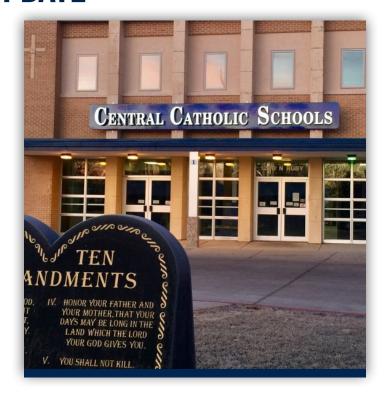
## 2019 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



If you've driven by the school lately, you clearly can see the results of the Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future Capital Campaign. The old glass block windows were replaced on the front of the building with new energy efficient windows. A striking new Central Catholic Schools sign adorns the entryway into the school. The multipurpose building behind the school is complete with a modern press box, new restrooms and bleachers. 82 current students were provided tuition assistance with campaign funds. In addition, funds were used to pay off the roof loan, provide air conditioning for the kitchen, assist with funding of more secure classroom doors, and provide funds for transportation for student activities. Your donations continue to make a huge difference in the learning environment for our students. The next phase will include further improvements to the exterior and roof of the building, and new lights for the parking lot.

If you would like to donate, please contact the Development Foundation or donate online at www.gicentralcatholic.org/foundation.





#### **2020 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

It's that time again! Our seniors are preparing for college and a big part of that is applying for our scholarships. We are very fortunate here at the GICC Development Foundation to be able to offer scholarships to our students. An online application will be made available in January. To complete the application and see the qualifications needed to apply, visit <a href="https://www.gicentralcatholic.org">www.gicentralcatholic.org</a>

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:**

JERRY BINFIELD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
KAUFMAN-CUMMINGS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
DWAINE AND RITA KUBICEK TRUST SCHOLARSHIP
HELEN JANKY MEMORIAL/JOYCE JANKY SEKUTARA
SCHOLARSHIP

JAY'S HELPING HAND

DALE AND MARY LYONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP JOHN AND MARY SEERY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIOP VERN AND ESTHER TAYLOR CHARITABLE TRUSH SCHOLARSHIP

US BANK SCHOLARSHIP
U-SAVE PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP





# THE PAT KAYL SCIENCE LAB

The renovated GICC science lab, in honor of Mr. Pat Kayl who served our science department over 30 years, was completed over the summer. The 2018 Fund an Item from The Knight provided the funds for this project. The students are enjoying the new tabletops, flooring, lab tables, sinks and safety eyewash and shower station. GICC

Science Teacher Ryan Smith stated, ""The Pat Kayl Lab is a true blessing for our students. The renovated space is much safer, and allows for more adequate space to conduct experiments. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this possible and invested in the future of our students."









# Dun Mini

You'd be proud of your classmates, Nini. Your teachers, too. This first week without you was a kick in the gut. Even now, we stumble in the middle of speaking, walking, breathing. How can this be? Our minds will not comprehend your passing.

Only days before, I have scolded you in my English class.

"You didn't follow the assignment," I explain, "which was to write about a grandparent."

"But I want to write about my mom," you say with that guiet stubbornness I know so well. "She's had an

interesting life, and I want to share her story."

You are never a demanding child, but you are a determined one, and I suddenly lose the will to

"Fine, Nini," I sigh. "Do it your way."

Even though you're pale and unwell, I am irritated

**+ CENTRAL CATHOLIC UPDATE • WINTER 2019-2020** 

and hardly bother to ask you about your ailing



asthma. But the essay you read to all of us about your brave mother a young woman who left VietNam with your father to come to America - touches and inspires us all. Was that only a week ago Monday, Nina?

When your principal Jordan Engle summons us with the news that you've collapsed, your teachers gather together at school. Some weep, others sit dazed in the school library. There is nothing much to say, but we find comfort in the nearness of each other.

Your religion teacher Mrs. Dee Hanssen springs into action rocking

Mrs. Amy May's baby daughter, handing out bottled water, leading a Rosary. With Father Sid Bruggeman, she quickly prepares the chapel for a hastily arranged Mass.

Her small but kind ministrations soothe us and strangely bring helpless tears to my eyes. Praying fervently together in the newly renovated chapel,

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still smelling of new paint and fresh pine, your teachers give you to Jesus.

After Mass in the school hallway, small Lillie Encinger runs straight to teacher Jennifer Koralewski. The best friend of your little sister, Lillie sobs in Mrs. Koralewski's arms. I will never

forget how Sheridan Puncochar, a sweet eighth grade girl filled with concern for her distressed friend, pats Lillie awkwardly on her shoulder.

All week long your classmates and teachers reach out to each other.

Your own best friend Lizzie Calderon drives to Omaha to be with your family in your hospital room. She is with you until the very end when your family must make the terrible decision to remove you from life support.

Your cheerleader sponsors Kate Schendt and Makenzie Mudloff lovingly paste scrapbook photos together for your grieving family. Mr. Engle, in only his second year as principal, rises to the task at hand and works hard to make all our kids feel safe.

That first day back at school, comfort dogs receive GICC students in the library. Father Jim Golka who patiently ministered to you and your family in the hospital now counsels your friends through the terrible first day without you. Emilie Ziller, a fellow cheerleader, silently leaves class to pull herself together and prop up others. I am dreading the thought of your empty desk in English class, but Ashlyn Kucera wordlessly slips into your seat to fill in the gaping space.

Hardly able to speak, your classmate Raegan Gellatly asks me finally if she might have the poem she wrote about you in English. I make sure also to give Miss Lucy Long, our student teacher, the beautiful poem you penned.

"Miss Long is like a cup of tea - " you wrote. "Calm, relaxed, nice. Making me feel warm inside."

We long for these small momentoes of your life. They make you seem very close.

At the end of the week when we know you are safely in Heaven and funeral arrangements have been made, we all relax a little and begin to conduct business as usual.

Miss Long poses a question to our 6th mod senior

English class: Would you rather possess more intelligence than good looks or more good looks than intelligence?

Without hesitation class clown Sam Herbek replies, "I'm fortunately lucky enough to possess both."

We laugh. We laugh hard. Maybe too hard. It's a great release and the beginning of healing.

Your classmates will graduate without you next year. They will attend college and work and marry and raise families. Eager to gather at good ol' GICC for a class reunion in the far distant future, they'll return as grayhaired grandparents. But you, Nini, will always be 16.

Someone will say, "Remember

the day Colby Setlick accidentally set off the fire alarm in weight lifting class?"

Others will remember with great laughter the dead goose seniors buried behind the track memorializing its grave with cast off corsages and boutonnieres.

They will recall Mrs. Peter's glorious lunches, Tanner Turek's undying passion for the losing Cleveland Browns, and Johnny Partington's stellar dance performance at Homecoming.

Finally, someone will say, bringing a hushed silence, "That was the year we lost Nini."

Today we say our last goodbyes. At Blessed Sacrament Church, Father Marty Egging reminds us during your funeral of your courageous decision to leave the devout faith of your good Vietnamese family and to embark on your own journey to Catholicism. Last year you are confirmed and even teach CCD classes with your best buddy Lizzie.

"Nini longed for Christ," Father Marty says simply.

Your 16-year-old faith is our biggest comfort, dear Nini. Thank you for that last gift. Thank you for the smile that crinkled your nose, your swinging pony tail, and your infectious laugh.

Somewhere you're laughing and dancing and leaping with Jesus in a lovely place of light.

We will see you there, sweet Mini.
WRITTEN BY CATHY HOWARD, OCTOBER 2019



#### **OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES**

Nini Pham, 16, of Grand Island, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Nini was born on Dec. 13, 2002, in Grand Island to Bang Pham and Hongloan Le. She grew up in Grand Island and attended Jefferson School and Central Catholic High School. Survived by her parents; sister, Tina; brother, Jackie, and grandparents, Van Vinh Le and Kim AnhLuu. Welcoming her to Heaven will be her grandmother, Nhieu Pham.

#### **Edward Gowlovech**

Graduated from Grand Island Central Catholic High School in the class of 1959. Survived by wife Barbara; his children, Edward J. (JaNalle), Colleen Ann (Peter Guerra), Elizabeth Ann (Dirk Porath), and Judith Ann; his ten grandchildren.

Graduated with the very first Grand Island Central Catholic High School class in 1957. Survived by his son, Dan (Lisa) Ruzicka; daughter, Anne (Jamie) Deterding; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; siblings, Jan (Warren) Wheeler, Joann (Randy) Karl, Cheryl (Norm) Nietfeldt, Doris (Chuck) Winkler, Susan Stueben and sister-

#### Jerry Dingwerth

Graduated from Grand Island Central Catholic High School in the class of 1966. Survivors include his wife, Donna; two daughters, Tammy (John) Dahlstrom and Shelley (Mike) Loewe; grandchildren, Jackson and Avery Dahlstrom and Madison and Tyler Loewe; and his sister, Debi (Jerry) Pieper.

#### Frances Hooker

Survived by her children, Rod (Patty) Hooker, Shari (Kerry) Schumacher, and Marsha (Frank) Prucha; five grandchildren; nine, nearly ten, great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Alice Herbert and Beverly Herbert; and numerous extended family.

#### **Glenn Knust**

Survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia Knust of Grand Island; children and their spouses, Michael (Gena) Knust, and Julie (Wade) Colson; grandchildren, Laurel and Jackson Knust and Andrew Colson; brother-in-law, Mel Heimann of Columbus; and numerous, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

#### **Steve Todd**

Survived by his mother, Erma Todd; his wife of 51 years, Colleen; their children and grandchildren, son, Lance (Lori) and their children Shelby, Audrey and Tanner, son, Damien (Stephanie) and their children Landon and Dalton and son, Aaron (Libby) and their children Emersen and Oakley; siblings, Connie (Marty) Scherzberg, Larry (Lisa) Todd, Mike Todd and Dedee (Rusty) Markus; many extended family members and

#### **Edward Brokaw**

Survived by his seven children, including Lureen (Francis) Morgan, Ed Jr. (Mary) Brokaw, Bonita (John) Hilbert, Glenice (Don) Simons, Donna (Kenny) Beale, Shelley (Sam) Van Norman and Scott (Barb) Brokaw; his brother, Roger (Kathy) Brokaw; sisters, Elaine Kersten, Joyce Jennings, and Patsy Andersen; 18 grandchildren and 30 greatgrandchildren.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Ed Armstrong**

Carroll, Dennis and Diane Dinsdale, Kim and Tom Engle, Jordan and Jenna Goering, Dr. John and Katie Hanssen, Dr. G.H. and Dee Hoelck, Nadean Kahrhoff, James and Maureen Maser, Matthew and Kristen Sweley Roger and Debra Wojcik, Tim and Jolene

#### **Roger Arthur** Placke, Jean

**Rev. Andrew Augustyn** 

#### Placke, Jean

**Greg Bernth** Bernth, Dr. Ron and Susan

#### Rose Ann Boehl

Placke, Jean

Margaret Bulowski Placke, Jean

#### **Edward Brokaw**

Moore, Tom and Sherry Schumann, Howard Sindelar, Francis and Rose

#### Franklin Brott

Placke, Jean

#### **Howard Chiarbos**

Placke, Jean

#### Francis Curran

Bernth, Dr. Ron and Susan

#### **James Davidson**

Placke, Jean

#### Jerry Dingwerth

Burke, Judy Class of 1966

Dolton, Richard and Gloria Flannigan, Randy and Jean Liske, Leo and Maxine Mathias, Richard and Joan Olson, Karen Sweley Roger and Debra

Tipton, Michael and Sandra

Zeplin, Jean Ziller, Bob and Dianne

#### Mary Jo Dowd

Placke, Jean

Ed Gowlovech Bockmann, Darryl and Diane Brabander, Dale Bryant, Bob and Phyllis Bryant, Chad and Shannon Bryant, Jason and Jen Bryant, Mike Bryant, Rob and Lori Kauk, Melvin Kosmicki, Larry Krick, David and Carol Preissler. Don and Myra Preissler, Gerald and Barbara Riedy, Douglas and Marcia Rosno, Richard Samuelson, Sharon Schroeder, Tom and Carol Sheaff, James and Marcella Stec, Dr. Steven and Beckie Toczek, Dotti Wassinger Jr, Ben and Arlene

#### Wieck, Jim and Ann **Francis Hooker**

Wanitschke, Donna

#### **Dan Hostler**

Placke, Jean

#### **Dan Jacobson**

Placke, Jean

#### **Darlene Jansen**

(Roepker)

#### Placke, Jean

Glenn Knust Maciejewski, Gladys

#### Tom Koehler

Placke, Jean

Placke, Jean

#### Mike Lewandowski

#### Francis Maciejewski/

Jay's Helping Hands Ambroz-Hollman, Robin Baker, Larry and Glenda Barnes, Robert and Laurie Beck, Kurt and Wendi Benner, Bryan and Janet Beran, Cindy Bogus, Bob Brostrom, Kevin and Beverly Buchta, Bill and Nancy Bydalek, James and Debra Chambers, Robert and Jan Chapman, Charles and Mary K Coash, James and Teri Compton, Herb and Patricia Curran Funeral Chapel

Davis, Robert and Adrianna Dey, Darrell and Mary Dieckman, Dennis and Kathy Dieckman, Shane and Diane Dolton, Richard and Gloria Dorsey, Craig and Georgia Dowd, Suzanne Dubas, Richard and Jane Dvorak, Mike and Nancy Dzingle, Ervan and Marge Dzingle, James and Dacia Dzingle, Todd and Genesa Fischer, Marilyn Gavers, Bill and Jody Gnewuch, David and Colleen Hinson, Denise Huebner, Gary and Diane Hummel, Lonnie and Bonnie Janulewicz, Dave and Paulette Jones, Becky Kayl, Julie Kelley, Keith and Kay Knust, Pat Kosmicki, Randy and Cheryl Kulus, LaVonne Lewandowski, Randall

Lewandowski, Ed and Marlene Liske, Jim and Sharon Liske, Leo and Maxine Long, Steven and Erica Lukasiewicz, Eunice Maciejewski, Chuck and Colleen McDermott, Hank and Elisabeth

Maciejewski, Nancy and Anne Martin, Kurt and Sheryl McKeever, Kelly

Meister, Frank and Donna Miller, Jeffery and Barbara Moore, Tom and Sherry Morgan, Pete and Connie Mossman, Leland and Betty Mostek, Terry and Janelle

Mueller, Jeremy and Kate Mueller, Roger and Carol Mulligan, Robert and Michelle

Northup, Donna O'Neill, Gordon and Colleen

Panowicz, Elaine Panowicz, James and Cindy Peters, Todd and Cindy

Pfizer Phelan, Patrick W and Mary Price, Jim and Dee

Randolph, Terry and Janice Reilly, Dr. John and Barbara Reilly, Kevin and Tammi

Class of 2024 Rein, James and Christine

Rein, Mary Jane Rempe, Vern and Doris Rice, Lonnie and Patricia Riedy, Marcia Riley, Ron and Brenda Ripp, Dr. Robert and Linda Robison, Michael and Karen

Rohweder, Suzanne Rowley, Chad

Rowley, Randy and Joyce Rupp, Bob

Schmidt, Richard and Marlene Schumann, Howard Sindelar, Francis and Rose Ann

Snodgrass, Bill and Sherry Sok, Irene

Terman, Bernie and Marge Turek, Jim and Imogene Wallace, Randy and Lori Wanitschke, Donna Wenzl, Michael and Jean

Wieck, Jim and Ann Willman, Rita

Wilsey, Lonnie and Leann Wissing, Norm Woltman, Ervin and Dorothy

Woltman, Kirk Woltman, Misty Wray, Vi M

Zaruba, Samuel and Geraldine Kavl, Julie

### Marcia McDermott

Placke, Jean

#### Mildred McDermott

Placke, Jean

#### **Fred Northrup**

Flannigan, Randy and Jean

#### Joe & Helen Ruzicka

Riecker-Karl, Joann

#### Ken Kulus

Kulus, LaVonne

#### **Marty Chapman**

Wanitschke, Donna

#### Nini Pham

Alberts, Drs. Gregory and Jennifer Anonymous

Bales, Mark and Pam Boon, Dr. Douglas and Jennifer Class of 2020

Class of 2021 Class of 2023

Encinger, Andrew and Julie

Engle, Jordan and Jenna Fox, Scott and Laura Gleason, Randy and Michelle Herbek, Dr. Doug and Tena Kalvoda, Mike and Stacey Kelly, Drs. Brad and Amber Kenna, Dr. Kathryn and John King, Drs. Jeff and Jennifer Langer, Carolyn Mamot-Sack, Dayla and Jon Maser, Matthew and Kristen McFarland, Hank and Kathy McNamara, Matt and Michelle Ostdiek, Rich and Amy Pham, Bang and Le Thi Hong Loan Price, Todd and Amy Schumann, Howard Steenson, Kara Wenzl, Michael and Jean

#### Ziller, Tom and Angie Gerhard and Florence **Placke**

Placke, Jean

#### Syl & Mary Placke Placke, Jean

Wojcik, Tim and Jolene

#### **Esther Schneider**

Placke, Jean

#### **Bill Shomshor**

Placke, Jean

#### **Lucy Belle Simon** Placke, Jean

**Dolores (McNelis) Stafford** 

Placke, Jean

John 'Jack' Tagel Placke, Jean

#### **Steve Todd** Schumann, Howard

Pat Vejvoda Placke, Jean

#### Bernard & Ann Volkl Placke, Jean

Kathleen Whetstone

#### Placke, Jean **Tony Wray**

Wray, Frank

Curtis, Tony and Ann



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