

CRUSADER UPDATE ALUMNI, DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL NEWS

A KNIGHT AT THE DISCO - A GROOVY SUCCESS!

It was a night of *Celebration* at our signature event and fundraiser, A Knight at the Disco. With an energy and excitement worthy of a disco club, 500 guests gathered for an evening of fellowship, fun and fundraising. This Knight was dressed to impress, with delicious food, exciting auctions, and record-breaking generosity. The Fund an Item generated \$63,000 towards the renovation of the middle school locker rooms. Together, we raised more money than ever before – making this the highest grossing Knight in history!



Over the past 26 years, the Knight has raised an astounding \$6.5 million for operating costs and educational initiatives at GICC. Thanks to the hard work of the organizers and volunteers, and the incredible generosity of our corporate sponsors and donors, this year's Knight was a great success. We are so grateful for Jean & Mike Hamik and Kellie & Scott Weyers, our Knight co-chairs, for all their leadership and hard work. The students of GICC give thanks for a community that shows up year after year to support their growth and education. What a Knight to remember! ●



JEAN AND MIKE HAMIK



KELLIE AND SCOTT WEYERS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES



Happy New Year! What an incredible blessing 2023 was as we continued with the Grounded in Faith – Building our Future campaign and held another successful Knight event. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors and volunteers, these funds empower our school to carry out faith-based activities that truly change lives. We are in awe of the way our alumni and our community come together to support our mission of providing a quality, Christ-centered education. Our students not only thrive academically, but they also foster deeper relationships with God - benefits that will stay with them for life. At Central Catholic, we strive to cultivate a familial environment where students feel loved, supported and empowered in their faith. We could not do this without the dedication of our donors and volunteers. Your kindness fuels our school, and for that, we are endlessly grateful.

As I reflect on this year, I see God's hand in so much of what we have accomplished. Thank you to all the GICC families for your prayers this school year. We could not do what we do without the blessing of God and the support of our families. ●

Many Blessings,

JOLENE M. WOJCIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**BISHOP
JOSEPH G. HANEFELDT**

**JEFF PALIK
PRESIDENT**

**KELLIE WEYERS
VICE-PRESIDENT**

**TODD PRICE
TREASURER**

**STEPH CONNICK
SECRETARY**

**CHRISTI REIN
PAST PRESIDENT**

**GREG ALBERTS
CASEY CLAUSEN
JOSH CONNOR
EMILY DEXTER
KELLY HENRY
TENA HERBEK
JUSTIN JOHNSON
BRETT KLEIN
JILL VASQUEZ**

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



This November, I had the privilege of attending the Knight at the Disco. With this being my sixth year serving as the principal at GICC, I find myself yet again amazed by the outpouring of community support at our marquee event! I congratulate all who were involved with organizing the Knight and thank all of those who attended and supported our school. We are abundantly blessed!

As construction on the elementary school continues, the excitement is also building. We are to a point where it's easy to count the days until we welcome the first classes into Central Catholic Elementary School. I would invite any person interested in getting more information about enrollment at GICC Elementary to reach out to the school directly at any time to get more information! Enrollment has begun and spots are filling fast. The excitement around Grand Island and the sure demand for this project is amazing!

As always, I thank all of our supporters for helping us see our mission of raising the next generation of disciples to fruition. Central Catholic is such a special school, and I'm thankful for the opportunity I have to serve the students at GICC. Please continue to pray for us as we complete our elementary project and continue to refine the outstanding education already available at GICC middle and high school! ●

Yours In Christ,

JORDAN ENGLE, PRINCIPAL



**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK**



A KNIGHT AT THE DISCO DONORS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS:

\$40,000 +

Kim & Tom Dinsdale,
Dinsdale Automotive Group

\$10,000 +

Drs. Gregory & Jennifer Alberts,
Grand Island Dermatology

Mike & Jean Hamik, U-Save Pharmacy

Jack & Abby Henry

Janie & Harry Hoch, Jr.

Dr. David & Carol Janda

Matt & Kristen Maser, Five Points Bank

Tom & Sue Pirnie

Dr. John & Barbara Reilly

Scott & Kellie Weyers, U-Save Pharmacy

\$5,000 +

Ryan & Laura Dexter,
Nebraska Fire Sprinkler

Gentle Dental Care - Dr. Kris Harris,
Dr. Jama Obermiller, Dr. Kristen Luther,
Dr. Ryan Harris

Grand Island Clinic

Mike & Stacey Kalvoda,
Grand Island Physical Therapy

Drs. Jeff & Jennifer King

Dr. Zach & Abby Meyer,
Family Practice of Grand Island

Mark & Renee Miller,
Eakes Office Solutions

Brian & Wendy Schardt,
Exchange Bank

\$2,500 +

AMGL - CPA's & Advisors

Keri & Alec Anania,
Nebraska Functional Medicine

Dr. Josh & Anny Anderson

Matthew & Janelle Armstrong,
Edward Jones

Will & Lori Armstrong, Edward Jones

Dr. Pravardhan BIRTHI & Vandana Katyal,
Grand Island Pain Relief Center

CHI Health - St. Francis
Chief Industries

Casey & Ashley Clausen,
Straight Line Striping

Copycat Printing & Signs

Dr. Susan Corey, Grand Island Dermatology

Cornerstone Bank

Most Reverend Bishop Emeritas
William Dendinger

Dr. Jordan & Jenna Engle
Family Practice of Grand Island

Dr. John & Katie Goering

Dan Govier, Wells Fargo Advisors

Trevor & Dr. Erica Haake,
Twin Loups Quality Meats

Hamilton

Jeff & Rita Hamik

Craig & Rita Hand, Howard's Jewelry

Home Federal Bank

Hornady Manufacturing

Justin and Dr. Molly Johnson

Brett & Kristen Klein,
Flatwater Wealth

Lutz

Midwest Restaurant Supply & Kitchen
Superstore

Steve & Kim Ryan, Northwestern Mutual

Vincent & Alisa Ryan, Northwestern Mutual

Dr. Dan & Carole Novinski

Pinnacle Bank

Todd & Amy Price

Matthew and Paula Roberts

Dr. Steve & Karla Schneider

Dave & Jill Staab, Ken & Rose Mary Staab

Surgery Group of Grand Island

Tim & Jolene Wojcik





Introducing
MRS. SARAH NORDHUES



“We are excited to welcome Mrs. Sarah Nordhues as the first leader of GICC Elementary,”



Dr. Jordan Engle, GICC Middle School / High School Principal said. “Sarah brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her, and I look forward to watching our elementary school thrive under her guidance.”

Nordhues is in her 10th year with Riverside Elementary School in Spalding, NE, where she began her principalship in 2014. Prior to that, Nordhues was on the teaching staffs at Palmer Public Schools, and both Florence Elementary and Belle Ryan Elementary in Omaha, since 2006.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Education K-8 with an endorsement in Intermediate grades 4-8, Nordhues pursued a Masters in Education Administration and Supervision K-8 from the University of Nebraska Omaha, followed by her 7-12 certification from the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) in 2014.



The *Grounded in Faith - Building Our Future* capital campaign continues.

Construction is on schedule and in August 2024 we will welcome preschool through 5th grade students to our campus. Our current middle school and high school students are already loving the renovated school cafeteria!

We ask that all families, parishioners, individuals, foundations and businesses lend their support to this once-in-a-lifetime gift to our community. To provide eager new students with the Catholic education they await, it is vital that we continue our efforts to raise funds and collect pledges.

You can mail donations to the Foundation Office, 1200 Ruby Avenue, Grand Island, NE 68803. Or you can complete a pledge by visiting us at www.gicc.org/elementary-school.html.



LEARN MORE



MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY



CENTRAL CATHOLIC GRADUATES IN THE HALL OF FAME

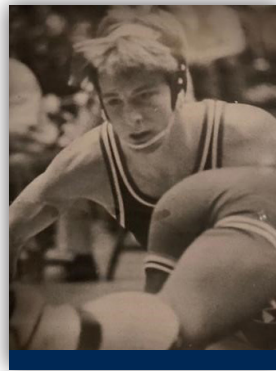
K.C. COWGILL



K.C. Cowgill, a 2000 GICC graduate, was inducted into the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame in September 2022. The 2000 World-Herald Athlete of the Year earned

All-State honors in volleyball and basketball and put together an undefeated State Championship season on the tennis court. Three-point shots were her specialty, thanks to shooting 500 per day in practice. She set state and school records from beyond the arc and finished her basketball career as the state's second-leading all-time scorer with 2,427 points. K.C. played college basketball at Nebraska before transferring to Southwest Missouri State, where she was the Missouri Valley Newcomer of the Year. She set school records for 3-pointers made and led the nation making 53% of her 3s. "It was a great experience competing at Central Catholic," Cowgill said. "There were so many great things I got to accomplish with my teammates over the years." ●

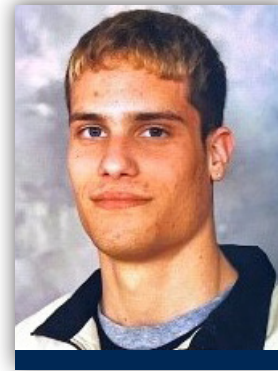
MIKE MCCLAREN



Mike McClaren, who graduated from GICC in 1983, was inducted into the Nebraska State Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame

in 2023. His wife, Shandra, and his sons, Chase and Tanner, accepted the honor in Mike's name. McClaren was killed in an automobile accident during the summer of 2009. While competing at GICC, McClaren won two state titles. He captured the Class C 112 pounds, helping the Crusaders take the Class C state title in 1982. McClaren followed that up with another state title his senior year, winning the Class B 119-pound title. After his high school days, he went on to wrestle at Chadron State College. He was a four-year letter winner and captured the 1987 NAIA title at 126 pounds after finishing runner-up three times. "I wish he would be here because he would be ecstatic about getting this honor," Shandra said. ●

TYLER PETERSON



Tyler Peterson, who graduated from GICC in 1997, was inducted into the Nebraska Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame for his baseball career. Peterson

is one of the top two-way players in Nebraska Wesleyan history. Peterson's name is etched all over the record book while leading the program to new heights. In 29 career appearances, including three starts, he recorded a 5-2 record, a 2.99 ERA, and 12 saves. He posted 56 career strikeouts as a closer. Peterson ended his career with school records for home runs in a season, saves in a season, saves in a career, and E.R.A. in a season. He still holds the records for saves in a career and E.R.A. in a season. Over his four years, he racked up 117 runs, 150 hits, 32 doubles, 25 home runs, and 127 RBIs, while batting .393. Nebraska Wesleyan recorded 85 victories in Peterson's four seasons, and Peterson led the Prairie Wolves to one conference tournament championship, two conference regular season runner-up finishes, and a conference regular season championship. ●

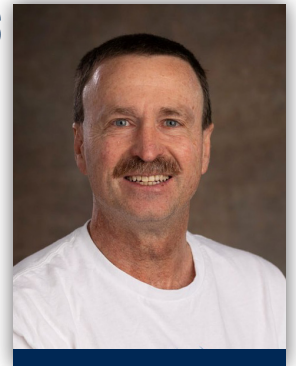


JAMES LOWRY

The Hastings College Alumni Association named James Lowry as the Outstanding Alumni Coach award recipient this year. Lowry, a '91/'94 MAT, has been touted as one of the best tennis coaches in the state. Both the GICC boys and girls tennis teams have excelled under Lowry's leadership, with the girls team accumulating two state championships, five runner-up finishes, four third place finishes and three fourth place finishes. The boys teams have had two third and fourth place finishes, and three fifth place finishes. Additionally, Lowry has coached nine doubles state champions and three state singles champions. James teaches social studies here at Central Catholic. Congratulations!

In addition, the 1989 Hastings College men's basketball team was inducted into the Hastings College Athletic Hall of Fame. The team completed a 26-9 record, qualified for the NAIA National Tournament, and made it to the Elite 8 for the first time in school history. Members include James Lowry '91/'94 MAT and Bill Gavers'88 helped coach the team. Gavers currently serves as the Central Catholic Athletic Director, after 24 years of teaching and coaching at GICC. ●

BILL GAVERS



MEMORIALS

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

ROGER ARTHUR MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

REV. ANDREW AUGUSTYN MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

FRITZ BATENHORST MEMORIAL

Don & Helen Batenhorst

KATHLEEN BIXENMANN MEMORIAL

Annette Kenney

FRANKLIN BROTT MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MARGARET BUKOWSKI MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

HOWARD CHIARBOS MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

LINDA DALE MEMORIAL

Matthew & Kristen Maser

JAMES DAVIDSON MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

BOB DAVIS MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

JUDY DAVIS MEMORIAL

Bob and Dianne Ziller

MARY JO DOWD MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

ED GOWLOVECH MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

GRANGE FAMILY MEMORIAL MEMORIAL

Thomas & Cynthia Grange

DANIEL HARMS MEMORIAL

Roger & Deb Sweley

LILA HILLER MEMORIAL

Penny Tillman

DAN HOSTLER MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

DAN JACOBSON MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

DARLENE JANSEN MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

KEN KALVODA MEMORIAL

John & Katie Goering

Matt & Kristen Maser

Doug & Mary Sterup

Kim & Lisa Willman

Tim & Jolene Wojcik

GUS KATROUZOS MEMORIAL

Francis & Rose Ann Sindelar

TOM KOEHLER MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

KEN KULUS MEMORIAL

LaVonne Kulus

WARREN LESCHINSKY MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MARY ANN LEWANDOWSKI MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MIKE LEWANDOWSKI MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MARCIA MCDERMOTT MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MILDRED MCDERMOTT MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

ROSE ANN PFEIFFER-WODRICH MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

GERHARD AND FLORENCE PLACKE MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

SYL AND MARY PLACKE MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

SUZANNE ROHWEDER MEMORIAL

Bob Parker

Curran Funeral Chapel

SERGIO OLIVARES SANCHEZ MEMORIAL

Don & Helen Batenhorst

ESTHER SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

BETTY SCHWENK MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MIKE AND JANE SEIM MEMORIAL

Stephanie Roberts

BILL SHOMSHOR MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

LUCY BELLE SIMON MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

ROGER SMITH MEMORIAL

Michael & Jennifer Redman

Roger & Deb Sweley

DOLORES STAFFORD MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

JOHN 'JACK' TAGEL MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

PATRICIA VEJVODA MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

BERNARD AND ANN VOLKL MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

MARK VOLKL MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

KATHLEEN WHETSTONE MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

JIM WIECK MEMORIAL

Jean Placke

Christi Stepanek

DOUG ZASTROW MEMORIAL

David & Luann Zastrow

RICHARD ZASTROW MEMORIAL

David & Luann Zastrow

Stuart Zastrow

HONOR DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF STEVE RYAN

Michael & Jean Wenzl

IN HONOR OF JOLENE WOJCIC

Janie & Harry Hoch, Jr.

IN HONOR OF JACK AND SHARON JARECKE

Jeremy & Jodi Jarecke

IN HONOR OF MIKE AND JEAN WENZL

Angie Ziller

Jeffery & Kim Aycock

Leonard Wenzel

IN HONOR OF DON AND DENISE WIRTH

Laura & Zachary Kane

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

DOROTHY BONCZYNSKI

Survived by her children, daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Tom Pirnie, and son Steve Bonczynski; grandson Jim Pirnie and granddaughter Tracy Bonney-Haenke; ten great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

LINDA DALE

Survived by her daughter, Lisa, and son-in-law, Kim Willman; three granddaughters, Daryn and AJ Slaughter, Kamryn and Lauryn Willman; sister, Roberta Grauberger; sister-in-law, Mary Jo Lane; Lynne Mooney and many nephews and nieces.

MICHELINE "MICKEY" JOHNSTON '71

Passed away peacefully on February 4, 2023. Mass of Christian burial was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and burial was at the Calvary Cemetery. Mickey will be missed by all that knew her.

KENNETH KALVODA

Survived by his wife, Judy Kalvoda; children Tammy Batterman, Kris Lewis, Mike & Stacey Kalvoda, and Mark & Jen Kalvoda; son-in-law Doug Lewis; fifteen grandchildren including Olivia, Avery and Allison Kalvoda; sisters and brothers-in-law, Norma and Dennis Mason, and Irene and Arnie Mertens; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Virgil and Mary Lou Brockman and Pat and Rosie Brockman; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Ray Mazour; three great grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

NORBERT "BERT" MATOUSEK

Survived by his three sons and two daughters-in-law, Ron and Barb Matousek, Rick and Rhonda Matousek, and Dan Matousek; daughter and son-in-law, Lori and David Hansmeyer; seven grandchildren and their spouses; 11 great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Jim Logsdon.



CENTRAL
CATHOLIC
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

1200 Ruby Ave. ■ Grand Island, NE 68803

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Grand Island, NE
Permit #28



CENTRAL
CATHOLIC
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

STAY CONNECTED



LEARN MORE



MAKE A PLEDGE
TODAY