



GACC School: "Learning and Leading Through Christ."

ALUMNI NEWS



Guardian Angels Central Catholic Newsletter

May 2015, No. 2 of 4



GACC captured the Class C2 state speech title. In attendance were, from left, front: Nicole Fisher, Emma Gnad, Karen Richards, Elisabetta Petrucci, Monica Reeson, Megan McAuliffe; middle: Rebekah McGill, Hannah McGill, Hannah Kreikemeier, Grace Neiman, Bobbie Ortmeier, Jena Wimer; back: Zach Kaup, Adam Perry, coach Connie Kreikemeier, coach Judy Perry, coach Brooke Meister, coach Mary Lauritzen, Emily Franzluebbbers, Thomas Slagle.

Repeat champions

GACC defends Class C2 crown with second consecutive speech title

It was sweet satisfaction for Guardian Angels Central Catholic as the Bluejays defended their crown by winning a second consecutive championship at the Class C2 state speech meet March 27 at Kearney.

"It's indescribable to win it two years in a row. All of the kids took part in this state championship. It's not just the state placers or the state qualifiers. It was everybody," speech coach Brooke Meister said.

Medal winners for GACC were

Adam Perry, Karen Richards and Monica Reeson.

Perry was the gold medal champion in Entertainment. He also placed 5th in Serious. Richards was the runner-up in Poetry, and took 3rd in Serious. Reeson finished 4th in Persuasive Speaking.

"It's amazing to see how much our speech program has grown. We went from sending two state qualifiers my freshman year to winning two state championships my junior and senior years," Perry

said.

Other state participants were Emily Franzluebbbers in Informative, and Elisabetta Petrucci in Poetry. Also competing was the Oral Interpretation of Drama group, which consisted of Hannah McGill, Zach Kaup, Emily Franzluebbbers, Thomas Slagle and Emma Gnad.

Joining Meister on GACC speech coaching staff were Mary Lauritzen, Judy Perry, Connie Kreikemeier and Lynda Doernemann.

Schedule for 2015 alumni banquet

The 2015 GACC alumni banquet will be held on Saturday, June 6. The annual JayFest fundraiser will be held June 5.

Saturday's schedule of events include:

- Mass: 4:30 p.m.
 - Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.
 - Class Pictures: 6:00 p.m.
 - Dinner and Reception: 6:30 p.m.
- There will not be school tours this year due to construction in the elementary building.

Wiese named chair of Habitat for Humanity

Randy Wiese ('78) was named the chair of the board for Habitat for Humanity of Omaha. He joined the board in 2010.

Wiese said he was proud to serve an organization that transformed entire neighborhoods, and is an honor to be part of an organization that always strives to grow and serve families.

Wiese is the chief financial officer at CSG.

GACC bids farewell to 29 graduates

Twenty-nine seniors graduated from Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School on Sunday, May 10. The names of graduates and parents will be made available in the newsletter's next edition.

Blue Ribbon Dinner

'Make sure Catholic education is strong as ever'

By Delores Meister

The Blue Ribbon supporters of Catholic education had their 33rd annual dinner Monday evening, April 13, at the Nielsen Community Center.

Master of ceremonies Jerry Wordekemper, ('92), with two sons who are 5th generation GACC students, introduced Principal Matt Richardson, who welcomed the 168 guests, many of whom had attended each year since the first Blue Ribbon Dinner in 1982 held at Indian Trails Country Club, Beemer.

Judy Meiergerd Perry ('86) and Bill Kreikemeier led the singing of grace.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Pat Slattery, Omaha, reported on the use of "Ignite the Faith Campaign" dollars directed to 70 Catholic schools with 19,000

students enrolled.

Slattery stressed strategic plans, the exciting new programs, technology and "a lot of initiative to make sure Catholic education is as strong as ever."

Jim Neuvirth reported on the endowment begun by Father Godfrey Meiergerd in 1982. As of March 1, 2015, the endowment is \$3,614,000. The projected annual budget for 2015-2016 is approaching \$1,085,000. The projected enrollment, 7 through 12, is 160 students.

Neuvirth announced his retirement from this position. Pat Knobbe ('72) will replace Neuvirth.

Diane Evert ('79), Gary ('67), and Connie Kaup, Allan ('79) and Michelle Wordekemper, and Bill and Connie Kreikemeier were on the committee.



GACC celebrates title

By Delores Meister

When the Speech team came back to town with the Class C2 State Championship trophy for the second year in a row, they were greeted in the traditional champions West Point welcome.

The bus was met at West Point Implement south of town on Highway 275 and escorted into town and down Main Street with the fire truck with sirens blaring, car horns tooting and lights shining, and people waving. A community-wide celebration was held to honor the champs.

GACC speech members bringing home state hardware from the Class C2 state meet were, from left, Karen Richards, Adam Perry and Monica Reeson.

Radix-Battle Ready Rally

By Delores Meister

“Do you clock in on Sunday morning when you dip your hand in the holy water fount and clock out when you leave the church?”

Doug Barry of Catholic television directed the question to the adult audience in an evening session at St. Mary’s Church.

The co-host of Eternal Word Television Network, “Life on the Rock,” was at GACC for the high school retreat.

“Every day of our life could be our last. Sadly, our world doesn’t take that more seriously. If we watch the news, we know the world is really hurting,” Barry said.

God loves us, but He allows us to choose. We are attacked by the world, the flesh and the devil.

“Be watchful and alert. The devil is roaming around. The bad guys are out there. All of our kids are targets. You teach a kid how to fight a bully. The consequence of losing this battle is eternal damnation. God makes it clear, [referring to the two paintings in the Church] there are two roads, the wide leads to hell, the narrow leads to Heaven.”

Barry stressed the powerful influence of the example of husbands and fathers in the lives of their children.

“Teaching has to happen in the home. A lot of people have allowed themselves to become neutered,” he said.

Barry stressed investing time in prayer.

“The reality is we are in a spiritual fight for our souls. We cannot lose the spiritual fight,” he said.

Barry is founder and director of the Catholic Apostolate RADIX.



Sara Hunke helps Aurora Meiergerd cover eyes, clothing and hair in preparation for “messy” game played at the retreat.

Alumni give helping hand at GACC retreats

Even after graduation day, the virtue of giving back doesn’t stop for former students of Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School. And for St. Mary Parish Youth Minister Lisa Hunke, that’s quite a blessing.

“I cannot put into words what a blessing it is to have our alumni come back to help with retreats,” Hunke said. “It is so rewarding to watch these young people grow up, and to see them living out their faith. Many of these former-Edgers realize how important Edge was in their life, and that motivates them to give back.”

Hunke saw that willingness to give of their time once again as several alumni helped out with GACC’s 8th grade Edge retreat held in February at Tintern Retreat Center in Oakdale, Neb.

Each year several alumni come to help with the retreat, and this year was no different. Helping

with this year’s retreat was Emily Ridder (‘09), Lauren Manley (‘12), Grace Kirwan (‘12) and Austin Kreikemeier (‘12).

Other alumni at the retreat were Sara Hunke (‘13) and Maria Janata (‘08), who serve on the Edge core team. Both help with Edge activities throughout the school year.

Other alumni who have come back to help are Amanda Oligmueller (‘09), Ashley Knievel (‘10), Taylor Leffler (‘09), Jon Wortman (‘10) and Mackenzie Einfalt (‘12).

Jeff Guenther (‘85) has served on the Edge core team for the past sevens years and was also one of the 8th grade retreat volunteers.

“I really admire everyone who helped us out this year. They are all committed to sharing their time and talents for Edge retreat. Their dedication is inspiring,” Hunke said.

Letter from the past:

From alumni who answered the call to serve...

West Point, Nebraska
May 18, 1944

Hi Everybody!

Well, guess who's here--Eddie Stieren from Italy, and Florence Keller, all the way from New Zealand. Eddie's been thru the mill--all the North African Campaign, the Sicilian invasion, and the Anzio beach-head; he saw nearly two years of front-line service, has three major battle stars, and sports a Purple Heart. The PH was for wounds picked up in the Battle of Paid Pass early in 1943 when the going was rough in Tunisia. German shell-fire smashed Eddie's tank, and set it afire, and of the five man crew, Eddie and one buddy were all who got out,--which was cutting it pretty close. Eddie doesn't talk any more than he ever did; but a war department press release told this story, and mentioned other narrow escapes. Eddie reports back to Fort Knox on May 20. Florence Keller's back after about a year and a half on the bottom of the world, at Auckland, New Zealand. Her dad was seriously ill most of the winter, but has recovered now, so her homecoming was a happy one. Florence says coming home is even better than you think its going to be. She reports back for duty at Fort Crook on May 29, and expects to be stationed there. Wish you could all be here, but its swell to see these two, at least.

Others who've been home: Toby Oliverious, Leo Bose, Ed Batenhorst, Gene Uhing, Nick Wackel, George Stratman, Bob McDonald, Glenn Holst and Art Decker. Toby dropped in for a day while on the move, as did Gene Uhing. Gene was on his way from Florida to Frisco, and has since gone to sea, we believe. Leo Bose has moved from Arkansas to Camp Rucker--wonder if they made him march all the way? Ed Batenhorst is still at Fort Dix, waiting to go places. Nick Wackel finished his medic course in Texas, and is in California, hoping for a boat ride soon. George Stratman and Bob McDonald enjoyed a KC initiation while they were here. George has finished his boot training at Farragut, and is at Shoemaker Cal. at the moment, and Bob's still turning out G.I. baking and stuff at Camp Crowder. Art Decker brought the old lady home to introduce her around town--Art's on the "shipping out" list, too.

Quite a stack of mail,--thanks to Willie Oligschlaeger, Marie Kempker, George Fisher, Helen Meister, Dennis Johnson, Bud Webb, Champ Hugo, Ed Sullentin, Bill Schmitt, and the Boyle boys. Peanuts Oligschlaeger wins the marbles this time. He writes from Fort Nelson, way up north in British Columbia, and says he'll be spending a month in Denver soon, for an Arctic training course. From the tone of his letter it could be that the Eskimo gals up there are a little too much for our Peanuts--his letter seems a little off the beam at times. We quote: "How is Turp Brumm doing in England?--I would like to see some marine sergeant give Red Boyle a good working over--I plan on being in Denver by May 15 so if any girls want to see me, I'll be running from joint to joint--By September I should be freezing my tail off someplace in Alaska--There are only two white girls here, so I took pictures with both of them--The old Cutup, Peanuts". Goodness Gracious, Peanuts, how you do carry on!

We can answer one of those questions right now: Turp Brumm is doing all right--he recently became a blushing bridegroom... if you can imagine that guy blushing about anything! Congratulations, Robert. Marie Kempker is winding up four years at Gorges Hospital in Panama, and expects to be home shortly, and she also has matrimonial ideas.... The censor get more of George Fisher's letter than we did--again. What the sam hill do you put in those things, George? Eddie Sullentin is down in the Marshalls, and says as how he had a date to meet George one night, for a liquid meal (coconut juice?) but Admiral Halsey put in a hurry call for George, and they went off on another of those wild rides to the places you read about, so the meeting never came off... Helen Meister met Rich Decker in California--Helen says a lot of her patients who came back from Agañaillo are plenty high on Father Kempker... Florence Keller says the same thing--so does Doctor Robbins. How are you Father Robbins? More about this later, but you'll be interested to know that the ball park got its customary spring baptism of about six inches of Blahm river water this week... Denny Johnson growls that he gets more mail from the censor than anybody else (hint) anyway, you're our steadiest customer, Denny... Bud Webb met Ed Nitz and Don Crabtree in England, and Champ Hugo met Doc Stoffl there. Understand Champ is looking over the British plumbing situation... Bill Schmitt has a nice collection of heavy clothing, sweaters, mufflers, etc. he'll sell cheap. He sniffed the Alaskan breezes at Seattle all last summer--then wound up in India this summer--India, where you can show up almost anywhere but General Hdq in a pair of shorts. Bill also passes along the observation that for his money Red Boyle is the biggest goldbrick in the service. Why do those rummies all pick on you Pinkie? Red was playing third base for the Oberlin Colloge baseball team at last report.

LETTERS FROM THE PAST: Written on May 18, 1944

How do you make a Bronx cheer on paper? All together boys--let him have it, wherever you are! Spoelix is winding up his training at Banana River Naval Station in Florida--he can't figure it out--no bananas and no river. He was interested in the basketball team's progress with the "figure 8". Said the best his gang ever made it work was one night against Pender while coach Willie was on his honeymoon, and at Lincoln against Harrison in 1940. Remember that--Spoelix, Champ Hugo, Beans Cyrior, Judge Stratman, Windy Mahlberg, Rich Decker, Joe Knobbe, Keith Abbott? Boy that was a bunch of eight-balls for you, eh what Willie?

Announcements are out for the annual G.A. Alumni meeting, banquet and all this time, for Wednesday May 31--so if any of you people in the States are planning furloughs, drop in on us--and if you can't come, send a message. Here's some welcome news too. You've probably heard that Monsignor Bosheck has been ill for several months--well, the Omaha doctors finally straightened him out, and he's back with us as chipper as ever. Even more so, in fact; he's dropped about 40 pounds which has changed his profile considerably. The Monsignor says his "surroundings" are better.

Remember that wet spring we had back in 1881? Well, this one broke the weather bureau records set then, even if you don't recall it. We were shoveling snow on the morning of May 5, and it rained so much that two or three of the "characters" in the good old third ward (they aren't all in the service), read up the dope on Noah, and started an ark, but the Elkhorn beat 'em to it, and flooded most of the "Bloody Third" last Sunday. It lacked about 2 feet of reaching the high mark of the 1940 flood here though, and subsided quickly the next day. Norfolk had a bad one--the entire business district was flooded, and the Hotel Norfolk had about four feet of water in the lobby, which will give you a rough idea.

Outside of the wetness, everything goes on about the same here. We've had our first week of nice weather in a blue moon, and don't quite know what to do about it. Decoration Day comes on Tuesday this year, but Easter came on Sunday again...Ho hum...We hear that Casey Zacek continues to convalesce. He's still at the hospital, but enjoys horse-races, etc. between sessions with the medics. Casey's been awarded the Navy Cross, with a stirring citation. Here are a few of the choice phrases: "For extraordinary heroism--undeterred by fierce opposition and heavy enemy gunfire...although seriously wounded, he disregarded his own grave condition...exceptional fortitude and cool leadership under fire served as an inspiring example, in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service"---Wish we had room for all of it. Congratulations from the whole gang Casey. But look, Snipe, now that it's all over, --was it actually much worse than that one basketball game with Humphrey? Or the times you and Joe Loisel used to tangle?

A few more odds and ends: Glen Holst finished his basic training, then reported at Fort Riley. Beans Cyrior has accumulated a ball and chain in Sunny Cal. Beans has had his physical some six weeks ago, and has been waiting the call. They say that now Fat Fisher is looking for the WAC who released him for active duty. Joe Knobbe's in Gulfport Miss., and Fussy Parker in Urbana, Ill. Warren Krepola's still holding forth in Africa...At last reports, Captain Jack Loisel had bagged 10 Zeros out in the SW Pacific. Francis Schinstock has moved to Illinois and the Medical Corps--along with several thousand others, when the Army closed down its air training at Pitt U and other colleges. A lot of you fellows know Johnny Baas--Johnny's just been reported missing in action, over Germany--he was a gunner on a B-17. We had a screwy deal last week--a bomber on a routine training flight caught fire near here, and the crew bailed out safely. Then the fire went out, and the plane cruised around by itself over Nebraska and Iowa for four hours, scaring the daylight out of people in several towns, before it finally crashed near Donison Iowa...Omar Fisher's reported to be doing his stuff in California for the time being, and George says he'd like to get his hands on him for a very short time! One of our last alumni letters had a long, long ride--it went all the way to New Zealand, and back to West Point, and was awaiting Florence Keller when she got here.

Well, church is out for this time, fellows. Keep your sunny side up, everybody. If you have any suggestions, don't be backward about relaying them to us, and if you haven't, drop us a line anyway.

This is the sixth letter of an 11 part series that will run over the course of the upcoming newsletters. Letters were written by the GA Alumni Association to servicemen from 1943-45.

Greetings, and Salutations,
Mary Anne Stratman President
Virginia Stratman Sec.-Treasurer
William A. Talle Vice-President

Speaking from the heart

Christy French Allen shares life experiences in heart-felt speech

By Delores Meister

Traditionally, each year an alum is invited back to share his or her thoughts on Catholic education.

Guest speaker Christy French Allen ('84) spoke with a mission of gratitude and appreciation of her family, school and community.

Christy said, "I was honored to be invited to speak. I spent a week praying before accepting. The message God kept sending me was a sense of gratitude I have for my family roots, appreciation for all the seeds planted during my years at GA and CC."

Her message was appreciation for her family's sacrifices and "to all of you for the tireless dedication to build this community of faith and continuously sending us

forward to be His hands and feet."

She said "The most powerful message they sent us without saying a word, was we were expected to serve others. Her family was always giving back. Christy remembers cleaning school and painting classrooms (on the hottest days of the year), working family fun day events, her Dad running the sporting events scoreboard, her mother at countless catering events, and lecturing and singing in the choir."

"That spirit of giving is still alive and present today. That legacy lives on as you pass that down to your children and grandchildren," she said.

Following some of her powerful in-school role model teachers, Christy became a teacher.

"It is just like God to use others to lead us," and He did this when she was teaching Norm Ridder's kids at St. Pius/Leo."

Alumnus Norm Ridder ('67), when he was Superintendent of Boys Town Schools, invited her to join his staff.

She taught summer school, became a classroom teacher and then traveled around the country as an Education Trainer and Consultant for the Boys Town National Training Center.

Now married 26 years with four children, she decided to stay home to raise their family.

"Without a doubt, God is first, then family, then service to others

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2015 is year for Consecrated Life

By Delores Meister

Pope Francis has designated 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life. What does this mean to us?

It is a time to think about the people we know who have lived and are currently living the consecrated life.

Guardian Angels 1952 graduate, Kathryn Marie Luebbert, tells her story living the consecrated life for 60 years.

Sister Stephen Marie:

"It is God, I believe, who drew me to love and serve Him in Religious Life. He has gifted these 60 years with challenges and joys that have given me a sense of fulfillment and a feeling of well-being. They are His blessings that have led me to enjoy every ministry, which the Community has given me the privilege to serve.

The blessings and joys I have experienced in religious life could not have come to me without my

family and their strong religious convictions. My parents, perhaps without knowing it, lovingly sowed the seeds of my vocation. I wish to share one example here.

When I was in third grade I came home from school (Guardian Angels) one day and said to my dad, "It sure is funny. Sister isn't even married, and she has a ring!" His answer quietly speaks to my heart today. "That means she is consecrated, and you have to be nice to her." At nine years old, I didn't know what it meant to be consecrated, but it was the way my dad said it that made me want to be consecrated, too. I think the seed of my vocation was planted that day. It is a tribute in gratitude and love that I took my mother and father's names, Stephen and Marie, as my name as a religious.

My brothers and sister, too, with their understanding and concern, and the give-and-take of growing

up that taught me valuable lessons; these have served me well in living community life. During these 60 years, my life has been graced in teaching, educational administration, local and regional administration, hospital ministry in pastoral care, which included service to chemically dependent clients; administration of a retirement facility for lay people; managing the convent card shop, which gave the Sisters the opportunity to shop at home; and now serving the Community prayer apostolate. I also enfold the world, especially the troubled areas, in prayer and Mass.

With a heart overflowing with gratitude, I say, "Thank you" to God, to Mary, to the priests who serve us faithfully in their holy ministry, to my parents, my brothers and sisters, my community and to everyone who has touched my life."



Lady Jays make it 18 years in a row

GACC captured a 3rd place finish at the Class C2 girls state basketball tourney. Team members include, from left, front: Breanne Kreikemeier, Krista Fischer, Haley Guenther, Jenny Knobbe, Kate Knobbe; middle: Katey Brown, Lauren Wobken, Katie Steuter, Morgan Bracht, Emily Reeson, Sara Wordekemper, Maddie Knobbe, Lexis Haase, Hannah Hunke; back: coaches Kate Hagemann, Kevin Kreikemeier and Jerry Stracke. This marked the program’s 18th consecutive state appearance, an on-going state record.

Exchange student:

Foreign exchange student Elisabetta Petrucci from Rome, Italy joins the senior class. She brought her culture and many talents to GACC school.

She is the guest of Sarah and Jeff McGill ('89), and their daughters Rebekah and Hannah.

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BLUE RIBBON: French speaks

FROM PAGE 6

is the key to walk with God,” she said.

“Because of the seeds planted not only at school, but in this wonderful community of Faith, I had a road map to follow in how to build a family of faith for our kids and in my community. We’ve had some amazing opportunities to truly “walk the walk” of our faith to both Catholics and people of other faiths.”

She recalled her Grandma Ann Gentrup who felt called to do prison ministry.

“As Grandma and a companion were entering into the layers of

checkpoints and came into one of the lock-down areas, apparently one of the prisoners had broken the glass, and they stepped onto the floor still covered with broken glass, and my Grandma said, “This is Holy Ground.” It is simply God’s call to minister to others, to be His hands and feet.

“I thank this wonderful community of faith who because of your generosity and sacrifice have equipped so many of us to be His hands and feet to others, wherever He decides to send us. Thank you.”

She concluded using her guitar and leading group singing “Holy Ground” by Christopher Beatty.

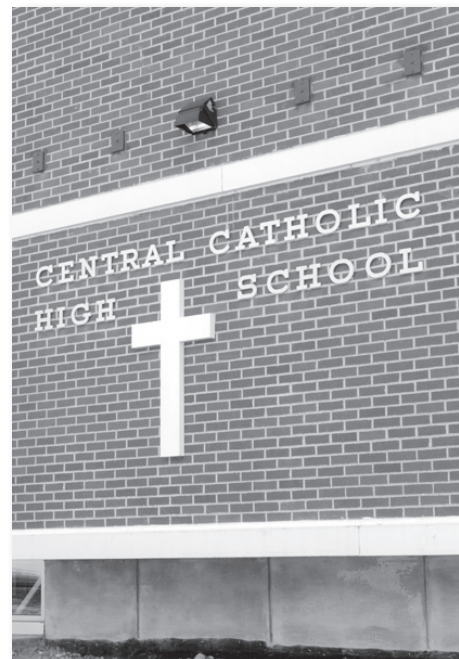
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