



## GACC School Launches \$9 Million Capital Campaign

### **Ashley Gaughan**

Guardian Angels Central Catholic Schools this week launched a capital campaign to raise \$9 million in the next five years to invest in educators and school facilities.

The campaign was launched with an informational meeting held at the GACC cafeteria Saturday morning. About 50 people from the GACC community attended.

Capital Campaign Committee chair Lisa Eisenmenger Eisenmenger said the incentive for the capital campaign is due to several factors which were outlined in the presentation.

She said the goal is to invest

in the people and the campus of GACC. To achieve this, three key priorities have been identified: educators, environment, and facilities.

Enrollment this year in the GACC system stands at 415 students in preschool through 12th grade. Broken down, there are 53 pre-K students, 214 in grades K-6, 43 in grades 7-8, and 105 in grades 9-12.

The per-student cost to educate those students is \$8,049 for the grade school and \$11,855 for grades 7-12. However, because of the financial support from individuals and groups, the students' portion

of that cost is currently \$2,443 for the grade school. \$2,567 for grades 7-8, and \$3,215 for grades 9-12.

Eisenmenger said that because GACC teachers have comparatively been at the lower end of the pay scale, it is hard to recruit and retain them. Right at 85% of the school's budget goes for employee salaries and benefits. The campaign will help fund teacher salaries to receive more applicants for jobs.

The school is also facing space constraints, and funds from the campaign will be used for an

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## Bradley named new president of GACC

### Teresa Hasenkamp

Guardian Angels Central Catholic is pleased to announce the hiring of Andrew Bradley as president. He began his duties at Guardian Angels Central Catholic on July 1.

"I am tremendously excited for me and my family to join the Guardian Angels Central Catholic community. During our time in West Point, my wife and I were impressed by the school and its stakeholders. We were warmly welcomed, and we are excited to be a part of The Nest," Bradley said.

The role of lay president was created when the Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board transitioned to a Board of Limited Jurisdiction in January. The change in governance model was made to position the school for long-term success, and to ensure the viability of the PK - 12 school system.

"I'm looking forward to Mr. Bradley joining 'The Nest,' and leading GACC in continuing to fulfill our mission of preparing all students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ," said Father James Weeder, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

# GACC Alumni Banquet



**Loretta Reeson Schmaderer Muhs (Class of 1944) celebrated the 80th anniversary of her graduation.**



**Representing the Class of 1949 were Theresa Hunke Knobbe (seated) and Theresa Scheppers Klitz (standing).**



**Members of the Class of 1954 attending the 2024 reunion were Dorothy Vogel Davis, Lillian Pottebaum Reichlinger, Mike Wortman and Marian Oligmueller Bracht.**

Photos Courtesy of Kelly Steffen Dinslage ('99)



**The Class of 1959 was represented by the following: from left, front: Andy Peitzmeier, Jerry Buse, Bev Emanuel Brown, Ed Kaup, Doris Dinslage Knobbe; back: Lavern Hunke, Edward Rief, Don Meiergerd and Eileen Baumert Shey.**



**Those attending the banquet from the Class of 1964 were: from left, front: Ted Frickenstein, Bernice Guenther Evert, Cheryl Thietje Hultgren, Marjorie Wellman Batenhorst, Jeanette Buse Belik, Linda Beck Goecke, Fr. Paul Ortmeier (who led the dinner prayer); middle: Marv Rief, Bob Engelmeier, Judy Woerman Bracht; back: Gerald Wellman, Dallan Wordekemper, Bob Knievel, Vince Maly, Joanne Tinglehoff Stevens and Bob Wiechman.**



**This group of classmates from the Class of 1969 celebrated the evening together. They are, from left, front: Jean Buerman Atkins, Donna Strehle Fenske, Mary Hassler Hoops, Pat Grewe, Fr. Harold Buse, John Kreikemeier, Paul Knobbe; middle: Marilyn Ridder Dustin, Marcia Uhing Metschke, Marilyn McGill Wedige, Jerry Hugo, Jane Mahlberg Ortmeier; back: Lois Batenhorst Steuter, Al Steuter, Shelley Nitz Wellman, Jerry Kaup, Connie Pagels Bliemeister, Jan Evert Ross, Gene Ernesti and Bob Rolf.**



**Celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from GACC were members of the Class of 1974. They are, from left, front row: Kathy Steuter Wagner, Kathy Knobbe Schmaderer, Jane Strehle Parks, Cheryl Batenhorst Meister, Bonnie Hassler Franzluebbbers, Mary Engelmeyer Reeson, Carol Knobbe Ruskamp, Carol Wordekemper Kusek; second row: Jody Hunke Smith, Rita Kreikemeier Strehle, Roxanne Kreikemeier Schmaderer, Mary Hagedorn Troyer, LuAnn Schlickbernd Franzluebbbers, Cindy Uhing Throener, Rita Popken Bunn, Kathy Peatrowsky Abrahams; third row: Marla Neesen Schmader, Kathy Schmaderer Dinslage, Mary Ann Ortmeier Hackenmiller, Tim Schmaderer, Bill Weiler, Terry Recker, Rodney Wagner, Randy Baumert; back row: Dave Rolf, Kenneth Dinslage, Dennis Steinhauser, Gordon Seeman, Mark Knobbe, David Oligmuller, Tim Hunke, Frank Steffensmeier, Mike Reeson and Dale Schmader.**



The Class of 1984 was represented by 27 classmates. They are, from left, front row: Mary Jo Ruskamp Kampschnieder, Keith Hugo, Jean Ruskamp Batenhorst, Linda Ritter Vetick, Jean Herman Debban, Glen Wordekemper; second row: Glen Rolf, Dean Batenhorst, Shelly Schmaderer Stratman, Rita Meiergerd Kreutzer, Barb Meister, Lori Eilerts Batenhorst; third row: Doug Stratman, Diane Hagedorn Rasmussen, Lori Uhing Linnenbrink, Tami Weiler Peterson, Mary Suhr Meisinger, Dave Wordekemper; back: Dale Doerberman, Chris Klitz, Kirk Kreikemeier, Karen Meiergerd Baumert, Lynette Hagedorn Davis, Patrick Lux, Glenn "Ernie" Hagedorn, Lynn Schuetze and Todd Welding.



Gathering together was the Class of 1994. They are, from left, front: Jen Schmader Kreikemeier, Julie Ulrich Groeteke, Christine Steffen Hutchinson; back: Scott Eisenmenger, Todd Reeson, Bryan Krajicek and Brian Burns.



**Celebrating the 25th anniversary of their 1999 high school graduation were: from left, front: Laura Heimmann Ritter, Jamie Wagner Beaver, Heather Rief Johnson, Kristin Baumert Wilsey; middle: Tim Otte, Kristi McMahon Logemann, Sarah Meiergerd Hughes, Gina Siebrandt, Beth Peitzmeier; back: John Dinslage, Dustin Wiechman, Eric Ruskamp and Kelly Steffen Dinslage.**



**Attending the GACC reunion to represent the Class of 2004 were, from left, Lois Brunnert Bethune, Ashley Eilerts Lofgren, David Fast, Amanda McAuliffe Diekemper, Steve Hunke, Jackie Evert Kannas, Aaron Burger and Amber Schlecht Hugo.**



**Alumni reunion hosts/hostesses were members of the Class of 2014. They are, from left, (girls) Tori Kreikemeier Bruning, Makenna Kreikemeier Weborg, Gabby Knobbe Lindhorst; (guys) Kyan Hass, Devin Disher, Eric Wietfeld, Jordan Yosten and Jake Bracht.**

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: School looks to raise \$9 million

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education addition to provide more classroom space.

Phase one of the campaign focuses on addressing immediate needs. The first phase, to raise \$6 million, is already in progress. In addition to increasing teacher salaries, those funds would help improve the HVAC systems in all buildings, renovations to restrooms and locker rooms, replace and reseal windows, insulation, tuck-point masonry, and roof repairs for the old gym.

Once the initial \$6 million goal is achieved, phase two of the campaign will begin. This phase is to build the new addition to the

GACC campus.

Eisenmenger noted this will be the first significant investment in infrastructure on the campus within a generation with an estimated cost of \$2.5-\$3 million to cover materials, labor, professional fees, and construction costs.

Eisenmenger shared that as of July 24, the campaign had raised \$3.2 million, plus five loads of grain. Of that amount, roughly \$1.1 million has been collected, while \$2.1 million (plus the grain) has been pledged but uncollected.

Eisenmenger added there are a variety of options when it comes to donating.

The Capital Campaign board also stressed that 100 percent of

the money donated to GACC stays with the school. As of mid-July, a total of 89 commitments have been made.

In regards to those donors, Campaign Vice Chair Justin Steffensmeier spoke about the generosity he has seen from the community.

“Obviously not everyone can give the same amount, and that’s okay; we just appreciate everyone’s generosity and support,” he said.

Phase two is a \$3 million project for new space. Current space will be evaluated, as well as exploring options for additional space.

Eisenmenger noted the goal is “to create a feasible and economical plan that’s best for our students.”

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