



ANNUNCIATION
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

News for the Annunciation Family

Minneapolis, Minnesota • Fall 2014

Students Score 36 on ACT

In 2014, high school students that scored a perfect 36 on their ACT college entrance exam numbered 10,000 in the US and 769 in the state of Minnesota. That means less than .5% of all students who take the test achieve such a score. Our very own Annunciation graduates from the class of 2010, Fiona Daley and Connor Plunkett, are among that elite group of students. What's the secret? Connor's advice is simple and practical – "Get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast and bring some good food along for a snack. Bring a coke, stay calm and pace yourself." Fiona added, "I took the entire practice test once and timed myself. I think that familiarity helped." Neither of them took any of the prep classes offered by tutoring services.

(continued on page 3)

New Assistant Principal

Hello Annunciation Community! I am excited for the opportunity to join the Annunciation staff and feel fortunate to be a part of a school and spiritual community with a rich history of excellence in education. My background is as a social studies teacher for six years, five of them spent in the Texas school system. I have subsequently served as a Dean of Students in the Minnetonka, Mounds View, and Shakopee school districts. My last position was as an Assistant Principal in Anoka-Hennepin Schools. My past experience has taught me that the strong relationships and connections forged between school staff and the families they serve are key to student body success. One of my goals at Annunciation is to be available to you, so I encourage you to feel free to contact me or set up a time to meet. I look forward to meeting you and your children soon.



Sincerely, Anthony Degel



Welcome Tom Konz

Some of you may know Tom Konz as one of the 12 Apostles. Some know him as "Commissioner of

Wiffle Ball," others yet may remember his introduction at the 2014 New York City Auction as the "Fonz" (Fonz ~ Konz, a little play on words there!). Others still would recognize that he is an attender most every morning at daily Mass. However you know him, we ask that you join us in a warm welcome as he fills the role of Development Director for the church and school. Tom and his wife Laura Bischoff are long-time members of Annunciation Church, and their children, Carter '09 and Eleanor '12, are alumni. Tom is a proven leader and brings a love and passion for the entire community. He has more than 20 years experience in the financial services industry and has an MBA from the University of Arkansas. Tom is committed to expand development efforts which will ensure that our church and school are on a firm foundation for future generations to come.

2014 Grads Earn President's Award for Educational Excellence

Students who have earned an "A" grade point average in middle school and achieved a minimum of the 85th percentile in a standardized math or reading achievement test.

Congratulations Graduates!

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Julie Erickson | Maggie Kerwin | Paul Steege |
| Julia Eubanks | Jack Knapp | Grace Verbrugge |
| Ellen Grubbs | Meredith LaVine | Jacob Werle |
| Lauren Hartley | Anthony Palmer | Julia Zappa |
| Cormac Huyen | Phoenix Pham | Noah Zerull |
| Gwen Kelley | Katie Smith | |

From our Principal



Dear Friends of Annunciation, Near and Far Away:

Annunciation School successfully reached major mile-posts during the 2013-2014 academic school year. First, this past spring, Annunciation School was visited by a team of educators from the Minnesota Non-Public Accrediting Association (MNSAA). We received notification in June of our renewal of accreditation through MNSAA. This renewal validates the work of our school and reviews all areas – mission, curriculum, instruction, school environment, facilities, policies and more. The MNSAA accreditation affirms our belief that we are providing a strong, Catholic education for our students with rigor and high standards for all.

Much preparation went into the creation of a school strategic plan which provided the foundation for the accreditation process. This plan has a 7-year lifespan until the next time accreditation renewal occurs. For two years prior to the visit by the MNSAA team, school staff,

parents and parish leaders met and worked together to review research, conduct surveys, and evaluate new ideas to build this plan for our future. Participants discussed major areas of focus and shared new ideas and visions for our school. Because of their visioning, Annunciation School is truly positioned to become a leader in Catholic education and challenge our students to reach their full potential.

(continued on page 3)

Fundraising Benefits Students

Donors from School, Parish, friends and volunteers help sustain programs and activities not covered by tuition.

Annunciation Parish Subsidy	\$125,000
Annual Fund, Christmas Gifts and Memorials	\$126,253
Endowment Gifts	\$8,475
Silent/Live Auction net (including designated Fund-A-Need)	\$155,625
Help-A-Student Appeal	\$31,915
Rummage Sale 2014	\$17,430
June Golf Tournament net (proceeds to Tuition Assistance)	\$7,525
Total	\$472,223

Through your patronage of Annunciation’s business partners, students experience opportunities like Math Masters, Geo Bee, Science Fair, Quiz Bowl, D.A.R.E., retreats, classroom resources and more.

Target Take Charge of Education	\$5,769
School Library Scholastic Book Fair	\$2,327
General Mills Box Tops & Recycling	\$613
Annunciation Parent Organization Barnes & Noble Book Fair	\$1,000
Annunciation Parent Organization SCRIP (merchant gift cards)	\$1,579
Annunciation Parent Organization Trivia Night	\$4,252
Annunciation Parent Organization Evergreen Sale	\$1,465
Kowalski’s Markets Groceries for Good Causes	\$1,099
Total	\$17,904

Thank You!

Annual Fund Co-Chairs

Dan and Beth Caffrey

New York City Auction

Co-Chairs Maranda McCarthy
and Courtney Steilen

Rummage Sale 2014

Co-Chairs Diane Healy,
Terri Gerdes-Bettin,
Patrice Krocheski-Meyer,
Elisabeth Pletcher-Harincar

Golf Classic

Brad Zimmerman, Chair

Parent Leadership

Jason Ortmeier
School Advisory Council Chair
Sheila Steichen & Jaki Ortmeier
APO Co-Presidents

(Principal's letter continued)

Second, in addition to the accreditation process, two members of the Archdiocesan school team conducted an on-site Catholic Identity review. They attended a school Mass, and visited with teachers, parents, and students to see how we live out our faith each day. Results of this visit will be used to create an even better Catholic environment for our school community in the future.

Lastly, after 26 years of dedicated service, Mary Ann Pearson retired in June 2014. We are grateful to her and wish her the best in her years ahead. Fr. Jim Himmelsbach has hired Tom Konz to the position of Development Director overseeing all fundraising for the parish and school which was an important part of Mary Ann's work. To support the school academically, we are happy to introduce Mr. Anthony Degel to the position of Assistant Principal. Mr. Degel's primary focus will be on curriculum and instruction of our students. Articles on both new staff members are included in this newsletter and we ask that you help us welcome them to the Annunciation community.

Welcome

New Faculty & Staff:

Anthony Degel – Assistant Principal

Tom Konz – Development Director

Goodbye

and Thank You!

Sr. Deanna Donahue – Church Pastoral Minister, 21 Years

Christine Kelash – Teacher, Middle School Coordinator, 7 Years

Mary Ann Pearson – School President, 26 Years

Jillian Periolat – Kindergarten Teacher 4 Years

Top ACT Students *(continued from page 1)*



Connor Plunkett and Fiona Daley, Annunciation Class of 2010

Fiona is a graduate of DeLaSalle High School and Connor is a graduate of St. Thomas Academy. When asked how Annunciation School helped them prepare for high school, they had some ready answers. "Mrs. Skala, our librarian, allowed me to spend recess time in the library. I preferred reading over the playground and I believe, in part, that my success is due to fact that I read with speed and greater comprehension," explained Fiona. Connor said there were two classes that helped him in high school. "In Creative Writing our assignments had no boundaries. We were supposed to write about whatever we wanted to express. I think this helped develop skills in critical thinking." He added, "In high school speech class and on the debate team, other kids were nervous and had stage fright, I didn't. That was because of our experience in Creative Arts. We were accustomed to being on the stage, speaking in front of others and performing publically. It was a huge help in preparing us for these kinds of situations in high school."

Our two young scholars also had some advice to offer. Connor, who will be attending University of Chicago with an emphasis of study in Physics, said, "It's great to get a score of 36 but that score is not the most important thing when it comes to getting selected by the college of your choice. Colleges look at a composite of factors: test scores, high school grades, essays, AND legacy. Having a relative who is an alum can matter." Fiona will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and agreed with Connor. "There were several schools I applied to where I was not accepted. High school seniors should apply to several schools and know that wherever they are accepted it will be good," wise words from Fiona Daley. Good luck to you two and all the 2014 high school graduates!

2014 New York City Fund-A-Need

\$\$'s for School Science

Donations from the 2014 Live and Silent Auction are earmarked to upgrade and expand the middle school science lab and instructional programming for students grades K-8. New science lab tables have been installed in the middle school classroom. New materials will be purchased to facilitate science study, research and experimentation. In process is the creation of our own "Science House" with supplies and kits for science curriculum for students of all grades. Providing students with hands-on experiences brings learning to life. When children are engaged in learning in an authentic way, they retain more knowledge and deepen their understanding of key concepts, an ultimate goal of high performing education.

Annunciation School is grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work of many volunteers whose efforts over the years have contributed to the growing momentum of the Annunciation Live and Silent Auctions. The first ever auction held in 2001, humbly titled "Annunciation School Live and Silent Auction" resulted in raising \$21,485 dollars to support the school. Over the course of 14 years net proceeds from auctions has steadily increased. Proceeds raised at the New York City Auction, held May 17th, 2014, were a record breaking level (see Fundraising Benefits Students - page two).

Here is a thumbnail sketch of how these funds have benefited our school community:

- 2008 Rock the Casbah – **South Foyer beautification**
- 2009 Back Yard Barbeque – **Help-a-Student Financial Aid**
- 2010 Shake Your Shell Clambake – **Help-a-Student Financial Aid**
- 2011 Saints & Sinners – **Interactive Classroom Technology Phase 1**
- 2012 Bringin' Home the Bacon – **Complete Interactive Classroom Technology Phase 1**
- 2013 Havana Night – **iPad Wireless Lab**
- 2014 New York City – **Science Lab and Materials**

2014 Volunteers Honored



*2014 Mary Jo Sterner Volunteers of the Year
Lisa Brezonik, Sarah Michels Kuhfuss and Kristin Hartley*



*2014 Annunciation Church Ministers of the Year
Front row: Brian Murray, Christine Peterson-Stromgren
and Krista Richardson
Middle row: Kate Caffrey, John Richardson, Michelle
Jacques and Sarah Zimmerman
Back row: Michael Reed and Trace Jacques*

★ DANCING WITH ANNUNCIATION STARS

Saturday October 11th, 2014
Annunciation School Auditorium



Christopher Jo



Emily Guillatt



Jeremie Nichols

Dancing with Annunciation Stars is the first of it's kind fundraiser for the Annunciation community. The six "stars" pictured here will be paired with six local dance professionals and after 10 hours of lessons the dance couples will take part in a fun and festive dance competition.

YOU, too, play a role in this artistic endeavor; come to the school auditorium to visit with friends, cheer on your favorite dancer and **CAST VOTES!** (Votes can be cast on website NOW and up until the night of the event.)

Enjoy light appetizers, dessert bar and cash bar (beer & wine). Tickets range from \$50—\$100. \$10 per vote. Proceeds go to Annunciation School 21st Century Endowment Fund to ensure affordable education for families now and in the future. Some funds will also be allocated to Annunciation School Annual Fund.



Andrea Markley

6:45 - 8:00 PM Mix & Mingle

8:00 - 10:00 PM Competition/Program

10:00 - Midnight Dance Party for All!



Fabulous Prize Drawings for those who cast votes.

DISCO BALL TRAVELING TROPHY TO THE WINNER & \$1000 TO THE SCHOOL PROJECT OF THEIR CHOICE.



Emily Koenig



Tim Smith

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CAST VOTES, MAKE A DONATION or READ THEIR STORIES VISIT:

www.dancingannunciationstars.com Questions? Call—612-824-9993 ext 289

Class News & Notes



Congratulations, Alumni

Katherine Banovetz, Class of 2010, was number eight in her graduating class from Academy of Holy Angels.

Ben Clohesey, Class of 2010, received the AHA 2013-14 Golf Activities Award.

Mary (Bigelow) Connelly, Class of 1945 and husband John will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on September 18, 2014.

Patrick Martin-Cramer, Class of 2010, St. Thomas Academy Distinguished Marksman Badge for 2013-2014.

Fiona Daley, Class of 2010, was recognized as a DeLaSalle Distinguished Scholar for her cumulative grade point average of above 4.0 from freshman through the first semester of her 12th grade year.

Liam Earley, Class of 2011, was recognized as one of three St. Thomas Academy Cadets of the Year for 2013-2014. Cadets are chosen based on demonstration of exemplary leadership.

Jenna Gagen, daughter of **Joe Gagen '66** (Joanne Hopkins), graduated May 2014 from Notre Dame with a double degree in Accounting and Mathematics.

Zachary Hays, Class of 2010, received a Spotlight Musical Theatre Program honors award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in VISTA Productions' Shrek! the Musical.

Molly Knapp, Class of 2010, one of eleven from Convent of the Visitation to receive Academic Honors for outstanding academic work throughout her four years in high school. She also received the Sister Anne Countryman Award for Excellence in Social Science.

Lucas Long, Class of 2007, was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the



24th round of the 2014 MLB draft. He has signed a minor league contract with them and has headed to Florida for orientation and to be assigned to a minor league team.

Noah Quam, Class of 2010, received the Thomas More Medal from Academy of Holy Angels. This award is conferred on the graduating senior boy who most exemplifies Christian life.

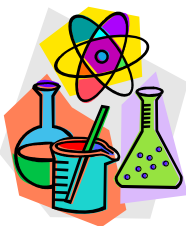
Katharine Reed, Class of 2010, received the AHA 2013-2014 Activities Awards for Golf, Tennis and Student Council.

Emily Vigil, Class of 2010, was number four in her graduating class from Academy of Holy Angels. She signed a letter of intent to enroll at Michigan Technological University and compete in cross country running beginning fall of 2014.



Sophia Eckmeier, Charlie Dolan O'Brien and Katharine Reed, Class of 2010, were honored as the 2014 AYM Peer Ministers of the Year.

Congratulations, Students



2014 Science Fair Results

State Qualifiers:
Jack Holthusen '15,
Julia Eubanks '14,
Sadie Richardson '15

3M Inventors Award: **Jake Mangel '15**

TCRSF Excellence Award: **Josh Dolezal '15, Alex Coleman '15**

Congratulations, Friends

Brian Murray, was honored in November 2013 as a Distinguished Alumni by the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity for his significant contributions to the seminary through his work on the Board of Trustees and coordination of their annual golf tournament. Such honorees are recognized because they live their vocation in extraordinary ways.

Fr. Francis Pouliot, former pastor of Church of the Visitation, currently serving as Senior Parochial Vicar at Maternity of Mary Church in St. Paul, recently established a fund at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in honor of his parents Ephrem and Agnes Pouliot, who had 13 children, two of whom became priests.

Wendy Short-Hays, alumni parent of **Timmy, '00** and **Zach Hays, '10**, congratulated participating students of Convent of the Visitation and St. Thomas Academy for receiving honors from the Spotlight Musical Theatre Program for their production of Shrek! the Musical.

Marriages:

Anne Brinkhaus, Class of 2003, daughter of Tom and Sharon Brinkhaus, married Levi Burton on February 22, 2014 at Annunciation.

Margaret Butler, daughter of Bill Butler and Mary Spriggs, married **Lucas Dunne**, son of Andy and Jennifer Dunne, on August 23, 2014 in Minneapolis. Both bride and groom are from the Class of 2002.

Abby Simpson, Class of 2002, daughter of Bill & **Carin Leiferman Simpson '70**, married Christo Lane on July 5, 2014 at the Simpson home.

Kalyn Waters, Class of 1995, daughter of Jim Waters and **Jacquelyn Henning '64**, married John LaBree on July 26, 2014 on Stouts Island, Wisconsin.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers. Most of the deaths are recent however, some deaths are less so we publish them as we become aware of them.

Charles O. Bagley, died May 5, 2014; father of Lester (**Wendy Dwyer Bagley** '85) Bagley, and grandfather of **Michael** '17 and **Charlie** '20.

Robert J. Barth, parishioner and 12 Apostle, died July 12, 2014; husband of Bertha.

Leslie M. Boche, Class of 1963, died March 30, 2014; sister of JoAnne Boche '55.

Dorothy M. Boeser, died April 20, 2014; mother of Nancy Boeser Haney '52, Gary Boeser '54 and Judith Boeser Erickson '56.

Don Brockel, died May 12, 2014; father of Lauri (Chris) Dolezal, grandfather of Josh, Class of 2014.

Sally Patricia Carey, parishioner, died May 7, 2014.

Elaine Carlson, parishioner, died May 10, 2014; wife of Dean and mother of Frances '07 and Charles '09. Elaine was an active member of Annunciation and Director of the school preschool until illness intervened.

Darlene M. Carroll, parishioner, died May 7, 2014; wife of Robert Carroll, mother of Barbara Moberg '65, Sue Shaw '71 and David '77.

Richard Dillon, Class of 1935.

Katherine A. Duke, parishioner aged 102, died April 19, 2014, Holy Saturday.

Lorraine M. Eischen, parishioner, died April 10, 2014.

Ann Z. Fischer, parishioner, died March 4, 2014.

Katherine Gores, parishioner, died June, 2014.

Dorene A. Kohlwes, parishioner, died May 30, 2014.

Daniel R. Malone, died March 11, 2014; brother of parishioner Gerald Malone.

Mary Markos, parishioner, died April 18, 2014; preceded in death by husband Tom Markos. Grandmother of Ambra Markos '77.

Elaine P. Meyers, parishioner, died March 3, 2014; preceded in death by husband Hal Meyers, mother of Steve '61, Doug '64, Barb Peterson '67, Paul '71, Dan '78, and grandmother to Kyle '97.

Lucille Murray, died July 2014; mother of Mike (Colleen) Eckman and grandmother of Christopher and John Eckman, both Class of 1993.

Joseph L. Pedric, parishioner and 12 Apostle, died June 10, 2014; husband of Betty Ann Pedric and father of James '64 and Thomas '65.

Marilyn Roach, parishioner, died February 24, 2014; mother of Steve '67, Patty '72 and Dr. Barbara Carroll '69.

Paul Roedel, Class of 1948, died December 23, 2011, preceded in death by siblings Roger '33, Donald '44, Fr. Richard Roedel '46, and sister Aileen. Survived by sister Joan Fritchman '49.

Dennis Ryan, parishioner, died July 30, 2014.

Mary Jane Sampson, Class of 1958, died February 19, 2012; preceded in death by brother Patrick Quealy '67. Survived by siblings Jeanne Wilson '57, Judith Hubert '57 and Michael Quealy '62.

Dan Schaffer, Class of '49, died March 7, 2014; brother of Philip '54.

Robert F. Seidel, Class of 1948, died on June 27, 2014. Preceded in death by wife Rosalie Hadlick Seidel, '49. Survived by children Mary Seidel Cox '73, Joseph '74, Ann Bielejeski '76, Robert E. '77, Therese Seidel-Miller '80, Kathleen Walsh '82, Peter '84 and Monica Seidel '89; and siblings Jim '46 and Joan '50.

Kathleen H. (Sexton) Sefton, Class of 1941, died on March 23, 2014; preceded in death by siblings Margaret Mary McCadden '38, William Sexton '39, Edward Sexton '45 and John "Jack" Sexton '46, mother of Peg Bjork '68, Steve '69, Joe '70, Bob '72, Colleen Mulvehill '74, Kathleen Overby '75 and John Sefton.

William J. Sexton, Class of 1939, died on February 21, 2014; preceded in death by siblings Margaret Mary McCadden '38, William '39, Edward '45, John "Jack" '46 and joined later in death (3/23/2014) by sister Kathleen Sefton '41.

Phyllis Ann Sheehan, parishioner, died March 25, 2014. Preceded in death by husband Donald who together in life were instrumental in building and supporting life giving services for the women, children and people of Haiti. Survived by alum daughter Ann Sheehan '65.

Eileen (Pahl) Somers, Class of 1941, died May 2014; preceded in death by sibling Br. Cyril Pahl '32 and survived by siblings Sr. Josette Pahl '33, Sr. Marian Pahl '45 and cousin James Pahl '41.

Midge Srnec, Class of 1978, died June 2014; sister of Catherine Lingenfelter '76 and Alison Griffin '83.

Thomas Steinke, parishioner, died July 18, 2014; husband of Molly Steinke.

Paul J. Wirtz, Class of 1946, died February 16, 2014; husband of Nancy Wirtz and brother of Joyce (Wirtz) Sewray '42.



Honor Roll of Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, parents of current students, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff, parishioners and friends of the school who provided financial support for important needs during the past fiscal year.

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\$10,000 and above

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 American Express Charitable Fund
 Ameriprise Financial
 Annual Giving Campaign
 Ameriprise Financial
 Employee Gift-Matching Program
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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
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 United Health Group
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 Community Support Campaign
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Educational Matching Gift Program

Gifts in-Kind

Wallace Carlson Printing

2014 Mission Trip

The AYM (Annunciation Youth Ministry) 2014 Mission Trip buses pulled out of the Annunciation parking lot July 18th for a 10-day trip to Birmingham, Alabama. Sixty youth (56 of the 60 are alum of Annunciation School AND 20 of the 60 are 2014 high school grads who gave these precious days of their last summer before departing for college) and 14 adult chaperones (3 of whom are alum: **Cathy Dolan O'Brien '71**, **Anita Witta '72** and **Charlie Trepanier '97**) did volunteer work under the direction of Youth Works. They painted, built a handicap ramp, packed



food, visited homeless shelters, did general construction projects and worked at various city service centers. As usual, our youth served with such a degree of enthusiasm and positivity, Youth Works coordinators wished they could stay for a second week. *Thanks kids, your actions represent that shining light on the hill which we are called to be!*

2014 Annunciation Golf Classic

Thank you, golfers — you raised \$7,525 for tuition assistance!

Tied 1st Place Men's Low Gross: Team #1 Steff Anderson, Bill Hopkins, Joel Mikres and Bill Zerull. Team #2 Trevor Johnson, Pete Odell, Trevor O'Shaughnessy and Jeff Wisdom.

1st Place Women's Low Gross: Lori Anderson, Lisa Brezonik, Lisa Ferris and Loryn Follrath.

2nd Place Men's Low Gross: John Evenson, Chris Jo, Adam Meyer and Peter Moe.

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SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
(SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS)

Annunciation School is a Catholic parish school. We are a united and caring community of students, staff and parents committed to learning based on Christian values within our rich Catholic heritage. We provide our students with an outstanding religious and academic education, addressing the needs of the whole child.