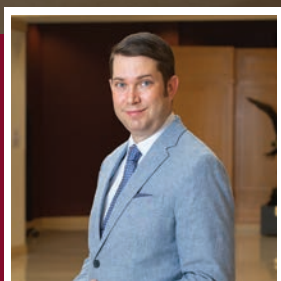




# Eagle Review

Summer 2021

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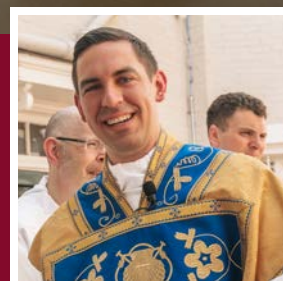
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Ordained

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BISHOP WATTERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL

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To receive the alumni e-newsletter, Eagle Extra, go to [bishopwatterson.com](http://bishopwatterson.com) and click Information Update on the Alumni menu.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

**Unprecedented.** It is a word used quite frequently to describe the events happening around us during the pandemic. A year ago we were going day-by-day, waiting on direction from health authorities, hoping for an end to the pandemic, and knowing the 2020-21 school year would be challenging.

I'm happy to be on the other side of the unprecedented school year and able to announce: we made it. We managed to complete a school year in person during a pandemic. I have found myself describing the experience of running a school during the past year as something that is truly difficult to describe to folks who are not in education. I hope our article on pages 4-11 gives you a feel for how we adapted so that our students could have as much "normal" as we could safely provide.

As with much in the world, some things will go back to the way they were. Others will change completely because we found a better way and still others will move forward with adjustments.

It is in adapting that we continue to prepare students to move on to college, work or military service. One of the ways we are adapting is with a new administrative structure. Guided by the Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools, Bishop Watterson is moving from a Principal and two Assistant Principals format to a structure with a Principal and three Vice Principals who each have assigned areas of focus.

Vice Principal Andrea Pore will oversee student services, including counseling, technology, campus ministry, service and activities. Vice Principal Ryan Schwieterman '01 will oversee operations, including facilities, athletics, development, admissions, and communications and marketing. Abby Teeters, who has been an Associate Administrator for the past two years, will take on the role of Vice Principal for academics.

We ask you to join us in prayer for our school community, our nation and our world, that we carry forward the lesson our ultimate teacher, Jesus, taught us: to love one another as he has loved us.

Respectfully,

Deacon Chris Campbell '77  
Principal

### ON THE COVER

Sophi Snyder and Anna Sears celebrate  
graduating with the Class of 2021.

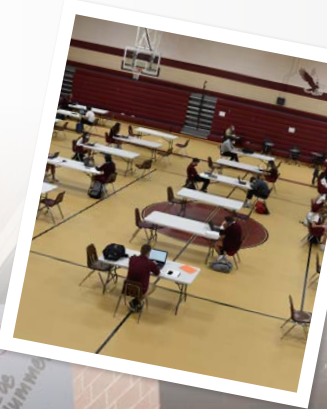
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# Creativity, Flexibility Keys to a Successful 2020-21 School Year

by Colleen Mar





Health teacher Trisha Hulme has been showing the movie *Outbreak* to her students for years. She didn't show it to her classes this year. There was no need. In some ways they were already living it.

"It's a great movie that introduces you to a lot of health layers," said Mrs. Hulme. "Obviously it's unrealistic but also, it's fascinating. The kids who were sophomores this year watched *Outbreak* last fall. They would just come into my classroom this year and say, 'Outbreak,' and I'm like, 'I know.' Never did I think as a teacher that we would experience a pandemic."



Mrs. Hulme said she gets asked by faculty and alumni if she's still showing the movie.

"I tell them I don't need to, we're living it," she said. "The students already know what the CDC is and how viruses are transmitted."

Last summer our *Eagle Review* covered the pandemic from the experience of the Spring of 2020. Now, a year later, Bishop Watterson has the experience of a year of schooling during a pandemic behind us. As we went to press last summer we had no idea what the 2020-21 school year would look like. Would we be in person? Hybrid? All online? So much was being learned about the COVID-19 virus on a daily basis and that would impact how, or if, schools could open.

### Planning with Total Uncertainty

"It was a summer filled with anxiety, uncertainty and trepidation," said Principal Deacon Chris Campbell '77. "The trepidation came from wondering things like where the virus was going, how long it lives on surfaces, what kind of ventilation works best and everything around masks and looking to the government and our Office of Catholic Schools for direction on all of it. In the meantime, we came up with a million scenarios for the upcoming school year."

From a logistical standpoint, there have certainly been easier school years on record than 2020-21.

"Last summer Deacon asked the administrators to think outside the box," said Assistant Principal Andrea Pore. "That's when we created a return-to-school task force. While we were waiting for guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools, the CDC and the state, we were brainstorming ways to give students the best type of school year we could while keeping them safe."

"We were looking at what we needed to do to get up to speed with everything from a standpoint of technology and professional development for teachers,"

said Deacon Campbell. "It was difficult because we wanted to be able to tell the teachers what to expect when we ourselves didn't know what to expect."

The technology department had a busy summer. Director of Technology Jay Forker '05 said that they had their usual summer maintenance in addition to prepping for the coming school year which was still clouded with uncertainties.

"We were in a good position to deal with this because of the focus on technology that this administration had allowed us to implement prior to the pandemic," said Mr. Forker, who noted that a big challenge for a lot of schools was a microchip shortage due to the global supply chains being disrupted. "We were already set one-to-one with student laptops and we had an online classroom presence. In fact, we were able to shift some laptops to another high school. Still, it was stressful to prepare with so many unknowns depending on the virus."

His department oversaw the setup of webcams in every classroom, the procurement of headsets for every teacher and the setup of Zoom. They sorted out alternatives so that faculty could simultaneously teach students in the classroom and at home. The technology staff also prepared demonstration classes for teachers using the new equipment and sorted out how to share screens projected in the classroom with students at home in a way that was readable.





## Opening Decision

On July 29, 2020, the administration announced reopening plans. A color-coded system was put in place ranging from Red (all online learning) to Orange (hybrid) to Yellow (on campus blended) to Green (all on campus) and including a Gray option of all online learning for students who needed this option for the sake of their own health or that of a family member.

“We wanted to make sure we gave families the option to learn from home,” said Ms. Pore. “That was very important to us. We wanted to retain students who had family members who were medically compromised, or who themselves were at higher risk. That’s why the Gray plan was created.”

The plan was to start at Yellow, all students on campus with some students alternating between in-person learning and online in an auxiliary learning space. A mask became a uniform requirement for everyone in the building.

## Taking a Step Back

Moving into August, with case numbers climbing in Franklin County and a greater awareness of the hurdles that teachers and staff would face to make the Yellow plan happen, BWHS rolled back to Orange to start the year on August 30. Students with last names A-K would attend in person on RED days and students with last names L-Z would

attend on GOLD days. Students not attending in person attended online (L-M on RED days, A-K on GOLD days).

“It became apparent that we all needed to approach the reentry to school gradually,” said Deacon Campbell. “Everyone needed to get used to how we had to do things.”

Normally the staff has two days of meetings prior to the start of school but in 2020 that was extended to five days due to the additional training and also to allow for social distancing in the meetings. Most sessions were held twice, with half of the staff attending at a time. Considering that the staff had not been in the building since March 13, it was beneficial to help everyone get acclimated to being back in school.

“There was a lot of uncertainty and anxiety among the teachers about what the plan would be,” said Deacon Campbell. “Our faculty was no different than the students and community ... they were across the spectrum, feeling everything from we shouldn’t be open to we should be open, full go.”

Assistant Principal Ryan Schwieterman ’01 led sessions about COVID-19 protocols, with staff asking questions about pretty much every detail with justified concern and a wide range of feelings.

“Those were really challenging meetings for a variety of reasons,” Mr. Schwieterman said. “We were trying to reassure teachers and at the same time be clear that we’re coming into school, we’re moving forward.”

“Those opening meetings were very effective to teach me how to start things off the right way so I could be consistent through the school year,” said Steve Crossin ’04, who was in his first year at BWHS in the science department. “Because of that, it helped me to be consistent about how I did everything in PowerSchool and Zoom for the whole year.”

Mr. Forker said starting Orange was beneficial to the teachers.

“By putting them in the situation of needing to use the skills they were taught on running a hybrid classroom before going Yellow, it allowed them to effectively teach students in the classroom and in the auxiliary areas as well as students learning from home when we went to Yellow,” he said.

Social studies teacher Dan Bjelac said the week of opening meetings and opening at Orange/hybrid made sense.

“Opening happening incrementally was done pretty well, with half of the kids before you had everyone. It was daunting to remember and learn everything,” said Mr. Bjelac. “You practice but then you put it into use and then it became habit-forming. What seemed bizarre to be doing with cameras became normal. Anytime there’s something new that’s that drastically different, it’s good to ease your way into it.”

Mrs. Hulme, as health teacher, tried to be the example of the message she gives to her students each year.

“In my class I try to stress to students that people with good mental health



have to be flexible and have the ability to adapt and change and be resilient,” she said. “That is how I would describe the year for me. It was harder because I am not as tech-savvy so it was a matter of just jumping into this game and figuring it out. You’re either going in thinking this is going to be really difficult or you’re going in thinking how can I make the best of it?”

Starting Orange also allowed the administration to build in a couple of Yellow test days, the first on September 18, 2020.

“That first day we had the attitude of let’s just try it,” said Mr. Schwieterman. “That’s how we did everything. Let’s just be ready to scramble, which is a foreign attitude in schools. Everything is by the calendar, by the bell schedule. It was going to be all-hands-on-deck if it didn’t work.

Multiple auxiliary areas were supervised for eight class periods by non-teaching staff and administrators, who took attendance and assisted students.

“I think the task force was pretty aggressive as a group, but we knew all along, too, that we were going to have to utilize every administrator, every teacher, every staff member,” said Mr. Schwieterman. “So if staff didn’t buy into covering the auxiliary areas, we couldn’t move to Yellow. Deacon said in one of our meetings, ‘If you’re on staff here, you’re involved. There is no “NO.” If you’re here, you’re helping.’ That made it doable. The staff buy-in to cover the aux areas is remarkable to me.”

## All In Yellow

On September 28, 2020, Bishop Watterson moved to Yellow with all students on campus who were not on the Gray online learning plan. This on-campus, blended-learning format was the brainstorm of Assistant Principal Andrea Pore last summer.

“I was out for a walk and began wondering if it would be possible if we could use the gyms and Dominican Hall as auxiliary spaces where students could watch class if they couldn’t safely fit into a classroom because of social distancing requirements,” she said.

That could only happen if the auxiliary areas had enough Wi-Fi bandwidth to support the number of students that would be utilizing the space. So, while the tech department had already begun rewiring the classrooms to work with the new equipment, they also oversaw the installation of additional infrastructure in the auxiliary areas.

“If we didn’t already have a culture of being comfortable with the uncomfortable and learning how to adapt to new conditions on the fly we couldn’t have made this work,” said Mr. Forker. “Based on issues we had seen the previous year, we standardized how the information and learning management system, PowerSchool, should be displayed to students, and how assignments could be turned in online and reviewed.”

Mr. Forker and staffers working on instructional coaching formed a committee that checked PowerSchool class pages throughout the year in an effort to maintain high standards and consistency. To keep motivation up, they had quarterly gift card drawings for teachers who consistently maintained a high standard.

## And Then There’s the Virus

“My first thought when we went to Yellow was, ‘Wow, this is a lot of people in this building,’” said Deacon Campbell. “Early on we tried to get the kids to social distance in the hallways but it was impossible. They’re like magnets. They’re social creatures by nature. There were too many people to separate so everybody moved and everybody moved quickly.”

Implementing the new and more-complicated logistics of the school year because of the pandemic was enough of a herculean task, but there was another important element: COVID-19 itself. The question of when the first case of exposure among students or staff would be reported was never far from everyone’s awareness early in that first month. It was only a matter of time. The school notified parents of the first positive student on September 14. Shortly after, a counter could be found on the website reporting new, active and total cases, the vast majority contracted outside of school hours.

Mr. Schwieterman was the school’s COVID-19 coordinator, a position the Office of Catholic Schools required in each school. As coordinator, Schwieterman was the main contact with the school nursing team (Angie Spangler and Emily Mauro covered the five days each week), Columbus Public Health (CPH), and the Diocese. He was responsible for daily tracking, staying apprised of CPH guidance and changes, and coordinating quarantines and return dates.

“We basically became a little health department,” he said. “We were running a school and a health department and the only people with a health background were the nurses and they had no experience during a pandemic so the three of us were doing our absolute best to stay on top of everything. It was new for any school to be sending kids home



with a runny nose and cough; before, we'd give them a cough drop and send them back to class. Now we're sending them home and they're out 14 days – or when the quarantine rules changed, 10 days.”

CPH had to be notified within 24 hours of any positive test result reported by students or staff, including coaches. COVID coordinator turned out to be a nearly 24/7 job and could be quite complicated. For example, at the start of the year one student was quarantined almost 30 days because, as family members in the house tested positive, each was considered a new exposure which then restarted the student's quarantine. By June the number of BWHS quarantines ended at 314 in total for the 2020-21 school year.

“We shared a spreadsheet to track absent or quarantined students and I don't know how many times a day I referred to it,” said Mr. Schwieterman. “We were doing our contact tracing through this as well. We'd look at the student and say this kid plays that sport so now what does that team's practice look like, who does he ride to school with and does he have a job?”

When the numbers of positive COVID-19 cases were climbing in Ohio in November 2020, that was reflected at Bishop Watterson.

“That time through February was really bad in terms of constant communication and changes,” said Mr. Schwieterman. “The winter was our highest rate of quarantine and positive cases. We had to notify another school if we had an athlete test positive or we would get a call from a school our team played saying, ‘Hey, our number 22 was positive,’ so then we had to decide what to do from there. I struggled early on and when it got bad in the winter because we wanted no cases. You wanted that number at zero. Columbus Public Health was overwhelmed and we had people due to

be released from quarantine but couldn't get them back until CPH released them. So then we had to start releasing. More and more ownership just kept coming onto the school. It got to the point that we did the bulk of the work and we had a liaison at CPH that we could call with questions.”

## Challenges

“I was excited to be back. It was better than being at home!” Mr. Bjelac said. “Any type of interaction with the students is better than being at home.”

Even with that enthusiasm, there were hurdles along the way. Mr. Bjelac said the students put extra effort into staying aware of their rotation to the auxiliary areas, something that, although it changed daily, he posted it at the start of the week.

“I found more kids missed homework or forgot to submit when they weren't in the classroom,” he said. “Maybe not being there in person makes it easier to slip away mentally, too. As a teacher I just think you have a better feel for how focused they are when they're in the classroom. You're not seeing their faces on Zoom because they didn't use the camera.”

With the combination of students in the classroom and students on Zoom, teachers had a bit of a juggling act in regards to keeping up with questions.

“It's definitely easier to address questions in the classroom,” Mr. Bjelac said. “Sometimes I had the mic open for online students and sometimes not so then I had to consistently check on whether students were asking questions in the chat feature.”

“You had kids who could talk on Zoom from home, kids who couldn't talk on Zoom because they were in the aux area and kids in the classroom,” English teacher Jen Rush said. “I had to reiterate

a lot of things like student questions. If I put the chat up everyone could see the screen so some kids would email me instead of using the chat and I would have to check that on the phone since my laptop was in use. Because students aren't allowed to use their cell phones in school, I would tell the kids, ‘If I'm on my phone I'm doing work.’”

Mr. Crossin, new on staff for 2020-21, taught both freshmen and seniors. He had to rotate a portion of his freshman classes to the auxiliary area but didn't have to do that with his seniors.

“The freshmen were new to the building so it was more difficult for them knowing where to go and trying to sort out each class period whether to go to the classroom or auxiliary room,” he said. “With the seniors, if they were in the building they were in the classroom every day. I feel like I developed a better relationship with the students when they were present because I was able to see them every day.”

Mr. Crossin observed that with the classroom cameras and Zoom, teachers were always live.

“It was one of the odd things about the year,” he said. “It's a unique feeling when you feel like you're always being watched through a screen.”

Mrs. Hulme said her freshman class tends to be more discussion-based so during the Orange days and with the students on Gray it was more difficult to draw them out and feel comfortable to talk on the computer.







# HOP WATTERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Photo courtesy of James Carwile '05,  
[www.timeandchangestudios.com](http://www.timeandchangestudios.com)





"I would tell them to use emojis or thumbs-up when I asked do you understand or have any questions," she said. "That was fun for the kids in the classroom to watch all of that happen."

## Lessons Learned

With 314 total quarantines of mostly students with either cold-like symptoms or none at all, Zoom was a blessing.

"For a student who would normally be in school but was quarantined, Zoom was a massive advantage," said Mr. Crossin. "They were able to sign on and attend class even if they were quarantined with a sniffle."

Associate Administrator Abby Teeters worked with social studies teacher Alex Golonka '13 on BWHS instructional coaching efforts and said that there were

many lessons learned from the 2020-21 school year.

"We already knew students aren't learning the same way they did five or ten years ago. We have to adapt to meet their needs and there is a whole tool kit out there filled with resources to reach all types of student learners," she said.

"This year we had more teachers take the opportunity to work with us to reflect and brainstorm on new ways to approach lesson planning."

Mrs. Hulme said one of the positives of the year was how teachers pulled together to make their way through.

"One of the things that was really nice was that we were all in this together," she said. "We talked and asked each other how did you do this and what did you do about that? When I would get together with other teachers it was a lot more collaborative."

## Wrapping Up the Year

In January Governor DeWine announced that all school employees would be given priority to receive the COVID-19

vaccine starting in early February. By the end of February any staff who wished to receive the vaccine had received both doses.

"I think the comfort level for some people on staff, once they had the opportunity get vaccinated, shifted to now I'm safe, so some of the worry and anxiety people had decreased," said Mr. Schwieterman.

By the start of fourth quarter on March 29, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control had downgraded the distance required between students from six feet to three so Bishop Watterson moved to Green with Gray still an option and masks still a uniform requirement. All students in the building were back in the classrooms.

"This year I never felt unsafe," said Mrs. Rush. "I thought I would feel leery but because of the way we've handled things with the cleanliness I've never felt unsafe. When we brought all of the students back into the classroom like a normal year, it felt like so many kids which was weird."





The administration came up with different plans for baccalaureate and graduation and waited until May 14 to make final decisions based on state regulations on that day. Seniors were hoping to be able to graduate together as a class and were relieved to learn that would be the case, with just two guests per student and both events held in the south gymnasium.

Deacon Campbell credits the buy-in of students, parents and faculty as the reason Bishop Watterson had a full, productive school year.

“Our students wore a mask 8 hours a day with a break at lunch,” he said. “That is exceptional.”

“Looking back, it’s the proudest I’ve ever been of a school, students and staff because we were able to constantly keep students’ best interests at the forefront for the benefit of their safety and education. Because everyone bought in and focused on the end goal of what’s best for our families, it became one of our triumphs,” said Ms. Pore. “Our senior class was flexible and positive and great leaders, willing to go with the flow and be excited about anything they were able to do and the underclassmen followed suit.”

Flexibility seemed to be the key to keeping the school doors open and academics on track.

“You learn people can adapt,” said Mr. Bjelac. “We all can. We had to.”



# Dominic Marchi Named Teacher of the Year

By Jenna Mar

**Bishop Watterson High School is celebrating mathematics educator **Dominic Marchi** who recently won a local Teacher of the Year award at the high school level.**

**Marchi**, who is the school's math department chair, has taught a variety of math classes at Bishop Watterson for 14 years.

He was nominated for the award by Abby Teeters, associate administrator at Bishop Watterson.

"Dominic was an easy pick on my part because of his professionalism, dedication, faithfulness, rigor and expectations," Teeters said. "He is someone you can rely on, and he's always going the extra mile to provide for the Watterson community."

Marchi graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and earned his Master of Arts in education from Ohio State University. But he originally was a biology major.

Marchi said he eventually realized "biology was not what I wanted to do. I started praying to God, asking, 'What is your plan for me?'"

After switching from biology to math, he continued his education with a "feeling of peace."

Marchi said he then found his calling in teaching.

"The one time I felt comfortable talking in front of people was when I was up at the board explaining math problems," he said. "It all just fell into place."

After teaching for one year at Zanesville High School and one year as a substitute for suburban districts in central Ohio, Marchi found his way to Bishop Watterson where he can share his Catholic faith with his students.

"I've used the opportunity to grow in my faith because one of the benefits of being a teacher at a Catholic school is that you get to pray with your students," Marchi said. "Your faith becomes part of your daily routine at work."

In addition to teaching, Marchi is an advisor for the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society and chaperones student retreats.

"It is clearly displayed through Dominic's demeanor that he is a faith-filled educator," Teeters said. "He doesn't hesitate to speak openly about his love for his faith to students and staff alike."

Marchi, 39, who grew up in Gahanna, lives with his wife, Angela, and children, Clara, 5, and Peter, 2, in Columbus. He hopes that his students see him not only as a math teacher but also as someone living out his Catholic faith.

Marchi's award was one of three sponsored by Columbus Parent and ThisWeek Community News publications. The awards, based on 152 nominations, were given to outstanding central Ohio educators at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.



Photo by Tim Johnson, courtesy of Columbus Parent



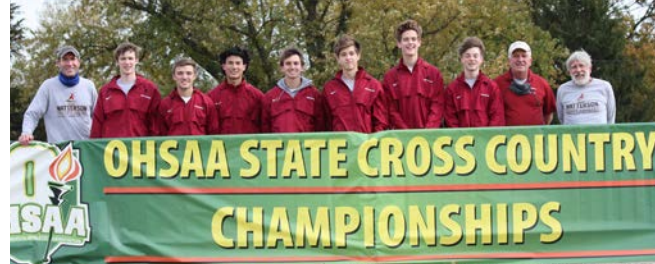


Photo courtesy of Diane Spagnuolo Photography, [www.dianespagnuolo.com](http://www.dianespagnuolo.com)

## Students Find Ways to Thrive with Activities

### Athletics

The Eagles won four district titles during the Fall 2020 season: field hockey, boys cross country, girls volleyball, girls soccer. The boys soccer team finished district runner-up and the girls soccer team finished regional runner-up.

The field hockey team went on to win the state title and the girls volleyball team won the regional title and made it to the final four in the state. The boys cross country team also competed at states and finished 17th.

In the winter our boys basketball team had an amazing tournament run, finishing regional runner-up. The swim team sent a relay team to states.

Spring brought more excitement as two girls track relay teams won state titles, the girls team finished third overall and the boys and girls lacrosse teams both made it to the state semifinals. The boys track team finished regional runner-up.

### Arts

While there were no marching band competitions held last fall, our band continued to practice. The band performed at a festival and hosted a performance evening on the back field for their families.

BWHS choirs found a way to perform as well, with a recorded fall concert, held in a large church with singers wearing masks which was then viewable online by family and friends. By spring the choir was able to spread out in our North gymnasium and perform for a limited number of family members. A unique opportunity resulting from the pandemic and the proliferation of online meeting platforms was a week of review by Broadway producers in which choir students could perform a number on stage and receive immediate feedback.

As the show must go on, so it did for our fall drama. Students performed *My Man Godfrey*, which was recorded and viewed online with ticketed performance times. The cast of the spring musical, *Pippin!*, was honored with a CAPA Marquee Award for Best Ensemble.

A creative showing of *Pippin!* was held at a drive-in theater.

### Other Activities

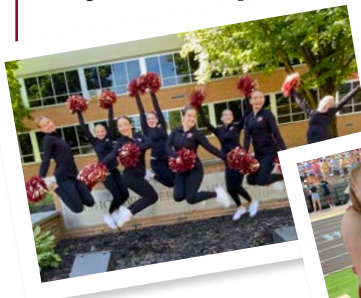
Student Council continued to provide leadership throughout the year, working with administration to hold some of the traditional dress down days like costumes for Halloween and a fall food drive for St. Stephen's Community House.

Campus Ministry pulled off three Kairos retreats in the spring, with individual sleeping rooms at Maria Stein Retreat House. Students created Made for More, a 20-minute reflect and connect session after school on Tuesdays, and an "Emmaus Lunch" program gave students the opportunity to connect outside over lunch.

Business Club hosted a toy drive for Nationwide Children's Hospital in the fall and a cleaning supplies drive for St. Stephen's Community House in the spring.

A new Spikeball Club formed which drew a lot of students to the back fields to play in the fresh air after school on select days. While not a club activity, French III and IV students gathered at The Refectory restaurant in March 2021 for a private tour and cooking demonstration.

The Dance Team performed outside at a nursing home.







Janet Baird

Baird coaches Anne Marie Reuss on the sideline during the 2020 state championship game.

Photo by Shane Flanigan,  
*This Week Community News*



## Relationships Make the Difference for Baird

by Colleen Mar

It was field hockey playoff time in the fall of 2020 and **Janet Baird** noticed her players were stuffing something in their shoes. She quickly learned that it was a slip of paper with two things written on it: on one side, they wrote the name of the person they were playing for, whether a family member, a teammate or the seniors; on the other side, each player wrote what she wanted to do better that day.

Baird said the field hockey seniors in the Class of 2021 possessed a deep and unique gratitude for having the opportunity to play their senior season and that drove their leadership of the team. That gratitude was expressed in acts of faith, like the theme of “Christ Guide Us In Our Journey” for the season, and in how they carried themselves with a combination of confidence and humility throughout the playoffs. As underclassmen, they had lost three district championships in a row, including an especially painful one their junior year.

“They were hoping to get back on the field and have a chance at that district championship again,” said Baird. “This was a team that really took bringing Christ into the team very seriously. I didn’t have to remind them of the philosophy this year. We needed to be saying prayers that we were going to make it through without a pause (due to COVID cases). There were a lot of teams that had a pause and we never had a pause. The senior class was amazing at setting the tone of coming

together. They realized they needed Christ to get through the year.”

It seems the Eagles’ prayers were heard as the end result was a state championship, the third for Baird as head coach. The team defeated Thomas Worthington 2-1 in the district final, then went on to get past Columbus Academy 1-0 in the state semifinal that went into two overtimes before shutting out Hudson 3-0 in the state championship game. It is the fourth field hockey state title for Bishop Watterson (1995, 2005, 2009, 2020).

Bishop Watterson was placed in a state bracket in which the Eagles had to beat the best teams en route to the championship.

“This team played probably three of the most amazing field hockey games I’ve ever seen, against three of the best teams in the state. They literally had to go through the best teams in the state to win. It was a beautiful week. That week was also so surreal. Their performance in every single game was beyond expectations, from the time they arrived at the field to their celebrations and when they left.”

After sports were cancelled during the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Baird said her team recognized the gift of being able to get back on the field in the fall.

“The kids truly had grateful hearts. They played that way. They practiced that way,” she said. “Every single day we got to practice and had another day, we were happy just to be there. Every day we were walking a tightrope of do we have another day? The governor was making new announcements every day it seemed.”

The Ohio High School Athletic Association set a phase-in process with protocols for pre-workout screenings, the size of gatherings, facilities cleaning, and equipment, among other things. Spectators were very limited to allow for social distancing and ticketing moved online.



"When your season isn't in jeopardy you take it for granted but I think this year the kids were super excited and we had an overwhelming amount of support from the parents," Baird said. "We had to adjust a lot of logistics like no ride sharing and limited fans and parents had to be ok with that. The season was full of joy from beginning to end. It was probably one of the most amazing experiences of my life. The kids made it that because they really did play and practice with grateful hearts for the sport. Their love of the game and their team just poured out of them."

Baird said maintaining discipline was the key to dealing with the numerous protocols as a coach.

"Last year we all got tested," she said. "If you were going to get through a season without a forfeit, you had to be disciplined. You had to set expectations not just on the field but for off the field as well. If you weren't a disciplined coach you had to become that or you weren't going to make it through the season without a pause. If you needed to build more discipline into your program, last fall was a good springboard. You had to instill that in your team. They had to understand that their actions off the field would have an impact on the team."

It's pretty well known that Baird normally runs a disciplined program. She has been at the helm of the Eagles field hockey program since 1997, when she took over for Katie Brosmer. She said coaching has changed over the past 25 years.

"The game itself has changed," she said. "As a coach you have to be willing to listen more to your players now. It can't be old school my way or the highway. There are always some things all coaches have that are non-negotiable but I also think it's good for a coach to be a good listener, especially when your veteran players are coming to you. The art of coaching is maintaining high expectations without sacrificing the integrity of your program. You have to be willing to change, to listen. You have to be willing to ask if you don't know. I think it's important even for old

timers to keep the accountability piece in place and that's because they do play a heavy influence on kids and can assist that child in becoming a better person and a better player."

Another change in coaching in recent years has been a greater level of attention to the mental health of this generation of students, especially during the pandemic.

"It has become important to parents. They want their child to have a positive experience besides just playing," said Baird. "Parents want coaches to help their daughters become not just better players but better people. If you coach at Watterson you should be different in that way. You have a platform to bring the Christianity aspect into the sport."

When Baird's family moved from upstate New York to Columbus at the end of her freshman year, she was less than thrilled that her parents chose Bishop Watterson and they made it non-negotiable because the family did not have the opportunity to attend Catholic schools in New York due to distance. Baird's brothers also graduated from BWHS: John '85, Steve '89, Joe '91 and Anthony '93.

Baird had played field hockey in New York from an early age, so it became a bit of an oasis for her as sophomore year began.

"Katie got me as a player when I was having one of the worst years of my life as a teenager because we had moved and I was really upset and had a lot of anger," she said. "I still had some of that 'I wish I was somewhere else' attitude but Katie was a positive influence on me. She was super calming and willing to meet me where I was at and also give me a great example as a model and mentor."

"I was so excited because it was the first time anyone who had previously played field hockey had come to Watterson," Brosmer said. "Janet was by far the best player I ever had. On the field she was just great. She really did whatever she needed to do to play better. Field hockey gave her a focus, something that she loved and a routine."

When Baird enrolled at Ohio State, Brosmer brought her back to Bishop Watterson as the JV coach.

"We complimented each other because Janet had such a rapport with the kids. We both really care about the kids but we showed it differently," said Brosmer. Baird, who currently teaches at South Middle School, holds a B.S. in K-8 Education from OSU. At OSU she did an urban studies program because she wanted to work with underprivileged



**Janet Baird celebrates winning the 2020 state championship with team members.**

**Photo by Shane Flanigan,  
This Week Community News**

kids. She credits working with the nuns at Our Lady of Bethlehem's daycare for her BWHS service requirement as the inspiration for this interest. Baird did her student teaching at Windsor Elementary and then spent her first 12 years in education there.

"That is the time in my life when I realized that kids really want to know how much you care and love them as opposed to how much you know," she said. "If you don't have the relationship piece with the child you're teaching, it's not going to work. Any child you're working with, they first need to know that you care about them as a person rather than reading or writing or how to get the ball."

That belief in building relationships is why, when Baird was inducted into the Bishop Watterson Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014, there was a sea of Janet Baird Fatheads in the crowd at Hagely Field.

"I'm sure somebody paid somebody to do that," she joked. "It was nice, it was funny, it was sweet!"

# O'Dorisio Leads BWHS Little Theatre with Creativity

*By Jenna Mar*

Liz O'Dorisio '87 grew up in a family that loved to entertain. Raised on variety shows such as *The Lawrence Welk Show* and *Hee Haw*, as well as all things vaudeville, O'Dorisio shared her family's special love for entertainment. When she and her brother Michael '85 saw *The Little Rascals*, they saw their own chance to entertain. To create their own productions, the duo would use whatever costumes, props and materials they had on hand, including their mother's curtains.





"We were very inspired by these little kids who came from nothing and were putting on productions in their garage," said O'Dorisio. "We would create our own little vaudeville shows and invite our neighbors."

Though their audience numbers were low, Liz and Michael were happy just to have the chance to perform.

"We would bring in picnic table benches and we would do this full-on production for a couple kids, under ten years old, who probably had a quarter between them to pay for admission," she said.

O'Dorisio relates these experiences of using every creative angle to bring about a production to her adventures as the Artistic Director at BWHS, particularly during the 2020-2021 school year.

"It was not easy, but I think our desire to continue to entertain and my own desire to create helped us," O'Dorisio said. "My job during COVID was to figure out a way."

The students and staff worked diligently to make their performances possible this year.

*"Innovation was the name of the game," said O'Dorisio. "Theatre people are not only creative but resilient – especially this group!"*

O'Dorisio strategically chose the show *My Man Godfrey* for the Fall 2020 drama.

"We knew we couldn't go wrong with this title! It was written for all mediums – stage, film, radio – and it helped to know that Zoom performances were happening and people were watching online," O'Dorisio explained.

The Spring 2021 musical was chosen less for its logistics and more for the depth of story.

"After a year of loss, challenge, and struggle we wanted a show that involved 'the meaning of life and pursuit of happiness,'" said O'Dorisio. "We chose *Pippin* because it focused on rites of passage, soul searching, and finding happiness."

According to O'Dorisio, many of the students performing in *Pippin* were able to relate to the story.

"We had a large number of seniors who not only lost their junior musical, but most of the rites of passage common to the final year of high school," she said. "We focused on the talent and the relationships. It helped us hone in on what's important about our process."

The students worked with what they had and their passion carried them far, eventually earning them the Outstanding Ensemble in the 2021 CAPA Marquee Awards program.

O'Dorisio started an annual summer theatre camp in 2016 to draw future Eagles into the BWHS theatre community. Her work-around during the pandemic summer of 2020 was to host a virtual summer camp, cleverly named "Theatre in a Box."

"We created and distributed 'theatre kits' to feeder school students so that they could participate in an online version of BWHS theatre," said O'Dorisio as she reflected on the success of the program.

The continuation of the BWHS theatre program is important to O'Dorisio and she has dedicated much of her time to making sure that it remained possible through the pandemic. O'Dorisio has been the Artistic Director of the theatre program since 2016. The tradition of excellence in theatre is not only upheld by her direction and dedication, but also by her family's dedication to the program.

"You could say that my love for the performing arts is genetic," said O'Dorisio. "I can't remember a time where my father's side of the family wasn't entertaining each other at holiday gatherings."

Liz's father, John Thomas '58, and her uncles Jim and Joe participated in BWHS theatre. John passed on his love for entertaining to his children Mandy '83, Michael '85, Ann Marie '86, and Liz '87. Liz's children Angelo '21, Olive '23, and Gigi '25 now carry on the family tradition as third generation entertainers. Her appreciation for the legacy of the BWHS Little Theatre led her to establishing the BWHS Performing and Visual Arts Hall of Fame in 2019.

"I have a huge philanthropic heart when it comes to Watterson and seeing their artists find avenues to success," said O'Dorisio, who wants students to feel comfortable being themselves. "I'm very open-minded and I'm very much a goofball myself. It's taking chances or taking risks, but the culture allows for us to do that in this space."

O'Dorisio hopes for the theatre program at BWHS to be a place where students can try new things without judgement. "Our message to our students is to love what you're doing," she said.





Flynn, with Erin, Annie and Kellan.

# Flynn Leads Ga. Tech Football Communications

by Colleen Mar

**Mike Flynn '97** stood in the press box of the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University counting the minutes. As Georgia Tech's Assistant Athletics Director for Communications, Flynn looked down at the field when his team should have been running out and ... nothing. It was strange enough to watch the team warming up in a stadium with no spectators and now he was forced to wait and wonder why the teams were still in the locker rooms.

"I called an assistant on the field and asked what was going on and he said, 'I don't know but it isn't good,'" said Flynn. "I called our AD and it wasn't good. There were some issues with COVID testing with the Syracuse team and they had to re-test some players. If any of them were positive, we were not playing the game. As our team was getting ready to run out on the field, they were told to go back in the locker room, that they might not be playing."

As the minutes ticked by, he wondered if they had flown to Syracuse and gone through pregame warmups only to turn around and fly home.

About a half hour later, Flynn got word that the game would go on.

"This was the first time we were playing in front of zero fans," said Flynn. "Every place at home and on the road before this we had some fans, but it was kind of eerie that the stadium was empty."

Flynn had a front-row seat to observe how the 2020 college football season played out for a Division I team. At a Saturday practice that August, word spread that the Pac-12 and Big 10 were cancelling their seasons.

"We started wondering, are we next? Are we not going to play? What does this mean for us?" he said. "Selfishly, I wondered if I would have a job. That day really sticks out. I'd be lying if I

said I didn't think the whole thing was crumbling down on us that day. I give a lot of credit to the presidents in the ACC, Big 12 and SEC to decide to give it a go. What we were able to do is give our student athletes the opportunity to do what they love to do and we were able to give our students and fans a little bit of normalcy and an escape from what was going on in the world."

Flynn said safety was the number one priority for the athletics department.

"So many people did so much work to be able to, in our mind, safely bring our student athletes back and safely have a season," he said. "There's some skepticism about money being the priority but safety was the number one priority. Second was to give our student athletes the opportunity to compete. Nobody could have ever possibly anticipated all of this, especially in athletics as much as we are planners and stuck to routines."

Flexibility became a constant theme around the world because of the pandemic and that was also true in college athletics, according to Flynn.

"How much we had to adjust on the fly has been a little disconcerting but it's rewarding to know that we can do it if we need to," he said. "We plan football games 10 years out and last year we were scheduling games a week out!"

Flynn has been in his current position with Georgia Tech since 2016. He is the primary contact for football, the athletics department's chief spokesperson, and he oversees the day-to-day operations of the athletics department's communications and public relations office. He arrived in Atlanta after 13 years at Appalachian State where he started as an Assistant Sports Information Director in 2003 and then was promoted to Director in 2004 and eventually Assistant Athletics Director in 2006.

During his tenure at Appalachian State, the Mountaineers gained national attention with a victory over 5th-ranked Michigan in the season opener in 2007, causing Michigan to drop out of the top 25. The game was the lead story on ESPN's



Sports Center and the cover story on Sports Illustrated. It also resulted in the Associated Press changing its poll policy to allow non-Football Bowl Subdivision teams to earn spots in the national poll.

“Somebody did a story that week and asked me when I slept that week,” said Flynn. “I realized it was a couple of hours.” Now at Georgia Tech a “normal” workday depends on the season. During football season he’s at work 60-80 hours.

“My normal day in May is a lot different than my normal day in September or October,” he said. “In-season we start practice at 8 a.m. Sometimes I’m there for the whole practice if we have media present at the beginning but I’ll normally catch the last hour of practice and then work with the media after practice. And then I have to get on with the rest of my work, whether that’s helping to prepare the TV crew for the upcoming game or anything communication-wise from our department. A typical day doesn’t end until 8 or 9:00 and Saturdays are probably the busiest day of the week. Mondays are next busiest.”

Flynn said sports dominates not only his schedule but those of his wife, Erin, who is a club and high school volleyball coach, and their daughters Kellan, 14, and Annie, 8.

In spite of his own busy schedule, Flynn makes time to help coach Annie’s softball team and watch her other activities as well as to watch Kellan play volleyball and softball. Heading into her freshman year of high school, Kellan has already made the varsity volleyball team and is considered a top-400 recruit for the class of 2025 in softball.

He and Erin met while they were undergrads at Miami University in Oxford where he interned in the sports information department while working toward a bachelor’s degree in speech communication. Flynn went on to Texas Christian University where he worked in sports information while earning a master’s degree in advertising/public relations.

A lot has changed in sports communications since Flynn’s graduation from Miami in 2001, including the rise of social media and the need to adapt how to communicate with all constituents.

**Mike Flynn on the football field conferring with Georgia Tech Head Coach Geoff Collins. GT AD Todd Stansbury is at left.**



“When I first got into this business you could help your beat writer out with news and ask them to hold it until tomorrow morning. The internet was still in its infancy. But now we’re in a minute-to-minute news cycle,” said Flynn. “I’ve been fortunate over my career to watch how that has evolved.”

Flynn’s interest in sports began even before his years at Bishop Watterson.

“I’ve always had a love for sports and I knew I wanted to stay involved so that was the big thing: how can I stay involved?” Flynn said. “I decided that if I was going to pursue something it was going to be on the administrative support end and I found PR an interesting way that I could do that. Then I was able to land an internship in the athletic department at the end of my sophomore year at Miami.”

While writing is an integral part of his current profession, Flynn said he didn’t exactly have a love of writing during his years at Bishop Watterson.

“Mr. Farrenkopf really made an impression on me,” he said. “I enjoyed his teaching. I enjoyed his sense of humor and he was someone who put me on the right path from an English standpoint.”

The solid foundation in writing that he received at BWHS was eclipsed by the relationships established with not only classmates but staff, too.

“My freshman year I got cut from the basketball team. I was pretty devastated and mad at the world and decided not to even try out for baseball,” he said. “Coach Golden, who was also a parishioner at St. Tim’s, got word about that somehow and pulled me aside one day and asked me ... well, strongly suggested ... that I come out for football. I’m unbelievably thankful for that. Him taking the time to do that was probably a life-changing thing for me. It kept me involved in sports and on the right track. I certainly wouldn’t be involved in this profession.”

Flynn said BWHS classmates and teammates have become lifelong friends.

“I think the world of Watterson as an all-around institution. If I lived there I’d be hard-pressed to think my kids wouldn’t go there because of how much I valued my time there,” said Flynn. “The administration was always very caring to me. Mr. Durant and Mr. Silcott were always looking out for me. The care people had for me made a difference. I’d like to think that it didn’t go unnoticed at the time and certainly as I look back I hope that it’s something I can pay forward, the genuine care of people that need it.”



# Restaurant Business Not for the Faint of Heart

by Colleen Mar

Rick Lopez '86



Rick Ziliak '88

**Bishop Watterson alumni in the restaurant business in Columbus are used to adapting on the fly to place delicious food in front of customers, but even they were not prepared for the ups and downs they have experienced during the pandemic. It has been quite the roller coaster ride as they have found ways to remain open and serving the community.**

Rick Ziliak '88 and Rick Lopez '86 each own two restaurants that are still serving. Sue Preston '79 and Amber Preston '14 shifted their business from catering plus grab-and-go meals to grab-and-go and a small café. Lindsey Bigler-Teetor '07 was a part of the corporate staff at Cameron Mitchell Restaurants as the company paused operations during the shutdown. Matt Phelan's '06 first restaurant was under construction when the shutdown occurred and still he managed to open last fall.

Ziliak has two Z Cucina locations. The first opened in Grandview in 2005 and a second opened in Dublin's Bridge Park about 18 months before the shutdown occurred.

"It was really a little over a year to build a brand in Dublin," he said. "There are a lot of Eagle alumni in Dublin and that's super helpful to me. I think people like to support Watterson alumni and people like to support small businesses. I'm here every night and I think people appreciate that to some degree. There's not a lot of fine dining restaurants in town where the owner is on site every night and I think people appreciate that and want to support something that has a face and not just a name. There's been a lot of support getting us through. Without those people we might have been another hash mark in the closure category. A

lot of other restaurants didn't make it through."

Ziliak and Lopez both emphasized that the need to be flexible and adapt to the changing circumstances was key to moving forward.

"We followed the mandates within 24 hours every time and neither restaurant closed," said Ziliak. "When the governor said carryout only, we did. When he said patio only, we went to carryout plus patio. When he said dine-in with distance, we did."

"That Sunday when everything was closing I had a lot of customers coming up and expressing concern and saying they hoped everything would be alright. No one had any idea what was going to occur next," said Lopez. "We started doing carryout right away and people really came out and supported us. We had to do little things like add a phone line. We tried to remain fluid because the situation changed so much."

Lopez found his way through by making menu changes at La Tavola in Upper Arlington and Lupo in Powell.

"We had two different concepts: one that worked well with carryout and one that didn't," he said. "At La Tavola we serve a lot of Italian food which is kind of made for carryout with the pizzas and other dishes. We can't go back to our original format because we have to maintain a menu that's good in the dining room and also travels well. At Lupo the menu had been tapas, small plates and raw oysters and that doesn't travel well so we had to redefine the concept. We moved to more pasta and then more seasonal dishes once we were able to have people on our patio."

The Prestons, whose business predominantly focused on catering, also found themselves at a crossroads.

"When the pandemic hit everybody was working from home and there were no luncheons or big gatherings so we were looking at each other wondering if this might be the end," said Amber. "We





Sue '79 and Amber '14 Preston

decided to start advertising our grab-and-go business and it started to skyrocket so it was a good time to rebrand the company. We decided to go full-on grab-and-go. The pandemic created this business for us. We're the lucky ones because you often hear the opposite."

After eight years the grab-and-go meal segment of Preston Eatery was selling about 80 meals a week pre-pandemic. At the peak of the pandemic that number went up to 400 meals per week and has settled into the 200 range.

"It was crazy. It was hard to keep up during the peak," said Amber. "Luckily we've been busy because of busy families who want no mess, no fuss. They can come in, grab meals and throw it in the oven so we're still doing well and we're grateful for that."

The Prestons closed for about a month to remodel their location on Bethel Road so they could add a small café to sell sandwiches, salads, desserts and a soup of the day.

"Our foot traffic is picking up," Amber said. "Most people come in for grab-and-go and since the café menu is new, the next time they come in they have lunch and pick up meals to take home for dinner."

#### Matt Phelan '06



At Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, Lindsey Bigler '07 Teetor is a Senior Human Resources Manager for the Ocean Prime restaurants and was on the team when the pandemic closures spread across the United States.

"We have 60 restaurants in 14 states. Cameron got all of the employees on a conference call the day after Governor DeWine said restaurants needed to shut down and he said we're pressing pause, closing down," Teetor said. "So we shut down all at once and we would have calls every week with Cameron as a touch base on the company. He was very open and honest, explaining what we need to do as the restrictions started to lift."

Matt Phelan was on the verge of kicking off his own restaurant venture when the pandemic hit. The restaurant opening happened in October 2020 after being postponed from the initial plan to open in the summer of 2020.

"The biggest thing I learned was to stay positive," Phelan said. "We hadn't designed the restaurant for a pandemic but with plexiglass installation between the tables and at the bar we didn't lose a seat indoors for the winter and that probably saved us. The feedback from everyone has been phenomenal. We lucked out."

The consensus now is that restaurants are having difficulty meeting the demand for table time due to the labor shortage, which also factors into the delivery of supplies.

"We pulled through and now we have the demand but it's frustrating not to be at full capacity even though we're allowed to be," Ziliak said. "It's hard to throttle back when you want to do more. I can't just jam the restaurant with people and hope they'll get service. We have

to manage expectations. Not everyone wants to cut you some slack. Every guest is different and we have to be able to maintain a level of quality food and quality servers. There's no hiding behind excuses. You have to perform or they won't come back. We have to keep guests thrilled with what we're doing."

Teetor said Cameron Mitchell Restaurants are back to 100 percent open this summer and they're seeing people just wanting to get out and celebrate birthdays and other special occasions.

"The labor pool is more like a puddle right now," she said. "Restaurants are definitely understaffed and we're doing everything we can to get people into our doors. We're tackling it from all fronts including referrals and bonuses."



Lindsey Bigler '07 Teetor

Food prices have also risen and that is influencing menu offerings.

"My mentality is always to keep the menu small," said Phelan. "We make everything here so there's not a lot of waste. All pastas are made in-house. We get whole proteins like whole chickens which we break down and save the bones for stock."

"Prices have gone up tremendously or product won't even show up," said Lopez. "The supply companies are experiencing the same shortage with people to pack orders and delivery drivers." While they respond to the quickly changing variables in the industry, all expressed a sense of gratitude to be open and doing what they love.

"We've always been a business of fearlessness and we'll get through it whether it's a busy dinner shift or a pandemic," said Teetor. "We leaned on each other and the idea that we're in this together."

"My heart goes out to everyone in this business," said Lopez. "People have pulled together. I feel blessed that we've made it through so far."

# Home Sweet Home: Alumni Realtors Talk Columbus Housing Market

*By Heather Weekley '07 Lofy*



Greg Cunningham '08

## *Picture this:*

You've found the perfect house for your family. It has all the features you're looking for, and it's in a great location. But when you put in an offer, you find out there are a dozen other offers... some \$50,000 over the asking price. Others are waiving the appraisal or inspection. You might be back to the drawing board.

If you've experienced this scenario, you're not alone. The Columbus real estate market is very competitive, despite the pandemic. The whole world seemed to freeze when the pandemic began in March 2020, but in Ohio, realtors were quickly deemed as essential workers.

"Our business didn't really slow down and people didn't really stop moving," said Matthew Long, '95, president and CEO at HER's Trinity Real Estate. "It just changed how we had to market and how we had to meet our clients' needs."

Some house showings went virtual, and in-person showings were limited to 15 or 30 minutes. This helped make things more





Matthew Long '95



Addie Davis-Holsinger '05

convenient for the buyers, says Long, but also more painful for the sellers to put COVID-19 protocol in place.

“We wore masks and used hand sanitizer before we went in,” said Greg Cunningham, '08, a realtor with Keller Williams Capital Partners. “Some people would supply latex gloves. Others said the realtor was the only one who could touch something. I had some people who didn’t open a drawer on their own until they actually owned the house.”

More than a year later, Columbus continues to be a hot spot for buying and selling. Addie Davis-Holsinger '05, of RE/MAX Capital Centre Inc., Realtors, said that last year was still a record sales year.

“People wanted work-from-home space, yard space and room for the kids,” she said. “You had a lot of buyers in other states who might have realized they wanted to move because they had family here. Columbus is a big small city, I like to say. It’s an affordable city. People found it comfortable and liked the pace here. We do a beautiful job with parks... a lot of people find that very attractive. Compared to other bigger cities, Columbus is still pretty affordable.”

Cunningham said that inventory has become even harder to come by from last May to now. For perspective, Cunningham said that over the last 10 years, Columbus has gained 100,000 residents but there were an estimated 140,000 homes that did not get built over the same period of time.

“We have 100,000 people that need places to live that didn’t exist before,” Cunningham said. “Because of the housing crash of 2008, a lot of builders were slow to get moving again. And now lumber prices are starting to skyrocket. It’s crazy everywhere in the country right now. But I don’t see it correcting any time soon in Columbus because of a true supply and demand issue.”

So if you’re looking to buy or sell, Long advises to always consult a professional.

“Whether you found your house or not, consult a professional so when you are ready to move, you can get it done,” Long said. “And if you have a house to sell and you need to move your family, we recommend you go buy your house first before you put yours on the market.”

And although it may be difficult at times, Davis-Holsinger encourages clients to be patient. She said people sometimes feel pressure to move on a property right away.

“Sometimes you get under the gun a little bit,” she said. “Work on your savings as much as you can so you have that ability to play those cards. Also, do what makes you feel comfortable. Have faith in the process that the right one is going to work out.”

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Father Smith also appreciates the sacrifices his parents, Michael and Mary, made to provide a Catholic education for him and his three siblings. He and his mother are both Bishop Watterson graduates.

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Jonathan Smith '09



## Jonathan Smith '09 Ordained for Diocese of Arlington, Virginia

*By Doug Bean, Catholic Times Editor*

The seeds of a priestly vocation planted in Columbus took root several hundred miles to the east when Father Jonathan Smith was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 5, for the Diocese of Arlington at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Virginia.

Father Smith, 30, was raised in northwest Columbus, attended St. Timothy School, graduated in 2009 from Bishop Watterson High School, left home for college at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and then served as a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary for two years before entering seminary in 2015.

His parents, family and friends traveled to Virginia to see Father Smith ordained to the priesthood along with three other men for the Diocese of Arlington. One special family member was unable to travel. She was back home listening to a livestream and giving thanks that her grandson had become a priest.

That would be Father Smith's 101-year-old grandmother, Teresa Murphy, with whom he shares a special relationship.





Last year, *The Catholic Times* featured the story of his visit to Rome as a seminarian and an encounter with Pope Francis, who blessed a rosary that Smith brought back to America for her 100th birthday.

His ordination fulfilled her deep desire to be alive when her grandson became a priest.

“She’s still here, and it’s really amazing,” Father Smith said. “I remember when I first told her that I was going to enter the seminary, and she said, ‘I’m going to want to make sure I’m alive to see you become a priest.’ She was 95 at the time, I think, and I was thinking, ‘My gosh, I’m not going to bank on that.’ So it’s a huge blessing that she is still with us and will be able to see me as a priest.”

Grandma Murphy sowed some of those seeds of a vocation with her grandson even though he didn’t quite realize it at the time. He recalled spending nights at his grandparents’ home about eight houses down the street from his parents’ and lying in bed while grandma prayed the rosary.

“She’s very devout, and so the witness of her faith was really impactful to me in my life,” Father Smith said.

When he was in seventh grade, she took him to Italy to visit her family and the Vatican. In 2004, they attended the Easter Vigil Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

“That really had a big impact on my faith life,” he said. “It helped me to really see the universal church. I had only been exposed to St. Timothy’s, and that’s what I thought the Church was. To go to Rome and see people from all over the world there and to see the Holy Father, who I had only seen in a picture in a classroom, in person was really eye opening for me and impactful on my faith life.

“I realized this is something beyond my little community in Columbus and much bigger than that, and that it must be important.”

Father Smith also appreciates the sacrifices his parents, Michael and Mary, made to provide a Catholic education for him and his three siblings. He and his mother are both Bishop Watterson graduates.

“It was really important for my parents for me to go to Catholic schools, and I think definitely my time at St. Tim’s and Watterson really provided a good, solid foundation,” he said. “My theology classes were excellent, and there were great teachers and great witnesses at Watterson – good leaders and mentors.

“And the witness of my parents and grandparents really played a big role in making faith an integral part of my life even if I wasn’t always constantly aware of it.”

When he went off to college at George Mason, he admitted that religion didn’t play an integral role in his life and a religious vocation hadn’t really entered his mind. He envisioned himself after graduation getting a good job and becoming a husband and father.

But spending time in Eucharistic Adoration made a profound impact on the trajectory of his faith life.

“Realizing (Christ) is not just this being out there but desires to have a relationship with me, I felt his new joy in my heart that I’d never experienced before,” he said in a pre-ordination interview with the Catholic Herald, the Diocese of Arlington newspaper.

In 2013, he finished his undergraduate studies at George Mason and decided to join FOCUS, which is an apostolate consisting mostly of recent college graduates who serve as lay missionaries to students on campuses throughout the country. Smith was assigned to Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina.

The call to religious life became stronger after spending more time before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. In 2015, he entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania,



to continue his discernment and confirm whether he was called to the priesthood. “I was very open to either coming back to Columbus or staying in Arlington,” he said. “My spiritual director wasn’t going to pull me in either direction. It was a tough discernment because my family is in Columbus and my faith was fostered so greatly in Arlington.”

After visiting the Pontifical College Josephinum, which Diocese of Columbus seminarians attend, and the seminaries where the Diocese of Arlington sends its men in formation, he said, “The Lord placed on my heart that he was calling me to stay in Arlington. It wasn’t an easy decision.”

Six years later, Father Smith is ready to begin his service to the Catholic Church as a priest. His first assignment will be at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, Virginia. At the ordination Mass, Diocese of Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge said, “More than ever, our church and world need priests to take Jesus Christ to them.”



The Smith family gathered in Arlington, Va. for the ordination of Jonathan Smith '09. Left to right—Fr. Smith's sister-in-law Nicole Veitinger with nephew Ethan, his father Michael Smith and mother Mary Smith '77 holding niece Avery, Fr. Smith, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, sister Jennifer (Smith) Katz '11, brother-in-law Andrew Katz and brother Michael Smith '18. Not pictured is Fr. Smith's brother James Flaherty '99.

## Retirees

*As school ended for the 2020-21 school year, we said goodbye to three staff members who have worked here for a combined 67 years.*



**Lance Clarke '72** taught for 44 years with 21 of them at Bishop Watterson. He has taught World History, U.S. History and American Government and served as Social Studies Department Chair. In addition, Mr. Clarke also served as Student Council advisor for a number of years and he will be fondly remembered for his role as Scuttle in the faculty and staff production of *The Little Mermaid* in 2016.

**Stephen Edwards** concluded his 50th year of teaching this year with the last 12 at Bishop Watterson. Edwards, affectionately known as “Eds” by students, taught AP U.S. Government and Politics, American Government, Sociology and Comparative World Government. He was advisor to the Minorities Club.

**Matt McGowan** spent 34 of his 36 years teaching at Bishop Watterson during which he taught Accounting, Business Law, Keyboarding, Applied Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Marketing and Financial Literacy. McGowan also coached the cross country and track & field teams during his time at BWHS.

## Alumni Updates

*Send us your updates! Go to [www.bishopwatterson.com](http://www.bishopwatterson.com), click on “Community,” then “Alumni,” then “Alumni Information Form” to give us updated contact information, including email addresses.*

**'58**  
Paul DiSabato is retired and resides in Columbus with his wife Antoinette (Toni) Brinkman '73 DiSabato. Their children are Dana, Nicholas, and Daron.

**'59**  
Patti Ryan Laymon is retired and lives in Ripon, Calif. with her husband Alex.

Robert and Marian Dickerson Safford reside in Virginia Beach, Va.

Tom and Kathleen Weaver make their home in Norfolk, Va. Tom is a retired Captain US Navy and Kathleen a retired navy nurse. Their children are John, Christine, and Jim. Hobbies include travel, golf, tennis, and scuba diving.

**'61**  
David Walsh lives in Powell.

**'62**  
Jeanne Conrad is a GED tutor at Dominican Learning Center. She resides in Westerville.

Terry Strange resides in Frisco, Texas and is a computer programmer.

Sharon Vice Alloway retired from teaching at BWHS and resides in Delaware, Ohio. Her children are James and Justin.

**'63**  
Trudy Ice Lohr and her husband Don are retired and reside in Dunnellon, Fla. They have a daughter, Richelle Lohr Gilhauley.

**'64**  
Linda Seacrest Eibling and her husband Mike, a retired dentist, live in Bluffton, S.C. Their children are Kurt, Karl, and Kathryn.

**'65**  
Kathy Anderson is a retired teacher and lives in Land O'Lakes, Fla. She has a daughter, Jacqueline, and grandchildren Elli, Lia, and Trey.

**'66**  
Michael DeTemple resides in Springfield, Ill. and is a Catholic Chaplain with Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Ill.

Linda Weiner Bennett is retired and she and her husband David live in Georgia.

**'68**  
Thomas Harrington resides in Elida, Ohio.

Jane Jacquemin-Clark was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from The Ohio State University. Jane, who with husband Kevin founded and runs Hope Hollow to help cancer patients, received the Robert M. Duncan Citizenship Award which celebrates alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to humanity and have performed significant voluntary service to their community beyond the call of business or professional duty.

**'69**  
Susan Sweeney Foley is a fitness instructor for The Club at Gateway. She and husband Robert reside in Fort Myers, Fla. They have a son Ryan.

**'71**  
Julie Smith Garlock is a retired

teacher. She and her husband Garth reside in Columbus and have a daughter, Jessica '00, and a son, Patrick.

**'72**  
Julia Brittenham Wagner is a part-time healthcare recruiter with Allmedstaffing. She and her retired husband Tom moved to sunny Ormond Beach, Fla. last August.

Brian Rapp is a support specialist at Duke University. He lives in Raleigh, N.C.

**'73**  
Janice Berry Bird is retired and resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband Richard.

Chris Gay has resided in Lexington, Ky. since graduating from Ohio State in 1977. He has a Masters degree from the University of Kentucky and has retired after 38 years at IBM where he was an electrical engineer and information technology specialist.

Charlie Funk is retired and lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. with wife Lorraine Ramos Funk. They have children Nick and Melissa.

**'75**  
Mary Gaskill-Shipley is a Professor of Radiology at the



University of Cincinnati where she serves as the section chief of Neuroradiology. She and her husband Ralph, a retired thoracic radiologist, live in Cincinnati.

Joan Hamilton Huber is retired from the City of Austin. She lives in Manchaca, Texas with her husband Michael.

#### '76

John Good lives in Pataskala and is a retired FireFighter/ Paramedic with the Columbus Division of Fire.

David Hickey is retired and is the author of the Little Red Dog Adventure Book Series available on Amazon and kentuckyreads.com. A portion of book sales supports Welcome House's programs serving homeless men, women, and children. David and his wife Marie, Treasurer at fiscal court Campbell County, Ky., reside in Florence, Ky. Their children are Neal, Rene, and Natalie.

Jerry Kelly makes his home in Dobson, N.C. with wife Susan. They have children Ryan and Lauren.

Robert Welsh is the Regional Coordinator for World Euchre Enterprises. He lives in Columbus.

#### '77

Timothy Reik is VP-Chief Risk Officer with State Auto Mutual Insurance Company. He and his wife Beth have 3 children, all graduates of BWHS: Ryan '05, Alex, '07, and Justin '09.

#### '78

Steve Wallace is retired and lives in Huntsville, Ohio with his wife Jill. They have a son John '08 who teaches and coaches at Bishop Watterson.

#### '79

Kristin Farrell-Logsdon and her husband Mark are retired and reside in Clintonville. After 30 years with the Adult Parole Au-

thority, Kristin retired from the state of Ohio, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. She plans to travel the country with her husband.

Bruce Goetz resides in Columbus with his wife Cynthia Pennell Goetz. They are both retired.

#### '80

Mary Hebble Sutton is an Intervention Specialist at Newark City Schools. She is married to Jeff and has a son Christopher.

#### '81

Carol McGrath Haimerl lives in Newark and is the Social Media Manager for EXPRESS.

Angela Powell is a physician and the Medical Director Cytopathology at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Her career interests include furthering comprehensive cancer care and remedying healthcare disparities. Angela lives in Fairlawn, Ohio and her hobbies include maintaining a pollinator habitat, international travel, and mentoring.

Sue Zastrow Repke is an occupational therapist. She resides in Tehachapi, California with her husband Neil who is employed at Edwards Air Force base. They have a daughter, Miranda, a 2013 BWHS graduate.

#### '82

Teresa Shay Tompkins resides in Columbus and is a New Home Sales Consultant with Epcon Communities. She has a son, DJ who graduated from BWHS in 2020.

Rita Wiewall lives in Columbus.

#### '83

Rose Hobart Keener lives in Columbus, Ohio.

#### '84

Leigh Lopez Cummins and her husband Tony have a daughter, Cady. They are living in Cincinnati.

#### '85

David Preston is a shareholder with Dickinson & Gibbon, P.A. He lives in Bradenton, Fla. and has a daughter Sophie, age 19.

Bob Trout is the owner / president of Schreiner Ace Hardware. He and his wife Vickie Urton Trout live in Columbus. Their son Brandon will graduate from BWHS in 2023.

#### '86

Rick Lopez and his wife Krista McJunkin Lopez are owners of LaTavola and Lupo. They reside in Grandview and have daughters Viviana and Chiara.

Brad McBride is a captain on the Boeing 737 for Southwest Airlines. He retired from the USAF Reserves as a Lt. Col. and resides in Frisco, Texas. He and his wife Sarah have children Colin, Dillon, and Ian.

Tiffany Stephenson Super is a Human Resources Consultant with Stephenson Strategy Group. She resides in Powell with her husband Christian. Their children are Katt, age 23, and Stephen, age 22.

#### '90

John Waltz is CEO of Forward Edge. He resides in Terrance Park, Ohio and has children Trey, Jacob, Mattie, and Jonah.

#### '91

Suhad Dawaher Bergman is an analyst with the Social Security Administration. Suhad and husband Rick reside in Hilliard and have children Abigail '20, Layla, age '22, Kaitlin '24, and Isaac 12.

Stephanie Gentile Homorody and Jason Homorody live in Lewis Center and they have children Casey, age 18, and Bella, age 17. Stephanie is an Investment Analyst with Hamilton Capital LLC. Jason is a tennis instructor at Elysium and director of the tennis program at Kinsale Golf and Fitness Club. Jason won the

Towpath Marathon in October 2020 with a time of 2:53:51.

Julia Betts Randall lives in Columbus with her husband Matthew. Their children: John Isaac 2/13/2002 - 9/1/2007, Patrick '22, age 18, Mary, age 12, Margaret, age 10, and Thomas, age 2.

#### '93

Michael Kin lives in Brentwood, Tenn. and is a Project Manager with BACAR Constructors.

Christine McLaughlin Dunn and her husband James reside in Columbus. They have children Neil, age 16, Brooklyn, age 13, and William, age 5.

Bobby O'Neil resides in Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio with his wife Bobbie.

#### '94

Laura Brake is a nurse practitioner at the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. She resides in Columbus.

Christie Hooks is the Housing Program Director for USDA, Rural Development. She lives in Columbus.

Mindy Pond Griffin and Eric Griffin '93 live in Powell with children Tyler, age 16 and Gwynn, age 11. Their children attend St. Michael and Bishop Watterson. Mindy is a Managing Partner with Therapy Advantage which provides PT/OT/ST skilled services in patients' home or assisted living. Eric is Director of Compliance and Enforcement at the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy.

#### '95

Michelle Clark Segraves resides in Columbus and is a medical secretary at OSU.

Kerry Mentel Throckmorton and her husband Jason live in San Rafael, Calif. She is Chief of Staff at Oracle NetSuite.

## Alumni Updates

**'98**

Angela Tillery Brown is the Community Relations Director with Bickford Senior Living. She is married to Wynn Brown and they have children Marie, age 21, Daniel, age 16, and Lucas, age 6.

**'01**

Nicole Zappitelli Cassidy resides in Dublin with her husband Shamus. She is a CPA with Cassidy Advisory Solutions, LLC and her husband is an attorney with Cassidy Law, Ltd. They are the parents of Collin, a current BWHS student, Aiden, age 12, and Kayla, age 10.

**'02**

Colleen Lamb Gress is married to Joe Gress, a recruiter and partner with Ringside Talent Acquisition Partners. They reside in Westerville with sons Teddy and Bo. Colleen's father Dick McBride, a landscape architect, helped design the new Back Field Renovation Project at Bishop Watterson.

Megan Springer Lottes and Michael Lottes live in Columbus. Megan is a nurse practitioner at OSU and Michael is VP Operations at JP Morgan Chase. They have children Elizabeth, age 7 and Evan, age 5.

**'05**

Karen Lombardo Dawson is a General Manager with Roadshow BMW/MINI, a luxury automotive dealership serving the greater Memphis area, after working for BMW Financial Services for 11 years, in Hilliard, New Jersey, and Baton Rouge. Karen and her husband Larry reside in Collierville, Tenn.

Matthew Nicol is the owner and veterinarian at Darby Creek Veterinary Clinic which he opened in Plain City in June of 2020. He and his wife Megan Meuti Nicol, an assistant Professor

of Entomology at The Ohio State University live in Hilliard.

**'06**

Lorie Hunter Holt is Vice President, Member Services at Columbus Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Columbus with her husband Jared and son Oliver Bradley, age 3.

Hali Weilbacher lives in Columbus and is a SOR Coordinator/Case Manager with Maryhaven. She has a daughter, Sadie, age 7.

**'07**

Cole Bradham and his wife Jessica live in Raleigh, North Carolina with their son James Beckett, age 2. Cole is a director for Mom's Meals.

**'09**

Jon Lorenz has recently opened a second location of Studio Torch in Grandview.

**'10**

Audrey (Katie) Eichenlaub graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, completed a hospital based residency at Loyola University Medical Center and returned to Columbus to provide dental care at Tikson and Eichenlaub Family Dental in Worthington.

Stephanie Lux resides in Portland, Ore. and is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Wallace Medical.

**'12**

Alexandra Proca is employed as a Masters in machine learning at the University College of London. She resides in Villanova, Penn.

**'14**

Molly Racher lives in Columbus and is a registered nurse at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

**'15**

Mary Kathleen Crimmel resides in Powell and is a social worker at Concord. Mary Kate is engaged to Jeremy Love and has a

wedding date set for December of 2022.

Cecilia Maziarz lives in Dublin and is a fourth grade teacher in Hilliard City Schools District.

Patrick Munhall graduated from the University of Dayton where he dual majored in Secondary Education and History. He was involved in the Army ROTC program as well as the Statehouse Civic Scholars Program while at UD. Upon graduation he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant. He is currently serving as an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 197th infantry Brigade in Fort Benning, Ga. Patrick plans to attend law school in the future.

Hannah Smith works for Cox Health and resides in Springfield, Mo.



Ryann Lewis '13 and Patrick Wilson '09 were married on June 26, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church by Deacon Chris Campbell '77. They had a reception at Magnolia Hills Farm and reside in Columbus.



Taryn Berry '11 and Ben Eaves were married at St. Brigid of Kildare on July 3, 2021. Their reception was held at the home of Taryn's Aunt and Uncle, Dan and Missy Berry Lorenz, 1978 BWHS graduates. The newlyweds reside in Westlake.



Karen Lombardo '05 and Larry Dawson were married on April 24, 2021 in St. Lucia.



## Weddings

Alyssa Robinson '08 and Alex Voisard were married at Mother of Mercy Chapel at St. Charles on June 8, 2019.

Tiffany Stephenson married Christian Super with all attendees via Zoom on June 20, 2020. They have a reception planned for this year.

Regina Smith '12 and Tyler Johnston were married at Immaculate Conception on August 8, 2020.

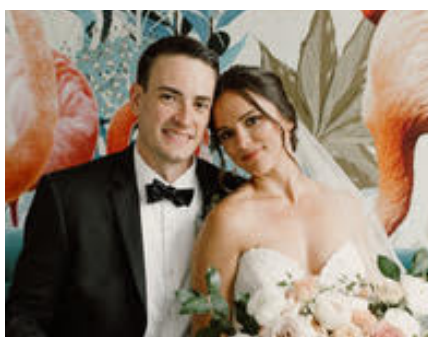
Abby Ticknor '13 and Andrew Ohl '13 were married on October 2, 2020 at the Estate at New Albany.

Caitlin Phelan and Nicholas Lewellyn were married on May 2, 2021.





Mary Kate Campbell '10 and Noah Harris were married on July 4, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church with numerous BWHS alumni, representing every decade but the 1950s, in attendance. Deacon Chris Campbell '77 presided over his daughter's nuptials. The couple make their home in Columbus.



Chuck Gioffre '09 and Jackie Palmer were married in German Village on July 12, 2020.



Oliver Schroeder '16 and Nicole Gillespie were married at St. Michael's Church in Waterloo, In. on June 26, 2021.



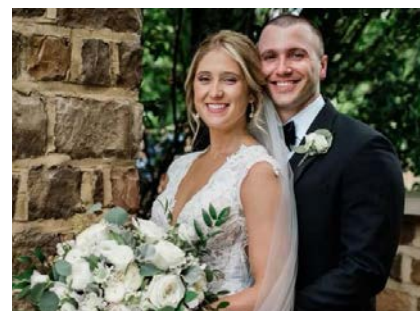
Leah Peecook '15 and Dennis Heil were married on April 20, 2021 at St. Brigid of Kildare. A reception was held at Edgewater at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center.



Samwise Parkinson '16 married Temitayo Sanusi on June 27, 2021 in Atlanta, Ga. at the Botanical Gardens. Austin Patton '16 was a groomsman.



Jenifer Bernard '81 and Tom Hoffman were married on June 25, 2021. Maddi Rasor '13 Preston served as her mom's matron of honor and Jenifer's sons Phil Rasor '10 and Evan Rasor '16 walked her down the aisle. Son-in-law Jack Preston '13 did a reading. The newlyweds reside in Columbus.



Kayla Cook '13 married Derek Traini at Immaculate Conception Church on July 17, 2021. Kayla is an orthopedic PA and the newlyweds make their home in Fremont, California.



## New Arrivals

Julie Patter '05 Rapaport and husband Andrew welcomed Nora Jane on June 15, 2020.

Matthew Phelan '06 and Jessica Decker welcomed a son, Joseph Lennon, on August 17, 2020.

Shelby Sutphen '06 Chambers, and her husband Craig welcomed a son, Nolan Robert Chambers on August 24, 2020.

Marissa Gartner '08 Alexander and Ross Alexander welcomed Carter Charles Alexander on October 4, 2020.

Jessica Schoenberger '06 Horstman and her husband Tommy '04 welcomed son Jordan on October 19, 2020. He joins big sister Reagan, age 3.

Kristen Clouser '09 Robbins and her husband Eric welcomed son Jack Lindy on November 25, 2020.

Lauren Licata '09 Schouweiler and her husband Hunter welcomed Mason on December 21, 2020. He joins big brother Cooper, age 2.

Danny '09 and Megan Black '09 Kernan welcomed Joseph James on January 27, 2021. He joins big brother Danny, age 2.

Lyndey Stein '06 Bowen and her husband Scott welcomed Crew Taylor Bowen on January 29, 2021.

Megan Patter '07 Bohan and her husband Michael welcomed twins Henry James and Maren June on April 9, 2021.

Kris Gordon '06 and his wife Annabel welcomed Watson Walter Edward Gordon on May 11, 2021. They reside in Cannon Hill, a suburb in Queensland, Australia.

Corey Bradham '05 and his wife Christine welcomed Katherine "Kate" Isabella on May 18, 2021.

Molly and Brendan Jenkins welcomed Lucy June Jenkins on June 3, 2021.

Jacqueline Eckel '06 DeVlugt and her husband Seth welcomed Josephine DeVlugt on June 18, 2021. She joins big brother Brooks, age 5 and Giuliana, age 3.

Karissa Bowman '06 and her husband Chris welcomed their 3rd son, Theodore "Theo" on June 21, 2021. Theo joins big brothers Hayden, age 7 and Liam, age 3.



## Saying Goodbye

1959  
Patricia Smith Benadum  
December 16, 2020

Mary Theresa Cassan Molino  
March 21, 2021

1960  
Dennis Wilcox  
March 15, 2021

1961  
Lawrence "Larry" Follansbee  
November 11, 2020

1962  
Brian J. Campbell  
November 28, 2020

Connie Davis Sauter  
October 21, 2020

1966  
Toni Cardi  
May 8, 2021

1968  
Michael A. Galilei  
April 26, 2019

1969  
Tommy P. Piolata  
May 19, 2021

1970  
Deborah Coleman  
April 11, 2021

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Hooks  
April 8, 2021

1972  
Marie Berry Guthrie  
October 14, 2020

1975  
Michael "Mike" James Fallon  
June 22, 2020

Juliann M. Vargo Blanks  
November 14, 2020

Neal Wagner  
March 31, 2020

1978  
Joseph F. Rankin  
November 19, 2020

1979  
Christina VonVille  
June 30, 2021

1980  
Mark Andrew Douridas  
April 15, 2021

1985  
Joe Fridenmaker  
July 30, 2020

2000  
James "Jimmy" Moore  
December 12, 2020

2006  
Nicholas Wagner  
January 20, 2021

2014  
Henry McCann  
May 29, 2021

BWHS Fan  
John "The Chief" Mahaney  
July 1, 2021

Former Faculty  
Kathleen T. Durning Shea  
July 10, 2021

Will Reiss  
July 21, 2021

Mary Bourke  
July 27, 2021

## Hall of Fame

**2019 Athletic Hall of Fame,**  
left to right (front row):  
Joanie O'Brien '82, Andrew  
Moses '05; (back row)  
Sam Dixon '75, Tim Pond  
'63, Matt Callahan '88,  
Jack Poppe.



## Athletic Hall of Fame 2020-21

*The seventh class of  
the Bishop Watterson  
Athletic Hall of Fame  
will be inducted during  
events the weekend of  
August 27-29, 2021.*

Chuck Egelhoff '61  
Jeff Hill '73  
Jason Janoski '82  
Vince Lombardo  
Devon May '03  
Adrienne Ristas McAninch '93  
John Pucin '84





# Germain Answers Call to Donate Decade Later

It's not often an incoming phone call gives you the opportunity to save a life.

In fact, with so many telemarketing and suspicious calls these days, most people don't pick up when an unknown number calls. That's what **Lauren Dusseau Germain '09** usually does, but she answered a call in 2020 that gave her the opportunity to help save a life through the Be the Match Registry operated by the National Marrow Donor Program.

"I usually don't pick up and I don't know why but I decided to take the call," she said. "At first I thought it was a spam call or a prank. "When I heard I was a match, I was so excited. It was right before Christmas so it was such an emotional and exciting call."

In 2010 Dusseau and her entire family participated in a Be the Match Registry event at which they were swabbed in hopes of being a match for their 13-year-old neighbor, Seth Jenkins, who passed away that year. Seth's siblings are Claire '16, Grace '19 and Maren '23.

"We all, as a family, went and got swabbed hoping to be a match for Seth and thinking that might be more common," Germain said. "We had no idea that it was so rare. I didn't even think that

far, that down the road I might get a call. It hadn't been on my mind for a very long time but now, without a doubt, it's been a blessing. I feel it definitely connects back to Seth, and was super emotional on my end. It feels like I'm able to not exactly pay it forward but in the sense of Seth's legacy that he left behind, I'm finally able to donate to someone in need."

In late January 2021, Germain underwent surgery at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center to donate bone marrow to a one-year-old baby boy. Be the Match keeps the name and contact information of the patient private for a year.

Through the process of orientation, testing and bloodwork, Germain was supported by her brother, Brian '06, a trauma surgeon at Wexner Medical Center.

"I think it is a wonderful sacrifice, an example of being your brother's keeper," said Wendi Jenkins, Seth's mother. "Lauren has no idea who this child is; she just knows she can help save a life."



**Lauren Dusseau Germain '09 with her brother, Brian Dusseau '06 at OSU's Wexner Medical Center on the day of her bone marrow donation.**

## End of an Era

Anyone who attended a dance at Bishop Watterson High School or a diocesan middle school during the last two decades likely experienced an event with The Fabulous Dance Doctors. But after more than 20 years, **DJ Christian Cottrell, '98**, is hanging up his headphones.

Brothers and entrepreneurs **Christian and Brendan Cottrell, '02**, along with **Justin Hagovsky, '98**, started their mobile DJ business while they were still students at BWHS. The Dance Doctors quickly became a beloved

fixture at school dances, and Christian has been the nearly exclusive DJ for BWHS events ever since.

It has been no small task to keep up with the ever-evolving musical tastes of the students while simultaneously ensuring that the chosen playlist is appropriate for a school dance. Nonetheless, the Dance Doctors have made sure that students and chaperones alike enjoyed each event. According to Dean of Girls Heather Law, "Christian was always ready to entertain. He would even play a few of the chaperones' favorites at the end of every prom!"

Now, the era of The Fabulous Dance Doctors has come to an end. Looking back on over 20 years of providing the Bishop Watterson community with musical entertainment at freshman mixers, homecoming dances, Fall festivals, cotillions, proms, and senior parent dances, Christian says "I had a helluva run!" Two decades of students' memories just wouldn't be the same without The Fabulous Dance Doctors!

—Kelly Lombardo '03 Matthews





# Alumnus Leads Growth of Legends

The tremendous growth of the Legends Golf Classic in the past two years, thanks to the work of a dedicated alumnus, has helped numerous families with tuition assistance. The total brought in from the event has quickly grown from \$11,000 to an estimated \$400,000.







In 2019, **Mike Kenney '93** approached Bishop Watterson with a new vision for the Legends Golf Classic. Drawing on his experience as an entrepreneur and co-founder of Preferred Living, Kenney's vision was to expand the outing by engaging more sponsors, providing a private golf course, and enhancing the participant experience,

"The quote that necessity is the mother of invention holds true regrading this outing," said Kenney. "We need to give more children the opportunity to experience a quality, faith-based education. We need to honor our alumni that have made a lasting impression on us. We need to amplify the events through rock solid sponsorships and participation from not only the Watterson community but our friends and neighbors that are also committed to similar high standards."

Separate golf outings to support tuition assistance at Bishop Watterson, formed in the 1990s and early 2000s to honor long-time administrators Tom Scholl and Ron Shay, were combined in 2014 as the Legends Golf Classic. The annual Legends event gathered alumni, family, parents and friends for a fun day of golf and fundraising.

With Kenney's involvement, many more families will receive assistance. In 2020, the golf outing raised \$238,000 and was sold out, drawing in even more alumni and friends. The 2021 outing has already sold out through sponsorships and is estimated to make over \$400,000.

"I knew there was more that could be done to help the outing and I wanted to see it to its full potential," Kenney said. "I am humbled and grateful at the response from all of our Eagle family and beyond."

Bishop Watterson is grateful to Mike Kenney and his volunteer staff for helping to make the Legends Golf Classic ... legendary!

## Eagle Gala Hits Pause, Family Scholarship Created

**The Eagle Gala will be back in 2022!** After a two-year pause created by gathering restrictions during the pandemic, this annual event to support tuition assistance and our Dominican Program will be held on Friday, April 29, 2022.

When schools and businesses were closed in the spring of 2020 and the in-person Eagle Gala was cancelled, Bishop Watterson created "The Eagle Gala Days of Giving," an online auction that brought in more than \$88,000.

As the pandemic continued, the need for tuition assistance hit an all-time high. Bishop Watterson needed to find a way to meet the increasing demand for financial assistance while maintaining social distancing and restrictions on gatherings. An in-person event was not possible.

The Family Scholarship asked Bishop Watterson alumni, parents, and friends to contribute a minimum of \$500 to fund this emergency scholarship. The purpose of The Family

Scholarship was to provide current and prospective families tuition assistance due to financial hardships. As recognition for the gift, Bishop Watterson shared the name and a family picture of those who donated both on social media, and internally on our electronic bulletin boards in an effort to thank the donors and share the news of their generosity with the community. The Family Scholarship raised more than \$155,000.

To learn more about the Bishop Watterson Development Department and how to support the school, go to [bishopwatterson.com](http://bishopwatterson.com) and click on the *Support BWHS* menu.

***We look forward to gathering as a school community in April 2022!***



# Students Use Gifts To Help Others

*Originally published in the January 2021 Catholic Schools Week edition of the Catholic Times*

**Pope Francis once tweeted, “Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”**

Several Bishop Watterson students applied Pope Francis’ advice during the pandemic, discovering positive ways to deal with boredom and a change of routine, by exploring artistic talents, finding ways to serve others, creating a business or a combination of the three.

Senior Maddie Phillips began making earrings during the stay-at-home order last spring which are sold through her mother’s Etsy store. With 75% of the proceeds donated to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, she has managed to combine art, service and business interests into one endeavor.

“I’m creative and would always make bracelets and necklaces,” said Phillips. “I also had an idea to sell something and when I couldn’t volunteer at Mid-Ohio or with Special Olympics, I decided to help by making jewelry.”

Dominic Contini, also a senior, had begun to take photos for 270 Hoops. During the 2019-20 season, prior to the arrival of COVID-19, Dominic could be found on the baseline of high school basketball courts all over Columbus, snapping pics and tweeting updates.

“When the pandemic hit, it took away many opportunities for me to take pictures at the high school state championships for winter sports,” he said. “I was lost without being able to watch sports.”

So, he decided to start his own photography business, Contini Flicks. He had the good fortune of being hired by Pure Sweat basketball trainer Drew Slone who works with such athletes as Ohio State legends Jared Sullinger, Evan Turner, Deshaun Thomas, and Jon Diebler.

“The saying I realized was true during the pandemic was, ‘When life gives you lemons,

make lemonade,” Contini said. “Life gave us this awful pandemic and yes, it can be very negative, but it just depends on your mindset and what you do with what God has put in front of you.”

While Contini has been expanding his artistic interests behind the camera lens, senior Adam Pavliga spent more time on a hobby he picked up as junior year kicked off: painting.

“Over the quarantine I had more time to work on it and practice and try new things,” he said. “I had started by watching Bob Ross videos and copying what he was doing and then I started my own paintings. I love to create things and all I had done up to that point was play sports.”

Pavliga is a three-sport athlete, playing golf in the fall, hockey in the winter and tennis in the spring. He is currently captain of the Eagle ice hockey team.

“Through painting I discovered that I could use my imagination and create my own world,” he said. “It made me feel good that it was my own creation and my family loved them. We even hung some behind my dad’s desk and they have been a topic of conversation on his Zoom calls for work.”

Over the summer, Sofia Roncone, a BWHS junior, began pondering ways to do service during a pandemic as many agencies were utilizing less volunteers. The idea of a grocery delivery/errand running service for the elderly was a natural result of conversations with her parents who are both doctors.

“When you go volunteer at different places, you don’t think about all of the logistics and organizing that happens,” she said. “It made me think about all of the work that goes into charitable organizations and it made me grateful for the ones that already exist, all I have, and that I have the means to be able to start my own service.”

She has found some folks who do not have family near them and who are at particularly higher risk to the effects of COVID-19 and was just getting her volunteer program started in January.

During quarantine Amelia Pepe got bored and taught herself to bake. She started with baking mixes from the grocery store and then began experimenting and looking for new recipes online. The result was cookies, cakes, cupcakes and muffins for family, friends and even essential hospital workers. She has occasionally taken orders for special events but does not charge.

“I view it as a hobby that produces delicious treats for those that deserve appreciation and gratitude!” Pepe said.

Another junior, Jake Bramlish, grew pumpkins at his family’s Ostrander home and taught himself how to play a ukulele.

Junior Kate Drab missed her regular volunteer activity at the Whetstone Homework Help Center at the Whetstone Library so she got involved with two online volunteer organizations, Interns-4-Good and Strive2Thrive. Through those organizations she has been tutoring a sixth grader virtually bi-weekly and teaching English to children in Ghana on a weekly basis. Because the Ghana school has one computer, she works with 3-6 children ages 7-9 each week. The challenge, beyond the fact that Drab does not speak their native Twi language, is that the children that show up for tutoring may or may not be the same as the previous week.

“I think it’s fascinating to see how different their culture and language are and also how we are all the same,” Drab said. “When they get something, you see the light go off. No matter where you are in the world you still have this desire to learn and improve yourself and it’s really cool to see it in these little kids. I feel really lucky to have grown up speaking English now that I understand how incredibly complex our language is!”







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